



Dane County Shamrock Club, Inc. Newsletter

Volume 19, Issue 1
July 2021

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Sign up Now!
Summer Picnic
July 13th

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

Hello Shamrock Club!

I hope this finds everyone doing as well as can be during our particularly early dog-days of summer. Anyone else have brown, dead grass? I watered a little bit but it seemed like a lost cause when looking at the forecast. Oh well, the plus side is: not as many mosquitoes and not cutting the grass nearly as often. Besides, who doesn't like walking on straw with bare feet? It toughens you up!

Seems like we're certainly under some semblance of normalcy though. I have been to two Brewers games already with another coming up in a few days (with 100% attendance), and I've even been to a bar or two!

Our summer picnic is back! Tuesday, July 13th at McKee Farms Park, 2930 Chapel Valley Rd in Fitchburg at 5.00 will be the time, date and location of our annual summer bash. We hope to see as many of you there as possible. The club will be supplying sandwiches, light refreshments, and sides. I know in years past this was a potluck event, we won't be doing that this year but there should be enough food for all. Please contact Larry Lowden via email dundeelj@sbglobal.net or phone 608-238-6429 by July 7th if you plan on attending so we can plan for food. Family, guests, & advertisers are welcome.

I would like to take this moment though to send a big shoutout to my brother-in-law and Shamrock Club member, Chuck Klink. He lost his mother Monica, a lovely Irish woman, on the 19th of this month. Mother of 15(!), Chuck is the youngest of them all and was an uncle from the moment he was born. She claimed 28 grandkids, 36 great-grandkids and 3 great-great grandkids. She was just shy of 85. A few years ago,

Chuck sent me a CD with a bunch of Irish songs and he told me this was the St. Patrick's Day music he grew up with (courtesy of Monica) and wanted to share with me. Hits like, Clancy Lowered the Boom, The Orange and the Green, McNamara's Band and many others. Slainte to you Mrs. Klink and thanks for sharing your wonderful heritage and musical taste with your youngest.

We were also notified we lost another member, William Raftery. While I never had a chance to meet him, he was a member of the Shamrock Club and a veteran of the Korean War. Bill also contributed a few articles to our newsletter. Our thoughts are with his family as well.

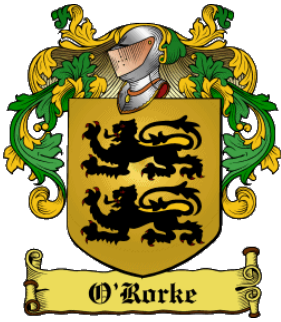
As I wrap this up, I hope everyone is able to enjoy some outside time, family and fireworks for the upcoming Independence Day. Don't look at it as summer is half-way over (why did I even say that, am I the only one who looks at it like that?), look at it as chance to remember America, when we declared our freedom! Kickin' ass since 1776 and undefeated in World Wars! We can still be that "city on the hill" but progressions can't be made if we're separate forever; now is the time to come together!

Cheers,

Ryan



~ *What's in a Name?* *O'Rourke*



The O'Rourkes were part of a large tribal group of the Ui Briuin which claims to have descended from Brion, a fifth century King of Connacht. They joined together with prominent families such as the O'Connors, McDermotts and the O'Flahertys. The O'Rourkes joined with the O'Reillys to form the Breifne. In the middle ages, the O'Connors and the O'Rourkes engaged in a long bloody struggle for control of Connacht which ended in victory by the O'Connors.

O'Rourkes gained control of Breifne which included area in counties Cavan, Leitrim and Longford. During 950 to 1100 four O'Rourke's were Kings of Connacht and they became one of the most powerful families in Ireland. After the twelfth century the O'Connors came into control. The O'Rourke's had problems with the O'Reillys in Breifne which resulted in their territory being reduced. Their main stronghold was Dromahaire on the shores of Lough Gill in County Leitrim.

The O'Rourkes lost most of their possessions in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Many migrated to Europe. The O'Rourkes were prominent in the armies of France, Austria and Russia. Count Losif Komilievich O'Rourke was one of the Russian generals who defeated Napoleon. Edward O'Rourke was bishop of Danzig before WWII.



~ *The Hill of Doon*



Hill of Doon is an extinct volcano near Ballyconneely, County Galway. Bunowen Castle is a fort on top of the Hill which was built in the middle 1700s using the stones from Granuaile Castle which was destroyed by Oliver Cromwell in 1653. During the Great Famine, the watch tower was a poor house. The Hill of Doon is a landmark that can be seen from miles away by land or sea. Fishermen use the Hill to guide them into Bunowen Pier. The Hill can be seen when looking towards Galway from a hill above Clifden.

The Irish word "Dun" means fortress indicating that during Celtic times there was a fort on top of the Hill of Doon. The O'Flahertys who originally built the castle were driven to Connemara by the Normans. In 1650, the castle and estate was planted by Arthur Geoghegan, a landlord from Westmeath who lived in the castle until 1840. The estate consists of 365 acres of fertile land and contains the ruins of a 500 AD church. The McDonagh family are the current owners of the castle.





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Our Members with July Birthdays

- 2 Steve Goldberg
- 8 Irene Bomkamp
- Patrick Fleming
- 9 Ed Ledwidge
- 16 Therese McCarragher
- 25 Lori McLean
- 31 Heather Nemoir



The Siege of Wexford

The Siege of Wexford took place in May 1169, 850 years ago. It was the first major clash of the Norman invasion of Ireland. The town was besieged by a Norman force under Robert FitzStephen and Leinster soldiers. The King of Leinster had been deposed by Rodney O'Connor, High King of Ireland and Tigernan O'Rourke. MacMurchada, the King of Leinster, was exiled from Ireland and fled to France. He sought military aid from the English King Henry II. Richard de Clare (Strongbow) was promised the kingship of Leinster. Robert FitzStephen and Maurice FitzGerald were offered lands in Wexford for their services.

In May 1169, FitzStephen landed at Bannow Bay with a force of 400. Maurice de Pendergast landed at the same spot with the force of 100 and this force merged with MacMurchada and his force of 500 Leinster soldiers who then marched toward Wexford. They were confronted by an Irish force at Duncormac. This was the first battle of the Norman invasion. The Norman force were able to cross the river and continued on toward Wexford. The Wexford defenders numbered about 2,000. They burned all the outbuildings so that the invaders would have no cover. The first attack was repulsed. FitzStephen ordered all the ships in the harbor to be burned. The next day the attack on Wexford continued. The defenders sent envoys and agreed to surrender.

The attacking army garrisoned at Ferns. FitzStephens was granted ownership of Wexford and a large area of land. This became the first Norman colony in Ireland. They then attacked territory in western Leinster. This was followed by raids to the north High King O'Connor marched his army into Leinster. The commanders of both armies began negotiations at Ferns. An agreement was reached whereby MacMurchada would be allowed to remain King of Leinster if he recognized O'Connor as High King and if he agreed to send the Normans back to Britain. A peace followed but MacMurchada allowed the Normans to remain in Leinster. In May 1170, a second wave of Normans arrived and the invasion was restarted.

Wiggins Patch Massacre

On the early morning of December 10, 1875, 20 masked and armed men broke into the boarding house of an elderly Irish immigrant Margaret O'Donnell in Wiggins Patch, Pennsylvania. They were seeking vengeance against two alleged members of the Molly McGuire's, Margaret's two sons, Charles and James. Margaret was pistol whipped, Charles was riddled with bullets, James escaped and was running toward the woods and her pregnant daughter Ellen McAllister was shot in the stomach as she came to aid the others.



One of the most haunted places in the United States is the scene of a terrible murder of a pregnant Irish emigrant and her brother at the hands of hired killers.

Margaret O'Donnell and her husband emigrated from Gweedore, County Donegal. Her husband was deceased. She lived with her sons James and Charles, her daughter Ellen and her husband Charles McAllister and their son. It was turbulent times in northeastern Pennsylvania with labor unrest where Irish immigrants toiled in coal mines in unsafe conditions. The O'Donnell brothers and James McAllister were suspects in the murder of mine boss Thomas Sanger in Revenge for the ill-treatment of mineworkers. Margaret's other daughter MaryAnn was married to Jack Kehoe who was known as the king of the Molly McGuire's.

About 1 am on December 9, the door to the boarding house was kicked in and 20 armed men came into the house banging on doors and firing their weapons. Charles O'Donnell was dragged from his bed and his body was riddled with 18 bullets. James jumped from a window and ran into the darkness. James McAllister was dragged outside and hung from a tree. News of the murders quickly spread, and it became known as the

Wiggins Patch Massacre. Nobody was ever charged for the murders. It is believed that the spirit roams Wiggins Patch (now called Boston Run) where she laments the death of her unborn child. The boarding house was demolished in 2006 and only the foundation remains.

Father Peter Whelan – Angel of Andersonville



Peter Whelan was born in Loughnageer, County Wexford in 1802. He attended college in Kilkenny before coming to America. He heard of an appeal for priests in the Diocese of Charleston. He was ordained in 1830. He celebrated the first Mass ever offered in Raleigh in 1832. He was instrumental in the erection of Raleigh's first Catholic church. In 1837, he became pastor of the church in Locust Grove, GA and spent 19 years there. The Diocese of Savannah was established in 1850 encompassing all of Georgia and part of Florida. Whelan ministered to the sick from due to yellow fever. He was the diocese administrator after the death of the bishop.

In 1861, Savannah was caught up in the Civil War. The people favored secession. Father Whelan was at Fort Pulaski when the Union troops began bombarding the fort. He tended the wounded. Fort Pulaski surrendered in April 1863 and captured Confederate troops were sent north. Whelan was offered his freedom, but he chose to remain with the men. They were sent to Governor's Island, NY. The men needed clothing, shoes, meager meals and lacked heat. The men began to suffer from pneumonia, typhoid, and measles. He was able to obtain food and supplies from Baltimore and New York City. The prisoners were sent to Virginia to become part of a prisoner exchange in August 1863.

Father Whelan returned to Savannah and was assigned the task of overseeing the religious needs of Confederate army posts in Georgia. Father Whelan was asked to visit Andersonville in June 1864. Whelan was 62 years old. He found that the prisoners had to sleep on the ground, the stockade was filthy and crowded. The men were covered with lice and maggots and were dying from scurvy, diarrhea, and dysentery. A small stream ran through the center of the stockade, and this provided drinking, cooking, and bathing water while also serving as a latrine. Whelan borrowed \$16,000 in Confederate money which he used to buy 10,000 pounds of wheat flour. It was given to the Andersonville hospital. The prisoners referred to it as "Whelan bread."

The prisoners never forget Father Whelan who they credited with saving hundreds of lives. He ministered to the sick of all faiths, color, and nationalities. He became known as the "Angle of Andersonville." Whelan became pastor of St. Patrick's in Savannah. He administered his last baptism in January 1871, and he died about four weeks later at the age of 69. The funeral procession was said to be the largest ever seen in Savannah. Eighty-six carriages escorted the body through the crowded streets. Members of the military, followed by religious societies and Irish organizations turned out to bid the priest farewell.

Irish Blueshirts

The Irish Blueshirts was a name given the Army Comrades Association (ACA). The ACA was designed for Irish Army veterans. They felt free speech was being repressed which led to several clashes with the IRA. In 1933, the ACA began wearing a blueshirt uniform. Eoin O'Duffy became the leader of the ACA and changed its name to "The National Guard." The organization promoted reunification of Ireland; opposed communism and alien influence in national affairs; uphold Christian principles in public activity; promote and maintain public order; prevent strikes and lockouts; expose and prevent corruption.



Blueshirt & belt sold for €1,400 (appx \$1943) at auction in 2015.

The Blueshirts provided protection for political groups from intimidation and attack by the anti-treaty IRA. Most of the political parties whose meetings the Blueshirts protected would merge to become Fine Gael.

Some of the Blueshirts went to fight for Francisco Franco in the Spanish Civil War. The Blueshirts planned to hold a parade in Dublin in August 1933 to commemorate Irish leaders Arthur Griffith, Michael Collins, and Kevin O'Higgins. De Valera banned the parade and O'Duffy accepted the order. Several provincial parades took place to honor Griffith, Collins, and O'Higgins. De Valera saw this as defying his ban and the Blueshirts were declared an illegal organization.

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MEMBER NEWS

~ In Memoriam



William J Raftery, Jr. died on June 19, 2021, at Agrace Hospice Care. He was born in 1931 in Baltimore, Maryland. His career included a wide variety of positions with corporations, public accounting firms and state governments. In retirement Bill continued to pursue his many interests, hobbies, and love of travel. He enjoyed many trips to Paris, Ireland and favorite locations in the US. His most passionate interests were in military history and world history. Bill was proud of his Irish father and made several trips to Ireland with family.

Bill was a member of the Dane County Shamrock Club and has written and shared several articles via the club newsletter.

A memorial service was held on June 24; his wish was to be cremated and interred at Arlington Cemetery.

The club extends its deepest sympathy to Bill's family and has made a donation to one of his favorite organizations.

~ See How Famous I Am? *By Patrick Fleming*

Every time I go to Ireland, I make a stop at Gussie O'Connor's Pub in Doolin, County Clare.

On one of my visits, I walked in and Gussie's daughter was tending bar. As I looked down the long bar, I saw a man that looked like Red O'Connor from Madison. I knew him as a salesman for the Catholic Herald and a local artist that liked to irritate the city fathers by painting his fence every year in defiance of the local ordinances. I blew it off thinking my mind was playing tricks on me with him being an O'Connor and all.

Gussie's daughter was wearing a t-shirt that read, "O'Connor's Bar, Wisconsin Dells, WI". I told her that I lived just an hour drive from there. She replied, "You're the second Yank today that said that!" I asked her if the gent at the end of the bar was the one who said it and she replied he was. I immediately yelled down the bar to him and said, "Are you Red O'Connor from Madison, Wisconsin?" He responded, "Yes I am!" and with that he turned to the people around him and said, "See how famous I am"?

Red and his wife were touring Ireland with his wife's college roommate. My wife and I spent the evening together with them at Gussie O'Connors Pub enjoying a traditional Irish music session with Packie Russell and the other local musicians.

The craic was mighty!



What is Ireland famous for? Ireland is famous for its marvelous views, both of the land and sea. Often referred to as the Emerald Isle. Ireland has vibrant cities tucked beside cozy bays and sheer cliffs. Ireland is where snug pubs, pints of Guinness and shots of Irish Whiskey go hand-in-hand with hearty Irish homestyle cooking.

Greetings in Ireland

- The most common greeting is the handshake. The Irish usually shake hands when being introduced or when greeting a friend or work colleague.
- In formal situations or with people of higher status, titles and last names are used.
- Among close friends and family, the Irish may hug and kiss each other on the cheek. Women will kiss both male and female friends, while men kiss only female friends.
- When addressing friends, family and acquaintances, the Irish will generally use first names.
- In more rural areas, people will greet each other when passing on the street. People in urban areas reserve such greetings for neighbors and people they know.
- Common phrases that accompany greetings are, 'Hello,' 'How are you?' and 'What's the craic?' ('*craic*' refers to news, gossip and conversation).
- The Irish usually hold eye contact when greeting someone.
- When being introduced to family, it is customary to shake hands with older children as you would with adults.

Where is the most dangerous place in Ireland? Limerick has the **highest** crime levels for sex offences and criminal damage to property, while Waterford has the **worst** crime rate for assaults, weapons, and explosives offences. Cork is the **city** with the lowest crime rates, but the **highest** homicide rate.

What is considered rude in Ireland? Hugging, touching, or simply being overly physical with others in public is considered inappropriate etiquette in Ireland.

9 Things You Need to Buy When You're In Ireland

- Chocolate. If chocolate aficionados know to go to England to buy their Cadbury, then they know that Ireland is a hotspot for irresistible small-batch craft chocolate.
- Pottery
- Foxford Blankets
- Bee Products
- Donegal Tweeds
- Waterford Crystal
- Duffy Books
- Aran Sweaters

Top 10 most famous Irish people ever

- Enya – singing sensation
- Oscar Wilde – literary great
- James Joyce – influential writer
- Mary Robinson – Ireland's first female president
- Katie Taylor – inspiring female boxer
- Maureen O'Hara – star of the silver screen
- Michael Collins – revolutionary leader

Who is the richest person in Ireland? The Republic's richest person is 91-year-old construction magnate, Pallonji Mistry, The Indian-born Irish citizen controls engineering business, Shapoorji Pallonji Group and holds a stake in Tata Sons, one of India's biggest businesses. He is worth \$14.6 billion, putting him 140th on the Forbes list.

Ireland has 17 billionaires - Ireland's disproportionately high number of 17 billionaires – the vast majority of whom are men – shows that the country is mirroring this global trend when it comes to wealth inequality.



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

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August 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, interests and photos. Please submit articles for the August newsletter to Harry McCarthy at himac98@charter.net or mail to 2656 Mica Rd., Fitchburg, WI 53711 by **July 20, 2021**. Thank you.

Calendar of Events

July 13 – Dane County Shamrock Club Picnic, McKee Farms Park,
2930 Chapel Valley Rd., Fitchburg at 5:00 pm

August 13 – 15 - LaCrosse Irish Fest - <https://www.irishfestlacrosse.org/>

August 20-22 – Milwaukee Irish Fest - <https://irishfest.com/Milwaukee-Irish-Fest>

August 22 – Logan’s Heart & Smiles Annual Fundraiser - Golf, Cornhole, Virtual Auction



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