



May 2006

CONTENTS:

[Quirkie News Stories from Ireland](#)

[Shamrock Club of Rock County](#)

[Milwaukee President's Message](#)

[Slate of Milwaukee Candidates 2006-07 Elections](#)

[Alphabetical Listing of Candidates' Statements](#)

[Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums Concert](#)

[Hurling Club's Dave Olson Receives Honor in](#)

Quirkie News Stories from Ireland

THE THINGS PEOPLE BELIEVE

A juror in a recent London trial in which five Irish car-bombers were convicted was let go by the judge for inattention because she carried out spiritual rituals in the jury box while clutching a witchcraft book in one hand and placing the other, as required by the ritual, on the floor.

RYANAIR FLIGHT LANDS AT MILITARY BASE

A passenger pilot is in trouble after landing a Ryanair passenger service from Liverpool at Ballykelly Army Base instead of Derry Airport five miles away.

The Ryanair flight from Liverpool came down at Ballykelly instead of City of Derry airport five miles away, reports the Mirror. The 39 passengers and six crew were taken off and the Airbus A320 grounded by authorities for an investigation.

Ryanair said the pilot of the flight —operated by Eirjet on its behalf— “mistakenly believed he was on a visual approach to City of Derry”. The airline has launched an inquiry into the botched flight. A spokesman said: “This incident arose as a result of an error by the Eirjet’s pilot who mistakenly believed he was on a visual approach to City of Derry airport. All passengers disembarked normally and were coached to City of Derry airport. Ryanair has notified the Irish Aviation Authority and the Civil Aviation Authority of this Eirjet error. We asked Eirjet to carry out a full investigation.”

MANY ARE DESCENDED FROM IRISH KING, STUDY SAYS

James Owen for National Geographic News – Up to three million men living around the world today could be descended from a fifth-century Irish king, according to a new study.

[SHAMROCK CLUB HOME](#)

[EMERALD REFLECTIONS ONLINE NEWSLETTER](#)

[PHOTO OF THE MONTH](#)

[MILWAUKEE CALENDAR](#)

[WISCONSIN CALENDAR](#)

[MIDWEST CALENDAR](#)

[JOIN CLUB](#)

[MARCH ST. PATRICK'S DAY EVENTS](#)

[MILWAUKEE CHAPTER](#)

[STATE CHAPTERS](#)

[COLOR GUARD](#)

[LINKS OF IRISH INTEREST](#)

[VENUES](#)

[Sign My Guestbook](#)



[View My Guestbook](#)



Email:

club@shamrockclubwis.com

[Dublin](#)

Research suggests as many as 1 in 12 men in Ireland carry the genes of Niall of the Nine Hostages.

["The Pirate Queen"](#)

Some historians doubt Niall's existence, comparing his legend to that of King Arthur. But scientists at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland say a distinctive genetic signature on the male Y chromosome, which is passed down from father to son, leads to Niall or some similar figure. Niall had 12 sons, according to folklore, and took nine key hostages, including Saint Patrick, as way to subdue opponents and consolidate power. Writing this month in the American Journal of Human Genetics, researchers said Niall "resided at the cusp of mythology and history, but our results do seem to confirm the existence of a single early medieval progenitor to the most powerful and enduring Irish dynasty."

[Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Honoree Dinner](#)

[Color Guard News and Notes](#)

[Celtic Women: First Friday Lecture](#)

The study was based on the DNA samples of 800 males across Ireland. "We used a genetic fingerprint in the Y chromosome that was sufficiently detailed that you wouldn't expect very many men to have the same one," said Dan Bradley, a genetics professor at Trinity College Dublin. In northwest Ireland, one in five men bore the same distinctive genetic marker, the team found. "That part of Ireland was influenced by a certain dynasty called Uí Néill – a group of lineages that held sway to a greater or lesser degree for almost a thousand years," Bradley said.

[Welcome New Members](#)

[Milwaukee Calendar of Events](#)

"Irish surnames are typically based on people who are the eponymous ancestors," said Bradley, whose own name claims ancestry to Niall. Other examples include Boyle, Egan, Flynn, Gallagher, McGovern, McManus, Molloy, O'Connor, O'Reilly, and Quinn. The same chromosome was also found in almost 17 percent of males tested in western and central Scotland and around two percent of New Yorkers of European origin. The team estimates that two to three million males around the world share this same Irish ancestor.

[Wisconsin Calendar of Events](#)

The study suggests a link between powerful men and a strong genetic legacy, as more powerful men would have commanded access to more women. "Polygamy was widespread, even in post-Christian Ireland," Bradley said. "Earlier Irish customs were quite resistant to change. Divorce was allowed, and concubines." One 15th-century nobleman with Uí Néill lineage, Turlough O'Donnell, is known to have had 18 sons with 10 different women. His sons gave him 59 grandsons.

[INDEX](#)

Rock County

UPCOMING EVENTS

• **MAY 16** – Potluck supper at 6 p.m. Regular meeting at 7 p.m. followed by video on Ireland

• **JUNE, JULY AUGUST** – There will not be any monthly meetings.

At the May meeting we will have a potluck supper. Bring your own table service and a dish to pass. The Club will furnish the coffee. If you wish to have some other beverage, bring your own. After the business meeting we will enjoy a video on Ireland.

As in the past, there will not be any meetings during the summer but we will have our annual picnic in August. There will be more information about the picnic at our May meeting and in the June and July Emerald Reflections.

– **President Tom Kennedy**

INDEX

Milwaukee President's Message

If you remember the earlier days of May baskets, and May processions, you're likely to be way over 21. If you have no idea what this means, you'll hear interesting stories about the excitement of someone presenting you a basket, or the girl selected to crown the statue of Mary in church. If you were a public school student, you may only have learned of this in your catechism classes. And, how often do you hear the word catechism anymore?

This is the month you must remember to be at the ICHC to cast your vote for the new board members. The election begins at 6 p.m., and you must be a member in good standing to vote. Our Senior Trustee, Joe Donovan, conducts these elections, and he will see to it we all obey the bylaws. Please be a part of this process, and vote for the candidate of your choice. If you have a family membership, only two members may vote, so your family will have to choose your family voters in advance.

Our annual Easter Rising Mass this year was once again held at the ICHC. We were fortunate to have Father Michael Maher, S.J. as our celebrant once again. Betty Mikush was the chair this year, and made certain all the rest of us were properly ready. Thanks to Colleen Shannon for the mass booklets, all the ushers, Dale Brenon for the historical perspective of the Easter Uprising in Ireland, and the music. Kit and Josie Nash would be pleased to know we are continuing the tradition they began so many years ago.

You must talk to one of our Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums members to hear the stories of their trip to Savannah, GA on St. Patrick's Day. They wowed the crowds, made friends for us, and had an all around great time. Del Canon was interviewed on the local TV station and never missed a step in doing so. Our group is unique in having a color guard, and our proud group earned additional parade invitations, from others there that day. It was great to hear all the stories, and to know how many of our members had family members with them including the Cobbs, Hamills, Sherrys and the Pfeiffers. I want to thank all the people attending as chaperones, and paying their own way. Without your assistance, and van driving skills, the trip would have been very difficult. Please take a bow for your contribution. This recognition has invigorated them to work harder, practice more, and take another trip when possible.

Please remember to sign up for the Honoree Dinner on Sunday, June 11. There are other details in this newsletter, and we would like a nice group to honor Joe and Catherine Donovan, Kris Pluskota, and John Maher. The dinner is earlier this year, and we are counting on you to be there.

We are certain you will be at our May general meeting to vote for the new board of directors. The direction and the future of this club and you great members, are of the utmost importance, take the time to come, and remember the doors open at 6 p.m. so come early if you need to pay dues, or just to visit with old friends. The Milwaukee Hurling Club is coming this month to give a demonstration of the sport. Perhaps you have a young person in your home who may want to start playing, and this is a fine chance to learn about it.

See you at the next meeting.

– Julie Smith, President

INDEX

2006–07 Slate of Milwaukee Candidates

- President: Richard Pfeiffer
- President: Brian Witt

- Vice President: Peter Fleming

- Secretary: Dawn Fleming

- Treasurer: Marianne Fisher

- Sergeant-At-Arms: Kathy Donovan,
- Sergeant-At-Arms: Martin Rosewicz

- Parliamentarian: Ed Mikush

- Membership Chair: Tom Smith

- Trustee: Noreen Barclay
- Trustee: Josh Walton

INDEX

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin (Milwaukee)

Alphabetical Listing of Candidates' Statements

NOREEN BARCLAY

Noreen Barclay was the Irish Rose for the year 2005. She has been an active member of the Shamrock Club since her return to Milwaukee a number of years ago. For the past seven years Noreen has chaired the Shamrock Club Sales Booth for Irish Fest, Folk Fair, and the Parade Day. She has served as a trustee. She has also served on the Audit Committee, helps out at the annual St. Patrick's Day presentation at the Milwaukee museum and has assisted and run the Scholarship Raffle. Noreen volunteers at the ICHC.

KATHY DONOVAN

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club for about five years. I have worked Holiday Folk Fair, helped in planning the Christmas party and decorated tables for our wonderful honorees at their dinner. Along with the Flemings, I have helped make the annual picnic a fun event for club members and their families. Serving a year at Sergeant at Arms has given me great pleasure in being part of the decision making process, and I am looking forward for the opportunity to continue as an active member and officer of the Shamrock Club.

MARIANNE FISHER

Hi, I'm currently your interim treasurer, having taken the job over in October of 2005. I enjoy finding opportunities to volunteer for the Shamrock Club in ways that not everyone enjoys, but jobs that still need to be done. I have considerable experience in nonprofit accounting having been the accountant for the Milwaukee County Council, Boy Scouts of America

since 1990, and have been your treasurer in the past. I hope I can continue to help the Shamrock Club with accurate record keeping. I've developed stronger friendships in the Club this past year and hope to see that grow. Thank you for the opportunity to help the Club in the past year and for your faith in me.

DAWN FLEMING

God has given me many blessings. I want to leave something as a result of my journey through life. God has given me certain talents which I try to use to their full potential. I thank you for the privilege of being your Secretary this past year.

This will be the fourth year my husband, Pete, and I have run the summer picnic for the Shamrock Club. Each year we try to add new ideas and will continue to do so.

This year I worked at the Holiday Folk Fair at the sales booth. Last year and this year, I helped at the Post Parade celebration in the kitchen and had a great time. Christmas is special to me because I can use my talents in helping with the table decorations, setting up the Christmas celebration, and being a Christmas tree and Santa's helper to add a special touch to a great Christmas Party.

I feel it a privilege to be nominated for Secretary of the Shamrock Club. I take the position very seriously and will always continue to support the Shamrock Club and help it grow by using my talents. I promise you my "well will never run dry of new ideas." Again, thank you for a great year as your Shamrock Club Secretary and I hope you will put your faith in me to continue to keep the Shamrock Club strong and moving forward in a positive direction.

PETER FLEMING

I have been honored by being nominated for the post of Vice President of the Shamrock Club for 2006-07. My wife and I joined the Shamrock Club five years ago. I volunteered to run the Summer Picnic four years ago. I dearly remember the huge Irish picnics and gatherings I attended as a young man. There was food, drink, and fun for all. I particularly recalled the grand raffle that was always held. From what I have been told, the Shamrock Club picnic has become quite popular and well attended. This has been a good recruiting tool for new members, and a date all members can look forward to each summer. I also helped spice up the Christmas party by convincing Santa Claus to make an appearance. I have met some nice people in the Club, and ask for your vote. I am also a member of the Emerald Society, and will be the new Vice President in the coming year.

ED MIKUSH

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club since 1979. I have always been an active participant in club events. I would like to become the Parliamentarian and offer the following experience: 16 years as Trustee and audit committeeman for local 1114 United /Steel Workers; three years as Club trustee and two years as parliamentarian. I have also served on the audit committee and as a member of the by-laws committee several times.

RICHARD PFEIFFER

I have been a member of the Shamrock Club and also a member of the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums for over 12 years, starting as a drummer, and have worked my way into the bagpipe section. Three years ago I took over as director of the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums and have worked very hard to get this unit to where it is now. I feel a strong tie to the club as both my children are members and my wife was once in the Color Guard. I'm currently a member of the Tripoli Shrine Temple (Highlander's) and a master mason from Lake Lodge #189. I was also a past director of the Pioneer Drum and Bugle Corp.

MARTIN ROSEWICZ

Ever since a rainy day in May of 1961, Milwaukee has been my home, even if military service and other events in my life have taken me temporarily away from such a great city. One of those great events was meeting and marrying my wife Barbara, which allowed me to help raise two great children, and now experience the joy of two wonderful grandsons.

My extensive work in our family genealogy led me to a better understanding of my Irish/Scottish heritage, and the Shamrock Club was the perfect outlet for the pride that I have in my heritage. Joining the Color Guard has turned out to be a dream come true. As I enter my third year with the Color Guard, I am so grateful for the friendships and the opportunity to represent not only the Shamrock Club, but also my ancestors in such a unique way. I look forward to helping the Color Guard continue to grow as a co-captain this year. And I hope that I can be an asset to the Shamrock Club as well, if I am elected as Sgt. At Arms.

TOM SMITH

I have been Membership Chair seven years now. My job includes collecting dues, keeping track of memberships —new and renewals— and mailing Emerald Reflections each month.

JOSH WALTON

I first joined the Shamrock Club in the early 1970s. During my early years of membership I volunteered to work for the St. Patrick's Day parade and the annual picnic. In 1980 I participated in the "Puck Fair" presentation at the Holiday Folk Fair. Most recently I have been a three year volunteer at the Bradley Center. I have been an Irish Fest volunteer since its inception and have been an entertainment driver for the last 23 years. I have been active for the Knights of Columbus Leo J. Brust Council, having served in many offices including that of Grand Knight. I also was President of the Council's Foundation which through its efforts provided four year high school scholarships to deserving students. Other charities supported have included the Jesuit Nativity School. I am honored to have been nominated for this position and would appreciate your support in what I wish to be many years of service to the Shamrock Club.

BRIAN WITT

I am a past President of the Shamrock Club, served as vice president and trustee. I have edited Emerald Reflections since 1999, and set up the Shamrock Club website with Gail Coss. I also edit a weekly e-mail newsletter under the Shamrock Club's name. I hope to be able to continue the leadership gains made in the past years.

[INDEX](#)

The Milwaukee School Of Pipes & Drums Concert

On Thursday, June 15, 2006, at 7:30 p.m., the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums will present their Eighth Annual Piping Concert at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center located at 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue. We are proud to acknowledge that the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin is the original sponsor of the Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums.

Those who attended last year's concert will remember what an amazing experience it was. The complete stage area was filled with pipers and drummers – the sound was totally thrilling. This year we will strive to make our concert an evening that will thrill your senses as you watch a stage overflowing with pipers and drummers playing tunes prepared just for you. The Caledonia Dancers have graciously accepted our invitation to dance for you also. Tickets will be available at the door for \$8.

Alverno College again is the location for the school, and it will be in session from June 11 thru 16, 2006. The school has gained a very respected reputation in the piping and drumming

community, thanks to our superb faculty. Enrollment is limited to 65 piping students and 12 drumming students.

For additional information on the School you may contact the Director, Tom Cobb at (414) 422-9235 or e-mail him at [tcobb@wi.rr.com].

For more information about the piping concert you may contact the ICHC at (414) 345-8800 or e-mail [director@ichc.net].

Website information on the School, the instructors and curriculum, please visit us at [www.milwaukeeeshoolpiping.com].

INDEX

Dave Olson Receives Hurling Honor in Dublin

Milwaukee is very proud to announce that Dave Olson, the Milwaukee Hurling Club's Operations Coordinator, traveled to Dublin in early April, along with his wife Cory, to accept the GAA President's Award from GAA President, Sean Kelly.

The GAA President's Award is given in recognition of outstanding commitment and long time service to the GAA.

Not only was Dave nominated by the President himself, but he is also the only American to have ever been nominated.

Anyone who knows Dave can attest to the long hours that he dedicates to the club each week/month/year. This award is not only a testament to his hard work, but to the work and dedication that Milwaukee Hurling Club members have shown for the past eleven years. It also is an undeniable sign of the impact the Milwaukee Hurling Club has had on hurling throughout North America as well as the positive reception and kudos received from Ireland.

– Karen Fink, MHC President

INDEX

**CONFERENCE OF CELTIC WOMEN,
MILW. OCT. 12-14, 2006**

Are You Interested?

"The Pirate Queen"

Moya Doherty and John McColgan brought Riverdance to the world 10 years ago; Tony award-winners Alain Boublil and Claude-Michel Schonberg composed Les Miserables and Miss Saigon. This wonderful team are now working together in pre-production of a Broadway-bound new musical called The Pirate Queen. It will open in Chicago on October 6, 2006, mere days before the opening of the Conference of Celtic Women in Milwaukee.

The Pirate Queen is the story of Grace O'Malley who lived 1530 to 1593, ruling the seas off western Ireland for 40 years. Her story has lived on in song and story and she has become an Irish heroine and icon, a symbol of resistance down the ages. Morgan Llywelyn's book Grania, published in 1986 by Tom Doherty Associates is the basis of this production.

We are planning a post-conference trip to Chicago to see The Pirate Queen; a matinee show on Sunday afternoon, October 15. We will have a chartered coach including a bag lunch en route and return to Milwaukee following the musical, for an estimated all-inclusive cost of \$75 per person. Before committing to this outing we will need to have an idea of your interest. A minimum of 20 people will be needed to set up the trip.

A separate registration will be needed, but you need not attend the conference to attend the musical. This request for your interest is not binding but will help to decide if we should commit to the trip. If you feel that you would like to join us in attending The Pirate Queen, please send an e-mail to [conference@conferenceofcelticwomen.org]. The Pirate Queen has a web site at [www.thepiratequeen.com].

INDEX

Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Honoree Dinner

Sunday, June 11, 2006

Please join us in honoring the Irishman of the Year John G. Maher, Irish Rose Kristine Carrigg Pluskota, and Parade Marshals Joe and Catherine Donovan.

Serb Hall, 5101 West Oklahoma Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

Cost: \$25 includes tax and tip

Cocktails 5 pm (Cash Bar) • Dinner 6 pm

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people attending: _____

Sit down dinner choices:

_____ Stuffed Pork Chops

_____ Lemon Chicken

_____ Beef Stroganoff

Make checks payable to the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin and mail to:

Tom and Julie Smith
1107 South 26th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53204

[INDEX](#)

Color Guard News and Notes

Well, I'm back at the keys this month. Our parade season has started out in great fashion! We have new people joining in all sections of our unit. The next parades we'll march in are for Memorial Day, at both Menomonee Falls and Milwaukee on May 29. Following them will be the Highland Games on June 3. Some of our people again are attending the School of Piping, and I wish them good luck and much learning.

There are some people who I forgot to thank in our previous newsletters. These people came with us to Savannah and helped out as support either by driving us around or by carrying water bottles in the parade. A big thanks to Pam, Addie, Chris, Thelma, Dick, Jason and Dawn; you people made our time there just that much more enjoyable.

Please watch for us in the coming months and support your group as we are proud to say we are the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums of Milwaukee. And as always, if you'd like to be part of our group either as a color guard or to learn pipes or drums please contact us.

– Richard Pfeiffer, milwpiper@cs.com

INDEX

Celtic Women First Friday Lectures

May 5, 2006

Topic: Welsh Folk Songs – Ala Spring

Speaker: Ann E. Lemmenes

The May lecture for Celtic Women will feature a Welsh woman from Waupun, Wisconsin. She studied music in Wales and visited many times at her grandfather's childhood home in Blaenau Ffestiniog, Wales. Ann directs Gymanfa Ganus and Welsh "hymn-sings" in Wisconsin; she will weave stories and songs about Wales with guitar and folk harp. Ann enjoys sharing her love of Welsh folk songs, especially Spring songs.

Admission for the lecture is \$5 for all; enjoy a cup of tea and cookies while you pick up a bit of Welsh culture. The lectures are held at the Irish Cultural & Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Questions at (414) 345-8800.

– Jean Bills

INDEX

New Members

NOTE: Please send your dues to your Membership Chairperson in your chapter. All names and addresses are listed in Emerald Reflections.

Milwaukee – Curtis and Trish Johnson (referred by Bridget Jaskulski); and all of the following referred by the Post Parade Party: Daniel Connolly; Monica McElroy Denissen; Kurt Dennissen; Moddie G. Dodd; Timothy and Erika, Caeli McCue; Dave Thompson and Mary Quirk Thompson; Tony and Nikki Wettstein.

- February: 40 memberships up for renewal, 33 paid, 6 did not renew.
- March: 87 memberships up for renewal, 27 paid, 1 deceased, 59 due.
- April: 47 memberships up for renewal, 4 paid, 43 due.