

The Shamrock Leaf

Newsmagazine of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick



Feature Story

New Brunswick establishes
Ministry of Celtic Affairs
Page 9

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Welcome

to the December 2016 issue

Well, it's almost hard to believe that 2016 is quickly drawing to a close after a very busy and productive year for the Irish Association..

Many of our activities are outlined in this issue as each Chapter describes the last few busy months. Always an interesting read, these reports remind me of the connections we have with each other. And, speaking of connections, that is definitely a theme running through this issue of our Shamrock Leaf.

Whether separated by geography or circumstances, the Irish can always find a way to reconnect. We are heartened by stories of triumph and adversity, of separation and reunion, and of the kindness of seeming strangers.

In this issue we see a connection between a Boston Irish champion boxer and a family in Nova Scotia, between a New Brunswick-born Bishop and the state of Michigan, between family members originating in New Brunswick and eventually spreading across Canada and the United States. Check out these stories on pages 22, 38, and 30.

After reading about these connections, take a moment to think of the stories within your own Irish experience. Do you have a family member who started in New Brunswick but made their future and their success elsewhere? Do you know of a story or two of others in similar circumstances, whether part of your own family or

history, or part of our larger Irish community?

Another important historical "connection" in New Brunswick was between the already resident Acadians and the Irish immigrants. Sharing a common religion and understanding the trials and tribulations each group survived brought them closer together in the early days of New Brunswick—through the sharing of places of worship, working side by side in lumbering, farming and other early industries, or tying our cultures together through marriages between the two ethnic groups.

There are many, many stories of Irish/Acadian history in this province that have yet to be told. These need to be gathered and shared, not just between our two communities, but with all New Brunswickers and, indeed, further afield.

If you have one of these stories that has been passed down through your family, we'd love to hear about it and perhaps pass it along to our larger readership.

Also—what of families where some stayed in New Brunswick after their arrival but others went on to other provinces or states.? These need to be told as well — and you hold the stories. Please take some time to have them recorded before they are lost. Make it a Christmas present to yourself and your descendents. It would be priceless! Happy Christmas to all!

Marilyn Driscoll

Oromocto, NB

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Ireland - First impressions

By Shauna Dean

It is a rough country, with towering rock and unforgiving ocean waters. And yet, it blooms. Everywhere you go bright flowers peek out from crevices in the rock face. It is a testament to the people who have tamed this world. They will survive. No matter what the battles, no matter what the cost, they will continue to grow into a blossoming civilization – a pillar of strength.

It was a haunting sight. The hedge bordered farmlands were falling into twilight, softening the edges of buildings and stone walls. In the soft glow of semi-darkness a pale mist crept through the trees to gather about trunks and sink into hollows. The fields blurred beneath a veil of mystery, as if waiting for ghostly visitors to trip across the lands on dancing feet.



President's Message



First of all, a huge vote of thanks and congratulations to Marilyn and Nadia, who have produced another first-rate edition of *The Shamrock Leaf* – truly a monumental undertaking. In these pages you will find much of interest from an historical point of view, with stories that look back on our earliest Irish settlers as well as the turmoil and strife in their homeland that brought them to these shores. In addition, there are news items which highlight our current connections to Ireland, with the promise of an even greater future linking our present country with the land of our ancestors. As always, there are the much-loved *Bits and Pieces*, which delight readers with their fact and whimsy. As I said earlier, there is something for everyone to enjoy over the long winter evenings.

2016 has been a good year for the Irish in New Brunswick. As you will see in the chapter reports, we have all been busy in various ways, celebrating our roots, promoting our culture, and just getting together for the music and story-telling, of which we are all so fond. The Miramichi Irish Festival was particularly successful this year, drawing visitors from near and far. Saint John had the opportunity to promote all things Irish with their most potent ally, Comhaltas, in the inaugural Area 506 Festival. Bathurst helped christen the newly-minted Founding Cultures Museum, in Grand-Anse. The Capital Area continues to promote our history through their various outreach programs, including active participation at festivals and the Highland Games. Westmorland/Albert/Kent has similarly hosted several cultural events, most recently promoting the Samuel Beckett display and providing a much-deserved celebration for Linda Evans' magnum opus on the history of Irishtown.

In 2016, as reported earlier in the Leaf, we said

goodbye to Ambassador Ray Bassett, who was such a stalwart supporter of the ICCA. We wish him all the best in his new venture. Sadly, in August we also bade farewell to one of the first founding members of the ICCA in New Brunswick, Fred Hazel. I am so thankful that through the collective endeavours of Saint John President Owen Boyle, WAK president Mike Magee, and Cheryl Horgan of Innercrow jewellery, we were able to honour Fred as Ambassador Bassett stopped one last time in Saint John.

We are also fortunate this year to welcome new arrivals to support our ICCA mission. Ambassador Jim Kelly, who replaces Ray Bassett, will be another key link in our ongoing relationship with Ireland.

And last, but certainly not least – our cover story. The naming of Lisa Harris, Miramichi MLA, to the post of Minister responsible for Celtic Affairs encourages us to believe that the Irish role in the creation of our province will finally be given the prominence it deserves. Our deepest thanks to the Celtic Affairs Committee, under the leadership of Bathurst's Pat Murphy. So as we look back on our achievements and challenges of 2016, we can also look forward to the potential of 2017 with optimism.

I wish you all a wonderful and peaceful Christmas, and the luck of the Irish in the New Year!

Marijke Blok
ICCANB President
marijke.blok@nbed.nb.ca

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Editor, ICCANB, 7 Hatch Street, Oromocto, NB E2V 2L3 Canada

Letters to the Editor

Dobbin Atlantic Scholarship Program

Dear Editor:

It is with great pleasure that the Ireland Canada University Foundation would like to announce the call for applications for the inaugural Dobbin Atlantic Scholarship Program.

It is the objective of this program to develop a new generation of academic, artistic, cultural and economic links between Atlantic Canada and Ireland. Scholarships will be awarded to Irish and Canadian applicants, in support of research trips between Ireland and the Atlantic Provinces of Canada (Newfoundland & Labrador, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island), with the awards supporting research periods of up to 5 weeks. Successful research projects will explore such areas as:

- Our common culture, history and heritage
- The potential of our shared resources
- Scientific and technological innovation

This programme is made possible through the generous continued support of the Dobbin family, and the Department of Foreign Affairs (Ireland).

Applications must be submitted to ICUF by Monday, 12 December, 2016. For more information on the program and how to apply please visit:

<http://www.icuf.ie/scholarships/dobbin-atlantic-scholarship-program/>
(via email)

Important notice: new requirement for visa-exempt foreign nationals travelling to Canada by air

Dear Editor:

We would be grateful if you could bring this to the attention of your members:

Canada has introduced an Electronic Travel Authorization (eTA) entry requirement for **visa-exempt foreign nationals** flying to or transiting through Canada. Travellers who do not require a visa to fly to Canada need to apply for an eTA. This includes passengers travelling on an Irish passport.

As of **September 30, 2016**, passengers who arrive

at the airport without an eTA should expect to experience delays in their travels. For this reason, travellers should apply for their eTA before booking your flight to Canada.

For more information or to apply for an eTA, visit Canada.ca/eTA.

Dual citizens, who hold Canadian citizenship and citizenship from a visa-exempt country such as Ireland, cannot apply for an eTA because eTA was set up to screen foreign visitors for admissibility to enter Canada.

If you are a dual Irish-Canadian citizen you cannot apply for an eTA on your Irish passport and must enter Canada on a valid Canadian passport. You may be denied boarding if you attempt to travel using your Irish passport.

To prepare for these changes, dual citizens are strongly encouraged to apply for a Canadian passport. This will prevent delays during travel and help ensure dual Canadian citizens are treated according to the rules that apply to Canadian citizens.

Irish citizens who are permanent residents of Canada should note that Permanent residents (PRs) of Canada are not eligible to apply for an eTA. Canadian PRs must carry and present their valid PR card or Permanent Resident Travel Document (PRTD) when boarding a flight to Canada or travelling to Canada on any other commercial carrier.

Full information on this new requirement can be found on the Embassy's website at:

<https://www.dfa.ie/irish-embassy/canada/our-services/travel-advice-for-canada/>

Best Regards,
Elizabeth Keough
Second Secretary
Embassy of Ireland,
Ottawa, ON
(via email)



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR should be sent to:

mdrisen618@rogers.com or by regular mail to
Editor, ICCANB, 7 Hatch Street, Oromocto, NB E2V 2L3 Canada

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

We reserve the right to edit for length or content.

Welcome to Ireland's New Ambassador to Canada

Ambassador Jim Kelly looks forward to his time in Canada

Following Ambassador Ray Bassett's return to Ireland after six years in Ottawa, we welcome the new Irish Ambassador to Canada, Jim Kelly. Ambassador Kelly formally took up his duties in Ottawa on 6th September, when he presented his credentials to the Governor General, His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, at Rideau Hall.

Ambassador Kelly is a native of Dublin, while his wife Anne Martin hails from Co. Limerick. Anne has joined him in Ottawa together with their two daughters, Orla and Ciara.

This is Ambassador Kelly's fourth posting as an Irish diplomat. He previously served as Deputy Permanent Representative at Ireland's Mission to the United Nations in New York (2008-13). He also served at Ireland's Permanent Representation to the European Un-

ion in Brussels (2001-05) and at the Embassy in Copenhagen, Denmark (1995-98).

The balance of his diplomatic career to date has been spent at Department of Foreign Affairs HQ in Dublin where he has held a wide range of positions covering different areas of the Department's work. These have included a series of assignments with the Department's Political, European and Development Cooperation Divisions. He commenced his career in DFA in November 1993 with a formative one year assignment in the Anglo-Irish Division, dealing with Northern Ireland issues during the period of the 1994 paramilitary ceasefires which opened the way to the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 and a new era of peace and cooperation on the island of Ireland.

Most recently, Ambassador Kelly



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established and directed the new Policy Planning function at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he led policy development on key issues such as the implications of Brexit for Ireland, and Ireland's response to the refugee and migration crisis.

"...During my time in Canada, I look forward to cementing and further developing our warm relations, and to building ever closer economic, political, cultural and people-to-people links between our two countries."

(cont'd)



Ambassador Kelly, to the left of Governor General David Johnston, in this photo taken following Presentation of Credentials at Rideau Hall, 6th September 2016

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Welcome new Irish Ambassador to Canada (cont'd)

Before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1993, he worked as a consultant with the leading global professional services firm, Accenture, and prior to that he held civil service positions in the Department of Energy and the Revenue Commissioners in Dublin.

He attended primary and secondary school at Drimnagh Castle CBS in Dublin, and is a graduate of University College Dublin (B. Comm. (Hons) 1990).

He enjoys running, hill walking, reading; political, social and military history; music and cinema. He is also a keen follower of most sports, particularly Gaelic games.

Among his distinctions are:

- Member of the Royal Irish Academy's International Affairs Committee, 2014-16;
- Vice Chair of the United Nations General Assembly's Fourth Committee, (Political and Decolonization) during the 66th session (2011-12).
- Language proficiency: English (mother tongue), Irish (operational), French (basic), Danish (basic).

Ambassador Kelly and his family

are delighted to be in Canada, as he told us:

"Diplomacy has always been more than just a job to me. It is a true honour and privilege to represent Ireland and to serve the Irish people and their interests at home or abroad. This is ever more the case when it comes to representing Ireland in Canada, an extraordinary country with whom we have always had such deep and strong bonds of friendship, and which has provided a home away from home for Irish people for centuries.

During my time in Canada, I look forward to cementing and further developing our warm relations, and to building ever closer economic, political, cultural and people-to-people links between our two countries.

Our relations with the broader Irish community all across Canada will be a key priority for me as Am-

bassador and I look forward to visiting with communities around this great country during my term here. I have heard so many positive things about the strong, vibrant historic Irish community in New Brunswick and I look forward very much to visiting the province, to learn more about the community and to meet you in person.

Until then, my best wishes to all of our friends in the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick and throughout the province."

Jim Kelly

Ambassador of Ireland to Canada"



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Cover Story

New Brunswick government establishes Ministry of Celtic Affairs

Celtic groups applaud Minister Harris' appointment

by Marilyn Driscoll



Hon. Lisa Harris, Minister of Seniors and long-term care and Minister responsible for Celtic Affairs

Many of our readers will have heard the announcement back in June of this year when New Brunswick's Premier, Brian Gallant, appointed Lisa Harris, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Miramichi Bay – Neguac, as Minister of Seniors and Long-term Care, and also the Minister responsible for Celtic Affairs. However, few people were aware of the behind-the-scenes work and grass-root efforts that brought us to this historic point for the Celtic peoples of this province. The announcement led to much rejoicing within the Celtic communities. There was also a surprising number of people who treated the news with derision, citing it as a "waste of taxpayers' money" and a deliberate diversionary tactic of the Gallant government. These negative reactions

were born of a lack of knowledge of the rationale for such a Ministry.

It is the hope of the Celtic Affairs Committee that the following synopsis of activities over the last six years will bring some clarity to the situation.

First and foremost, to clear up any confusion, the Celtic Affairs Committee refers to a joint working group formed in 2010 and made up of members of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick and the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association. The Ministry of Celtic Affairs refers to the newly established government portfolio for which the Honourable Lisa Harris has been named the responsible Minister. Moving forward, every attempt will be made to clearly identify the source of communications from either entity so that official government communiqués are identified as such and not confused with the non-government organization (NGO) that is the Celtic Affairs Committee.

Since the inception of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association of New Brunswick (ICCANB) in 1983, members and volunteers from within the Irish community have worked tirelessly to raise the awareness of the Irish culture in this province, as well as to gain recognition for the considerable contributions the Irish made to New Brunswick's establishment and growth. During that same period, the Scottish and Welsh were likewise struggling to have their voices heard.

Even though, in Canada's early developmental years, the number of Celtic people in the country significantly outnumbered the next largest

ethnic groups (the 1881 census of Canada shows the combined Scottish and Irish population numbered 1,657,266 compared to 1,298,929 French and 881,301 English), Celtic heritage and culture continued to be ignored, marginalised and brought closer and closer to extinction by the policies and practices of Canada's ruling class. Doubtless this was unintentional and based mainly on a lack of historical knowledge but, nonetheless the results were the same.

Fast forwarding beyond the decades, through the 20th century and into the 21st, the Celtic people continued their efforts, making little headway but remaining steadfast in their commitment. As our province, country, and the world were drawn further into global issues and concerns, the ICCANB began to look at their situation from a more global viewpoint as well.

Initial research revealed both opportunities and concerns that had the ICCANB dramatically rethinking their approach. Their research showed that, while many relationships already existed between New Brunswick businesses, government departments, municipalities and educational institutions and their counterparts in Ireland, all were being undertaken as individual initiatives with little or no knowledge of others underway. This was the first red flag that opportunities for synchronicity and additional growth might be falling through the cracks due to a lack of coordinated effort or long-range strategic planning.

With these concerns adding to their continuous efforts to gain official recognition for Celtic peoples in New Brunswick, in 2010,

...(cont'd)

Celtic Affairs ministry established - (cont'd)

the ICCANB approached the New Brunswick Scottish Cultural Association and the New Brunswick Welsh Association with the view of forming a joint working committee to examine the situation and produce recommendations for furthering the goals of all Celtic peoples in the province. The Welsh Association opted out after the first two meetings as they were uncertain their constitution and by-laws would permit them to participate. They have been kept informed of the Committee's actions along the way and remain interested observers since the Committee represents the interests of all Celtic peoples of New Brunswick, whether they have participants at the table or not.

In 2012, after much research by the joint working group, the Celtic Affairs Committee presented a report with recommendations to select Members of the Legislative Assembly of New Brunswick. They continued the conversations over the next few years, focussing on their three main areas of concern:

1. Formal recognition of the Celtic people as a major founding ethnic group of New Brunswick,
2. Leveraging relationships and networks of Celtic peoples and businesses for the economic, social, cultural and educational benefit of New Brunswick, and
3. Contributing to population growth in New Brunswick through partnerships and initiatives with our ancestral homelands.

The result of these conversations was the identification of several areas of opportunity that could be explored further through a more concentrated and coordinated effort.

On the economic development front, most people's thoughts turn immediately to tourism opportunities. Indeed, tourism probably

holds the most potential for short-term planning and results. By identifying some areas for quick hits, and working to bring them to fruition, time can then be taken to continue the background work necessary to develop long-range strategies, build an overall economic development plan that includes not just tourism but also opportunities in fishery, agriculture, technology, education, and other industries as they present themselves. In addition, plans could be laid for increasing the formal recognition of the Celtic people as historically significant to the founding of this province.

These recommendations were presented to government by the joint committee of Irish and Scots and were well-received. Ultimately, with the view that these recommendations could very well hold promising outcomes for the province's future economic growth, these continued conversations led to the appointment of a Minister for Celtic Affairs.

Since the appointment was announced in June of this year, Minister Harris has met with the Celtic Affairs Committee as well as many other Celtic groups and representatives to gather as much information as possible to better inform her ultimate actions going forward. In October, Minister Harris convened a facilitated workshop, inviting participants from many diverse Celtic special-interest groups. It was a very productive workshop where much progress was made toward developing a vision for the Celtic Affairs Ministry as well as identifying the important themes to be pursued in the near future. Some short-term activities were defined and responsible parties were assigned to begin the process.



Logo of the Irish/Scottish joint working committee

Participants were very encouraged by the progress to date and are looking forward to moving ahead together. Through these continued efforts and the eventual successes, all New Brunswickers will come to understand the wisdom of the June 2016 appointment. With government, the private sector and NGOs working together in a coordinated and strategic manner, the results will speak for themselves in the form of sustainable economic and cultural benefits for all.

The future is looking bright for the Celtic peoples of New Brunswick!



Reformed Presbyterian Rev. Alexander Robinson

Early success—rupture—weakened ministry

by Eldon Hay

W.M. Burns fine book, *A History and Story of Botsford* (1933), 93, says it briefly. 'In 1855 Rev. Alexander Robinson, lately of Philadelphia, but formerly of the North of Ireland was called to the Pastorate of the Reformed Presbyterian [RP] Church of Little Shemogue and Port Elgin. In 1863 he resigned his charge, but continued to live at Murray Corner, where he purchased a large and valuable farm. His family consisted of five sons .. and three daughters..... The farm is now owned and occupied by Walter Spence, a grandson of the Rev. Alex Robinson. Mr. Robinson and his wife were buried in the old church-yard at Murray Corner.'

It is not known where Robinson was born in Ireland, though the year was 1819. Later he married there, coming to Philadelphia in 1849.

Already an RP, he studied for the ministry, and was ordained in New York. When they came to NB, Rev. Alexander and Marianna Robinson were already parents. Robinson worked diligently - an able assistant of the pioneer patriarch, Rev. Alexander Clarke, who lived in Amherst. Robinson became the first resident RP minister in Westmorland, NB. Robinson laboured faithfully and his efforts were initially successful. Witness the large Communion service at Little Shemogue at the end of August, 1856. Clarke was enthusiastic about the event:

"Since the year '31, when the Supper was first dispensed there, we have many times enjoyed much of the Divine goodness on communion occasions. But never before, neither there, nor on any other such occasion, have we seen and felt as we did."

The person chiefly responsible for the large crowd, thirty-three new

members, six adult baptisms and a number of infant baptisms, was Alexander Robinson:

"every house, family and individual - saint and sinner - Protestant and Papist, was ferreted out, around and along an extensive range, and freely and faithfully dealt with about matters of life and death."

Robinson also demonstrated considerable energy in extending the Port Elgin mission station. Having been ordained in New York, Robinson was duly installed as pastor at Little Shemogue and Port Elgin. In March 1857 a new church was opened in Port Elgin. Robinson presiding at the dedication. From 1856 until the early 1860s, all went well. Rev. Alexander Robinson was a younger trusted colleague of the pioneer, Alexander Clarke.

In the early 1860s, however, Robinson got into difficulties in Little Shemogue. He either caused or provoked a fama clamosa - literally "a clamorous, scandalous report," or breach of moral discipline: The contents of the fama clamosa or scandalous report were then made clear: "At the desire of the Rev. Alex Robinson & also in compliance with the action of [Eastern] Presbytery at its last meeting, the following libel against Mr. Robinson was presented, 10 July 1860:

Whereas familiarity with female servants of such a nature as to give reason to imagine is injurious to your standing as a minister, the specifications of the charge against you, are, that in the month of December 1858 you were found in your stable scuffling with your servant girl Ellen McGinnis. In the month of January 1859 you were



*Marianna and
Rev. Alexander Robinson*

seen in your stable with the said Ellen McGinnis between two cows you having your arm upon her shoulders talking. And again, in the same year & about the same time a noise of scuffling was heard in your stable and you were seen scuffling with the said Ellen McGinnis. And lastly, on or about the 10th of January last you were seen crouched down beside Elizabeth Niles. your servant girl, who was in the position of milking & you had your arm lying upon her bosom. With all this you are charged, and an opportunity is now afforded of presenting your defence if any such you have to make."

Robinson was being accused of sexual congress or sexual impropriety, though there were no witnesses who testified.

(...cont'd)...

Rev. Alexander Robinson (cont'd)

"After a long & most minute examination" by various members of presbytery, it was determined "that

inasmuch as nothing really affecting the moral character of Mr. Robinson has been advanced by the witnesses" therefore the presbytery unanimously resolved "that a certificate of character be given to Mr. Robinson, that he may consistently with the dignity of the Christian profession exercise the office of the ministry in whatever places the providence of God may hereafter call him." In short, it was indicated that Robinson would shortly be given a character reference to move to a different RP congregation in another presbytery.

By the time of the next presbytery meeting, however, the situation had altered. Robinson was not present; although he had applied to the clerk for a certificate of character and standing, but was refused because since the last meeting a criminal prosecution had been instituted against him. Presbytery deferred the matter of the certificate, while the attitude of its members (chief of whom was Alexander Clarke) towards Robinson steadily hardened; and he was suspended from exercise of the pastoral ministry (20 Jul 1863). Later, the criminal charge faltered and failed.

The scandal caused a protracted three-way struggle among the Eastern Presbytery, the General Synod and Rev. Robinson, which continued intermittently until Robinson's death in 1886. The situation was exacerbated

by poor communication between the two church courts, presbyterial and synodical, and irregular attendance at Synod by Eastern Presbytery delegates.

Alexander Clarke led the Eastern Presbytery in wanting the General Synod to decide the issue, because of the presbytery's "numerical weakness and especially because of the complicated character of the evidence." The General Synod's Committee on Discipline kept urging the Eastern Presbytery itself to decide the issue, presumably because it was geographically closer to the locus of contention, and because of the often inadequate documentation.

Robinson, who had bought a farm soon after he came to Little Shemogue, lived and laboured for thirty years in the area. He and his Irish-born wife raised a large family in difficult financial circumstances. He was caught - neither finally expelled by nor fully readmitted to the Reformed Presbyterian Church. For the last quarter century of his life Robinson was an increasingly angered, embittered and isolated man. In his own commonplace-book, entry for 21 September 1882, Robinson writes: "In truth I must confess that the last 25 years have been years of great bodily toil and much trouble of mind. I have been encumbered with a heavy debt, and a large helpless family." Robinson died in November 1886. The Chignecto Post gave the details. "Alexander Robinson, of Murray Corner, parish of Botsford, was found dead in his carriage at his door at eleven o'clock on

Friday evening, 10th instant. Deceased was a native of Ireland; came to Philadelphia when a young man, studied for the ministry, and in the summer of 1855 was sent out by Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church to take charge of the Shemogue congregation, where he labored for a number of years successfully. He leaves a large family to mourn his untimely end."

A fellow RP colleague added this note in a church paper: "It might be added that at the time of his death Mr. Robinson was under suspension by his Presbytery. He seemed to feel deeply his position, but from some cause or other he appeared never to be able to reach that plane of Christian and ministerial standing that would have given his brethren confidence in his ministerial usefulness. He was a man of considerable ability, and when he entered the ministry his preaching was not without acceptance. Our hope is that his trials and discipline were sanctified to him, and although his death was sudden, that he was not hurried away without previous reflections on the necessity of preparation for the better world."

It is noteworthy that Clarke and Robinson, initially friends, then for many years antagonists, should be honoured on the same memorial cairn in the present-day Pioneer Cemetery at Murray Corner. That story has already been told: "Refurbished Clarke-Robinson Cairn Rededicated at Murray Corner," Shamrock Leaf, December 2011.



How's that again??? Okay—it's reasonable that most of us don't understand Irish Gaelic but how about when they're speaking English?? Here's a couple of expressions to get you started*:

1. **"Sure, look it"** - Rule number one for speaking like an Irish person: "Aw, sure look it" is an acceptable response for any question, statement, or comment. What does it mean? God only knows! But if ever you find yourself in a situation where you're not sure what to say, just go "sure look it" and you'll fit in just fine.
In use: "Isn't it lovely weather we're having?" "Aw, sure look it."
2. **"Pint of Gat"** - A "pint of Gat" is another name for Guinness. On that note, when drinking Guinness, look towards the horizon so you don't drink the head. And if someone asks if it's good Gat, and you're not sure how to judge it, simply respond with "sure look it."
In use: "Give me two pints of Gat and a bottle of Bulmers."

* from "35 Irish sayings and phrases you need to learn before you visit" by Mark Farrelly at irishcentral.com

Peig Sayers—from:

PEIG

A battle that never happened

(1936)

(translated from Irish by Declan Kiberd)

A rumour went out across the community at that time that Maurice Ferriter in the upper townland was to be evicted from his piece of farm on the following week. That was the time when the people of Corca Dhuibhne stood up for their rights. Thomas Martin of the Black Fields was Captain of the Land League and whatever he decreed was done by all the boys. For that reason, they were well advised by him as to what they should do on the evil day.

Never had there been such hue and cry, nor such commotion, in the parish of Ballyferriter as there was on the date ordained by the bailiffs for the dispossession of Maurice. Any man, young or old, who could grip any kind of weapon, was proceeding to the spot decided upon by Captain Martin.

I well remember how, around mid-day, the master closed the school door, and any among us who burned with ardour went eastwards on foot to the Red Hill, from

which we had a good view of the crowds.

Even though we were not beside them and didn't know quite what they were up to, we saw a terrifying sight—hundreds of men, young and old, each with a weapon on his shoulder. Those without pikes had hoes or poles or many other implements that looked quite destructive.

After that, I heard people say that were it not for the parish priest, who brokered a truce, nobody could have known what might have happened, for when the foreign army arrived—police, sheriff and bailiff—somebody fired a missile at them. No sooner had that happened than the foreign captain gave his men the order to do mischief.

If he did, Captain Martin gave an order to his own men.

'Fix bayonets!' said the foreign captain, 'Fix pikes, boys!', said the Gaelic captain. No sooner was that said than hundreds of pikes and poles were in the air, but the parish priest arrived and immediately

made a peace.

My strong opinion is that the foreign army would never have gotten safely away, because some of Martin's men had dug deep trenches in the roadway. But my sadness and my ruin! The takers of bribes are always in our midst, and will be forever. A lump of money had gone to some man who spied for the foreign army who warned it not to return by the road on which it had come, but to take a different route because the way before them was mined with trenches.

The police affected unconcern and went back by this different way. It's well for them that they did, for the Gaels had worked out a strategy that, once they trapped the foreign army, they would fall upon it from the rear. It's likely there would have been a horrific battle. It was better that things turned out as told. At any rate, nobody lay dead or injured afterwards.



Peig Sayers was born in Dún Chaoin, County Kerry, in 1873. Her early memories were of charismatic local leaders of the Land League, some of whom fled to the United States on the run from crown forces. She was a gifted storyteller, whose memories were eventually written down by her son. Without a dowry, she married a farmer from the Blasket Islands, whose austere life of 'thuas seal, thias seal' (good times, bad times) she chronicled with a vivid wit tempered only by the conviction that 'the old life will soon be gone'. She was right. By the time she died in Dingle in 1958, the Blasket was quite empty. But her book, *Peig*, a set text for schoolchildren, gave her a strange kind of immortality. Seán Ó Súilleabháin, the former archivist for the Irish Folklore Commission, described her as "one of the greatest woman storytellers of recent times".

The above article was taken from: Handbook of the Irish Revival—an anthology of Irish cultural and political writings 1891—1922 edited by Declan Kiberd and P.J. Mathews.

Grand-Anse museum repurposed to serve our cultural communities

Old Papal museum now features heritage of New Brunswick's founding cultures

After 30 years of operation, the Popes' Museum of Grand-Anse closed its doors in 2015, mostly due to declining numbers of visitors. Recognising the unique position of their region, which has representatives from all New Brunswick's founding cultures, a small group of individuals came together to redefine the museum as a showcase of the culture and heritage from First Nations, Scots, Irish, British and Acadian.

Here, the volunteer responsible for putting together the Irish exhibit discusses her involvement, and the amount of work involved. She also takes the time to voice the need for the Irish community to play their part through contributions of Irish artifacts, family histories, photos and reminiscences.

Founding Cultures Museum

The presentation of the Irish Room at the Founding Cultures Museum has been a labour of love for me this summer. I am presenting our history with three timelines. First- the world, second- Ireland and third- New Brunswick. This seems to be a clear picture of the cause and effect of world events that influenced Irish people and eventually led to our presence in New Brunswick. It is a huge learning curve for me as I am no expert in history. I am constantly reading and researching. I am passionate about what I am doing. Materials must be trimmed to stay focussed on N.B. since Irish people are found in many parts of the world. Symbols and maps are displayed and explained in the glass cases and on the walls.

My brother, Greg, has summaries of local history that I am using. Artifacts from Bonnie Ellis and my brother, John Riordon, along with my own objects, have made a meagre but adequate display for the first year. My husband, Allan Barry, prepared background music that plays quietly for mood in the room. Employees at the NB Archives have been helpful and we are trying to obtain their exhibits for display. Glenn Hillock, Regina Whelton and Corinne Coombs have been inspirations for me...with their stories. I

was fortunate to acquire Hilarion Coughlan's history notes. Elenora Glidden has given me information of Irish life and arrivals in Pokemouche. Judy Barry and Dorothy Wilbur Constable have given me binders and binders of genealogy notes and lots of encouragement. I will soon approach folks from 'up along' (New Bandon, Stonehaven, Clifton...) for their old stories.

With help of museum summer employees, we have printed and displayed family crests of Irish names in the Pokeshaw and Pokemouche regions. Many Irish names have disappeared in these areas. I have done presentations to several tourists and to some local town councils. The Caraquet mayor and council were most interested. They told me they had no idea about the Irish story. They appreciated knowing the situations our ancestors were in and they had lots of questions--some that I could not answer, of course.

I believe that this Museum is extremely important for the education of all. In knowing about ourselves and others we can be open and understanding. It would be nice if we had the displays ready for June, 2017 so that school groups could attend. New Brunswickers deserve to be educated about our

past so that we can make important decisions for our future. Gaston Hachey is always ready to assist in the overall Museum success. I would be delighted to have help with this display. Information, documents, books, maps, stories, photos, and help on-site would all be appreciated. I am only one volunteer. Imagine what we could present with many helping! Our ancestors worked hard to develop New Brunswick and we owe it to them to tell their stories, don't we?

Although I have more contacts in the North shore we need Irish summaries from Miramichi, Saint John, St Andrews, Melrose, Petitcodiac, etc. Refer me to already prepared community histories, if you have some.

Money is needed to photocopy, laminate, print and make proper displays (my ribbon timelines and little paper dates won't cut it!) and not everyone will put time and effort into a project for free. There is lots of work to be done. (The museum will be looking for a bilingual director to work and supervise students.)

To volunteer time or resources, contact me at: riordon-barry@gmail.com if you can contribute or help in ANY way.

Go raibh maith agat,
Mary Anne Riordon Barry



Irish mass followed by visit to new museum

by Frances Connell

An Irish Mass was celebrated at the parish church in Grand-Anse on Sunday, August 7, 2016.

It was well attended by descendants of the many Irish who landed on the north eastern shores of New Brunswick during times of trouble in Ireland.



After the Mass everyone visited the Irish Room at the newly opened Museum of Culture. Mary Anne Riordan Barry gave an excellent presentation on the history of Irish settlement in the region. She is working hard to make the Irish Room a repository of Knowledge about Irish settlement in the area. It is well worth a visit.

All the pictures are from Grand-Anse church and cemetery where many Irish are buried.

From 1816 onward the Irish pioneers cleared the land, built dwellings, cut out trails in the woods and made passages down the cliffs. They fished, farmed and lumbered to survive and to support their large families.

The celebrant of the Mass was Father Ferguson from Bathurst. The Knights of Columbus attended and formed an honour guard. The choir comprised of members of the Riordan family sang a selection of Irish music.



**Irish Canadian
Cultural Association
Of New Brunswick**

Website:
www.newirelandnb.ca



Bathurst Chapter happenings

by Pat Murphy

The person selected for the Bathurst Chapter, ICCA, bursary this year was Hanna Curtis. Hanna is the daughter of Tracy Culligan/O'Rourke and granddaughter of Ann and Don Culligan. Hanna will be attending St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia.



Bursary winner, Hanna Curtis, receiving cheque from Connie Whalen

On August 7th many members attended a mass and Celtic gathering at the Founding Cultures Museum in Grande Anse. Everyone had the opportunity to visit the Irish Culture room in the Museum and see the wonderful Irish display setup by member Mary Ann Riordon/Barry. Great job Mary Ann. (Note: You can read Mary Ann's article on the Irish room at the Museum in this edition of the Shamrock Leaf). If you think you might be interested in taking part in this project you can contact Pat Murphy, murpaw@nbnet.nb.ca or by phone at 546-9986, also Mary Ann Riordon/Barry at riordon-barry@gmail.com.



*Founding Cultures Museum
Grande Anse*

The annual corn boil was held at the Pokeshaw Rec. center on Sunday, September 11th and had over fifty of our members participate. The entertainment was provided by Marie Grant, Ryan Riordon, Shaughnessy, Caitlin, Sinead, and Reilly Riordon. Thank you to the entertainers as well as Reba Riordon, Darlene Dempsey, Yvon Fisher, Sean and Betty Murphy, Lorenzo Grant, and Connie and Uriel Whelan. who helped make everything work.

(...cont'd)



Annual corn boil was well-attended

Bathurst Chapter (cont'd)

On October 2nd the Chapter had its fall meeting. This meeting had a presentation by Mary Ann Riordon on the Irish room at the Founding Cultures Museum in Grand Anse, preparations for the Christmas Egg-nog party on Sunday, Nov. 27th, from 2 to 4 pm., and preparations for elections of officers next year.

In February we will be preparing for our next St. Patrick's supper.

Hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.




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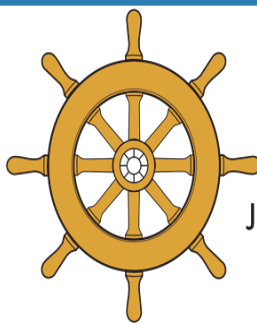
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Patrick Bennett

—the unknown Irish crusader

By David Folster

This article, by the late David Folster, is reprinted, with permission, from *Silhouettes*.— a publication of the Associates of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick.

Spring, 2010 No. 30. The Irish in New Brunswick

In 1831, discerning readers of the *New Brunswick Courier*, in St. John *Brunswick Courier*, in St. John (which is how the city then spelled its name), knew immediately that a rare individual had landed in their midst.

One Patrick Bennett, lately arrived from Ireland, via St. Andrews, N.B., advertised that he could teach “short hand writing” in four lessons. If he failed to do so, a pupil’s fee of four dollars would be refunded in its entirety. Readers also learned that, before placing his advertisement, Bennett had checked with another teacher of stenography in the city to determine that, in starting this venture, he wouldn’t be harming the latter’s business.

Thus was St. John introduced to a man who would become an earnest and feisty presence in the city for the next half-century, a teacher, public debater, publisher, journalist, and champion of the Irish immigrant. And yet his story, ultimately tragic, is essentially unknown today.

Denis Noel, who heads the sound and moving images section of the Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, first encountered Bennett’s name more than a decade ago. The newspaper advertisement placed by this “professor of stenography,” and especially its generous provisions, so intrigued him that he has spent a dozen years researching Bennett in his spare time.

What has emerged is the sense of a man who, more than anything, sought to be a crusading journalist, almost at any cost. “The press,” he believed, “is an engine whose tongue is thunder to the tyrant, and a most powerful instrument for constitutional liberty.” Nothing deterred him in a land he perceived to be well stocked with tyrants, and in which personal liberties were regularly trampled upon.

Bennett started, in 1836, with *The Irishman*, a weekly newspaper aimed at St. John’s Irish population but hoping for a wider audience; he thought his gentle, written sketches of the homeland could help overcome anti-Irish prejudice in the city. But both *The Irishman* and a local literary magazine he started were gone within a year.

In the early 1840s, Bennett launched the *Liberator and Irish Advocate*, which was said to be anti-Catholic, although it was sometimes hard to tell on which side of the sectarian fence he stood. Years later, when he was being regularly admitted to the Saint John Alms House, Bennett first listed his religion as Protestant and, later, as Roman Catholic. He nonetheless managed, in 1845, to get himself convicted for libeling three men and was fined 25 pounds.

By 1847, his newspaper had become the *True Liberator*, and Bennett himself had rounded into top form. Within sight of the city was Partridge Island, where thousands of Irish immigrants were quarantined under horrible conditions.

He attacked those responsible. “Why are they deaf to the voice of humanity, and to the language which, in dying groans, portrays the suffering of human beings, buffeted by adversity and at the mercy of the stranger?”

There was apparent corruption, notably with the operator of the single boat plying between the island and the mainland. His craft was “always laden with provisions, sold at nearly double price to unfortunate creatures famishing with unutterable privations”. The man was a Shylock “making his fortune from a people plunged in the lowest abyss of earthly misery”.

Reprinting some of Bennett’s journalism a quarter-century later, another St. John paper, the *New Dominion and True Humorist*, said he was not only the most polished newspaper writer in New Brunswick but also one “as outspoken and fearless as he was brilliant”.

But not invincible. In 1848, he and his wife Jane suffered a terrible personal blow when their four-year old son, Thomas Edward, died. The Bennetts had had their share of hardships, including what was surely a hand-to-mouth existence, and Jane had once been attacked and beaten by four men. But the loss of their only child was more than they could handle.

Patrick’s descent did not begin immediately, but he eventually began turning up drunk in public places, for which he was fined and sent to the gaol. In one court appearance, the magistrate told him: “I am sorry to see you here again.”

(...cont’d)

Patrick Bennett (cont'd)

“And I am sorry, too”, Bennett replied. “I cannot find words to express the remorse I feel at having yielded to temptation again. . . . I am sorry to say that when under the influence of these paroxysms, which seize me periodically, I lose all control of myself, and allow the passion for drink to master me; that is the weak point of my character. Yet, on reviewing my life, I can say that it has not been idle; that I have not been a barren fig tree.”

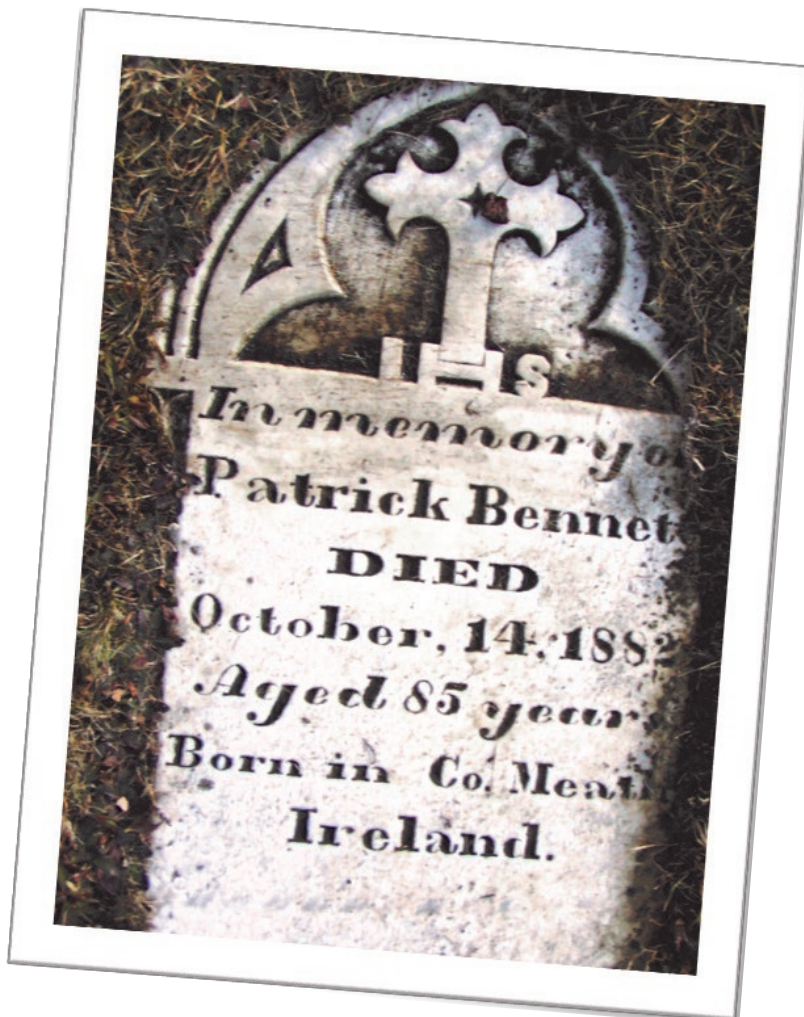
The magistrate fined Bennett, then paid the fine himself.

For all the admiration he held within the community, Bennett was, beginning in the mid-1860s, a regular return tenant at the Alms House. He died there in 1882, at the age of 85.

Another sympathizer, Thomas Furlong, a local wine merchant and liquor importer, gave money so that his grave in the Catholic Cemetery might be marked with a tablet of Italian marble.

Though it didn't make it to his headstone, Bennett had already written his epitaph in a poem he wrote years before during one of his stays at the Alms House:

“A Pedagogue by choice or fate,
Or some rash oath that fortune swore;
I show that little golden gate,
That opens to the fields of lore,
The [soft] retentive mind of youth,
With lofty principle I line;
Connecting tender thoughts with truth,
This noble ill paid task is mine.”



Patrick Bennett's headstone in the Catholic Cemetery,
Saint John, New Brunswick



NOTICE: Mark your calendars!

After a brief hiatus, the **Gathering in Gagetown** will once again be taking place in August of 2017. Plans are underway for a wonderful Irish weekend and more details will follow in our June edition. For now, here are the logistics so you can reserve the date on your busy summer schedule:

***Gathering in Gagetown
August 19th and 20th of 2017
Music, Heritage, Food and Fun
Plan to join us!!***

Looking back —stories from the Shamrock Leaf

by Bruce Driscoll

Sitting in our Irish room, Saturday, November 12th, it once again humbled me that I really know very little of the history of the ICCANB. I don't mean its founding and purpose, I mean its growth and development, its accomplishments and its outreach. Luckily our Chapter has collected almost a complete set Shamrock Leafs, and I often read them, cover to cover.

In doing that very thing today, I read Editions 29 (Nov. 1998) and 30 (May 1999), edited by the indomitable Linda Evans, with President's messages from Bill Brenan, still an active member in Saint John. Since Marilyn and I have only been Association members for 13 years, we often find ourselves listening carefully as Denis Noel or Mary O'Leary May or Uriel Whalen or Farrell McCarthy tell stories of great events and momentous successes of the people who have carved a role for the Irish of our Province.

Let me take you back 18 years, just before Y2K, to some of the things that were happening then.

In early July, 1998, Chief Justice William Hoyt, originally from Saint John, but resident in Fredericton, had just started his role with the "Bloody Sunday" inquiry. The final report was released on June 15th, 2010. An interesting note is that Justice Hoyt was called to the Bar of New Brunswick in 1957 and joined the Fredericton firm of *Limerick and Limerick*.

In the fall of 1998, then-President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, laid a wreath at the Celtic Cross in St. Patrick's Square in Saint John, in sight of, and in memory of, Partridge Island. She also planted an Irish oak tree on the campus of UNBSJ. In the fall of 2015, Heather Humphreys, TD, Irish Minister of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltach, laid a wreath at the foot of the same cross. She presented a plaque honouring Saint John as that year's International Famine Commemoration site; a solemn and heart-felt recognition by the people of Ireland of Saint John's place in the history of their country.

Also in the November 1998 issue, there was an article about Peter Douglas Murphy receiving the Governor General's Medal at St. Mary's University. His Master's thesis was entitled 'Poor Ignorant Children: A Great Resource – The Saint John Emigrant Orphan Asylum Admittance Ledger in Context.' Peter is originally from Saint John and is well known to the ICCANB for his work.

Two other articles are worthy of note. One is about the plan to rebuild the Jeanie Johnston in Tralee, which did happen and the new ship visited New Brunswick. The original Jeanie Johnston was built in Quebec City, and visited St. Andrews, NB, in 1853. The second article is by Linda Evans and is entitled: "The Irish Association: we've done a lot!" Linda reflects on what has been accomplished during the previous 15 years, including the creation of the Shamrock Leaf.



(...cont'd)

Looking back *(cont'd)* —stories from the Shamrock Leaf

In the May, 1999 issue, I think the first article of importance is the notice that Farrell McCarthy will be honoured with the title of “President Emeritus” of the ICCANB, a title he greatly deserved and still carries well. The second thing that stands out is the decision by the Westmorland-Albert-Kent Chapter to fundraise to erect a Celtic Cross in Moncton. In fact, as this issue went to press, the architectural drawings were done (by artist Warren Schella), and tenders were going out shortly.

In the section on books, under “Irish New Brunswick,” there can be found “Michael Whalen, Folk Poet of Renous River” by Michael O. Nowlan; “An Honourable Independence, the Irish Catholic Settlers of Johnville,” by William Patrick Kilfoil and Mary Kilfoil McDevitt; and “Together in Exile, From Ireland to Saint John, NB,” by Peter D. Murphy. What stands out for me is that these 3 books and their authors were, and still are, integral parts of Irish heritage and culture for this province.

Another fine article in this issue is by Cecile Lepage, and it highlights “Denis Noel: Irish history enthusiast.” This is a very clear and simple title about a very complex and interesting man, and one whose contributions during his time at the Provincial Archives resonate through the travelling exhibits we all know, and the online presence of “the Irish Portal.”

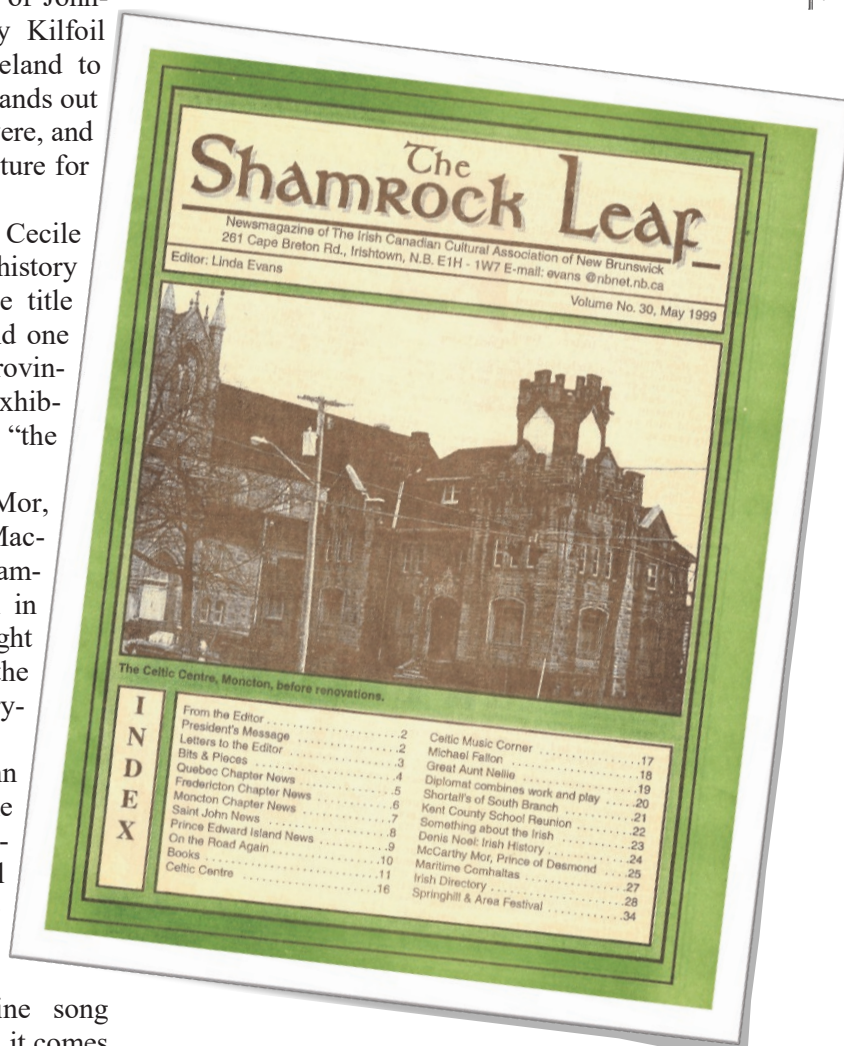
I also found out that the MacCarthy Mor, Prince of Desmond, Terence Francis Justin MacCarthy, was coming to attend the MacCarthy family reunion at the Irish festival in Miramichi in July 1999. As a Driscoll (O’Driscoll) I might have lain in wait for him, but I suspect that the hand of Marven McCarthy was keeping everything well looked after that summer.

16 members of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann from Saint John and Halifax were off to the 1999 North American Convention in Parsippany, New Jersey. Shirley and Bryce Neill were two of the attendees, so I’m sure everyone enjoyed themselves.

And last, I found in this issue that our Editor, Linda Evans, had reprinted the famine song “Skibbereen,” perhaps better known in the area it comes from as “Revenge For Skibbereen.” Marilyn and I have had the good fortune over the past 16 years to have

heard it sung by musicians in the area, and it never fails to inspire strong emotions among our friends over there.

Complete sets of the shamrock Leaf can be found in the Irish Room in the Gibson Memorial United Church Hall, 2nd floor, 183 Gibson Street, Fredericton North, and in the Irish Room located at the Thomas Williams House on Park Street in Moncton. Drop in some time and have a look through them. Check with the Capital Area Chapter and the Westmorland/Albert/Kent Chapters (see back page for contacts) to find opening days and times.



Maritime Connections

In the long history of the Shamrock Leaf, occasions have arisen when articles of interest to the Irish community, but not directly related to New Brunswick, have found a home. Here is one such story.

A tip of the hat from the great John L.

Editor



FISTICUFFS FIGHTING PRESENTS

BOXING

JOHN THE "BOSTON STRONG BOY"
SULLIVAN
FROM: BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

VS.

"CAPTAIN" JAMES
DALTON
FROM: CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

TWENTY ROUNDS - STRAIGHT RULES
AT THE
BOSTON ARENA
FRIDAY EVENING AUGUST 13, 1858

POPULAR PRICES - GENERAL ADMISSION \$1.00
RESERVED SEATS \$2.00 \$3.00 \$5.00
BOX SEATS \$5.00

Please post in conspicuous place.

John L. Sullivan is generally considered the first great American heavy-weight boxing champion and the last heavyweight bare-knuckles champion. John Lawrence Sullivan was born in 1858 in the South End neighborhood of Boston to Irish immigrant parents, Michael Sullivan from Abbeydorney, County Kerry and the former Catherine Kelly from Athlone, County Westmeath, both refugees from the Great Famine.

Although he finished school and went to commercial college to learn a trade, he remained interested in sports. His nickname as a boxer was "*The Boston Strongboy*", and he boxed across the USA from 1879 until 1892; boxing in France and Wales toward the end of his career. He passed away at 59, in poor health and nearly broke. He was one of the original inductees to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1990, certainly a significant recognition of his place in the history of pugilism. Information on John L.'s career is readily available online and in sports literature, but this story is much less well-known and is a true Maritime hidden gem.

(...cont'd)

A tip of the hat from the great John L. (cont'd)

The Nova Scotia connection

by Debbie Parrot
Woodville, Nova Scotia

Around the turn of the previous century it was very common for young people of the Maritimes to make their way to the Boston States to find employment and remuneration at a higher rate than at home. Such was the case for my great-grandfather Nelson Beckwith Morton and his friend Arthur Robinson. Arthur was from Black Rock and my grandfather, Nelson, from a farm in Somerset, both in Kings County, Nova Scotia. Born in 1868, Nelson was one of twelve children, all of whom survived into adulthood. By the late 1800's, he was living in Boston with his wife Hannah Jane MacMillan. Their only child, my paternal grandmother, Clara Evelyn was born in Boston January 7, 1894.

Arthur and Nelson were not highly educated men. They worked together cutting ice on the lakes of New Hampshire in the winter, and delivering the ice to bars and restaurants in Boston by horse and wagon the rest of the year. In the years prior to refrigeration, this was big business. It is in a Boston bar that this story begins.

Arthur Robinson was bringing in large blocks of ice to a Boston bar when John L. Sullivan, a pugilist by nature, along with an entourage of men, were picking a fight with another man at the bar. As a prelude to the fight, Sullivan needed a place to lay down his silk top hat, so he yelled out, "Iceman, wear my hat!". He slid his hat down the length of the bar to Arthur Robinson. The barman told Arthur he better not incur the wrath of John L. Sullivan, so Arthur put the hat on his head as he continued to bring the ice into the bar.

Whether John L. won or lost the fight, we do not know, but when Arthur was finished with the ice, he was about to lay the hat back down on the bar when John L. Sullivan said, "Iceman! That hat will look splendid in an ice wagon going down the streets of Boston. Iceman, wear my hat home!"

Arthur Robinson did as he was told. He later gave the hat to my great-grandfather Nelson who sent it to his brother Wrenn Morton back in Nova Scotia, to keep until his return. Nelson and his family returned to Berwick, Nova Scotia about 1910. As a consequence of these events, our family has the tall silk hat that once belonged to John L. Sullivan.



Capital Area Chapter

- Irish Room has lots of interesting material. You don't need to be an Irish Association member to borrow from our library

by Bruce Driscoll

Rather than do a run-down of chapter activities over the past 6 months, I want to extend a thank you to our chapter members and executive for their work and support. As we look forward, the next 6 months promise to be busy, especially Heritage Week in February and St. Patrick's Week activities in March, 2017.

I want to remind members that memberships for 2017 are due, so keep that in mind.

For this report though, I am highlighting, in photos, the great resource we have created with our Irish Lending Library and Research Room. We are very fortunate to have found a great space and, thanks to a grant from the Irish Embassy, we are able to pay for our location. Free spaces in Fredericton don't really exist, which I suspect is true of most communities. Our materials come from a variety of sources, mostly our members, but also kind people who know of our room and drop things of interest off, and the Embassy itself through recently retired Ambassador Dr. Ray Bassett.

Enjoy the pictures and if you are in Fredericton and want to see the room, we are open on Thursdays and Saturdays from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm, or give me a call at 357-8283 and I'll try and take you in. The location is Gibson Memorial United Church, 183 Gibson Street, on the north side of Fredericton, second floor, using the rear entrance.

View from our doorway



Fiction and Non-fiction section

Come on in for a visit and maybe leave with a library card and a selection of Irish-related books and materials to borrow for a little while. We're sure you'll find something you'd like!

Capital Area Chapter (cont'd)



Close up of Celtic stitch pattern



Upper left: computer research corner

Lower left: quilt created and donated by Jean Burt with Celtic stitch patterns in each square

Above: Section of our research materials

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<http://dolanspub.ca>

From the Provincial Archives

Irish historians in New Brunswick have long recognised the relationships that developed between the province's early Acadian families and the Irish immigrants. They shared a religion and a common set of beliefs. The Acadians did much to help the early Irish settlers become accustomed to a new land under sometimes very difficult circumstances. Thus was planted the seed that would grow to a common appreciation of each others' cultures and would see partnerships and marriages between the two groups, further linking the two groups forever.

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick houses many such stories, one of which is introduced here. The Archives' **MC1729 Valentine Gibbs Fonds** is a collection of letters, covering the period 1832 to 1840, to one such Irish immigrant from his fellow immigrants and his friends and relations back home. Together, these letters provide a glimpse into Gibbs' connections and the circumstances of their lives at the time. **NOTE:** *The letters are transcribed as written—spelling and grammatical errors included.*

Biography of Valentine Gibbs

Valentine Gibbs was born about 1787 in County Kilkenny, Ireland. He emigrated to the Miramichi area of New Brunswick, probably with his parents, eventually settling at Lower Pokemouche in Gloucester County by 1820. On 15 January 1827 he married Isabelle Arseneau, the daughter of Hélène Robichaud and Etienne Arseneau, and they had no fewer than 11 children: Marie (McGraw), Brigitte (Robichaud), William, Valentin (died in infancy), Marguerite, Valentine, Hélène, Elisabeth, Michel, Julie, and Marianne.

Valentine Gibbs, Sr., was engaged in farming and lumbering. He was instrumental in the establishment of the Gloucester County Agricultural Society, and prominent in the Gloucester militia, serving as captain in the 2nd battalion until his death. He died at Pokemouche on 16 September 1847 of "immigrant fever," which he contracted while assisting newly-arrived Irish immigrants.

Several of Valentine's sons were also engaged in farming. In 1861 sons Valentine and William and daughters, Margaret, Elizabeth (Betsy) and Hélène were living in the parish of Inkerman, Gloucester County. Valentine and Margaret resided with Charles Robichaud and his family, and Elizabeth (Betsy) and Hélène were living with brother William and his wife, Judy. Several of Valentine, Sr.'s children -- Brigitte, Elizabeth, Valentin, and Michel -- married into the Robichaud family.

Source:

Dictionnaire Biographique du Nord-Est du Nouveau-Brunswick, La Revue d'Histoire de la Société Historique Nicolas-Denys, Vol. XXIII, no. 1

1832

Mr. John Slack
Tavern Keeper
Chatham
to be forwarded to Mr Valentine Gibbs
in your Vicinity or on the Coast Elsewhere

St Peters August 3th 1832

Dear and Loving Cousin,

I send this as a silent Messenger. Hoping it may meet you and the rest of my country men in as Perfect State of health, in those frozen of North America at present as this leaves me, the Almighty be praised for Kind Benefits

Dear Valentine,

I happened to leave that Soil of your Birth Last April five years and Came to St Johns, Newfoundland, and am back and forth from there to this Island Called Prince Edwards ever since, the first Winter I came To this Island, I happened

(...cont'd)

From the Provincial Archives

- Valentine Gibbs (cont'd)

to [Settle Myself] In this Vicinity Called Peters where I can See every Day hundreds of my fellow countrymen all around me which was a great Consolation to me being a poor youngster from Old Erin Lately. Dear Cousin, its little I thought last fall that ever I would Speak a word to any mortal being in the world any more. I happened to go from this neighbourhood this spring, twelve months to Newfoundland and Spend that Summer at the fishery. But I being of a notion when I left this Island To come back in the fall and Settle and Take a farm here and spend the remainder of my days in this Little Island, But the Lord Being Pleased to Send a great Disaster in our Way, myself and fellow passengers.

(page2)

It Being Late when we Left St Johns The 19th Day of December our Vessei being Dashed to pieces on the Cape Britian Shore and providence happened that I Came Aliive myself and a good many More and a great many Frozen To Death. I will say no more about it. Dear Cousin, as I happened to have the Fortune that the Almighty spared my life for a longer Day.

Dear Cousin, after being Cast away last fall, I happened to hear from a Neighbouring woman of mine that in Arochat on the Nova Scotia shore, Ann Henery, John Henery's Wife, that She Saw you in that Country Called Mirarnichi and that you were a Credit To the rest of your Country men, which gave me the greatest of Pleasure to hear. Now Dear Cousin, I am to ask one Favour of you To let me know what am I To Do. I hope you let me know whether it would be Better for me to go over to you, to that Place or Settle myself in this Island or move to other Climes, I am Single as yet, don't

like to Settle on a farm. I hope you write to me as soon as possible and let Me know whether I would go over to you or not. This Island is Very Scarce of Money.

(page3)

Valentine your Cousin and mine Catham Martin went to [Nunnery] to the town of Kilkenny and died after twelve months and was Very much regreted by all who knew her.

N B Direct your letter to Mr Michael Mullallly St Peters Cross roads Kings County Parish of St. Andrews PE.I To Be Forwarded To Salvester Dooly of Said Island

So No More at Present

From your Loving Cousin

Salvester Dooly

Farewell

1835

For Mr Valentine Gibbs

Care of

Mr. James White

Chatham Street

Mirimichi

New Brunswick

(Stamp Bermuda 1836)

St George's Bermuda, Dec^r 21 1835

My Dear Cousin,

You will no doubt be surprised at hearing from me, from this place, but when I explain to you how I chance to come here, your astonishment will be somewhat abated. I started the 11th of august last from Savannah in the State of georgia in the American Ship Sarah and Arsillia for Liverpool for the purpose of visiting the land of my nativity & seeing my sisters (as I am left destitute of real Brothers) I arrived in Liverpool the 12th of Sept^r last and went from there

(...cont'd)

From the Provincial Archives

- Valentine Gibbs (cont'd)

over to Ireland and remain^d only three or four weeks there. I saw my sisters and they are very well off. My sister Mary is married to a Mr Cormick above Callan, three miles & my sister Margaret is married to a Mr Robert Grace of Ballymack. I saw your mother and sisters. Your mother is in very delicate health and is very much astonished at your seeming neglect in writing her and she did not think that her son Mich^l, by any means in this world would neglect or forget her so long, so you see the old Lady is very much upset at your inattention to her, as she says. Your sister Margaret says that she thought that she, that lived on one floor with you so long, could not be treated with such carelessness. So you see my dear Cousin

(Page 2)

That you have them all on your back, but they are little aware what a man has to encounter with, in the New World. Ellen and Margaret are conducting a little business in Walking Street and doing tolerably well. Now I must explain to you how I chance to come to this Island.

I rem^d, only 3 or 4 weeks in Ire^l, when I came back to Liverpool and came as Cabin Passenger in the ship I went over in for Liverpool. We started the 20th of Oct^r for New York and in consequence of Strong Westerly wind we could not put in there, tho' we attempted it three weeks, which left us all in a very deplorable state, being without provisions and water. We were put on an allowance of a pint of Water and some little bisquit a day & in consequence of being in such a state, we had to run for this Island & were it not for that providence interfered we would not make this Island & if we were one day longer at sea would all be entirely starved & there were upers of two hundred passengers aboard. I must conclude by wishing you, Mich^l your wife & family, the compliment of the approaching season. Please to write me immediately & direct me to Savannah, State of Georgia, N. America.

I am your affectionate Cousin

Valentine Kennedy

1836

Meremashe

Chatham Post

To James white

For Valentine Gibbs

Chicago August the 16th 1836

Dear Cousin I take this favourable opportunity of writing these few lines to you hoping to find you and Family in as good Health as these leaves me now at Present thanks be to god, not forgetting Michael.

I arrived here yesterday at 4 O Clock in the afternoon and as soon as I came in I would get from 25 to 27 dollars Per Month Risk Board and weather. I was travelling all the time since I parted you and did not arrive untill now in Steamboats, Railroad and Canals and lost a great sum of money to Pay my way since too tedious to mention to you but still I am not sorry for I can shortly Renew myself I hope in the llord.

Cousin, I hope you won't forget What I was saying to you about what I left Mr White to send home. I don't encourage any man to Come here from that Place. The journey is so long and Tedious for I Endangered many difficulties to come myself, but now I am not sorry for I did not come the Right Rout, so any friend or Well Wisher that Wishes to come here let him come by way of Quebec.

[b k] this is the best Place in the Known World for Woman of every description. I am informed a Hired girl can get from 15 to 16 Dollars Per Month or a Woman that can cook can get 20 Dollars Per month. Remember me to all enquiring Friends and well Wishers too Tedious too mention. No more at present From your most Affectionate & Beloved Cousin

Silvester Dooly

N.B. Direct your letter if any to the State of Illinois Cooks County Chicago Post office to the Care of James Lelan of Sd Place for me Silvester Dooly

(...cont'd)

From the Provincial Archives

- Valentine Gibbs (cont'd)

To Piece Butler Meriamiche
North America
To be forwarded to Valentine Gibbs
By private ship
(Stamp Kilkenny No. 2, 1836
(New York Ship dec.20)

Bohertaundish Nov^r. 2nd 1836

My Dear Brother,

I have receiv^d your Letter on the 5th of October and was very Glad to hear that you and your family were in good health as we are all in good health, thanks be to god for it. Your mother is in better health than when I Sent you the last letter. Dear Brother, I gave 4£ 1s 9d to the widow Dooly and though my mother is alive she has [left] the money you sent to Mary. Dear Brother, you mention you are no disgrace to us. No, nor I either, for I have kept myself in the same good character that I left you and I hope in the love and fear of god Dear Brother the Cross I sent you though it was not gold or silver, you have great Indulgence for wearing it and the Lady that sent it to you, She was very Glad you got it and She Says She'll not forget you in her prayers for you. Dear Brother, we are all very Glad how Michl is going on and if he wishes to come home, that he can fall in to his old employment again with M^r Gore and your Brother Thomas is going on well and is always Employed with M^r O Calahan and best of Gentlemen in the City of Kilkenny. Dear Brother, Will^m is going on well with his little ground and is very desirous for the little we hold ourselves for our Support but as for John, he is the Same person Still in his old freaks and no good to us or his Poor Mother

(page 2)

Dear Brother, your Suster Nelly is going on well with the little business in Kilkenny.

I have left her for a little disagreement we has between us and she used me very bad, for she was to give me half the Profit we had in the little dealing, and her husband came home, She deprived me of all and used me very unkind and then I went home to live with me Mother in (this) Country. She expects her husband home now, at Christmas and she receiv^d his monthly wages while away from her. Dear Brother I was determined to take on with little business in Kilkenny but on account of my mother illness, She would not be well plesed without remaining with herself while she lives and I have nothing to depend on but what you gave when I was coming home. If you would take a knowshin to come home, I would be well pleased to go with you again. Dear Brother, I was thinking to put my money to the best advantage. I bought a few heifers and put them on Grass and on account of dryness this Summer, I had no profit by them. Dear Brother Val, I was Glad to hear how Mary and Biddy and will^m was improving. Dear Brother Val, if you are intended to put a headstone over your Father, Send the Price of it in care of Mary or me. I am very Glad to hear that Patt Waters is with you as yet for I for I know you are not leasy but you hate to work.

(page 3)

Dear Val when I think of my parting with you in Miramiche my heart relents with grief for your great kindness to me. I mention tp Patt Waters's mother to write to him as often as I see her and let him know that we buried his sister and Cathy Dooly or Lanigan of Bohertaundish.

I wish let you know that our Summer hear was very dry and cool and the crops [in] a very bad state [] [he] has left

Corn is getting very high at Present Dear Val [I] mention your neighbours and Friends sends there best [respect] myself [] wishing you all sorts of luck and your [mother] in the [] sends you're her Blessing for your good kindness though wishing that god may bless you in all your undertaking.

Your uncle Val 'son would wish to know would you encourage him to go to you for I think he would answer you very well about your farm id Parr Watters would leave you.

I wish you would remember me to Mr McKer and Mr Eagan and to the [them] young students you mention in your letter and likewise remember me in particular to Michael & Bell & the Children and to all enquiring friends of both Classes. No more at present for your Most affectionate Sister

Margaret Gibbs

[Further letters in this series will be included in the next issue of the Shamrock Leaf]

Ed. Note: in answer to an inquiry from the Provincial Archives, in 2005, an Assistant Librarian of Kilkenny County Library responded: "*With reference to the above and your query, Bour-na-Thoundish is not actually a townland, It is actually a road dating back to medieval times. It originally was a route into Kilkenny City from the South-East from Gowran. The meaning is roughly 'Road of the Weak or Infirm'. I have no idea how this name originated. The road is still in use in a minor capacity. It intersects the current ring-road around the City. Your letter probably refers to a house on the road. It is still used as an address.*"

The McGivney family of York County

- New Brunswick's out-migration, Part II Connecting Canadian and American Irish

by Harry McKone

In the June 2015 issue of "The Shamrock Leaf", Linda Evans wrote an article entitled "New Brunswick's out-migration: it's nothing new". That piece encouraged me to assemble information on the out-migration of a distant relative, **Jack McGivney**. Jack was the son of **John McGivney** and **Phoebe McNeil**; John was my great grandfather's brother, which would make Jack my great-great uncle.

Jack, the seventh of eight children, was born in Green Hill, a small community located a few kilometers northeast of Stanley, York County, New Brunswick. Jack's seven siblings lived and died in NB and are all buried in Saint Patrick's Roman Catholic cemetery in Stanley.



John McGivney
(1835-1903)

My interest in Jack began many years ago when I discovered a McGivney tombstone in Stanley's Hillcrest United Church cemetery. When I asked my mother, a McGivney, about finding a McGivney gravestone in a Protestant cemetery, her answer was: "he's no relation to us". Years passed and now, thanks primarily to new information obtained at the New Brunswick Provincial Archives, I am now able to piece together the story of this 'no relation to us' relative.

Jack was born on July 19th, 1873 in Green Hill, the seventh of eight children. There is no record of his early life. However, the 1920 census from Koochiching County, MN stated that a 'Jack McGivney' (47) resided

in International Falls, MN with his wife **Anna** (Erickson), (37) and their four children: **Lawrence**, (11), **Phoebe**, (10), **Margaret** (9) and **Norma** (8). The census further added that Anna was born in Sweden and their four children



Phoebe McNeil
(1840-1910)

at the time were born in Canada. Further investigation showed that one child (Margaret) was born in Chase, BC. According to Wikipedia, Chase is a village located in the Interior of British Columbia and presently has a population of roughly 2,500. Its main industries are forestry and tourism. I have no idea how or why Jack migrated to rural BC or how or where Jack met Anna or why the family eventually migrated to International Falls, a small city on the Rainy River in northern Minnesota directly across from Fort Frances, Ontario. The forestry industry is the common thread that connects rural NB, rural BC and also rural International Falls, MN. Strangely, these old records also indicate that a relatively large "McGivney" clan was already living in Koochiching County when Jack and Anna arrived sometime around 1910. I have not been able to link these two McGivney lines.

The 1940 census states that Jack (67) and Anna (57) were living in International Falls with son, **Lawrence** (32), who is listed as divorced, and another son **Robert** (20). Their daughter **Norma** died in 1927 at the age of 15. Lawrence subsequently married Frances Constantine, a native of Germany, whom he later also divorced. He married again for the third time in 1964 to Eva Caldwell. Little else is known about **Lawrence**, other than that he died in January of 1968 at the age of 59 and is buried in International Falls, Minnesota.

The remaining three children: Phoebe, Margaret and

(...cont'd)

The McGivney family of York County - (cont'd)

Robert led very interesting lives and are primary the reasons for this article.

Phoebe was born in 1910 across the border from International Falls in Fort Francis, Ontario. She married Rev. Alrick H. Olson of Fort Francis on June 15, 1937. Alrick was a well known home missionary for the Mission Covenant Church in Ontario and, for 20 years, was actively ministering to First Nation Communities in the region called "Lake of the Woods", which borders Minnesota,, Ontario and Manitoba. Several local newspaper articles described the social and community activities of Phoebe and Alrik and praised Alrik's sermons as well as his work with Aboriginal people. Alrick died on December 4th 1981 at the age of 84 and Phoebe died on January 3, 1997 at the age of 86. They are both interred in Minneapolis, MN. It appears they had no children.

Robert, their youngest child was born in the US and served in the US Army from 1942-1945 as a Tank Commander in Company C, 81st Tank Battalion of the 5th Armor Division in the European Theatre. He was awarded the Purple Heart having been wounded in combat. After the war, he worked at the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company in International Falls. He married Doris Woodland on October 19, 1946 in Chicago. They eventually settled in Morton Grove Illinois. He died on February 10, 1991 and is buried in Illinois. According to his obituary his survivors included a daughter Virginia A. Bennett of Gig Harbor Washington State, and two sisters: Phoebe Olson of Minneapolis and Margaret McGivney of El Paso, TX.

Margaret McGivney is arguably the most interesting child of Jack and Anna. She was born in Chase, BC, spent her childhood in International Falls, MN and later moved to Chicago to attend the famous Moody Bible Institute. Following her studies, Margaret spent 25 years as a medical missionary in Ecuador under the auspices of The Gospel Missionary Union. This was followed by 10 years as a medical missionary in Mexico. Her work with indigenous people in Ecuador has been described in two books: "Accounting for Fundamentalism: The Dynamic Character of Movements", edited by the late well-known theologian Martin Marty, and also in "New Songs in the Andes", by John Maust. Margaret was a nurse and missionary to the Quichua Indians of Ecuador. Upon her retirement, Margaret moved to El Paso TX. She died in Sauk Rapids MN on August 21, 2000 at the age of 87. She never married.

Returning to Jack's being buried in a rural Protestant New Brunswick cemetery, I found the following:

In 1942, Jack came back to New Brunswick possibly with his wife Anna. He died on September 28th, of that

year near where he was born. An unanswered question is why did Jack return? His death certificate indicated that he had been living in NB for 6 months and had been working as a farmer. It also stated that his death resulted from being 'thrown from a wagon to the ground when his harness broke' and further stated that he was married. A rather large tombstone was erected in his memory at Hillcrest United Cemetery. There are no other names on the tombstone. There is no additional information available at Hillcrest United Church in Stanley.

Anna attended the funeral but returned to Minnesota soon after. Four years later she reappeared in NB to sell a parcel of land in Green Hill to a Mr. Cecil Cornish. That parcel had belonged to her late husband and previously to Jack's parents, John and Phoebe. Anna was listed as a resident of International Falls, MN on the documents.

Anna died in January of 1964 at the age of 81 and is buried in Forest Hill Cemetery in International Falls near the remains of her daughter, Norma. Her son, Lawrence was buried there in 1968.

Jack McGivney followed a different path from his 7 siblings, moving to the frontier of BC in his mid 20's and eventually settling in International Falls MN. Somewhere along the way, he met and married a Swedish immigrant, converted to Protestantism, raised 5 children, two of whom were active Protestant missionaries. Jack's Protestant faith could be the reason my mother never acknowledged his connection to the family. Below is a picture of Jack's tombstone. His wife and children are interred 3,000 km away in Minnesota. His parents as well as his seven siblings are interred about 6 km away in Stanley's St. Patrick's Roman Catholic cemetery.



Miramichi Chapter News

Summer celebrations, bursary winner, music festival, and fiddler extraordinaire—Matilda Murdoch
by Maureen English

On June 12th, 2016, we held our “Spring into Summer” social at St. Margarets Catholic Church Hall. St. Margarets is a VERY Irish community with all its Flynn, Cook, Daley, Quinn, and many more families.

The people welcomed us to their community and we had a lovely afternoon with Bob and Jimmy entertain-

ing us with guitar and song. We had a special guest who played several fiddle numbers – Father John Beaumaster - the parish priest. He has great talent. A second special guest and her husband made a surprise visit—M.L.A. Lisa Harris, Minister of Celtic Affairs and Minister of Seniors and long-term care and her husband, Eugene. I think this was her first public social as the Minister of Celtic Affairs. She gave a short presentation.



The Flynn brothers—Ken & Dave



Father John Beaumaster



Hon. Lisa Harris

In July, of course, we all celebrated at the Irish Festival on the Miramichi. The weather co-operated and a great time with record breaking crowds was experienced. The walking parade was huge with the police escort, the piping band, followed by Pat Finnigan, M.P. for Miramichi – Grand Lake, and his wife, Lise, and the I.C.C.A. Group, then all the representatives of the Irish families proudly displaying their family crests.

The Inishowen/New Brunswick Friendship fiddle was presented to Jansen Blacquier, of Miramichi, at the Opening Ceremonies on Friday evening. Jansen is an eighth-grade student in Miramichi and his fiddle instructor is Ian Craig.

(...cont'd)

Miramichi Chapter News *(cont'd)*



ICCANB Provincial President, Marijke Blok, in the background after presenting the Inishowen Fiddle Award to Jansen Blacquier of Miramichi.

In September, the executive held a meeting to select the recipient of our bursary. This was awarded to Mary Rose Connell of Miramichi, a fourth-year student at Concordia University in Montreal.

Music New Brunswick's Festival 506 was held this past weekend in Miramichi, with some of the top musicians and songwriters in the province being honoured for their work over the year. As a special added feature, a special lady was honoured with a Life-time Achievement Award from Music N.B. Matilda Murdoch, 96-year-old local fiddling legend from Loggieville, was the recipient of this honour. She self-taught herself and began at the early age of 10; she has composed over 200 pieces during her career. Her style of music has been studied in circles throughout North America as well as in the Irish Republic. She has had guest appearances on the Don Messer show. Matilda (Mattie) is an honorary member of the I.C.C.A., Miramichi Chapter. She has been inducted into the Order of Canada and the Order of New Brunswick, and has been acclaimed as being one of the best to ever pick up a fiddle.

Congratulations Mattie.



Bursary winner Mary Rose Connell – followed up on her interest in all things Irish with a visit to Ireland this past fall.



Matilda received the Order of New Brunswick in 2004, the Order of Canada in 2010, and a Life-time Achievement Award from Music New Brunswick in 2016.

The humble Famine Pot

By Mattie Lennon



In 2011 Donegal man, John Cassidy, was strolling on the banks of the Clogher River, in the townland of Cullenboy when he found an old famine-pot, broken in pieces. He had it welded, restored and mounted outside Leghowney Community Hall.

Such was the interest shown by American tourists that I decided to do some research on the whole Famine-pot/Soup-kitchen aspect of the famine.

I found that because of bigotry, pride, misguided patriotism and inherited false information, this aspect of the potato failure was almost air-brushed from our history.

Professor Christine Kinealy of Quinnipiac University explained:

'....when the potato failed for the second time in 1846 a number of Quakers in Ireland, followed by Quakers in England and Quakers in America decided to do something in the way of direct intervention. And they started to fund-raise....'

In November 1846 a Dublin Quaker, Joseph Bewley, wrote to Quakers all over Ireland pointing out the seriousness of the situation. I found from Rob Goodbody's book *'A Suitable Channel, Quaker Relief in the Great*

Famine', that the Quakers brought 294 Famine pots into Ireland in the 1840s.

"The first major shipment of supplies received from Great Britain in February 1847 included a consignment of soup boilers. These were landed at various places along the west coast, the largest number, ten, going to Killybegs. The supply of boilers was greatly enhanced by the donation of no less than fifty-six of them from the Quaker iron manufacturers, Abraham and Alfred Darby of the Coalbrookdale Iron Company."

Over the period of the famine the Quakers supplied pots to twenty-seven counties. At one stage, at Templecrone, County Donegal, there were in operation four famine-pots, being used twice a day to give out 600 gallons of soup at a cost to the local organisers of £2 10s.



Rob Goodbody, with typical Quaker humility, insists that the Quakers weren't the only group to provide relief. But his book gives facts and figures to indicate that their

humanity, generosity and organisational skills saved tens, if not hundreds, of thousands from the mass-grave.

While Donegal was the hardest hit of any County in Ulster there was severe hardship in other parts of the country. Dr Ciaran Reilly of NUI Maynooth points out that the Quakers played a big part in the midlands:



'Without them the number of deaths would have been far greater.'

Dr. Reilly pointed out that as the famine progressed that other people, *'...both Catholic and Protestant'* got involved in the provision of relief and that some of those set out to line their own pockets. Dr Reilly points out that, in the process, those unscrupulous people added ingredients not fit for human consumption to the soup. It was at times described as *'poison'*. The Government didn't want to give food free because they thought it would make people lazy so they set up Public Work Schemes. This involved starving peasants, during the harshest winter for a hundred years, doing heavy manual work, for pennies, building roads *'going*

(...cont'd)

The humble Famine Pot (cont'd)



of cauldrons'.

Father Anthony Gaughan, Historian, told me of how the Presentation Sisters, at their convent in Listowel, fed the starving people of North Kerry during the 1840s. He said:

'So if you are asking about Famine-pots and soup-kitchens you could say they were in the Presentation Con-

vent in Listowel'.

Some famine-pots have survived and can be found in the farms of Ireland. John Cassidy has taken steps to keep this aspect of our history alive. He has arranged to have miniature ceramic famine-pots made.

You can find out more at: www.irishfaminepots.com.

nowhere' and 'famine-walls'.

It didn't work and in 1847 the Government decided to allow more soup-kitchens, modelled on what the Quakers had already done. But, Professor Kinealy says, the Government, '.... hadn't really thought it through'.

Once again the Quakers came to the rescue and brought in 'hundreds



This article was reprinted, with permission, from Michael Green's "Ireland Newsletter", October 2016 issue. You can subscribe to this newsletter through the website at www.ireland-information.com.

Mattie Lennon is one of the Founders of the Irish Famine Pot movement. If you know of any famine pots in Ireland, please do tell the organizers about it at their website. You can also view some of the photos of famine pots that they have learned about at: <http://www.irishfaminepots.com/new-gallery/>

Top ten Irish bar rules:

1. Buying someone a drink is five times better than a handshake.
2. If someone offers to buy you a drink, do not upgrade.
3. Persons drinking a pint of Guinness before it has fully settled will be immediately barred.
4. Anyone on stage or behind the bar is 50% better looking.
5. Telling lies is unacceptable, you may however grossly exaggerate.
6. If there is ever any confusion, the fuller beer is yours.
7. If you hesitate more than three seconds after getting the barman's attention, you do not deserve a drink.
8. If you buy a woman a drink and she refuses, she does not like you.
9. If you buy a woman a drink and she accepts, she still may not like you.
10. Girls hang out, apply make-up and have long talks in the bathroom. Men do not.

Bits & Pieces

by Marilyn Driscoll

The Oscar - That most coveted of pieces of metal was designed by Austin Cedric Gibbons (1893 – 1960), the Irish art director and film production designer in 1928. The design represents a Knight standing on top of a Film Reel gripping a sword.

The colours on the Irish Flag - The Irish flag is not green, white and gold - it is green, white and orange! The orange is quite important to those in Ulster representing as it does the Protestant connection to William of Orange. The Green represents the Gaelic Irish. The white is a place in the middle where the two traditions can co-exist. A very elegant design that was presented to the 'Young Irelander' Thomas Francis Meagher in 1848 by some French women who were sympathetic to the plight of famine-ravaged Ireland at that time. It was not until the 1916 Easter Rising that the flag became universally accepted as the flag of a free Ireland.

Irish college to offer degree in beer brewing

In a sure sign that the niche business of micro-brewing and the manufacture of 'craft beers' is still booming in Ireland, Carlow Institute of Technology is offering a four-year degree course in brewing beer!

The new Bachelor of Science (Honours) Degree programme in Brewing & Distilling reflects the degree to which brewing and distilling have become massive business in Ireland. Over 95% of this niche sectors manufactured output is exported. Currently there are 28 distilleries in Ireland while the number of micro-breweries is expected to soar to as many as 100 by the year 2025.

Dr. Patricia Mulcahy, President of IT Carlow, says the course was: *'designed to support the brewing and distilling industry, which is a key growth sector and one undergoing a major renaissance.'*

That's putting it mildly!

Property Tax time bomb looming large—The revaluation of houses in Ireland that is scheduled to take place in 2019 is set to increase the hated property tax by as much as 150% in some cases.

The Irish property market has recovered much of the ground it lost after the collapse of the market in 2008 that brought down the banks, spiralling the entire Irish economy down the drain, resulting in massive debts to be repaid to the EU, ECB and IMF over the coming decades.

The property tax was introduced in 2013 with home-owners selecting the tax band that applied to their property, based on the value at that time. With property prices increasing it is expected that just about everyone's tax bill will increase dramatically.

Two Irish cities among world's friendliest- The 2016 Condé Nast Traveler magazine that surveys tourists about the friendliness of the cities they visit has revealed some good news for Ireland. The survey of 128,000 people has revealed that Dublin and Galway continue to rank in the top 10 for overall friendliness.

We all know it does take time to process data from census returns, however the resulting information is interesting and useful in planning priorities for the future. Ireland's Central Statistics Office Report entitled 'Measuring Ireland's Progress 2013' has compared various aspects of Irish life in the decade up to 2013 with the habits of their European neighbors. Some of the results are surprising.:

- 48% of Irish young people are college-educated
- Ireland has the third highest number of **college graduates** in the EU, many of whom are forced to emigrate. The high level of College graduates is at odds with another statistic detailing the class-size of Irish schools. The average of 24.4 pupils in Irish school rooms compares poorly with the average of 15 pupils in some EU countries.

(cont'd)

Bits & Pieces

(cont'd)

- Irish school-children are more likely to complete their schooling to at least secondary school level (US High School equivalent) with only 8% dropping out at Junior Certificate level (aged approx 15 years) compared with the EU average of 12%.
- Divorce in Ireland is relatively rare with a rate of 0.6 per thousand people compared with the EU average of 1.8.
- Irish Life expectancy is above the EU average and stands at 83.2 years for women and 78.7 years for men.
- Proof that the reason so many multi-national companies locate in Ireland is not just for the favorable Corporate Taxation regime but also for the Irish workforce is borne out by the statistic showing Irish workers to be 36% more productive than the EU average.
- Recycling in Ireland has greatly improved. A combination of a bin-collection charge and an emphasis on recycling has greatly changed the Irish attitude to recycling which has seen the amount of waste sent to a land-fill reduce from 61% in 2003 to 38% in 2013. A staggering change.
- Perhaps one of the most revealing statistics during this decade relates to house building. In 2006 almost 90,000 homes were built but in 2013 that number was 8300.

The full CSO Report can be accessed here:

<http://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-mip/measuringirelandsprogress2013/>

Police in Northern Ireland are sending Christmas cards to shoplifters reminding them they are being watched this festive season. A PSNI Craigavon Facebook post warned criminals a ‘dedicated team’ of officers would be monitoring past offenders, referred to as “frequent flyers”, closely. The police hope Operation Nutmeg will deter criminals from thefts during the Christmas shopping period and the messages are being sent to convicted shoplifters in towns across Northern Ireland.

A new promotional campaign for Ireland’s Ancient East launched November 24, 2016 in Cork, is planned for key points of entry to the country including Dublin, Cork, and Waterford airports, Rosslare Europort and the Port of Cork. The focus of the campaign is to heighten awareness of the Ireland’s Ancient East brand with both international and domestic visitors. Ireland’s Ancient East is geared to maximise the history and heritage in the East and South of Ireland and bring it to greater international attention, with targets to deliver €204 million in revenue by 2020. The new initiative offers visitors a personal experience of 5,000 years of history through a relaxing journey of discovery in the beautiful landscape that attracted warring settlers for millennia and illuminated by stories from the best storytellers in the world – the locals.

The term “boycott” comes from Captain Charles Boycott (1832-1897), the land agent of an absentee landlord from Ulster. In 1890, after refusing to reduce the rents of his employer’s tenants, the Irish Land League decided to stop dealing with him. The whole community began to ostracize him to the point where even shops refused to serve him. The Times of London quickly came to use his name as a term for organized isolation, and the word entered the English language.



Bishop Walter Allison Hurley

And his Irish background

by E. C. (Gene) Campbell

In this issue of the Shamrock Leaf, we are going back to the world of religion, and those of Irish heritage who have left their mark in this field. This time around, we will look at the Irish background of the Rev. Walter Allison Hurley, a one-time bishop of Grand Rapids, Michigan who was born in Fredericton, a great-grandson of Irish immigrant, John Hurley.

John Hurley, born in Ireland in 1824, came to New Brunswick during the Great Potato Famine, in 1848. An Ann Hurley, probably a sister, had immigrated in 1847. In the 1851 census of New Brunswick, we find that both John and Ann were working for Edward Simonds, a farmer. They are listed in the district of York County, sub-district of Fredericton City.

On November 4, 1851, in a ceremony performed by Father Walter Aylward at St. Dunstan's Church in Fredericton, John Hurley married Ellen Marshall. Ellen, born in Ireland c. 1828, arrived in New Brunswick in 1845. The 1851 census listed her as being 22 years of age, and part of the Michael Marshall household out in Hanwell. Michael,

age 30, was a widower with five young children. It is likely that Ellen and Michael were brother and sister. Witnesses at the ceremony were Michael Marshall and Ann Hurley. John was listed as a farmer in Hanwell, York County.

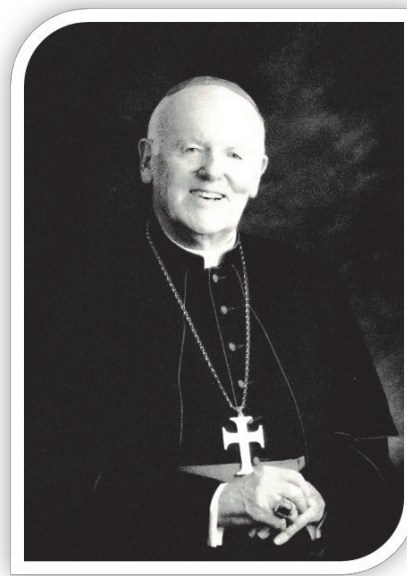
John Hurley died, October 18, 1884, and is buried at St. Mary's Cemetery, with a huge monument, marking the spot. His wife, Ellen, died December 7, 1905. The land on the right side of the highway, near St. Mary's Cemetery, is still referred to as "Hurley's Meadow". Several more recent members of the family are buried in the Hermitage Cemetery on the Woodstock Road, in Fredericton.

George Hurley, son of John and Ellen, was born at Hanwell, February 4, 1858. George married Irish-born Mary Alice Maloney, daughter of Patrick Maloney and locally-born Elizabeth Essensa (Newmarket, York County). George was a farmer all his life. The family home at 184 Regent Street, Fredericton was demolished many years ago. On January 13, 1936, George died, at home. Cause of death was listed as "angina" on his death certificate.

He was 77 years, 11 months, and 9 days old.

In March, 1958, information of the death of George's wife was reported to the Department of Health and Social Services by their daughter, Mrs. James McDade. Mary Alice (Maloney) Hurley died at the age of 89 years, four months, and three days. She passed away at her Westmorland Street home. J.A. McAdam Funeral Home handled her burial on March 20, 1958.

Both George and Mary Alice



His Excellency Walter A. Hurley, New Brunswick-born Bishop of the Diocese of Grand Rapids, Michigan, appointed in 2005 by Pope Benedict

are buried in Fredericton's Hermitage Cemetery.

Charles Reynolds Hurley, son of George and Mary (Maloney) Hurley, and father of Walter Allison Hurley, was born at Hanwell, December 7, 1911. On July 28, 1936, Charles married Anne Elizabeth Ball, daughter of Fredericton Junction residents, Charles Ball and Mary McQuestion, at St. Columba Church, Fredericton Junction. Charles was listed as a Roman Catholic, and bachelor, on his marriage certificate. Anne was listed as a school teacher, and a spinster, age 25, and living at Fredericton Junction. Witnesses at the ceremony were Norman Goodine from Kingsclear, and Jessie M. Ball of Fredericton Junction. Rev. C. Boyd of Petersville performed the ceremony.

(...cont'd)



John Hurley & Ellen Marshall were married Nov 4, 1851, by Father Aylward, at the original St. Dunstan's church (torn down many years ago).

Bishop Walter Allison Hurley

(cont'd)



An interesting note, written by Lori McGinn, cousin of the Bishop, regarding Charles, Walter's father, states:

"When I was 11 or 12 years of age, my Uncle Charles and Aunt Anna, and their family, moved from Waasis, New Brunswick to Victoria Street in Fredericton, just around the corner from our house on Westmorland Street. Uncle Charles hired Dad as the housekeeper of his business."

"Uncle Charles' two eldest children, Walter and Gerald, were about the same age as my sister and me. We spent countless hours visiting back and forth, playing kid's games, exploring the woods, etc. Walter and Gerald had four younger sisters that we also got to know quite well."

Walter was born May 30, 1937. The family eventually resided at 240 Victoria Street, in Fredericton. Walter's early life shows that he attended St. Dunstan's Grade School, and then went on to St. Ann's High School, at Church Point, Nova Scotia. In 1955, he moved to the United States, settling

in Detroit. In 1961 he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit, and went on to earn a Master's in Divinity from St. John's Provincial Seminary, in Plymouth, Michigan, in 1963.

His career in the field of religion is impressive, to say the least.

Walter Allison Hurley was ordained a Priest on June 5, 1965, at the age of 28. The ordination was performed by Archbishop John Francis Dearden, who was eventually elevated to the position of Cardinal. Hurley's official title was "Priest of Detroit, Michigan". Throughout his career he had many responsibilities and titles. He had a licence in Canon Law, and served as Judicial Vicar of the Metropolitan Tribunal, Moderator of the Curia for the Archdeacon of Detroit, and as a delegate of the Cardinal, for clergy misconduct issues. He was also the Cardinal's delegate and project manager for the construction of the Pope John II Culture Center, in Washington, D.C.

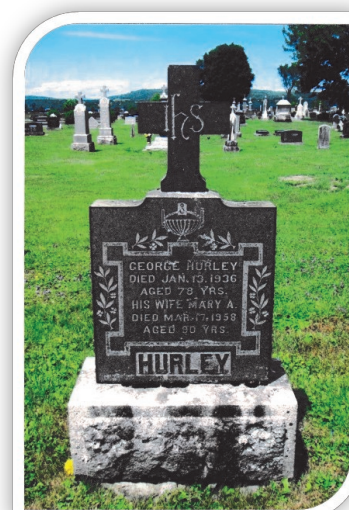
In an open letter addressed to "My dear friends in Christ", dated June 16/17, 2002, Bishop Hurley summed up his beliefs – "Religious liberty is not only about our ability to attend Mass on Sunday, but whether we continue to do the good works our faith calls us to do without compromising that faith. We are stewards of this great gift, not only for ourselves with the Christians, people of other faiths, and all who wish to defend our most cherished freedom...."

On July 7, 2003, at the age of 66, Hurley was appointed the 22nd Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit by Pope John Paul II. That same day, he would also be appointed to the position of Titular Bishop of Chunavia,

and was ordained Bishop of Chunavia on August 7, 2003. Chunavia, an ancient city and former bishopric in Albania, although important enough to be a suffragan of its larger ecclesiastical see in the 1300s, was suppressed from around 1470 onwards, until the diocese was nominally restored as a titular bishopric in 1933.

On June 21, 2005, at the age of 68, Fredericton-born Walter Allison Hurley was appointed the 11th Bishop of Grand Rapids, Michigan, being installed into that position just a few weeks later by Pope Benedict XVI.

In June 2013, Bishop Walter Allison Hurley officially retired and today lives in his adopted home of Detroit, Michigan and holds the title of "Bishop Emeritus". In total, Fredericton-born Bishop Walter Allison Hurley had been a priest for over 50 years, and a Bishop for 12.



Headstones:

Above Left: John Hurley, great-grandfather (St. Mary's Cemetery, Hanwell)

Above: George & Mary Hurley, grandparents, (Fredericton's Hermitage Cemetery)

Saint John Chapter News

Boat trips to Partridge Island, summer festivals, and saying good bye to a dear friend

It hardly seems possible that since the last publication of The Shamrock Leaf we have been involved in a couple of “firsts” this year. In July, we held the first of what we hope will be many boat trips focussing on Partridge Island. Since there is no landing spot (the floating dock floated away in a winter storm several years ago) this inaugural trip was mainly around the harbour side of the Island, allowing a glimpse of the remaining buildings and, of course, the Celtic Cross. Approximately 24 people were on the trip and all voiced a wish to do it again. Saint John president Owen Boyle, who organized the trip, with the assistance of treasurer Lorraine Brown, hopes that we will be able to hire a boat next time that will enable a landing on the rocky shore. It is also our plan to incorporate a lunch or barbecue into the next Partridge Island boat trip.



Partridge Island boat trip

On the New Brunswick day weekend, ICCA Saint John and Comhaltas participated in the first Area 506 festival. For anyone unfamiliar with the idea, it was a two-day festival where a wide variety of vendors, cultural groups, and various entertainers displayed their wares and talents. At the Comhaltas/ICCA booth, we served tea and or Guinness stout along with home-made Irish soda bread to over 500 people over two days. Comhaltas played heartily the whole time – four hours each day – and drew huge crowds to hear their infectious music. In addition, we were so fortunate to have Bruce and Marilyn Driscoll with their amazing Irish Genealogy Travelling Road Show. I think I speak for both ICCA and Comhaltas when I say, we didn't know what to expect but it turned out to be a wonderful

time – lots of *craic!* We look forward to taking part in the event again next year.

In August we had to say good-bye to one of our longest-standing, most-devoted members: Fred Hazel. (see Obituary, next page) Fred had been one of the driving forces behind the establishment of the ICCA in our province and city. His reflections on the life of the Irish, both here, and in the old country, brought tears of joy and laughter to his readers. His kindness to all was a trademark, both of his career as a journalist and his daily living. We are so grateful that we were able to recognize his importance in April, when Irish Ambassador Ray Bassett, passed through NB. Fred will be long remembered with affection and esteem.

Our Christmas Dinner, this year actually taking place in December, is scheduled for December 2nd at the Assumption Centre. As always, the dinner features music by Comhaltas, many draws for fabulous prizes, and a chance to meet with old and dear friends during the lead-up to Christmas.

One final note about events in Saint John: we have been listening to members' feedback over the years and are considering, instead of a St. Patrick's Dinner, to hold a luncheon this year. We invite your thoughts – either in favour or opposed to the idea.

We wish all of our fellow Irish a peaceful and joyful Christmas!



A sunny day at the Area 506 festival



Irish Association mourns the Loss of founding member, Fred Hazel

The Death of Fred Hazel, a long-time New Brunswick journalist, occurred on August 12, 2016 at Saint John Regional Hospital following a lengthy illness. A former editor-in-chief of the Telegraph Journal and the Evening Times-Globe, he travelled widely in a news career that spanned six decades. After his retirement in 1992, he continued to write a weekly "People and Places" column in the newspaper.

Reporting assignments took him all over New Brunswick and to a number of Canadian and world centres. He campaigned against drunk driving. He was an advocate of better understanding between the province's English and French speaking people. In 1989, he won an Atlantic Journalism enterprise award for a series of articles promoting English-French harmony in the province.

Born in the Saint John suburb of Fairville in 1928, he was a son of the late Charles and Florence (Murphy) Hazel. He attended St. Rose School, St. Vincent's Boys' High and Saint John High School before obtaining a B.A. Degree from St. Francis Xavier University in 1949, the year he started at the newspaper.

He was a hands-on journalist who rose through the ranks from cub reporter to city editor, news editor, managing editor and editor-in-chief of the correspondent to The Globe and Mail, Time Magazine and other publications. He travelled across Canada for Managing Editors' Conferences and hosted the first national convention of Managing Editors ever held in Saint John. He studied modern journalism at the American Press Institute seminar at New York's Columbia University.

Early assignments included coverage of the Saint John police beat, Common Council and the New Brunswick Legislature. Later he brought a local focus to international events with in-depth reporting tours of Ireland, Israel, Egypt, Taiwan, NATO in Brussels, and the Vatican in Rome, along with personal reports on a number of world tourist attractions. As an editor, he became a mentor and father figure to a number of aspiring journalists. His autobiographical book, "Get Yerself A Shin O'Heat" was published in 1996, in con-

junction with New Brunswick's commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Great Irish Famine.

He was a founding member of the Irish Canadian Cultural Association, and of the International Gathering of the Irish in New Brunswick. With his wife Alma, he made 11 personal tours of Ireland, the land of their ancestors. In retirement, he cherished family, friends, international travel, and the joy of singing. Public service recognition awards included the 2002 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal, the Province of New Brunswick Merit Award, and membership in the St. Francis Xavier University Alumni Hall of Honour.

Other than his parents, Fred was predeceased by his brother Dr. Joseph J. Hazel (Joan) of Ottawa, he is survived by his beloved wife of 60 years, Alma (Crowley) Hazel; two daughters, Patricia Duplisea (Reid) of Saint John and Margaret Hazel of Ottawa; grandchildren Thomas MacKenzie (Stacy) of Saint John; Christina Sfeir of Toronto; John Crowley (Ruth), Robert A. Quinlan, and sister-in-law Rose Riley, Constance Crowley, and a number of cousins, nephews, and nieces.

He was a parishioner of Our Lady of the Assumption Church in West Saint John and a founding member of its parish council.

Donations in Fred's memory can be made to the Assumption Church Building Fund, New Brunswick Extra Mural Program or a charity of the donor's choice.



Irving Oil Whitegate refinery

New Brunswick business expands to Ireland

by Nadia Barry

This September, the Irving family expanded its ever-growing international reach by purchasing a refinery located across the Atlantic in Co. Cork, Ireland.

Thought to be one of Canada's richest families, the Irving's have owned and operated businesses in the petrochemical, lumber and media fields beginning back in 1924. More specifically, according to the book *Irving vs. Irving*, by Fredericton resident Jacques Poitras; "They are Canada's third wealthiest family, and the fifth largest private landowner in the U.S.A. They have a monopoly on New Brunswick's English-language print media and billions of dollars in offshore accounts." This successful dynasty began with the patriarch of the family, K.C. Irving.

The story goes that K.C. began selling cars and gasoline from his father's store in the small town of Bouctouche, New Brunswick – becoming so successful at both that his company saw rapid expansion. In keeping with his entrepreneurial spirit, he began a construction company to keep up with the building of his various business locations. The vertical integration of his empire continued to grow from there with other ventures in the transport industry; he began buying up industrial hardware stores and eventually lumber mills to supply the materials needed to grow each and every facet of his expanding businesses. Continuing to receive unwanted competition from New Brunswick's main oil supplier at the time, Imperial Oil, K.C. decided to build a refinery to process his own crude. Located in the industrial town of Saint John, New Brunswick the Irving Oil refinery was built and would inevitably become Canada's largest oil refinery.

Irving Oil

Now run by K.C.'s middle son Arthur Irving, Irving Oil is just one of the privately owned conglomerates operated by the family to this day. Still considered Canada's largest oil refinery, the Saint John refinery produces about 300,000 barrels of crude per day and employs approximately 1,500 people. However, as K.C.'s legacy would dictate, Irving Oil's business is not limited to the mere production of oil; it also operates in fields such as the transportation, sales and storage of the commodity on both a retail and commercial scale. For example, the company boasts over 900 gas stations across the Maritime Provinces, including various locations throughout New England, thus solidifying them as a

competitive player within the retail space not only in Canada, but also in the North Eastern US. Now in his 86th year, Arthur Irving is still very much at the helm of his company, mentoring the youngest of his children Sarah Irving, who has been acting as Executive Vice President and Chief Brand Officer for Irving Oil since 2015.

New Irish Acquisition

On September 9th 2016, in a momentous move, Irving Oil made their first European acquisition in purchasing the Whitegate Oil Refinery from Fortune 500 company, Phillips 66. The company made the announcement across their various social media platforms that very morning by posting a picture of the Irish flag flying outside of their Saint John facility and stating; "Proud to fly the Irish flag at our Saint John refinery today! #WelcomeWhitegate".



(...cont'd)

Irving Oil Whitegate refinery (cont'd)

About Whitegate

Located in a small village on the eastern shore of Cork harbour, the Whitegate oil refinery commenced operations in 1959 as a joint operation between four major oil companies: Shell, Texaco, BP and Esso. Since then, it has changed hands a number of times; being acquired by the Irish State in the 1980's who in turn, sold it to Tosca (now a subsidiary of Phillips 66) in 2001. It employs a full-time workforce of about 160 people although, by including the number of contract employees, that number almost doubles. The Whitegate refinery is also one of the biggest customers of the Port of Cork, accounting for over 50% of its imports and exports.



#Welcome Whitegate

A #WelcomeWhitegate ceremony was held in Cork on October 24th 2016, with both Sarah and Arthur Irving in attendance, along with numerous other dignitaries such as; Ireland's Minister for the Environment; Simon Coveney, Cork's Deputy Mayor; Joe Kavanagh, and the Canadian Ambassador to Ireland, New Brunswick's own; Kevin Vickers. During the ceremony, which was live streamed on youtube (which you can watch here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIK-quXY-Bw>), the Chief Operating Officer for Irving Oil, Mark Sherman, expressed the company's desire to work

on the synergies between their various facilities, not only to improve the financial situation of Irving Oil, but also to improve the financial situation of Whitegate in order to ensure its economic viability in the long run.

Perfect Timing

At the time of Irving Oil's acquisition, Phillips 66 had been wanting to divest of Whitegate for a number of years. It was public knowledge that the facility had lost millions of dollars for the US energy giant: According to the Irish Examiner, the Cork based refinery had reported losses of \$58 million USD in 2013, \$280 million USD in 2014 and just over \$5 million USD in 2015 respectively. The Irish government was becoming seriously

concerned about the bleak outlook for the country's only oil refinery; not only because of the potential loss of jobs and overall economic impact, but more importantly, because of the possible loss of its sovereign supply of oil. Their concerns grew even further in the Summer of 2016, when the United Kingdom voted in favour of a Brexit: This signaled the eventual withdrawal of UK member countries from the European Union and its existing trade deals, which threatened Ireland's continued dependency on oil exports from the UK. With support from the Irish government, paired with oil prices being as depressed as they have been in recent years, it becomes clear that this new business venture could not have been more perfectly

timed by the Canadian company, as they likely attained the dwindling asset at a rock bottom price.

Shortly after their purchase of the Whitegate refinery, Irving Oil proceeded to re-open their 700,000 barrel Halifax storage facility on October 20th 2016. This timely occurrence also coincided with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's signing of CETA (Comprehensive and Economic Trade Agreement), which is the tentative free-trade agreement between Canada and the European Union. If enacted, this agreement would eliminate 98% of the tariffs between Canada and the EU, allowing the multinational company to freely send crude to and from their respective Canadian and Irish facilities at liberty.

(...cont'd)

Irving Oil Whitegate refinery (cont'd)



Strategic Move

With Whitegate being Ireland's only oil refinery, it strategically establishes Irving Oil as a main supplier to their energy market, currently meeting about 40% of domestic demand. With news of the recent free trade agreement, Irving Oil would be encouraged to fill any gaps in Whitegate's production by exporting its surplus produce from its various locations, perhaps even leading to supplying more of the Irish demand than previously possible. In his speech during the #WelcomeWhitegate gala, Arthur Irving mentioned that his first visit to the Cork-based facility was over 20 years ago, suggesting that it was a considerably calculated acquisition by the Canadian conglomerate, especially given Whitegate's prime geographic location. Unmistakably, the Irving's are anticipating some vast business development opportunities given the afore-

mentioned political and geographic synchronicities. Indeed, they have even indicated that they may expand the facility's production and workforce in the long run, with the company's COO, Mark Sherman commenting that "...there are opportunities for growth." The prospect of increased employment in the East Cork area would be much welcomed by a still stifled local economy. In addition to this, as part of their takeover agreement, Irving Oil has made a "no jobs lost" commitment to the Irish Government, sustaining the current workforce and local economy alike. Were the refinery to close, it is estimated that the market impact would be that of about 100 million Euros, or just under 150 million Canadian dollars – which makes this new acquisition, according to Kevin Vickers; "a win, win situation for all involved".



News from Ireland

Ireland refuses 13 billion Euro from Apple in bizarre EU standoff

In a bizarre sequence of events that has made international news the Irish Government is actively refusing 13BN Euro in back-taxes from Apple Inc. The maker of the iPad and iPhone has been accused by the European Commission (EC) of tax evasion and they ordered the Internet giant to pay the money to the Irish treasury.

Of course, this being Ireland, the Government has decided to refuse the cash and instead is launching an appeal against the EC's ruling, and effectively on behalf of Apple!

Needless to say this has caused a large degree of consternation among the Irish citizenry with some commentators pointing out that 13BN could effectively solve the homeless crisis as well as pay for an airport train link.

However, regardless of the attraction of a short term grab of Euros it seems that the decision by the Government to dispute the EC ruling is based on logic, even if many people disagree with that logic.

By attacking this EC ruling the Irish Government are positioning themselves as the defender of the multinationals (in Ireland at any rate). This is not an unimportant consideration where multinationals such as Google, Microsoft and Apple have enormous presence, creating tens of thousands of jobs and helping to stimulate economic activity wherever they locate in the country.

The Government also view the EC ruling as a direct assault on the Irish 12.5% Corporate tax rate that has rankled with the French and Germans in particular for many years, and who are among those countries that want to see a harmonized EU Corporate tax regime.

Ireland is completely opposed to this with the imperative to maintain the competitive advantage all the more pressing in the wake of the UK Brexit and the likelihood the UK Government will also reduce their Corporate tax rate.

Like Brexit this EC-Ireland-Apple battle could take years to play out so the chances of any bumper paydays for Ireland seem a long way off yet.

Those who are opposed to Ireland battling the EC on behalf of Apple point out that this huge US company has effectively paid a mere 0.01% of tax in Ireland and not the headline 12.5% Corporate tax rate that is so often mentioned.

Several US Senators have labelled Ireland as a 'tax haven' with the undercurrent to the realpolitik being that these huge companies are seeking, and actually, paying a miniscule amount of tax relative to their profits, in the face of the ethical and moral questions that such tactics raise.



REMINDER:

Yes, it's that time of year again!!! Our Irish Association memberships run from January 1st to December 31st every year so, make sure you don't miss an issue of the Shamrock Leaf.

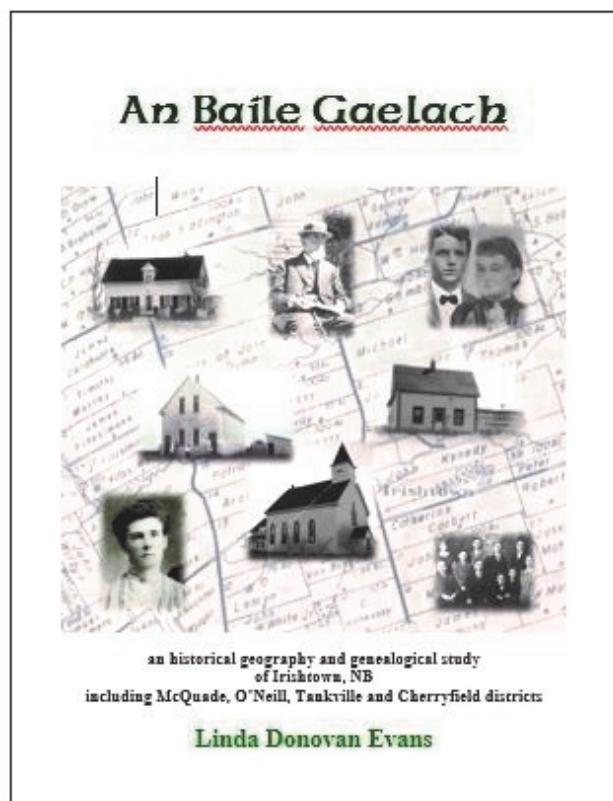
While you're checking things off your Christmas "to-do" list, how about writing that cheque or going online to pay for your 2017 membership fees?

As they have been since 1989—single memberships are \$20 per annum, family memberships are \$25.

We are very grateful to everyone who supports us through these fees as it allows us to not only produce this news-magazine but also to carry on outreach activities throughout the province, raising the awareness of our proud Irish culture and heritage.

Check the back page for address to send your 2017 fees. Thank you/Go raibh maith agat

From the Book Shelf



An Baile Gaelach—an historical and geographical study of Irishtown, N.B.
 ISBN: 978-0-9953441-0-5
 465 pages

printing Codiac Printing Inc.
 available from the ICCANB, WAK Chapter, or
 directly from Linda Evans Price: \$40

From our former editor of the Shamrock Leaf, Linda Evans, comes a long anticipated book about the Irish of Irishtown, Westmorland County, N.B.

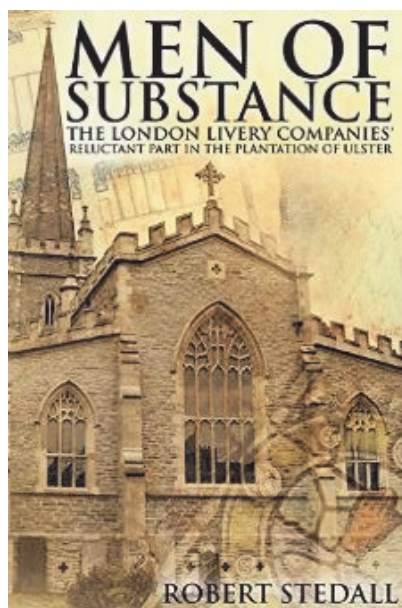
This work attempts to answer the questions: Where did the Irish in Irishtown come from?, How did they come to be there? Where did they go when they left?

Divided into 4 sections the book covers:

- the comings and goings of the early settlers in Irishtown,
- Insight into how the families lived, worked, and interacted in their communities,
- Individuals whose stories needed to be told—not because they were wealthy or successful, but just because they were memorable characters, and
- The last section of the book introduces the families who settled in Irishtown. They are the meat and bones of the story and this historical geography would not have occurred without them. It includes – not only the Irish, but some of the English, Scottish and Acadian families as well. It includes the detailed genealogies of 84 families.

There are two final chapters that include information on European arrivals and a number of families who simply passed through for a bit and whose available genealogies were not long enough to warrant a full chapter of their own.

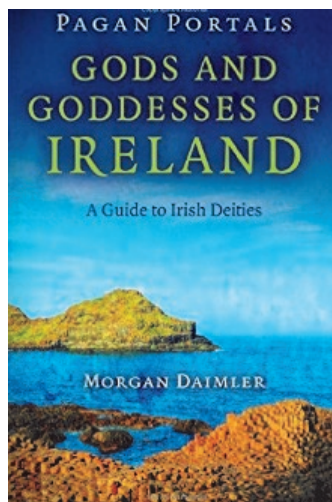
In the hands of such a skilled historian and researcher as Linda Evans, this work will prove an invaluable reference tool for future historians and genealogists.



Men of Substance—the London Livery Companies' Reluctant Part in the Plantation of Ulster by Robert Stedall
 ISBN –10 : 1786124556
 ISBN-13: 978-17861224555
 579 pages

With access to the voluminous records of the London Livery Companies, Robert Stedall has been well placed to provide 'Men of Substance - The London Livery Companies' Reluctant Part in the Plantation of Ulster'. This is a meticulous and copiously illustrated record of the Companies' little-known part in the Ulster plantation from 1609 to about 1900 set within the context of Irish history. It was a difficult period for the Companies, for British settlers and for Ulster's local Gaelic inhabitants. The Companies have provided a legacy of fine market towns, churches of all denominations and the walled City of Londonderry, with its historic Cathedral. Londonderry was always the last recourse for the settlers against hostile attack.

From the Book Shelf



Pagan Portals—Gods and Goddesses of Ireland: a guide to Irish deities by Morgan Daimler

ISBN -10 : 1782793151

ISBN-13: 978-1782793151

104 pages

A concise guide to the Gods and Goddesses of pagan Ireland, their history, mythology, and symbols. Rooted in the past but still active in the world today, the Gods and Goddesses of Ireland have always been powerful forces that can bless or challenge, but often the most difficult thing is to simply find information about them. This short introductory text looks at a variety of different Irish deities, common and more obscure, from their ancient roots to the modern practices associated with honoring them in, an encyclopedia-style book with entries in easy-to-use sections.

The Irish Inheritance—a Jayne Sinclair genealogical mystery

by M J Lee

Kindle e-book

ASIN : B01FR5PP9S

July 8, 1921. Ireland.

A British Officer is shot dead on a remote hillside south of Dublin.

November 22, 2015. United Kingdom.

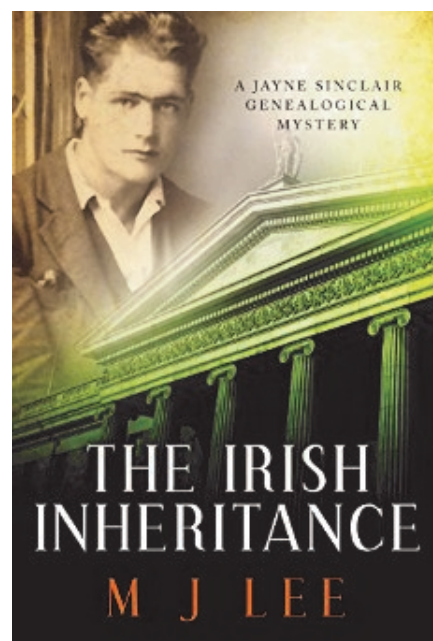
Former police detective, Jayne Sinclair, now working as a genealogical investigator, receives a phone call from an adopted American billionaire asking her to discover the identity of his real father.

How are the two events linked?

Jayne Sinclair has only three clues to help her: a photocopied birth certificate, a stolen book and an old photograph. And it soon becomes apparent somebody else is on the trail of the mystery. A killer who will stop at nothing to prevent Jayne discovering the secret hidden in the past.

The Irish Inheritance takes us through the Easter Rising of 1916 and the Irish War of Independence, combining a search for the truth of the past with all the tension of a modern-day thriller.

It is the first in a series of novels featuring Jayne Sinclair, genealogical detective.



**Nollaig
Shona
dhaoibh**



**Happy
Christmas
to you**

Membership Form

The Irish Canadian Cultural Association of NB

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***Please make your cheque payable to ICCANB and send to the Chapter nearest you (above) OR, if no Chapter nearby, send to:**

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Please check the boxes which pertain to your membership:

☐ Individual (\$20) ☐ Family \$25 ☐ New Membership

Please let us know what types of items you are interested in, or any thoughts or comments, so we can better serve you.

Enclosed you will find my: ☐ Cheque ☐ Money Order

Date: _____ **Signature:** _____