



Dane County Shamrock Club, Inc.

Newsletter

Volume 18, Issue 7

January 2021

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

***Hello and Belated Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year to All!***

I hope this finds everyone doing well as the inevitable post-holiday feelings set-in. While 2020 is behind us...it's really not, unfortunately, but as the late great, Jerry Garcia said, "nothing left to do but smile, smile, smile." There are always things to look forward to.

As I've said before, this period of 2018-2022 allows us to reflect upon and celebrate the centennial anniversary of the Irish War for Independence and the subsequent Irish Civil War. To me, one of the most prominent realizations of it all is that's it's "only" one hundred years ago. My grandparents were all born during that time. Compare that to the infancy of America and one has to go back several centuries, far-removed from any link to that time.

If you haven't looked into this time for Ireland or read some info here and there, it's extremely interesting and fascinatingly conflicting; you can understand multiple sides (except the "real" bad side, we know who that was) to the battles and learn how Ireland was able to eventually gain its independence; not to mention the parallels with our own nation's War for Independence.

Club news: we can officially welcome Cindy Schlough as our new Membership Chair! Thank you, Cindy, for stepping up and into the role. Please check out the website for a quick bio on Cindy, as well as our Facebook page. We are still in need of a secretary to take over for Dee Martin though. If you are interested in serving, please let me know.

Also, if you have not renewed your membership with the club, nothing like the present time to do so...and remember to spread the word about the DCSC, as I have always said, our greatest resource is YOU, our members who can help to inform people about us and what we do! All we can do is "hope" for some Club activities this coming year. With the New Year's always comes (for me anyway) the happy realization that THE DAY OF DAYS IS CLOSING IN! That of course, is my anniversary (husband points), which just so happens to coincide with St. Patrick's Day. BUT, what will it look like? I know this past year things were really just getting underway so it was just "weird!" I hope this year we're able to do more, but all we can do is wait and see, as always, we'll keep everyone posted on the Club's plans for the Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Luncheon celebration.

We're in a New Year, 2020 is behind us...but it's really not since everything going on carries over, so be it. Make the most of it, be kind to yourself and others.

Best,

Ryan

Athbhlian Faoi Mhaise Duit!
Happy New Year in Irish.



~ *What's in a Name?* **Harrington**



The Harrington name is associated with Counties Cork, Kerry and Mayo. The meaning of the name is “mighty” or “powerful”. The name Harrington was Anglicized from O'hArrchtain.

- ♣ Wilfrid Harrington was an Irish priest.
- ♣ Richard Harrington was a Welsh actor.
- ♣ John Harrington was the CEO of the Boston Red Sox.
- ♣ Pdraig Harrington is a pro Irish Golfer.

When the name is spelled as Herrington it is probably of non-Irish origin.

~ *Darkey Kelly*

Dorcas "Darkey" Kelly was a madam who operated the Maiden Tower brothel in the southwest part of Dublin. She was convicted of killing John Downey, a shoemaker, on St. Patrick's Day in 1760. She was executed by partial hanging and burning at the stake on Gallows Road on January 7, 1761. After her execution, Kelly was awakened by prostitutes and thirteen of them were arrested and sent to Newgate Prison in Dublin.

In 1788, her brothel was investigated and the corpses of five men were found in a vault. There were several stories about Kelly. The most common one was that she became pregnant with the Dublin Sheriff, Simon Luttrell. The sheriff was said to be a client of the Maiden Tower. She demanded support from him. Luttrell responded by accusing her of witchcraft and of killing their baby.

A pub on Fishamble Street (*pictured right*) near where her brothel stood is named Darkey Kelly's.



Annie McCarrick vanished without a trace in March 1993. She was last seen in Enniskerry, County Wicklow. Private investigations have been probing the possible murder of this American woman and they believe they have identified a suspect. The FBI believe they uncovered new evidence that may lead to a breakthrough in the 27 year old case.



She is presumed to have been murdered but the trail has grown cold. Investigators are now hopeful they are close to cracking the case. They have agreed to share information with the Irish police. The new information seems to lead to one individual. Margaret Wogan, who has since died, claimed to have seen McCarrick with a man in Poppies Café in Enniskerry.

McCarrick was the first of eight women to vanish in the Leinster area in the 1990's. These cases were thought to be connected. McCarrick rode the bus to Enniskerry on that fateful day. She disappeared close to where Larry Murphy lived. Murphy was later convicted of rape. He was one of the chief suspects in McCarrick's disappearance and is a person of interest in the seven other disappearances. The FBI has traveled to Ireland to try to solve the disappearance of Annie McCarrick.



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*Our Members
with January Birthdays:*

- 12 Irene Reese
- 17 Ralph Kieffer
- 20 Marty Deignan
- 21 DeeAnn Martin
- 26 Carole Kinney
Mary McGinness
- 30 Dorothea Murphy

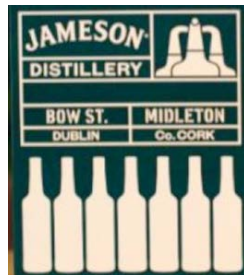
~ A WEE BIT OF IRISH HISTORY

~ Irish Whiskey History: Bushmills vs Jameson by Cindy Schlough

According to some Irish-American experts, there is a longstanding faux-pas or potentially embarrassing mistake of drinking Bushmills Irish Whiskey—the fear is supposedly based on inadvertently supporting English aggression and offending the Republic of Ireland. There is also a commonly accepted Irish-American belief that Bushmills is a Protestant whiskey and Jameson Irish Whiskey is a Catholic whiskey.



Granted a license to distill in 1608, Bushmills is the oldest licensed whiskey distillery in the world.



What do we know for certain?

Well, we can look at geography. Bushmills Irish Whiskey is distilled in Northern Ireland, a predominantly Protestant region. Jameson Irish Whiskey is distilled in Counties Dublin and Cork, a predominantly Catholic region.

We can also look at the unique taste and the caloric content of the two Irish Whiskies. Bushmills has undertones of vanilla with tangy and pleasantly sharp floral flavors on the palate. Jameson has a mellow flavor with hints of spice and floral scents. Bushmills contains 98 calories per serving. Jameson contains 104 calories per serving.

We can also compare the production processes for each. Bushmills is composed of malted Irish barley and pure Irish water from the River Bush which cuts through volcanic rock. Bushmills goes through a triple distillation process that gives a smooth and silky taste. Jameson is also distilled at least three times. Its source of water is the Dungourney River. An important distinction is Jameson is a “blended Irish whiskey.” A blended Irish whiskey is defined by the Republic of Ireland’s Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine as a blend of two or more different whiskey types among specific still, malt, and grain whiskey categories.

If you are inclined, maybe indulge in both Bushmills Irish Whiskey and Jameson Irish Whiskey this holiday season. See if you can taste a difference and determine if you have a favorite; you might be surprised.

Here is a traditional Irish toast that you might enjoy. “May your glass be ever full. May the roof over your head be always strong. And may you be in heaven half an hour before the devil knows that you are dead.”

~ **The Giant’s Causeway** is located on the north shore of County Antrim. It is formed by a mass of basalt columns packed tightly together forming steppingstones from the foot of the cliffs and disappearing under the sea. There are about 40,000 of these hexagonal columns with the tallest being about 40 feet high. These columns were caused by volcanic eruptions and cooling lava. Ancient Irishmen believed this was the work of the legendary giant, Finn McCool, who was capable of amazing feats of strength. When he fell in love with a Scottish lady, McCool built this wide causeway to bring her back to Ulster.



The Giant's Causeway is recognized as a World Heritage Site - one of three such sites in Ireland.

Before the coast road was built around 1830, visitors to the causeway had to make a rugged trip. Tourists often stopped at the nearby town of Bushmills which boasts of being the oldest distillery (1608) which is still in business. Also nearby is Carrick-a-rede rope bridge which spans a gaping chasm between the coast and a small island used by fishermen. The swinging bridge is 80 feet above the sea. The area contains the ruins of Dunluce Castle which sits on the edge of the cliffs above the sea and was once the stronghold of the McDonald Clan.



~ **Clones, County Monaghan** is a small town in western County Monaghan. Its location is on the border with County Fermanagh (border between Ireland and Northern Ireland). Clones was the site of a monastic settlement founded in the 6th century until the dissolution by Henry VIII. Tierney's Abbey was built in the 6th century and dedicated to Saints Peter and Paul. The abbot was Primus Abbas and was the first mitred abbot in Ireland. Tierney died of the plague in 550. The ruins of a 9th century round tower and high cross and a 12th century abbey building remains.

Just after the partition of Ireland in 1922 a confrontation between Ulster Special Police and the IRA took place. The Ulster Special Police were going to Belfast by train. The train was stopped at Clones and a gun battle broke out. Four members of the Ulster force were killed and nine were injured. One IRA officer was killed. This event threatened the collapse of the

Anglo-Irish Treaty. Clones became a border post on the railway and in 1958, railway services ceased.

The Clones Film Festival takes place in October and the Flat Lake Festival hosts music and theater events in August.



~ **The Carrick-a-Rede Bridge** is a rope bridge near Ballintoy, County Antrim. The bridge links the mainland with a tiny island of Carrickarede which means "rock of the casting." The bridge is 66 feet long and is about 100 feet above the rocks below. It is owned and maintained by the National Trust. There is a fee to cross the bridge and in 2018 there was nearly 500,000 visitors. The bridge is open year-round subject to the weather. The bridge is feeble enough to be restricted to less than 8 people at a time and has views of Scotland and Rathlin Island.



It is thought that fishermen have been building bridges here for 350 years. The current bridge was built in 2004 and provides a safer passage to the island for visitors and fishermen. The salmon come through the area to spawn in the River Bann and the River Bush but the number of fish has decreased.

~ **Ireland's Government**

Ireland is a republic with a parliamentary system of government. The President of Ireland serves as head of state (replacing the king) and is elected for a seven-year term and can only be reelected once. The president is largely a figurehead but still can carry out certain constitutional powers and functions. Michael Higgins is currently the President of Ireland. The presidential mansion is in Phoenix Park in Dublin.

The Taoiseach (prime minister) is appointed by the president upon nomination of the parliament. Taoiseach means chieftain. The Taoiseach is normally the leader of the political party which is holding the majority of seats in parliament. Usually, coalitions to form a government become necessary when a single party does not hold a majority.

Ireland has a bicameral parliament called Oireachtas. The upper house (senate) is called Seanad Eireann and the lower house (House of Representatives) is called Dail Eireann. The Seanad has 60 members with 11 nominated by the Taoiseach, 6 are elected by 2 universities and 43 elected by the public. The Dail has 166 members elected under a system of proportional representation. The constitution requires elections to be held every 7 years unless a lower limit is set by statute. The current time limit is 5 years. The parliament sits in the Leinster House in Dublin.

The Republic of Ireland has 26 counties. The Dail constituencies are required to follow county boundaries as far as possible. Counties with large populations have multiple constituencies (Limerick East/West) and some may include more than one county (Sligo-North Leitrim). Dublin County has been divided into 3 county councils and Tipperary County has 2 county councils. This gives the government 29 county councils, and five cities are administered separately from the county council. (Cork, Dublin, Limerick Galway, and Waterford). The Republic extends over 83% of the area of the island of Ireland and the remainder belongs to Northern Ireland.

On April 18, 1949, Ireland became a Republic and terminated its membership in the British Commonwealth. Ireland joined the United Nations in 1955 and joined the European Union in 1973.

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~ Member News

Margaret Rupert was involved in a work-related accident where she was knocked over by a fork lift. She ended up at UW Health at the American Center for more than a month. She broke her left hip and lost three toes. It is hopeful that she will get to go home on New Years Day.

She hopes to be able to walk in the St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Riley Family as she has done for many years. Margaret is a past president of the Club and was 2003 Irish Person of the Year. Cards of cheer can be sent to her home address at: 723 Kelly St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

~ Get to Know a Member

Ryan randomly sends out a series of questions and asks members to respond so we can get to know one another better. Our many thanks to Cindy Schlough for her response which is summarized below. Cindy has also volunteered to serve as our new Membership Chair. Welcome to the Board of Directors Cindy!



Howdy, I'm Cindy Schlough!

I joined the Shamrock Club after attending the flag raising ceremony at the Capitol in 2019.

My Irish roots come from my mom who had the last name of Keyes.

I enjoy long walks and strolls, baking, growing flowers outside and riding my three-speed Raleigh bicycle which is WONDERFUL!

In the late 1980's, I travelled to Ireland visiting Dublin and the surrounding area. I hope to return to Ireland in the next 3 – 5 years when it is "safe" to travel abroad again. One of my favorite experiences in Ireland was viewing the Book of Kells exhibit, pictured to the left. I'm a learning-sponge and happy to absorb almost anything Irish!



News of Interest

- ❖ Prime Minister Michael Martin warned all visitors coming to Ireland they would have to quarantine for 14 days.
- ❖ A beaked whale was discovered in distress in Wicklow Harbor on July 5, 2020. The whale was nearly dead. The beaked whales are normally found in the North Atlantic. It is believed the whale became stranded in shallow waters and suffered trauma. The whale died on Saturday.
- ❖ Trinity College has received a record number of applications for the coming term.
- ❖ Actor Mark Wahlberg recorded a special message to graduates of Ballymacarthy in Clomell, County Waterford Central School.
- ❖ Irish Jewish records of births, deaths, marriage, burial, and census back to 1664 have been released to the public.
- ❖ Sean Connery's former home in Bray, County Wicklow has been placed for sale. The asking price is \$1,495,000.
- ❖ NY Senator Schumer is urging Aer Lingus to establish flights to Ireland from Stewart International Airport in New York. The airport is located 60 miles north of New York City.
- ❖ Kamala Harris has Irish roots. Her father has an ancestor named Hamilton Brown (1776-1843) who was born in County Antrim. Brown was a slave-owner in Jamaica.
- ❖ Dr. Frank Murray from Belfast was an officer in the British Army after the outbreak of WWII. He became a prisoner of the Japanese Army in Singapore. Murray and his wife exchanged daily letters which were written in Gaelic to prevent Japanese interpretation. He served as medical officer in several prison camps. The website "The Belfast Doctor" contains excerpts from Dr. Murray's diary.
- ❖ The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy bridge is the longest bridge in Ireland. It is located near the town of Dunganstown in County Wexford which is the site of the Kennedy ancestral home. The bridge connects Cork and Rosslare.
- ❖ The FBI is going to Ireland to assist in solving the mystery of the disappearance of Annie McCarrick who was a student from Long Island, NY. New leads have come to light.
- ❖ Ireland's new prime minister, Michael Martin, failed to appoint a single cabinet member from west of the River Shannon. This has raised anger from the west of Ireland.
- ❖ Irishman Richard O'Halloran has been detained for 16 months in Shanghai, China without a trial.
- ❖ 5000-year-old passage tombs in County Sligo are being destroyed by vandals. Some of the materials from the tombs has 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 over-night 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 Nation during the Great Famine in Ireland. Clara O'Donnell is a member of the tribe from Oklahoma who was this year's scholarship recipient. She will be attending the University of Cork.
- ❖ A local from Spiddal, County Galway discovered an ancient dwelling that was uncovered by a recent storm. The site is estimated to date to approximately 2,000 BC.



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

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Classic Irish Books to Read During the Pandemic

"The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" (1950) by C. S. Lewis - Included in Time's 100 Best English language novels.

"The Country Girls" (1960) by Edna O'Brien - The story of two girls who spent their childhood together before going to the big city.

"Molloy" (1951) by Samuel Beckett - The book concerns two similar characters.

"Tarry Flynn" (1948) by Patrick Kavanaugh - Based on the life of a young farmer in rural Ireland

February 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 February newsletter to Harry McCarthy at himac98@charter.net or mail to 2656 Mica Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711 by January 20, 2021.



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