



# Dane County Shamrock Club, Inc.

## Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 10

April 2021

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### ~ *Message from the President* by Ryan Dunn

#### ***Hello Shamrock Members!***

I'd call y'all "shamrockers" but that goes completely against the grain of what I expect out of, well, basically anyone. Big pet peeve of mine, let's get shamrocked! Give me a break.

But I hope everyone is STILL recovering from some sort of scaled-back, yet no doubt raucous St. Patrick's Day celebration. Normally at this time, I'd still be picking shamrocks out of my hair and finding glitter all over the place; I suppose the one constant is I'm still scratching/cleaning fake, press-on tattoos from all over. Patrick was a bit bummed I had to scrub them off the other night.

What did we do for the grand ol' celebration of the gentry you might ask? WELL, first let me say middle-of-the-week St. Patrick's Days are simply the best. It gives you not one, not two but THREE chances to celebrate your heritage. The weekend before, the day of, and even in some cases, the weekend after.

Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we had a very small get-together with the neighbors (outside, socially distanced of course). Our kids are all roughly the same age so we were able to setup a bounce house and enjoy the merriment (and NCAA basketball) from the confines of a garage/driveway. And...I got to wear shorts! By-far-and-away the best weather day of the year thus far and we all took advantage.

Day-of was a day for just Natalie and I as it was wedding anniversary number eight. We started out with some breakfast, then went to Vitense Golf and hit some balls (I'd never been) and over to Erin's Snug Irish Pub here

in Sun Prairie for a few pints and home for the evening. I was going to celebrate a wee bit more on Saturday the 20<sup>th</sup> out by a friend's house, BUT I came down with strep throat and was more-or-less out of commission for a few days. Oh well, I had my fun.

Speaking of golf; I, along with one of our trustees, Mike Ryan, are planning a small golf outing this year – time and place TBD – to simply golf in the name of the Dane County Shamrock Club. Wear your green and have some fun is really all we're looking to do. Hopefully, we can keep this up for a few years and eventually make an actual event out of it. PLEASE, let me know if you are interested. My In-Laws – Greg and Karen Moser – have both been known to get out on the links every so often (heavy on the sarcasm here, they golf almost daily) so I believe I can count on them. We'd like to recruit a few others to join us.

Club news ~ we're really hoping to be able to have our picnic this July and more news will be coming out as the time draws near. Outside gatherings are now capped at 500 people (?) so tell EVERYONE you know because apparently, it's totally safe now!

More and more people I know are getting vaccinated and I hope (if you so choose) it also includes YOU! Seems like we're on the right end of this thing but only time will tell. For the time being though, please continue to stay safe and make sure you hug your loved ones.

As always, we welcome any contributions to the newsletter. If you have something you'd like to write about, give it a whirl! I'd say keep it Irish-related though, which I think we can all agree makes sense.

*Wishing you all the very best,*

**Ryan**



Cosgrove

## ~ *What's in a Name?* **Cosgrove**

Cosgrove and Cosgrave are the two main variants of the surname. They both are derived from the Gaelic name meaning "victorious." Cosgrove was most prevalent in the provinces of Leinster, Connacht and Ulster while Cosgrave was prevalent in Munster.

The Cosgroves of Connacht were chieftains of the district on the eastern shore of Galway Bay. Two family members served as bishop of Clonmacnoise and Killaloe. The Leinster Cosgroves ruled the lands near the present day Powerscourt in County Wicklow. They were displaced by the O'Tooles and the O'Byrnes around 1170.

William T. Cosgrave was the first Prime Minister of the Irish Free State. Another sept controlled an area near Bray in County Wicklow and also parts of County Kildare, County Offaly and County Meath. The Cosgroves changed their name to Lestrange after the Norman invasion in the late 1100s. Another Cosgrove sept lived near Femoy in Northeast County Cork. They were driven from their lands by the Norman Roches. The Cosgroves, O'Duggans, O'Cahills and O'Connors were all from County Kerry and had similar holdings.

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## ~ **Ryan's Whiskey Corner** by Ryan Dunn

**Hello** and welcome to my **"Whiskey Corner."** I'd like to use this space to talk about what I've been sipping on lately, call it recommendations or maybe what I wouldn't necessarily order or buy again, but just a little column to let you into my basement bar.

**Now** I present **"Tullamore Dew: Caribbean Rum Cask Finish,"** described on its label as 'for sweet, tropical notes.' Obviously, Tullamore Dew should be well known to any Irish Whiskey drinker as it is one of the more well-known of its brand. This variant is a definite "must try" for anyone who enjoys this type of beverage. While aging in various-flavored casks has been a nice variation on the spirit world, I was drawn to this whiskey by its label and my enjoyment of rum and sweet tasting beverages.

**Tullamore Dew** (as per the label) was established in 1829, and became home to a man of legendary status – Daniel E. Williams. He perfected a whiskey of exceptional quality, character and smoothness that was good enough to bear his initials: DEW. The city of Tullamore is in County Offaly almost smack dab in the middle of Ireland. I'm sure a good-many of our members have visited the distillery (though I am not among them).

**Continuing** on the label proliferation: With this XO Rum Cask Finish we pay tribute to the role of Irish immigrants in the development of rum in the Caribbean in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. By finishing our blend in the finest rum casks to develop a smooth whiskey with layers and sweetness and tropical fruit; we carefully select barrels previously used to age Demerara rum to impart their distinctive tropical flavours to our triple distilled triple blend.

**Additionally**, the website (<https://www.tullamoredew.com/en-gb/our-whiskey-range/xo-caribbean/>) mentions hints of caramel and banana notes with hints of dates and raisins, all the more reason to say the description is indeed quite accurate. It IS sweet and there ARE layers of tropical fruit present. I would almost dare to say this is like Southern Comfort if So-Co was an Irish Whiskey. Does that make sense? While I haven't really had So-Co in quite some time, I know it's sweet which is its main appeal.

**The** whiskey itself is 86 proof so slightly higher than a standard bottle of Jameson or any other traditional spirit one may be accustomed to. As always, I prefer to drink my whiskey with one large ice cube.

**When** looking for new Irish whiskies to sample, I am looking for something in the \$35ish range as I feel that'll satisfy the initial mark of "quality" insofar as price can determine quality, but I digress. When seeing similarly sized Irish whiskies for less than \$20, I believe my price range will give me something "okay" at the least to enjoy for a period of time. I picked this one up at Woodman's, which has a good selection of Irish Whiskey to choose from.

**Would** I recommend it? Certainly, especially if you like rum as well. I feel the sweetness and the customary taste of Irish Whiskey blends well together to form a somewhat sweet but also extremely palatable drink. This one is definitely in the "purchase again" category as it's quite unique and I haven't seen any other Irish whiskies similar to this one.

**Thanks for reading and slainte!**



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*Our Members  
with April Birthdays:*

- 7 Maureen McDermott
- 11 Mike Ryan
- 17 John Murphy
- 23 Msgr Gerard Healy
- 25 Margaret Rupert



## ~ A WEE BIT OF IRISH HISTORY

### ~ *Monkey Business*

On April 7, 1943, an American Flying Fortress was on its way from North Africa to England. It strayed off course and had a shortage of fuel; made a crash landing in a marshland near Clonakilty, County Cork. The crew of ten, a passenger and a pet monkey named Tojo all survived.

Clonakilty took on a carnival atmosphere as the survivors were besieged by the local crowd. The survivors went to O'Donovan's Hotel in the town. A temporary runway was constructed, and the plane took off for England leaving Tojo behind. When Tojo died, he was buried in the hotel's yard with full military honors.

A plaque was placed outside the hotel to commemorate the crash landing.



### ~ *Thomas Francis Meagher – Hero of Two Nations* by Bill Raftery

Born August 3, 1823 in Waterford, Ireland son of a successful merchant, he was educated in Roman Catholic and Jesuit schools. He developed oratorical skills which later distinguished him as a leader the Irish nationalist movement.

In 1844 he joined the Repeal Association; its purpose was to repeal the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland. In 1848 he returned from France after studying that country's revolution. With him he brought the first Irish Tricolor flag. Continuing his efforts for Irish freedom he joined Young Irish Rebellion of 1848 for which he and others were tried for sedition. Sentenced to death, the sentences were commuted to penal servitude in Australia. At sentencing, Meagher addressed the judge. 'My Lord, this is our first offense, but not our last. If you will be easy with us once we promise on our word as gentlemen to try better next time.'

Escaping from exile in 1852, he arrived in New York City where he studied law and established the Irish News a weekly paper dedicated to Irish nationalist issues.

After the shots were fired on Fort Sumpter, Meagher recruited what became Company K of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment of New York Militia. The 69<sup>th</sup> fought at Bull Run, where its first commander was captured, and Meagher assumed command. He returned to New York to rally the Irish to the Union cause and to expand the Irish military commitment. Through his efforts Secretary of War Simon Cameron authorized formation of the Irish Brigade. At first the Brigade included the 63<sup>rd</sup>, the 88<sup>th</sup> and the 69<sup>th</sup> New York. A non-Irish unit, the 29<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts was added but after Antietam was replaced by the mostly Irish 29<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts. Meagher went to lead the Brigade to distinguished service at numerous engagements at which the Brigade suffered heavy losses.

At the Battle of Antietam, the Brigade led an attack on Bloody Lane and lost 540 men and Meagher's horse was shot. Following the Battle of Fredericksburg which the Brigade entered with 1200, only 240 mustered the next morning.

After the Battle of Chancellorsville Meagher requested permission to return to New York to raise replacements because the Brigade was down to a few hundred effectives. His request was refused but Meagher was promoted Brigadier General. He served in mostly administrative posts for the balance of the war.

After the war, Meagher was appointed Secretary of the Territory of Montana and soon designated Acting Governor. His term was troubled by political wrangling and his attempt to gain support for a State constitution and statehood failed to gain support. On July 1, 1867 on a trip to Fort Benton he fell overboard from a steamboat and was never recovered. Meagher is remembered in both of "his countries" by a statue at the Montana State Capitol and a similar statue in Waterford, Ireland near his boyhood home.

#### Sources:

A History of Ireland, Peter & Fiona Somerset Fry  
Wikipedia. Thomas Francis Meagher  
Wikipedia. The Irish Brigade (Union Army)

## ~ *“Whiskey in the Jar”*

"Whiskey in the Jar" is one of the best-loved Irish ballads. It is a song about a notorious Irish highwayman named Patrick Fleming who was hanged in 1650. It has become a true rebel air that stirs the passions. It has become a hit for several performers. Fleming was no hero as he murdered, robbed, and maimed the rich and poor alike including women and children before he was hunted down. He made a legendary escape from his death cell by scrambling up a chimney, but he was eventually recaptured. In death, he acquired a heroic air, and many poems were written about him.

"Whiskey in the Jar" tells the story of a highway robber who was betrayed by his lover Molly and ended up in ball and chain in prison. Songs of highwaymen attacking agents of the crown were very popular with Irish peasants. They admired highwaymen who robbed English landlords and regarded them as patriots. "Whiskey in the Jar" was written about the time of Cromwell's invasion of Ireland. It was brought to America by Irish indentured servants. The famed Fighting 69th adopted the song but changed the lyrics and called it "We'll fight for Uncle Sam." It is incredible to think a long-ago written ballad about a highwayman remains so popular today.

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## ~ *Britain's Role in US Slavery*

Britain helped to start slavery in America. The first British ships carrying slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619. The ship "White Lion" brought 20 men and women that had been ripped from their homeland in what is now Angola. Shipowners considered them to be part of their cargo and sold them to the leadership in the colony. This began the shameful legacy in America.

America was governed by Britain until 1783. Everything created in America was British including laws on which slavery was built. Policing in the southern United States had its origins in slave patrols set up under the British in the early 1700s. Local laws regarded black people as inferior and different. The British sent supplies and arms to the Confederacy because the British elite wanted slavery to continue because of their business interests. Their side was defeated, and laws began to change in America.

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## ~ *Joan Connolly Shooting*

Joan Connolly was a Catholic living in Belfast during the Troubles. She believed the British soldiers were there to protect them. She was the mother of eight children. She was friendly with the soldiers and served them tea and sandwiches.

In August 1971, Connolly witnessed 20-year-old Noel Phillips get shot. She immediately went to his aid. The soldiers shot her four times. They left her laying on the ground from 9 pm to 3 am bleeding to death. The soldiers stated that they did not provide assistance to Connolly because they felt she was already dead.

A documentary film was made of the events called "The Ballymurphy Precedent." US Congressmen have pressed the British government for details of the incident with poor results.

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## ~ *The Meaning of Munster County Names*

**Clarke** – means “plain” est. 1565

**Cork** – means “marsh” est. 1200

**Kerry** – means “people of black tribe” est. 1200

**Limerick** – means “bare spot” est. 1200

**Tipperary** – means “well of the Arra” est. 1200

**Waterford** – means Larag's port” est. 1200



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### **~ Member News**



### **Cead Mile Failte** *(one hundred thousand welcomes)*

*The Club is pleased to welcome and announce its new member:*

**Rebecca Wuetrich**

### **In Memoriam**

**Colonel John F. "Jack" Rogan** passed away at the age of 94 on March 8, 2021. Jack was born on July 10, 1926 in New York City (the oldest of 7 children). He spent part of his childhood in Ireland. Jack was the devoted husband to his wife Ann and father to nine children and ten grandchildren. He served in the US Army for 25 years.

He served as Wisconsin Director of Finance for 13 years under 5 governors. Jack also served as financial advisor to the Diocese of Madison for 38 years. A mass of Christian burial was held on March 30, 2021 with burial in Resurrection Cemetery. Jack embraced his Irish heritage and was a longtime member of the Dane County Shamrock Club being selected as their Irish Person of the Year for 2010.

*The Club made a donation to the American Red Cross in Jack's honor.*





## News of Interest

- ♣ The 5000-year-old passage tombs in County Sligo are being destroyed by vandals. Some of the materials from the tombs have been taken. A grave at Carrowkeel has been plagued with graffiti.
- ♣ Two missing paddleboarders were found by local fishermen 3 miles off the Aran Isles. They set off from Furbo Beach in Connemara at 8 pm and were rescued 15 hours later. They survived an overnight thunderstorm and heavy winds.
- ♣ Adrian Hill, Irish scientist, is leading the search for a coronavirus vaccine at Oxford University in England. Hill was born in Dublin and studied medicine at Trinity College.
- ♣ The Choctaw-Ireland Scholarship recognizes the generosity of the Choctaw Indian Nation during the Great Famine in Ireland. Clare O'Donnell is a member of the tribe from Oklahoma who was the 2020 recipient. She is now attending the University of Cork.
- ♣ A mass grave was found in the County Dublin suburb of Swords. It is believed to be the burial site of victims of a plague. Bones have been determined to be from the 15th century.
- ♣ A local from Spiddal, County Galway discovered an ancient dwelling that was uncovered by a storm. The site is estimated to date from approximately 2000 BC.
- ♣ Smithwick's of Kilkenny began brewing beer in 1705. It is considered one of the oldest breweries in the world.
- ♣ Fungie the Dolphin mysteriously disappeared from his home in Dingle Bay in October 2020. Locals adored Fungie and they intend to erect a monument as a memorial. Fungie lived for 37 years. A statue already resides in Dingle town.
- ♣ The Unesco sites in Ireland are: Giant's Causeway - County Antrim. Newgrange Passage Tomb - County Meath  
Skellig Michael - County Kerry
- ♣ "The Fourth Northerners" is a book by Greg Knipe about the IRA's Northern Division during the Irish War of Independence.
- ♣ "Forgotten Ireland" is a video capturing Ireland 60 years ago with horse-drawn carts, cobblestone streets and cyclists.
- ♣ A new documentary on the life of Maureen O'Hara has aired in Ireland. It explores the amazing facts about O'Hara's life.
- ♣ In 1990, Joe Biden proposed a resolution calling for Britain to reexamine the convictions of the wrongly accused Irishmen calling for the release of the Birmingham Six.
- ♣ You can purchase an "Irish Heritage Tree" to honor your family or ancestors. Go to [www.IrishTree.com](http://www.IrishTree.com) for more information including type of tree and cost.
- ♣ An Culu castle which sits on 4.5 acres overlooking Kenmare Bay in County Kerry was sold for 4.5 million euros.
- ♣ Dr. William Campbell is Ireland's only Nobel Prize winner for medicine. He spent his early life in County Donegal and studied at Trinity College. He won the Nobel Prize in 2015. His book "Catching the Worm" is now available.
- ♣ Retired astronaut Marc Kelly won the Arizona senatorial seat over former fighter pilot and incumbent Martha McSally.



## DANE COUNTY SHAMROCK CLUB, INC. – BOARD OF DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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**May Newsletter Deadline** ~ Newsletter articles are written by Harry McCarthy unless otherwise indicated and set-up by Pat McCarthy. We encourage members to submit articles on their Irish travels, special interests and photos. Please submit articles for the May newsletter to Harry McCarthy at [himac98@charter.net](mailto:himac98@charter.net) or mail to 2656 Mica Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711 by April 20, 2021.

### Springtime in Ireland



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