



Dane County Shamrock Club, Inc.

Newsletter

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March 2021

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

Greetings Shamrock Club Members!

Nothing like 22-degree weather to make you realize how much of a northerner you truly are! I know the upcoming weather promises above freezing temperatures which means WE'RE ALMOST THERE. Now, how long will we have to endure "less-than-ideal" temperatures is yet to be determined. But enough about the weather, fact is, it's March. This is the month we've all been waiting for (right?). Unfortunately, we are missing out on a "normal" St. Patrick's Day this year but as we've all become accustomed to doing things differently, hopefully there will be some events you'll be able to enjoy in other manners. I received an invite yesterday for a "drive-thru" St. Patrick's celebration here in Sun Prairie. My assumption would be there will be more of these coming up.

I just purchased a stash of removable tattoos for Patrick. He's still frightened of a leprechaun kissing him and turning his nose green as I told him that's what used to happen to me. My mother would paint my nose green the night of the 16th and I'd go to school with a green nose, claiming I'd been kissed by a leprechaun. 4-year-old Patrick is hell bent on NOT letting that happen, so he prefers the temporary tattoos.

Violet has gotten numerous St. Patrick's Day outfits thanks to friends and family. Since she's my daughter she'll have something to wear every day of the week and even for a day or two afterwards. Let's be frank, we can wear green whenever we want, but come March 1st, I tend to don a bit more than I normally do.

This coming weekend also allowed me (Natalie gave me the green light) to fully immerse our house in St. Patrick's Day décor. It's always interesting to go through the decoration box since I tend to purchase more items AFTER the holiday (discounted prices) and I forget what I bought until I open the bin for the first time. So, maybe I have even more decorations (did I really need more? YES) and that's a boon for all parties involved. As I was starting to put some decorations up, Patrick gave me some encouragement, "this house is starting to look good!"

As some may know, my wedding anniversary is on St. Patrick's Day. Natalie and I will be celebrating EIGHT years this year. Each year always jumps out at us, 'WOW! I can't believe we've been married XXX years already.' And I mean that in the best way possible. I'm sure eight years to many of you is quite minor but to us, we still consider ourselves lucky to be where we're at and continuing to plug along.

As with so much else, the Board of Directors has elected not to honor an Irish Person of the Year as he/she would not be recognized accordingly. This simply means Dr. Sharon O'Mahar gets to wear the crown for another year! Congratulations!

But I hope this finds all of us doing well and keeping our head above water. I know more-and-more people are getting their vaccines which is great. Hoping for some semblance of normalcy to start creeping back in any day now. While I don't anticipate a normal summer per se, we do have our Picnic scheduled for July 13th, so please keep an eye out for more info.

Keep Well!

Ryan

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



O'Reilly

Reilly is ranked 8th most common surnames in Ireland. The name means sociable tribe. The O'Reilly territory was around Lough Oughter in County Cavan. For centuries they were the most powerful sept in Breifne. Breifne means "hilly country." In the 10th century Breifne was divided into two sections with O'Rourke ruling the west and O'Reilly ruling the East. In 1584, Breifne O'Reilly became County Cavan. The seat of the O'Reilly's was at Tullymongan Hill on the outskirts of Cavan town. In the middle ages, the influence of the O'Reilly chief extended into Meath, Westmeath and Longford.

The sept was notorious for being tough and violent. The legendary figure of the 17th century of "Miles the Slasher" typified the fierce O'Reilly tradition. He was a commander in the rebellion of 1640. He had to flee Ireland and went to Spain. He ended up in France where he died in 1660 and was buried in the Irish monastery at Chalons-sur-Marne.

- Count Alexander O'Reilly fought in the armies of Spain. He became Governor of Madrid and later went to Cuba where many O'Reilly's can still be found.
- John Boyle O'Reilly was a prisoner transported to Australia where he escaped and made his way to the U.S. in 1869. He became proprietor of the Boston Pilot.
- A.J.F. O'Reilly is president of the Heinz Corporation. He has business interests worldwide and is in control of most Irish national newspapers.

There are several variations in spelling the surname. The most common is "Riley."



~ *John Mackay – The Richest Irishman Who Ever Lived*

John Mackay was born in Dublin in a one room shack. He died in 1902 worth \$1 billion (\$80 billion in today's money). His story is told in "The Bonanza King" by Gregory Crouch. Mackay was famous for his fair dealings with his employees and gave generously to charities. He had a bad stutter that left him shy.

The family immigrated to America in 1840 and lived in the notorious Five Points slum in New York city. When his father died, he became the sole breadwinner for his mother and sister. In 1851, Mackay was 19 and he left for Downieville, California where gold fever had struck. After seven years he was poorer than when he started. In 1859 he received a break. He and a fellow Irishman walked 100 miles to the Sierra Nevada mountains where there was word of a gold and silver find. He worked for bigger consortiums to gain experience.

In 1865, he started out on his own. Mackay bought a share in the Kentuck which yielded \$1.6 million in gold to the partners. At 35, Mackay was a rich man. In 1875, he and his Irish friends bought a claim 1,000 feet below the Nevada desert and struck the largest silver deposit ever found in the world. It was worth \$545 billion and was called "The Big Bonanza." He and his partners started Hibernia Bank and he built a railroad over the mountains. Mackay died in London in 1902. His Virginia City mansion where he and his wife lived is perfectly preserved.

~*Leprechaun Lessons* by Sue Morrison

This is all you need to know about life!

Life is too short for long faces.
When you are happy, sing; when you are sad, sing louder.
Expect magic to happen and it will.
If you can't find a rainbow, paint your own.

The word impossible is not an Irish word.
Never walk so tall that you can't see the "wee folks".
If you are blue, wear lots of green and think hopeful thoughts.
No one ever outgrows the need for warm hugs, special dreams
or a wee bit of mischief.
Quit trying to catch a Leprechaun and just be one!



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*Our Members
with March Birthdays:*

- 5 Amanda Conway
- 7 Dr Peter Spanos
- 8 Caroline Roe
- 12 Patrick McGettigan
- 18 Maureen Kind
- 21 Michel McGettigan
Brian Petravech
- 28 Lauren Meyer Herr
- 30 Toni Ledwidge

~ A WEE BIT OF IRISH HISTORY



~ The Irish Flag

The Irish flag was flown publicly for the first time on March 7, 1848 during the Rebellion by the Young Irelanders in Waterford by Thomas Meagher, the leader of the Young Irelanders. Meagher was best known as a General in the Union Army during the US Civil War and as Governor of Montana. Meagher flew the tricolor flag for eight days in Waterford until the British took it down.

Meagher presented the flag to the Irish people explaining the green represents Irish nationalism; the orange represents the Protestant minority; the white represents the lasting peace between the two. For his role in the 1848 Rebellion, Meagher was sentenced to death, but this was commuted to banishment to Australia. He escaped to America.

The tricolor flag was flown above the GPO in 1916 and became widely accepted. It was adopted by the IRA during the War of Independence (1919-1921). It was the symbol of the Irish Free State (1922-1937). The constitution confirmed the tricolor as the official flag of Ireland. The flag is always flown with the green segment closest to the flagstaff.

The flag of Ireland and that of the Ivory Coast are often confused and the colors are reversed on the Ivory Coast flag.

~ Francis McHugh – Irish Highwayman

Francis McHugh was known in Ireland as "Black Francis." He hailed from Meenclogher, County Tyrone which is near the borders with counties Donegal and Fermanagh. McHugh was dispossessed of his property during the Ulster Plantation and went on to become a notorious highwayman. He encountered a bandit at a fair in Castlederg who introduced him into the outlaw life. McHugh assembled a gang of men to join him. The gang's hideout was in the Scraghy Hills of the Trevemore Mountains between Castlederg and Pettigo near where the borders of Donegal, Fermanagh and Tyrone meet. They haunted the roads and byways of these three counties. His gang was active in the years 1770 to 1780.

McHugh's gang supplied the poor by robbing members of the planter class, Protestant immigrants who settled on land confiscated from Irish Catholics. People came to regard McHugh as a folk hero. McHugh socialized with the gentry at Grouse Lodge where he obtained information about doings, schedules and travel plans and used it to determine the advantageous times to burglar or rob their properties.

McHugh also targeted the English military. On one time, his gang stole 70,000 gold sovereigns from the English and buried the coins on Leitrim Hill. McHugh supposedly never retrieved the stash. McHugh and his gang were captured and held in Enniskillen prison in 1780 and hung after the trial. McHugh's body was interred in Templecarne graveyard in an unmarked grave.

~ Sean's Bar



Sean's Bar is located in Athlone, County Westmeath. It's considered to be the oldest bar in Ireland and is being considered by the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest bar in the world. Sean's Bar was established in 900 AD and is situated close to the River Shannon. During renovations in 1970, it was found that the walls were made of wattle and daub which was a technique that dates to the 9th century. Many old coins were found. The floor leans toward the back so in case of flooding the water will drain toward the river.

Athlone is considered the birthplace of distilling. Sean's Bar tries to maintain their ancient history by distilling its own whiskey.

~ *Where Does the Name Ireland Come From?*

The name Ireland has evolved over many centuries from the Irish word for Goddess: Eriu. She has been described as the matron Goddess of ancient mythology. The modern Irish name for Ireland is "Eire" which is derived from Eriu. The English version "Ireland" comes from the first three letters with 'land' tacked on. 'Poblacht na hEireann' means 'Republic of Ireland' and 'muintir na hEireann' means 'people of Ireland.'

The antiquated way of describing Ireland is 'Hibernia' which is what the Romans called Ireland. The name survives today in the name of several organizations such as the Ancient Order of Hibernians. When Ireland was partitioned in 1921, the southern 26 counties were called the Irish Free State, but the name was never going to remain as long as there was a British Monarch. The six counties that remained in the United Kingdom were called Northern Ireland.

The use of 'Eire' began to decline after the legal proclamation of a republic in 1949. It was then referred to the Republic of Ireland. The British Government considered changing the name of Northern Ireland to 'Ulster.' the name declined in usage.

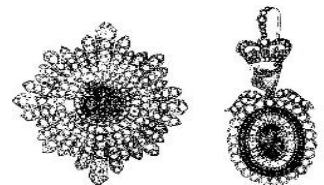
~ *Irish Crown Jewels*

The Irish Crown Jewels were presented to Ireland by King William IV in the 18th century. The jewels included almost 400 emeralds, rubies, and diamonds. The jewels were placed with the Order of St. Patrick which was an aristocratic order founded in 1783 like the Order of the Garter England and the order of the Thistle in Scotland.

The jewels disappeared in July 1907 and have never been recovered and are estimated to be worth \$20 million in today's money. They were housed in Dublin Castle's Bedford Tower Library. Suspicion was focused on the four men charged with their safety. Arthur Vicars was the Ulster King of Arms; his nephew Pierce Mahony; Francis Goldney; Francis Shackleton who was a brother of the famous explorer, Ernest Shackleton. Vicars reported his key to the tower door was missing. Mrs. Farrell reported five days later that the main door was found unlocked. On July 6th the library door was left open overnight and the safe was open. On the same day Vicars and Mahony were seen examining the collar of the Order of St. Patrick.

The police report indicated that some time was necessary to remove the precious stones from their settings. The thief had to be someone well known by the castle staff. The report was suppressed and the Chief Inspector was recalled to London. King Edward VII demanded the resignations of the four. Vicars refused to attend the inquiry by a special commission. The commission found him guilty of negligence and ordered his dismissal. Vicars died mysteriously and was found on the grounds of his home with his body riddled with bullets. The IRA was blamed but they denied responsibility. Mahoney was killed in a bizarre shooting accident. Goldney died in a car accident. Shackleton after being jailed for defrauding a woman, he vanished into obscurity.

No light has ever been shed on the whereabouts of the treasure to this day or the identity of the person responsible by Scotland Yard.



The Irish Crown Jewels. This image was published by the [Royal Irish Constabulary](#) and the [Dublin Metropolitan Police](#) twice a week after the theft of the jewels was discovered.

~ *Ring of Kerry*




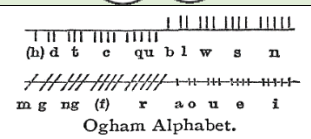



Traveling the Ring of Kerry is an enchanting adventure on the Iveragh Peninsula of Ireland. This scenic route overlooks the Atlantic Ocean looping through pristine landscapes of Kerry in southwest Ireland. Tourists have been coming there since the Victorian Era. One of the main cities is Killarney which is popular with visitors. The town is an ideal base for exploring the Ring of Kerry and Killarney National Park. You can check out Ross Castle (a fifteenth century tower house) and Muckross House and Gardens in Killarney National Park.

There are gorgeous landscapes flanking the road on both sides of the MacGillycuddy's Reeks mountain range and Skellig Ring. Once you are there, you can take a boat to Skellig Michael which was one of the filming sites for "Star Wars." The breathtaking cliffs of Skellig Michael is a UNESCO Heritage Site.

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<p>Happy St Patrick's Day!</p> 	<p><u>Cosgrove Cottage</u> Rent a cottage in remote <u>southwestern Ireland!</u> Enjoy a breathtaking view of the Atlantic Ocean!</p> <p>For information/pictures, contact Don Cosgrove: Email: doncosgrove@tds.net Phone: (608) 274-1180</p>
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Irish Symbols

	<p><i>The Harp - National Symbol of Ireland</i></p>
	<p><i>Dolmen - Ancient Burial Chamber</i></p>
	<p><i>Celtic Spiral</i> <i>Represents life and etched on most gravestones at Newgrange</i></p>
	<p><i>Ogham Writing</i> <i>First recorded Celtic script</i></p>
	<p><i>St. Patrick</i> <i>Irish Patron Saint</i></p>
	<p><i>Salmon</i> <i>Represents Knowledge and Wisdom</i></p>
	<p><i>Horses</i> <i>Ireland is known for horse rearing and flat grassy plains</i></p>
<p><i>King Citric - Viking king known as Silkbeard. Introduced coinage to Ireland</i></p>	



. . . . News of Interest

- ❖ Tully Church in South Dublin dates back to the 6th century. The church may have been of Danish origin. The Office of Public Works is responsible for preservation of the site.
- ❖ A 21-year-old Irish woman named Jane Frigl sprinted fully clothed into the sea to rescue a father and 3 children off Port Salon Beach, County Donegal. There was no lifeguard at the beach.
- ❖ The partition of Ireland took place 100 years ago.
- ❖ The new children's book "The Haunted Lake" by P. J. Lynch is perfect for children. The illustrated book is folkloric.
- ❖ Mike Pence has Irish roots. His grandfather came through Ellis Island in 1923. He has relatives in Doonbeg, County Clare (Trump owns a golf resort there). Pence spent several summers in Ireland.
- ❖ The Irish Central Book Club recommends "The Pull of the Stars" by Emma Donoghue. It is the story of healthcare workers during the Great Flu Pandemic of 1918.
- ❖ Sinn Fein leaders claim it is time to push for a united Ireland. The region is changing, and Catholics will outnumber Protestants in Northern Ireland by 1922.
- ❖ The "Dying with Dignity" bill seeks to make a peaceful end of life for people with an incurable illness will be considered by the Irish government.
- ❖ Daniel O'Connell fought for equality and liberty for the Irish but also for Jewish rights, the abolition of slavery, the end to capital punishment and protest the tithe that Catholics had to pay.
- ❖ Ireland is the 10th largest country where people drive on the left side of the road.
- ❖ An effect of famine immigrants on industrialized cities of America and England became known as "Little Irelands."
- ❖ Amazon will increase its workforce in Ireland by 1,000 over the next two years bringing their total Irish workforce to 5,000. The increases will be in Dublin and Cork.
- ❖ Ireland's most famous Dolphin, Fungie was presumed dead as he has been missing, but there is a glimmer of hope as he may have migrated to another area of Irish waters.
- ❖ Father Michael McGivney, the son of Irish immigrants. He was the founder of the Knights of Columbus which now has over 2 million members. He was beatified by the Catholic Church on October 31, 2020 during a special Mass at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Hartford, CT. He died of complications from pneumonia in 1890 at the age 38. He is considered a martyr of a pandemic.
- ❖ Actor Sean Connery died in his sleep on October 31, 2020 at the age of 90 having not been well for some time. He was born in 1930 in Scotland. Connery was the first to play James Bond. His first film was "Dr. No" in 1962. He retired from acting in 2011. His father was a truck driver.
- ❖ Galway and Dublin have been named among the ten friendliest cities in Europe by Travelers Magazine.
- ❖ Epic Museum in Dublin has been named Europe's leading tourist attraction.
- ❖ Mick Mulvaney resigned on January 6, 2021 as the envoy to Northern Ireland.



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

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

Classic Irish Books to Read During the Pandemic

“Judith Hearne” (1955) by Brian Moore, a sympathetic woman destroyed by herself

“The Last September” (1929) by Elizabeth Bowen, a portrait of a young woman coming of age at the end of British rule

“Tristram Shandy” (1760) by Lawrence Sterne, comic account of the life of Tristram Shandy

“How Many Miles to Babylon?” (1974) by Jennifer Johnston, the story of the friendship of two boys in Wicklow during WWI



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