



IAAS Walks of Life 2004
Mary Daley

Mary Dowling Daley is the granddaughter of Irish immigrants, all four of whom left Ireland for America during the potato famine. A woman of letters, Mary has had a variety of works published in such media as The New York Times, Commonweal, the Christian Science Monitor and The Plain Dealer.

Born in Lakewood, in childhood she lived in both the Cleveland and New York City areas, then graduated as a math major from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. Following her marriage to Bill Daley, the family lived in various Eastern states before a return to Cleveland in 1968. Mary has a daughter here, Katie; and sons Bill, in San Francisco and Tom in Cambridge, Mass.; a third son, Walter, died in 1975.

In 1971, at a time of serious racial tension in Cleveland, Mary conceived the idea of and for a while served as volunteer director of Peoples and Cultures, an organization formed for the purpose of achieving understanding and mutual respect among members of such various Cleveland ethnic groups as African-American, Native American, European-American (including Irish) and Asian-American. Methods included cross-introduction to ethnic neighborhoods, hospitality, foods, crafts, folk dances and other cultural aspects.

In 1979, Mary Daley self-published Around the World in Cleveland, an alphabetical coloring book illustrated by Cleveland high school students. In 1986, while searching for information about Irish hedge schools, she came across a subject titled, "Ireland, ancient laws of." Three years of intense research followed, culminating in publication of Irish Laws in Belfast by Appletree Press Ltd. and in San Francisco by Chronicle Books. Mary is rightly proud her role in helping rediscover Ireland's ancient laws and her scholarly work has been translated into French, German, Italian and Spanish. Writing continues to be her first love. At present she is working on several non-fiction books for young people.

Irish American Archives Society
P.O. Box 91756
Cleveland, Ohio 44101-3756