

The Shamrock Leaf

Newsmagazine of The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick



Feature Story

Marianna O'Gallagher

March 1929 – May 2010

The Heart & Soul of Irish Heritage Quebec

Page 11

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Editor: FARRELL McCARTHY
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A note from the Editor



On May 24, 2010, the Irish community in Canada, and especially Quebec, lost a special person with the death of Marianna O'Gallagher. In the early '80's when we were exploring the idea of forming an Association and deciding what projects we could do to honour and recognize our Irish ancestors, Marianna was there to urge us to do what had to be done.

Marianna was not only a teacher, author, Irish historian and the ca-

talysis pushing for the development of Grosse Ile as an Irish Memorial Park, but also a warm and caring person and became a friend to many of us in New Brunswick.

When Edna and I heard that she was chosen as the Grand Marshall of Quebec's first St. Patrick's Day parade since 1926, we had to be there to cheer her on. On a nice sunny day, thousands turned out. Shortly afterwards we received the sad news that she would not be with us much longer.

As her good friend and colleague, Joe Longergan said in a tribute to her, "Marianna will be missed. She has been mourned. Those of us who wish to honour her memory and value our Irish heritage as she did should emulate her virtues. We should be about our work and get things

done."

One way you can honour Marianna's memory is by making a donation to: Irish Heritage Quebec, 1145, rue de Salaberry, Quebec, QE, G1R 2V7. Marianna founded the organization in 1973, and Joseph Longergan succeeded her as the new President.

In New Brunswick, we must also support Roly McSorley, our Provincial President, his executive, Board of Directors and our Chapters who as Joe said about Marianna, "...must be about their work and get things done." This can only happen with the support of our members and friends.

The cost of preparing and printing the Shamrock Leaf has become expensive. The executive have taken steps to cut down costs so that we can continue to publish it.

The membership must do its part by paying their dues, and if possible, making a donation to aid the publication.

I must pay tribute to our Assistant Editor, Linda Evans, for the invaluable work she did in helping to put this issue together. Also, Marilyn Driscoll has spent many hours entering the material and formatting it so that it will be 'print ready' for the printer. This helps cut the costs immensely. Once again, we owe Linda and Marilyn a heartfelt thank you.

As St Patrick's Day 2011 approaches, take time to plan events in your area. Don't forget about the young people and check with your local school for a special St. Patrick's Day event also.

Farrell McCarthy
Editor




LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I find the Shamrock Leaf most interesting and informative. The historical tenor of most articles is a sheer history lesson and the reviewed books on Ireland are an additional option for the reader.

I'm pleased to renew my membership subscription and contribute to the annual bursary draw. I just hope I have picked a winner!

Is mise le meas,
Michael J. McAteer
Fruitvale, BC 

To the Editor,


The Tignish Irish Folk Festival has been going 10 years. We have our festival the first weekend in August (outdoor concert).

In 2011 we will be celebrating 100 years, the bicentennial of the Irish

arriving in West Prince County. The website is www.tignishirishfolkfestival.com.

Leo and Laureen Handrahan
Tignish, PEI





The President's Message



Dear Members,

I've enjoyed the first year of my term as president. It has certainly allowed me to get to know a lot of new people and to renew a number of old friendships. It has also enabled me to be in closer touch with some pretty regular and dependable members from around the province.

In the year gone by I have been privileged to represent our association at a number of public functions. A couple that jump immediately to mind are the launch of the Irish por-

tal on the provincial archives website and Canada's Irish Festival on the Miramichi. I also attended the Irish festival at Douglstown on the Gaspé and was pleased to put some time in at the Capital Area Chapter booth at the Multicultural festival in Fredericton, the NB Highland Games and the Gathering of the Scots in the spring in Perth-Andover. I write this as witness that we are gaining exposure at many events and initiatives by our local chapters and provincial committees prov-

ince-wide.

Many things have happened and continue to happen. We have a committee who, in conjunction with the Scottish and Welsh societies, are very actively pursuing a provincial Celtic Secretariat. The struggle for proper recognition and promotion of Partridge Island continues. We are still looking to get "The Gathering" off the ground. We all have an interest in these and other initiatives and can contribute to seeing them brought to fruition by keeping them in the

public forum at every chance.

Let's keep this good stuff going. I'm inviting you to get involved in the preservation and perpetuation of the Irish culture in our province. I am looking forward to the second year serving as your president. Please join me in being active.

Sincerely,
Roly McSorley
ICCA President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued)

Dear Editor,

The Shamrock Leaf is a treasure. Congratulations to Mr. Roly McSorley, editor, Farrell McCarthy and the membership. Keep up the Association's good works!

*John P. Murphy
New Bedford,
Mass., USA*



Dear Editor,

Received my copy of the Shamrock Leaf – 'enjoyed everything in it!'

Particularly interested in the McLaughlin side – saw the article on Michael McLaughlin, wondering if he may have been related to us.

Here is what I know – I am the daughter of George H and Beulah (Curry) McLaughlin. My grandfather was Michael Patrick McLaughlin, who went to live with his Aunt Mary (Patrick) McCarthy. He was married to Emily (Dolly) Goodine, daughter of Rueben and Mary (Hanscom) Goodine. Michael's mother was Maggie Ludgate and she was married to George McLaughlin, son of Bernard McLaughlin and Mary Delahenty. They were married in 1825. Her marriage license and the US Census lists her as being born in Ireland. They came to Fort Fairfield, Maine in 1831.

What I am truly interested in is the name of the ship Bernard (called Barney) McLaughlin came over on. He landed in Saint John. Do you know if 'Barney' came to Canada by himself or were there other relatives with him? Who were his parents and what county in Ireland did they come from? When he came across at Fort Fairfield, there was another McLaughlin named Dennis – could they have been related? Can anyone help with more information?

Christina
(McLaughlin) Latham
1333 Pond Road
Mount Vernon,
ME 04352, USA
(This letter was con-



Editor – Farrell McCarthy

Assistant Editors :

Linda Evans, Marilyn Driscoll

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See back cover to become a member



Pioneer Cemetery Needs Help

Murray Corner is located on the Northumberland Strait in the southeast corner on the province. For many it is known for its quiet provincial beach and incredible sunsets. In more recent years, Murray Corner is better known as a great place to snap a picture of the Confederation Bridge from a distance.

However, tucked away in Murray Corner is a pioneer cemetery that is becoming well-worn and weathered and in need of assistance.

Within the cemetery is a large cairn commemorating two pioneer clergymen, Rev. Alexander Clarke

(d. 1874) and Rev Alexander Robinson (d. 1886) – both Irish Covenanter clergy – who had a large following throughout the Chignecto region. The Covenanters were a strict reformed Presbyterian group and eventually joined the Presbyterian throngs but not before starting a total of 19 parishes throughout the nineteenth century. Their faith was unique and their story is detailed in Eldon Hay's book, *"The Chignecto Covenanters" - A Regional History of Reformed Presbyterianism in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, 1827 - 1905.*

However, the cairn so lovingly placed in the Murray Corner pioneer cemetery in 1940 to remember Clarke, Robinson and their flocks is in desperate need of repair. The base is deteriorating and it will soon be irreparable. The Pioneer Cemetery board is looking for help to raise the necessary funding for repairs. For more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Eldon Hay at eldonhay@nb.sympatico.ca, or you can send a donation to the "Pioneer Cemetery Board" to Kim Atkinson, 45 Caissie Ave, Shediac, NB, E4P 1J9.

Johnson Chair in Canadian Irish Studies created at Concordia

In 1996, a group of Canadians of Irish background created the Canadian Irish Studies Foundation. They believed that the history of the Irish in Canada, and the quite extraordinary contributions that they made over the generations to the development of our country needed to be studied and taught to young Canadians.

Plans were taken to create an endowment which would finance the development of Canadian Irish Studies in Concordia University. With the university's full support a school of Canadian Irish Studies was created – including a minor

program offering 24 courses, dealing with Irish heritage and with the story of the Irish in Canada, attracting about 600 students annually. More than 7,000 students have enrolled in these courses over the years and 21 fully funded scholarships valued at \$23,000 are given annually.

Also a prestigious Irish public lecture series has attracted over 140 speakers, including Prime Minister Dr. Garret Fitzgerald and Nobel Poet Laureate, Seamus Heaney.

On St Patrick's Day 2008, Quebec Premier Jean Charest announced a \$2 mil-

lion donation, to be matched by a \$1 million from the Concordia University Foundation, to create the prestigious Johnson Chair in Canadian Irish Studies. The first holder of the Chair, which honours the three premiers of Quebec, is Michael Kennedy.

For more information on the foundation and the School Canadian Irish Studies go to www.cisf.concordia.ca.

The Shamrock Leaf



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"Bonnet" Ceremony Held in Cobh

Remembering Women Transported to Australia



In Peter St John's well-known song "The Fields of Athenry", Michael is being transported for stealing '...Trevelyn's corn so the young will see the morn."

Between the years 1787 and 1853, 30,000 men were transported from Great Britain to Australia and Tasmania for sometimes very trivial offences. They were required to serve at least seven years. For example, Thomas Donovan of Cork was transported for seven years for stealing potatoes in July 1848 and Thomas Murphy, age 15, of Dublin City was sent for seven years for stealing a hanky. In some cases, stealing

something minimal was a ticket to the new world – especially during the Great Hunger years – when imprisonment was a step up from starvation. Some were even allowed to apply to have their wives and children accompany them, thereby getting free passage.

Not only men were transported however. Over 9,000 women also made the journey for trivial offences.

Mary Connor, a washer, was convicted of stealing a cloak and transported to Australia in 1828. Her great-grandchild, Colin Gray, of New Zealand, was in Cobh, County Cork in August to take part in a unique quayside Blessing of the Bonnets ceremony. Mary Connor fared better than most who found their way to Australia and Van Dieman's Land. She married and had nine children,

taught Aborigines, and lived to be 83.

Mary Walsh, was sentenced to seven years in 1842 for stealing cloth, and she and her one-year old daughter went together, leaving her husband behind. Her sad story is found in Pete St John's newest piece "The Bells of Ireland".

At the Blessing of the Bonnets ceremony in Cobh in August, 2010 bonnets bearing the names of Irish women transported overseas were blessed. The project was

the brainchild of Christina Henri, a conceptual artist from the University of Tasmania. After seeing a display about women's transportation, she asked for bonnets to be made as symbols to commemorate the lives of those women who were transported. So far over 15,000 bonnets have been made worldwide. The art project, entitled "*Roses from the Heart*" is meant to show empathy with their plight. To learn more, or to contribute a bonnet, please check out her website at: www.christinahenri.com.au.



Pat Hurley at the "Roses From the Heart" Ceremony in Cobh, Ireland

"Keep your thoughts positive because your thoughts become your words. Keep your words positive because your words become your behaviours. Keep your behaviours positive because your behaviours become your habits. Keep your habits positive because your habits become your values. Keep your values positive because your values become your destiny."

- Gandhi

Bathurst Chapter News

In early June the Bathurst Chapter again entered a team in the "Relay for Life" and was able to raise a total of \$1500.00 for the cause.

The Bathurst Chapter had 6 members helping out at the Provincial booth as well as the Chapter booth at the Irish Festival in Miramichi. At the end of the day on Saturday the draw was made for the "Irish Blessing Blanket". The ticket sales started at our St. Patrick's supper and continued until the Irish Festival. The winner of the blanket was Mrs. Frances Dempsey.

During that same week two applications for the ICCA, Bathurst Chapter high school scholarship were received. The two young ladies were from Bathurst High School. They were Stephanie Aube, granddaughter of Pat and Betty Murphy, and Katie Edney, granddaughter of Mike and Sharon Moore. Katie was chosen by the ICCA committee to receive the \$400.00 scholarship and will be attending university this fall.

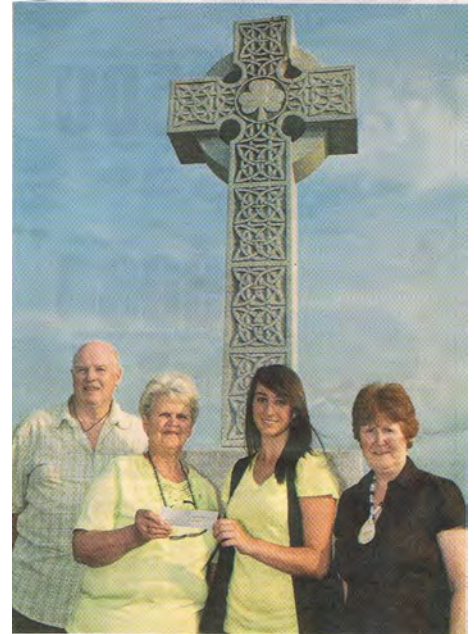
A week after the Irish Festival the Irish Float committee had to get our float ready for the Hospitality Days parade the following Sunday.

The next event for the summer was our annual corn boil. This year 20 dozen ears of corn were donated for the event by member William Boyle. The record number of members attending the boil all agreed that it was the best tasting corn they had eaten, and they ate lots of it.

On Oct. 17th we held our Fall Chapter meeting following by a short social. A number of projects are under way.

The next event will be our Christmas Egg-nog party which is scheduled for Nov. 28th. This is also when members can start renewing their memberships.

The Bathurst Chapter wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all its members.



Scholarship Winner Katie Edney with Chapter Executive: L to R: President Pat Murphy, Connie Whalen, Katie, and Marie Grant



Winner Mrs. Francis Dempsey with Executive of Bathurst Chapter: L to R: Connie Whalen, Mrs. Dempsey, Marie Grant, and Pat Murphy

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An Amharclann to Perform at Festival

An Amharclann, New Brunswick's Irish theatre company, has been invited to participate in the **2011 Acting Irish International Theatre Festival (AIITF)**, which will take place in Calgary from May 16-21.

Based in Saint John, the company will also tour its latest production, the Canadian premiere of Sebastian Barry's *The Pride of Parnell Street*, in Fredericton and at the Miramichi Irish Festival.

"This year has been such a huge one for Saint John's arts community," says An

Amharclann founder, Patrick Toner. "News like this means that our artists will continue to gain exposure not only provincially but also internationally."

Now in its 16th year, the AIITF features performances from community theatre groups from Canada, the US, and Ireland—all of which are devoted to Irish drama. The host city switches each year from an American one to a Canadian one.

At first, it looked as though An Amharclann might not make the cut. "Only once before—2003 in

Florida—did the AIITF ever attract 11 plays, so I was surprised this past weekend when organizers told me that 10 slots were already taken and that they were still waiting to hear from a couple of regular attendees." But the group finally squeaked in for the final slot: May 17.

New Brunswick performances will take place in Saint John on April 28, 29, and 30; in Fredericton on May 13 and 14; and in Miramichi on July 16.

The Pride of Parnell Street is a 2007 play by Sebastian Barry, who has

twice been nominated for the Man Booker Prize. It tells a heart-rending tale of Joe and Janet, a young couple who live a hard-scrabble existence in a Dublin slum until Janet leaves and Joe turns to drugs and crime. But their inner strength gives them a way back from the brink.

"I've been through this script backwards and forwards, and it's going to be powerful, that's for sure," says the play's director, W. David Cook. 🍁

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The Clarkes in Chegnecto

July 2010

By Eldon Hay

Clarke families from Florida and California came recently to this area to rejuvenate Irish Covenanter roots, in the Amherst-Sackville-Dorchester region, in mid-July, 2010.

When my book, *Chignecto Covenanters* was published in 1996 by McGill-Queen's University Press, one of the chief figures was Rev. Alexander Clarke, a Covenanter minister, born in Ireland, who lived in Amherst from 1828 to his death in 1874. His wife was Catherine McMillan Clarke, also Irish born. They had a large family - 8 daughters and 2 sons reached maturity. The daughters married in the region. The oldest son married and was childless. The youngest son, William James Clarke, also became a Reformed Presbyterian minister, but misbehaved, and was later defrocked. He had married Jane Elizabeth Trueman from the region. They had one child, William Alexander Clarke, about whom I knew nothing.

In the fall of 2009, a descendant of William James Clarke, Sarah Clarke of

Jacksonville, Florida contacted me. Apparently, the wayward William Alexander Clarke, an American, had two sons. One of them married a Roman Catholic, the family was disrupted, and the two sons and their families became estranged. Sarah initiated a meeting with the other branch, and met and talked with Ron Clarke in California. Ron had a Clarke family Bible (very similar to the Clarke family bible held by Lois Peacock Trenholm of Murray Corner, NB). Sarah studied the names, and places, then went to the

internet. She found both the *Chignecto Covenanters* and me. Moreover, she began some effective family fence mending; Ron Clarke and Sarah Clarke Stuart became friends.

Sarah, with Ron's cooperation, initiated another step. She proposed that members of the Clarke family spend some time in the Chignecto region, acquainting themselves with some of their roots, and visiting relevant sites. Sarah and Ron Clarke hoped that the return to roots might help overcome the family rift.

It happened July 15th to 19th, 2010. Twelve Clarkes came from Florida, and two from California.

At the outset, there were some difficulties. Rev. Clarke built 12-15 churches, most of which are no longer in existence. (A sole Covenanter church, built by Clarke colleague, Darragh, is on the Mount Pleasant Road, near Oxford, NS, but no longer in use).



Clarke families visit l to r: Christy and Ron, California, Lois, Murray Corner, Gary, Sarah and Susan of Florida

The Clarkes in Chegnecto

(Continued)

The Alexander Clarke home in East Amherst has been so altered as to be no longer recognizable.

William James had lived in Amherst, but we knew not where. I did know he had lived, for three years, in Dorchester Penitentiary, and of course it still stands. Checking with Sarah and Ron, they okayed its inclusion in the schedule (there's a small 'penitentiary' display at the nearby Keillor House Museum).

All the Clarkes gathered for a Friday morning session in Amherst. In my talk with them I focused on the original Clarkes I knew - Alexander and Catherine, their world and

their family. An important Clarke colleague, Wm Darragh, was also featured. I gave a Wikipedia account of the region into which the Clarkes came.

I illustrated with maps indicating who the Clarke daughters had married (Scots, Irish, United Empire Loyalists, Methodists, etc) and where they were buried - all over the Chignecto region. I also showed slides. The Saturday morning time stretched into an extra hour. Lois Peacock Trenholm, age 86, who lives in Murray Corner, NB, was present. A fine feisty lady, she is a current Chignecto Clarke descendent.

We had a lovely meal together on Friday evening; and more Clarke memorabilia was shared. We visited the West Amherst cemetery on Saturday morning, to see the significant Clarke tombstones there. We had no rain, but fog, and millions of mosquitoes! There were a couple of family group photos taken. Thankfully by the time we reached Sackville, the mosquitoes had disappeared.

Alex Clarke had had lots to do with horses, and the modern day Clarkes, on the whole, lapped up the Campbell Carriage factory in Sackville; the guide there was quite knowledgeable.

We went on to Dorchester to pay a visit to the small Keillor House museum display. I was able to take a few courageous American Clarkes up to the main door of the formidable Dorchester Penitentiary; though we did not linger. Security persons removed any photos leading up to the penitentiary, and we were sent on our way.

We had a fine lunch at the Bell Inn in Dorchester. In the afternoon we went to Pioneer Cemetery in Murray Corner, NB. With grass freshly mown, it was a large beautiful day. California's Gary Clarke walked around in bare feet!

(...cont'd next page)



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The Clarkes in Chegnecto

(Continued)

We viewed the Robinson/Clarke cairn - peaceful, great photos, a marvellous day all around. The cairn, erected in 1939 and still standing, is one of the most visible mementoes of Rev. Alexander Clarke. Alas, the base is showing unmistakable signs of wear and tear - more about that in another part of the [Shamrock Leaf](#).

Then we were off to Lois Peacock Trenholm's old country farm house. She was impatiently awaiting us. Photos, furniture, and a large paper Clarke family wheel that Lois had worked on for years, was very avidly noted by the Clarkes. Not at all surprising, it's a fine piece of painstaking work. And a work in progress - the Clarkes took one of the

wheels home, and promise to bring it up to date with their family data, largely unknown before their visit.

The last segment of the visit was a Covenanter-like church service in Renwick United Church, Linden, NS.

Renwick had been built by Darragh after he left the Covenanters, but his sense of architecture remained unconverted. An absolutely lovely place on a beautiful sunny July Sabbath; on a slight hill; small, simple, single pulpit, with a very shallow platform. For the occasion, in the chancel was hung the Covenanter symbol or emblem. In blue and yellow, it was emblazoned with the Covenanter motto "For Christ's Crown and Covenant."

True to Covenanter convictions, no organ music was played. The church organ although not removed, remained silent, covered for the day. There was a precentor for the occasion, to give the opening notes, and for the psalms. The psalms only - psalms are from God's Word (hymns after all, are human compositions, fine to sing, but certainly not to be used in God's Worship).

Rev. Philip Read, regular minister at Renwick United 'opened' the psalm, Eldon Hay gave the 'lecture' on "Seeing we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses." . The congregation very readily stood to pray, sat to sing. Punch, sandwiches and sweets were served after-

wards. Many folk were interested in Clarke and Darragh; many were descendants of the original builders of the Linden church..... Congregants stayed and stayed.

At last, congregants were gone. The Clarkes spent a few moments, looking at the tombstones of Wm. S. Darragh and his wife, Rachel Moore, in the Linden graveyard.

We shared some very warm good-byes with the Clarkes; their Irish Covenanter roots in Chignecto were stirred, revived and cultivated. Long to be remembered; memories to be refreshed and reinvigorated.



Highly Acclaimed Song Book Now On Sale

The newly launched 'Collection of Lesser Sung Folk Songs' has received outstanding reviews following the launch to a packed audience at Armagh's Navan Centre. The songs which were collected in the Derrynoose, Keady and Armagh area over the past thirty years provide deep insights into our heritage, lifestyle, circumstances, the mood of the people and the state of the country. There are songs about emigration, betrayal, hardship, love, homecoming and occupations. There are sad songs, humorous songs all of which stir the pages of history into life again, events long over and gone appearing again in the freshness that attended them when they happened.

A number of the songs were performed at the 12th Annual Tommy Maken festival (see page 21) and the audience, which consisted of Americans, Germans, Dutch, English and Scotch as well as locals, were all clearly impressed.

The book is available in the Old Mill Keady and can be purchased by contacting: bardofarmagh_2000@yahoo.com

Marianna O'Gallagher

Passing of a Canadian-Irish Icon Mourned Around the Globe

The Encarta English Dictionary defines the word "icon" as "somebody or something widely and uncritically admired, especially somebody or something symbolizing a movement or field of activity". For the Irish in Canada Marianna didn't just "symbolize a movement" she *was* the Irish movement. She was a force to be reckoned with and widely respected not just at home but around the world. She will be sorely missed and long remembered.



Marianna O'Gallagher Was an Advocate for the History of the Irish in Quebec

By Alan Hustak

Marianna O'Gallagher was a leading authority on all things Irish in Quebec who was instrumental in having Grosse Ile preserved as a national historic site in 1988. The island in the St Lawrence River was a quarantine station for thousands of Irish immigrants who died there of typhus fleeing the potato famine in Ireland in 1847. O'Gallagher, a former Roman Catholic nun, was one of

the first to systematically research and write about Quebec's Irish roots. She was 81 when she died on May 23 of lung cancer.

"She was an amateur historian, but she was relentless. Her energy, focus and commitment to Irish history were indefatigable. It has been her whole life," said Michael Kenneally, principal of the School of Irish Studies at Montreal's Concordia University.

"She was a towering figure, the most impressive Irish scholar in Quebec of her generation. She single-handedly caused Grosse Ile to be opened as a park the way it is. When Concordia began offering Irish study courses in 1996, we built on her foundation.

Marianna O'Gallagher, the eldest of six children in a land surveyor's family, was born in Sainte-Foy, Que., on March 24, 1929. At the age of 23, she joined the Sisters of Charity in Halifax. She taught at high schools in Nova Scotia, New York and New Brunswick and at St Patrick's High school in Quebec City. In 1973, she was given permission from the federal government to visit Grosse Ile for the first time. O'Gal-

lagher's grandfather, Jeremiah, an engineer, designed the Celtic cross that commemorates the estimated 6,000 immigrants who died and are buried there. When she came ashore she discovered brambles and raspberry bushes in the cemetery were waist high, and she was swamped with emotion at the neglect.

She began a massive letter writing campaign urging Members of Parliament to recognize the significance of the island.

"She was a mover, a treasure trove of information. She had a warmth about her, she was able to communicate," said Don Pidgeon, an Irish historian in Montreal. "She was open and giving with an earthly sense of humour, and she was not overly impressed with the fact that she was Marianna O'Gallagher.

She founded Irish heritage Quebec, a community group designed to raise awareness of the province's unique Irish experience. Although 500,000 Quebecers claim to be of Irish ancestry, it is estimated that 40 per cent of the province's population can claim some Irish heritage. (...cont'd next page)



Marianna O'Gallagher speaking at Middle Island, New Brunswick

Marianna O'Gallagher

(Continued)

In 1981, O'Gallagher started her own publishing company, Carraig Books (the Gaelic word for rock). Among her books are *Grosse Ile: Gateway to Canada, 1832-1957*, and *The Shamrock Trail: the Irish in Quebec City*. Her work inspired a number of other authors to build on her scholarship.

She left the religious community in 1985. "You will have to get out of the habit of calling me sister," she would remind friends. "I'm out of the habit." When the federal government declared Grosse Ile a national historic site in 1988, O'Gallagher was modest about her contributions. "The achievement is not mine," she said. "I

can't take any credit. It is the result of work done by lobbyists, historians, archaeologists and ethnologists. I certainly could not have done it alone."

O'Gallagher is featured in the exhibition at the McCord museum in Montreal: *Being Irish in Quebec*, as one of the 10 most important figures in Quebec's Irish history.

She was a recipient of the Ordre National du Quebec in 1998, and in 2002 was named to the Order of Canada. She was the grand marshal of this year's St. Patrick's Day parade in Quebec City.

(reprinted with permission)

Marianna O'Gallagher: a friend pays tribute

By Joseph Lonergan

In as much as the Irish community in Quebec City endures, it will be greatly to her credit. The same could be said with regard to our endurance in the Province of Quebec. Conversely it will be through no fault of hers if our community weakens. I, and anyone who knew her, and has half a wit, must honour her achievements. We all took pride in her books, her research, and her awards. In her life's work, she honoured our ancestors and kept their memory, she taught our children and she was a friend to us, her contemporaries. We all enjoyed her stories, her kindness and her sense of humour.

She was the founder of Irish Heritage Quebec and its president until six months before she died. She was the heart and soul of the organization since its inception in 1973 and remained so until her passing.

She came from a family that arrived in Canada in 1851, in the wake of the artificial famine. They consistently treasured their Irish ethnicity. Her grandfather, Jeremiah, her father

Dermot, and Marianna herself were all committed to the commemoration of the Irish emigration/immigration experience. The three of them in succession were consistently central to commemorating the tragedy of Grosse Ile. They insisted that the degradation to which their people had been reduced was not of the Irish people's doing. And the lives of Jeremiah, Dermot and Marianna, their extended families, their personal successes in their chosen fields are witness to that. In the absence of oppression, they blossomed.

It was grand to see her in her role as Grand Marshall of the revived St. Patrick's Day Parade in Quebec City two months before she left us. Later it was hard to know that she would leave us, and I knew for she confided in me. She knew too that there was work yet to be done. Marianna will be missed. She has been mourned. Those of us who wish to honour her memory and value our Irish heritage as she died should emulate her virtues. We should be about our work and get things done.

Joseph Lonergan succeeded Marianna O'Gallagher as President of Irish Heritage Quebec. This article first appeared in Nuacht, newsletter of St. Patrick's Society of Montreal.



Marianna as Grand Marshall of the 2010 Quebec City St. Patrick's Day Parade



Quebec City Holds 1st St. Patrick's Parade in Decades

After more than 80 years, Quebec City had its first St Patrick's Day parade in 2010. There hadn't been one in the city since 1926.

The parade included pipers, Irish dancers and even a Chinese Dragon! The New York City Police Department's Emerald Society Pipes and Drums were thrilled with the response. Thousands lined the streets to show their appreciation and the mood was entirely festive.

'It is heartwarming to see a celebration of Irish culture in a city considered to be the francophone capital of North America', said Alistair O'Hara, a member of the St Patrick's Society in Montreal.

The Grand Marshal for the parade was Marianna O'Gallagher, who almost single-handedly was the voice of Irish Quebecers for many years.

It is hoped that the parade will be an annual event.

Statistics Canada states that some 400,000 Quebecers claim Irish ancestry, but as many as 40% of Que-



L to R: Farrell McCarthy, Marianna O'Gallagher, and Edna McCarthy, shown at the reception at City Hall, Quebec City, after the 2010 St. Patrick's Day parade

becers have Irish roots. Many Québécois family names are derived from Irish names, including Bourque (Burke), Mainguy (McGee) and Riel (Reilly or O'Reilly). Many Québécois

families with names like Johnson, Flynn and Ryan have obvious Irish beginnings as well.



Book Review (for more reviews, see pages 31 – 34)



On Another Man's Wound

By Ernie O'Malley

384 pages

ISBN 978-2-901737-37-0

The title – *On Another Man's Wound* – is taken from an old Ulster proverb, "It's easy to sleep on another man's wound".

Written in exile and first published in 1936, O'Malley's writings have become a classic account of the years 1916-1921 in Ireland. It is still considered to be the definitive book on the War of Independence.

O'Malley was a medical student and relatively indifferent to the cause of Irish Independence during the Easter Rebellion in 1916. Gradually he took up the cause however. He joined the Irish Volunteers (later to become the IRA) and organized battalions and companies all over Ireland, under the tutelage of Michael Collins and Richard Mulcahy.

Author John McGahern calls *On Another Man's Wound*, "the one classic work to have emerged from the violence that led to the foundation of the state."

Irish Graveyards Tell a Great Deal

Graveyards are not the just the dead places that they seem to be. Many tell a story about the families that are buried there. You can discover a great deal about a family, who for the most part, left no story behind. A marker with several young children's names show the reality of family life before medical improvements wiped out simple diseases that shortened so many lives. Large numbers of deaths in the same year attest to years of famine or disease that wiped out so many lives in a very short time.

Each cemetery has its own story and the markers within are often the only item left to commemorate otherwise unrecorded lives. As such, they are an important genealogical resource. Sadly, they remain largely untapped mainly due to the amount of time, effort and expense which it takes to record a graveyard.

Many graveyards are very overgrown and neglected, which adds considerably to the task of making a complete record. To add further to the problem, a number of gravestones have suffered so much erosion as to make them completely unreadable which is a real shame.

However, graveyards have one major advantage over other genealogical resources in that they are open seven days a week and are therefore fairly accessible.

Most graveyards, dating from before 1900, were the burial place of members of different churches – Protestant, Catholic, Methodist and Presbyterian all ended up in graves of the same soil. To distinguish which religion the deceased followed it is necessary to follow the hints of the memorial itself – Protestants usually prefer long bibli-

cal quotations, while Roman Catholics often beseech Our Lady's Mercy. The abbreviations 'I.H.S.' and 'R.I.P.' tend usually to appear on Catholic gravestones.

Memorial inscriptions are particularly important in the case of members of the Church of Ireland as many parochial registers were destroyed in 1922.

Most graves were placed south of the church with very few graves on the north side as this was regarded as the *Devil's Side*. The north side was also known as the *stranger's corner* and it was there that non-parishioners, strangers and tinkers were buried.

Gravestones normally face east, where Our Lord will appear on the Day of Judgement. The noted exception is the gravestone of a priest, which faces west, so the pastor can see his flock. Facing a gravestone, husbands will always be on the left side and wives on the right, so that they lay as they stood in marriage.

Memorials have an important role to play for the family historian, as the pedigree of a family may be given which is not available in other sources. Unlike North America, where each grave represents one person, graves in Ireland can contain generations of individuals, all buried in a family plot with four or five atop each other in each plot. As such, many names appear on a stone that seems to mark only one or two plots.

On one particular memorial in Girley Churchyard in county Meath, it is possible to trace one family from 1702 right up to the present day.

A relationship such as a nephew, cousin, brother-in-law may be traced on a tombstone. Such a rela-

tionship will be documented in few other sources.

Other valuable information on memorials include – occupation, address, date of birth, cause of death, deaths abroad, or deaths on ships.

Emigrants in America or Australia often sent funds home to have a decent memorial erected over the grave of their parents and family. Some of these memorials are very elaborate with plenty of money lavished on their construction. Some appear to overshadow most of the other markers in a cemetery. The returning descendants of these emigrants wish to come back to see the plot in which their ancestors are interred.

Where the family is actually buried can give a clue to the family researcher on where to look next for records. Traditionally, Irish people like to be buried with their ancestors, and so may be brought from a parish in which they were born, lived and died, back to the ancestral burying ground which may be many miles away.

Graveyards also tell a story about the communities they are in – names that are repeated throughout the cemetery not only tell which families lived in the area. They are also names that one may find throughout a family tree on the maternal side as well.

Graveyards are indeed a fine source often overlooked by many researchers. Hidden within the stones and mounds, is often a history which is long forgotten and sadly neglected.



Irish Names Give Clues to Family Tree

By Diana Lynn Tilbert

The Irish community has some of the most unique and entertaining names.

After all, who can forget the name of the man who bounced back when pushed against the wall: Rick O'Shea?

Irish names are poetic, playful and filled with meaning. They speak of kings, saints, warriors and commoners. The forces behind these names are Ireland's rich history and Celtic language.

Even a novice genealogist scanning through a list of surnames will be able to identify some which originated in Ireland. Names such as O'Leary, O'Keefe and O'Malley shout, "I'm Irish!" Other names such as Burns (translated from

Byrne, Beirne, Berne), Kavanagh (Cavanagh, Cavanah, Cavanaugh) and Ward are not as easy to spot.

Distinct first names can also help identify a family from Ireland. Names such as Aidan, Declan, Eoin, Niamh, Sibeal (Sybil) and Shannon are all associated with the Emerald Isle.

Baby Names of Ireland (<http://www.babynamesofireland.com/index.html>) contains a list of Irish first names along with their meanings and connections to legends and myths. For example, the popular name Sean is the Irish form of John, meaning "God's gracious gift". Shaun, Shawn, and Shane are other forms of Sean. The name Shane honours Shane O'Neill whose forces fought

against Queen Elizabeth I in the 1500s, winning several key battles.

Irish names can make a tongue do back flips if unaccustomed to the letter patterns of the Celtic language. Saoirse, Yseult (Isolt, Iseult) and Iollan are just a few examples of names not found every day in Atlantic Canada. To learn how these names and others are pronounced, click the Listen button located beside the name on the Baby Names of Ireland website. Frank McCourt, Irish author of "Angela's Ashes", will say the name and the meaning.

Many Irish names were anglicized and lost some of their distinct Irish spellings. Aonghus (Angus), Brighid (Bridget), Cearbhall (Carroll) and Muadhnaid (Mona) are first names which changed slightly to better fit the English world. Anglicized surnames include Ó Coileáin (Collins), Ó hEidhin (Hines) and Ó Raghailigh (O'Reilly).

The Irish tradition of naming children can help piece together a family tree. The oldest son was often named after the father's father. The second son was given the name of the mother's father. The third son was named after the father; and the fourth

son usually honoured the father's oldest brother by wearing his name.

The oldest daughter was given the mother's name while her younger sister was given the father's mother's name. The third daughter born was named after the mother, and the next female was given the name of the mother's oldest sister. Keep in mind that some families strictly followed naming traditions while others broke with tradition.

There are many websites dedicated to names and their origin. If you don't find the name you seek at one source, it doesn't mean it has no history. Keep looking and try different spellings. Every name can be spelt at least two different ways. Baby naming books also provide insight into a name's origin and meaning.

Reprinted with permission; Tilford is a freelance writer living in Milford, NS.



Cemetery north of Clonakilty, County Cork, Ireland

Photo of the Timothy Warren Anglin Home

If only these walls could speak!

Timothy Warren Anglin was a feisty and colourful journalist and politician. Born in Clonakilty, County Cork in 1822, Anglin settled in Saint John in 1849 and started the Catholic newspaper, *Freeman*, which was read by Irish Catholic New Brunswickers throughout the province. Opinionated and passionate, he represented, promoted and defended all causes that affected his NB Irish brethren and his opinion

was highly respected. He first opposed Confederation – vehemently - but then acquiesced and was MP for Saint John from 1867 until 1882. He moved to Toronto a year later and continued in journalism there.

His home, located on Waterloo Street in Saint John, still stands. It houses two apartments and is privately owned but has a unique history. It should be declared a heritage site, if nothing else. Just imagine what we could learn about 19th century New



Brunswick politics – if only these walls could talk!

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Saint John Chapter of ICCANB Welcomes Newest Member



At the last meeting of the Saint John Chapter ICCANB, President, Owen Boyle, and his wife Jennifer proudly presented the newest member of the Association, their daughter Molly Bridget Hannah Boyle. Congratulations and best wishes to the whole Boyle family!

WAK (Moncton) Chapter Presents Two Bursaries

The WAK (Moncton) Chapter of the ICCA has been proud to offer two \$500 bursaries to students of Irish descent for a number of years now. Through the generosity of St Bernard's parish in Moncton – the 'Irish parish' - we are able to have a special offering at the annual St. Patrick's Day mass. For the first time, both recipients were ICCA members. We wish them both well. The 2011 bursaries applications will be available from the irishroom@rogers.com.

This year's Rev. Peter McKee Memorial bursary went to Luke Trainor of Moncton, whose grandmother Margaret (Peggy) Trainor, now deceased, was a member of our chapter from the very beginning. His parents, Peter and Jane and sister, Megan are also members. Luke has been very active in the Chapter, performing as an accomplished guitarist and vocalist. He is studying at Mount Allison University in Sackville.



The Gerry McCarthy Memorial bursary honours one of the Association's charter members who attended the first organizing meeting of the association back in 1983. The recipient was Erin Wallace of Riverview is the daughter of Bob and Maureen Wallace, and granddaughter of Marjorie Hennessy Wallace of Moncton. She is studying at Queen's University in Ontario.



The Famine Rose

By Paul McCloskey

At the last meeting of the Westmorland, Albert and Kent chapter of the ICCANB, held October 17, 2010, the membership was amazed and delighted by a story brought to us by long time member Dr. John Meagher.

Dr. Meagher told us the story of a young woman, who like so many others was leaving Ireland for North America due to the famine occurring in Ireland.

Personal possessions were scarce to begin with and what could be accommodated on a crowded ship even less. Many brought with them their treasured items, family

heirlooms, pieces of jewelry, silverware, tea services, musical instruments and the like. One young woman brought with her a simple rose plant. She managed to keep the plant alive through the rigors of the ocean crossing and travel from her point of entry to southeastern New Brunswick. Upon arriving at her new home she planted the rose in New Brunswick soil, cared for it and watched it take root and grow.

One hundred and forty years later the rose still survives and has become a large, spreading and healthy bush, much like the Irish themselves who came so long ago and prospered in New Brunswick.

The actual location of the rose

is being kept somewhat secret in order to protect it. The gentleman who now owns the house where the rose grows also has the history of the house for the past 140 years and the names of many Irish generations that grew up in it.

The Chapter will be in contact with the gentleman who owns the rose and see what more can be learned of its' heritage as well as what accommodations we may come to regarding its' possible division and cultivation. More news will follow in the upcoming months.



Walk Commemorating the Doolough Tragedy is an Annual Event

On 30 Mar 1849, as the Great Hunger still ravaged Ireland for its fourth consecutive year, two officials of the Westport Poor Law Union were to arrive in Louisburgh, County Mayo to inspect the poor and starving to see if they were eligible for outdoor relief - money, food or clothing that would be given out and would not require the poor to go into over-crowded workhouses or poorhouses. Several hundred had gathered hoping for assistance.

For whatever reason, the inspection never happened. Instead the inspectors went on to the warm and inviting Delphi

hunting lodge, twelve miles south of Louisburgh. Those waiting to be inspected were in desperate shape but were told to go to Delphi Lodge the next morning at 7am if they wanted relief.

For much of that night and the next day, hundreds of destitute and starving people walked the mountainous pass south along the Doolough valley to reach Delphi Lodge in very poor weather. When they finally arrived, starving and cold, and 600 in numbers, they were told that the inspectors were at LUNCH, and couldn't meet with them. When they eventually did meet,

they were refused relief the Doolough pass. Justin



and then had to trek back through wind, rain and snow. Many were too weak to continue the journey and many died along the mountainsides of County Mayo.

This journey is commemorated by a cross on the southern edge of the lake which runs through Doolough pass. On it is an inscription by Mahatma Gandhi: *How can men feel themselves honoured by the humiliation of their fellow beings?*

Since 1988, an annual 'famine walk' retraces the steps of the Doolough tragedy of 1849. Held on 23rd May this year, over 500 walked

Kilcullen, director of Trócaire, an Irish social justice group told the crowd, "The Great Hunger, more commonly known as the Famine, occurred because nobody was politically responsible for those living in poverty."

The annual walk is today a walk of remembrance and also a walk of solidarity. It also remembers, and serves to raise awareness of the more than one billion people still walking, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, in search of food and shelter.



"Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave."

- Lord Henry Brougham, British jurist and statesman, champion of social justice. (1778-1868)

Capital Area Chapter Enjoyed Busy Year

The Capital Area Chapter of the ICCA had a busy summer, starting with our celebration of Bloomsday on the 16th of June, and it went very well, enjoying our biggest turnout yet. Then we had a June BBQ which was enjoyed by all. We also had a booth at the "Cultural Expressions Festival," June 25-26-27, organized by the Multicultural Association of Fredericton. Eileen Malone deserves applause for her work on this event.

In July, we had a booth, and took part in, the Irish Festival on the Miramichi, and we also had a booth at the Highland Games, where we attract a lot of interest. On July 8th, our Chapter was fortunate enough to be part of Kathleen Gorey-McSorley's CD Launch, her second musical creation, and another success. We also had a small get-together at the Malone's' to fete two members who received significant recognition from St. Thomas University, their alma mater. In early July, John McAloon was inducted as an inaugural member of the STU Tommies Sports Wall of Fame, and in mid-July, Michael Nowlan was awarded a Doctor of Letters by STU at the University's summer convocation. Congratulations to both as worthy honourees. (See article on next page).

Also, at the end of July we drew for our Irish Basket, suggested by Jean Burtt as a way to get us started on our Chapter Scholarship fund. The winner was Chapter member Beth McDermott, and we raised \$409.00. Thanks to everyone that sold tickets and to everyone that bought tickets.

In August we took a well-deserved break, but held our first bi-

-monthly meeting on Oct. 3 (really September's meeting), at Renaissance College. Plans were laid for upcoming events such as Tellabration on Saturday, Nov. 20th, held at Renaissance College and featuring a number of great storytellers, and our annual Christmas in Killarney Dinner on Sunday, Dec. 5th held at the St. Thomas Conference Centre. Both events were well-attended and enjoyed by members and guests alike. The food for our Christmas event was excellent, and the entertainment arranged by Roly McSorley capped the evening off.

Also in the planning stages are the events of St. Patrick's week in the Capital area. Last year a group led by Roly McSorley staged an Irish Night at the Playhouse. It was a wonderful success with over 400 tickets sold. In 2011, the show will be Saturday, March 12th, and most of the entertainers have been booked. We are also examining the possibility of a St. Patrick's parade in the city sometime during our week. We will have our traditional flag-raising at City Hall, our Irish Person of the Year induction, St. Pat's lunch at Dolan's Pub, and possibly one or two other things.

On October 24th, the family Malone once again hosted our chapter members, this time for a fall potluck. These annual fall gatherings are often a way to bid good-bye to summer and to look ahead to planning things to make sure we stay active during the winter. (well OK, they also involve a large amount of just talking and enjoying ourselves, but maybe that is the most important part). Our sincere thanks to Austin and Eileen for opening their home to us, and their hearts.

This fall, for the first time, the Irish Studies Program at STU has arranged a monthly Irish film night. Held the second last Thursday of every month, there are 3 fall and 3 winter showings. Our Chapter has been fortunate enough to receive an invitation to attend from the organizers, Lorraine Nolan, Adjunct Lecturer in Irish Studies, and Maria McGeough, Irish Language Professor. The third night took place Nov. 18th and the film showed was "Evelyn" starring Pierce Brosnan. Because this is part of the education program a fee cannot be charged, however the organizers have kindly allowed a donation box to be circulated with all donations going towards the Chapter's newly created Scholarship Fund. We owe them a great deal of thanks for this.

Our regular Chapter meeting was held Sunday, Nov. 21st, with our Chapter's Annual General Meeting preceding it.

Thanks to everyone who helped with organizing all of our various events, and working at our booths. When I look back over the past 6 months, we have indeed been a very active Chapter.

In closing I offer just a reminder to our members and any Shamrock Leaf readers who might be in our area and want to join. Our membership Chair is Donna Styant, ph. #506-462-9813. Dues are payable by January 2010. Memberships are \$20.00 single, \$25.00 family.

- Bruce Driscoll, Chapter President
506-357-8283,

Email:

bdriscn618@rogers.com

St. Thomas Connection

Any history that could be written about the Irish fact in the Province of New Brunswick would be considered incomplete if it did not include a section on St. Thomas University. In 2010, the former St. Thomas College, as it was originally named, celebrated its 100th Anniversary, a century of growth and change. From its beginnings as a high school and junior college, to its standing as a degree granting university in 1934, and its subsequent move from Chatham to its present campus in Fredericton in 1964, STU, as it is now better known, has been a centre of excellence and leadership in liberal arts education and more importantly a centre that encourages independent thinking and personal growth.

Many members of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick have attended STU over the years, both in Chatham and in Fredericton. During the 100th Anniversary celebrations this past year, 2 members of the Capital Area Chapter, ICCANB, were honoured as Alumni of St. Thomas for their contri-

butions to their Alma Mater.

John McAloon was inducted as an inaugural member of the Tommies Sports Wall of Fame, during ceremonies held July 2nd - 4th, 2010. It would be difficult to overstate the importance of the fact that, out of all athletes and all teams that have been part of STU sports for 100 years, John's role was significant enough that he joined only 7 others in the first group to be selected.

His biography on the STU website says the following:

"John McAloon from Stanley, New Brunswick, lettered in both hockey

and football during his years at STU. In fact, he was such a strong player that he was one of only a few in the history of the university to have been "brought up" to play at the university level when he was still in high school. He played a record six years for STU. Known as a "puck-chaser," McAloon played a fast-paced hockey game and regularly led the team in scoring. A star of both the Mari-time Inter-collegiate Athletic Association and the New Brunswick North Shore Hockey League (N-NBSHL) in which St. Thomas also played, he was known by his classmates as "Mr. Hockey." In '49-'50, Mr. Hockey earned 58 points in 18 games, led the N-NBSHL in scoring and secured his place on the

reside on the north side of Fredericton and are active members of the local chapter. Our congratulations to John on this well-deserved accolade.

Michael Nowlan graduated from St. Thomas College High School and then St. Thomas University when it was still in Chatham. A true Miramicher, he non-the-less found his way up the Mighty River and through some small tributaries before finally settling in Oromocto as a High School Teacher, and raising a family there with his wife Gertrude.

STU chose to honour Michael with an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree during the summer convocation, in recognition of his career as a teacher, writer, critic and editor, just a few of his many activities. Many members of the Chapter were fortunate enough to attend the convocation. The news release from the University stated the following:

"A native of Chatham, New Brunswick, Michael Nowlan graduated from St. Thomas College High School, St. Thomas
(cont'd next page)



and football during his years at STU. In fact, he was such a strong player that he was one of only a

STU Sports Wall of Fame."

John and his wife Judy

St. Thomas Connection (cont'd)

University, and the University of New Brunswick and then embarked on a career in education.

He was a teacher and education administrator for over three decades and taught at several schools in the province. At Oromocto High School, he was also head of the English Department and vice principal. Nowlan has written poetry, children's literature, and historical works. His monthly book column in *The Atlantic Ad-*

vocate ran for 15 years. An avid stamp collector and award-winning writer on philatelic issues, he writes a monthly column on philatelic literature for *Canadian Stamp News* and is a fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada."

Michael and Gertrude are both active in our local Chapter and Michael will often grace us with his poems during our more literary activities.



Michael Nowlan posing with (L) Bishop Robert Harris and (R) Denis Cochrane, President of STU, after receiving an Honorary Doctor of Letters Degree from the University.

Singers Raise Rafters at Song Festival

The 12th annual Tommy Makem Festival of song was a resounding success and once again celebrated the importance of the song tradition in Ireland. The Festival was launched in fully packed Tossey's cottage where folk songs sourced locally, nationally and internationally were sung with elegance and style, sometimes unaccompanied, sometimes with a chorus of sixty, sometimes with uproar, sometimes poignant but always with precision and passion.

At the Keepers of the Tradition, past and present singers, song collectors from all cultures were honoured for their outstanding contribution to the song tradition. Those honoured in a packed Armagh Hotel which included visitors from America, Germany, Holland, Scotland, England and from all over Ireland, were popular singer Sean Donnelly, a native of Omagh; Peter Vogeles from Germany who kept

Irish song alive in his native country for many years; Siubhan O Dubhain from Rostrevor the well known singer and song composer in both English and Irish; Peter Carragher a native of Cullyhanna, songwriter and storyteller; the late Dermot Mackin for his all round contribution as a piper, fiddler and songman; the late singer Owen Smith and the musical Berry Brothers, Joe and Willie from Sheepbridge:

There were cultural tours of Armagh City and District as well as lectures and workshops including a most humorous presentation by the great Michael Quinn, regarded by many to be the best story-teller in Ireland at the moment.


The Navan Centre was full for the launch of the much praised Song Book, 'A Collection of Lesser Sung Songs' and local singers stirred open once more the pages of history with their renditions. One

of the unplanned but enduring highlights of the festival was the performance of American folk group Travelers Four plus One who performed a number of early Kingston Trio classics including 'Tom Dooley' and 'The MTA'. Plans are already in place for the 2011 Festival.




Raising the Rafters at Tossey's with Tom Makem (banjo) Robert McGleenan (fiddle) and Gerry Makem (guitar)

For more information please visit the bard website at www.bardofarmagh.com



The Irish Economy and the Property Bubble



By Linda Evans

When the economic bubble burst in October 2008, I was standing in Canada Square surrounded by London's world banking glass houses. It was the end of a long workday and there were many 'suits' spilling out of the doors with stunned and shocked looks on their faces. As they slowly made their way to the Canary Wharf Docklands tube station, they had no idea how the day's events would reverberate around the world. Two years later, many countries are still reeling from the aftershocks but finding their feet – Ireland, is still spinning out of control.

The 'recession' – and I do use the term loosely as history will be the judge – was badly felt in Ireland. The Celtic Tiger was still riding an economic high even though free European Union grants and tax free loans had virtually dried up. The economy seemed in good shape. For the first time in its history, immigration out of Ireland had been halted. The Irish Diaspora had returned from around the world and immigrants – especially from Central European countries - flooded into the republic. The Republic, touted as the strongest economy within the European Union, was riding an artificial high. Things were not as they seemed.

I first noticed early inklings of the economic slump on the Association's website - www.newirelandnb.ca – as early as the winter of 2009. The website began receiving emails from young Irish men and families wondering if there was work in Canada.

Was the recession inevitable in Ireland? Probably. Buoyed up by European Union funding at the turn of the century, there was a spending frenzy – by government, banks, companies, developers, and the common man. Everyone was living beyond their means and there was nowhere to go - but down.

Just this past October, the Irish government had to save the Irish banks with a bailout of an estimated €50 billion, and counting. This will further strangle a sick and ailing Irish economy. This bank bailout alone has increased Ireland's budget deficit from 11 to 32 per cent of her annual national income – three times that of the UK, some 10 times higher than the EU's guideline, and the highest among the world's developed economies. Ireland is sitting on the precipice of disaster and the bad news continues as the government plans €6 billion in cuts from its annual budget.

Government workers have had to take as much as a 15% pay cut. Taxes are increasing at all levels. Thousands of jobs have been lost and unless the economy turns around, the Irish will surely face more misery before things improve. In a return to the days when butter and powdered milk was doled out to the needy in the 1980's, the government is beginning a program of 'free cheese' soon.

More than any other sector of the economy, the property market epitomizes what went wrong in Ireland. Government, banks, property developers, building societies and real estate agents went somewhat mad during the Celtic Tiger years – apartment complexes and

new housing estates popped up all over the republic – not only in the populated urban concentrations of Dublin, Cork, Galway and Limerick - but also in isolated sleepy farming communities across the land!

Known as the 'Irish property bubble', more homes and estates (subdivisions) were built than people could possibly fill – even when times were good. It was pure madness. Dire warnings were issued as early as 2006, but no one took notice and the building continued.

How foolish was it? In isolated County Leitrim, it is estimated that 2,945 homes were built during the economic boom, despite population projections that showed that only 588 homes were needed! As Professor Kitchin, of NUI Maynooth explains, "They were all late to the party and now they are left standing when the music has stopped."

Today, these vacant or semi-completed housing subdivisions are referred to as 'ghost estates'. Some are finished, but empty. Others are merely cinder block shells, lacking interior walls, - eyesores surrounded by construction rubble and weeds. They have been left to be taken back by the gorse they replaced. Their eerie haunting appearance has created the term 'ghost estates'. They sit like a sickening plague on the pristine landscape they once invaded. They are a constant reminder of everything that went wrong.

At one point it was suggested that they be used as social housing to alleviate the critical shortage of homes needed for those who have been added to the already overstretched social welfare system.

The Irish Economy and the Property Bubble (cont'd)



However, many of these estates are located in isolated areas and lack services, necessary transportation links, schools, or even local shops. Social justice groups reject this solution because they feel 'the needy would be better living on the streets where at least they would have access to services'. It would be like sending the poor to a certain demise as the English sent the natives to 'Hell or Connacht' centuries ago.

Abandoned housing estates near the larger urban centres will probably survive once the economy picks up. However, it is estimated that there are over 600 ghost estates across the

republic and many of these are located away from the cities – in rural Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon and Sligo. The Irish government is now entertaining the idea of demolishing some of them, but, like the roofless stone cottages of the famine years, their remnants will scar the landscape for a very long time. They stand as monuments to the economic madness that was fuelled by the Celtic Tiger. For generations, these estates will be reminders of what went terribly, terribly wrong.

Some have compared Ireland's Celtic Tiger years to a poor man winning the lottery.

Having gotten by for so long with so little, the country went mad with spending after having won the 'European Union Lottery'. Now that the money is washed up, Ireland is sadly returning to its economic norm.

When the economy nosedived and the Celtic Tiger took its last breath, the Irish were resigned to their fate. There were no riots as in Greece or a call to revolution as in France. As in the famine years, the Irish simply resigned themselves to the fact that once again, they would have to move on. And so they did, boarding boats and planes – but this time they brought their friends and families with

them. The new immigrants of Central Europe also pulled up stakes and went home.

The Irish economy will revive and there are already small signs to that effect. The Irish are resilient – some would say stubborn - and they will bounce back.

Despite the doom and gloom mindset in Ireland today, the republic was just given a UN ranking of 5th 'best place to live' in the world in terms of quality of life. To put that into perspective – Canada was in 4th place, but has just dropped to the 8th position. Oh, dear!



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20 Questions with Maria McGeough

How does an Irish girl from Dunleer, in County Louth, become an Irish language teacher at St. Thomas University in Fredericton, NB? To answer that, we thought that a game of 20 questions with the young lady might help.

First a bit of geography. County Louth is the eastern connecting point between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It stretches along the coast from County Meath to County Down, and with the new highway system is only an hour's drive from Dublin. Ireland's smallest county, it is home to Drogheda, on the River Boyne, with all that implies in Irish history, and Dundalk, 13kms from the "border" and halfway between Dublin and Belfast. Maria's home town of Dunleer is midway between the two major centres. It seems that growing up in Louth means you have a very real sense of your country's history and politics.



So, Maria, how did you get to St. Thomas?

Last year while studying for my Post-Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) at the National University of Ireland in Maynooth (NUIM), I heard about the Ireland-Canada University Foundation, administered by John Kelly, based in the Canadian Embassy in Dublin. I applied for a teaching position over in Canada, and was very pleased to be accepted. Sean and I left Dublin on the 23rd of August, flew into Toronto, and then to Halifax, where Dr. Stewart Donovan and the fabulous Caleb met us, and we drove to STU. As it happened, on the plane, I noticed a young girl and her mother, both with beautiful red hair, seated not far from us on the flight over. Imagine my surprise when I found out a couple of days after coming to Fredericton who they were: Kathleen Gorey-McSorley and her mom Mary-Beth, and I guess Roly was there too.

Can you tell us a bit about your education and how you became an Irish language teacher?

At 4 years old, I started the 8 year primary school in Dunleer; - well the first two are really pre-school. Then I went to secondary school which can be either a 5 or 6 year program. You take 3 junior years and in fact you can leave at 16 after those 3 years to go to work, but many students don't do that anymore. I couldn't say for certain that a majority take the Transition Year, alt-

hough it is becoming increasingly popular. It's a relatively recent program not offered in all schools. Work experience only makes up 4 weeks of the Transition Year (TY)...the rest of the year is spent in school but free from the impending threat of state exams. Students get the chance to sample subjects and areas within subjects that they might not otherwise experience and these usually (though not always) influence the choices students make for the following 2-year senior cycle. I think it might be worthwhile for us to work on a piece that looks at the education system at home; it's only when I take a step back from it like this that its structure seems interesting!!

You graduate with your Leaving Certificate. I guess just as important for me, you take Irish Language as a compulsory course all through school, and I loved it. From there I went to University College of Dublin (UCD), receiving a BA with a joint major in English/Irish after 3 years. The next year at UCD I got my Masters of Arts in English, actually Anglo-Irish Literature and Drama. I then taught one year at St. Vincent's secondary school in Dundalk, where I taught Irish language to 7 classes, all girls, and spanning different school years. I always knew that I wanted to teach but this year confirmed it. Then in 2009 I entered the National University of Ireland in Maynooth, County Kildare, and this past spring graduated with my PGDE in Education. (...cont'd on next page)

2 QUESTIONS WITH MARIA MCCOUGH (cont'd)

And how long will you be here at STU?

The position is for one academic year, September 1, 2010 - May 1, 2011. I have 2 classes a week in the fall, and 4 a week in the winter and spring. The course title is "Introduction to Irish Language and Culture," so although I do mainly teach the language there are also elements of film, poetry, drama, ceili dancing, some Irish history; all of which make the course more interesting and more rounded. We took over the Black Box Theatre to do the dancing. This fall I teach basic language, and then in the second half I continue with that and pick up two classes for more advanced language, likely some of my first year students will continue.

So who are you teaching?

I have a full class of 20 students, equally split between men and women, college age but varying from 1st to 4th year students. Almost half of them have Irish heritage in their backgrounds and they come from New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Alberta, Quebec and Newfoundland.

What has university life been like the first few months; are students really students, or is it different here than back in Ireland?

I find St. Thomas has a good atmosphere. The faculty, particularly Dr. Donovan and Lorraine Nolan in Irish Studies have been very welcoming, but so have other professors. I find the students very focussed and interested in the course. They want to do it, not just need to take the course because of their degree. As far as compared to my fellow students in Ireland, I think they are all the same at heart.

I'm sure many things are new over here, but is there anything that stands out, and I mean locally, not just in the university?

When we came in by plane to Halifax, I couldn't believe all the trees, and then driving through New Brunswick there were even more trees. You know in Ireland, over the years we had cut them all down. Visually they add so much to the countryside and the city here. And the other thing is the number of cars. Nobody walks, everybody drives everywhere. When Sean and I walk downtown we are all alone on the pavement. The parking lot outside our room on campus is always full, cars coming and going.

This is a Canadian question. Have you found Tim Horton's yet?

Yes, and although I prefer tea, I do get coffee. There's really nothing like it in Ireland. Imagine, drive-through coffee. You'd never see that at home. And they are so busy.

I know the winter last year in Ireland was colder than normal but what have you heard about the coming Canadian winter?

Last year in Ireland we actually had 10C below zero, which is unheard of. Here people say the frost will go down 3 feet, and everyone talks about the snow. We've heard the worst.

Are you getting prepared for it, and how?

I've bought boots...and I have a coat coming. I also know from talking with people that winter can be fun if you do outdoor activities like skiing and snowshoeing. So we'll see what happens.

OK, back to University. What is STU really like as a campus, compared to your colleges at home?

I really think the campus is beautiful. The buildings are more ornate, even Victorian, and there is more of warmth in the layout both visually and in the atmosphere. Ours are often made of concrete and seem cold, but STU is brick and wood and trees.

Another Canadian question; have you been to a hockey game yet?

Not yet, but I plan to go to one to see the St. Thomas team. They aren't playing very well right now. We had hockey in Dundalk, the Dundalk Bulls and the Lady Bulls, and there is an ice dome in the town.

You've been to the Boyce Market; is it different from markets at home?

It really is. The fact that it is permanent, with its own building is very new to us. And the variety of things, especially the multicultural food vendors, which I just love. This is just starting to happen in Ireland, but even then, the markets are more of a buy and sell thing, anything, like a boot sale, not just produce and crafts and meat and food. I think your market is a special place. (...cont'd)

2 QUESTIONS WITH MARIA MCGEOUGH (cont'd)

What do you miss from back home, anything that was obvious early?

Oh God, I miss family, all of them, and my friends. Skype helps a lot. We're better off than those that came over 150-200 years ago to New Brunswick and couldn't go back. And I miss the lack of adverts on the TV; there are so many more here. And I miss real chocolate milk, the creamy stuff.

What has been the most interesting part of your first few months?

I'm surprised at the knowledge people have of their roots and their heritage over here, Irish certainly, but also First Nations. You know the fact that First Nations are shedding their languages is just like what happened in Ireland over time. It happened at home I think because they felt the need to do that since English had become the language associated with prosperity due to invasions. But it is a terrible loss that you can't get back.

Now you are not the only language specialist over here from Ireland teaching at University. Are you in touch with the other teachers that came over this fall?

We stay in touch online. 4 of us are in the Atlantic Provinces, one is in Montreal, and one in Toronto but she was here last year.

What did you know about Canada before coming; had other family members ever been over or close friends?

I must say, I knew very little when I started but I did some digging. I was very surprised at the size and depth of the Irish fact in Canada especially down here in the eastern part of the country.

Is there something, or some place, in particular you'd like to see before going home next year?

Where do I start – the Miramichi—both the River and the City which is very Irish, and Niagara Falls, and the Prairies, and Vancouver, and I can go on.

This time, an East Coast Canadian question; I know you do have lobster in Ireland but have you tried it here?

Yes I've tried it. I know it is considered a treat. It's very expensive in Ireland and even if it is common in some areas, it is not a regular feature on people's dinner tables. We see prawns far more often. And no, it's OK; you don't have to buy me any. I can't speak for Sean.

Has there been a food that you have found very different here, but also very good?

Actually that's not a difficult question. At the Boyce Market they have pulled pork sandwiches. They're brilliant. Pork is common at home, but not cooked and served like that.

Maria, thank you for doing this interview with us, and may you enjoy the rest of your time here in New Brunswick.

Bits and Pieces

By Farrell McCarthy

In May 2010, the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick launched "The New Brunswick Irish Portal" on its website - http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/exhibits_en.html. Through exhibits and an immense database, the portal tells the story of the Irish arrival and settlement of NB. Association member, Denis Noel, was instrumental in bringing our 'story' alive for all to see. It is a valuable historical journey and an asset to anyone doing research on the Irish of NB.

The Irish Canadian Cultural Association has joined together with the NB Scottish Association and the Welsh Association of NB to form the Celtic Affairs Committee. The group aims to canvas the NB government recognize NB's Celtic peoples as a vibrant and distinctive group as well as promote the need for a Celtic Affairs Branch or Secretariat within the province's governmental framework.

November 10, 2010 marked the 35th anniversary of the sinking of the S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald. On that sad day on Lake Superior, 29 sailors lost their lives. Edmund's great-grandparents were immigrants from Ireland and six of the Fitzgerald boys eventually became captains on the Great Lakes.

BITS and PIECES (*cont'd*)

Brian Murphy, MP for Moncton-Riverview-Dieppe, was appointed President of the Canada-Ireland Interparliamentary Friendship Group last spring. The committee promotes exchanges between Irish and Canadian parliamentarians, proposes initiatives likely to lead to a better mutual understanding of national and international problems and works to develop cooperation between the two countries in all the fields of human activity.

www.census.nationalarchives.ie is the website of the 1901 census on-line that was launched on 3 June 2010. The two complete surviving censuses for early twentieth century Ireland are now largely available, searchable in the most comprehensive way, and free to access. The 1911 census is also available.

Another free-to-access government sponsored website, www.irishgenealogy.ie contains really important Church records for Dublin, Kerry, Carlow and parts of Cork. Church records are a vital part of our cultural heritage, particularly since the destruction of the 19th century census records, and it is hoped that more and more of them will be made available on the website. It is an ongoing transcription project that has loads of promise for the Irish Diaspora.

In October 1831, an advertisement appeared in the Boston Pilot newspaper seeking a Patrick McDermott, whose wife and family, newly arrived from Ireland, would be returned by the Emigrant Commissioner if he was not located. This was the first ad in what became known as the "Missing friends" column, which ran for 91 years until 1921. With over 31,000 entries available, they are now on-line at <http://infowanted.bc.edu/> and it is a searchable database.

Gaeltacht Thuaisceart an Oileáin Úir (the North American Gaeltacht) was opened in June 2007 by Ambassador Declan Kelly. The Minister of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamonn Ó Cuív recognized it as 'the first Gaeltacht outside of Ireland'. The Gaeltacht is a 62 acre property, located near Kingston, Ontario (Tamworth/Erinsville). It has 1,100 feet of waterfront along the Salmon River. It may be located on 'Google maps' at 298 Gilmore Road, Tamworth, Ontario.

Ed note: The following poem was found in a scrapbook belonging to Mary Louisa Clarke – daughter of William Clarke and Anne Downes of County Kerry, Ireland. Born in Flume Ridge, NB in 1859, Mary Louisa died in St. Andrews in 1941, where she and her husband, Alexander McMullon lived. Submitted by Faye McMullon

Three Leaves of Shamrock

Ah, there's sorrow in the shamrock; it is wet with many tears
Shed by Kathleen Houlahan throughout the bitter years.
There is sorrow for the pikemen who wore it to their graves;
There is sorrow for the exiled, who bore it o'er the waves;
There is sorrow, a proud sorrow; for the days when it was seen,
Though they hanged both men and women for the wearing
of the green,
And still the Irish shamrock grows, and still shall hold its own,
An epitaph for Emmet, a mourning wreath for Tone.
Oh, there's glory in the shamrock; there were bards to sing
its praise
Through the Isle of Saints and Scholars in the ancient golden days;
The minstrel twined it on his harp; the warrior on his

shield,
And well the three-leafed badge was known on many a bloody field.
The Wild Geese bore it on their breasts; it never gleamed in vain
By France's liliated banner or the castled flag of Spain,
And on that day at Fontenoy, as the clashing columns close,
How green the shamrock shows above the flaunting English rose!
There is memory in the shamrock; the little sprig of green
With its magic brings before us some old, beloved scene –
The vales of Tipperary or the moors of Donegal,
Lough Gill in placid beauty, like an angel's tear let fall;
From the thundering coast of Kerry to the dim, blue Wicklow hills
A bit of shamrock takes us as its fairy magic wills.
Oh, a sprig of Irish shamrock beguiles, inspires and grieves,
With Memory, Glory, Sorrow, its trinity of leaves.



An Irish Stamp Album



By Michael O. Nowlan

An Post, the Irish Post Office, has had a banner year in 2010 celebrating anniversaries, associations, fashion designers, legendary show bands, and much more.

Whether you are a visitor or a local, you cannot travel far in Ireland without spotting a high cross. Dotted across the emerald Isle, High Crosses are free standing Christian crosses made of stone and often richly decorated. Also known as Celtic Crosses, they were primarily created sometime around the eighth or ninth century and used mainly as status symbols, meeting points for masses or parish boundaries.

Most High Crosses have stone-carved panels illus-

trating biblical narrative scenes from the Book of Genesis to the Last Judgment. Like the book of Kells, High Crosses are one of Ireland's greatest contributions to art from the Middle Ages.

To accent the historical significance of the High Cross, An Post issued four very attractive stamps on April 8. They include Drumcliffe Cross, which is situated on the grounds of a former monastery founded by St. Colmcille and stands in view of a magnificent round tower. Another is the Carndonagh Cross in County Donegal outside the school grounds of Ireland's largest community school which features carvings depicting the crucifixion.

Ahenny Cross in County Tipperary is richly decorated with geometric spirals, knot work, and braids. The fourth stamp depicts the Monasterboice Cross in County Louth which stands beside the remains of two churches. It is located on one of Ireland's best-known and earliest religious sites. These four stamps take a gold star in the An Post listings



for 2010.

New issues for the Irish Post Office commenced on January 21 with the release of a special commemorative to salute the 150th anniversary of the birth of Douglas Hyde, the first president of Ireland. Hyde was born on January 17, 1860 near Castlerea, County Roscommon. Early in his life, he took a great interest in the Irish language. That interest continued when he went to Trinity College. As a linguist, he was also fluent in French, Latin, German, Greek, and Hebrew.

He led a distinguished career as a scholar. In 1893, he was a founder member and first president of Conradh na Gaeilge (The Gaelic League), an organization set up to preserve and promote the Irish language.

Hyde was appointed a

senator after the formation of the Irish Free State, but lost his seat in 1925 after the Seanad became an elected body because it was falsely claimed he was in favour of divorce. In 1938, he was again appointed to the Seanad and soon after was named the first President of Ireland. An outstanding individual, he well deserved this tribute. The stamp features a photographic portrait of Douglas Hyde in a relaxed pose by Keogh Brothers Ltd. (...cont'd)



An Irish Stamp Album

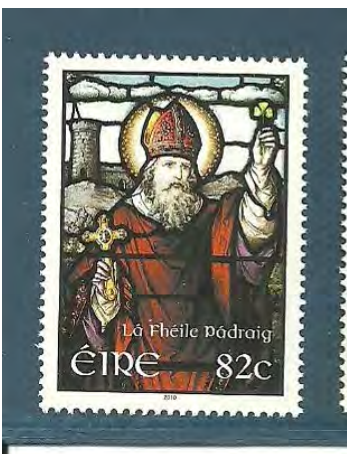
(Continued)

Also on January 21, An Post announced its new wedding stamp, one of the most popular annual issues, especially among those who are about to get married. The stamp depicts a pair of devoted lovebirds which embody the love and joy shared by the happy couple.

Before January was out, An Post was back with its annual Greetings stamps on January 28 which depict original cartoon illustrations by Roger O'Reilly featuring a boy and a girl zooming through outer space. One stamp has a heart while the other has a big birthday cake.

The Irish Post office marked the commencement of the Chinese New Year of the Tiger on February 11, and, on February 18, An Post announced a new stamp to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on March 17.

There are many legends surrounding St. Patrick,



but it is believed he did his missionary work in Ireland in the second half of the fifth century. The stamp's design is from an image of St. Patrick from a stained glass window in St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Cathedral in County Armagh.

On March 11, a new stamp celebrating the 25th anniversary of Gaisce - The President's Award was released. The Mission Statement of Gaisce is "to contribute to the development of all young people through the achievement of personal challenges."



The award was established in 1985 to mark international Youth Year. The President's Award is the highest award that can be given to a young person in Ireland. There are three age categories: Bronze with a minimum age of 15; Silver starting at age 16; Gold for 17-year-olds to the upper age limit of 25. It is a prestigious and challenging program which has seen 220,000 young people take part in

25 years.

The March new issue program concluded on the 25th with a special commemorative to celebrate 100 years of the Irish Countrywomen's Association. The Association works to make life better for women and families all over the country, while also promoting Irish language and culture.

The annual Europa theme produces a vast number of stamps from the countries of the union. The 2010 theme was children's books with two genius Irish writers and two great children's classics. "The Happy Prince" is the most famous story from Oscar Wilde's 1888 collection *The Happy Prince and Other Stories* while *Gulliver's Travels* is a world-famous novel by Irish writer and clergyman Jonathan Swift. Both stories are represented on the two An Post Europa issues with an illustration of Gulliver landing on Lilliput and another from the snowy setting for "The Happy Prince."

Two May 27 issues marked the 150th and 100th anniversaries of the births of artist Roderic O'Connor and poet Martin O. Direain respectively. Two O'Connor stamps feature his most famous work, *The*

Breton Girl (1906), and a self portrait (1928). The lone Direain stamp has an illustration of an original painting of the poet against a backdrop of his beloved Aran Islands.

Two international humanitarians - Mother Teresa and Henry Durant - were



the subjects of two stamps issued on June 17. Durant was the founder of the Red Cross, but it is not necessary to outline the wonderful work of Mother Teresa here.

Irish fashion designers Paul Costelloe, Louise Kennedy, Lainey Keogh, John Rocha, Philip Treacy, and Orla Kiely got the philatelic limelight in July.

July also saw the issues of four new stamps in the Irish Fauna and Flora series. The series depicted the Buzzard, the Golden Eagle, the Peregrine Falcon, and the Merlin. Each is a beautiful depiction of these beautiful creatures.

In a joint issue with the Sweden Post Office on

An Irish Stamp Album

(Continued)

August 26, An Post issued a commemorative to celebrate Czeslaw Slania (1921-2005), one of the world's most prominent stamp engravers. Slania was highly praised and well-decorated for the stamps he engraved. The joint issue stamp depicts one of Slania's favourite ballet scenes from Romeo and Juliet where the dancers, Anneli Alhanko and Per-



Arthur Segerstrom, appear to almost defy the laws of gravity.

The Irish Wheelchair Association marked its 50th anniversary on a stamp September 8 while four legendary show bands got the focus on September 23. The bands were the Miami Showband, The Drifters Showband, The Royal Showband, and The Freshmen.

Two October releases had one stamp to mark the centenary of the Automobile Association Ireland (October 14) and two stamps to mark the bicen-



tenary of Chile's Independence (October 28). The two se-tenant stamps specifically honoured Bernardo O'Higgins and John (Juan) MacKenna, Irishmen who played a significant role in obtaining independence for Chile.

Lastly, An Post issued three stamps on November 4 in its annual Christmas series. Two of the fes-

tive stamps feature stained glass windows from Roscommon's Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Brigid's Church. The third is a self-adhesive promotional stamp of an illustration by Roger O'Reilly of one of the best known bird species in Ireland - a European Robin.

To learn more about Irish stamps explore the An Post very user-friendly website:

www.irishstamps.ie
or write An Post, General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.

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Thanks for looking!



Book Reviews

by Farrell McCarthy

To understand the heart and soul of a country you must know its history, language, folklore and culture. Today we are much more able to achieve this because Ireland and the Irish Diaspora are experiencing a publishing and media renaissance.

Now is the time to begin a small Irish library in your home. In doing so, you will pass on to your children the richness of the culture of their ancestors. Why not give an Irish book to a friend or family member for Christmas, a birthday or St. Patrick's Day?

Farrell McCarthy has copies of the books reviewed here. You can contact him at 109 Roy Avenue, Miramichi, NB, E1V 3N8 (506) 622-4007 or by e-mail fmccarth@nbnet.nb.ca.

You can also check out the local bookstore. The ISBN numbers are included for easier identification and ordering. Ask your local bookstore to order a few of these books, so the public will be exposed to more of a variety of Irish books.



Mick

The Real Michael Collins

By Peter Hart
484 pages
ISBN 0-670-03147-X

Before his ambush and murder in 1922 at Béal na mBláth, Cork, Michael Collins fought in the Easter Rising, organized the IRA, outwitted British Intelligence, negotiated the Anglo-Irish Treaty and ran the first independent government of Ireland. Yet, he was only 31 years old at the time of his death.

Collins is sometimes referred to as the father of modern Ireland and most biographies have idolized his career as a result. Peter Hart looks deeper. Drawing on previously unknown sources, he examines the early years of Collins' life before he became a revolutionary and politician. This biography also shows a Collins who sought power and exercised it ruthlessly. More politician than soldier, he surrounded himself with followers and demanded their loyalty.

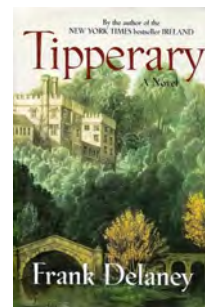
He left behind a troubled legacy – an IRA out-of-control, the beginnings of the Northern Ireland problem that he could not solve, and a civil war he couldn't prevent.

Authoritative and absorbing, and well-documented, Peter Hart offers an in-depth portrayal of one of the most remarkable leaders in Irish history. If you haven't seen the award winning film "Michael Collins", rent it from the video store.

Tipperary

By Frank Delaney

365 pages
ISBN 978-1-4000-6527



Tipperary born novelist, Frank Delaney unravels a great story and brings history to life in his novels, including his epic novel, *Ireland*, published in 2005.

Tipperary follows the story of Charles O'Brien, and Anglo-Irishman, born in 1860. He matures into a country doctor, and on his roamings around his native Tipperary, the narrative allows us to witness the devastation caused by land reform measures which were put into place in the late 19th century. These reforms and their aftermath eventually led to Irish independence but the land reform years are less known to the average Joe than the story of the devastation of the famine years. As such, Delaney's *Tipperary* enriches a fascinating and complex period of Irish history.

After being turned down in his love life, O'Brien becomes obsessed with acquiring the abandoned 'big house', near where he grew up, but there is a twist.

The storytelling is sweeping and dramatic. Myth, fact and fiction are woven together in the style of a nineteenth century novelist. *Tipperary* is certainly worth the read. Delaney's confident storytelling and quirky characterizations enhance the background story.

Book Reviews (cont'd)



Timothy Warren Anglin 1822-96 Irish Catholic Canadian

By William M Baker
300 pages
ISBN 0-8020-5368-8

Although written almost forty years ago, this is still the definitive work on one of New Brunswick's most prominent Irishmen.

Timothy Warren Anglin was born in Ireland and immigrated to New Brunswick in 1849. Founder and editor of the *Freeman*, he became a spokesman for the large Irish-Catholic population in Saint John. A champion of social justice, he entered the political arena as well, when it was difficult for an Irish Catholic to do so.

His Irish background and ideas, as well as his moderate political stance and middle-class background, made him an effective mediator between the Irish Catholics in New Brunswick and the rest of the community.

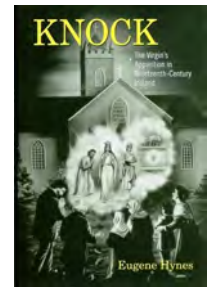
He was vehemently opposed to Confederation and convinced many Irish Catholics throughout the colony to vote against it through the *Freeman*. Yet, once Confederation was accomplished he became a Member of the Canadian House of Commons from 1867 to 1882 and was Speaker of the House from 1874 to 1878.

His life as a newspaperman, politician and Irish Catholic spokesman provides insight into the social history of New Brunswick throughout the second half of the nineteenth century and in many ways, gives us an understanding of the political shenanigans that still plague us today.

A photo of his home in Saint John is located on page 16 of this issue.

Knock The Virgin's Apparition in Nineteenth-Century Ireland

By Eugene Hynes
366 pages
ISBN 978-1-85918-440-0



On 21 Aug 1879, in the poor rural village of Knock, in County Mayo, over a dozen people saw a bright silvery-white light outside the gable of the local Catholic Church. Within the light they saw a vision of the Virgin Mary, St Joseph and St John the Evangelist. Today, Ireland's National Marian Shrine in Knock receives one and a half million pilgrims each year.

For the first time, the sighting is dissected by Eugene Hynes, a native of County Galway and an associate professor of sociology in Michigan. Surprisingly, this is the first academic work on the Shrine and the events before and after the apparition in Knock.

Hynes combines insight into social theory with a deep knowledge of the historical context of the apparition sighting. By so doing, he provides a detailed look at the event of the day and produces a scholarly but very readable landmark study of late nineteenth century rural Ireland. The author uses his academic skills to study the individuals involved in the sighting as well the local clergy, Land League activists, various promoters and others. To understand the event, he digs deep into the local history of the area for a generation before the event as well as the years following it.

This innovative look at the Knock apparition is a major contribution to the social history of modern Ireland. Through extensive research, and with a social historian's eyes, along the way, Hynes challenges the usually accepted explanations of changes in nineteenth century Irish Catholicism as well.

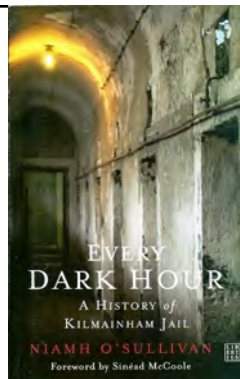
Where's Where in Dublin

A Directory of Historic Locations 1913-1923

[The Great Lockout, The Easter Rising, The war of Independence, The Irish Civil War](#) 226 pages ISBN 0-946841-82

Issued by the Dublin Council to mark the 90th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, *Where's Where in Dublin* is a marvellous resource for anyone wanting to visit Dublin. This book is for every tourist keen on following in the footsteps of those who fought for independence during the tumultuous decade between the 1913 lock-out and the Irish Civil War. The directory methodically lists the historic locations on a street by street basis so one can easily see the sites associated with the decade's events.

Book Reviews (cont'd)



Every Dark Hour A History of Kilmainham Jail

By Niamh O'Sullivan
250 pages
ISBN 978-1-9054833-21-1

Kilmainham Jail has been a place of incarceration since it's construction in the late eighteenth century, until it finally closed its doors in 1924.

A powerful symbol of the British ruling years, the jail is better known as the location where the 1916 rebels were executed. Robert Emmett and Charles Stewart Parnell both spent time here. An open museum since the 1980's, Kilmainham is today's most visited tourist site in Dublin.

ist site in Dublin.

This is not just a treatise of the political prisoners who spent time here however. O'Sullivan also delves into the succession of petty criminals and misfits who stayed here as well, some of them committing crimes simply to be incarcerated so that they could be fed regularly.

Niamh O'Sullivan, as the jail's archivist, knows the prison and it's stories inside out. She has a comprehensive knowledge of the building, its residents over the years, and their stories.

This is the first full-length comprehensive study of Kilmainham jail written and it is illustrated with several previously unpublished photographs.

Since its publication in 2007, O'Sullivan has also written *Written in Stone: The Graffiti of Kilmainham Jail* (2009) It's ISBN is 978-1-905483-72-3. Available through most booksellers, it would be a companion to her earlier work.

Life on a Famine Ship A Journal of the Irish Famine 1845-1850

By Duncan Crosbie
25 pop-up pages
ISBN 978-0-7171-3960-6

A board book for children, Michael O'Connor's fictional journal is packed with illustrations, facts, and real-life details of his journey. It includes two pop-up pages – one of the Dunbrody famine ship and one of life below the decks on the ship, as well as many 'doors' to open.

The journal is an unusual and innovative introduction to this extraordinary period of Irish history and the nine-year old's story is typical of the two million Irish people who fled Eire between 1845-1850.

It spans life in Ireland when the famine occurred, the potato crop failure, the trip across the North Atlantic and the difficulties the new immigrants faced when they arrived in America. Although this is essentially a pop-up board book, the subject material is geared more to pre-teens than to the younger set who are more familiar with this format.

An Irish Heart How a small immigrant community shaped Canada

By Shannon Doyle Driedger
390 pages
ISBN 978-0-00-200784-9



During the Great Famine of the 1840's, thousands of impoverished Irish fled to Canada on what came to be known as the 'fever ships'. As the desperate arrivals landed in Quebec City, families were often torn apart. Many made their way up the St. Lawrence River to Montreal, where as many as 6,000 died in appalling conditions.

Despite these terrible beginnings, many Irish remained in Montreal's Griffintown, already one of Canada's oldest urban Irish communities.

An Irish Heart captures the immigrants' strong faith, their dislike of authority, their close-knit families, their love of drink, song and a good fight, and their loyalty. Filled with personal recollections drawn from expansive author interviews, this moving and engaging book recreates a community and a culture that should find a place of distinction in our history.

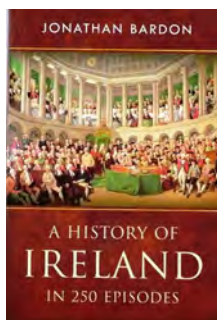
Book Reviews (cont'd)

A History of Ireland In 250 episodes

By Jonathon Bardon

560 pages

ISBN 978-0-7171-4649-9



Originally broadcast on BBC radio in 2006-07, all 250 episodes of Jonathon Bardon's popular radio broadcasts on the history of Ireland have been put together in book form for all to read.

Born in Dublin, but spending his life teaching both Catholic and Protestant children in Belfast, Bardon has been able to remain apolitical and looks at Ireland's history without bias. This book covers all the usual chapters of Irish history from the Mesolithic era up to the beginning years of this century. Often, Bardon gets behind the historical headlines to provide a glimpse of the past that may otherwise be forgotten.

Woven within are quirky episodes of little known history – like episode 122 about the great winter freeze of 1740 which caused famine and mahem, or episode 127 which is about 18th century Irish gentry and their expensive tastes. After reading each episode, the reader is left wanting to know more.

The book keeps to the original structure of the radio programs as they aired. At the same time, for interest sake, these episodes often get behind the historical headlines of Irish history to give a glimpse of the past that may otherwise be forgotten.

Follow the Money The Tale of the Merchant of Ennis

By David McWilliams

305 pages

ISBN 978-7171-4807-3



Very topical today, *Follow the Money* chronicles the story of the

doomed Celtic Tiger and its aftermath through the eyes of some of his previously created memorable characters: the Merchant of Ennis, Breakfast Roll Man and Miss Pencil Skirt. This generation – known as the 'Pope's children' – are those who were born around the time of Pope John Paul's historic visit to Dublin in 1979. When they came of age, they had it all as Ireland's economy rode an economic high.

In *Follow the Money*, McWilliams, an Irish media economist, discusses how this generation felt betrayed and broken after the economic collapse in 2008.

This is no way an economic treatise meant to put one to sleep. Instead it is an understandable study of what went wrong in Ireland. By following the money we see how 'buy now, pay later' in many ways had a great deal to do with the Irish economic collapse.

Immensely readable, this book also offers an optimistic and uplifting look at what Ireland can do to turn things around. Richard Bruton, from the Irish Independent said, "This is a vivid, witty and provocative book."



The Faithful Tribe

An Intimate Portrait of the Loyal Institutions

By Ruth Dudley Edwards

603 pages

ISBN 0-00-638890-6

A Dublin born Catholic, Ruth Dudley Edwards has travelled an amazing journey into the study of Orangeism and her portrait of the loyal institutions – the Orange Order, the Apprentice Boys and the Royal Black Perceptory is an engrossing read.

With fresh eyes and an unbiased view – although she is not un-critical – Dudley Edwards has written an in-depth study through not only historical research, but also with insider interviews as well. This book is a revelation.

Kevin Myers of the Sunday Telegraph calls *The Faithful Tribe*, "one of the wisest and most perceptive books to have emerged from Northern Ireland's troubles."

TRAVEL IRELAND WITH GOOGLE EARTH

by Linda Evans

As a geography nut, I have used Google Earth to locate places in the news for years. When the earthquake occurred in Haiti, on I went to check out the landscape from the air.

Since the addition of street camera views – a controversial addition that some call an invasion of privacy - I've roamed all over the world.

When a family member moved from Central London to a 'chocolate box' village in southwest England, I used Google Earth to type in his new postal code, and the program brought me directly to his new home. What a small world we live in today!

Until recently, Ireland didn't allow street views on Google Earth, but they are now included and it opens up a new world of possibilities. One can zoom down and travel the highways and byways throughout the Republic – in most areas.

Some isolated roads have not been included yet.

While wandering around Ireland a few weeks ago (virtually), I wondered if they had cameras on the old back road northwest of Drimoleague, County Cork. Could I zip down on the ruins of the O'Donovan Castle standing in its rocky outcrop amid a field of gorse? A road travelled by sheep more than humans, I held out little hope. But, not only was I able to zoom down on the road, I could also pass right by the castle itself.

The photo – and I apologize for the graininess as it was taken directly from Google Earth – as I 'cyber-drove' past the castle - shows scaffolding around the great massive hole left by Cromwell's armies. Someone is actually restoring it! I wonder if I should send back the piece of the castle I have mounted and on display in my study? Not!

If you have Google Earth, take a tour of some of Ireland's wonderful scenic roads. Even if you don't

zoom down to the street cameras, the site has wonderful photographs contributed by many who have been there. If you don't have Google Earth, it is easy to download and then you too can zip down onto the streets of Galway, or along the isolated roads of County Wicklow.

You may come across some areas of the country that you haven't explored but would like to see on your next visit. Google Earth opens up a whole new world of travel possibilities!



The annual Marven McCarthy tour of Ireland happened in September and everyone had a great time, although there were fewer who went this year. Here they are standing around a Celtic Cross is found in County Tyrone. It marks the spot where a mass rock was once located.



Left to right, front row: Philip Giguere, Marven and Mary Ann McCarthy, Patricia Kennedy, Catherine and Leo Holland, Dollena-Warren Giguere.

Left to right, back row: Farrell McCarthy, Dorothy Lalonde, Nellie Ross, Agnes O'Neill, Patricia Fradsham, and Dorothy Lalonde. Members of the tour came from Fredericton, Miramichi, St Stephen, Sherbrooke, QE, Belleville, ON and Hinton, AB.

(See next page for details of 2011 Tour)

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ITINERARY

- Day 1 – Flight to Dublin
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- Day 3 – Waterford to Killarney via Cobh, Cork and Blarney Castle
- Day 4 – Ring of Kerry and Killarney
- Day 5 – Killarney to Galway via Adare, Ennis, Cliffs of Moher & The Burren.
- Day 6 – Connemara Tour, visit Cong and "Quiet Man" sites. Tour of Galway. Enjoy an Irish Show – "Trad on the Prom".
- Day 7 – Galway to Monaghan via Lady of Knock, Sligo & Yates Country
- Day 8 – Day tour through the Antrim Mountains, visit the Giant's Causeway, & see the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge
- Day 9 – Monaghan Tour, our driver/guide's special tour
- Day 10 – Tour to Derry, walk the wall of the old city and see the Bogside murals
- Day 11 – Visit Omagh Folk Park. Attend an Irish Kitchen Party this evening.
- Day 12 – Monaghan to Dublin, sightseeing in Dublin, visit St. Patrick's Cathedral and Guinness Storehouse.
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- Day 13 – Sightseeing in Dublin.
- Day 14 – Dublin International and our Flight Home

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- Entrance fees to sites included in the itinerary
- Enjoy Dinner & A Show in Dublin & A Traditional Irish Music, Song & Dance Show in Galway.
- Two special evenings of music with no cover charge, one at a Pub and a Kitchen Party
- Service charges and local taxes on services provided in the tour
- Porterage: one piece of luggage per person at hotels except in Monaghan.
- Services of a tour manager beginning in Canada

Passengers aboard the *Thetis*
Cork, Ireland to Bathurst, New Brunswick
April 1837
By Paul Delicat (reprint)

Very few lists of ship's passengers to Canada have survived, there being no obligation to retain them before about 1865. Extensive searches in Canada and Great Britain have failed to produce any such lists, and few passengers were mentioned by name in shipping lists published in the newspapers, whose entries simply state "100 passengers from Cork" or any port of embarkation.

The list here printed below is in the Provincial Archives, Fredericton, NB (RSB: Immigration General 1834-1845). It lists the crew and passengers of the *Thetis* of Troon, in Scotland, who left Cork on the 12th April 1837 bound for Bathurst, Bay Chaleur in New Brunswick. Chaleur Bay received a fair number of early 19th century Irish immigrants, many of whom were no doubt awed by the wilderness which met them; especially those who associated North America with centers such as Halifax, Saint John, Boston, or New York. In consequence a great number left for the "South" at the first opportunity. The popularity for landing passengers in the Bay was probably the quantity of shipping which went there to take on cargoes of lumber and fish. Such ships would have had to return from Europe in ballast had they been without cargo and what better cargo could be found than humans, who were self-loading and paid passage to boot.

It is most unfortunate that the list gives neither the passengers' addresses nor any relationships, but their age only. The surnames, however, look as if they were mostly

from Co. Cork. The *Thetis* (named after the Greek sea-nymph who was mother of Achilles) was a relatively small ship, being registered at 209 tons. In 1839 when Joseph Cunard set up his ship-building enterprise at Bathurst he started with 300 and 400 ton ships and by 1845 ships of up to 1035 tons.

List of Passengers embarked in the *Thetis* of Troon – Robert Hamilton, Master, and who have contracted to be landed at Bathurst – Bay Chaleur:

41 Male Adults, all listed as labourers: Timty Rearden, 30; Patk Desmond, 40; Timty Clifford, 30; Thos Leahy, 28; John Leahy, 22, absent – deleted; Denis Keeffe, 20; Rich Gahint (?), 28; John Sweeny, 30; Danl Downins; 30, Danl McCarthy, 30; John Murphy, 30; Patk Murphy, 25; David Joyce, 40 – deleted; Felix McCarthy, 30; Patk McCarthy, 30; Jerh Regan, 30; Edwd Sweeny, 25; Jas Sullivan, 50; Danl Mahony, 25; John Casey, 20; John Carthy, 20 – deleted; Thos Coffee, 20; Denis Hurlley, 25; Danl Keeffe, 25; Willm Sullivan, 20; Danl Magner, 21; Robert Grudley, 25; John Brian, 25; Cuth cain, 25; John Sweeney, 20; Edmd Sweeney, 25; Owen Sweeney, 30 – deleted; Michl Connelly, 25; John Murphy, 30; Michl O Donoghue, 25; John Creane, 28; Thos Casey, 30 – deleted; Timty Cronin, 50 – deleted; Thos Harrington, 25; Danl Do, 24; Patk Do; 23; John Do, 20; Timty Do, 21; John Sullivan, 27; Jer Murphy, 26; P Do, 25; John Do, 26.

Female Adults: Cath Rearden, 30; Johan Desmond, 33; Nelly Clifford, 30; Cath Shea, 21; Johanna Brien, 25;

Judy Cain, 24; Nancy Brown, 25 – deleted; Peggy Clifford, 28; Margt Keeffe, 21; Judy Sweeney, 26; Margt McCarthy, 25; Margt Joyce, 26 – deleted; Cath Mahony, 29; Cath Cronin, 20; Margt Connell, 21; Mary Cahill, 30; Norry Harrington, 20; J Leahy, 24; Nancy Sweeny, 50; C. Mahony, 21.

Children under 14 years: Mary Mahony, Danl Mahony, Mary Cahill, Owen Sweeny, M. Daly.

Children under 7 years: Jas Desmond, Cath Desmond, Danl McCarthy, Norry Cahill, Patk Cahill, J. Daly.

List of Crew: Robert Hamilton, Master; Adam Bruce, mate; David Galawey, 2nd Do; John Nichol, Cook; John Hogan, Seaman; Evan Owens, Do; John Mack, Do; Wm Tedrick, Do; James Shaw and Peter Allen, apprentices.

We certify that the Ship *Thetis* of Troon,, Robert Hamilton, has cleared for Bay Chaleur and that the above mentioned number of Passengers have been embarked therein under the sanction of His Majesty's Government, And the said Master is hereby noticed that if the number actually embarked exceeded that herein specified, this Certificate will become null, and an extra Duty of Five Shillings a head be applicable to the whole number, instead of those who are not included in the List.

Port of Cork, 12 April 1837

J. J. Troy Collector

Mustered Crew & Passengers at the Clearing Station Cove this 12 day of April 1837

N. Seymour, Tide Surveyor



The Irish Room Genealogy Tidbits

By Linda Evans

New Brunswick's Irish history has, for many reasons, been largely ignored in this province, and yet our rich and colourful past deserves a place within New Brunswick's story. While gathering research on NB Irish families, I often come across small snippets of information that compel me to dig deeper. Often found buried in the most unusual and unexpected places, these little tidbits of information often provide insight into the lives of individuals who are mostly forgotten today, but surely deserve a place in New Brunswick's Irish story. Here's one that I stumbled upon recently:

Bridget Parkhill – Canada's first suffragette

Reading through a speech given to the Women's Historical Society of Ottawa in 1914 by Teresa Costigan Armstrong, I never expected to stumble upon Canada's first suffragette – an Irish New Brunswicker.

Speaking on the life of her grandfather, John Costigan, Armstrong brought Bridget Parkhill to life. "...I must tell you that a New Brunswick woman had the distinction of being the first one to ask for and the only one in Canada to obtain the privilege of casting a vote in a federal election. At the first elections in 1867, Mrs. Parkhill of Madawaska County...decided to come herself to the polls. That the polling booth was situated seven miles from her home, and that no conveyance was at hand for her to use, mattered not to this ambitious woman, who calmly walked the distance. She happened to arrive when both the candidates - son of Erin [Costigan], and stalwart Scotchman [Beveridge] - were on the spot and to them expressed her opinion that she had a perfect right to cast her husband's vote and declared her intention of doing so. Whether it was the chivalry of the candidates or the belief of each that he would be the favored one I know not, but they agreed that the lady should vote, and then they

took off their hats to the first female suffragist of Canada. Judging from her name (Bridget Parkhill) I don't believe the Scotsman got her vote."

Canada's first suffragette, Bridget Parkhill was born in 1817, the wife of Robert Parkhill, who had emigrated to NB from Ireland in 1833. She was a simple pioneer mother living with her family on the NB-Quebec border, in an Irish settlement community now referred to simply as 'Boundry'. For whatever reason, her husband was unable to vote in that first Canadian election, and she was determined that she would have her say.



At a time when only 11% of Canadians had the right to vote in this country - because of several restrictions, including property ownership, nationality, sex, and/or religious bias - Bridget Parkhill, a woman, and an Irish Catholic, made history – but very few are aware of how she defied the rigid

boundaries of the Canadian and New Brunswick establishment.

I can see her, dressed simply, but with determined fortitude, trekking what must have been no more than a trail southerly along the western edge of Baker Lake to vote at the polling station in Lac Baker. She faced two formidable political opponents when she arrived at the poll – Irishman John Costigan of Grand Falls representing John A. McDonald's 'Liberal-Conservative' team and his long-time provincial adversary, William Blackwood Beveridge, a Scottish New Brunswicker who made his home in Perth. Yet, they doffed their hats and allowed her the privilege of voting by secret ballot (NB was the only province to allow secret ballots in this election).

John Costigan won that election with only 778 votes, against Beveridge's 549. In a political atmosphere where many voted 'for their own', we can probably assume that Irish Catholic Bridget Parkhill probably cast her vote for Costigan. She made history that day, yet has yet to find her place in New Brunswick, and indeed Canada's political history. Hail Bridget!



Reconnecting With Long-lost Family in Ireland

by Nellie S. H. (McCarron) Ross, Burnt Hill, NB

Having just returned from a very enjoyable and informative "Marvin McCarthy Irish bus tour", accompanied by my sister Bridget and her daughter Dorothy, we were anxious to see and learn about the country where our father and grandfather was born.

We knew from dad's birth certificate that he was born in Ballyhallen in the district of Inishowen in the county of Donegal. He had immigrated to America around 1920. At the time he had some family in Boston, Mass. that had immigrated earlier but he chose to live in Saskatchewan, Canada near to where his sister Sarah and her husband lived. Over the years we lost contact with his family until 3 years ago. I visited Ireland with a Marvin McCarthy bus tour and with their help I was able to contact some relatives.

Having arranged for a car and driver to take me to Clonmany, I inquired at the local post office if they knew of any McCarron

families that used to live there. They didn't know of any but a gentleman standing in the lobby spoke up to say he knew a Daniel McCarron (dad's brother) that lived there once. He gave me a name and directions of an older man named Mickey that lived near the old McCarron place and would know.

Upon contacting Mickey, a very colourful and informative gentleman, he was only too happy to tell me about my Uncle Daniel, who he claimed had been the best blacksmith in the area. He took me to where their family farm was and put me in contact with a very friendly lady named Mary Rose who knew my uncle Daniel's granddaughter, Anna Kelly. After inquiring around, Mary Rose was able to give me my cousin Anna's address and directions to her place, saying, "she lived on the front street but in behind" - typical Irish directions.

Through Anna Kelly, I was able to contact another cousin, Chris, who lived in Derry and as our bus trip took us to Derry the next day, I was able to spend a wonderful afternoon with him as we walked the walls of Derry.

This fall, after ten very delightful days on tour, we had one free day at Monaghan so my sister, niece and I made arrangements to visit Clonmany again.

Firstly we visited the old McCarron place. What a heart rendering experience to see the old

stone house and blacksmith shop partly standing and the flowered hedges. The countryside there has outstanding beauty with rolling hills, a rippling river, the gently ocean breezes and all that green!

Anna Kelly had arranged for us to meet her sister Betty, her brother Chris and his wife, Dympra, at her home. We spent a splendid afternoon getting acquainted, exchanging stories, pictures, email addresses and learning about family. It was so touching to finally meet relatives we had never known and who were as eager as us to find extended family. We are so proud that we found connections to our ancestral home in Ireland.

Ireland is such a beautiful country with a charming history and the people are so friendly. As a young Irish lad said to us one evening in Monaghan as we shared a table at Terry's pub, "you'll have to come back again!"



**The McCarron homestead,
Ballyhallen, County Donegal**



Meeting family members - Back row - Anna Kelly, Dorothy Hiitola, Chris Doherty, front row - Nellie Ross, Bridget Lalonde, Betty McKeevar, Dympra Doherty

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