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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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Irish Immigrants' Memoirs: An Appeal for Information

In 1979, Czech dissident Milan Kundera wrote, "The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting."

Irish immigrants struggled, oftentimes successfully, sometimes not, amidst the powerful forces that caused them to leave Ireland and that shaped their lives in North

America. What was memory's role in their struggles? What would they remember and transmit to their descendants? What would they forget?—or suppress?

These are among the fascinating questions that longtime IACI member and historian, Kerby Miller of the University of Missouri, with Breandán Mac Suibhne of Centenary University and the Moore Institute, NUI-Galway, and Sarah O'Brien of Trinity College Dublin, propose to address in a new study of Irish immigrant memory.

Kerby, Breandan, and Sarah are collaborating on an interdisciplinary study of memoirs and other autobiographical writings and oral histories by Irish immigrants, of all classes and religious faiths, who came to North America from the seventeenth century through the mid-twentieth century.

Their first task is to identify and locate such memoirs, some of which were published, although often very obscurely, but the majority of which remain in manuscript or typescript forms in libraries, archives, and private family collections.

Kerby and his colleagues are particularly interested in finding unpublished memoirs, but they will be very grateful for information about the whereabouts of all Irish immigrant memoirs and similar testaments, published or unpublished. Please contact Kerby at: MillerK@missouri.edu

Irish Contributions to American Culture

by

Raymond D. Aumack

There were several migrations to America from Ireland in the 18th and 19th centuries. Except for the famine migration, these were small migrations and the immigrants were called Scotch-Irish. It probably had to do with the Ulster accent that was neither Scotch or Irish, so listeners referred to both. In this article, I want to concentrate on the contributions of the Irish Immigrants to American society and the early immigrants certainly made a mark on America every bit as significant as the nineteenth century migration. As you can imagine, the contributions of the Irish are enormous.

The Irish were changed by America at least as much as they changed it. They achieved lives that would not be possible in Ireland. They became the political and religious leaders of the country and achieved noteworthy success in journalism, entertainment, and sports. Though we are fully American, we have a great pride in our heritage.

From the world of sport to everyday terminology within the American language, Irish immigrants to the United States have given the country nothing but the best. Retaining our own identity and heritage, we have added quality and dignity to the country. Most immigrants preferred the cities and made the warmth of Boston City, New York City and Philadelphia their homes. In fact, the strength of the Irish-American community in New York city is any day more than the population of Dublin.

Considering the fact of British oppression in Ireland in the 18th century, it is amazing that the Irish penchant for leadership emerged in the climate of America. Following is a listing of the Irish Presidents who have led our country.

Andrew Jackson, 7th President, 1829 – 1837: He was born in South Carolina to Irish Parents two years after his parents left Bonnybefore, near Carrickfergus, County Antrim.

James K. Polk, 11th President 1845-1849: His family emigrated from Coleraine in 1680 to North Carolina. He also served as Governor of Tennessee before winning the presidency.

James Buchanan, 15th President 1857 – 1861: born in a log cabin in Pennsylvania The family emigrated from Deroran, near Omagh in County Tyrone.

Andrew Johnson, 17th President 1865 – 1869: The family settled in North Carolina in 1750 from Monthill, near Larne, County Antrim. He became President following Lincoln's assassination.

Ulysses S. Grant, 18th President, 1869 – 1877: The family emigrated from Dergenagh, County Tyrone.

Chester A. Arthur, 21st President, 1881 – 1845: His family, from Cullybackey, County Antrim. settled in America in 1815.cunty

Grover Cleveland, 22nd and 24th President, 1885 – 1889 and 1893 – 1897: Family emigrated from County Antrim in the 1790s.

Benjamin Harrison, 23rd President, 1889 – 1893: His mother had Ulster-Scots roots through two great grandfathers.

William McKinley, 25th President, 1897 – 1901: Born in Ohio, he was the descendent of a farmer from Conagher, County Antrim. He was the victim of an assassination and served a shortened second term.

Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President, 1901 – 1909: Irish on his mother's side, whose family emigrated from Glenoe, County Antrim in 1729.

William Howard Taft, 27th President, 1909 – 1913: His great great great grandfather, Robert Taft, was born in 1640 and emigrated to America in the mid seventeenth century.

Woodrow Wilson, 28th President, 1913 – 1921: He was the grandson of printer from Dergalt, County Tyrone.

Warren Harding, 29th President, 1921 – 1923:

Harry S. Truman, 33rd President, 1945 – 1953:

John F. Kennedy, 35th President. Irish on both sides for Counties limerick and County Wexford.

Richard M. Nixon, 37th President: The Nixon ancestors left Ulster in the mid-18th century with family ties in County Antrim and County Kildare.

Jimmy Carter, 39th President, 1977 – 1981: County Antrim and County Londnderry. His ancestor migrated in 1810.

Ronald Regan, 40th President, 1981 – 1989. Great grandson of Irish Immigrants from County Tipperary who emigrated in the 1840s.

George H. W. Bush, 41st President, 1989 – 1993: Roots in County Wexford.

Bill Clinton, 42nd President 1993 – 2001: identifiable Irish roots through the Cassiday line to Co. Fermanagh.

George W. Bush, 43rd President, 2001 – 2009. Irish roots in County Down and County Cork.

Barack Obama, 44th President, 2009 – 2017. Ancestors from the Village of Moneygall, County Offaly.

Of the 22 Irish Presidents, 18 came to us from Ulster

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Vice Presidents of Irish descent

George Clinton (Ulster-Scots)

4th Vice President

John Calhoun (Ulster-Scots)

Vice President 1825–1832^[227]

Joe Biden (Irish Catholic)

47th Vice President 2009–2017^[228]

Mike Pence (Irish Evangelical Catholic)

48th Vice President 2017–present

Irish-American Justices of the Supreme Court

- William Paterson: born in County Antrim, Ireland.
- Joseph McKenna
- Edward D. White
- Pierce Butler
- William Howard Taft
- Frank Murphy
- James Francis Byrnes

- William J. Brennan
- Anthony Kennedy
- Neil Gorsuch Partial maternal Irish ancestry

Irish Contributions to American Culture

The annual celebration of Saint Patrick's Day is a widely recognized symbol of the Irish presence in America. The largest celebration of the holiday takes place in New York, where the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade draws an average of two million people. The second-largest celebration is held in Boston. The South Boston Parade is one the nation's oldest, dating back to 1737. Savannah, Georgia, also holds one of the largest parades in the United States.

Everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day.

Since the arrival of nearly two million Irish immigrants in the 1840s, the urban Irish police officer and firefighter have become virtual icons of American popular culture. In many large cities, the police and fire departments have been dominated by the Irish for over 100 years, even after the ethnic Irish residential populations in those cities dwindled to small minorities. As we have written in other articles, much of this did not happen until the 1850s under the influence of America's first urban social engineer, Archbishop John Hughes. Many police and fire departments maintain large and active "Emerald Societies", bagpipe marching groups, or other similar units demonstrating their members' pride in their Irish heritage.

While these archetypal images are especially well known, Irish Americans have contributed to U.S. culture in a wide variety of fields: the fine and performing arts, film, literature, politics, sports, and religion.

The Irish-American contribution to popular entertainment is reflected in the careers of figures such as James Cagney, Bing Crosby, Walt Disney, John Ford, Judy Garland, Gene Kelly, Grace Kelly, Tyrone Power, Chuck Connors, Ada Rehan, Jena Malone, and Spencer Tracy. Irish-born actress Maureen O'Hara, who became an American citizen, defined for U.S. audiences the archetypal, feisty Irish "colleen" in popular films such as *The Quiet Man* and *The Long Gray Line*. More recently, the Irish-born Pierce Brosnan gained screen celebrity as James Bond. During the early years of television, popular figures with Irish roots included Gracie Allen, Art Carney, Joe Flynn, Jackie Gleason, Luke Gordon and Ed Sullivan.

Since the late days of the film industry, celluloid representations of Irish Americans have been plentiful. Famous films with Irish-American themes include social dramas such as *Little Nellie Kelly* and *The Cardinal*, labor epics like *On the Waterfront*, and gangster movies such as *Angels with Dirty Faces*, *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*, and *The Departed*. Irish-American characters have been featured in popular television series such as *Ryan's Hope*, *My lefty Foot*, *The Informer*, *Rescue Me*, *Michael Collins*, and *Blue Bloods*.

Prominent Irish-American literary figures include Pulitzer and Nobel Prize-winning playwright Eugene O'Neill, Jazz Age novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald, author and poet Edgar Allan Poe, social realist James T. Farrell, and Southern Gothic writer Flannery O'Connor. The 19th-century novelist Henry James was also of partly Irish descent. While Irish Americans have been underrepresented in the plastic arts, two well-known American painters claim Irish roots. 20th-century painter Georgia O'Keeffe was born to an Irish-American father, and 19th-century trompe-l'œil painter William Harnett emigrated from Ireland to the United States.

The Irish-American contribution to politics spans the entire ideological spectrum. Two prominent American socialists, Mary Harris "Mother" Jones and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, were Irish Americans. In the 1960s, Irish-American writer Michael Harrington became an influential advocate of social welfare programs. Harrington's views profoundly influenced President John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert F. Kennedy. Meanwhile, Irish-American political writer William F. Buckley emerged as a major intellectual force in American conservative politics in the latter half of the 20th century. Buckley's magazine, *National Review*, proved an effective advocate of successful Republican candidates such as Ronald Reagan.

Notorious Irish Americans include the legendary New Mexico outlaw Billy the Kid. Many historians believe he was born in New York City to Famine-era immigrants from Ireland. Mary Mallon, also known as *Typhoid Mary*, was an Irish immigrant, as was madam Josephine Airey, who also went by the name of "Chicago Joe"

Hensley. New Orleans socialite and murderer Delphine LaLaurie, whose maiden name was Macarty, was of partial paternal Irish ancestry. Irish-American mobsters include, amongst others, George "Bugs" Moran, Dean O'Banion, Jack "Legs" Diamond, Buddy McLean, Howie Winter and Whitey Bulger. Lee Harvey Oswald, the assassin of John F. Kennedy, had an Irish-born great-grandmother by the name of Mary Tonry. Colorful Irish Americans also include Margaret Tobin of *RMS Titanic* fame, scandalous model Evelyn Nesbit, dancer Isadora Duncan, San Francisco madam Tessie Wall, and Nellie Cashman, nurse and gold prospector in the American West.

The wide popularity of Celtic music has fostered the rise of Irish-American bands that draw heavily on traditional Irish themes and music. Such groups include New York City's Black 47, founded in the late 1980s, blending punk rock, rock and roll, Irish music, rap/hip-hop, reggae, and soul; and the Dropkick Murphys, a Celtic punk band formed in Quincy, Massachusetts, nearly a decade later. The Decemberists, a band featuring Irish-American singer Colin Meloy, released "Shankill Butchers", a song that deals with the Ulster Loyalistgang of the same name. The song appears on their album *The Crane Wife*. Flogging Molly, led by Dublin-born Dave King, are relative newcomers building upon this new tradition. One of my favorites was Tommy Makem, another Ulsterman who became an American citizen.

As things are today, every job in the 20,000 categories of jobs listed by the Department of Labor is well-represented by Irish workers. In the professions they are attorneys, engineers, generals and admirals, scientists, astrophysicists, astronauts, restaurateurs, Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and tens of thousands of priests, and leaders in banking and finance. They are men and we women who are governors and congresspersons, civil servants, leaders of people in every realm.

If we were to go into greater detail I would about the contributions of the Irish in all of our American wars. I would write about the Irish soldiers, the generals and admirals, and the involved politicians all of whom made a significant contribution to the country.

I would write about America's industrial revolution. For instance, Henry Ford of County Cork is responsible for the automotive industry in the United States. With his assembly line approach to building cars, he made cars available to everyone at a much lower price. The assembly-line revolutionized manufacturing in the country.

In the trades, the Irish excelled. They built the skyscrapers, they washed the windows of the skyscrapers with a simple belt that hooked on to a gadget on each side of the window frame. I had a cousin who did that work. They dug and built the subways and the tunnels under the Hudson River and the bridges over the Hudson River. Another cousin was a subway conductor and subsequently moved to the Long Island Railroad. They built the railroads across the country. There is a famous photo of construction workers eating their lunch sitting on a beam over the street at about the 90th floor of the Empire State Building. I am told with authority that they are all Irish.

Like the Irish American song, "The came here with nothing and wound up with it all."

ON THIS DAY IN IRISH HISTORY -AUGUST

1st

- 1906 - The Catholic hierarchy rule out mixed education at Trinity College, Dublin.
- 1915 - Funeral of Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, at which Patrick Pearse gives an oration.
- 1969 - A huge rally outside the GPO in Dublin protests events in Northern Ireland.
- 1980 - Eighteen people die in the Buttevant Rail Disaster.

3rd

- 1916 - Roger Casement hanged for treason.

5th

- 1969 - Severe sectarian rioting in Belfast.

7th

- 1957 - A war memorial in Limerick is blown up.
- 1986 - Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the DUP, is arrested for illegal assembly after a Loyalist mob takes over a village in County Monaghan.

8th

- 1980 - Ten people die in a hotel fire at Bundoran.

9th

- 1971 - Internment without trial is introduced in Northern Ireland.

11th

- 1927 - Fianna Fáil TDs join the Dáil for the first time.
- 1950 - At a meeting of the European Consultative Assembly in Strasbourg, Irish representatives vote against the European army proposed by Winston Churchill.

12th

- 1898 - James Connolly publishes the first copy of the Workers' Republic newsletter.
- 1946 - A plane carrying 23 French Girl Guides crashes in the Wicklow Mountains.

13th

- 1931 - Business resumes in the Four Courts following damage caused in the Civil War.
- 1969 - The Taoiseach Jack Lynch says on television that Ireland 'can no longer stand by' given the situation in Northern Ireland.
- 1995 - Gerry Adams tells a rally in Belfast that the IRA 'haven't gone away'.

14th

- 1903 - Wyndham Land Act passed, offering incentives to landlord to sell their estates.

15th

- 1838 - Government introduces relief work and a reduction in tithes for the poor.
- 1843 - Repeal meeting at Tara.
- 1969 - A night of violence and arson in Belfast. Sinn Féin calls for UN intervention and the boycott of British goods.
- 1998 - Real IRA bomb at Omagh kills 29 people.

16th

- 1879 - Land League of Mayo founded at Castlebar.
- 1969 - British soldiers are deployed in Belfast.
- 1982 - The Attorney General Patrick Connolly resigns after a wanted killer is found at his house.

17th

1922 - Dublin Castle is formally handed over to the IRA by the British.

1969 - Northern Ireland protesters clash with the Garda Síochána in Dublin.

18th

1911 - The British House of Lords loses its veto power beyond two years, making Home Rule possible.

19th

1989 - 10,000 people march in Dublin calling for Britain's withdrawal from Northern Ireland.

20th

1888 - Christian Brothers College founded in Cork.

21st

1962 - Former US President Eisenhower arrives in Belfast.

1970 - The Social Democratic and Labour Party is founded in Northern Ireland.

22nd

1922 - Michael Collins is killed in an ambush at Béal na Bláth.

23rd

1921 - Stormont Castle agreed as the Parliament building for Northern Ireland.

27th

1928 - Ireland becomes a signatory of the Kellogg Peace Pact.

1969 - The B-Specials begin to hand over their guns. British Home Secretary James Callaghan visits Belfast.

1979 - The IRA kill Lord Mountbatten, his grandson and the grandson's friend; on the same day, an IRA ambush at Warrenpoint kills 18 British soldiers.

28th

1835 - St. Vincent's Ecclesiastical Seminary opened at Castleknock.

1930 - Rembrandt painting found in an Irish cottage is authenticated.

31st

1994 - IRA announces a ceasefire.

Irish Music Trivia

Which road do the Saw Doctors sing about in a song of homesickness and emigration?	The N17
Which fruity sounding band had hits with 'Linger' and 'Zombie'?	The Cranberries
What did the Corrs do On Corners according to their album title?	Talk
How many members of Boyzone were there?	5
What was Sinéad O'Connor's distinctive hairstyle in her early days of success?	Shaved head
How many members of the Corrs are not female?	1
What are the Corrs first names?	Andrea, Sharon, Caroline and Jim
Who sang "YMCA"?	The Village People
Which instrument is James Galway famous for playing?	The flute
Which Kicks did the Undertones have in the 70s and 80s?	Teenage
John McCormack, Irish singer, was famous for which singing voice?	Tenor
The Pogues were formed in what year?	1982
Which Dolores fronts the Cranberries?	O'Riordan
Lord Mountcharles is connected with which high-profile Irish musical festival?	Slane
"Dana" is her professional name but what is her real name?	Rosemary Brown
Riverdance, the stage show, who composed the music?	Bill Whelan
Which Ash hit shares its name with a James Bond film?	Goldfinger
How many 'shades of green' does the song say can be found in Ireland?	40
The song by The Pogues and Kirsty McColl sang of a <i>Fairytale of</i>?	New York
According to Percy French's song, What do the Mourne Mountains famously do?	'sweep down to the sea'
Lady in Red is most famous for which Irish singer-songwriter?	Chris de Burgh

Which famous city was James Galway born ?	Belfast
Which Irish boyband made history when their first 5 singles went straight to number one in the UK charts?	Westlife
Which city did OTT come from?	Dublin
Which all girl band sounded like they had magical powers?	B*Witched
Which Daniel sang 'Whatever Happened To Old Fashioned Love'?	O'Donnell
Larry Mullen Jr is a member of which Irish rock-group?	U2
Who is singer Eithne Ní Bhraonáin better known as?	Enya
"In Blue" is the title of an album released by which Irish Group in 2000?	The Corrs
Which Irish pianist and composer composed the Nocturne?	John Field
Who wrote the music and lyrics of the song "Ride on"?	Jimmy McCarthy
Pete Briquette was a member of which Irish rock group?	The Boomtown Rats
"Do they know It's Christmas?" was co-written by Bob Geldof and who else in 1984?	Midge Ure
'The Edge' from U2, what is his real name?	David Evans
What was the name of the song Dana sang in the Eurovision Song Contest?	All Kinds of Everything
In U2 which instrument does the Edge play?	Guitar
Which folk band joined The Pogues on their version of the Irish Rover?	The Dubliners
Who sang 'Have I told you lately that I love you" with Van Morrison?	The Chieftains
What is the first name of teen star Mumba?	Samantha