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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.

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Call for Papers

Quinnipiac University
Hamden, Connecticut, USA
June 14-17, 2017

Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University, in partnership with the Irish Heritage Trust at Strokestown Park, are hosting an international conference, "Children and the Great Hunger in Ireland."



In any sustained period of food hunger and famine, children are one of the most vulnerable groups in terms of disease and mortality. The Great Hunger that occurred in Ireland between 1845 and 1852 is no exception.

This conference will explore the impact of famine on children and young adults. While the focus will be on Ireland's Great Hunger, a comparative approach is encouraged. It is anticipated that a selection of papers will be published.

Suggested topics and themes (but not limited to):

Children and poor relief
Children and philanthropy
Abandonment and societal shame
Children's literature and children in literature
Visual representations of children and young adults
Childhood diseases
Vagrancy and prostitution
Children and crime
Averted births and demography
Proselytizing the young
Children in print and material culture
Teaching the Great Hunger
The Earl Grey Scheme
The churches and children
Children in folklore

Sport and leisure
Famine and the family
Children of the Big House
Children and emigration
Memory and survivors' accounts
Witness accounts
Memorializing the young

Papers are welcomed from all disciplines and from both established scholars and new researchers.

Abstracts of 250-300 words for 20-minute papers or proposals for roundtable sessions on specific themes, together with 100-word biographical statements, should be directed to:

Professor Christine Kinealy: christine.kinealy@quinnipiac.edu

And Dr. Danielle O'Donovan: danielle@irishheritagetrust.ie



IRISH HERITAGE TRUST
Iontaobhas Oidhreachta na hÉireann



Children and the Great Hunger in Ireland

To learn more about the conference or to register interest, visit: [www](http://www....)

Farrell Baseball (The Farrell Clan and Major League Baseball)

By Steven Farrell

As a writer, it is always fun to play around with words as well as ideas. I am also a historian who enjoys researching things that may be overlooked by others in my field of interests. With this paper I shall write about two of my favorite subjects: my Irish surname of Farrell and the sport of baseball. I especially enjoy old-time baseball, roughly from 1880 to 1910. I suppose much of my infatuation with that particular epoch is that the Irish were the dominant ethnic group in the sport at the time, comprising anywhere from 25% to 50% of every major league roster.

For the purpose of this paper, I shall be examining the careers of three Irish-American baseball players from the Dead Ball Era by the name of Farrell: Jack, Duke and Frank. I will also introduce the reader to Francis X. Farrell, the fictional creation of Ring Lardner in his "Alibi Ike." I couldn't let this opportunity to go by without writing about author James T. Farrell. The author wrote often about his memories of his beloved Chicago White Sox as well as his recollections of the nightmarish Chicago Black Sox. I will then cover the baseball careers of Dick "Turk" Farrell and John Farrell, both who pitched in my lifetime. Of these baseball player from the Farrell clan only John Farrell is still alive and active in baseball here in 2016. I shall not be covering the two Ferrell brothers from Greensboro, North Carolina, Wes and Rick, as they never put in any claim on their Gaelic DNA. I would happily include them among our clan as Rick won 193 games (1927) and Rick, a catcher, stroked 1,692 and was selected to the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Old-Timers Committee in 1984.

John A. Farrell, aka "Jack" or "Moose," was a stocky Irish-American second baseman from working-class Newark, New Jersey. He was active from 1879-1889, and he played with five major league teams (Syracuse Stars, Providence Grays, Philadelphia Quakers, Washington Nationals and the Baltimore Orioles) and two major leagues (National League and American Association). In a time when seasons were much shorter and the baseball travelled a shorter distance, Jack accumulated 877 base hits and finished his career with a .254 batting average. His best season was when he batted .305 in 1883.

Jack claim to fame was that he was the starting second baseman for the 1884 National League champion the Providence Grays who were led by Charles "Old Hoss" Radbourn, the greatest single season pitcher in baseball's long history. "Old Hoss" tallied 59 wins (60 by some accounts), 678 innings and 441 strikeouts: all records that have never been broken. Jack contributed a lame .217 batting average but his head's up brand of play and his slick fielding were main factors in the team's success. It also must be mentioned that Farrell had to shake-off a persistent case of pneumonia that hung on him the entire season.

Edward Achorn, in his book *Fifty-nine in '84*, describes Jack this way: "The Unpleasant Farrell was an unpleasant character, with close-set, frowning eyes and a bushy moustache, and was fully capable of irritating friend and foe alike." (Achorn p75). Farrell was accused of sprinkling sharp

rocks on the base path between first and second to cut up would-be base stealers. He was also the first on the bench to bellyache if an opposing pitcher threw the ball overhanded. A pitcher in those far off days was confined to underhanded or submarine motions. Farrell also fought constantly with Grays' manager Frank Bancroft and he was known to report late to the team's spring training camp. He was also heckled by others for his on-going weight problem. Jack also escaped with his life and his underwear when a hotel he was once staying at burned down to the ground.

Jack Farrell was so appreciated by the fans of the tiny Rhode Island major league franchise that at the end of the season they awarded him with a gift. . Achorn writes: Hard-bitten second baseman Jack Farrell received a requisite life-sized crayon portrait of his own, and an elegant gold watch, chain, and charm in the form of a \$20 gold piece "prettily monogrammed," a tribute costing \$185. Farrell had key hits, singles and doubles, in the three-game championship series with the New York Mets of the American Association.

This Farrell was a hard-drinking and roughneck brawler like many of the Irish urban breed that sprung up in the 19th century, but he was savvy enough to run a hotel at Oakland Beach near Providence for many years. He sold his interest in the establishment for \$16,000, a substantial amount of loot in the "Gay Nineties," and he lived out his days in comfort in Cedar Grove New Jersey, dying in 1914, age 56.

Charles Andrew Farrell, aka "Duke," was a more affable Irishman than Jack Farrell, and his likeable personality found him a place in baseball up until his death. Well into the Twentieth Century. Sportswriter Tim Murnane wrote about Farrell's "happy disposition" and another sportswriter from the Hub by the name of Jacob Morse gushed "there was never a more popular player in Boston than Charles Farrell."

"The Duke of Marlborough" (Massachusetts) was a giant of a man at 6'2 and around 200 pounds. He played in major league baseball for eighteen years (1888-1905), with seven teams (Chicago Colts, Boston Reds, Pittsburgh Pirates, New York Giants, Washington Nationals, Brooklyn Robins and the Boston Red Sox), and in three leagues (National League, the American Association and the American League. Duke was a hard-hitting catcher who had 1,572 base hits in his career and a .277 lifetime average. In 1891, he led the American Association with 12 homers and he finished with 52 career home runs. Most impressively, he drove in 923 runs and was the member of three pennant winning teams. In his banner year of 1891 he tied with Hugh Duffy for the league's lead in RBIs with 110.

Rick Eldred wrote in an entry on Farrell in *Nineteen the Century Stars* (edited by Teimann and Rucker, p.85): "Good cheer, a smile and a handshake was his trademark, and while he tried other careers, baseball was his life. When he died in 1925, he was a coach for the Boston Braves."

Charles Farrell was signed to his first major league contract by Cap Anson, a long time player-manager for the Chicago National League club. Anson, who was an outspoken bigot, feuded with his Irish stars like Jimmy Ryan and Hugh Duff. Anson used Duke in the outfield before slotting him behind the plate. Anson had discovered Duffy and Farrell playing in the New England League: Duffy with Lowell and Farrell with Salem. I could find no indication that Farrell and Anson had any trouble working together in their three years as teammates, but it must be noted that Farrell jumped to the newly organized American Association in 1891. Thomas McCarthy, signed by the upstart St. Louis Browns team, actively pursued Duffy and Farrell for

his new club. Hubbard writes: “In cloak-and-dagger fashion, McCarthy continued to beat the ancient brick streets of Boston for Duffy and Farrell.” (Hubbard,pp76-77).

Farrell and Duffy joined Boston instead and Farrell’s timely hitting did in McCarthy, Charles Comiskey and the Browns on more than one occasion while Boston raced to the American Association first championship. Charles appeared to have had a better on-field relationship with Hall-of-Famer player-manager Jimmy Collins than he did with the irksome Anson. Collins, another Irish-American from Buffalo, New York, employed Duke as a player, scout and coach.

In Bill Norwin’s historical research paper on Charles Farrell for the SABR he mentions how Farrell was harassed by Brooklyn’s bleacher fans for his ballooning. He suspected the fanatics were being egged on by the sportswriters. It made his tenure in that burg very unhappy for the normally easy-going Farrell.

Some of Charles other highlights included catching a no-hitter thrown by Jesses Tannehill, being a leading light in the Players Brotherhood, and starting at the catcher position in the first World Series game ever played in 1903. He was also 3 for 6 in the Red Sox first ever opening day in the same season.

Both Jack Farrell and Charles Farrell were the sons of Irish immigrants who had settled on the eastern seaboard to work in the factories of industrial and urban America. Casway, in his book on slugger Big Ed Delahanty, referred the late 19th century and early twentieth century as the “Emerald Age” because of the legions of Irish and Irish-American baseball players in the game. Mike Kelly, Jim O’Rourke, Tim Keefe, Jim Galvin, Hugh Duffy, Mickey Welsh, Dan Brouthers, Roger Conner, Connie Mack, Jimmy Collins, John McCraw, Willie Keeler, Johnny Evers, Ed Walsh, and Tip O’Neill (a Canadian) were some of the Celtic galaxy of stars that was produced during that golden age that Jack and Duke were a part of.

Casway writes: “Baseball remained an attractive occupation for sons of immigrant families. With hand-and-bat-ball games part of an Irish kid’s heritage, the athletically gifted few found baseball to be a rapid entry into the “American Dream”...If Irish players were skilled, fleet-footed, and crafty, they could be ‘strong-headed’ and slow like a “weary elephant.” (Casway, p 128).

Jack and Duke seem to be the opposite heads on the same coin of the paradoxical natures of that ancient breed of Irish-American baseball players. Jack was part of the roughneck tradition of the whiskey-stinking mick with the ham-like fists who were more like street hoodlums and boxers than baseball player; while Duke, on the other hand, was sober, friendly and got on well with everybody. As noted before, both men suffered throughout their career with weight gains. I relate to their Irish roots as well as to their waistlines.

One of the greatest fictional baseball characters ever in American literature was created by Ring Lardner, author of the great baseball novel *You Know Me Al*. Frank X. Farrell was a rookie outfielder for the 1915 Chicago Cubs in Lardner’s comic short story *Alibi Ike*.

“His name was Frank X. Farrell, and I guess the X stood for “Excuse me,” because he never pulled a play, good or bad, on or off the field, without apologizing for it.” (Lardner, *Saturday Evening Post*, p16). Carey, the manager of the Cubs, claimed Farrell couldn’t hit as near good as he could apologize. When he was questioned about his 1914 season in the minor leagues, he responded, “I had malaria most of the season...I wound up with .356.” (Lardner, p 17).

Lardner goes on to write this about Frank X. Farrell: “And you ought to hear him out there on that field! There wasn’t a day when he didn’t pull six or seven, and it didn’t matter if he was going good or bad. He popped up in the pinch he should have made a base hit and the reason he didn’t was so-and-so. And if he cracked one for three bases he ought to have had a home run, only the ball wasn’t lively or the wind brought it back or he tripped on dirt rounding first base.” (Lardner,p.18).

Lardner’s delightful yarn from the diamond was used as a movie vehicle for comic film star Joe E. Brown in 1935. The feature-length *Alibi Ike* featured Brown as an eccentric rookie pitcher for the Chicago Cubs. Such stars as Olivia de Havilland (*Gone with the Wind* and *Robin Hood*) and William Frawley (*I Love Lucy* and *My Three Sons*) helped to flesh out the cast. The movie featured some good baseball playing scenes, romance, kidnapping by gangsters and a rip-snorting car chase at the climax of the film. Joe Brown was reputed to be a fair baseball player in his youth and his son later went on to be the general manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Let’s turn back to real life. Frank Farrell, who was once known widely as the “Pool King” of New York City, is the third member of the Farrell clan that I would like to discuss in my paper. He never stepped foot on a baseball diamond but, rather, made his name as a magnate, owning the New York Highlanders, later the Yankees, for many years just before the outbreak of World War One. Frank would not be allowed inside of the ranks of professional baseball today because of his long-time links to organized gambling in New York City and his deep-rooted connection to Tammany Hall. Frank Farrell rubbed shoulders with Boss “Big” Tim Sullivan of the East Side and gambling kingpin Arnold Rothstein. In fact gambling Frank was on the casino front long before Arnold “*the Brain*” was on the scene fixing boxing matches and baseball games or shuffling decks of cards; his career in the world of chance extending for almost forty years. Frank Farrell was still involved in the horse-racing business when he died in 1927.

Frank Farrell career peak was in the 1890’s under the reign of bosses Richard “the people can stand corruption, but they can’t stand reform either” Crocker and Charlie Murphy. His closest business relationships were with Sullivan and one-time Police Commissioner William Devery. Welch writes in book on Big Time, *King of the Bowery*: “Big Tim formed a syndication with Frank Farrell and Police Commissioner “Big Bill” Devery that provided protection-for a price-to gamblers and gambling houses.” (Welch, p.57). According to Welch’s calculation the syndicate hauled in over three millions a year from pool halls, crap games, gambling houses and sporting establishments: not bad at all for the sons of Irish immigrants who grew-up on the mean hardscrabble streets of Manhattan. The street gang mentality learned from gangs like the Hudson Dusters and the Gophers of Hell Kitchen on the West Side and the Five Pointers, the Eastman galoots of the Bowery and the East Side were carried on throughout life by the products of these neighborhood. Dewey and Acocella in their book on Hal Chase, *The Black Prince of Baseball*, wrote this about Farrell: “Perhaps the most successful operator of gambling establishments in the country before the rise of Las Vegas after World War 11, the main focus of his business was a posh casino he opened on West 33rd Street in 1891. It soon became the place to go for the city’s elite and the Diamond Jim Brady crowd...the signature feature was a \$20,000 bronze door found in the wine cellar of a Venetian palace and installed at the rear of the casino’s entrance hall. Once it was put in Place Farrell’s establishment became known as the “House with the Bronze Door” (Dewey and Acocella, p.42).

Farrell made a rapid climb up the social ladder, working his way up from store clerk to gambling czar at a young age. He had enough cash to become a part owner of the New York American League club for in 1903. Reputedly the sale transaction was for \$18,000. The team played their first game on April 22, 1903 at American League Park on the northern edge of Manhattan Island. The neighborhood people referred to the makeshift ball park as Hilltop Park,” and soon they were referring to the team as the “Highlanders”. To go along with the Scottish team, Farrell hired Joseph Gordon, a respectable businessman, to serve as the ‘front’ for the team.

Frank’s only notable success as an owner was luring “Wee Willie Keeler away from the National League for a hefty yearly salary of \$8,000. Willie, a popular little Irishman was Brooklyn, went on to play seven years for Farrell, batting over .300 four times, including .343 in 1904. The most notorious player to ever take the field for Farrell’s club was “Prince” Hal Chase, who was later banned from baseball for throwing games to gamblers for money. Frank Farrell finally unloaded the New York club, now known as the “Yankees,” to beer baron Jacob Ruppert in January of 1915. The days when major league baseball was closely linked with professional gambling reached a zenith in 1919 with the infamous Black Sox scandal. Eight men on the Chicago White Sox American League’s champion team were accused of throwing the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds for a bankroll sponsored by Arnold Rothstein and his gambling syndicate. The eight players were banned from baseball for life in 1920 by baseball’s first Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis.

Frank Farrell’s fortunes started to wane as his pals in Tammany Hall began to die off and the country entered the “Roaring Twenties” of the Prohibition Era. A short and stocky man who didn’t say much, Farrell makes for colorful reading. The likes of his kind shall never be seen again in American sports. Harvey Fromme, an independent researcher, estimated that Farrell and Devery received \$460,000 for selling their team: a profit of \$442,000 (“The Real Jake: Jacob Ruppert: the Man who built the Yankee Empire”). He certainly was a millionaire by the time he made his exit from baseball. Farrell was a fixture at the Empire City Race track up until his death. Bill Lamb, in his article for SABR, reported that Farrell’s total estate was valued as a mere \$1,000 or so. Lamb also mentioned that there was no accounting for how the one-time gambling emperor lost his vast fortune in the last decade of his life. I surmise that Frank must have betted on too many slow horses; at least he was ushered to the here-after with a high mass.

Before I move to the two Farrell baseball players that were active in my own lifetime, I would like to provide a bridge to them to mention in passing James T. Farrell, my favorite author and a person I actually had the opportunity to correspondent with briefly in 1977. Farrell (1904-1979), a Chicago native, was the author of the *Studs Longian Trilogy* as well as over fifty published books. Being a product of the South Side of Chicago he gravitated towards rooting for the White Sox at Comiskey Field. One of my favorite books on baseball is Farrell’s *My Baseball Diary*. He recounted the happier, pre-scandal Pale Hose “Hitless Wonders” clubs. Jim’s favorite players were Eddie Collins and Ed Walsh, fellow Irish-Americans. Farrell told me that he was a personal friend of Buck Weaver, the third baseman of the 1919 Black Sox squad. Another Farrell connected with the White Sox team was Kirby Farrell, a third base coach for the team in the late Sixties.

Now I would like to start wrapping this paper by discussing two Farrell baseball men who played during my life time: Dick “Turk” Farrell and John Farrell, the current manager of the Boston Red Sox team in the American League.

Richard Farrell was a massive and tough pitcher from the Irish neighborhood of Brookline Village outside of Boston. I lived in Boston in the very early eighties and I remember natives there still talking about the home run Dick launched out of a local ball park as a mere high school student in the fifties. I was also informed by old neighbors of his that Dick had died in a car crash in 1977 when he was working for an American company over in the United Kingdom.

Farrell's nickname wasn't because he was of Turkish ancestry; rather it was from his "turkey strut" as a cocky and swaggering six and half footer Irishman. He pitched 14 years in the National League with three teams (Philadelphia Phillies, Los Angeles Dodgers, Houston Colt 45s and, finally, back to finish his career with the Philadelphia Phillies. His record was a so-so 106 wins and 121 losses, but he was good enough to collect 10 to 14 wins a year for the dismal Houston club, an expansion team, and to strike-out 203 batters in 1962. I clearly remember Farrell closing out his career as a sore-armed relief pitcher for an equally deplorable Phillies teams playing out the string in a ramshackle Connie Mack Stadium. I remember proudly owning several of his Topps baseball cards, circa 1967.

In Ron Briley's essay for SABR, *Dick "Turk" Farrell: Houston's First All Star,* he mentions how Dick used his \$5,000 signing bonus as a rookie to send his mother Mary on a trip back to her native village in Mayo, Ireland. Turk was known for being a "free spirit and a practical joker" as well as for his 'extracurricular activities' such boozing and brawling. "Nobody beats Farrell after midnight!" was his war cry. This Farrell openly confessed on the radio that he had thrown Stan Musial an illegal spitball, and Willie Mays once publicly chided him from clucking on the back after Willie had belted two homers off him earlier in the game.

Dick Farrell greatest claim to fame was that he was the first player from the Houston National League Club ever to be selected for the coveted all-star team: indeed, since there were two all-star games in baseball in 1962 he was selected two times. In the first game Farrell didn't appear, and in the second he coughed up a three-run homer to Detroit Tiger slugger Rocky Colavito.

Finally, I would like to conclude my paper by discussing John Farrell, who is the only active Farrell in MLB today. Another Farrell from the state of New Jersey, John didn't set the world on fire during his eight year career in the American League (Cleveland Indians, California Angels and Detroit Tigers, finishing with a less than impressive 36-46 win-loss record. His best season was in 1988 when he picked up 14 wins for the Indians.

John Farrell will be remembered more for his managerial abilities than for his feats on the pitcher's mound. In 2013 he led the Boston Red Sox to their first World Championship since 1918. He was selected Sporting News 2013 Manager of the Year. In 2016 Farrell and the Red Sox won 93 games securing him his position in the dugout for the near future. As of this writing, John Farrell is still at the helm of the Bo Sox.

Since this is my labor of love fusing the Farrell clan with the sport of baseball, I shall finish by briefly mentioning Will Ferrell, the Hollywood actor and an alumni of the long-running *Saturday Night Live television series*, came up with a stunt to raise money for charity: he would briefly appear in exhibition games for ten different teams in five separate games during the Arizona Grapefruit League. He struck-out two times in two at bats, finishing his all too short career with a .000 batting average.

The results of Will's athletic exploits were released in a hysterical documentary called *Ferrell Takes the Field*. And on that note this Farrell shall leave the field.

The end

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All baseball statistics came from Baseball Reference.com

I refer my readers to these valuable articles from the Society for American Baseball Research:

Ron Briley “Dick “Turk” Farrell: Houston’s First All Star.”

Bill Lamb “Frank Farrell.”

Bill Nowin. “Duke Farrell.”

David Skelton “Turk Farrell.”

IRISH HISTORY QUIZ

During which years did the Irish Potato Famine take place?	1845 - 49
In what year did the Phoenix Park murders take place?	1882
What was the common name for phytophthora infetans, a major cause of the crisis?	Potato Blight
Where in Ireland was the last fatal duel fought. (Thanks to Patrick Hegarty for this question, answer Ref. source. H.P. SWAN, Romantic Inishowen.)	Druminderry Bridge. North East of Buncrana, Co. Donegal.
Which people from the British mainland came to Ireland when James I was on the British throne?	The Scots
Which Society, also called the Quakers, was at the forefront of famine relief?	The Society of Friends
Which Rule movement was led by Parnell?	Home Rule
What was Parnell's first name?	Charles
Where did most people emigrate to after the Famine of the 1840s?	USA
Who was the first High King of Ireland?	Brian Boru
What was John Barry known as?	'Father of the American Navy'
In Co Mayo in 1798, who landed 1,000 men at Killala?	General Humbert, of France
Which famous Irish siege lasted from 18 December 1688 to 28 July 1689?	Derry
Which Oliver came to Ireland in the mid 17th century?	Cromwell
When did Dublin celebrate the Millennium of its birth?	1988
Which President of Ireland resigned on 22 October 1976 following the comments of the then Minister for Defence Patrick Donegan?	Cearbhall O'Dalaigh
Who was known as the Liberator?	Daniel O'Connell
On whose tombstone are the words "He is now where fierce indignation can no longer tear his heart"?	Jonathan Swift
Which Scandinavians invaded Ireland in the 9th and 10th centuries?	Vikings
Who was the Mayo-born man who became the "Father of the Argentinian Navy"?	Admiral William Brown
In what year did the Irish Civil War break out?	1922