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Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

Founded in 1962, the IACI is the leading Irish American cultural organization. The IACI is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit national organization devoted to promoting an intelligent appreciation of Ireland and the role and contributions of the Irish in America.

Guest contributors are always welcome! Please note, the IACI is an apolitical, non-sectarian organization and requests that contributors consider that when submitting articles. The IACI reserves the right to refuse or edit submissions. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the original authors and other contributors. These views and opinions do not necessarily represent those of the IACI or any/all contributors to this site. Please submit articles for consideration to [cbuck@iaci-usa.org](mailto:cbuck@iaci-usa.org).

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# IRISH AMERICAN PRESIDENT-ALMOST!



## THE BLACK IRISH

The Healy Building, the landmark of Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., symbolizes the Capital's first university and the country's first Roman Catholic college. It was built by, and named after, Georgetown's 29th President, Patrick F. Healy, S.J., the first Black to receive a Ph.D. and first to become president of a major American University.

Born in 1834, near Macon, Georgia, Father Healy was the third of ten children of Michael Morris Healy, an Irish planter, and his wife, Elisa, a former slave. Healy, an opponent of slavery, had bought her freedom to marry her.

Three of their sons became priests. One, James Augustine, became the first black priest and the first black Catholic bishop when he was named the second bishop of Portland, Maine. Another son, Alexander Sherwood, was Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Boston. Two daughters became nuns. One, Emma, founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, an order dedicated to teaching black children.

## "ON FAR FOREIGN FIELDS"

Samuel Neilson lies in Poughkeepsie, New York, far from the land he struggled for. Son of a Presbyterian minister, and a prosperous woolen merchant in Belfast, Neilson originated the idea of the United Irishmen as a political organization. Early in 1792, in Belfast, the famous rebel newspaper, *The Northern Star*, was established under his editorship.

On a day in June, 1975, he joined the company of Wolfe Tone, Thomas Russell, Henry Joy MacCracken, Simms, and others (all soon to be victims of the 1798 struggle) in Mac Art's Fort on the top of Cave Hill, overlooking Belfast. Here they swore "never to desist from their efforts until they had subverted the authority of England over their country, and asserted their independence."

Neilson, like many another refugee from tyranny at home, fled to the USA — only to die of fever in Poughkeepsie. Will his body, like Casement's, one day be brought home?

*But the land of their heart's hope*

*They never saw more*

*For in far foreign fields, from Dunkirk  
to Belgrade,*

*Lie the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish Brigade.*

Eight signers of the U.S. Declaration of Independence were born outside the U.S.: one in Wales, two in Scotland, two in England, and three in Ireland.

The first medical corporation in Ireland or Britain to receive a Royal Charter was the Guild of Barber-Surgeons, united in Dublin in Dublin in 1446 under Henry VI.

In the nation's capital stands a statue of Irish-American General Shields, statesman and warrior friend of President Abraham Lincoln, unveiled many years before his country erected the Lincoln Memorial in Washington.

But for his Irish birth, Shields himself might have been President of the United States. That was Lincoln's own thought — and shared by General Ulysses Grant and others. However, the Constitution requirement of U.S. birth barred Shields in any case.

At the time, Shields' fame may have been even greater than Lincoln's because the Irishman was world renowned as the only Civil War General to defeat the celebrated Confederate General Stonewall Jackson, which his forces did at Winchester, Va., in March of 1862. He also was a territorial Governor of Oregon, a state Supreme Court Justice, U.S. land commissioner, colonizer, founder of cities, and three times a U.S. Senator.

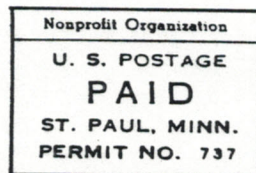
Shields is the only man in history to have been a U.S. Senator from three states — Illinois, where he first knew Lincoln as a fellow lawyer; Minnesota, where he launched the towns of Faribault and Shieldsville; and Missouri, which was his home in 1879, the year of his death.

His fabulous itinerary ranged from Altmore, County Tyrone, where he was born in 1806, to the New World of South and North America. He went to sea as a lad of 16; was shipwrecked; opened a fencing school in Quebec, Canada; fought in the Florida War, taught school (French) in Illinois; was elected to the state legislature with Stephen A. Douglas and Lincoln, his "lifelong friend"; served two terms as state auditor; fought in the Mexican War; and was on the state Supreme Court bench when President

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**DÚCÁS\***  
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DÚCÁS explores the cultural heritage of Americans of Irish ancestry that, cherishing what is good in their birthright, they may learn to cultivate it for the benefit of generations unborn.

Under the editorial supervision of  
Eóin McKiernan, Ph. D., Litt. D.

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### THE LEAVES OF THE TREES

More than a thousand years ago one of the most popular pieces of literature in Ireland dealt with Finn Mac Cool and his associates. In this cycle of stories we find the ideals by which these men lived:

*Strength in our arms  
Truth on our lips  
Purity in our hearts*

These, certainly, were meant to be the virtues that the society recommended to its young.

To these Oisín, poet-son of Finn, added another — generosity. "If the leaves of the trees were of silver and gold," he tells us, "my father Finn would give them all away."

Strength, truth, purity, generosity — not bad ideals to train a generation up to.

Are these (rather than St. Patrick's Day parades!) why you value your Irish heritage? You didn't earn that heritage. It was given to you. Don't fail to pass it on. Help us keep it alive to pass on to your children — and others.

The most effective way is to send us a small monthly (fully tax-deductible) donation. A gift of a few dollars (or even one!) from you does little by itself — but joined to others your gift does much.

Oisín knew that generosity was the crowning virtue. The centuries since have seen this virtue perfected in the Irish. Join the Vanguard of your people. Send a small donation today.

### FILMS WITH A BROGUE

If you think the Irish film industry was confined to "The Quiet Man" and "Ryan's Daughter" — or even to "Darby O'Gill and the Little People" — you have underestimated this aspect of the Irish cultural and economic scene.

Remember the Battle of Agincourt in Laurence Olivier's "Henry V?" That was shot on the Powerscourt Estate near Enniskerry. And the moody street scenes in "The Spy Who Came In From the Cold?" — Dublin's Georgian architecture. "Sacco and Vanzetti" used the same Dublin locale. Trinity College and the North side of Dublin were the site of much of "Quackser Fortune Has A Cousin in the Bronx."

Many interiors have been shot in Dublin's Ardmore Studios but the Irish countryside has proved to be the real attraction. Wicklow's hills have served as battlegrounds for "The Blue Max" and "Darling Lili." And Irish skies are featured in "Never Put It In Writing," "Zeppelin," and "Von Richtofen And Brown." It was Wicklow again as the site of the POW camps in "The McKenzie Break."

Robert Taylor and Ava Gardner played their Arthurian legend roles in "Knights of the Round Table" just outside Dublin. County Galway provided the setting for "Alfred the Great."

Remember the New England whaling village in "Moby Dick?" That was Youghal in County Cork. There are dozens of others — "The Last of Adrian Messenger," "Girl with the Green Eyes," "The Flight of the Doves," "Sinful Davy," "Country Dance."

And speaking about "Ryan's Daughter," the film's village of Kirrarry was a pure creation located near Dunquin in Kerry. The one non-Irish note in that colorful epic was the beautifully filmed storm scene. After waiting for weeks for the traditional Kerry storm, Director David Lean had to move the cast and crew to South Africa to find a proper storm. — Robert T. Reilly

### IRISH NOBEL PRIZE WINNERS

1923	William Butler Yeats (Literature)
1925	George Bernard Shaw (Literature)
1951	Ernest T. S. Walton (Physics), shared with Sir John D. Cockcroft for their pioneer work in transmuting atomic nuclei with artificially accelerated atomic particles.
1969	Samuel Beckett (Literature)

Agricultural population is expected to continue to decline in Ireland — as in most of the countries in the western hemisphere.

### IRISH PAPERBACKS

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Irish Fireside Folktales	\$2.50
Traditional stories that have enchanted ancestors through the centuries.	
The Course of Irish History	\$7.50
Highly recommended. Copiously illustrated. Each chapter by an expert. Attractive style. Basic for your Irish library.	
Love Poems of the Irish	\$3.75
Bilingual edition of some of the best love poems composed in Ireland.	
Burntollert	\$1.50
Photographs and authentic text of attacks on the Civil Rights marchers in Northern Ireland.	
Guide to the National Monuments of Ireland	\$7.50
Thorough, finest book available. Illustrated with drawings. Sturdy binding and cover.	
Irish Ghost Stories	\$1.75
Chillingly amusing!	

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### IRISH AMERICAN PRESIDENT (CONT.)

James Polk called him to Washington as land commissioner. From that post he became a pioneer colonizer, working in New York, Iowa, Minnesota, California, Oregon, and Missouri.

During the Civil War, now a Brigadier General, Shields was Lincoln's choice to lead the Army of the Potomac. The Commander in Chief sent Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton to offer the prize to General Shields after the defeat of Stonewall Jackson — confident that as a "foreigner" his political ambitions would be safely contained. Shields declined the appointment.

Both Stanton and Secretary to State William H. Seward, angry with Shields because he refused to be used by them, conspired to deny the general further promotions; and Lincoln advised his old friend to resign from the army, which Shields (by then twice wounded in battle) agreed to do. He "retired" to Carrollton, Mo., served in that state's legislature — and returned to the U.S. Senate!

If, as some say, John Fitzgerald Kennedy represented a "fulfillment" of an Irish-American dream — the election of a Son of Ireland to the U. S. presidency — James Shields stood close to its beginnings. — James P. Richardson





# HISTORIC ARMAGH SEES STARS

## THE BONES OF NATIONALITY

(Excerpt from a lecture delivered two generations ago by Father P.S. Dineen, compiler of the standard Irish English Dictionary.)

The living tongue, even though the area over which it is a vernacular be circumscribed, is an energizing power in the land. It is a compendium of our history, it is our fierce war-cry in the conflict of nationalities, it is our title-deed in the court of nations. It is the voice of promise alluring us to a higher and nobler national existence.....

Woe to us if ever that living nurse of our ancient traditions is lost to our race! Woe to us if we let the national spirit of our children perish from want of being duly nursed in our history through the living accents of Irish speech! Woe to us if we are forced to nurture our national spirit merely on the dry bones of a dead and neglected tongue. I remember once hearing a folk-tale. A mother who was on her deathbed had two daughters, one of whom she loved while she hated the other. Both were present at her bedside. She gave several heads of advice to them, but that advice was put in enigmatical language in order that the daughter whom she disliked might attach the wrong meaning to it. One point of advice was this: — "Always keep old bones under your children."

It happened contrary to her expectations. The daughter she loved failed to penetrate the mystery of this advice, and took it in the literal sense; she had her children constantly seated on a heap of old bones with the result that they caught cold and drooped and died. The other daughter was wiser; she, too, procured old bones for her children, but they were living bones, for she provided them with a careful old nurse who had them constantly in her arms. If the Irish nation of to-day discard the living Irish speech, contenting themselves with its remains in books and manuscripts, we shall be following the example of this foolish daughter, and our children shall lose their national spirit. If, on the contrary, we secure a living old nurse — the nurse of living Irish for the rising generation, they will grow up sound in mind and body, and perpetuate the historical traditions of their race. She is truly an old nurse, but though old, full of the vigour and sprightliness of youth, full of the glad music of happier days, full of the spirit of independence and self-reliance.

To talk of Armagh is to talk of Irish history. Centuries before St. Patrick was refused the hill top he desired for his church by Daire, a local chieftain, Eamhain Macha had been a center of government. Later Armagh's religious houses and schools became known throughout Christendom. Today all Irishmen recognize Armagh with its Protestant and Catholic Cathedrals as the ecclesiastical centre of Ireland, but perhaps it is not so manifest that Armagh is also the astronomical centre of Ireland.

Armagh Observatory, founded and endowed by Primate Robinson in 1790, is the second oldest observatory in the British Commonwealth. It is due to the sustained efforts of Dr. E. M. Lindsay, the present Director of the Observatory, that a new and elegant building of considerable architectural beauty — the Armagh Planetarium — has recently become one of the local landmarks. It was officially opened by Terence O'Neill on May 1, 1968.

If Primate Robinson could return to see this 20th-century addition to his beloved observatory he would be amazed, despite the fact that there were large astronomical globes in his day in which people could sit and gaze at constellation figures. In his time electricity — the essential life-giving force for the modern multi-eyed planetarium projector — was still a mysterious "fluid," in spite of the dangerous kite-flying studies carried out by his contemporary, Benjamin Frankling (1706-1790).

And fiberglass, the material of which the outer dome of the Planetarium is constructed, was unthought of — the domes of those days were massive Wrenian stone structures. This is not to say that stone does not play an important part in the construction of the Armagh Planetarium — it does: the porch or entrance to the building is built of attractive pink limestone from the local quarries. So, although it is a thoroughly modern building, it blends harmoniously with its historical environment.

On entering the side gates a macadamized drive leads the visitor between spacious lawns up to the entrance. Inside, more steps lead to the foyer where one may browse in the bookshop or study the many ancient and modern exhibits. Among the George III collection can be seen the famous Short reflecting telescope used by the King to observe the transit of Venus across the Sun's disc. Mirrors made for the King by the most famous of all 18th-century astronomers, Sir William Herschel, are on view. One can see other exquisite brass instruments wrought and embellished by 18th-and

19th-century craftsmen in those far-away days before the estrangement of art and utility.

Modern exhibits include a whole wall of large colored photographs showing many of the beautiful nebulae, star-clusters, galaxies and other celebrated objects of the night sky. A very recent exhibit is the Boveedy Meteorite weighing 10.9 pounds, together with a smaller fragment named the Sprucefield Meteorite, both of which fell on the evening of April 25, 1969. The story of that dramatic occasion is recalled on a projection screen behind the exhibits. Rarely do meteorites fall in Ireland: the last large stone fell in Crumlin in 1902!

Passing up further staircases the visitor may pause to admire a collection of 18th- and 19th-century orreries and navigational instruments before he enters the theater. This "Theatre of the Stars" is circular with three concentric rows of reclining seats that provide comfortably upholstered accommodation for 110 persons. Surmounting the walls and 7 feet above the carpeted floor is a "cut-out" Armagh horizon that goes all the way round to provide shapes of silhouetted cathedrals, spires, observatory domes and trees.

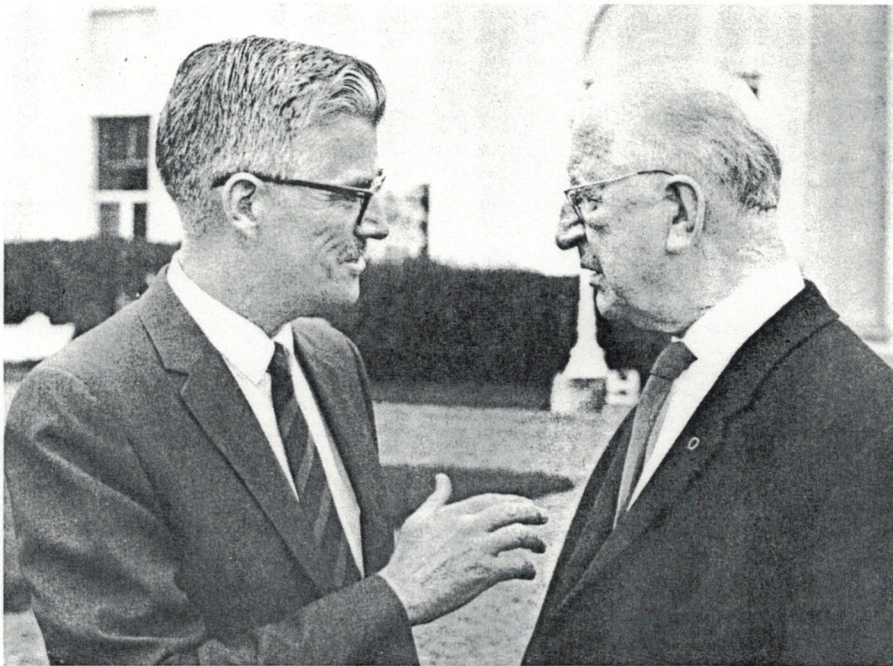
This is also where the cylindrical walls give way to the white hemispherical "sky" — an aluminum dome of 40 feet diameter. As the red glow around the horizon dies away the dome above comes to life with projected representations of the stars, the Milky Way, the Sun, Moon and Planets making their orderly ways across the sky. The Goto "Mars" projector that can be turned in all necessary positions to make these miracles possible was imported from Japan. It stands in the center of the theater and is controlled from the side from a large console that, at first sight, resembles the keyboard of a church organ. Closer inspection shows that it is a complex assembly of switches, rheostats, dials and knobs.

Many people who enter the building for the first time are surprised to find that they are not required to gaze through telescopes. Neither does the great dome open to admit the light of the heavenly bodies. If this were so there would be little point in building such an edifice in Ireland. A planetarium can be used for education and entertainment and often the lecturer provides a mixture of both in the sessions that last for 50 minutes. It should be included on every visitor's tour. — Dr. T. Rackham, Director

Pan-Am flights frequently carry bilingual menus — Irish and English.







Ireland's thanks to Irish American Cultural Institute members was shown when President de Valera conferred upon Dr. Eoin McKiernan, IACI founder, the honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.

It is Ireland's highest honor and has rarely been given to Americans. The few previous American recipients included Robert Frost and John Fitzgerald Kennedy. The above photo shows Dr. McKiernan and President de Valera after the degree conferral discussing IACI plans. A dollar or two a month to your IACI puts you in the picture!

## YOUR MOVE!

Each man knows the worth of his own breeding — but if it was Irish there was gold in it!

Join the 1 to 5 Vanguard of the IACI to show your appreciation for your own ancestry — and to help perpetuate those ideals and values that mean so much in your life.

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The first production of Handel's oratorio *The Messiah* was conducted by Handel himself in The Music Hall, Fishamble Street, Dublin, in 1742.

# THE IRISH TRADITION IN MEDICINE

Preserved in eponyms and used daily by physicians everywhere are the names of eminent doctors of Ireland who have contributed to the advancement of medicine, particularly of clinical medicine. Among the best known of these eponyms are Cheyne-Stokes, Graves, and Colles.

It was in 1811 that John Cheyne became a physician to the Meath Hospital, and there observed the phenomenon now known as Cheyne-Stokes breathing. The writings of Williams Stokes, who began teaching medicine in 1826, included treatises on the use of the stethoscope written before he was 21 years old. He published a book on diseases of the chest in 1837, at the age of 33, and in 1850, a text on diseases of the heart. The Stokes dynasty of doctors includes five others; the latest was Adrian Stokes, who became a medical martyr while investigating yellow fever in West Africa just after World War I.

Robert James Graves, an Irish physician born in 1797, graduated in medicine when he was 21 and began teaching at age 24. His name is connected with the description of exophthalmic goiter, also called Basedow's or Flajani's disease, after the German and Italian medical pioneers who defined and identified this disease entity. Graves' textbook of medicine was among the most important

in medical education at his time.

Abraham Colles, born in 1773, was a brilliant Irish anatomist, pathologist, surgeon, and teacher, who wrote a noteworthy *Treatise on Surgical Anatomy*. Today, his name is associated with Colles' fracture and Colles' fascia. And it also appears in Colles' law, which states that a congenitally syphilitic child borne by an asymptomatic woman will not infect its mother.

St. Patrick's Hospital in Dublin, probably the world's oldest psychiatric hospital, was founded in 1745 by the will of Jonathan Swift, dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral. Dean Swift was of course world-renowned for his many writings, principally the classic *Gulliver's Travels*. He left a legacy of 11,000 pounds to found a hospital for the care of "idiots and lunatics."

A visit to this hospital is an enlightening experience. It reveals the advances in psychiatric care from the early days, when little more than domiciliary care was given, to the present, when emotional conditions can be controlled through drugs, electrotherapy and other physical procedures, occupational and social therapy, and rehabilitation.

Dean Swift's personal library, containing a good deal of his correspondence, some incunabula, and other priceless

volumes, is preserved in its original form at St. Patrick's.

One of the earliest and most famous institutions for care of the pregnant woman is Dublin's Rotunda Hospital, founded in 1745 with Bartholomew Mosse, surgeon and man-midwife as its master. Many outstanding obstetricians in the U.S. and other countries have taken graduate training at the Rotunda. One of its most famous producedures is that of delivery with the parturient woman lying on her side. In the large wards, one sees the babies in hammocks at the foot of the mother's bed.

Dublin now boasts three medical schools: the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Royal College of Physicians, and the medical school of the University of Dublin's Trinity College. Many U.S. medical students attend these schools, and there are also 120 Norwegians now studying medicine in the school of the Royal College of Surgeons. At this writing, a merger is being considered between the school of surgeons and the physicians' college, and new buildings are being planned. Truly, the distinguished medical tradition of Ireland, reaching back more than two centuries, also reaches outward and forward, to influence the state of the healing arts throughout the world.

— Morris Fishbein, M.D.





# *Irish American Compassion II*

by

Raymond D. Aumack, M.A., M. Div., NC.Psy.T

John was startled with the news his brother-in-law presented to him. "I knew they were vulnerable, but this happened fast," said John.

The news was that the bodies of the former Mayor and the current Chief of Police were found floating in the Liffey River, each shot in the back of the head.

"I think it came to a head when they realized that they were being exposed. For criminals, they are really smart. They have stolen several million Euros and a lot of expensive materials that will be passed off to collectors in England and Paris. They will sit back and live their lives as dumb Travelers. They will live like royalty for the rest of their lives. The money will never show up in bank accounts or as investments. Some of their children will attend college at no cost because they are an indigenous people, native to Ireland before the rest of us. Like our American Indians, the privilege of education and security is payment as reparation for the abuse heaped on them by previous generations. "

"We never had the need for facial recognition technology or street and building security cameras. That might be significant consideration now that this fiasco is apparently over," stated Kevin, "I feel sorry for the people who live in lonely areas, miles from a town, the farm dwellings in mountains for instance. They are raided regularly by those searching for drug money, the occupants beaten and even killed. Those culprits are not Tinkers. Tinkers are smarter than that. They wouldn't attack anyone who is poor. There is no profit in that. No! Those culprits are from among our own," continued Kevin.

"Well perhaps the FBI and NATO can help plan security with your own police,"

"Aye, you are right', replied Kevin. "One would think so."

"Well, we'll be in touch and seeing you in a couple of months, and the event will be a joyous reunion with another baby in our happily expanding family. The baby is due in late April or early May. As I remember the birth of my three siblings, the baby will arrive when he or she is good and ready."

"I'm glad that this has come to an apparent end. There should be no more terror in the streets. I wish the terrorists could be captured and brought to justice. In America, we have identified over 600 people who were involved in the attack on our Capitol Building last year."

"I know, said Kevin. I've been keeping up on that. We'll have much to talk about when we see each other. Until then, God be with you, Theresa, and your baby."

John walked down to his dad's office to give him a verbal report. Since the firm had no official involvement, there will be no paper report.

"Well, Dad, your friends terror dilemma seems to be over. Apparently the whole thing was orchestrated by the former mayor and the chief of police was his instrument in promoting it as well. Kevin was surprised when we suspected that, actually he was surprised that we immediately focused on that. His newspaper sleuths had developed at least circumstantial evidence that gave them that direction. He told me before their deaths that if it was true, the former mayor and the police chief were dancing with the devil because their lives were worthless to them once the terrorism was penetrated. Their bodies were found last night floating in the Liffey, each with two bullet holes in the back of his head, a typical gangland assassination.

“Well, I’m glad to hear that the terrorism is over. I’ll call Rory O’ Callahan tomorrow afternoon. Thanks to you and Dierdre, we were able to keep out of it and help them at the same time.”

“The FBI and NATO investigators are doing a thorough investigation and they are going to make suggestions that are now typical here for urban security.’

“I’m glad to hear that as well. The responsibility of government is to create an environment where citizens are safe. Our forebears built cities for the protection of each other.”

“Sadly, we are a long way from those days,” replied John. “Excuse me, Dad. I have to call Dierdre and tell her the story for which she had already figured out the plot.”

“Later that evening Brigid received a call from Ireland from her nephew Sean McCarthy. “Aunt Brigid. I have sad news. My mother, your sister Nora, had a heart attack earlier this morning. She died about an hour later. I know you were very good about keeping in touch with her. It was your intervention that made these last years of her life very comfortable and even joyful. You gave her a life that she never could have imagined when we lived back at the farm. I’m the only one who knows that, as you requested. She actually lived these last seven years as if she was the Queen of Connaught. My brothers and I are very grateful for your generosity. We have been in touch with Maeve all these years and she and her husband, Patrick, with baby Brigid, visited with us last summer. It was Maeve that set the new course for the future of all of us and brokered the care and housing for my mom.

“Yes, I know. Maeve is noted for things like that. She told us how Nora had mellowed and blended into the life of the community. She even told us about Nora’s boyfriend and how much she was enjoying the relationship. I am so sorry. Your mother and I were distant but never estranged. Of course, those were different days and a hard life for her. She was bitter for a long time after your father’s death. She was always angry with me for leaving and for my life in America. Have you made funeral arrangement yet?”

“They are not complete yet. She’ll be taken to a funeral home in our old village. And the Mass will be at our old parish church.”

“Sean, We’ll cover the funeral costs. Make all the arrangements. We’ll come over. Make sure she has a decent coffin. I presume she’ll be buried with your dad in the churchyard. Call us when everything is settled and give us two days to come over. We’ll stay in a hotel in Galway.”

David insisted on using the company Learjet. We’ll land in Galway and drive up to Donegal. Brigid, Dave, Maeve, Michael, Brian, and John would make the trip and return immediately after the funeral. Maeve and Michael had photos on their phones of their babies, and all had photos of spouses. Dave had arranged for limo and driver to pick them up and after the funeral, bring them back to the airport. Given the circumstances, they will not be doing any social visiting with friends.

The flight over was uneventful. There was a lot of light family conversation, just about everyone napped, After landing in Galway, at a small regional airport, Maeve sat in the lounge to face-time by telephone Susan and Theresa to check on the babies. Patrick will stop by Susan and Michael’s apartment, have dinner there, and take baby Brigid home. He will bring her to Maeve’s office in the morning and pick her up in the late afternoon.

Fr. Seamus Martin will host Nora’s wake within the church on Sunday afternoon and evening, and Monday morning. The funeral Mass is scheduled for 11:00 on Monday morning. Fr. Martin will preside. Nora’s sons in British exile will serve as pall bearers together with the O’Connor boys, Liam’s brothers-in-law, and John Garvey, the eldest of the American cousins.

Malachy O’Connor arranged for Dave, Brigid, and Maeve, to stay at their home. The O’Connor boys doubled up to share two rooms. The three Garvey boys stayed at the rectory, built to house four priests and a house-

keeper. In these difficult times, Fr. Seamus was the only resident priest, and he was very glad for the company. In the shank of the night, with a couple of bottles of Tullamore Dew, In the course of the evening they shared their lives and their stories. As he started to tell the story of his meeting with Maeve when she was still single and childless. He learned of her marriage to Patrick Malone, a professor of Irish and English Literature, first at Loyola and now at St. Joseph's in Philadelphia. Patrick was the brother of her best friend and "adopted sister," Theresa.

"Would Theresa have a Black Belt in Karate, and graduate of Villanova with degrees in Psychology," asked Shamus.

"The one and the same," said John. "She is now my wife, and our baby is due in May.

"Glory be to God, Patrick was one of my professors at Loyola, a damn good one too. He was a very nice guy, a little shy, but I thought he was just finding his depth. He had just completed his own doctoral studies. I had heard that he was going to St. Joseph's in Philadelphia as an Assistant Professor."

"He is now a full professor and the Chairman of the Irish Studies Department," said John. "He has published over a hundred articles on his own research and sometimes collaborates with a friend, Desmond Dowd, an unlettered but brilliant scholar."

"Desmond married another of Maeve's 'adopted sisters' another brilliant scholar who has recently published a landmark study on hearing and speech. Maria escaped from Cuba when Castro had her father in his crosshairs. She and her dad stole a dory and rowed the ninety some odd miles to Miami Beach with her mother and two relatively infant sisters. Maria was twelve and rowed with her dad through the shark infested ocean the entire way. Her dad is now Florida's leading immigration attorney."

"Wow, it sounds like Maeve has an amazing collection of friends."

"Ha, you don't know the half of it," said Michael. "Maeve is *'fe'* and she is not even conscious of it. All of our spouses came to us through Maeve., She has started a fabulous business without having the slightest idea of what she is doing. She has hired all her friends and generated millions of dollars and is constantly paying it forward."

"Amazing, and Patrick is living in the middle of this storm?"

"Now they are talking about adopting two minority children. We have Brian's wife, as Irish as any of us, who is Black, beautiful, a Ph. D. from U. Penn, and the Executive Director of the Jesuit Urban Mission, that Maeve and Theresa quarterbacked to a major league operation. June Gilliam Garvey was a four-time All-American basketball player and Maeve's college roommate at Immaculata. None of her teams, in high school or college ever last a game. Maeve was Captain of the championship Equestrian Team. They have started rebuilding Philadelphia with the help of Dierdre O'Rourke, and her Croix de Guerre, Silver Star, and Congressional Medal of Honor as the result of her heroic exploits in Afghanistan. It took her about a year and a half to do that after being all branches of our military's computer expert for her first fourteen years."

"Well, she is Maeve's friend, but she saved my dad's life twice and my mom's three times. The public story is that Brigid, my mother, brought down the Mafia in Philadelphia, but it was really Dierdre, who is now expecting twins.

Not nearly finally, Maeve and June's college friend won her stripes with full academic scholarship, worked part-time in the bookstore and took none of her wealthy father's money. June was first in the class at Immaculata, Maeve was number two, a small percentage point behind June and Grace O'Malley, a direct descendent of the pirate queen was number three with less than half a percentage point separating them. The three gave the valedictory address together. Grace's father, quietly one of the three richest men in America,



gave Grace what he felt he owed her, slightly over \$40 million dollars. Grace is her dad's only heir. Grace is now married, an integral part of Maeve's group, works for Sotheby's, and is a strong supporter of the Jesuit Urban Mission."

"Wow, and the center of all of this is Maeve."

"Yes! And she doesn't even know it! We all meet together for a long brunch each Sunday after Mass. My parents come too. They don't want to miss anything."

"Guy's, this has been a most interesting evening," said Fr. Seamus. "I knew your sister was special when she helped solve Nora and Liam's problem. The problem was recalcitrant parents. Your aunt berated me because I would not "read Nora and Liam out" from the pulpit. Your Dad and Mom are first class people for seeing to your aunt's care."

The next day was cool but sunny. The Sunday Masses were crowded, clearly the result of Fr. Seamus Martin's ministry. The numbers of younger people in the congregation was remarkable considering the temper of the times with its Z Generation. The coffin with the body of Nora McCarthy will be carried in at the end of the 12:00 Mass. Clearly, the overcrowding at Mass resulted from early mourners who wished to be part of the welcoming ceremony. The six ushers walked beside the coffin. The entire service was conducted with almost military precision. Seamus Martin, appropriately vested in a cope waited until the coffin was opened with the burial cloths that adorned the coffin prominently displayed. A huge bouquet of flowers was placed on the closed lower half of the coffin.

Seamus started with a prayer of welcome to the Church where she worshiped almost her entire life, now surrounded with the friends of her entire life. As the Mass crowd dispersed, the boys, Maeve and the younger McCarthys were able to chat amiably, mostly about Nora. The wake is the place for telling the stories of the life of the deceased. Nora was something of a skinflint and a gossip spreader throughout her life. She had very little good to say about Brigid Garvey who escaped from Irish poverty and a life of subjugation at age fifteen and went on to America with little more than the clothes she wore. Within days she connected with the Sisters of St. Joseph and accepted a job in their kitchen. She worked for St. Joseph's for six years, finishing high school, after which she was promoted to be the mistress of the college dorms. She had a scholarship, room and board, and a modicum of spending money, along with the job as a chambermaid for over three hundred girls. After graduation with a very high GPA the nuns expected her to join the order. However the previous year she met a young law school student at a mixer with Villanova students, They fell desperately in love with each other and David Garvey, who had graduated from Villanova Law School two weeks before, knelt down on one knee and asked her to marry him. As she enthusiastically said "yes," he slipped a small claddagh ring on her finger. Brigid lived with his parents while he studied for the Bar Exam. Six weeks later, after finishing the exam without yet knowing the result of the exam, they married with a Nuptial Mass at Villanova, celebrated by the priest with whom he was friendly, among his Law professors. While no one was present to represent Brigid's family, a huge crowd of friends and a few nuns attended the wedding. While five of Brigid's closest friends served as Bridesmaids, The nun who most closely protected Brigid during her long tenure was the Maid of Honor, in the full garb of her order. It was one of the first wedding Masses celebrated in English. Her eldest sister, Nora, back in Ireland was disturbed by the news. In her mind, Brigid was a lazy, lack luster person who was very unenthusiastic about her chores on the farm. How could she possibly have kept a job and graduated from university. "Well, her true stripes will turn up anyway." That never happened and with the financial success of the Law Firm Brigid became Nora's pot of gold at the end of the transatlantic rainbow. She didn't hesitate to telegraph whenever she needed money and she always received what she needed. Brigid went back to Ireland with her family when her brother-in-law Patrick died. It was after Pat's death from a heart attack while he was working in the fields, that Maeve started corresponding with Nora. Nora never responded and was never heard from unless she needed money. Maeve also wrote to Liam who did respond, and Maeve was aware



of the existence of Nora O'Connor. Liam's older brothers had left the farm for England. They became personae non grata in their mother's mind.

In Aunt Nora's mind, Maeve was a freak of nature. "Can you imagine, a woman Barrister?" Can you imagine a woman going to business?" "How does she handle all the men in business? She'll come to a bad end."

Nora refused to use a telephone. "It's the devils instrument." In truth, she lived just the way her mother lived almost a century earlier. In truth, the farm couldn't produce enough to provide a steady income even for the two of them. She was heart-broken when Liam announced his plans to marry, and further, that she would become a grandmother in the very near future. That is when she sent a telegram to Maeve about the great crisis they were experiencing and could she come to Ireland.

Maeve helped solve the problem. After the marriage, Nora would have her own cottage with all the amenities. Her father, Dave bought the cottage in an upscale community for the elderly. In America, it is called assisted living. Dave, also provided the monthly food and living support for his wife's sister.

He came into the wake at midafternoon. The drama was almost overwhelming. He almost threw himself on top of the coffin and keened with loud salty tears, "The guy is obviously a phony," though Maeve's gift of *Fe* started ringing all the alarm bells in her mind. Meanwhile, Liam sauntered up to her. "That is the boyfriend," said he. "Be careful, he is a slick as a Tinker, and I think he might be one. His name is Paeder Kearney."

After finishing his dramatic display, he pulled out a hankie to dry his tears and made his way over the family. "You can't know the grief I carry." Clang. went Maeve's sensors. That was a lie. "My name is Paeder Kearney. I can't tell you how proud she was of all of you. She always spoke of you in glowing terms."

She never had a good word for anyone. Every one of us has a flaw that she constantly settled on. "Is that so" replied Maeve. "Oh, quite so. She always talked about her family's success in America."

"Really," replied Maeve. "Since Fr. Seamus set her up in the senior living facility at Salt Hill, I would've thought that she would never give us another thought. Reports were that she was very busy being involved in the life of the community. Are you resident in the community?"

"No, but I live close by. I expect to be moving there very soon. Nora mentioned to me that she would leave me her cottage in her will."

"Oh really! I'm surprised that Nora was so concerned with such legal details."

"Oh, at the facility they encourage wills and teach residents how to create one. It helps the family with their grief and helps with that major detail."

"Wow, that is really amazing. What is the name of this Barrister, I may want to consult with him to help us sort out the details of Aunt Nora's estate. Aunt Nora mentioned in a letter last month that the two of you were friends."

"Oh, we were more than friends." He looked around and whispered, We were lovers."

"Oh, marvelous. Aunt Nora always had a penchant for the joys of sex."

"She certainly did," replied Paeder Kearney."

"Well, thank you for coming all this way for her wake. Will you be at the Mass tomorrow?"

"Ah, No! Sadly, I have a business meeting that I can't cancel. My colleagues have come in from France and they must return tomorrow afternoon."



“That is too bad! My family is deeply appreciative of your concern for my aunt. Let me introduce you. My dad is right here.”

“Dad, this is Paeder Kearney. He was a very dear friend of Aunt Nora. Paeder, this my Dad, Dave Garvey. And this is my mother, aunt Nora’s sister, Brigid.”

“So nice to meet you Mr. Kearney. We are grateful for the attention you gave to my sister. You must have been the light of her life.”

“Well, she was the light of my life,. I can tell you that. She was feisty with a wicked sense of humor.”

“Sadly, since her husband, Patrick’s death, our only communication was by letter, said Brigid. She wouldn’t use the telephone, don’t you know.”

“Oh. surely I know,” said Paeder. “I gave her a cell phone and she refused to use it.”

“Well that was very generous of you, thank you. I’m sorry she didn’t get to use it. We could have spoken every day. Maeve and I would write her a letter each month. While we were distant, we were never estranged.”

“She told me about those letters. She was thrilled to receive them.”

“Well, that is comforting to know.”

“I’m sure you’ll be seeing more of us, said Dave. I will likely have to come back to settle the details of her life, and especially, to see after the cottage. You see, Brigid and I bought the cottage for her and paid for her meals and amenities each month. I haven’t decided to sell the cottage back to the Eldercare Company. Brigid and I might come over here to live out the rest of our lives, We’ll make our heaven in that dear land across the Irish sea, as the song goes.”

Kearney turned pale as Dave spoke. But I saw the deed and read her will. She showed it to me. She wanted me to live there.”

“Well, this is not the time or the place to discuss this,” said David. You can speak with my personal attorney about it if you wish, but I can assure, that Brigid and I own the cottage. It was never Nora’s to give away. She may not have known that.

My attorney is John Garvey, and he is speaking with someone over there near the doorway leading to the Rectory garden. He’ll be living at the Rectory until Wednesday.

Kearney stormed out of the church. He didn’t pay any final respects to Nora, nor did he even stop to say a prayer for her.

Maeve couldn’t help but the giggle as he left the church. “Why are you smiling asked her mother, Brigid?”

“I had a terrible thought in this church of real piety. I thought of Aunt Nora having sex with Mr. Kearney.”

“It would be a blessing if she loved anyone that much. She drove her husband, Patrick, to the drink. I’m sure his early death was a direct result. But we shouldn’t talk like this at her wake. Clean your mind. I overheard your conversation with him. You were brilliant.”

“The bus from Salt Hill just arrived. Kearney must have driven here alone,” observed Dave.”

Most of the new guests walked past the open coffin and then went to the kneelers set up in front of the altar to say a prayer. Many dropped Mass Cards in the basket provided for them. The steady stream came to the family. First were Nora’s sons and daughter – in – law, then to Brigid and Dave, and finally to their adult children. They all mentioned how happy Nora seemed to be, though she was distant and it was difficult to forge a real



friendship. She participated in some of the activities and attended Mass every Sunday in the chapel. Everyone seemed to think that she had a difficult time being part of group after the rigid aloneness and life on a farm in the mountains. She had attention from Mr. Kearney who accompanied her to Mass and was a frequent guest of hers in the dining room. One would think they would make a fine couple. Several weddings occurred in the Center's chapel. Liam and Nora were frequent visitors with their lovely children. Nora had been a Practical Nurse for the Center while she studied for her Nursing degree at the university. Maeve was extremely pleased with Nora and Liam. The plans they outlined for their lives seven years ago have fallen into place. Liam has his electrician's license and has completed studies as an engineer. They recently purchased a home in Galway City.

Dave and Brigid came over to the rectory that evening. Maeve went over to O'Connor's home with Michael and Brian.

John and his dad had business at the rectory with Fr. Seamus. They went over the details of the funeral for which Dave paid, as well as a healthy stipend for the parish and a gift for Fr. Seamus. Dave gave Fr. Seamus an envelope for the funeral director. After that business was completed they were able to sit down and enjoy drinks and conversation. "Seamus, what do you know about this business in Dublin with the former mayor and the current police chief?"

"Ah, it is a nasty business. I think anyone who was alert to the political corruption involved could read what would become the result. The Tinkers have a large encampment on church property in Derry, just over the next mountain. It is really a large village in and of itself. The shopping there is quite nice leading down to the church. I don't know if anyone from that group was involved. It is a good distance from Dublin. The Irish Times was the first to expose it. I'm sure we won't hear much about it from anyone since there were two such prominent murders. Everyone including the innocent will be ultra-cautious. Those murders will never be solved, but I hope it is a lesson for every candidate who chooses to run for office. It is difficult to be corrupt in Ireland because almost everyone will know what you are doing."

Dave replied that he was asked to assist, and that John and Dierdre helped uncover it. "The reporters at the Irish Times were on top of it but had to react with caution. If their names were in anyway associated with it, they would become victims. John's brother-in-law is a syndicated columnist for the Times, and he stayed very clear of it. John's wife will deliver a baby two months from now and they would like that to happen without and drama. My Director of Security is pregnant with twins, and we are concerned for her safety. She and Brigid recently exposed the Philadelphia Mafia."

"That would be the famous Dierdre O'Rourke," said Fr. Seamus. She is the toast of femininity here in Ireland. In fact, I'm sure she'll be nominated Irish Woman of the Year."

"She was under the radar for this caper," said David. "She alerted NATO and then guided their investigators. We never want anyone to expose her role in this. It is too dangerous."

"Tell me about Patrick Malone," said Seamus.

"Ha, Patrick is running for Father of the Year, this week while Maeve is with us."

"I really admired Maeve's work with Liam and Nora. She gently led both families to a decision to support the young people. They now have two beautiful children. Liam has a degree and Nora is working toward a nursing degree. She has done fantastic with children in daycare. On the opposite extreme, she is doing wonderful work with the elderly. She was the first to alert us to the machinations of that scoundrel, Kearney. Brigid, your sister was head over heels in love with the scoundrel."

"I glad that she had the opportunity to experience that and I'm even more glad that that she didn't have the opportunity to be hurt by it. He put on quite a show for our edification"

Ah, dinner is served. “Thank you Margaret,” he said to the housekeeper. “You can go home now. I’ll take care of the cleanup and dessert.. David stood up and took both her hands in his so he could slip her a 100 Euro note and more publicly thank her.”

“I’m interested in Patrick because he was my English Literature professor at Loyola,” said Fr. Seamus.”

“We like him as well. He was the first young man that Maeve brought home since she was in high school. Oh, do you remember that at Immaculata she had a Black boyfriend. I don’t remember his name now, but he is the First Admiral of the Mediterranean Fleet. June Gilliam, her roommate and one of her best friends is Black, and she had a White boyfriend. We had a wonderful time with them but I’m sure it tickled the rage of all those Pennsylvania neo Nazis. June is a Ph.D. from U. Penn, married to my son Brian, also pregnant, and the Executive Director of the Jesuit Urban Mission. She is also a former 4-year All American basketball player. You will have dinner with us when you come to the States. We can even get you a part-time job in our local parish. Fr. Paul could use a break.”

“That sounds great,” said Seamus. “I’ll be speaking with the bishop in a week or so. I’ve been in this parish since I returned from Loyola, almost ten years ago.”

The dinner was delightful. Fr. Seamus produced a couple of bottles of fine wine. In the course of conversation, as Seamus learned more about the accomplishments of the Garveys, and all their legal and business exploits, he asked, “is anyone an underperformer.” John sheepishly raised his hand.

“Go away with ya,” said Brigid. Dave laughed. “John has been my private attorney all these years, albeit, undercover. He is not only the best attorney in a state known for great attorneys, and those who know him well, acknowledge that. He is also a shrewd private investigator. He and Dierdre manage the best computer operation in the United States. Dierdre is still the ‘go to’ computer analyst for all branches of the military. Dierdre has President Biden’s confidence and his private telephone number. John runs our country club, and it has to be one of the best run clubs in the northeast. It is not a championship course, but it is a fine course and perfectly groomed. On top of that, he is a very fine person and serves in perpetuum on my Board of Directors as well as the Board of the Jesuit Urban Mission. He has whipped my Board into shape, and they didn’t even know it. He is not an underachiever. He is our secret weapon. Your mom is right. You need a kick in the butt for making a remark like that.”

“It’s in the service of humility, Dad. I love to hear you rattle off my biography.”

“Ha! Exclaimed Brigid, “That’s not the half of it, mostly under the radar.”

“Father Seamus took it all in with glee.”

“Take the blinders off of your own eye,” said Brigid.

“I saw the crowds coming to Church on Sunday. This might be the only place in Ireland where faith is alive. That only comes from the goodness of the parish priest and his positive interaction with his people. One of Maeve friends seven years ago asked her if she was crushing on you. Her reply was, “I think you have to appear before a firing squad if you seduce a priest in Ireland. But I have a strong sense that he really believes what he preaches. He has the faith. You have to understand. Maeve is *Fe* and whatever she feels is true.”

“You believe in *Fe*.”

“I’ve observed her for 36 years, now, and the only explanation is that she has the gift. She is not witch. She is blessed, though.”

The dinner and the evening progressed with much laughter.



Brigid entertained with stories of her early teens in Ireland. She worked in town for about four years and earned enough money to purchase a ticket on a steamship to America. Why Philadelphia? “Simple! That is where the boat was going to stop.”

“On the trip to America I met a girl from Chestnut Hill College. She encouraged me to come with her. She could find food for me and a place to stay in the dorm. She introduced me to a very nice nun, Sr. Joseph Agnes, who also taught Patrick in High School in New Jersey. I had left school in the second year in Ireland at age 14. They gave me the opportunity to study what they called remedial courses. They gave me a little money and a job in the kitchen. I had fun meeting those wonderful American girls who treated me like one of them. I had a small stipend plus food and board. What could be better than that. At that point, I discovered that there were boys in this world. Chestnut Hill was an all-girls school. I took my remedial courses and did extremely well. I would go to the college mixers with my friends, but I was clearly too young. I did meet some nice boys and by the time I received my high school diploma, I was able to talk with a boy honestly and intelligently. I finished with high grades and the Sisters offered me a scholarship, a new job with room, board and a little more money. I was now able to buy underwear, stockings, and a new blouse each month. I was now a college girl. No one in the hills of Donegal attended college. My brothers didn't until they escaped to England. I would write to Nora, my eldest sister but she never responded. She was heartbroken after her husband's death and my older brothers escaped to England. Can you imagine? That little farm produced four university graduates. Sean would reply to my letters, but he was just learning to write at that time. I accepted his efforts with love and wrote both to Nora and to him. I would write about all the wonders of America. That was beyond Nora's understanding. Meanwhile, a teenager himself, Sean took on the responsibilities of the farm. I was taking on my own responsibilities. The time went fast. I took summer courses because I lived there anyway. And finished college in three and a half years. I think the nuns thought I would join the order. Surely, they were a big part of my life, and I also was part of their traditional spirituality. By that time I had a dozen boyfriends. The one that stood out was this older guy from Villanova. I met him at a mixer, and he destroyed my equilibrium. After graduating, I left Chestnut Hill, tearfully I might add. I knew all the nuns and, of course, the many friends that I made. I still keep up with them. Dierdre takes me to visit some of them from time to time. I remember hosting a great reunion at Coral Gables. Dave invested in it, and it was long before we owned it. Now it is John's. We didn't have the time with the law firm growing as it did to pay any attention to it. It was getting pretty run down by the time John was ready to take it over. He had finished Law school and passed the Bar exam about three weeks later. John was our genius in a house filled with geniuses. It has been a great journey. I am amazed at the success of our children. We were once dirt poor. At one time we had a three room office including the waiting room in which there were four bassinets. Irish luck was with us, and Dave made our firm the largest in Philadelphia and the best. Dave is known and respected throughout the world. He is a personal friend of President Joe Biden, who is now a good friend of Dierdre.”

“It was Brigid that made the sale that started our climb out of poverty.” added Dave.

“How does Dierdre fit in to your family,” asked Seamus?

“Do you mind if I answer this, Brigid, asked Dave? “The floor is yours.”

“Dierdre was referred to us as a possible Director of Security. I was against hiring her. After I looked at her resume and credentials, I felt that she would be bored. She was an all-New York State soccer player. She had scholarships to every school in the country because she also had perfect SAT scores. She earned the Croix de Guerre and the Silver Star for heroism in battle. In her first month on the job, we were threatened by the Colombian Cartel. Dierdre was assigned to protect us. One evening we were going to have dinner that John prepared in his clubhouse apartment. When we got out of our cars in the parking lot, these five guys appeared with drawn guns. Demure and tiny Theresa, John's wife, totally destroyed the assailant that was going to do her in. He was hospitalized for months. I was the target, but I was knocked to the ground. Brigid was right next to

me. An assailant moved over me to shoot me. Therese knocked one of the assailants into him to distract the shot. Meanwhile, out of nowhere, this red-haired angel flew over my body, looked right into the barrel of the gun that was to fire at me, and killed the assailant. They both fired almost simultaneously, and the errant bullet went through her flying hair, striking John with a flesh wound as he subdued the fourth assailant.

It turns out that Theresa studied karate at Villanova and had earned a Black Belt by graduation. Dierdre quickly subdued the guy that that Theresa leaped to push and cuffed him. The FBI was also, unknown to us, on the scene and shot and wounded the fifth assailant. That was the night we first met Dierdre. She is now my co-director of security, recently brought down the Philadelphia Mafia along with my dear spouse, Brigid. She and John monitored the FBI's work locally. Dierdre is still "on call" for all branches of the military, works closely with John, for instance in the Tinker caper in Dublin. She has also constructed a plan that is being implemented in Philadelphia to reconstruct all the run-down areas as part of her volunteer work with the Jesuit Urban Mission. The plan can be replicated for every city in the country. She and Brigid hang out together, shopping, cooking, and visiting. Her husband is a guy she met in an Afghanistan trench fearing that they had come the end of a winning streak. Tommy was already wounded, and they were facing an overwhelming Taliban force. She had deployed her team of two, armed with all the ammunition and rockets they could carry. They started firing the rockets from the rear. Meanwhile, Dierdre, the Marine leading marksman, had fifty bullets in her clip and took out fifty of the enemy. The enemy started to retreat when the rockets appeared from the rear.

It was only when colleagues were mustering out of Afghanistan did they realize that Dierdre and her team saved so many lives with their heroism in the face of grave danger. Not only there but throughout the two years that her team was active. Her exploits in the battlefield are now legendary. She was then awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor. Dierdre and her team instantly became famous. She and one of the soldiers she saved, Tom Farrell, married, and they are expecting twins in December."

"Wow, when do you guys relax" asked Seamus.

Oh, we have a lot of fun," said Brigid.

"You have to meet my wife, Theresa," said John. "I'm sure you will when you come to the states. She is as impish as a Lepruchaun."

The rest of the evening went well with lively chatter. Fr. Seamus had made chocolate pudding for dessert.

The following day was the funeral and the burial. The O'Connors hosted the post Mass repast. David slipped Jeremiah an envelope that more than covered the expense.

After tearful "goodbyes" the next morning the tired Garvey family were driven to Salt Hill where they would meet with the owners of the senior complex where Aunt Nora lived. Dave kept Nora's cottage. He had instructed Fr. Seamus to use it for the next poor person who needed the help of assisted living. After which, they boarded their plane for take-off back the Philadelphia Airport.





**IRISH AMERICAN  
CULTURAL INSTITUTE**  
Jersey Shore Chapter

**An Evening with Paul Muldoon, Award-Winning Irish Poet**

Internationally acclaimed Pulitzer Prize-winning Irish poet and Princeton University professor Paul Muldoon will visit the Jersey Shore for what promises to be a memorable evening of poetry, storytelling and history. This special event, hosted by the IACI-Jersey Shore Chapter (IACI-JS) and sponsored by the Thomas J. Sharkey Family, will be on Monday, April 25, at the Friendly Sons of the Shillelagh, 815 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., Belmar, at 7:00 p. m.

Muldoon is the author of fourteen full-length collections of poetry, including his most recent, "Howdie-Skelp" (2021), which according to the publisher's statement "is the slap in the face a midwife gives a newborn. It's a wake-up call. A call to action." *Publisher's Weekly* describes the new collection as brimming "with the poet's characteristic wit, employing a seemingly endless array of cultural references and allusions to illuminate the troubled present."

The author's body of work also includes shorter collections of poetry, works of criticism, opera libretti, books for children, song lyrics and radio and television drama. He has edited various anthologies, including *The Lyrics: 1956 to the Present* by Paul McCartney, published in 2021.

Born in Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, the poet describes his birthplace as "a beautiful part of the world. It's still the place that's 'burned into the retina,' and although I haven't been back there since I left for university 30 years ago, it's the place I consider to be my home."

Muldoon, who has held the post of Professor of Poetry at University of Oxford, England, currently occupies the Howard G. B. Clark '21 Chair in the Humanities at Princeton University. He has taught poetry at Princeton since 1987 and songwriting since 2013. As the Founding Chair of the Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton in 2006, he remains active in the Center's creative endeavors and is also an editor, critic, playwright, lyricist, and translator.

Dr. Peter Halas, Chairman of the IACI, said, "We are honored to welcome Paul Muldoon to the Jersey Shore to spend an evening with us sharing his celebrated poetry and entertaining us with his humor and wit. It's a rare occasion to have a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet in our midst. We're delighted to host this event through the generous support of the Thomas J. Sharkey Family. This will be a special evening with one of the world's renowned poets. We extend a cordial invitation to everyone to attend."

General admission is \$25 for non-members and \$15 for IACI members. To purchase tickets, go to [www.iacijerseyshore.com](http://www.iacijerseyshore.com). Seating is limited, advance ticket purchase is required.

To stay informed on IACI-JS programs, “like” the chapter at [facebook.com/IACIJerseyShore/](https://facebook.com/IACIJerseyShore/). For questions or for membership information, send an email to [irishacijs@gmail.com](mailto:irishacijs@gmail.com). New members are welcome to join at any time, annual dues are \$50. The IACI-JS is a federally recognized non-profit national organization and is the only Irish-American organization that has as its patron the President of Ireland.



## ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY

April 22

1671 - An English Navigation Act prohibits direct importation of sugar, tobacco and other produce from the colonies to Ireland; act expires in 1681 but is renewed in 1685 and extended in 1696

1918 - A general strike takes place throughout Ireland against the British government's attempts to introduce conscription

April 23

1014 - The Dublin Norse and the king of Leinster, with Viking allies from overseas, are defeated by Brian Boru's army at Clontarf. Brian, now an old man, is killed. This thwarts the potential domination of Ireland by the Norse, but they are well established in the coastal towns, and will continue to have a major influence. Máel Sechnaill succeeds Brian as high king

1918 - The Military Service Act 18 April threatens conscription for Ireland: there is a one-day general strike in protest (except in Ulster) on this date

1961 - A census shows the population of Northern Ireland is 1,425,642; an earlier census on April 9 shows the population of the Republic to be 2,818,341

April 24

1596 - Pacificatie of Ireland drawn

1913 - Large supply of guns from Germany are landed at Larne for the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF)

1916 - On Easter Monday, the Irish Volunteers and Citizen Army seize the General Post Office (GPO) in Dublin and demand Irish sovereignty

1993 - A massive IRA bomb rips through the City of London, killing one and injuring more than 40

1998 - The Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Freedom Fighters' Inner Council - the North's largest loyalist paramilitary group - backs the Stormont Agreement, saying it secures the state's place within the United Kingdom

April 25

1185 - Henry II sends his son John to Ireland; John lands at Waterford on this date to assert control over Hugh de Lacy, but he fails to achieve this. Henry still suspects that de Lacy wants to be king of Ireland

1707 - Thomas Erle, MP for Cork city, commands the centre at the Battle of Alamanza and loses his right hand on this date; David Dunbar, later MP for Blessington, is wounded and captured in the same battle, and John Upton, later MP for Co. Antrim, distinguishes himself

1861 - William Ford, who crossed the Atlantic from Ireland by steerage, marries fellow country woman Mary O'Hern. Their son Henry Ford, pioneered the mass manufacturing of the automobile

1918 - Irish Labour Party declares one-day strike in protest over conscription act

Anglo-Irish agreements on defense, finance and trade (25 April) end the 'Economic War': the 'Treaty' ports are ceded by Britain; the Irish Government pays £10 million to settle financial claims; both sides repeal penal duties on imports

1938 - Anglo-Irish agreements on defence, finance and trade end the 'Economic War': the 'Treaty' ports are ceded by Britain; the Irish Government pays £10 million to settle financial claims; both sides repeal penal duties on imports

1946 - Birth of Peter Sutherland; in 1981, he becomes Ireland's youngest ever Attorney-General in the Fine Gael-Labour coalition government. In 1997, he becomes chairman of BP and when BP merges with Amoco in 1998 he becomes non-executive chairman of the new company. BP Amoco has a market value of about \$40 billion. Sutherland is also on the boards of ABB Asea Brown Boveri Ltd., Investor AB and Eriksson. He is chairman of the Overseas Development Council in Washington and the recipient of numerous honorary doctorates and awards in Europe and America.

1976 - About 10,000 people attend the Easter week commemorative rally at the GPO, convened by the Provisionist IRA, despite government prohibition

1998 - The first ever mass demonstrations against immigration laws and racism take place in Dublin, Cork and Limerick. At the same time, protests are staged by Irish people outside embassies all over Europe and the United States. Dublin edges close to a standstill as more than 1,000 protesters march from St Stephen's Green to the GPO

April 26

1718 - Thomas St Lawrence, 13th Baron of Howth, receives £215 14s 1 1/2d for the expense he incurs in building a quay at Howth for landing coals for the lighthouse

1745 - On this date, John Allen (3rd Viscount Allen), former MP for Carysfort, kills a dragoon in a street brawl. 'His Lordship was at a house in Eustace Street. At twelve in the night, three dragoons making a noise in the street, he threw up the window and threatening them, adding as is not unusual with him a great deal of bad language. The dragoons returned it. He went out to them loaded with a pistol. At the first snapping of it, it did not fire. This irritated the dragoon who cut his fingers with his sword, upon which Lord Allen shot him.' The wound occasions a fever which causes Lord Allen's death on 25 May

1756 - John Ponsonby is unanimously elected Speaker of the Irish parliament

1784 - Death of Nano Nagle, 'God's Beggar', founder of the Order of the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary

1808 - Benjamin Burton, son of William Burton (former MP for Gowran and Co. Carlow) fractures his skull in a fall from his horse while hunting but, having apparently recovered, goes out again with the hounds and dies from 'brain fever'

1895 - The trial of Oscar Wilde for homosexuality, then a crime, begins at the Old Bailey

1916 - Francis Sheehy-Skeffington, writer, suffragist, pacifist and patriot, is apprehended while trying to stop Easter Rising looting and is later executed by the British without a trial

1999 - Former Supreme Court Justice, Hugh O'Flaherty, confirms he will give a full and frank account of his role in the Philip Sheedy affair before the Oireachtas Committee on Justice, Equality and Women's Rights

April 27

1696 - Act 'for encouraging the linen manufacture of Ireland': Irish linen gains duty-free access to the British market on this date

1739 - Lord Barry of Santry is tried by his peers in the parliament house for the murder of his former servant Laughlin Murphy in August 1738. They unanimously find him guilty, but recommend him to the royal mercy. The Lord Lieutenant endorses this plea, and Santry is pardoned under the great seal on 17 June. His estates, which had been forfeited for life, will be restored in 1741

1880 - The Royal University of Ireland is founded by charter

1904 - Cecil Day-Lewis, poet, novelist, critic, and Ireland's poet laureate from 1968 to 1972, is born in Ballintogher, Co. Sligo

1920 - Georgina Frost wins a legal battle to allow her to be clerk of the petty sessions for Sixmilebridge and Newmarket-on-Fergus, Co. Clare; she is thus the first woman to hold public office from central government in the UK

1923 - De Valera announces end of operations against the Irish Free State, effectively ending the Irish Civil War

2001 - Ireland's foremost literary town officially opens a permanent home for its famous wordsmiths and their works. A 19th century Georgian house, in the heart of Listowel, has become the Kerry Literary and Cultural Centre, where life-size models and audio-visual presentations help portray the personalities and output of various writers. The £1.5 million centre is appropriately named Seanchaí after the art of storytelling and in recognition of the folklore and traditions that inspire great literature.

April 28

1714 - Sir Wentworth Harman, MP for Lanesborough, 'coming in a dark night from Chapel-Izod, his coach overturning, tumbled down a precipice, and he dies in consequence of the wounds and bruises he received'

1864 - Birth of William Ellison, clergyman and the sixth director of the Armagh Observatory. On his appointment in 1918, he donates the original late nineteenth-century telescope to the Observatory - an 18-inch Newtonian reflector, made by the famous English telescope maker George Calver; for many years it is one of the largest telescopes in Ireland. During the 1920s and 1930s, Ellison and others use the telescope for observations of the planets and for taking spectral images of the stars, using a spectroscope to split the starlight into its constituent colours

1936 - The Daíl introduces a bill awarding pensions to the Connaught Rangers who mutinied in India in 1920

1998 - Some 30 years after waiting on Eamonn De Valera and literary luminaries of the day in the Great Southern Hotel in Galway, 57-year old Rita Gilligan from Bohermore is presented with an honorary MBE



by UK Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, at London's Hard Rock Cafe where she has worked as a waitress for 27 years

2000 - It is announced that 100 free bicycles will be placed on the streets of Dublin for the Heineken Green Energy Weekend. The free bicycles will be placed outside Trinity College, outside Dublin Castle and at the top of Grafton Street and will be available to anyone wishing to cycle around the city to take in the atmosphere of the Festival

April 29

1665 - Birth of James Butler, 2nd Duke of Ormonde and an ancestor of Princess Diana. The Dublin-born Irish general becomes one of the most powerful men in the Tory administration, governing England in the early part of the 18th century - from 1710 to 1714

1680 - The first stone of the Royal Hospital, Kilmainham is laid by the Duke of Ormonde

1916 - Pearse orders surrender of the Easter Rising rebels on this date. Approximately 64 rebels have been killed, 132 crown forces, and 230 civilians. 2,500 people have been wounded; the centre of Dublin has been devastated by the shelling

2001 - A monument is unveiled in Inniscarra, Co Cork, in honour of an Ulster chief who could have changed the history of Europe if he hadn't been killed in battle. Chief of Fermanagh, Aodh Mag Uidhir (Hugh Maguire) is shot dead during an ambush in 1600 at Carrigrohane before the Battle of Kinsale the following year, which sees the last struggle for an independent Gaelic Ireland fail. "Maguire was a great strategist, and some believe that had he survived, the result of the Battle of Kinsale might have been different, changing the course of European history. He was the Rommel of the 1600s," says Seán O' Ceallacháin of the Hugh Maguire Commemoration Committee

April 30

1428 - Sir John Sutton, Lord Dudley, is appointed lieutenant for two years from this date; he has some success against the various rebels

1795 - Rev. William Jackson of the United Irishmen returns from France, unaware that his travelling companion, John Cockayne, is a spy; Jackson is arrested and found guilty of high treason; he commits suicide in the dock by taking poison

1942 - Because of petrol rationing, all private motoring in Ireland is banned, and bicycle thefts soar overnight

1951 - The first demonstration of television in Ireland is held at the Spring Show in the RDS, Dublin

1970 - "B-Specials" reserves within the Royal Ulster Constabulary formed to contain violence in 1933 (but notoriously violent in their own right) are disbanded