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## Typhoid Mary

*by Joan Kapp Kreuser*

“How can I have all these things in my body and not be ill at all?” asked Irish immigrant Mary Mallon in New York City after health authorities tried (once again) to explain to her what a typhoid fever carrier was. Mary was born in Cookstown, County Tyrone, Ireland, around 1870, and came to New York looking for a better life in 1883.

Mary, unfortunately, was the first identified healthy carrier of typhoid fever in the United States.

During the summer of 1906, New York banker Charles Warren took his family and newly hired cook, Mary Mallon, to a vacation home in Oyster Bay, Long Island. Shortly after, six of the eleven people, including Mrs. Warren and two of her daughters, became ill with typhoid fever. It was known at that time that typhoid was spread by water or food sources.

The Thompson family, owners of the summer home, was concerned that they would have difficulty renting it out again if the source of the typhoid was not found. They hired a civil engineer, George Soper, who was experienced in typhoid fever outbreaks and it was he who came to believe that the newly hired cook was the source of the outbreak. By tracing her work records, Soper found out that Mary (who by this time had moved on to another employer) had left typhoid outbreaks in the homes of seven of her last eight employers.

In March 1907, Soper found Mary working for the Walter Bowen family on Park Avenue. Mary's reaction to Soper asking her for a sample of her blood and feces brought an angry reaction as she refused in no uncertain terms. Failing to get any type of cooperation from Mary Mallon, Soper turned his findings over to the New York City Health Department, who found Mary just as

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recalcitrant and violent as George Soper did.

After repeatedly attempting to talk sense to Mary, Dr. S. Josephine Baker arrived at the house with police officers and an ambulance in tow, and after chasing Mary through house and property finally found her hiding in a closet.

Baker describes her confrontation with Mary as follows: She came out fighting and swearing, both of which she could do with appalling efficiency and vigor. I made another effort to talk to her sensibly and asked her again to let me have the specimens, but it was of no use. By that time she was convinced that the law was wantonly persecuting her, when she had done nothing wrong. She knew she had never had typhoid fever, she was maniacal in her integrity. There was nothing I could do but take her with us. The policemen lifted her into the ambulance and I literally sat on her all the way to the hospital; it was like being in a cage with an angry lion.

Even after her tests were completed and doctors explained that a typhoid carrier need not have the disease, Mary refused to believe she was carrying it. Fighting mad, she was taken to an isolated cottage (part of Riverside Hospital) on North Brother Island in the East River. In 1910, Mary was released from North Brother Island, although still a carrier, with the instructions that since she now knew what a typhoid carrier was (well, they thought she knew? Mary in her lifetime proved time and again that she did not understand how someone as healthy as she was could be transmitting a disease) that she maintain a strict level of cleanliness, washing her hands thoroughly when handling food, and never again work as a cook.

In 1915 the Sloan Maternity Hospital in Manhattan, had an outbreak of typhoid fever in which 25 people became ill. The outbreak was quickly traced to Mrs. Brown, the cook, and further investigation of Mrs. Brown proved that she was Mary Mallon using a pseudonym to find work as a cook.

Mary was sent back to North Brother Island to the same isolation cottage she had left some five years earlier. Eventually she was allowed to help with various tasks at the hospital and in 1932, she suffered a stroke, which left her paralyzed. Six years later in 1938, Mary Mallon died on the island on which she spent 26 years of her life. Mary was buried at St. Raymond's Cemetery in the Bronx.

The legend of Typhoid Mary lives on, but it is fact that in her lifetime Mary was responsible for only about 47 cases of typhoid (not thousands) resulting in three deaths.

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## Milwaukee President's Message

So many events, so little time in August. The Shamrock Club is somehow able to juggle the plates on the stick, and never drop any. Get the kids or yourself back to school this month, and let's see what the latest word is.

First, a big thank you to Judge Dennis Moroney and lovely wife Karen for their attendance at our installation dinner. The good judge swore in all our board members in a most impressive manner. It was great to see so many of you there participating in the buffet dinner and the fun and games following.

The Celtic Spirit Feis at the Pettit Ice Center was offered to the club as a fund raiser by Sharon Murphy. It was the first time many of you had been there, or helped with a feis, but were there from start to way after the finish. The SCCGPD proudly kept the dance competitors informed by working at the results boards, and the rest of us distributed the medals and ribbons. It was always fun to see the joy of a first time winner, whether it was first or fifth place. We even had some of you help with the takedown at the end of the day. There were at least 25 of us there, and I thank you for your great representation of the club. Everyone pitched in and I don't think anyone could tell some of the members were rookies.

As August flew past, we managed to continue our annual picnic tradition. The Shamrock Club Hurling team offered to take over running the picnic this year to coincide with the playoffs at Brown Deer Park on August 10. Not only can Milwaukee boast to the world about our hurling club here, we now know they do picnics great, too. Many kudos to all who helped or just attended, terrific job!

Since there are very few members not working at Irish Fest, how could it not succeed. The Cultural Area has a member associated with every aspect. Our retail sales booth with the good business women, Noreen Barclay and Linda Tuescher, ran as efficiently as any booth on the grounds. Those of you that volunteered to work there did another wonderful job. For other members at any place of activity as a volunteer at the festival, job well done for the largest Irish Festival anywhere. Milwaukee is the envy of the world for our hard-working volunteers.

The golf outing headed this year by Ken Tehan, was another winner. Members came even if it was just to enjoy the dinner following the golf. This event is one of the long running fun things to do as a member. The golf outing is always a great way to spend time with each other or bring in friends or family to play. Thanks for stepping up and doing this, Ken, we're glad you did.

Now, to finally get to this month, please attend our new Halfway to

St. Patrick's Day Mass on September 13 at the ICHC. The mass will be at 10 a.m. and will feature our Shamrock Club choir, and the celebrant is Father Terry Brennan. Following the mass is an Irish breakfast or a continental breakfast if you choose. We hope to bring you an Irish experience with the mass and an Irish breakfast. It will be wonderful to spend time together, and enjoy the day. I know you'll be there.

See you at the next meeting on September 4.

– Julie Smith, President

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# **South Central Shamrock Club September News and Interests**

On Thursday, Sept. 11 at St. Patrick's Church-Loreto, S8280 Hwy. G, Lime Ridge, WI 53942 Old Blind Dogs will perform Celtic and Irish Music. Concert begins at 7 p.m. There will be a Potluck before the concert and beer will be sold. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. Advance tickets can be purchased at DJ Dietz Cabinets Designs at 448 S. Albert Ave., Reedsburg, WI or phone (608) 524-4899. Credit cards are accepted by phone for an additional 50 cents for processing fee.

Band Bio & Reviews?

One of the original cutting edge outfits in Scotland continuing new roots revival!"

"The skill, talent and verve with which they played, belied their laddishness and the crowd responded with thunderous applause. Folk is the new rock and roll." Shoots and Roots Festival, April 1999 (Evening News).

Over the years Old Blind Dogs have evolved and grown into one of Scotland's favourite folk bands. In the early days, the line-up consisted of: Jonny Hardie, Buzzby McMillan, and Ian Benzie, along with Dave Francis on percussion and Carmen Higgins on fiddle. In 1992 Dave and Carmen left, and Davy Cattnach joined the band (playing percussion), and they toured as a four piece for several years. During this time they recorded four great CDs with Scotland's record label KRL - New Tricks, Close to the Bone, Tall Tails and Legacy.

Things to do in September?

September 6, 13, 20, 27: St. Joesph Catholic Church "Saturday

Night Bingo Bash". Two 10-game sessions (6 p.m. and 7 p.m.) Progressive Jack Pot Bingo-starts at 8:15 p.m. Concession Stand: Sandwiches, homemade desserts and more.

September 7: Sacred Heart Fall Festival.

September 16: Holy Family Chicken and Biscuit Dinner and Raffle (310 Bluff Street, LaValle, WI) Dinner begins at 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. To go orders available. Advance tickets are \$7; Adults \$7.50; Children 6 to 12 yr. old \$3.50; Children under 6 are free.

September 18: Reedsburg Area United Fund Annual "KICK OFF" at Nishan Park, in the Lions Building 4:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. (Reedsburg located on Hwy. H across from Lands End property) Come and have a Burger, chips, dessert, drink for \$6.50. 50/50 raffle, visit the booths of many non-profit agencies who need our support. Door Prizes galore, music by a DJ.

September 21: South Central Shamrock Club Meeting at the Voyageur Inn & Conference Center; 200 Viking Drive, Hwy. H- Reedsburg, WI at 4 p.m. On the agenda is nominee suggestions for Irish Rose and Irishman 2009. Guest speaker: John Geoghegan - story telling.

September Anniversary Blessings to: Derek & Lynn Horkan – 9/9; Bob & Ruth Judkins – 9/14; Tom & Kay Scanlon – 9/21; Dean & Colleen DuBois – 9/27.

Birthday Cheers to Gloria Judge (2007 Irish Rose) Sept. 9.

September is a full month of activities and the start of a beautiful fall.

ENJOY!

– Dana Horkan-Gant,

South Central Chairperson

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## 50th Anniversary Committee

The 50th anniversary committee is looking for ideas for the Shamrock Club's celebration. If you have any suggestions, or would wish to join the committee, please contact Josh Walton at [joshwalton1@yahoo.com].

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### **Halfway to St Patrick's Day Mass and Breakfast**

Join the Shamrock Club for its Halfway to St Patrick's Day Mass

Saturday, September 13, 2008, 10 a.m.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 22 and Wisconsin

Father Terry Brennan, S.J. , Celebrant

Shamrock Club Choir, under direction of Bob Harrold

A full Irish breakfast or Continental breakfast to follow.

Full Breakfast \$7 – Continental \$3

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### **Color Guard News and Notes**

A big thank you to all who came to Irish Fest to cheer us on in the parades and performance. As our season winds down the fest is always a nice cap to the summer, time to celebrate after a job well done, a time to mingle with other Celt-minded individuals and make new friends and fans. It's a huge payoff. After spending the last few months practicing at the beautiful lakefront, it's a thrill to step on the parade route at the grounds and be rewarded by applause and cheers for the time, toil, frustration, and mileage each and every member of this group has put forth.

Speaking of job well done, late breaking news tells me the group won "Best Band" in the Thiensville 4th of July Parade. This, against some stiff competition from another area pipe band. I hear the thing that won it for us was the drum line. Way to go guys and gals of the beat in the back! Another trophy to add to the pile.

Also, a congratulations to Sean Cavanaugh who will be attending Marquette University this fall. No small feat. You'd never guess if you saw his outfit a week ago. Let's think Batman cape, cowboy hat, shorts and his kilt hose and shoes.

Patrick Maes is back from his travels in Europe and Katie Franklin and family spent time in Scotland. I heard she was trying to lose her passport so she could stay. The only update I do not have is one from a Ms. Kari Quinlan on her travels to California. I know she had a great time and learned a lot. Maybe she'll fill us in next

month by writing a bit on her experience here. Kari?

Also, not to forget, a warm welcome to the two Emilys and Krystal that have now joined the group. One a new drummer, one a new piper-in-training and the other with the Color Guard. Welcome to the SCCGPD. We're glad you're with us.

On the books for September is a new parade in Monroe Wisconsin, September 20 I think. A parade that celebrates cheese. Unheard of in Wisconsin! Check the web site or MySpace for more detailed information.

Well, as my article winds down, I hold my hurricane high in the air and bid adieu from my bar stool in New Orleans as I celebrate a big birthday milestone on the 5th. Lovely month, that September. One of the best of the year (despite the big birthday). Until October my friends.

– Noel Tylla, 5th year piper

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## **Celtic Women Lectures Return**

The Celtic Women First Friday Lecture Series is held at UWM Greene Hall; the lectures for the coming season 2008-2009 will continue for a twelfth year. It is with great pride that we offer these wonderful educational and cultural events for the women and men of Milwaukee. There is nothing else like them in this community, and we are pleased to continue this unique cultural treat. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and cookies and promise a delightful couple of hours.

Greene Hall is located on the UWM campus at 3347 N. Downer Ave. It is wheel-chair accessible. Plenty of street parking at the front door. 5:30 – 7 p.m. with \$7 admission.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2008

TOPIC: “The Great Book of Gaelic” (note this is the second friday)

SPEAKER: Nancy Walczyk

This “modern illuminated manuscript” covers over a millenium of Irish and Scottish poetry in Gaelic. Selected poems were illustrated by contemporary artists and calligraphers. This celebration of the shared cultures of Scotland and Ireland will be coming to UWM in October 2008; the only place in the USA that will get the exhibit. Come and learn about it.

OCTOBER 3, 2008

TOPIC: "Solas Bhríde"

SPEAKER: Patsy Grimes Tierney

ALSO: "Conference Pre-view" Jean Bills

Solas Bhríde (Light of Brigid) is a small Christian centre in Kildare town, County Kildare, Ireland which has as its focus St. Brigid and Celtic Spirituality. Here in Milwaukee a small group of women meet and study about St. Brigid. A representative from Solas Bhríde will speak at the Conference of Celtic Women in a few days. Hear more about the conference from Jean.

– Jean Bills

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## **Milwaukee Celtic Soccer**

The Milwaukee Celtic team starts its new season September 10. Additional dates are still being finalized at writing. Check out the web site, [www.milwaukee celticsc.com] for updates.

Milwaukee Celtic made its Irish Fest debut with a Friday night match against WSC. They played at Urban Park. Celtic currently competes in the Wisconsin Adult Soccer Association's (WASA) Men's First Division.

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## **Former Irish Consul General Philip Grant in Turkey**

Philip Grant was the Vice Consul General in Chicago ten years ago. He was a part of the Milwaukee chapter's Installation Dinner, where he swore in the new board. Philip is currently serving in Turkey, where he is the Deputy Head of Mission. Here is a part of a recent message from him:

Hello from the steppes of Anatolia – where I'm on summer duty while my Ambassador and the Consul are away. Hope all is well in Milwaukee... I hear you're not having the best of summers over

there, nor in Ireland either. Fortunately, this summer in Ankara is much more pleasant than last year. Hot sun during the day, but getting pleasantly cool at night. How's things with the Shamrock Club!? I still have the mug and the Packers sweat-shirt I collected that extremely cold St. Patrick's Day over 10 years ago now! Hard to believe...

I'm due to make a trip back sometime soon, especially since the euro is so strong now against the dollar. I'm enjoying Turkey a lot, been two years here with one more to go. Was in Tel Aviv in Israel for four years before this. And in addition to two short stints in Dublin, I was also posted to Strasbourg in France. So as you see I've been getting around. Anyhow this is the mail – which should stay the same no matter where they send me next, so please do stay in touch. Looking forward to hearing from you.

It's very nice to be remembered :)

Phil

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## **77-Irish to Be Discontinued**

The Shamrock Club's longtime Irish activity line: 77-IRISH, will be discontinued at the end of September.

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## **AOH Sept. 17 Event**

The AOH Milwaukee Division Membership Night will be Wed., September 17 at 7:15 p.m. at the ICHC. Entertainment is by Barry Dodd. Meet the members and find out about the AOH qualification: Irish by descent and Catholic. Visit [<http://www.aohmilwaukee.com>] for more information.

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## Bylaws Review 2008

The bylaws were recently printed in Emerald Reflections. If you have any suggestions for changes to the current bylaws, please submit them to Josh Walton at [joshwalton1@yahoo.com]. Bylaws are reviewed every other year. Also, if you want to join the bylaw review committee, contact Josh.

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## Milwaukee Hurling Club

The Shamrock Club Griffins played well all year. However, they ended up with a 3-6 record for the season. The team was made up of a number of first time players. So, for the first time in many years, the Griffins didn't make the playoffs. It was a season of change for the 2007 powers in the MHC, with many finding themselves out of contention for the first time in many years. A special thanks to the team for a hard and strong effort all season. The roster again was: Greg Baker; Ivan Baker; Joe Blanchar (C); Shawn Connolly; Thomas Fisher; Danielle Gibeault; Dieter Hanamann; Jack Harrold; Mark Lasky; Eric Lemmer; Christopher Lovy; Dan McAuliffe; John McCarville; Chad Parrott; Jamie Phillips; Tim Russell; Jake Schaefer; Mike Schloemer; Craig Wentworth; Mike Wichmann.

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### JAMESON DIV.

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Shamrock Club 2-7

County Clare 2-7

### Shamrock Club Captain Dan McAuliffe in Poc Fada

The Milwaukee Hurling Club's very own Dan McAuliffe, captain of the Shamrock Club Griffins, became the first North American hurler to participate in the prestigious Poc Fada competition, sponsored by Martin Donnelly. Dan came in last, with 64 in the competition. It was 10 off the leader, 2007 Champion Tipperary goalkeeper Brendan Cummins, but still a respectable showing. The competition took place August 2. The poc fada consists of hitting a

sliotar, the ball used in hurling, across a three mile course over the Cooley Mountains in County Louth.

A report from Dan before the competition:

“Greetings from Newry and Mourne, Armagh in Northern Ireland. I’ve been pretty busy since getting off the plane. We were picked up at the airport by Martin Donnelly and then met Pat McGinn for breakfast. Pat is one of the organizers of the competition and a counsellor in Newry. After a brief rest, I had an interview with a local radio station in Northern Ireland. I’m told it will be able to be heard online on Friday but I don’t know the details yet. This was followed by a reception with the mayor and council of Newry and Mourne. Strangely enough, one of the councillors daughters, Catrina, played with the (MHC) hurling club a year or two ago. Small world.

“The press I’ve been receiving is pretty amazing. There have been several articles about the Poc Fada which mention me as well as one in the Sunday Irish Sun in which the headline reads “Dan’s ready to be a poc star!” That might be an overstatement but everyone here is pretty excited and supportive.

“I was able to go to the mountain today for some practice. It will prove quite difficult on Saturday, but should be a lot of fun. The 3.1 mile course traverses up the side of a mountain through knee deep heather and is marked by large stones. Its pretty tough to get a run before hitting and since I’m swinging on my left (the side facing up the mountain) the heather is often in, or just below, the path of my swing. The weather has been authentic Irish. The practice was in a consistent rain/mist with a pretty stiff crosswind and the fog prevented you from seeing more than about 75 yards. I made it to the first checkpoint (the major rising section) before the mist and fog forced us to cut short. I’ll be trying to get more practice tomorrow, but of course, it’s weather dependent.”

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## **Members Doings**

Congratulations to the following members; Robert Donovan Sr. on his 90th birthday in August; to Brian Smith for his selection as a Little League All Star; to Terry and Kathy Stephens on the engagement of their daughter Katie to Jason Spangler; and congratulations to John and Mary Fisher on celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary.

Pat and Jane Fitzgibbons traveled to Ireland, spending time at the

famed Galway Races, as well as in Belfast.

Julie Pruske was recently selected to perform in the Skylight Opera's La Boheme.

Shannon Donohoe graduated with her Master's Degree in Broadcast Journalism from Northwestern University in June of this year and has taken a position as Associate Producer for Towers Production in Chicago, Illinois where she is responsible for producing the upcoming documentary series Animal Witness for the Animal Planet Channel. Additionally, Shannon is also assigned to co-produce the upcoming 3rd season of the History Channel's documentary Gangland. Shannon received her undergraduate degrees from the University of Wisconsin Madison in Journalism and Women's Studies in 2007. Shannon had previously danced for Trinity and Glen Castle Irish Dance Schools for 10 plus years before heading to college.

Thomas Fisher, the son of John and Maryann Fisher, headed to Ireland to work on his graduate degree in Irish Studies at NUI Galway. Tom was a Shamrock Club Scholarship winner. He also competed for the Shamrock Club's Griffins hurling team.

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## **Sunshine Club**

Del and Pam Canon are recuperating after a recent car accident.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

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