



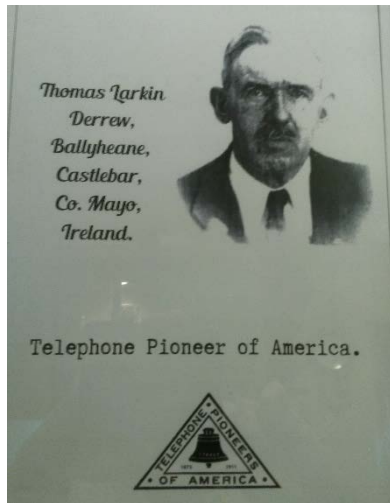
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Welcome to the latest edition of the IACI e-news.

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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Ireland - U.S.A Connectivity -- Past, Present and Future. By Michael Larkin

The term 'Pioneer' is most frequently associated with the settlers who travelled to the American Mid - West, in convoys of wagons and on horseback, in search of adventure, prospecting for gold, or simply to acquire more land.

However, there were other Pioneers - many who would become famous, who would proceed to create a lasting legacy, which ultimately would influence much of the history and culture of the United States of America.

Thomas Larkin was born in Co. Mayo on July 4th 1874. In the aftermath of the potato famine, there were few options available to secure meaningful employment, other than emigration to G. Britain or N. America.

Following a very basic primary school education, this man made that familiar journey, initially to G. Britain, and later to the USA.

He arrived at the port of Philadelphia on May 25th 1899. Throughout Ireland and Britain at the time, posters and banners were proclaiming 'Great opportunities in the New World'. However, in the Philadelphia region at this time, there were a surplus of immigrants, relative to the amount of work available.

(He would later say "If I had the fare to return home, I would have done so").

Undaunted, he journeyed westwards and secured employment with the Bell Telephone Company, in Pittsburgh.

Following the invention of the telephone by Alexander G. Bell, the network expanded rapidly throughout the USA.

However, it was not without its detractors. A report in the Boston Post stated "Well informed people know that it is impossible to transmit the voice over wires, even if it were, it would be of no practical use".

Little did he realise at this early stage of his career that he would proceed to play a pivotal role in the delivery of the telephone network into the American Mid - West, become an acquaintance of Alexander G. Bell, be conferred with lifelong membership of the Telephone Pioneers of America and receive recognition for loyal and dedicated service with the Bell Telephone Company.

Last year, a new transatlantic, high speed, fibre optic cable was completed, linking the east coast of the U.S.A. to Ireland's west coast, to deliver ultra modern connectivity between both nations.

What makes this tapestry of connectivity uniquely special is the fact that over one hundred years ago, this man was helping to deliver what was THEN 'The most modern form of connectivity in the world' into the American Mid - West.

Today, the new transatlantic cable will deliver what is NOW 'The most modern form of connectivity in the world' into Co. Mayo, the birthplace of this man!

The Telephone Pioneers of America were founded in the Somerset Hotel Boston, on November 2nd 1911. Alexander G. Bell was a keynote speaker. T. Larkin was also an attendee.

Today, the Pioneer network, with Chapters throughout the entire Continent of N. America, continue that proud legacy of the original Telephone Pioneers, through a spirit of volunteering and giving back to one's community.

"BELIEVE ME, THE DAY WILL COME WHEN YOU WILL BE ABLE TO 'SEE' THE PERSON WHO YOU ARE SPEAKING TO ON THE TELEPHONE".

When Thomas Larkin uttered the above words, following his retirement and return to a predominantly rural Ireland, they were greeted with suspicion and laughter.

Perhaps if he could now 'see' the advances in communication, the arrival of the transatlantic cable, or 'hear' his name being acknowledged by the Irish American Cultural Institute, he might smile and say "That day has come".

He also spoke about the wireless, or the 'talking box' as radio was known at the time

(He was also associated with Radio KDKA, which was the first commercial radio station).

Again, similar to his prediction on the future direction of telecommunications, this too was seen as futuristic and unattainable.

He was not alone in having a vision into the future. A few years prior to his arrival in the USA., his future employer Mr. Bell predicted

"In the not too distant future, I believe that it will be possible to have dinner in New York at 7 o'clock in the evening, and breakfast in Dublin or London the following morning".

In the company of the Irish Prime Minister, An Taoiseach, Mr. Enda Kenny T.D. as we 'welcomed' the arrival of the transatlantic cable onto Co. Mayo's Atlantic coastline, a cable, which right now has the capacity to deliver the fastest methods of connectivity in the world, the thoughts 'back to the future', or 'history repeating itself', spoke softly in my mind.

CONNECTIVITY, PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE.



The former U.S. Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Kevin O'Malley holds a sample of the new transatlantic fibre optic cable. Right now, this cable has the capacity to deliver the most modern form of connectivity in the world between the U.S.A. and Co. Mayo, Ireland. Mr. Greg Varisco, Chief Operations Officer of Aqua Comms, accepts a handcrafted Mayo wooden harp, signifying the 'strings' of connectivity that exist between Ireland and the U.S.A. Mr. Michael Larkin holds his ancestor Thomas Larkin's American passport.

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

FAMOUS IRISH PEOPLE

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| What was the name of the Anglo-Irish polar explorer who led three expeditions to the Antarctic, dying in South Georgia in 1922? | Ernest Shackleton |
| Kerryman and polar explorer Tom Crean was a member of a famous 1911-13 Polar expedition led by which iconic explorer? | Captain Robert Scott |
| Who was the Irish-born soldier and statesman responsible for the defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo? | The Duke of Wellington, Lord Arthur Wellesley |
| In what sport was Northern Ireland's Sir Anthony "A.P." McCoy British champion a record 19 times? | National Hunt horse racing |
| Under what name did Irish singer and later politician Rosemary Scallon become famous? | Dana |
| Which Northern Irish footballer, now a football commentator, scored a winning goal against the hosts Spain in the 1982 World Cup? | Gerry Armstrong |
| Who was the Derry-born radio DJ d. 2014 who popularised the nickname 'Stroke City' for Derry/Londonderry? | Gerry Anderson |
| Bandon - born Graham William Walker is better known professionally as? | Graham Norton |
| Which Navan-born comedy writer and actor was the long-term writing partner of Graham Linehan, creating Father Ted? | Arthur Mathews |
| Which Limerick-born broadcaster was associated with the Eurovision Song Contest for many years, ending his connection in 2008? | Sir Terry Wogan |