

# The Shamrock Leaf

Newsmagazine of The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick



## **Feature Story**

Miramichi hero named  
Ambassador to Ireland  
Page 31

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## A note from the Editor



Yes, this issue is late but we hope you will all forgive us. Illness in November and the overwhelming demands of Christmas in December meant that we had to move this publication into January... and here it is finally!

We have worked hard on this

issue but again I must reiterate that the publication is only as good as the number of contributed articles and/or ideas for articles that come from our chapters and membership. We struggled to fill the pages this time out. We know that you all have some great ideas - and you don't have to always submit an article - a simple idea can bring us news that we may have missed and we welcome all suggestions.

Saying that, we are still proud of this issue, and thankful for the pieces, ideas and suggestions that you have all submitted. Keep them coming!

I never fail to learn something new about our history and culture as we go through the process of selection. I am still frustrated that so much of our history is being lost before we get 'the story' told. One of our first goals as an association was

to bring the history of Partridge Island to the forefront and here we are almost thirty years later with that goal incomplete. New initiatives to that end are worth supporting by each and every one of us. Both levels of government should be inundated with pleas regarding the importance of Partridge Island and its role in our story.

And finally, we postponed our print date as soon as we heard that our new Canadian Ambassador to Ireland was Kevin Vickers, with roots in Miramichi, NB. Marilyn has put together a great piece on Ambassador Vickers and it is a very good read.

Linda Evans  
Downtown Irishtown

Email:  
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## The President's Message

2014 has been quite a year indeed. There are three items that I would like to address: The Irish Festival, the Celtic Affairs Committee and our new Ambassador to Ireland.

After digesting the full value this year's thirty-first Irish festival, I realize how overwhelming change can affect the previous tried and true. While many festivals struggle, the Irish festival stepped it up. Yes folks change is good. After declining numbers in the previous decade, the change of venue transcended to one of the best festivals ever.

The festival is a very important event for Miramichi, New Brunswick and the Irish. The ICCA's contribution there and our activities around the province have contributed greatly to the economy and tourism.

At the festival the ICCA tent was conveniently located to the right of

the stage near the entrance and the food court and the emcee graciously mentioned us at every opportunity.

In a packed room on the opening Thursday night of the festival I had a good ten minutes to update, inform and acknowledge our accomplishments; most importantly the great progress and the Celtic Affairs Committee's success in lobbying the provincial government for formal recognition and policy changes.

In January of this year we were thrilled to hear that Miramichi's own Kevin Vickers was appointed as the Canadian ambassador to Ireland. Kevin has often attended the Festival and, as one of his first roles as ambassador, we are very excited to hear that he will be attending Canada's 32nd Irish Festival on the Miramichi. As a Canadian with family on both sides hailing from Ireland he will serve to deepen



close bilateral relations between Canada and Ireland in the years ahead. We congratulate Kevin and wish him every success in his new role.

As we go forward we should be proud of what has been accomplished.

Sincerely yours,

- Keith Vickers  
ICCANB President  
keith.vickers@live.com



# Letters to the Editor



Dear Editor:

I am the grandson of Jarvis Ring Blakeney of Petitcodiac, NB. On the ICCA website is mentioned a book **The Blakeney Family of Pioneers in Salisbury Parish, Westmorland County, NB** by J.E. Humphreys. I am very interested in learning more of this book if anyone has any information.

Laurence D Sears  
1528 Reynolds St  
El Paso, Texas, 799903



Dear Editor:

Just skimmed the new a shamrock Leaf. Very impressive...you've done a great job!

Joan Meade  
via email



Dear Editor:

A clipping was found in Leva Lillian Campbell's mementos from WWII. He was the brother of Father Eugene O'Leary of Richibucto, Kent Co. ..the clipping reads "Dies Overseas" FO Joseph M. O'Leary, R.C.A.F., son of George O'Leary, Richibucto, word of whose death of illness in Northern Ireland has been received by his family. F.O. O'Leary, 24 years of age, joined the air force early in the war. He served two years as navigator on flying boats on the Pacific Patrol off British Columbia, and last August he was transferred to the North Atlantic Patrol, flying out of Northern Ireland."

Dollena Warren Giguère  
Gatineau, QC

*Ed. Note: This relates to the article on the O'Leary family in the last issue. He was the son of George O'Leary and Nell Lanigan.*



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be sent to:

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Due to space limitations, not all letters are guaranteed to be printed.

Matthew Guirke emigrated from Ireland with his family in 1850. Once in the US, he travelled extensively throughout the country, but never really settled anywhere until he came to the Los Angeles, California area. He named his homestead in memory of the place he once called home – Hollywood, County Wicklow. Eventually a small village developed on the spot and soon after Guirke's death in 1901, the fast growing village of Hollywood, California had become a municipality and we all know what happened there after that...



It is true that there are no snakes in Ireland and they may never have been native to Ireland in the first place. The story of St Patrick driving them out of Ireland is only a myth. Because snakes were considered evil, they were symbolically used by well-meaning monks centuries later to describe how the patron saint of Ireland freed the island of evil, old pagan ways and replaced those beliefs with Christianity.



## A visit to Partridge Island A prelude to future possibilities?

By Terry Mullin

I did it! I actually set foot on Partridge Island, situated in the magnificent Bay of Fundy just minutes off shore from our fair city, Saint John. This has been a long-time wish of mine since I arrived in Saint John in the late 1960's. There was a time when we could scoot over the breakwater. Time and age has changed that plan. I'm not about to attempt that and besides its illegal (always was actually). Federal regulations you know.

So it all happened by a lucky fluke for me. A committee was formed here in the greater Saint John area to reassess the public's interest in what they would like to see on the island. The committee members were invited to tour the Island as a prelude to fulfilling their mandate. Because our ICCA President and committee representative Marijke Blok was unfortunately unable to attend, I was subbing in.

The day arrived. We gathered at the Coast Guard. Lift off and I'm mesmerized. What a sight as we flew over some of the coldest and roughest waters in the world and could see the island itself from above. I frantically tried to snatch pictures of the Celtic cross and the lighthouse. And then there we were - on the Island itself - about to venture on one of my bucket list adventures.

Now anyone who knows me knows that I am of a long line of Irish descent on both sides of the family so my initial interest was from the Irish immigrant perspective. It was from this perspective that I set out to explore this jewel of a national historic site. Standing below the Celtic cross I reflected on the many trials and tribulations our ancestors experienced here on this island and on shore in the city of Saint John and yes, even throughout New Brunswick.

winter day and night as the inhabitants huddled to stay warm.

Imagining the moans and the coughs, I heard one mother tell her coughing child to "Whist", a word my own mother used frequently to quiet us. . We continued on the pathway to the grave sites.

I could hear the laments and sobs of family members as they buried yet another soul - perhaps the father, the supposed protector and sole provider for the family. Perhaps yet again another small child born aboard the coffin ships who never had a speck of a chance to survive was laid to rest. Who would look after the other young children in the family as their mother succumbed to typhus while the doctors and hospital staff did all in their power to save her? It was so troublesome to see three separate gravesites for the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish souls - all divided by white picket fences. Was that not what they had left the old world to avoid—the segregation, the hatred persecutions and prejudices?



I stopped at the sites where the hospitals once were. In my mind's eye I could see the bodies of shivering, wretched souls consumed by various diseases wrapped only in a torn piece of blanket. Today we were blessed with a beautiful hot summery day for our tour but I could feel the cold damp air of a



*Aerial view of Partridge Island*



(cont'd)

## A visit to Partridge Island – (cont'd)

Had they not come here for a better way of life and chance of survival?

Having given much thought to the plight of these people I then turned my attention to other reasons that Partridge Island is so important to us. I looked up at the lighthouse and thought of how many times I've seen its light flash over our city at night. I could imagine how important this beacon of light must have been before our days of modern technology.



One can imagine the light cutting through a foggy night guiding ships in to a very difficult harbour. One only has to talk to a harbour pilot to get an inkling of the treachery in the Bay of Fundy.

And what about the foghorn, invented by Robert Foulis, which was turned off in May 1998. I'm reminded of and tell the others on tour with me of the story about the male moose who thought the foghorn was a lady moose and jumped in to the Bay of Fundy to swim

over to the Island to meet the new lady in town.

We encounter a great deal of evidence of the Military presence and heritage dating back as far as 1791 and continuing through the 1880s, WW1 and WW2. Unfortunately for me I have very little in the way of military knowledge, experience and information. It is difficult to imagine the routine of the soldiers but I shudder at being 1 of the 14 gunners in 1866 who mounted guard every

night. It must have been so cold and miserable out there on that lonely 24 acres of rock in mid-February with high tides, wind and dampness. There was no Tim's promising to be open 24 hrs with a fresh pot.

The Marine and Military Heritage I must leave to others much more knowledgeable than myself. As well, the natural elements, the diversity of flora and fauna, the wildlife are best described by the environmentalists. We do know it was

named Partridge Island due to the many partridge to be found there at one time. We did see a small deer during our visit. It was too quick of foot though for a photo op. And a moment of enjoying the vista of the Bay could very well reward us with whale sightings. As for the moose, we didn't see him in search of his lady love.

The late Honourable James Flaherty, MP and Minister of Finance took a great interest in this island of his home province, New Brunswick. With his encouragement, an Ad hoc committee engaged the Glenn Group to facilitate public meetings and to refresh previous studies. The well-attended meetings have indicated that the general public is indeed overwhelmingly interested in having things to do and see on the island. There were many wonderful, tasteful and sensitive suggestions made. The committee will now compile a report from the public input and forward the re-

port to the three levels of government within the next few weeks.

The public recognize the wonderful rich history there is to unfold in one of Canada's National Historic sites. This island is not only part of Saint John's history but a part of our provincial history as well as of those who may have moved on to the New England States. We must not lose sight of the important role this island has played in so many aspects of our history.

We are encouraged by the level of interest shown by all levels of government. We are hopeful that something will happen in time to celebrate Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the site that shaped so much of our country's history.



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## Willie McKenna promoted Monaghan at home and abroad



Willie McKenna was in Miramichi so often over the years that one might be surprised to find out that he didn't actually live there!

Willie died in Dublin in September after a short illness and will be sorely missed by his friends and family in Monaghan as well as all of us who knew him here in New Brunswick as well.

With a winning personality and friendly out-going demeanor, McKenna was a Councillor on Monaghan County Council as well as Monaghan Town Council for nearly thirty years. Realizing the economic, cultural and tourism potential of establishing ties between Monaghan and other communities, he was very much the driving force behind the Monaghan-Miramichi twinning in 1998.

He had a keen interest in history, ancestry and a true love of Irish culture. He realized the benefits of twinning, but at home he was often criticized for his efforts as many

thought it a 'waste of money'. But, as with many of his tireless efforts to promote Monaghan over the years, McKenna proved his critics wrong. As one contemporary put it, "he could talk a dog off a meat wagon".

Twinning proved to be highly successful as delegations and busloads of Canadian visitors arrived to visit his cherished county just south of the border with Northern Ireland. There were economic benefits as well. McKenna spent so much time at the Canadian Embassy in Dublin that they knew him by his first name.

However, many may not be aware of how the Miramichi-Monaghan twinning came about.

It was not McKenna's first twinning, and also not his last.

In 1990, McKenna was first approached by Tommy Makem about a new summer festival to be held in Prince Edward Island and the great potential that held for Monaghan. Many Islanders had Monaghan roots – especially in Fort Augustus, Emyvale and Kelly's Cross - and it didn't take much coaxing to bring McKenna and a Monaghan delegation to PEI. The Monaghan delegation became one of the highlights of the festival "We're Akin to Ireland". They were treated like royalty wherever they went. Such a crowd showed up for the Emyvale crossroad strawberry social that there were traffic issues and they ran out of shortcake!

Willie McKenna loved the spotlight and, with his outgoing personality, won the hearts of Islanders. He returned again and again, and it was on one such visit that he learned that many Monaghan Irish had set-

tled in New Brunswick as well. So he simply moved on to Miramichi and introduced himself. The rest was history and the love affair between McKenna and Miramichi was solidly entrenched over the years.

Later, Peterborough, Ontario would also be twinned with Monaghan. Because of his efforts, Monaghan became a destination for many of us over the years. Who hasn't walked across the bridge in Emyvale to become 'honorary citizens'?

Willie McKenna was born in Dernamuck, Emyvale, County Monaghan but lived in Monaghan Town. Full of energy and enthusiasm, he was known for 'getting the job done'. If something was going on in Monaghan, Willie was there.

As Peadar McMahon of Emyvale, Monaghan stated, "he was one who was well-liked, much loved, highly regarded and much respected in Monaghan and well beyond." His funeral at St. Macartan's Cathedral in Monaghan Town was full to capacity. In his homily, Fr. Paddy McGinn spoke highly of his kindness and charitable work throughout the county and beyond. He was laid to rest in Ballyoisin cemetery in the parish of Truagh.

He was so sorely missed in PEI that a memorial mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church in Fort Augustus, PEI in November as well.

Willie McKenna was the glue that kept the connections between Monaghan and the various Canadian communities together. Hopefully there will be someone who can fill his shoes to keep these unique bonds alive – but they will be mighty big shoes to fill surely.





# Bathurst Chapter News

By Pat Murphy

Unfortunately the Bathurst Chapter was unable to take part in the Irish Festival this year, we will be back in 2015.

The recipient of our \$600 bursary this year was Taylor Richard, granddaughter of Mike and Sharon Moore. Taylor will be attending St. Thomas University in the fall. Jack Brown, chairman of the bursary committee, and Connie Whalen, Treasurer, presented Taylor with a cheque for \$300.00. The second cheque for \$300.00 will be presented in January, 2015.



The annual corn boil this year was held at the Rec. Center in Pokeshaw. The weather was beautiful and the downshore wind held off until after the corn was cooked. Over half of our membership came out to enjoy the great tasting corn which was purchased from the Murphy farm in Black Rock.

Many thanks to Marie Grant and Ryan Riordon, as well as Barry, Sinead, and Caitlin Riordon, the son and daughters of John and Shirley Riordon of Pokeshaw, who provided wonderful entertainment for the afternoon. Caitlin is shown in the picture describing how Papa's mats are made.

The Fall Chapter meeting was on Sunday, Oct. 26th at 7 pm at the Colin Taylor room in the Heritage Museum on Douglas Ave. At the meeting we discussed the arrangements for the annual Christmas eggnog party and it was decided to have it after Christmas this year so join us on 11 January 2015 at the Colin Taylor room.

Remember to visit our new website ([www.bathurstirish.com](http://www.bathurstirish.com)). By vis-



iting the site on a regular basis you make it worth our while to invest the extra time in it.

We wish to take this opportunity to wish our members a happy, healthy and prosperous 2015.




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## Irish-American artist Vincent Crotty presents workshop

Several ICCA members were lucky enough to attend an art workshop with Vincent Crotty in Saint John on 27 October.

Vincent Crotty was born and raised in Kanturk, County Cork, a small town in the dairy farming region of southwest Ireland. He began painting at age seven, inspired by his mother's interest in art and the beauty of his natural surroundings.

After high school, Vincent spent five years working in a factory and found out that was not the path in life he wanted to pursue. He turned to painting again and produced artwork at a furious pace 'to make a living – one way or another – with paint.

In 1990 he immigrated to Boston to seek out further art training and studied painting with artist John Kilroy for many years. He later trained in figure drawing with Paul Rahilly at the Massachusetts College of Art and attended the Scottsdale Artists School in Arizona. He continues to take workshops and continues to travel widely to pursue his artistic interests at workshops and 'plein air' painting events.

This award winning artist was an inspiring and generous teacher at the workshop held in Saint John and many of the participants were inspired from his humble and yet informative workshop.



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## Ian Paisley—the “big man’s” voice falls silent



Loved by some; loathed by others – no one would refute the fact that Ian Paisley was one of the most controversial figures in Northern Ireland’s history.

A towering figure with a manic and thunderous rhetoric, Paisley was the most prominent political figure during the tumultuous years of the Troubles. His bull-like voice commanded an audience and despite his message – good or bad, depending on your bent – people listened to what he said.

The ‘big man’ was silenced on 14 September 2014.

He was born Ian Richard Kyle Paisley in 1926 in Armagh. His father was a Baptist minister and his mother a preacher so it was no surprise that he first preached at age 16 and helped found and led the Free Presbyterian Church of Ireland for fifty-seven years, which he helped establish himself

when he was just in his twenties.

He grew up in Ballymena and it would remain his political power base throughout his more than fifty years in politics. He founded the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) in 1971 and was their leader for more than forty years. He was a parliamentary representative in Northern Ireland’s Stormont, Westminster and the European parliament in Brussels.

Throughout the Troubles he opposed any attempts at mediation to solve the conflict and especially attempts by the Irish Republic to intercede in Northern Irish affairs. His efforts helped bring down the Sunningdale Agreement in 1974 and the Anglo-Irish Agreement of 1985. He also opposed all attempts at the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement of 1998.

The growing chants for peace eventually became too great to ignore.

The man whose main political chant was always ‘no’, ‘never’ and ‘not an inch’ reluctantly said ‘yes’. In 2007, following the St. Andrews Agreement, Paisley finally agreed to share power with the republicans. It was the ultimate act of courage and reconciliation. He became the First Minister for Northern Ireland with Sinn Féin’s Martin McGuinness as Deputy Minister. It was a momentous occasion and he and McGuinness, not only worked well as a team, but remained friends until Paisley’s death.

Paisley, who was controversially named Baron Bannside of North Antrim in 2010, was often labeled dangerous, and at the very least a bigot and a bully. Some say that peace would have come to Northern Ireland decades earlier if it had not been for Ian Paisley’s fervor and political stance over the years. It will be left to

historians to eventually judge the ‘big man’ in the years ahead.

After his death, Martin McGuinness said, “In the brief period that we worked together in the Office of First and Deputy First Minister, I developed a close working relationship with him which developed into a friendship, which despite our differences lasted beyond his term in office. Over a number of decades we were political opponents and held very different views on many, many issues but the one thing we were absolutely united on was the principle that our people were better able to govern themselves than any British government.”

We leave former US President Bill Clinton with the final words: “In the end, the once polarizing Paisley demonstrated that reconciliation and cooperation is better than conflict and discord.”



*Ian Paisley and Martin McGuinness*

## An Irish New Year's blessing

Submitted by Mary O'Leary May of Saint John

May your home never be too small  
to hold all of your friends.  
May you live as long as you want  
and never want as long as you live.  
May the good Lord take a liking to you  
- but not too soon.  
May you have warm words on a cold evening,  
a full moon on a dark night,  
and the road downhill all the way to your door.  
May your neighbours respect you,  
trouble neglect you,  
the angels protect you, and heaven accept you.  
Dance as if no one were watching,  
sing as if no one were listening  
and live every day as if it were your last.



## Catholic horses—a wee joke

Submitted by Peter Rafferty

A gambler was at the horse races playing the ponies and all but losing his shirt. He noticed a Priest step out onto the track and blessed the forehead of one of the horses lining up for the 4th race.

Lo and behold, that horse - a very long shot - won the race.

Next race, as the horses lined up, the Priest stepped onto the track. Sure enough, he blessed one of the horses. The gambler made a beeline for a betting window and placed a small bet on the horse. Again, even though it was another long shot, the horse won the race.

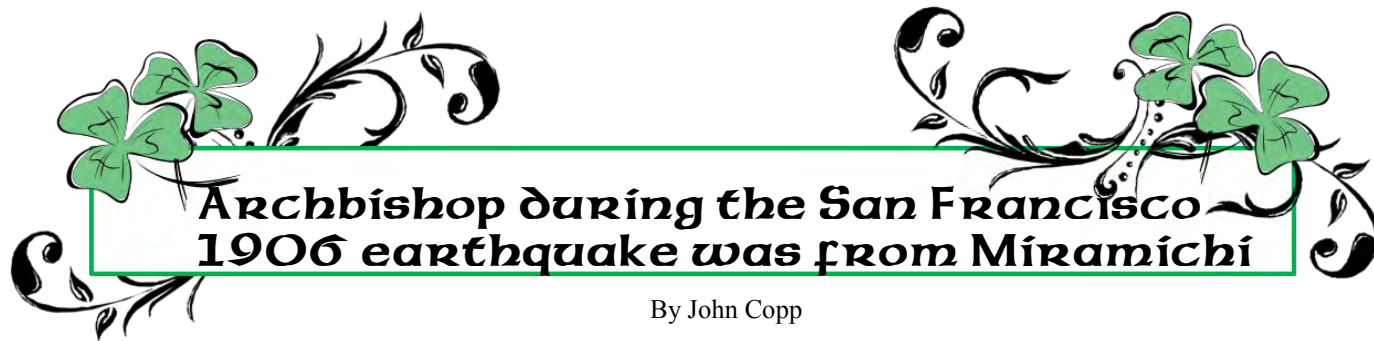
He collected his winnings, and anxiously waited to see which horse the Priest would bless next. He bet big on it, and it won.

As the races continued the Priest kept blessing long shots, and each one ended up winning. The gambler was elated. He made a quick dash to the ATM, withdrew all his savings, and waited for the Priest's blessing that would tell him which horse to bet on.

True to his pattern, the Priest stepped onto the track for the last race and blessed the forehead of an old nag that was the longest shot of the day. This time the priest blessed the eyes, ears, and hooves of the old nag. The gambler knew he had a winner and bet every cent he owned on the old nag. He watched dumbfounded as the old nag came in last.

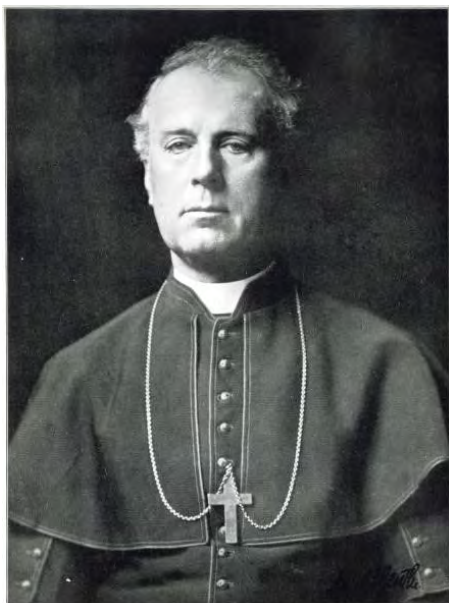
In a state of shock, he went to the track area where the Priest was. Confronting him, he demanded, "Father! What happened? All day long you blessed horses and they all won. Then in the last race, the horse you blessed lost by a mile. Now, thanks to you I've lost every cent of my savings!"

The Priest nodded wisely and with sympathy. "My Son", he said, "that's the problem with you Protestants; you can't tell the difference between a simple blessing and last rites."



## Archbishop during the San Francisco 1906 earthquake was from Miramichi

By John Copp



"I am a citizen of no mean city, although it is in ashes. Almighty God has fixed this as the location of a great city. The past is gone, and there is no lamenting over it. Let us look to the future and without regard to creed or place of birth, work together in harmony for the up-building of a great San Francisco."

Opening with words of Saint Paul this message was spoken by a man born on the Miramichi, to the survivors of the Great San Francisco Earthquake of 1906.

As Patrick William Riordan, Archbishop of San Francisco, went about the displaced now living in tents and makeshift shelters, he encouraged people with his open air mass and continued to build their resolve by stating: "We shall rebuild".

The Riordan family has its roots in County Cork, in Ireland, and the busy fishing trade center of Kinsale. Mathew Riordan sharpened his skills as a carpenter, but he had a

continued dream of joining his married brothers in the far off land across the Atlantic.

His brothers had previously departed Ireland and settled in the New Bandon area of Gloucester County, where they established themselves as community leaders with farming and lumbering operations. The letters from this new country were sorely tempting the young Riordan boy to join his brothers.

Finally, a decision was made and he set off to the New World full of expectations in his new adventure.

Mathew Riordan arrived in the new port town of Chatham, where his brothers gave the new arrival welcome to his new home. As the young man established himself in this community, he also met his wife-to-be.

Mary (Molly) Dunne was a native of Stradbally, County Leix, and like her husband, also dreamed of a new life in the New World.

Riordan, dissuaded by his brothers from moving north, soon settled himself in the Chatham community. The town was an established fishing centre, and with the arrival of Cunard the lumber business was creating a boom.

In this background the newlyweds Mathew and Molly started a family; the first born was Patrick William Riordan and the remainder followed close behind. Mathew never seemed to set deep roots in Canada and longed for his home in Ireland, to which he returned his young family.

But history conspired against the family and the great famine forced the family to return to Canada. The trip was one of great despair and

death, and even with their arrival in Saint John, the landscape had changed with unemployment and unrest.

The young boy, Patrick Riordan, had seen more of the world and despair than most at his age. But now the image of America was beckoning the young family as a land of much greater opportunity.

In 1848 the Riordans started their last migration firstly in [an] open boat exposed to the weather of the Atlantic, arriving in New York; then by wagon through the prairies of Indiana to their new home in Chicago.

The young Riordan boy excelled in education in his new found home, graduating from high school, then attending St. Mary's of the Lake University in Chicago and graduating from Notre Dame University in 1858. Continuing his educational pursuits he received his Doctorate of Theology from Leuven University in Belgium in 1864 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1865.

Upon his return to Chicago he at first taught at St. Mary's on the Lake, then moved on to missionary work and eventually became the pastor of St. James Church in Chicago.

It is here he played such a vital role in rebuilding the church and community after the great Chicago Fire, becoming a firm believer that major buildings in cities must be made of stone and granite to protect against disaster.

In 1884 he was appointed Archbishop of San Francisco and it was in this period of church leadership that he faced his greatest challenge: the rebuilding of San Francisco after the Great Earthquake of 1906.

His efforts inspiring the population to overcome the disaster and his service on the reconstruction

(cont'd)

# Archbishop of San Francisco from Miramichi

— cont'd —

committee, having seen disaster many times, were recognized by both the citizens and the church.

Patrick William Riordan, the youngster from Chatham who lived and played a role in most of the historical events of his time, died on Dec. 27, 1914, in San Francisco and is buried in the city he worked so hard to re-

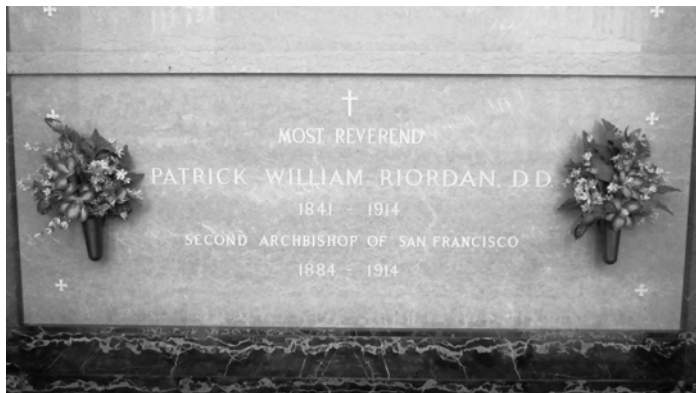
build into the great city it is today.

His lasting recognition is the Archbishop Riordan high school in San Francisco named for his efforts on behalf of the people of “no mean city”.

*John Copp is a life-long resident of Miramichi who has a keen in-*

*terest in local history. This article is printed with permission and first appeared in the Mira-*

*michi Leader on 16 Sep 2013.*



Text on stone:  
 Most Reverend /Patrick William Riordan, D.D. / 1841-1914 /  
 Second Archbishop of San Francisco / 1884-1914



St. Mary's Cathedral—San Francisco

## Irish Embassy pays unofficial visit to Fredericton's Irish Room



Elizabeth Keogh, 2nd Secretary, Embassy of Ireland, Ottawa, was welcomed to Fredericton's Irish Room this past summer when she dropped in for a quick visit during her family vacation to the Maritimes.

While the family did enjoy the many places they visited and sights they saw in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Elizabeth was also kind enough to take the time during their vacation to meet with local Irish Association members in Miramichi and Fredericton.

**Standing, left to right:** daughter Clodagh, Elizabeth, son Darragh, Denis Noel of the Capital Area Chapter, daughter Aisling, and husband Niall.  
**Seated:** ICCA members Marilyn Driscoll & Andrew Gunter.



## Far from their home - a song of Grosse Ile-

By Brendan Nolan

Brendan Nolan was born and reared just to the north of the city of Dublin. When he was growing up in Ireland in the sixties and seventies there was a resurgence of interest in Irish music. Spearheading this musical re-birth were groups like The Dubliners, Planxty, The Bothy Band, and others. Around the same time the singer-songwriter boom in North America had taken off. Both of these genres would ultimately influence Brendan's own music.

Nolan emigrated to Canada in 1979. He has performed across Canada including in the Maritimes in Miramichi and the Lunenburg Folk Festival. While living in Montreal, he became very familiar with the plight of Irish famine arrivals and the quarantine station in Grosse Ile. In August of 2009 he performed in **Quebec City** as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the unveiling on the Celtic Cross on Grosse Isle. Back in 1997 he also performed on the Plains of Abraham in Quebec City as part of the 150th anniversary of the Irish famine.

Nolan now lives in Florida. The song "*Far from their home*" is available on his CD "*Across the Great Divide*". It was written in 1992.

Nolan states, "Over a million people left Ireland during the so-called famine. Many left one hell only to have it substituted for another. The island of Grosse Isle in the St. Laurence River near Quebec City was a quarantine station which saw its resources stretched to the limit during the years of 1846 and '47. To the thousands who are buried there, R.I.P."



Memorial cross—Grosse Isle





## Far from their home - a song of Grosse Isle -

Oh we left our homes and traveled  
Though many not know where we lie  
They said 'twas a land of promise  
But few saw it with their own eyes  
For it's here on this sad lonely island  
Where the wind blows cold to the bone  
We rest in its soil forgotten  
Far away from our home.

On the 14th day of June  
Our packet it set sail  
Down the eastern coast we wound  
Past Wexford and Kinsale  
Till sadly the sunset faded  
Gently from our eyes  
And the lights of the Southwest flickered away  
As we said our last goodbye.

Oh it's hard to describe the suffering  
As this awful voyage began.  
Two weeks out to sea, we had lost 10 or more  
As the fever took the strongest of men  
And the holds were battened for days on end  
To stifle the sickness below  
While the waters of the ocean swallowed our dead  
Far away from their home.

Our spirits they were weary  
As the great broad river began  
And a whale rose up from the waters  
As we sailed into this new land  
With its hillsides that sloped toward the shoreline  
And villages cradled within  
We prayed these people could pity our plight  
And find a new home for our kin.

Within sight of Grosse Isle  
We were anchored far off shore  
For many more ships lay waiting  
And we'd stay maybe five days or more  
For the lost ones outnumbered the living  
And a terrible sight it was plain  
As a packet floated out in the bay  
With its human cargo aflame.

And the sheds overflowed with suffering  
And their cries pierced the silence at night  
And the brave ones who tended these travelers

Some paid with their lives in the fight  
I've lost my own on this island  
And my candle's near dying away  
To have traveled so far on our journey  
Humble voyagers together we'll stay.

*Je m'appelle Léo Quinn  
Mes ancêtres sont ici  
Enterrés sur Grosse Isle  
Qui fait face à ma ville Montmagny  
Mes souvenirs ne sont que des fantômes  
Qui survolent et dansent dans le vent  
Ils demandent qu'on se souviens d'eux  
Même si ce n'est qu'en chantant.*

There are no boats tied in the river  
And the cross stands gaunt on the hill  
No wretched shadows trod from the shore  
To the fever sheds now that lie still  
Just the white markers guard their memory  
No names carved in granite or stone  
And the long grass waves to the wind as she blows  
O'er these brave ones far from their home.

And the long grass waves to the wind as she blows  
O'er these brave ones far from their home.

### Translation of French Verse:

My name is Leo Quinn  
My ancestors lie here  
buried on Grosse Isle  
Which faces my town of Montmagny  
My memories are ghosts  
Who swirl and dance in the wind  
They ask that we remember them  
Even if only in song





# Miramichi Chapter News

By Maureen English

We have had a busy few months here on the Miramichi.

On June 14<sup>th</sup> Seasons View Cafe hosted a Bloomsday celebration, a first for the Miramichi. Sandra Bunting, executive director of the Miramichi Regional Multicultural Association welcomed each reader who read excerpts from James Joyce's novel *Ulysses*. This event was sponsored by the Miramichi Multicultural Association and brought the famous book to life as different participants read selected parts.

On the following day, June 15<sup>th</sup>, the I.C.C.A. hosted our "Spring into Summer" event at the Friendly Neighbors Seniors Citizens club house. We had Irish music and storytelling as well as refreshments and sweets.

The success of the Irish Festival speaks for itself. The new venue with all events held outdoors on Waterford Green was a huge success. Thanks to the weatherman and our great entertainers, the 2014 committee for the festival really put on a



*Canada's Irish Festival on the Miramichi organizing committee*

great show.

When Nelson's St Patrick's Parish celebrated its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Miramichi Chapter of the I.C.C.A. hosted a genealogy display of family histories and information from the NBGS Miramichi chapter.

In September we awarded our \$500.00 Educational Grant to Michael William Carroll, a second year Bachelor of Science student at Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S.

Now with Christmas in the air, we are planning our annual event.



*Sandra Bunting welcoming people to Miramichi's first Bloomsday event*



*Miramichi Chapter participates in Family Walking Parade at 2014 Irish Festival*





## Nelson Doyle Dancers perform in Ireland

By Maureen English

In August, the Nelson Doyle dancers returned to Ireland, where they had been invited to perform at the Fleadh Cheoil na Eireann 2014 in Sligo, Ireland.

The dancers have been performing at various spots in Ireland since 2004, and were the first Canadian dance group to be invited to perform at this festival.

The dance instructor, Ellen Doyle MacDonald, stated that the Fleadh is a celebration of music, dance and song and featured performers on stage

as well as throughout the streets, cafes and pubs throughout the area.

The dance troupe performed a dance on the heart-breaking history of the great potato famine. They performed a dance clothed in long cloaks that they triumphantly threw aside to reveal vibrant blue outfits that represented the perseverance of the Irish spirit in overcoming hardship.

Solo dancer Mirren Trevors captivated the Fleadh audience as she leaped into the next set which gave a nod to the



dancer's idol, Michael Flatley's popular sets from Lord of the Dance and Riverdance. The crowd erupted in loud appreciation, leaving the dancers, their instructor, and parents in attendance ecstatic.

It was a great experience for all the dancers as they shared the best of Irish traditional music, song and dance. Three of our senior dancers, Lauren Fitzpatrick, Jessie MacDonnell, and Breanne Doiron performed solos

throughout the trip. All members enjoyed meeting other dancers from the Dowling School of dance in Wicklow.

After dancing at the festival for a week, the dancers toured Ireland for a week, further enriching their knowledge of Irish culture.



Irish emigration continues despite early signs of a better economic outlook for Ireland. The Irish Times now carries an entire page entitled "Generation Emigration" for Irish residents living abroad. There are interviews with Irish émigrés living around the world as well as guides for those thinking of emigrating. Highlighted is information on New Zealand, Australia and Canada.

## All of Ireland's Catholic church records to go online

By Jane Walsh

Tracing your Irish roots just got a whole lot easier as the National Library of Ireland is to give free online access to its Catholic Church records collection online, from summer 2015. This will enable millions of people around the world to trace their roots in Ireland.

Genealogy expert John Grenham wrote in *The Irish Times* that it is "almost impossible to overstate the importance" of what will happen.

The National Library of Ireland has announced that it will give free online access to its archive of Catholic Church records, the earliest of which dates back to the 1700s. The records are considered the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. They cover 1,091 parishes throughout Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

Currently, the National Library provides free access to its microfiche records at its research rooms in Kildare Street, in Dublin. However access has been hampered in recent years by high demand and increased pressure on resources. The only online access to date has been through a third party paid genealogical service, [RootsIreland.ie](http://RootsIreland.ie).

The National Diaspora Programme, Ireland Reaching Out (Ireland XO), has warmly welcomed the announcement that these resources will be available online.

Ireland XO Founder and Chairman Mike Feerick said, "Ireland XO has been campaigning for free online access to these valuable records since the organization was founded five years ago. Every Ireland XO volunteer knows how important it is that these records are freely available to everyone. The fact that these records have been available online only through an expensive paid service has meant that a huge number of people of Irish descent worldwide have been unable to trace their roots in Ireland."

He added, "It is a truly exciting development for all involved in the diaspora and heritage sectors. It will have a profound impact on the number of people arriving in Ireland to trace their roots, and will allow the



National Library of Ireland

building of greater contacts between the Irish diaspora and their parish communities of origin in Ireland."

Clare Doyle, Heritage Resource Manager at Ireland XO added that "the impact of charging for online access to these records has been greatly underestimated and, in many cases, prohibited the advancement of genealogical research by the Irish Diaspora.

"A huge number of Irish descendants living abroad are there as a result of famine and pre-famine emigration. To trace so far back, you simply have to look at a lot of records, and if you have to pay for each, the cost of your research simply becomes too expensive."

Since 2009, Ireland XO volunteers have been tireless in their quest to uncover ancestral origins for thousands of Irish descendants. The digitization of records from the National Library is a great boost to their research resources and will mean real progress in creating the online Irish diaspora community.



From Irish Central, 02 Dec 2014

"Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught."

"A dreamer is one who can only find his way by moonlight, and his punishment is that sees the dawn before the rest of the world."

*Oscar Wilde, Irish author and playwright (1854-1900)*



## **The Provincial Archives Website** **A wealth of information awaits you**

When you want to learn more about your family's, your community or just about anything else related to New Brunswick, the Provincial Archives is THE place to go. The Provincial Archives is a treasure trove on information. The amount of material held on-site at 22 Dineen Dr. on the UNB campus in Fredericton, is amazing. Staff members are always very helpful when you need assistance as well.

But before going to the archives itself, it is a good idea to first search their website first. It will either point you in the right direction so that when you arrive at the UNB site you will be prepared – or in many cases, you may find the information you need on the website itself.

The archives website can be easily accessed by typing "Provincial Archives of NB" into your search engine. The site contains a wealth of information as well as many primary documents.

So much is available on-line that it is difficult to single out where you should begin searching! If researching families, the best place to start is the "Federated Database Search" tool. You can access this tool on the main archive page and then move on to other tabs from there. By just typing in a name the archive databases are at your fingertips. Remember that spelling is important and there are many variations for surnames especially so do check the box 'Soundex' box beside the surname if you haven't found who you are looking for immediately.

From the Federated Database Search you can access all of the following databases: vital statistics, marriage bonds, cemetery records, land petition and land grants, teacher's licenses, newspaper vital statistics, directories, and much more. In many cases you can go directly to the primary document, but in some cases, like land petitions, you will only find out the microfilm number so that you can either see it at the archives itself, or request it on interlibrary loan to a NB library.

It is not necessary to always do a federated search. One can also search individual research databases as well if you are looking for something specific. Tap onto the 'search' tab in the top left hand corner of the page and you can see the various titles you can search – such as 'births, marriages, and deaths', 'cemeteries', 'directories', 'immigration', 'land records' and 'other'.

Under the heading 'New Brunswick Cemeteries' for example, you can search for a name and if there, you not only see information on where someone is buried, but often the other details on the cemetery stone such as who the parents or wife was and who else is buried in the same lot.

In the section 'other' is found a goldmine of information. This is where you find the New Brunswick Irish Web Portal Databases – of particular interest to anyone doing research on the Irish in New Brunswick.

It is one of my 'go to' places, and it was there that I found the information related to the Dorchester famine ship article located on the Irish Room page in this issue.

Don't just stop here though. On the tab entitled 'Exhibits and Education Tools' there is much to tempt your historical curiosity. Again the Irish Portal is found here, but also historical images of NB, NB at war, NB planned settlements and one of my favourite research spots – Placenames of NB. Within this database you can type in a settlement name of historical significance – often a small community long gone from today's maps. You are not only given a description of the settlement. If you scroll down you also see the community on the cadastral map – which is the map that many of us refer to as the 'land grant map'. This is a great tool to see who settled in the area you are interested in. You can also download and save the full map. Scroll down just a bit more and the entry will also show nearby communities as well as their maps. For instance, if I go to Irishtown, I can study it and then go to the communities nearby such as Tankville, Ammon, Wilbur, Cape Breton and McQuade – communities that had many settlers but are for the most part wilderness today.

Another tab at the top of the Provincial Archives page, entitled "Research Tools" is very good for finding out what the archives has available at the county level as well.

Although briefly mentioned above, the New Brunswick Irish Portal is an amazing section of the archives website for it contains – in one place – all provincial archival materials as they pertain to the Irish in NB. Each section's introduction is well worth the read as well.

Within the portal, try out the section entitled "Irish immigrants in the New Brunswick census of 1851 and 1861". It is a remarkable tool. Also, Dr. Peter Toner's essay, "The Irish in New Brunswick at Mid Century: The 1851 Census" should be read by everyone who wants to learn more about the Irish in New Brunswick.

The staff at the Provincial Archives should be commended for a job well-done. This archival site is one of the best laid out sites in Canada – and I've been to a lot of them! The Archives also relies on a many volunteers and supporters as well. As one who uses this site a lot – so much so that it has a permanent link on my homepage – I also support the archives as an associate member. It is the least I can do for the amount of help they give me. As an associate member, I also receive the Silhouettes newsletter with informative articles and notifications of what is new at the archives. From the Associates page one can also access the Provincial Archives publications page.

Check it out! You won't be sorry that you did!



# The Charles Stewart Parnell

## A controversial ship

By Linda Evans

While gathering research on NB Irish families, I often come across small snippets of information that are of interest. While working on the story regarding the O'Leary family of Richibucto, the ship known as the *Charles Stewart Parnell*, often referred to simply as *Parnell*, came to light and her story was an interesting read.

Built by Henry O'Leary's shipbuilding company in 1880, the *Parnell* was listed as the fastest sailing ship of her day – some say even faster than the *Bluenose* or the *Marco Polo*. She once sailed between Fleetwood, England and Galveston, Texas in nineteen days when the record for such a voyage stood at fifty-six days! In 1886 the 745-ton barque sailed into Port Hawkesbury, NS from Glasgow, Scotland in 10 days. She made Belfast from Campbellton in 14 days and in 1883 sailed from Richibucto to Queenstown (Cobh), Ireland in 13 days.

The barque *Parnell* was built on the southeast corner of O'Leary Wharf in Richibucto. On her maiden voyage she was mastered by Captain John L. Newman (who later lived in the Baie Vista mansion in Shediac Cape).

When the *Parnell* sailed to Liverpool in 1884, little did Captain Newman realize that a series of events would make him and his vessel famous all over the world.

Charles Stuart Parnell, who had recently spent time in Kilmainham prison over land issues, still represented Cork in British Parliament – which the British found insufferable.

When a group of loyal British subjects went down to the dock they were infuriated – for there at dock was a ship with the name *Charles Stewart Parnell* proudly and boldly emblazoned on her front and flying the British Merchant

Marine flag – and also haughtily flowing in the wind was an Irish Burgee, an Irish nationalist flag. Word soon spread about the ship and the Irish flag so that in very short order, a riot broke out.

The howling mob had to be quelled by the police but not before all the windows in the after cabin and fo'castle had been battered in. The final act of the mob was to tear down the Merchant Marine Flag from the mizzen and tear it to shreds. As the ship had already unloaded her cargo of lumber, the *Parnell* quickly sailed on to Cork for repairs and after receiving sailing orders, headed out to sea. She still carried the Irish flag, but wisely now bore the name *H. O'Leary, Richibucto*.

Perhaps because she still carried the Irish flag, or because of a warning, the ship was fired on by a British man-of-war which had warned her to stop. A shell fired just ten-feet of the ship's bow and with this warning, the *Parnell*/H. O'Leary stopped. She was boarded and her papers carefully examined, and after much questioning, was allowed to sail. So unusual was the situation that the matter was later brought up in Westminster resulting in an investigation. As a result, an apology was sent to Canada over the incident.

The *Parnell* certainly caused a ruckus simply because of her name. Her name was certainly a proud one to the O'Leary family who were proud Irish descendants living



A typical barque

in Richibucto, but little did they realize that the name would cause a riot in Liverpool

There is a note that the *Parnell* got stranded in Richibucto harbour on 13 Nov 1886 and was totally destroyed. However either it was salvaged and repaired or there was another *Parnell*.

A notation states that the *C S Parnell* was sold to a Norwegian firm at Liverpool in 1892. Once sold, she was registered as the *Minde* in Farsund, Norway. The barque, on a voyage from Shediac, NB to Liverpool with a cargo of timber, was caught in a north-northeasterly force 10 gale at Dutchman Banks in the Menai Straits between the Isle of Anglesey and Llandudno, Wales where it became stranded on a sandbar in October 1896. She was destroyed. Quite a sad end for such a memorable ship...





## James Hogg New Brunswick's first published poet

By E.C. (Gene) Campbell

*Over the last few issues of the Shamrock Leaf, we have looked at the contributions made by those of Irish blood who had left their mark in the clerical field in New Brunswick, with special attention being paid to those who had served in the Capital region.*

*Clergy, however, were not the only ones with an Irish background to make impressive contributions in the Fredericton area.*

*In this issue we will look at Irish born James Hogg who would be the author of the first book of poetry to be published in New Brunswick.*



Fredericton's claim to the title "The Poet's Corner of Canada" is certainly well earned. Names such as Bliss Carman and his cousin, Sir Charles G. D. Roberts, both locally born poets, are today recognized around the world. But, a little known name is certainly worthy of more recognition, than is being given – James Hogg.

James Hogg was born in Leitrim, Ireland on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1800, the son of Thomas and Sarah Hogg, who would immigrate to the

colony of New Brunswick in 1819. However, it wasn't until the mid-1830's that James Hogg, and his wife Eliza Johnston, who was also born in Ireland, would relocate to Fredericton.

Hogg's writing career would get underway in Saint John, where the family would call home, upon their arrival from Ireland. Throughout the 1820's, he worked as a reporter for the New Brunswick Courier, which was owned at the time by Henry Chubb (b. Saint John May 20, 1855). Chubb, as a matter of interest, is remembered in history as a man of several portfolios. He was a printer, a militia officer, newspaper publisher, businessman, politician and Justice of the Peace. With the NB Courier Hogg not only reported on local goings-on, but also the happenings in his native Ireland. It was while in Saint John that Hogg began writing poetry.

It is said that Henry Chubb 'grew to admire Hogg's work ethic', and in doing so, he acted as a mentor to the young writer, and encouraged Hogg's desire to write poetry – many of which would appear in the Courier. In 1825, Chubb

would go so far as to publish a compilation of Hogg's work entitled "Poems, Religious, Moral and Sentimental". It was 228 pages in length and contained 67 poems. With the publication of this work, Hogg would become the author of the first book of poetry to be published in New Brunswick. He was only 25 years old at the time!

From his poem "Rural Life we read:

"Oh! Nature, far remov'd from life's alarms,

Slow beats the heart, that can resist thy charms

Nor court thy peaceful shade, where soft and still

In mazy wand'rings, flow the gurgling rill'."

Once settled in Fredericton, Hogg would become the founder of the New Brunswick Reporter and Fredericton Advertiser, which would be first published on November 23, 1844. Needless to say, many more of Hogg's poems would appear in print.

Besides his poetry, James Hogg would continue writing about his homeland, which at the

*(cont'd)*

## New Brunswick's first published poet — cont'd —

time, was in the middle of the great potato famine.

As well, Hogg would publish political reports, push for specific movements within the government, as well as support those leaders in which he believed. Hogg would also support the reform government, which had formed in 1854, by Frederickton born Charles Fisher. In the same year, he supported Samuel Leonard Tilley's Prohibition Act.

Hogg died at his home at 725 George Street in Fredericton on June 12, 1866. Although a plaque on the front of the home recognizes the fact Frank Wills, the architect of Christ Church Cathedral had built the home and was a long-time resident there, it doesn't mention the fact that the author of the first published book of poetry to be published in this province was also a long-time resident in that home.



When Hogg died, his son, Thomas Henry Hogg, would take over the duties of the paper that his father had founded. He would die in a hunting



accident on October 25, 1875. The newspaper would cease publication on December 31, 1902.

Hogg and his family are buried in the nearby Old Burial Ground, but there is no stone for either he or his wife. It appears that they are buried on the Phair plot. The only Hogg to have a stone in the cemetery is Charles, and his stone is broken in several places. The other stones are also broken off, and only the bases of them are still there.



In a eulogy to James Hogg, his son Thomas, writing on June 20, 1866 said,

“As a poet, it may not be deemed out of place to say that [James Hogg] stood in the front rank with British American writers...with the world, he was a public man, a journalist, a politician; with his family and friends, he was all love, kindness and affection, and suffice to say, those who knew him best, loved him the most.”

Fred Cogswell, founder of Fiddlehead Books, speaking of Hogg's book of poetry, said that it 'shows him to have been a versifier possessed of an impeccable ear for rhythm who could turn out effusions calculated to please any audience in which the cult of feeling for its own sake had become firmly established. However, one looks through his work almost in vain, for any hint of New Brunswick residence.' Cogswell, though, was a little bit off here because in the first book of poetry to be published in New Brunswick by James Hogg, there was a poem on this province, entitled "An Address to the Patrons of Sunday Schools in New Brunswick".

Local author, Louise Hill, writing in 'Fredericton, New Brunswick, North America', writes about Hogg saying: 'His was the first book of poetry published in New Brunswick, and it is said that his relative and namesake "The Ettrick Shepherd" encouraged his early verse making.' Hill goes on to say that Hogg's mother died 'in this cottage', which was 725 George Street, in 1858, at the age of ninety-nine.

The following poem is the last one of the 70 poems to be found in James Hogg's book of poetry first published in 1825:



## Reflection



I looked to the East, and a dark rolling cloud,  
Half shaded the light that it gave;

And the storm that had raged on the spot where  
I stood,  
Hung black on the far distant wave;

Oh! such, I exclaimed, was the morn of my life,  
While the victim of passion, I tried  
To combat the tempests of anguish and strife  
And their dangers and follies allied.

Then I looked to the West, all was tranquil and  
still,  
Not a murmur was heard of the gale;  
And the slow breathing zepthers, just ruffled the  
rill  
Or play'd o'er the flowers of the vale.

While fervent I pray'd to the fountain of love,  
That my life's early sorrows might close;  
And lost in a lasting enjoyment above,  
My fears and my sorrows repose.

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# An Irish stamp album

## An Post continues to emphasize so much Ireland



By Michael O. Nowlan

Postage stamps are about our history, our culture, our heritage. I open with that statement because I have been asked why I write about postage stamps outside established philatelic publications. The answer is: one does not need to be a stamp collector to appreciate new postage issues from any country.

In my last column, I brought the 2014 new issues from An Post up to the Cumann na mBan, a woman's organization set up to facilitate Irish women playing a role in national activism, and I cited several others would be arriving. This time around I will look at what has been a busy season through September 4.

On April 24, An Post issued a tribute to its Viking Heritage with two stamps. There is much known about Viking influence in Ireland from the remains of their early set-

tlements which have been found at Wood Quay, Christchurch Place, and the Temple Bar area of Dublin. One of the stamps features a sword, similar to those used in the Battle of Clontarf while the second depicts the Waterford Kite Brooch, Ireland's finest piece of early 12th century secular metalwork.

May traditionally sees members of the European Union release one or two stamps on a common theme called the *Europa* series. The 2014 theme is National Musical Instruments, so on May 8, An Post issued the harp which has become synonymous with Ireland and Irish music with the first mention of it on the Maedoc book-cover about 1100 AD. The second stamp has the very familiar Irish Bodhran (drum) whose history is more recent in the late 18th century. Both are significant representatives of the *Europa* theme this year.



The centenary of one of the significant features of Irish history was marked on May 22 with

the Home Rule Act of 1914. Also known as the Government of Ireland Act it was passed by the Parliament of the United Kingdom, and it intended to provide self-government for Ireland. The one-stamp issue features images of John Redmond and Edward Carson set against a backdrop of a map of Ireland. Both Redmond and Carson were central figures in the fight for and against Home Rule. Redmond was an Irish nationalist while Carson was an Irish unionist politician. This stamp notes "a milestone in Irish history."



On July 24, the Irish Post Office marked another centenary - the beginning of World War I which featured one of the largest conflicts in history. Although Ireland did not have conscription about 140,000

volunteered for various reasons. Although there was no conscription, propaganda was rife with a drive to recruit as many soldiers as possible. It is appropriate, therefore, that the two stamps feature propaganda posters from that era.



Between the Home Rule and the Great War stamps, An Post took time to appreciate nature's beauty with two issues.

On May 22, two stamps set the tone for Ireland's largest gardening, food, and family event called Bloom, which takes place annually in Dublin's Phoenix Park. In 2013, the seventh year of this popular event, more than 100,000 visitors passed through the gates. One 2014 stamp depicts a detail from a silver medal winning championship garden while the other shows a lady holding freshly grown garden produce. (cont'd...)

# An Irish stamp album

(cont'd)



Fast on the heels of Bloom came the World Flower Show for five days in June and two more postal stamps on June 12. The Royal Dublin Society hosted the 2014 show for its first visit to Ireland. This is a major event in the international floriculture calendar and an important festival with participants from all 31 member countries of the World Association of Flower Arrangers. Two beautiful and very intriguing stamps marked the occasion. They show details from a photograph of an orchid. The actual orchid on the stamps is native to South East Asia but has become a very common house plant in Ireland.



Combined with the Rose stamp issued (February 13, 2014), the Irish Post Office outdid itself with the beauty of nature which is so striking. Here in Canada we have our floral beauty as does Ireland. In my recent visit to Ireland (August 26-September 9), I took several photos of just flowers.

A four-stamp issue on August 7 paid tribute to the Irish Prison Service which for decades has been delivering on its mission and contributing to public safety. The four stamps focused on the core objectives of the Prison Service: Care and Custody, Rehabilitation, Justice, and Education.



The literary world of Ireland was the focus of a stamp on August 28 when "one of Ireland's greatest poets" Seamus Heaney who was poet, playwright, translator, lecturer, and winner of the 1995 Nobel Prize in Literature. Ireland regularly focuses on one of its many great writers, so Heaney's accomplishments are worthy of this honour. The stamp features an iconic image of the poet.



On July 31, Ireland continued its celebration of the country's biodiversity with another series of Irish Animals and Marine Life. As an island nation, Ireland and its surrounding waters provide a home for many species of plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms which is referred to as the country's biodiversity. The eight new stamps depict the scallop, otter, viviparous lizard, badger, wren, mute swan, basking shark, and violet snail.

September 4 brought four new stamps in tribute to the most popular pets in the world - cats. According to An Post, "more people keep cats

than any other animal in the world, including dogs." The new Irish Post Office cats feature the Persian which has long hair and a round face; the Maine Coon (also known as the American Longhair), one of the oldest natural breeds in North America; the Burmese known for its friendliness with short, silky hair; and the British Short Hair, the most popular registered breed in the U.K. It has a very soft coat and big eyes.



To come will be Thomas Davis, Game Icons, and Christmas, all of which will open my next column. I'll have those and a preview of 2015 next time. Keep happy!

To learn more about Irish stamps visit the user friendly website at <http://www.anpost.ie> or write An Post, General Post Office, O'Connell Street, Dublin 1, Ireland.



## John Cudmore inducted into Comhaltas Hall of Fame

John Cudmore of Saint John's Comhaltas group was inducted into the Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Canada East Region 2014 Music Hall of Fame.

Cudmore grew up with music being important and was always a fundamental part of his life. From a musical family John fondly recalls that 'there was always music in the house at family gatherings.

During the 1970's John got involved in performing in coffee houses in Charlottetown, PEI. He has a natural singing voice with a strong sense of rhythm and ear for dynamics which leads to interesting musical arrangements.


In the 1990's Cudmore started to bring his musical talent to the modern Christian and inspirational music genre, mingling it with the Celtic sound from his roots. His musical talents have brought a unique sound to Maritime and traditional Irish music scene. He has toured

throughout the Maritimes with a Celtic band and with Comhaltas musicians. This has inspired him to also learn to play the bodhrán, mandolin and Irish bazouki.

John is one of the key factors in the success of the Saint John Comhaltas Branch. Each week he leads a session in learning new tunes. He also organizes the music sheets and puts chords to the music for the budding musicians. John was instrumental in starting the slow sessions. They have steadily grown in popularity and now average 28-3- musicians of varying sizes and ages each week.

Cudmore and his lovely wife Cynthia are always available whenever the occasion arises, to promote traditional music. They live in Quispamsis.

And if he is not at a musical session, where might you find him? You'll find him and Cynthia doing Irish set and ceilli dancing.

John Cudmore embodies the spirit of Comhaltas in keeping the Irish 'Living Tradition' alive. For those reasons, and many more, we are proud that he has been inducted into the Comhaltas Canada East Music Hall of Fame. 



Anne McConnell-Strong, Chairperson, Comhaltas Canada East with John at his induction ceremony.

## Ireland's "Loo with a view"

This is perhaps one of the strangest headlines we have ever penned but bear with us - it will make sense.

At the very height of the property boom in Ireland a decade ago even the most obscure, tiny, or ridiculous piece of land was fetching equally ridiculous prices. The huge punt on the old 'Glass Bottle' factory site in Ringsend is perhaps the most infamous of these property gambles, tumbling as it did in value from 411 Million Euro to an estimated 40 Million Euro today. It is currently an unused field.

But perhaps the full extent of our collective madness was demonstrated by the purchase of a tiny plot of land that was home to a toilet, overlooking the promenade at Lahinch. 400,000 euro was paid (over

US\$550,000) for what became known as 'the Loo with a View'. Plans to develop the site came to nothing and it looks like the Council may buy back the plot to provide restroom facilities for visitors to the popular Lahinch beach. Obviously the situation is getting critical with local politicians getting ever more agitated by the lack of action.

Councillor Bill Slattery:

*"I am very frustrated with the situation. Nothing has been done by Clare County Council or Fáilte Ireland. The criticism that we are getting in Lahinch because of the lack of toilets is unreal. We can't walk down the promenade without being criticised. We have no public toilets in Lahinch and I think that is an absolute disgrace."*

Calm down there Bill. Is there an election coming up?



**The 'Loo with a View' at Lahinch**

**Yours for 400,000 Euro**



## Logic puzzle—Irish style!



### Homeward Bound —this one's a little tougher for you—but it is doable!

by Marilyn Driscoll

The conference on the Past, Present and Future of the Irish Diaspora in Atlantic Canada had included a variety of expert speakers from various Irish studies programs in both Canada and Ireland. With the conference now ended, five of the Irish attendees: Brendan, Declan, Kierán, Orla and Siobhán, made their way back home. Although they all flew out of the same Canadian airport, they flew out over three different days (one on Monday, two on Tuesday and two on Wednesday), and had three different destination airports in Ireland (one flew into Cork, two into Shannon, two into Dublin). Each traveller was met at their destination airport by a different relative (mother, father, brother, cousin and uncle). Determine the full name of each traveller, what day of the week each flew out of Canada, which Irish airport each flew into, and by which relative each of them were met at their destination airport.

1. The two people who flew into Dublin were the man who was met by his mother and Orla.
2. Mr. Donovan didn't leave Canada on a Tuesday. Kierán, whose last name wasn't O'Neill, flew into Shannon.
3. Brendan left Canada one day later than the person who was met by their father. The person who flew into Cork was met by their cousin.
4. The two people who left Canada on Wednesday were the person who was met by their brother and Mr. O'Neill.
5. The person whose last name was Cotter was met by their uncle. Siobhán's last name was McCarthy but she wasn't met at the airport by her brother.
6. Mr. Kelly wasn't met by his mother. The woman who was met by her father left Canada on Monday.

Think you've got this one? Well, if you're really patient, you can check your answers in our June 2015 issue of *The Shamrock Leaf*, or visit our website at <http://www.newirelandnb.ca> to find out now.



### Answers to last issue's logic puzzle: Row, row, row your boat

Ireland is known not only for the beauty of its rock-walled fields and mist-shrouded mountains and valleys, but also its many lakes and rivers. For those lucky enough to live alongside one of these beautiful waterways, travelling by small boats, powered by the strength of their own arms, is very common. Here we present four such lucky persons, each living by a different river, and have paid four different prices for the wee boats which carry them through their daily business. Did you determine the first and last names of the four, which river they travel by, and how much each of them paid for their boats?

Cost of boat	First name	Last name	River
\$1,000	Moira	Walsh	River Suir
\$1,500	Con	Murphy	River Barrow
\$2,000	Ciara	O'Connell	River Shannon
\$2,500	Seamus	Collins	River Bann



# The Irish Room

By Linda Evans

Tucked inside my 'I'll get to it eventually' files was a small sheet of paper that said the following: *'Someone knew of a ship that had gone to Boston but was turned away because they could not pay the landing fees. So it was diverted to Canada and was probably on its way to Quebec City but it came into Dorchester instead. The ship was loaded with diseased Irish and even the doctor who treated the sick died as well'*.

So, intrigued ... I just had to find out....

## Dr. Murphy saves Irish famine fever victims in Dorchester, 1848

I began searching in the New Brunswick Irish Portal on the Provincial Archives site - [http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/databases\\_en.html](http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/databases_en.html). With a wealth of information, it wasn't long before I found clues to the mystery. Although the story above was based on fact, like most stories that get passed on, the real story was quite different.

The paper clipping related to a famine ship which crossed the Atlantic in 1848. The *Princess* sailed from possibly Donegal, Dublin or Cork - depending on the source. Boston records said it sailed from Donegal; New Brunswick records, Dublin; and British parliamentary records stated Cork. Whatever its port of departure, it did arrive in Boston in early May, 1848. According to a letter written by NB's emigration officer, Moses Perley on 8 June 1848, "about 15 May, the Brig *Princess* arrived at Dorchester, from Boston, having on board eighty-seven immigrants ill with fever."

"The *Princess* sailed from Dublin to Boston with eighty passengers. On arrival at Boston, they were all landed save these eighteen, who were deported sick. The Master being unable, or unwilling, to give the required security, the vessel sailed with them to Dorchester where the owners reside. On arrival

there, they were kindly taken in charge by Dr. Murphy of Sackville, as also five of the crew were likewise ill with the fever."

"Dr. Murphy has communicated with me by each mail service since the arrival of the *Princess*. Under his care the passengers have become convalescent and are now desirous of proceeding to Boston, their place of destination for which their passage money has been paid."

"The master of the *Princess* having caught the fever, now is dangerously ill, and the owners evince an unwillingness to send the emigrants to Boston, as they ought to do."

"Under my directions, Dr. Murphy has secured the Parliamentary Contract Tickets, which afford evidence of the undertaking to land these persons in Boston. As there is no person in Dorchester qualified or authorized to enforce the provisions of 'the Passengers Act', I beg to suggest that Dr. Jasper Murphy, of Sackville be appointed by writing ...to sue for the penalties ...unless the emigrants are forwarded to Boston free of charge, and their expenses, while in this Province, are defrayed by the Master or Owners of the ship."

One month later, on 03 Jul 1848, Perley sent a letter updating the Provincial Secretary, John L Saunders on

the situation in Dorchester:

"The confusion authorizing Dr. J. N. Murphy of Sackville to sue for penalties under the Passengers Act ... I have now the honor to report that Dr. Murphy has by this day's mail advised me, that after receiving the commission, the owners of the *Princess* contracted to send the nineteen passengers to Boston and provided a comfortable passage for them with stores. Dr. Murphy has heard of their safe arrival and landing at Boston in good health."

But for the beneficial operation of the Imperial Passengers Act, these emigrants would have been left destitute in a strange country, far from their place of destination and from their friends."

Dr. Jasper Murphy did receive partial compensation for his efforts but he struggled to be fully reimbursed for his efforts. Held at Queen's University in Belfast is a further petition he sent to the British government nearly a year later in May, 1849.

"...your petitioner was called upon in May, 1848 to render medical aid and assistance to eighteen emigrants who arrived ...on the Brig *Princess* ... a detailed account of such services accounting to £86.12.0."

(cont'd)

## Dr. Murphy saves fever victims (cont'd)

“Your petitioner in the discharge of his duties in providing medical aid and assistance to then eighteen emigrants having to contend with various difficulties ... left the house fearful of contracting the fever and your petitioner was most materially affected. It also evolved that [I] was to be constantly on the look-out for provisions for these emigrants as neither the magistrate or the overseer of the poor would, your petitioner was obliged to give aid to these unfortunate



An example of a typical brig, of which the *Princess* was one (2-masted sailing vessel) as opposed to a barque (3 or more fixed masts)

people. By [my] exertions the owner of the Brig was induced to charter a vessel to take these emigrants to Boston, their original port of destination.”

“The petitioner therefore prays that your honourable House will take into consideration the various circumstances mentioned and grant the petitioner the balance due him.”

When the *Princess* was turned away from Boston, the emigrants left on the ship no doubt had healthy members of their families – be they wives, husbands or children – who had been allowed to disembark there and they must have been ‘beside themselves’ thinking that they would never see them again. Due to the efforts of Dr. Murphy, they were brought back to health, and it is understandable that they were anxious to get back to Boston to their loved ones.

Between the lines we read that the owner didn’t take responsibility for these poor unfortunate victims of famine until he was forced to do so. Even worse, the local magistrate and overseer of the poor were also not interested in helping. Dr.

Murphy’s efforts to feed them and the tireless work on his behalf to get them back to their families in Boston was indeed admirable.

Although the real story is somewhat different from that stated at the beginning of this piece, the truth in itself still stresses the difficult time endured by the few that were left on the *Princess* in 1848. The clipping also stated that Dr. Murphy had died of the fever as well, but this did not happen. Jasper Nugent Murphy was born in 1815 in Jamaica and died in Fredericton in 1873. He had married Harriet Wetmore of Sackville, which is probably how he was living there in 1848. However, by 1851 he was living in Fredericton and practiced medicine at the corner of Regent and George Streets.

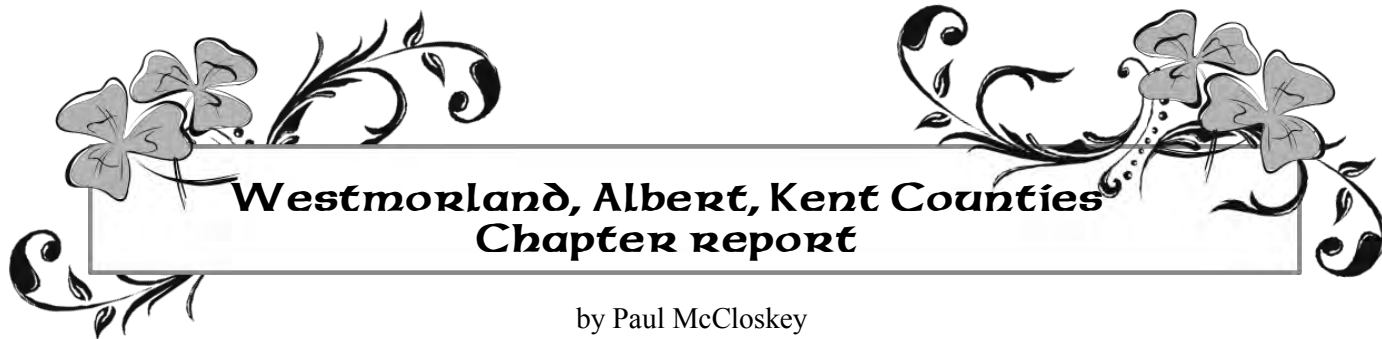
In researching this piece, I was unable to find out who the owner of the ship was nor was I able to find anyone in either Dorchester or Sackville who knew anything about the incident. Had it not been for that wee slip of paper, this story would have been forgotten – and it shouldn’t be...



*Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin*  
WILD ATLANTIC WAY



In the last issue of the SL we introduced the new Wild Atlantic Way travel route to you all. The Irish Independent newspaper conglomerate has a 16-page supplement on-line on this 2600 km route along the western coast of Ireland. It is not only pages of photos and information however. Many pages have videos of scenery along with a background of Irish traditional music that is well worth the viewing. Check it out at <http://supplements.independent.ie/?xml=wildatlanticway&iid=95751#folio=1>. Published last summer, there is of course some advertising as well, but it is well worth the visit.



## Westmorland, Albert, Kent Counties Chapter report

by Paul McCloskey

It's been a very quiet in the Moncton region over the last few months.

We were pleased to be able to once again give our three \$500.00 bursaries to deserving students in our area. The first bursary, in remembrance of the Rev. Peter McKee was given to Sarah Jane Fagan. The second bursary, in remembrance of Gerry McCarthy was given to Rachel Hudson. The Dan and Marie McGee Medical Science Scholarship, was given to Mitchell Cassidy. I know we all join together in wishing the recipients the best of luck with their stud-

ies.

The chapter saw the addition of new Irish family names to the Irish Families Memorial Monument in Moncton on the banks of the Petitcodiac River. It was a long and at times frustrating ordeal but was handled without complaint by our long time member and treasurer Don O'Connor. Thanks to Don from all of us.

The Moncton Highland Games went off without a hitch thanks to those of you who made your opinions known to the press and government. The Scottish Association wants to thank each and every one

of you for your helping with their cause.

This past summer our chapter once again did our part for the Moncton Magma Association. The festival is spreading from downtown Moncton to Dieppe and Riverview. It is fun for all ages and the coming together of all the different ethnicities to showcase their culture is really quite wonderful.

Plans are in progress for the 2015 Irishfest ..... I'll let you all know more as the plans solidify.



## Capital Area Chapter Report

By Mary Beth Gorey

Over the summer, several of our members were able to travel to Ireland and enjoy the wonderful Irish hospitality and scenery. Bruce and Marilyn Driscoll spent the month of June in Baltimore, West County Cork - their usual hangout. Michael and Gertrude Nowlan went on a tour in September, likely to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary! Our congratulations to them.

June saw us celebrating Bloomsday with an Irish movie at the library and dinner and drinks at the James Joyce Pub. A number of our members visited the Irish festival in Miramichi. The chapter was official-

ly represented at the Cultural Expressions Festival held at Officer's Square in Fredericton by Kathleen Gorey- McSorley and also with a group of dancers from the Stanford School.

The Highland Games were held in July and many members took part - working the Irish booth and enjoying the entertainment.

August saw us enjoying the Gathering in Gagetown with a concert, story telling, and information workshops. Dona King is to be thanked for all her hard work and time invested in this event.

The end of August also brought

the new Irish studies instructor to Saint Thomas University. We welcome Óisín Montanari and look forward to the many events he has planned for us!

September saw the usual pot luck supper which is always great craic! The members certainly do have a great sense of humour and one never knows what to expect!



## From reluctant hero to international diplomat Miramichi's Kevin Vickers named Canada's Ambassador to Ireland

By M. Driscoll

For the third time in a row there is a strong Atlantic Canadian connection with the person named to the post of Canadian Ambassador to Ireland.

First, in 2007, Pat Binns, the former Premier of Prince Edward Island took over the top post in Canada's Embassy in Dublin. Though born in Saskatchewan and educated in Alberta, Binns relocated to Prince Edward Island to take a job in that province's civil service. He entered politics there in 1978 as an elected Member of the Legislative Assembly for the provincial Conservative party. In 1984 he entered federal politics as Member of Parliament for the Cardigan, PEI riding. In 1996 he became PEI's 30th Premier and held that position until 2007 when he was subsequently named to his diplomatic position in Ireland.

In 2010 Pat Binns was succeeded in the position by Loyola Hearn who was born and educated in Canada's most Irish province, Newfoundland and Labrador. Of direct Irish extraction himself, the Hon. Mr. Hearn worked as a teacher and a school principal in his home province before entering federal politics where he served as a Member of Parliament from 2000 to 2008. He completed his term as Ambassador to Ireland in August 2014. The position has been vacant until the most recently announced appointment.

While each of these two greatly-respected gentlemen are well known politicians in Canada, our newest appointee to the Irish post received international notoriety for his heroic actions of 2014.

On January 19th, 2015 the currently vacant position of Canadian Ambassador to Ireland will be filled by Mr. Kevin Vickers, the un-

assuming, reluctant hero of the lone-wolf terrorist attack that took place in the halls of Canada's Parliament buildings in October of 2014.

Of strong Irish heritage on both sides of his family, our newest Ambassador was born Kevin Michael Vickers in Newcastle, New Brunswick (now part of Miramichi City). He is the son of the late Bill Vickers, and Monica Vickers, who still resides in Miramichi.

After growing up in Newcastle Vickers embarked on his 29-year career with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. As an RCMP officer he spent ten years working in Alberta and another ten in the Northwest Territories. His work in these areas led to his subsequent appointment as Director-General of the RCMP's Aboriginal Police Services Branch.

During this period Vickers worked on high profile cases such as the RCMP investigation into the safety of Canada's blood supply following the 1997 release of the Krever report as well as acting as incident commander for the force's response to the 1999-2000 native fishing crisis at Burnt Church, New Brunswick. In the latter case Vickers is well-known locally for the role he played in helping diffuse tensions on the wharf during the violent lobster dispute. His calm, respectful but firm conciliatory manner were evident during this incident and are qualities that will serve him well in his new position.

In 2003, he became Director General of the National Contract Policing Branch for Canada, managing nine separate branches of law enforcement. In his RCMP career, Vickers eventually attained the rank of Chief Superintendent.



Throughout his RCMP career he provided security for a number of VIPs including Queen Elizabeth and Prince Andrew on their visits to Canada.

Vickers served as Aide-de-camp for then Lieutenant-Governor of New Brunswick, Marilyn Trenholme Counsell for four years.

Upon first hearing the news of what transpired in the halls of Parliament last October Trenholme Counsell stated she was not surprised by Vickers' involvement and response:

*"...it's so much in his character to take charge of something and do what has to be done," she said. "He is fearless in the face of a challenge. It didn't surprise me that he acted."*

In June 2005 Vickers joined the House of Commons as Director of Security Operations.

(cont'd)

## New Canadian Ambassador to Ireland (cont'd)

He was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms for the Canadian House of Commons on August 24, 2006 and began serving in that position on September 1, 2006.

The Sergeant-at-Arms is the senior official of the Canadian House of Commons. In this role, the Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible for the building services, the safety and security of the Parliament buildings and occupants, and ensuring and controlling access to the House of Commons. The position is an appointment by the Governor General acting on the advice of the Federal cabinet. It includes the function of carrying the ceremonial gold mace into the House of Commons before every sitting.



Vickers with the ceremonial mace  
Canadian House of Commons

Vickers recalls his interview for the position. "...I told them if they made me their Sergeant-at-Arms, there would be no walls built around Canada's Parliament buildings...I have kept my promise." Canada has long been proud of its ability to balance security and safety with the right of its citizens to have reasonably free access to the buildings that house its seat of government.

In carrying out his responsibilities as Sergeant-at-Arms, security on Parliament Hill has been strengthened, particularly after a 2009 incident in which 19 Greenpeace activists were able to scale the south wall of the West Block and unfurl a banner.

Under Vickers, the uniformed security personnel at the House of Commons were issued batons, and re-

tractable bollards were installed around the perimeter to prevent unauthorized vehicles from driving onto the Hill.

Senate security guards will soon be equipped with 9mm firearms. Plainclothes security guards with the House of Commons are already equipped. A 2012 report of Canada's Auditor General raised concerns about parliamentary security and suggested that the security services of the Senate and the House of Commons be unified. As a result of this, a decision was made last June to merge House and Senate security guards into one force. The process will be completed shortly. The two have also merged radio frequencies although they do not, as yet, have a direct communications link with the RCMP.

While his responsibility for controlling access to the House has provided its own challenges over the years, perhaps one of the most well-known incidents that enabled him to draw not only on his security expertise but also on his sense of diplomacy and his knowledge of aboriginal issues took place in early 2013.

On January 11, 2013, as part of the "Idle No More" protests, more than 3,000 First Nations people and their supporters descended on Parliament Hill to fight for Aboriginal rights. Laurentian University's Model Parliament was taking place at the same time.

As part of their protest, the First Nations' Chiefs in attendance stated they wished to meet and have a discussion on current issues, on reform, and issues going forward "nation to nation, being with First Nations and the leader of the Canadian government, that being the Prime Minister, and also the honourable Governor General because he is a representative of the Crown where the initial treaty was signed with the Queen."

Security procedures kicked in and the Chiefs were permitted only as far as the Anti Chamber where they were formally greet by Sergeant-at-Arms

Kevin Vickers. The Laurentian University students and other observers were treated to a live demonstration of diplomacy in action.

Showing his typical humility and respect for others, Vickers participated in an exchange of ceremonial tobacco with Chief Isadore Day of the Serpent River First Nations.

*"I myself, in my previous career, have served the members of the First Nations communities for over 15 years of my life," said Vickers. "I understand your frustration. I understand the conditions in which your people live and I also understand the importance of tobacco and what it means as not only a gift, but as a sign of respect for your people. My people here in security, we have a definitive job to do to maintain the traditions and practices of the House of Commons. Unfortunately those practices will not allow us to facilitate what you would like to do today. But perhaps with members of parliament that can be facilitated. On behalf of the House of Commons and the members of security we present this tobacco to you as a gift and a sign of respect and thank you for your visit."*

The sacred tobacco was passed from the Sergeant-at-Arms to Chief Day who then said: *"I just want to thank you, Sergeant-at-Arms, and just indicate that these are not tokens, they are not novel exchanges. This is a formal exchange and I want to note that we are accepting this as a gesture reciprocating the protocol that will take place here with the Prime Minister when the House resumes via the honourable Liberal member of the House of Commons Carolyn Bennett."*

*We will draft a statement on behalf of the chiefs here, on behalf of the Idle No More movement, if that is permitted, and these young people, to suggest that we must continue to forge*

(cont'd)

## New Canadian Ambassador to Ireland (cont'd)

*that path forward in the spirit and intent of treaties and that we recognize the sacredness of the tobacco and the sweet grass and we give acknowledgement to things like the Kelowna Accord and the Charlotte-town Accord and that third order of government that recognizes us First Nations. We thank you."*

Upon completion of this exchange the chiefs were asked to leave the Anti Chamber and returned peacefully to the protest outside.

Fast forward 21 months and Kevin Vickers is in the news again, this time on an international scale.

On October 22, 2014 Canadians, and people around the world, were stunned by the news of a lone gunman who first stopped at Canada's National War Memorial and opened fire on the ceremonial guard posted there, fatally wounding military reservist Corporal Nathan Cirillo.

While bystanders desperately tried to save the life of the guard, the heavily armed gunman, later identified as Michael Zehaf-Bibeau, raced across the grounds, shot a constable at the Peace Tower, the main entrance to the Centre Block of the parliamentary complex, and exchanged gunfire with security personnel as he ran through the Hall of Honour towards the rooms where Members of Parliament were in meetings.

Hearing the commotion and gunfire in the hall, Vickers reacted immediately, removed his weapon from a lock box and entered the hall where he quickly assessed the situation, dropped to the floor, and fired three shots, killing the gunman before he could reach his destination.

Moments later Vickers was seen making his way down the hall, hair slightly ruffled, gun in hand, to check with his security staff, ensuring that all was secure and all MPs and other personnel were safe.

In the midst of confusion and terror Vickers never lost his cool, never

hesitated to do his duty, and never stopped to consider his own safety—only that of the people he had been charged to protect. He became an instant news and internet sensation, much to his own chagrin. In direct contrast to his quiet, humble and unassuming personality he was landed into the centre of a media circus, handling it with dignity and reserve and tried to quietly return to his normal duties. This was unlikely to happen.



The next day Vickers was back in his role of leading the procession into the parliamentary session. He was greeted with a standing ovation where all sitting MPs stood and applauded for a full three minutes as he entered the room, ceremonial mace on his shoulder and made his way toward the Speaker of the House. Unaccustomed to being the centre of attention, Vickers visibly shook with the effort of keeping control of his emotions at this outstanding display of admiration and gratitude.



Even when attending a security conference in Israel shortly after the shooting event, a trip which had been arranged prior to the attack on Parliament Hill, Vickers was greeted as a hero by the Israeli Prime Minister, his security personnel, and conference participants from all over the world. With characteristic modesty Vickers deflected the notoriety by insisting that he was working as part of a team.

*"Though I'm honoured to think (you're) excited about me, I wish and hope you realize it's about the entire team that performed very well on that day,"* he said on a video circulated by Israeli officials.

The lesson to be learned from the Ottawa shooting is that safety is community-based, Vickers said.

*"This is not an issue just for security, this is everybody's issue and how we deal with this is by everybody, all the citizens, working together with their local police, their national police to ensure we have a safe society,"* he said. *"I think that is accomplished by respecting the dignity of people."*

When taken in its totality, Kevin Vickers attitude, experience and demeanor throughout his life and career have prepared him well for his most recent appointment.

On January 8th Canadians were delighted to hear that Mr. Vickers was to be the new Canadian Ambassador to Ireland.

In making the announcement, Prime Minister Stephen Harper said: *"Kevin Vickers has shown profound leadership and dedication to the security of Canada and its national institutions,"* the prime minister said in a statement. *"His extensive experience working with Parliament, as well as his bravery and integrity, will serve to deepen close bilateral relations between*

(cont'd)

## New Canadian Ambassador to Ireland (cont'd)

Canada and Ireland in the years ahead.”

While expressing his regret in leaving his position of Sergeant-at-Arms, Vickers looks forward to this new experience.

*“As a Canadian with family on both sides hailing from Ireland, there could be no greater honour,”* he said of his appointment. *“I am humbled by the invitation to serve my country in this way.”*

*“You have my word that I will do my best to represent you in Ireland with pride and dignity.”*

No one could believe this more than his fellow Miramichiers.

Vicker’s home town of Miramichi has long billed itself as Canada’s Irish Capital and, as such, residents are justifiably proud of the accomplishments of their native son. They, along with members of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick (whose current President, Keith Vickers, just happens to be our new Ambassador’s cousin), wish to send their heartiest congratulations to Mr. Vickers on his appointment and voice their wish that this will be a long-standing appointment for this well-deserving, reluctant hero.



*Prime Minister Stephen Harper congratulating Kevin Vickers on his appointment*

## Guinness isn't just for drinking!

The health benefits of a good Guinness stout have been long suggested – some of it fact and some of it not. It grew out of a Guinness advertising plan in the 1920’s that suggested that ‘Guinness is good for you!’ Mothers in Irish and British hospitals were once offered a pint after giving birth just to bring their strength back and blood donors were also given a Guinness thinking it helped renew iron levels in the blood. One researcher even suggests that it helps with blood clotting.

Whatever the benefits, today Guinness lays no claim to the medical benefits of their product, and like many a beer company suggests ‘drinking responsibly’ instead. But Guinness isn’t just for putting in a pint jar. You can cook with it too!

From the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin comes the following recipe:

### Beef and Guinness stew:

- 1 cup Guinness (yes, you can drink the rest!)
- 1 lb stewing beef, diced
- 1 large diced carrot
- 1 large stalk of celery, diced
- 1 large parsnip, diced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 1 litre of beef stock
- Bit of thyme or rosemary to taste
- Champ (mashed potato mixed with green onion) for the top

Stir fry the beef and add the veggies and cook until tender.  
Add the Guinness and let it reduce to half.  
Add the beef stock and herbs and simmer very slowly for at least 1 ½ hours.

When you serve it in a bowl, add a dollop of champ to the top. This is even better if made a day ahead. Why not serve it with a large loaf of soda bread to sop up the juices!





Served at the Provincial ICCA meeting in Saint John, this dessert was a big hit. This cake is dense and rich with just the slightest undertone of the stout but don't drink the extra stout as it will be needed for the icing!

## Chocolate Guinness Cake

1 ½ cups flour  
 ¾ cup cocoa powder  
 1 ½ tsp baking powder  
 1 tsp baking soda  
 ½ tsp salt  
 ¾ cup unsalted butter at room temperature  
 1 cup lightly packed brown sugar  
 2 eggs  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 1 cup Guinness

Preheat oven to 350 and lightly oil two 8 inch round cake pans.

Sift flour with cocoa, baking powder, soda and salt in a medium bowl. Stir to mix.

In a large bowl, beat butter with sugar for 3 minutes. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well each time. Beat in vanilla.

With a wooden spoon, stir in 1/3 of flour mixture into the wet ingredients and then add half the beer. Repeat additions, ending with flour. Stir just until mixed and pour into pans.

Bake about 25-28 minutes or until a cake tester comes out of the centre of the cake clean. Cool in pans on rack for 10 minutes and then turn cakes out on a rack and cool completely.



## Guinness Icing

3 cups icing sugar (approx)  
 ½ cup cocoa powder  
 ½ cup unsalted butter, at room temperature  
 1/3 cup Guinness (or milk)  
 1 tsp vanilla  
 Generous pinch of salt

Sift icing sugar and cocoa in a bowl.

In a large bowl beat butter till creamy. Gradually beat in half of the icing sugar/cocoa, scraping down the sides as you go. The mixture will be dry at this point. Gradually beat in Guinness (or milk), vanilla and salt and then the remaining icing sugar/cocoa mixture.

You can add 1 cup of candied beer nuts to 1/3 of the icing sugar and put this between the layers if you wish. Enjoy!



## Benjy, the gay bull, retired

Farmers don't talk about it much, but bulls who are more interested in fellow bulls, rather than cows, are usually not referred to as 'gay' but instead more politely as 'useless' or 'no good'.

In County Sligo, Benjy was such a bull and his owner had decided he would send him to the slaughter house.

However, when gay rights groups and animal activists heard of the news they started a campaign to save Benjy. On-line they raised over \$19,000. Benjy, a handsome creamy coloured cow with a curly hide resembling a sheepskin, was shipped to Norwich, England where he will live out his days in relative peace.

## Does Anyone Know...???

Questions of a general genealogical nature? If we don't know the answer we'll do our best to find it for you.

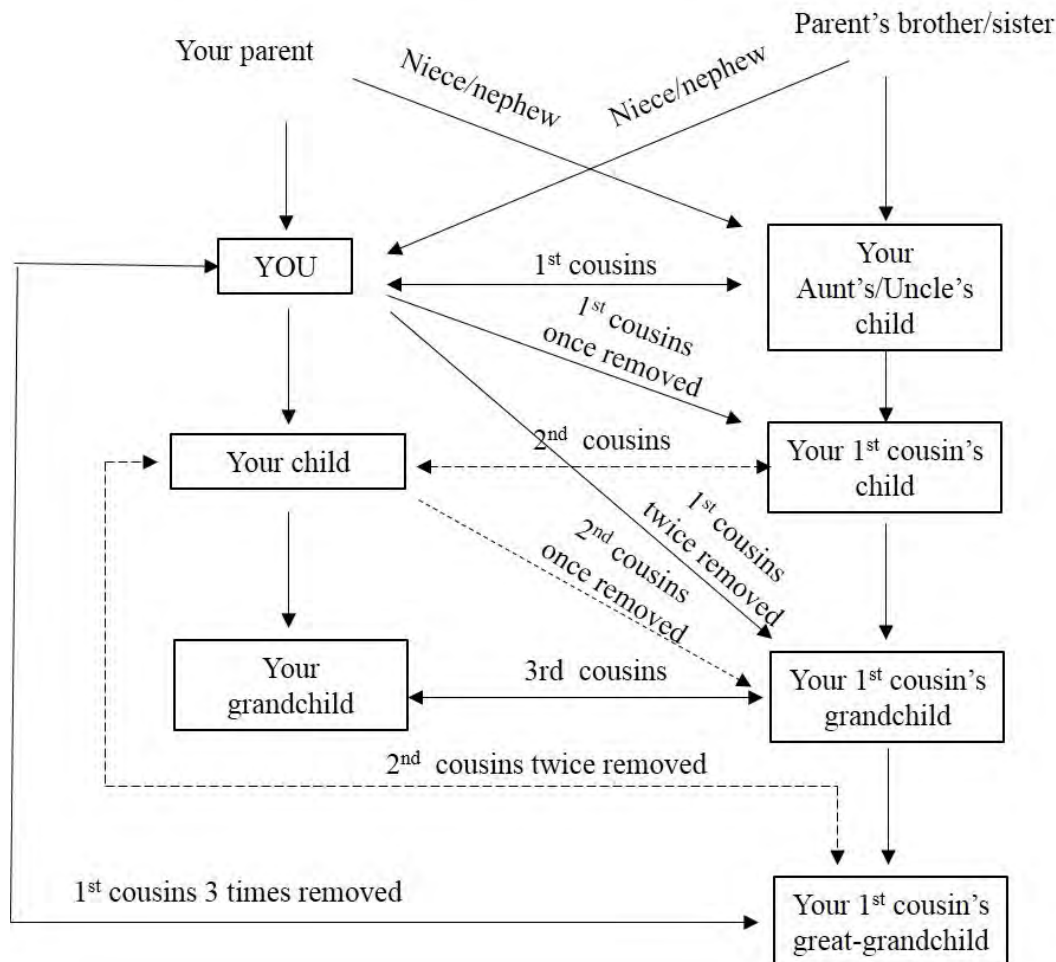
In addition, we regularly receive questions from readers of the SL or from visitors to our ICCANB website regarding historical or genealogical research specific to their area of interest. We will provide limited space to reach out to others for help.

To be included, requests **MUST** include a contact email address as the SL **will not** act as intermediary between parties. **Please respond directly to the person requesting the information.**



## ... what the difference is between your 1st cousin once removed and your 2nd cousin?

The family tree can sometimes seem more of a jungle when we try to navigate the relationships from one generation to another. For those of you who are still confused, hopefully this illustration can shed a little light on these familial connections.



Clear as mud now? So—who then is YOUR 2nd cousin? Why—the child of your parent's cousin of course! But you'd already figured that out, right???

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# Bits and Pieces

By Linda Evans

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Canada sent exhibition lacrosse teams to Ireland as early as the 1870's to introduce Canadian culture to the Irish and to encourage emigration. The first Irish lacrosse team was formed in 1872 in Newtownards, east of Belfast. Just recently lacrosse has been revived in Ireland. Teams from Dublin, Galway, Cork and Belfast are competing for the Newtownards Cup. New teams are planned for Carlow and Waterford next year. Although lacrosse is known as the 'fastest game on two feet', Irish hurlers would seriously debate that distinction ♣♣♣

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The Irish Embassy in Ottawa now has a page on its website which may be of interest to elementary school teachers. Entitled 'School Projects Corner', it has information on Ireland, its flag, harp and St Patrick. ♣♣♣

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Statistics show that County Cork is one of the top counties in Ireland for emigration. Also, those leaving are more likely to get work visas for Canada – which is now more popular as a destination than Australia or New Zealand. Many are also emigrating to western Canada rather than Toronto, which was once the usual objective. So many Irish are heading to Vancouver that they established an Irish Canadian Immigration Centre there in 2012 to help new arrivals settle in. Canada is so popular in general that *The Irish Times* has an entire section in its 'Life and Style' section dedicated to Canadian immigration. Just 1,000 Irish left for Canada in 2009 and it is estimated that 14,000 Irish will settle in Canada in 2014. Sadly, New Brunswick, and the Maritimes in general are not even mentioned as a possible destination. ♣♣♣

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CAIS, the Canadian Association for Irish Studies is coming east in 2015 – it will be held at Dalhousie University in Halifax between 20-22 May. They will be posting more information on their website early in the New Year. For more information, check out their website: [www.irishstudies.ca](http://www.irishstudies.ca). ♣♣♣

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Vinegar Hill, well-recognized for the battle fought there in 1798 was not named after 'vinegar'. In Irish it is Cnoc Fiodh nag Caor. "Cnoc" means hill and the last part of the name phonetically sounds out as 'fee-na-gare' which sounds very much like vinegar – hence the name in English. The true meaning of the name in Irish is 'hill of the wood of the berries'. ♣♣♣

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So many Irish settled in Boston that the city has established an Irish Heritage Trail for tourists. A self-guided walking tour, the trail takes you through Boston's downtown, North End, Beacon Hill and Back Bay pointing out famous politicians, artists, matriarchs and heroes. It starts in the Rose Kennedy Gardens and includes the Irish Famine Memorial at the corner of School and Washington Streets which is well worth the visit. ♣♣♣

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Pubs were once central to Irish social and cultural life but now find themselves under threat from the continuing economic downturn and changing lifestyles. More than 1,000 Irish pubs have closed since the Celtic Tiger peaked in 2006 and sales have fallen almost a third since then as well. Just released to the public is a new DVD entitled *The Irish Pub* which celebrates the Irish traditional family pub and the family publicans who run them. Have a peek at it on YouTube under the heading "The Irish Pub Official Trailer". ♣♣♣

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Submissions shown at the Cork Film Festival in 2013 are available on-line and include full-feature films, shorts and documentaries for a small fee – or pay as you want. The film festival takes place every November and has been running for nearly 60 years. Read more at [www.corkfilmfest.org](http://www.corkfilmfest.org). ♣♣♣

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Halifax had its first Celtic Festival in September 2014 which was organized by the Celtic Cultural Society of Nova Scotia. Representing the culture, music and dance of Irish, Scots and Welsh Nova Scotians, is this an idea that we should think about for New Brunswick? ♣♣♣

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The North South Ministerial Council was formed as part of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement whereby government ministers from both Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic meet annually to discuss matters of common interest. In 2014 they met in Armagh to discuss shared economic issues as well as financial issues as it relates to the European Union. It isn't all about economics however. The legacy of the Troubles and other issues are also covered. ♣♣♣

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## Hugh McMonagle: Premier horse breeder of Sussex Vale

By James M. Whalen

Hugh McMonagle, known for his interest in horses and horse racing, was born in Albert County, New Brunswick about 1818. He was the son of Corneilus McMonagle, a native of Ireland and Ann Scott. McMonagle. He came to Kings County with his parents and bought Gilfred Cogle's property at Sussex Vale (Sussex Corner). There he farmed and operated a residence, known as "Sussex House," as a stage-coach inn. This commodious dwelling was ideally located on the main route between Moncton and Saint John. Twice married, his first wife, Margaret Roach died leaving six children and his second, Mary Roach, a cousin of his first, bore him two more children.

McMonagle followed his father's interest in horse trading and breeding and both men seemed to have had a particular admiration for Irish thoroughbreds. Brian Flood in "Saint John: A Sporting Tradition, 1785-1985", page 12, wrote about Hugh McMonagle's interest in horses as follows:

"He had a passion for horse racing and probably did more for the sport in New Brunswick than any man in the nineteenth century. In a career that spanned more than forty years, McMonagle trained hundreds of horses on his



*Hugh McMonagle (standing—centre), flanked by his son and daughter on horseback, at his residence, "Sussex House", a stage-couch inn located in Sussex Vale (now Sussex Corner).*

farm in Sussex Vale. The horses were raced on race tracks throughout the Maritimes and the State of Maine. However, the veteran horseman's chief interest was that of breeding fast horses."

Flood then goes on to describe one of the most celebrated horse races ever held in New Brunswick. It was a three-mile race that took place on April 7, 1847 along the shores of Courtenay Bay in Saint John between McMonagle's horse "Livingston" and George Gilbert's horse "Retriever." The race was exciting as Retriever took the early lead but in the end, McMonagle's horse won by a margin of three or four lengths. For the time, the level of betting on the contest was amazingly high. It is said that the two owners placed wagers of \$5000 each and spectators staked an additional

\$25,000 on the race."

Besides race horses, McMonagle worked to improve draft horses and kept a fine herd of purebred Ayrshire cattle. As a charter member of the Sussex and Studholm Agricultural Society, founded in 1841, he used it to assist him in achieving his goals. For example, the Society imported livestock that breeders could purchase from them. In this way, McMonagle acquired the American stallion "Deerfield Morgan," in 1855 which was the first Morgan horse brought into the province from the United States.

In the mid-1850s, when the railway was proposed for Sussex Vale, it appears that McMonagle's love of horses caused him to make a costly mistake. Apparently, he refused to allow the railway line to cut through his valuable farm and above all disturb

his private race track. As a result, both the route of the railway and the location of the train station were changed. The outcome was significant because the area around the train station - some two miles west of McMonagle's farm - eventually grew into the Town of Sussex while the growth of Sussex Vale (later called Sussex Corner) languished.

In spite of this oversight, there is no doubt that McMonagle, who died on October 12, 1889, made a significant contribution to the province, especially as a breeder, owner and horse racing enthusiast. This businessman and farmer, who was also known as a public spirited individual, served for years as Post Master of Sussex Vale. In addition, he represented Kings County in the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick in 1856-57. 🍀





Enter the Stamp Stories Contest and see your artwork on the New Brunswick Government's Heritage Department web pages.



New Brunswick's Minister of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, the Hon. Bill Fraser (above), announced the theme of this year's provincial Heritage Week, running from February 9th—16th, as "Hope Restored", a concept adopted from the provincial motto.

During this time, Minister Fraser is encouraging New Brunswickers to pause and think about what they hold dear about New Brunswick and Canada. He asks us all to take this opportunity to celebrate the multitude of stories that make our identity so unique—stories such as ships and the ship-building industry in this province which have been such an important part of our heritage. *"On vessels much like the one depicted on our provincial flag,"* the Minister said, *"came individuals of all ages and nationalities, hoping for a new future on New Brunswick soil. Heritage Week 2015 offers a fitting opportunity to commemo-*

*rate our shared past."*

In this vein the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture is inviting New Brunswick students, in Grades 4 to 9, to show something of New Brunswick's history or heritage by presenting it as artwork on a postage stamp. The stamp design could be of anything the students want it to be as long as it has a New Brunswick heritage theme. It might be a local historic building or landmark, one of our ancestors, a cultural landscape, favourite New Brunswick hero or important historical event—anything that means something special to the individual student.



Certainly, from the standpoint of those producing this newsmagazine as well as those reading it, the story of the Irish in this province is an important one and we're hoping that something of our story will find its way into the artwork entering this contest.

The deadline for entries is March 1st, 2015. Students can send in as many different entries as they like. Entrants can use coloured pencils, felt pens, paints, paper cutouts, or can create their design on the computer! The top 8 entries will be posted on the website of the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture.



To view all the details of the contest and find the entry form and a blank stamp-shaped page that can be used to draw your entry, google the website of the New Brunswick Heritage Week and look under the section for the Heritage Week Toolkit where you will find a link to the contest rules.

Good luck to all who enter the contest.



## Capital Area Chapter Irish Room celebrating its new location

At the beginning of 2014 the Capital Area Chapter of the Irish Association of New Brunswick opened up an “Irish Room” which, along with providing a place for people to gather and hold meetings and other activities, also operates as a research and lending library. To date we have received donations from Irish Association members (and others interested in Irish heritage) of over 400 books for the library as well as genealogical research materials to populate the bookshelves. We carry fiction and non-fiction books available for loan to anyone who wishes to register for an Irish Room library card. You don't have to be an Irish Association member or even of Irish descent to make use of our library. We welcome anyone who might have an interest in Irish heritage, regardless of their own background or affiliation.

Our fiction includes many popular authors such as Joseph O'Connor, Maeve Binchy, Roddy Doyle, James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, and many more. Our non-fiction section contains books on many topics as well including Irish and Irish-New Brunswick history, biographies, travel books, Irish language, Irish cooking, and music. We carry tourism materials from the Irish Tourism bureau and, for the Irish ex-pats out there, we also carry the forms required for renewal of

Irish passports. We even have two or three books that deal with Scottish heritage that were included in our donated items! We also have research materials freely available for use within the library if you're one of the many people tracing their New Brunswick Irish roots.

After several months of gathering books and materials, arranging for volunteers and trying out the concept of our Irish Room at our first location, we have moved to our permanent home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Gibson Memorial United Church Hall. We will be holding an official “Grand Opening” of the Irish Room during Heritage Week (Feb. 9<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>) so keep your eyes open for the advertising as we'd love to see you there.

The whole second floor of the church hall is slated for rental and we were lucky to be the first tenants in, garnering us first choice of the rooms available. We were fortunate enough to be granted the space formerly occupied by the church's own library. It came equipped with book shelves on two sides of the room which gave lots and lots of space for our library without having to move our bookcases from our old location. So – on a cold day at the end of November volunteers gathered to help move all of the books and materials, furniture and

computer equipment to the new location. Many thanks go out to Pat Tozer, Louise McSheffrey, Bruce & Marilyn Driscoll, Susan McCloskey and Roger McKay (who came equipped with a truck, thank heavens!) for all the assistance in moving to our new location. For those unfamiliar with the hall, it is located in Fredericton North, at the back of the Gibson Memorial United Church on Gibson Street. Our entrance is from the parking lot at the back of the church. This lot can easily be reached by turning up Henry Street, one street past Gib-

son, coming from The Princess Margaret Bridge, or one street just before Gibson, coming from the other way. Henry Street pretty much ends between the parking lot for Gibson Memorial and Henry Park.

Regular hours for the library itself are, until further notice, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10am to 2 pm. We hope to increase hours over time as volunteers become available to work and ideas for additional activities are received. We invite suggestions for weekly or monthly activities, daytime or evening, that could take place in the Irish Room.



(cont'd)

# Capital Area Chapter Irish Room—(cont'd)



*This beautiful wall hanging was hand made and donated to the Irish Room by member Jean Burt. The centre of each square is expertly hand-quilted—each with a different Celtic design with its own special significance.*



telling circle, organized by Joanne LeBlanc-Haley, in which people are encouraged to bring a ballad, poem, song, or story to share with the group. Tea and coffee are available and sometimes even a little extra treat!

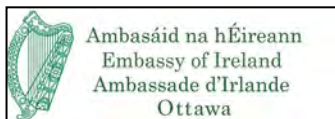
Currently, every Thursday from 10 am to 1pm we have “drop in” time. Come on out and meet up with others who might like a game of cards or are looking for someone to play a board game with. Grab a coffee and sit down with a book or try your hand at a jigsaw puzzle we have laid out, or just engage in one of most favourite of Irish activities – chatting!

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday evening of every month at 7 pm the Fredericton Area Miniature Enthusiasts (F.A.M.E.) meet in the Irish Room to share ideas and plans for their hobby of building 1/12<sup>th</sup> scale dollhouses, room boxes and dioramas. Currently two of the members are working on the construction of an Irish thatched cottage which, when completed, will be donated to the Irish Association for display and perhaps eventually used as a raffle item for fundraising for the Irish Room.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday evening of every month at 7:30 pm we have a story-

Additional ideas for future use of the Irish Room include traditional music sessions, Celtic craft days for instruction on making handcrafted items with a Celtic influence, and Irish book club meetings. If you are interested in any of these ideas or have one of your own, please email Marilyn at : [mdriscn618@rogers.com](mailto:mdriscn618@rogers.com) to discuss.

Now down to brass tacks! – So far all of our materials have been donated and our workers are volunteers but it still costs money to keep the Irish Room open. We did receive a very much appreciated grant from the Irish Embassy in 2014 (for which we offer our most sincere “Thank You!”) that has helped us to pay some



of our rent and minor expenses but it is not enough to keep us going for the whole year. Since we are a not-for-profit organization, but not a “registered charity”, we have very limited ability to raise funds. We would like to encourage anyone who sees the value in continuing to have an Irish Room in the city to give us a little financial boost to ensure our continued existence. Even if people would be willing to

pledge as little as \$10 a month – or whatever they could afford, we could combine it with whatever grants we might be able to receive to keep paying our rent, increase our activities, and allow us to purchase books and materials that would further enhance our growing collection.

As 2015 begins we hope you will think of us and agree to commit your financial support to our ongoing operations. We are serious when we say we can use all the help we can get. Please help us to continue to provide a centre for Irish-related materials and activities in the Fredericton area. If you wish to contribute, please contact Marilyn at the email mentioned above. Thank you so much!



*This large, framed print of peasants praying in a potato field was donated to the Irish Room by members Austin & Eileen Malone.*



## New Ireland, Maine

### The origin of New Brunswick almost being called New Ireland?

During the American Revolution, the British established a colony in Maine's Penobscot Bay area in 1779. They called it New Ireland.

Promoted by exiled Loyalists from New York and Massachusetts - some of them with Northern Ireland roots, New Ireland was intended to be a permanent colony for British Loyalists as well as a military base during the revolutionary war. The British invaded the village of Castine, created New Ireland, and established Fort George to protect it. Castine is directly across the bay from an Irish community that did survive in name - Belfast, Maine.

New Ireland remained a British colony until the end of the revolutionary war but was lost when Maine was given back to the US by treaty in 1783. Loyalists in the New Ireland area then migrated eastward and settled in St. Andrews. Some actually towed their New Ireland homes behind them on the waters which must have been a sight to see.

As a matter of curiosity, two islands in Penobscot Bay, near the village of Castine, are also islands in NB today - Hospital Island and Partridge Island - both ironically were quarantine sta-

tions for thousands of Irish who came to New Brunswick during the famine years.

When the Loyalists left, so did the British 74<sup>th</sup> regiment which had held Fort George and the floundering colony of New Ireland. They also chose to be disbanded in St Andrews - which they did on 24 May 1784 - instead of returning to Britain.

When New Brunswick was split off from Nova Scotia in 1784, the United Empire Loyalists suggested that it be called New Ireland. Were they attempting to reinstate Maine's New Ireland colony in New Brunswick?

During the war of 1812, the Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia, John Coape Sherbrooke sent a naval force to Penobscot to re-establish the colony of New Ireland in Maine. They were successful in taking possession of the area around the village of Castine - as well as Hampden, Bangor and Machias in September 1814. However, this revival of the New Ireland colony only lasted four months. The area was returned to the US with the Treaty of Ghent.

During its brief 'second' life, customs revenues were collected in New Ireland. Known as the Castine Fund, this



money went back to Halifax. It was subsequently used to finance a military library in Halifax as well as found Dalhousie University. There is still an on-campus roadway known as Castine Way, named after the village in Maine's 'New Ireland'.

The colony of New Ireland, Maine was short-lived - twice. Was it the precursor of attempts by Loyalists to name our colony/province New Ireland? Too bad it didn't

happen. New Brunswick's largest cultural group today has Irish roots... should we revive the name again? Just sayin'....

*The factual information above comes from a Wikipedia notation for New Ireland, Maine.*



## Ireland tops new “good country” index

Canada generally ranks as one of the ‘best places to live’ in the world according to annual United Nations studies which base their reports primarily on economics, lifestyle and other internal indicators. It is often beaten out by Scandinavian countries for the top position. Such studies compare each country’s internal factors and don’t look at the larger global picture.

A new study, created by Simon Anholt and built by Dr. Robert Govers, using data collected from the United Nations, the World Bank, the Basel Convention and the Global Footprint Network, ranked countries using very different criteria. In to-

day’s global society, it didn’t study how a country was doing on its own, but how each country was behaving globally in terms of its contributions to the planet and to the human race.

Ireland came out on top in 2014 out of 125 countries. The different criteria included science and technology, culture, international peace and security, world order, planet and climate, prosperity, and health and well-being. Despite the economic downturn in Ireland since 2008, it still ranked 1st in prosperity and came out 7th in culture and 9th in health and well-being.

Canada ranked highest in health and well-being at 4th and 2nd in planet and climate and was ranked 12<sup>th</sup> overall in the ‘good country’ index. We failed miserably in the international peace and security indicator coming in at 106<sup>th</sup> out of 125 countries.

We still did better than the USA however, who ranked 21<sup>st</sup> overall. Last on the list was Libya.

*For more information on the ‘good country’ index see [www.goodcountry.org](http://www.goodcountry.org).*



### File under: You can’t possibly be serious!!!

Britain’s Channel 4 is planning a comedy about the famine - and before you think this is an April Fools’ joke, it is not. To be written by Dublin-based Hugh Travers, the thought of making jokes about such a painful chapter of Irish history has outraged and caused an immediate backlash in Ireland. They are thinking of the title “Hungry”. Hopefully it will not come to fruition. Would anyone even consider a comedy about the Holocaust? – then why indeed the Famine?

Irish ex-pats protested outside Channel 4’s headquarters in London recently. It was led by Austin Harney, chairman of the Campaign for the Rights and Actions of Irish Communities (CRAIC).

Harney cannot understand how a comedy “about the deaths of one million people and mass emigration” can be remotely good for Anglo-Irish relations. It would again marginalize the Irish community in Britain.



# Katherine Hughes

## A LIFE AND A JOURNEY

P Á D R A I G Ó S I A D H A I L



*From 'Canadian  
Imperialist' to Irish  
Republican Activist.  
From Emerald, Prince  
Edward Island,  
to Ireland*

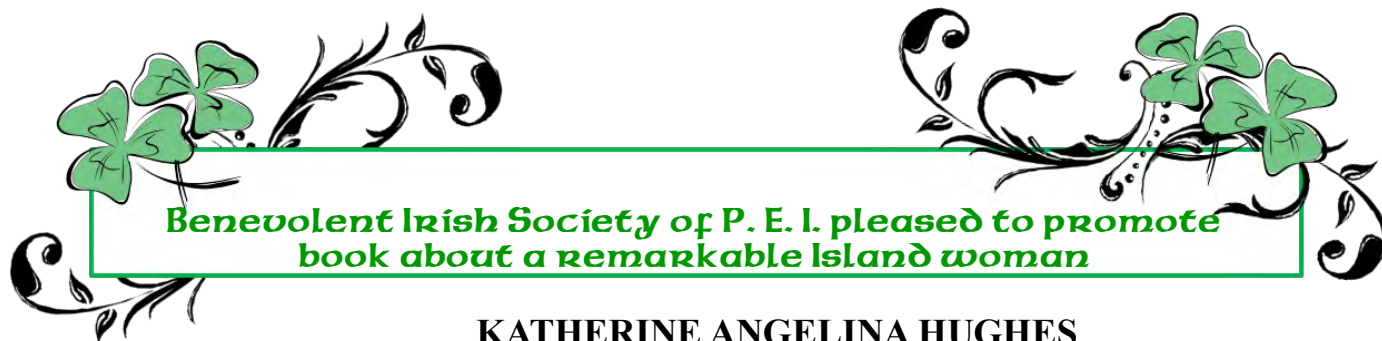


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\$29.95

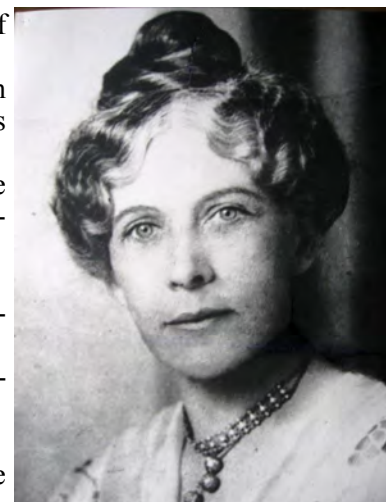
A member of the Irish Catholic community in Emerald, Prince Edward Island, Katherine Hughes (1876-1925) travelled far and accomplished much during her short life. Her career was varied and eventful: a teacher in a Native school; a journalist (*Montreal Star*); a biographer (Archbishop Cornelius O'Brien; Father Albert Lacombe; Sir William Van Home); private secretary to Alberta's second Premier; Alberta's first provincial archivist; and most importantly, Irish political activist in support of Eamon de Valera and the cause of Irish Independence. Hughes' travels took her across Canada, to Europe, including Ireland, the USA, Australia and New Zealand. In this book, Pádraig Ó Siadhail charts Katherine Hughes' physical journeys and discusses the challenges of understanding Hughes' internal journeys from Canadian political insider in the era before female suffrage to Irish political outsider.

WWW.PENUMBRAPRESS.COM  
THE MOORE HOUSE, 15 GRAFTON STREET  
CHARLOTTETOWN, P.E.I. C1A 1K3 CANADA



## KATHERINE ANGELINA HUGHES (1876 - 1925)

- Born in Milburn, Prince Edward Island, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 1876. Daughter of John Wellington Hughes and Annie Laurie O'Brien.
- Raised in Emerald, P.E.I. Attended Notre Dame Academy. Graduated from Prince of Wales College and Normal School with a Diploma and First Class Teacher's Licence – 1892.
- Taught on Reserves in Eastern and Central Canada after graduation. With the support of Catholic Bishops and Laity, organized the Canadian Indian Association to secure employment for graduates of Indian Schools – 1901.
- Served on the Editorial staff of the *Montreal Star* – 1903-06.
- Participated as a founding member of the Canadian Women's Press Club - 1904.
- Published *Man and Churchman*, the biography of her uncle, Cornelius O'Brien, Archbishop of Halifax – 1906.
- Appointed first Provincial Archivist of Alberta – 1908.
- Appointed Private Secretary to the Premier of Alberta. First Woman to serve in this role – 1909.
- Began her biography of Rev. Albert Lacombe famous missionary Priest to the plains Indians – 1909.
- Participated as a founding member of the Edmonton Catholic Women's League; the fore-runner of the Catholic Women's League of Canada – 1912.
- Appointed Agent General of Alberta in London, England – 1913.
- Visited Ireland and based on her experiences became a strong supporter of Irish independence – 1914.
- While in London collaborated with Irish writer Padraic O Conaire on a play called *The Cherry Bird*.
- During the same period met Sir William Van Horne, builder of the CPR, and was commissioned to research and write his biography.
- Began lecturing and organizing in the cause of Irish Independence – 1915.
- Established the Irish National Bureau in Washington, D.C., funded by the Friends of Irish Freedom – 1919.
- Launched a successful lecture tour and organizing campaign in Canada – 1920.
- Success in Canada led to an equally successful tour of Australia and New Zealand – 1921.
- The Civil War in Ireland led to divisions among the Irish in North America. Although she continued to work for the Cause of Ireland, she died, aged forty-nine, "worn out by the work she had done for the cause of Irish Independence" – 1925



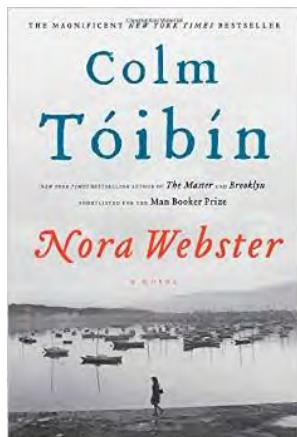
### Notes On The Author

*Dr. Padraig O Siadhail is a native of Derry, Ireland. He graduated from Trinity College, Dublin, with a Ph.D., in 1985. His studies there focused on Irish language theatre. A fluent Irish speaker, he is a prize winning author who has published extensively, both fiction and non-fiction, in Irish as well as in English. He taught in Dublin until 1987, and from then until 1990 held the D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies at St. Mary's University in Halifax. From 1990 to 1991, he was a research Fellow at the Institute of Irish Studies in Belfast. He returned to St. Mary's in 1991 where he continues to hold the Chair of Irish Studies. He began his research on Katherine Hughes over twenty years ago. Since then he has lectured extensively about her, both in Prince Edward Island and in Ireland, leading up to the completion of his 400 page manuscript, Katherine Hughes: A Life and a Journey. From 'Canadian Imperialist' to Irish Republican Activist / From Emerald, Prince Edward Island to Ireland.*

**NOTE:** This book can also be purchased from the Benevolent Irish Society at P.O. Box 34, Charlottetown, PEI, C1A 7K2.

## From the Book Shelf

To understand the heart and soul of a country you must know its history, language, folklore and culture. 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. Here we provide a selection of books that have been brought to our attention. Hopefully you can find one that speaks to your own interests.



### Nora Webster

By Colm Tóibín  
384 Pages  
ISBN: 978-1439138335

*Amazon's "Best book of the month" for October 2014.*

Atmospheric and emotional, this novel is the story of a 40-year old widow in 1960s/70s rural Ireland who's on the verge of slipping back into the isolated life from which her husband had rescued her.

Though not entirely likeable—a self-centered person mired in depression rarely is, Nora is proud, fierce and angry and slowly, slowly she wins you over.

“Miraculous... a strikingly restrained novel about a woman awakening from grief and discovering her own space, her own will...extraordinary... [Toibin] portrays Nora with tremendous sympathy and understanding.” (*Ron Charles, The Washington Post*)

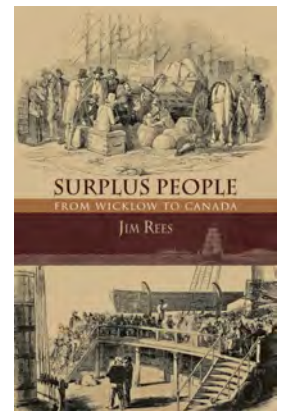
### Surplus People

From Wicklow to Canada

By Jim Rees  
168 Pages  
ISBN: 978-1848892040

The Great Famine in Ireland was a catastrophe of immense proportions. Eviction, emigration and death from starvation were widespread. Landlords, eager to dispose of ‘surplus’ tenants, engaged in ‘assisted passages’, whereby tenants were given financial incentives to emigrate.

From 1847 to 1856 Lord Fitzwilliam removed 6,000 men, women and children and arranged passage from New Ross in Wexford to Canada on emigrant ships such as the *Dunbrody*. Most were destitute and many were ill on arrival in Quebec and New Brunswick. Hunger and overcrowding at quarantine stations, such as the infamous Grosse Île, resulted in further disease and death. Jim Rees explores this tragedy, from why the clearances occurred to who went where and how some families fared in Canada.

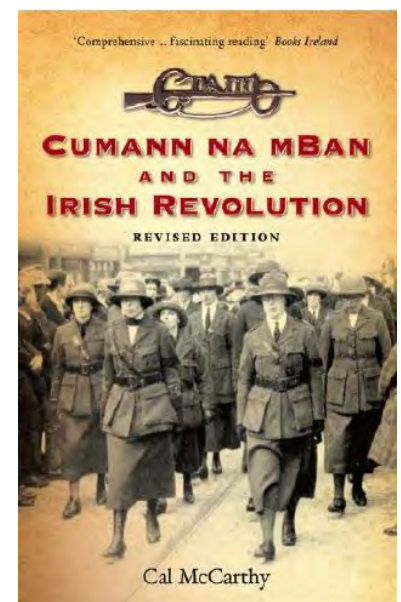


### Cumann na mBan

By Cal McCarthy  
320 Pages  
ISBN: 978-1-84889-2224

Cumann na mBan, a woman's support group to the Irish Volunteers, was formed in 1914. Historian Cal McCarthy expands our understanding of the organization and dispels many of the myths that surrounded it in the first study to move Cumann na mBan from the traditional sphere of women's history to their place in Irish nationalist history.

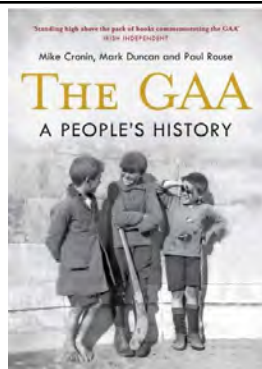
Nationalist in outlook, the aims of Cumann na mBan centred on arming Irish men, generating propaganda and presenting a united Irish opposition to English rule. After participation in the 1916 Rising, members played crucial roles in intelligence work, transporting arms, nursing wounded men, providing safe houses, and supporting IRA men in prison. They also boosted attendance at republican election rallies, funerals and protest marches. Cumann na mBan walked that middle ground between radical feminism and traditional concepts of the female role.



## From the Book Shelf (cont'd)

### The GAA A People's History

by Mike Cronin, Mark Dun-  
can and Paul Rouse  
432 pages  
ISBN: 978-1-84889-2255

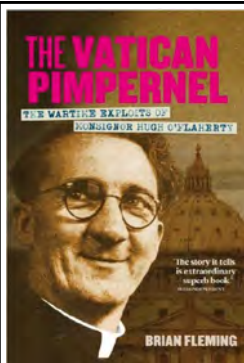


The GAA[\*] has had its ups and downs over the years but there's no denying it has been a major part of Irish culture since its inception in 1884. The GAA – A People's History looks at everything about the GAA, from its impact on communities at home and abroad, politics, women in the GAA, music and much more.

This history sets the GAA experience against that of a changing Irish society and is as much about what happened off the field as what happened on it. The people of Ireland made the GAA what it is today.

This history of Gaelic games and the social world around them has been a resounding success. With photographs and original historical documents, this is a book with absorbing insights into a world that is both uniquely Irish and global.

[\*] *Gaelic Athletic Association*



### The Vatican Pimpernel The wartime exploits of Mon- signor Hugh O'Flaherty

By Brian Fleming  
240 pages  
ISBN-13: 978-1-84889-2095

Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty was an Irish Oskar Schindler who saved over 6,500 lives during the German occupation of Rome in the Second World War. His escape organisation for Allied POWs, ci-

vilians and Jews was dangerous work for someone who was safe only within the Vatican. His network of contacts and helpers included religious, communists, British soldiers and singer Delia Murphy. Thwarting the efforts of Kappler, the Gestapo chief who ordered him captured or killed, O'Flaherty regularly ventured out in disguise. After Kappler was sentenced to life, his only visitor, monthly, was O'Flaherty.

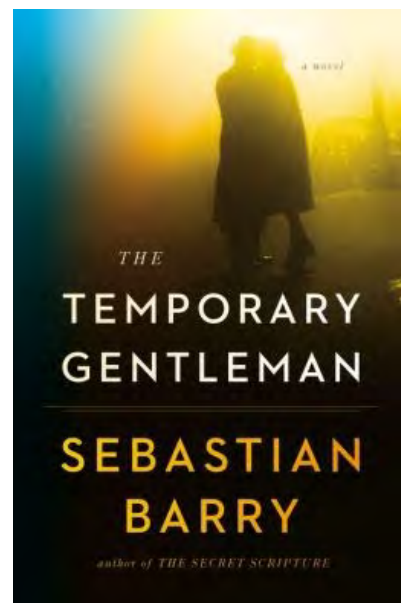
O'Flaherty was immortalised in the film *The Scarlet and the Black* with Gregory Peck as O'Flaherty and was awarded high honours, including a CBE (UK), the Congressional Medal (US), and was the first Irishman named Notary of the Holy Office. He retired to Kerry in 1960 and his death three years later was reported worldwide. He is now commemorated in Ireland by a grove of Italian trees planted in Killarney National Park in 1994 and a statue in Killarney unveiled in 2013 on the fiftieth anniversary of his death.

### The Temporary Gentleman

By Sebastian Barry  
320 Pages  
ISBN-13: 9780698163485

Irishman Jack McNulty is a “temporary gentleman”—an Irishman whose commission in the British army in World War II was never permanent. Sitting in his lodgings in Accra, Ghana, in 1957, he's writing the story of his life with desperate urgency. He cannot take one step further without examining all the extraordinary events that he has seen. A lifetime of war and world travel—as a soldier in World War II, an engineer, a UN observer—has brought him to this point. But the memory that weighs heaviest on his heart is that of the beautiful Mai Kirwan, and their tempestuous, heartbreaking marriage. Mai was once the great beauty of Sligo, a magnetic yet unstable woman who, after sharing a life with Jack, gradually slipped from his grasp.

Award-winning author Sebastian Barry's *The Temporary Gentleman* is the sixth book in his cycle of separate yet interconnected novels that brilliantly reimagine characters from Barry's own family.



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