



Thomas F. Campbell, Founder Irish American Archives Society

Thomas F. Campbell was born in 1924 in Enniskillen, a small town on an island in Loch Erne in Northern Ireland. In 1940 he was apprenticed as a baker, a trade he pursued intermittently while also working for several years as a volunteer in war torn Germany, in Washington DC and in Mexico. After taking high school courses and a high school equivalency exam at Temple University in Philadelphia, in 1955 he entered Western Reserve University, where he earned B.A., an M.A. and a PhD. in American history. He taught at Ohio State before joining the faculty at Cleveland State University in 1966.

Drawing on his familiarity with the work of the Marshall Plan in Germany after World War II, Dr. Campbell played a leadership role in working with an interdisciplinary group of faculty to design Cleveland State's Institute of Urban Studies to respond to the needs of Cleveland. He became Director of the Institute from 1970 to 1975, and played a major role in designing its focus, striving to bring the experience and expertise of Cleveland's professionals into the classroom and academic knowledge to those serving the city. Dr Campbell also worked closely with Mayor Carl Stokes and Maxine Levin, who, in honor of her husband, provided a chair of Urban Studies and public service. In 1975 he returned to teaching in the History Department until his retirement in 1983.

Dr. Campbell's love of Cleveland extended to his involvement in many community organizations. In addition to writing a history of the Cleveland City Club, he served as its president, was instrumental in the club's decision to admit women, and was elected to its Hall of Fame. He served on Mayor Stokes' Manpower Planning and Development Task Force, was a member of the five-county Mass Transit Study, chaired Aim-Jobs, a pioneering workforce training program for inter-city adults and youth, and led campaigns for funding the Cleveland Library and maintaining the size of City Council. Dr Campbell was co-founder of the Cleveland Restoration Society, a charter member of the African American Archives, and the founder of the Irish-American Archives. He was a member of the Irish-American Partnership Council and the Northern Ireland Industrial Development Board. He served as a co-host of 16 half hour television shows on "We Who Built America", a portrait of Cleveland's ethnic communities. He even ran for Mayor in 1977.

Cleveland State awarded Dr Campbell the Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, and an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters. In honor of his lifelong contributions to the Levin College of Urban Affairs and the Cleveland community, the gallery in the College's new building was named after him.

—Contributed by Marguerite Campbell