



## June 2009

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## Bridget Dowling's Family

*by Brian Witt*

Bridget Dowling was just a seventeen year old girl when she met a dashing young Austrian who claimed he was a wealthy hotelier when she accompanied her father to the Dublin Horse Show in 1909. The young man swept her off her feet, courting her across Dublin in a whirlwind romance that led to the couple's elopement in 1910. Her father tracked her down to London, where he tried to get her newly acquired arrested for kidnapping. She prevailed upon him to allow the marriage to continue, and the elder Dowling backed down. The couple settled in Liverpool.

The young man wasn't wealthy, and he was living in Dublin, where he was a waiter at the Shelbourne Hotel in Dublin. His name was Alois Hitler, Jr.

The couple had their only child in 1911, William Patrick. Alois left his wife and son in Liverpool, and went to Germany to find a better job in 1914, and was unable to return to England because of the outbreak of the First World War. Bridget refused to go there with him, because he had become abusive, and had taken to beating their son. After the war, Alois remarried without the benefit of divorce, for which he was arrested in Germany in 1924. He was released from charges when Bridget divorced him, even though she deplored the idea of such an action.

Bridget raised William in Liverpool and north London, where she moved after being abandoned by Alois. In order to survive, she took in boarders. Neighbors recalled Dowling and her son, who they called "Willy" or "Paddy" Hitler.

The Hitlers lives took strange turns. Alois tried to cash in on his brother's notoriety in Germany. However, Adolf's distaste for him never allowed him to rise. He established a restaurant in Berlin, which stayed open until the end of the war, and was popular with the SS. He had a second son, Heinz, who died in a Russian prisoner of war camp in 1942.

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Willy moved to Germany in 1929, but returned within the year. He moved back to Germany in 1933, and tried to cash in on his uncle's name. He got a job first at the Opel car factory, and later as a car salesman. His uncle offered him a position in the German government, if he would give up his British citizenship. He refused, and left for England. Back home, he tried to blackmail his uncle, with the stories of his father's bigamy, and with a story that Adolf's grandfather was a Jewish merchant. He also wrote a story for *Look Magazine*, "Why I Hate My Uncle."

Bridget wrote a book about her life, *My Brother-in-Law Adolf*. Among the allegations she made in the book were that Adolf had moved to Liverpool to dodge the draft prior to World War One, she gave him the famous shape for his moustache, and that she taught him about astrology. It was later proved that Hitler had not been to Liverpool. The book's manuscript never sold.

In 1939, she joined her son on a tour of the States. Mother and son were stranded, so they settled in the New York City area. After intercession by Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Willy was allowed to join the United States Navy. He was wounded during his service, and was discharged in 1947. He married a girl he had met in Germany in the 1930s, Phyllis Jean-Jacques, and who came over after the war. The Dowling Hitlers changed their name to Stuart-Houston, and settled in Long Island, where Willy established a blood sampling business. Willy and Phyllis had four sons, Alexander Adolf, Louis, Howard Ronald, and Brian William.

The bizarre nature of the Hitlers' stories didn't stop with the war. The chosen last name was very similar to the British anti-Semite Houston Stuart Chamberlain, whose work was cited by many in the Nazi regime. Willy denied such a connection. Alois was known to try to sell autographed photos of his brother to tourists. The four sons of Willy were said to have set up a sort of "no-reproduction" clause, in which none would ever marry. The surviving sons say no such pact was ever made.

Willy died in 1987, William Adolf died in 1989. Alois was last seen in the late 1980s in Austria. Bridget Dowling Stuart-Houston was laid to rest in 1969. The Liverpool house was destroyed in 1942 in the last bombing raid of the Liverpool Blitz.

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## **South Central Shamrock Club June News**

June Birthdays Wishes to: Ruth Judkins 6/14, Charlie Montgomery 6/21 and our 2009 Irish Rose, Charlene Terry 6/24.

June Anniversaries: Mike and Carole Flint 6/5, Dick and Annette Baker 6/7, Jerry and Ellen Dargel 6/13, Bill and Pat Wilde 6/16, Jerome and Rita Harms 6/30.

June is full of activities to do around our area. Here are a few ideas to fill your calendar in June.

- June 6 – Reedsburg Fly-In-Drive In Breakfast (Reedsburg Airport)
- June 26-27 – Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) Walk
- Dairy Breakfast – check local papers for date.

In between we celebrate Father's Day and Flag Day on June 14! To all our Dads have a great day! Summer begins on June 21st and right around this date is when the strawberries are ready to be picked and prepared in our favorite recipes.

The next news report will be from our newly elect membership chair. At press time we do not know the results due to deadlines. Though, I have enjoyed my time as membership chair it is time to have fresh ideas and will look forward to helping in other areas of our club.

Happy Summer,

– **Dana J. Horkan-Gant, Membership Chair**

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## **New Dublin**

2009 is the 25th Anniversary of the New Dublin Shamrock Club. The Shamrock Club of New Dublin was awarded the New London Area Chamber of Commerce 2009 Community Service Award at the Chamber's April 2 dinner. We want to congratulate our Irish Rose and Irishman, Jeanne Trauger and Bill Flease. Bill is a past president of the New Dublin chapter. Jeanne has been active in our parades and activities for years. Our Parade Grand Marshal was Wayne Toltzman.

Our annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Irish Fest was March 21. There were almost 2,500 people attending the festival during the course of the day. Here is a list of our parade winners for 2009:

- Grand Marshal Award – Minnesota Police Pipe Band
- Best Musical Unit – Celtic Nations
- Best Non-Commercial entry - Most Precious Blood Catholic School

- Best Commercial entry – Fair Finishing Construction
- Best Clan – Crain Clan

We were recognized across the world. In 2009, New Dublin was recognized In National Geographic Online as one of the “Ten Best Places to Celebrate St. Patrick’s Day”. Smithsonian.com said we were #5 on “Unusual St. Patrick’s Celebrations.” New Dublin was listed #9 on AOL’s Digital City “The Seventeen Best St. Patrick’s Day Parades or Celebrations.” Woman’s Day listed New Dublin in “St. Patrick’s Day Around the World.”

Our monthly meetings are the first Monday of the month at VFW Post, across from the St. Joseph Residence, at 7.30 p.m. Our next meetings are June 2, July 6 and August 3.

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### **La Crosse Chapter**

The Lac Rosee chapter wishes to congratulate our 2009 honorees, Liz Oelke and Tim Sprester our Irish Rose and Irishman for 2009.

Shamrock Club Cookbook: Shelli Kult (608) 317-6522) and Irish Rose Liz Oelke (608) 779-5641) are co-chairing the cookbook publication. Thank you to all who have submitted mouth watering recipes for this book (so far we have 200+ recipes). The Shamrock Club will have a booth in the Cultural Tent at Irishfest all three days to sell the books to the public. Anyone interested in manning the booth for an hour or two, please call Donna Finn (608) 782-5936). We would like to ask Shamrock Club members to consider making a contribution to Irishfest. For a donation of \$25 your family can be listed under the heading of Proud Irish Clans in the program booklet. Checks can be sent directly to Irishfest-La Crosse, P.O. Box 215, La Crosse, WI 54602-0215. Larger donation packages contain free admission tickets, raffle tickets and other items.

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### **Milwaukee President’s Message**



*Rich Pfeiffer and Julie Smith present Father Bob from Prince of Peace Parish with the Easter Rising Mass collection check.*

Here comes summer, been waiting all year for this beautiful season. We have a family wedding the first weekend and a family reunion the second. What could be better than two events bringing all of us together? My brother Mike Stephens will marry Chris Mesenbrink and we welcome her to the family happily. The family reunion consists of the relatives from my Mother's side. We made a decision a few years ago that just meeting at funerals and weddings was not enough. The Walsh/Frawley cousins will reunite in New Richmond, WI. Visits will be made to old homesteads, cemeteries, churches, and there will be lots of bragging over whose children or grandchildren are the smartest or brightest. This will continue a tradition our mothers founded and of course we do this in their memory.

The 50th anniversary committee has been meeting regularly to plan all kinds of exciting occurrences for 2010. We have 50th anniversary pins on sale for \$5 to help earn extra money for expenses, and hope to see all of you wearing these commemorative keepsakes. You are all asked to help sell them to everyone you know. A wonderful raffle will be offering you Midwest Airline tickets or Bucks tickets, and even \$100 in cash. This is an offer you can't refuse and will be used to offset any expenses for the various events. The raffle will be at the September meeting this year. Contact Josh Walton if you have photos or memorabilia to share for next year. Don't forget the dinner dance on September 25th, 2010 and the trip to Ireland in October, 2010. How can you resist such wonderful ways to enhance the Irish experience?

Watch for our annual picnic information in next month's *Reflections*. Volunteers are always needed before, after and during that day. This is a pot luck event with the club furnishing meat and beverages, you bring the rest of the items. This is always a fun event, and we hope you'll try to be there.

On July 9 our installation dinner will be held and as of this writing, we will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall on S. 92nd St. You are always encouraged to attend and enjoy the evening. As always, we attempt to keep your cost as economical as possible. Please join your fellow members on this occasion. Your board of directors is sad to see Noreen Barclay end her term as a trustee. She's always welcome to return and will be missed. Thanks also to Noel Tylla for her time served as our membership chair, and a welcome to Heather Majusiak as our new chair. A welcome back to Tom McAleese for opting to become our parliamentarian. Malkin Wallace will become our new secretary, Josh Walton our new trustee and many thanks to Linda Tuescher for her hours spent as our dutiful scribe. I feel we have another hard working board for the 2009-2010 year to come.

Ken Tehan wants to see all of those golfers in the club at the outing on August 23. This outing is open to your friends, neighbors, and relatives, and is always fun to attend. You don't have to be a good golfer or even a mediocre one, if you're strictly out for a day in the fresh air, and visiting friends you can do this too.

I wish you could be at our June meeting, we will have the Glencastle Irish Dancers, and maybe a few singers in the group will perform for you. Bridget Jaskulski promised you will be pleased, and Katie Paczkowski will be there to make it all work. Come early and find a good seat.

– **Julie Smith, President**

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### **Upcoming Meetings:**

The Shamrock Club upcoming meetings will feature the following:

- July 9 – Installation dinner – Knights of Columbus, 1800 S. 92nd St., Milwaukee (414) 774-3095.
- August 6 – Jane Anderson, Irish Fest director; ICHC.

– **Sandy Quinlan, VP**

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### **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin**

# Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing

**Sunday August 23, 2009**

Edgewater Golf Club, Grafton

1762 W. Cedar Creek Road  
(I-43 north to Hwy 60, west 1.7 miles to 12th Avenue, right 1.4 miles to Cedar Creek Road, left to course)

There will be Door Prizes, a Putting Contest, and other events too numerous to mention.

Golf will begin at 1 p.m. – Carts Included

Cocktail Hour: 4:30 – 5:30 Buffet Dinner: 5:30 – 7:00

AWARDS to be presented during dinner

For information contact Ken Tehan:  
Home (414) 762-2723 or Cell (414) 530-4692

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## Color Guard News and Notes

June! Eight weeks and counting until Irish Fest! It seems like only a few months ago I was writing the same thing. Sure hasn't felt like a year has passed.

A few pipers and drummers from the group will be attending the Midwest School of Piping and Drumming on Ted Nestor scholarships from the Shamrock Club. The school this year is held June 7– 12 at the beautiful St. John's Military Academy campus in Delafield.

It promises to be an action packed and information-filled week that will include a special instructor/student recital in the campus Chapel on Thursday June 11 from 7– 9 p.m., Admission \$8 at the door. There is also a new pub night and a schedule of workshops during the week that are open to the general public. See [www.msopd.com] for more information.

The band season is in full swing as we round the corner to June. We started back in mid May and continue to a busy June.

- June 6 – Milwaukee Highland Games Parade at noon
- June 13 – Appleton Flag Day
- June 20 – University of Phoenix Commencement Ceremony

• June 27 – Thiensville Fun before the 4th

You may notice that our schedule is a little more spread out as we try to fill May and September with events, so the group has time to spend with their families in June and July.

Speaking of families! In just a few short weeks (if not already at press time) piper Holly Heiden will welcome the birth of her first baby. Congrats to both her and proud pop, Jason. Holly's brother, Rick Pfeiffer is expecting his first child in August, just in time for Irish Fest!

It's also great to see the students who went away to college back home for the summer. *Welcome back!!!*

Elections for the Shamrock Club Board of Directors was held in early May. Great to see a few band members remain on the board. Congrats to Mary Culver for Trustee, Malkin Wallace for secretary and Heather Majusiak for Membership Chair.

In closing, I had the honor of playing the pipes at Mary Ann Hippler's (a former Irish Rose) funeral a few weeks ago. Many friends and family took the time to say thanks and show their appreciation for the group's honor guard and piper in attendance. On behalf of the group, our hearts go out to the families. She'll be missed.

Until July everyone.

– Noel Tylla, 6th year piper

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## Easter Rising Mass

The annual Easter Rising Mass was well attended. Almost 250 people attended. Father Terry Brennan was wonderful in his celebration of the Mass. Thank you to our eucharistic ministers, our cantor, Gabrielle Crivello, music minister Nancy Crivello, and Joseph Hughes and Derek Byrne for the initial program, as well as all who helped set up on Saturday. Thanks also to the Shamrock Club Color Guard Pipes and Drums. Our post breakfast was well attended, and was under the direction of Veronica Cesczynski.

– Betty Mikush, Mass Coordinator

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## Milwaukee Hurling Club

On Sunday, May 17, the MHC kicked off its 14th season, in this, the 125th anniversary year of the Gaelic Athletic Association. Most people are unaware of the trials and tribulations that the founding members faced to get a hurling club off the ground 14 years ago. We all benefit from their hard work and perseverance and wouldn't be where we are today without them.

The day started at 9:45 a.m. with youth matches followed by the first adult/coed match at 11 a.m. We are honored and excited that the ceremonies were presided over by County Supervisor Theodore Lipscomb, who threw in the ceremonial first sliotar.

The Shamrock Club Griffins have new uniforms and a new logo. It incorporates the Shamrock Club logo, and is a dashing addition to the green and white of the jerseys. We can use your support, so please come down and cheer us on.

Stop in for matches this year. Most games are played at Brown Deer Park. However, the July 12 and 19 matches will be at Lincoln Park, because of the US Bank Golf Open. Youth matches start at 9:45 a.m. Coed play starts at 11 a.m.

- June 7 – 12:30 p.m. -- Shamrock Club vs. County Clare
- June 14 – 3:30 p.m.. -- Trinity vs Shamrock Club
- June 21 – 3:30 p.m.. -- Tracks vs. Shamrock Club
- June 28 – 12:30 p.m.. -- McBob's vs. Shamrock Club
- July 12 – 3:30 p.m.. -- Shamrock Club vs. The Irish Pub
- July 19 – 12:30 p.m.. -- Packy's vs. Shamrock Club
- July 26 – 2 p.m.. -- Ale House vs. Shamrock Club
- August 2 – 11 a.m.. -- County Clare vs. Shamrock Club

– **Dan McAullife, Griffins Captain**

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## New Home For Scottish Fest

Scottish Fest, the Milwaukee Highland Games, has a new home. The Fest, which will take place on June 5– 6, will be held in beautiful Hart Park in the heart of Wauwatosa. Located at 70th and State Streets in Wauwatosa, the open and spacious park will become home to this oldest ethnic festival in the state.

Scottish Fest – the Milwaukee Highland games is a great family filled day offering a view of Scottish culture including highland dance competitions, bag piping competitions, massed pipe bands, and of course highland heavy athletics.

Watching strong lads and lassies toss the caber (a telephone poll) is just one of the real highlights of the day. The event includes sheep dog demonstrations, archery and ax throwing, food, dance and entertainment.

It is a fun filled family day all that folks of any heritage can enjoy, with the added benefit of enjoying lots of kilted souls in their clan tartans. Friday night will feature a ceilidh with *Mother Grove* and *Steel Bonnets* in the pavilion.

The organizers are pleased with the move to Hart Park, and excited to hold the games at this fantastic site.

For more information contact Dave Berger at [dberger1408@yahoo.com].

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## **Mike Dahm Irish Fest 2009 Volunteer**

Shamrock Club member Mike Dahm has been named Milwaukee Irish Fest's Volunteer of the Year. This annual award is given to people involved in the festival who demonstrate skills and commitment beyond the typical volunteer duties.

This is Mike's 14th year working with Irish Fest. He has worked at the Irish Fest Center, served on the Board of Directors and is a member of the Finance Committee and manages the auxiliary bank. He volunteers for various Irish Fest projects and works behind the scenes not only during the festival, but throughout the year. Mike says that Irish Fest has become a family affair. His wife, Lori, is a board member and his children, Katie and Danny, also volunteer.

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## **Installation Dinner 2009**

**Thursday July 9, 2009**

Knights of Columbus Hall (1800 S. 92 Street)

Cocktails (Cash Bar): 6:00 pm

Dinner: 6:30 pm

Ceremony / Swearing in of Officers: 8:00 pm

Cost: \$25 Per person / Reservation Deadline: June 30, 2009

Installation Dinner Reservation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ / Price: \$25 @ / TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Julie Smith,  
2133 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 384-4119

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## **Celtic Women First Friday Lecture**

DATE: Friday, June 5

TITLE: "Galicia: An Overview"

SPEAKER: Isabel Méndez-Santalla

We rarely have a speaker from Galicia, and therefore welcome Isabel for this opportunity to hear about her native land and its customs. Isabel is a senior lecturer at UWM teaching Spanish and upper level language classes. She is a delightful and entertaining speaker, heard at the final Conference of Celtic Women last October.

The lectures are held at Greene Hall, 3347 N. Downer Ave. on the UWM campus from 5:30 p.m. The public is invited and welcome; \$7 admission with tea and cookies and an entertaining session.

– **Jean Bills**

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## Worlds Dance Championship

The first American World Irish Dance Championship was held in April in Philadelphia. Many dancers from Milwaukee took part. Teachers Bridget Jaskulski, Katie Paszkowski and Kelly Fadeski took a number of dancers for Glencastle. Natalie and Mark Howard also brought a contingent from the Trinity schools. Kate Habel and Maura Heck were there with their students from Cashel Dennehy. Among the dancers who competed or attended were Shamrock Club members Colleen Jaskulski and Erin Canon.

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## 50th Anniversary News

The 50th Anniversary Committee has some exciting news. Our dinner-dance in September 2010 will be at the Humphrey Scottish Rite, Van Buren and Wells. We are currently selling our 50th anniversary pins for \$5 each. We will also have a raffle to support the 50th anniversary. The grand prize is two round trip tickets on Midwest Airlines. The drawing is in September.

Our next meeting is June 9 at Josh Walton's home. If you have any suggestions, or wish to join the committee, please contact Josh Walton at (414) 443-0446 or [joshwalton1@yahoo.com].

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## Milwaukee Celtic Soccer

Our spring league is in full swing. Please come out and join us on Sundays in June. Our next matches are June 7 v Polonia; Polonia Field; 12:30 p.m.; June 14 v. Bavarian; Bavarian Field; 12:30 p.m.; June 21 v. Milwaukee Kickers; Uihlein Field; 12:30 p.m.

– Mike Simons

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## Sunshine Club

Ron Salmon died recently. His wife Pat and family survive him. Past Irishman of the Year Joe Dowling died recently in Atlanta. Joe was also a former president of the Milwaukee chapter. His wife Betty and their children Martin, Christina, Theresa, and Jode survive him. Past Irish Rose Mary Hippler died in early May. Our condolences go out to their families.

Tom Callen was hospitalized recently. Ryan Witt was also hospitalized. Diana Stroud recently had surgery.

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

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## Members' Doings

Mike, Bridget, Erin and Meghan Boyle recently spent time in California. Kelly Fadeski also flew out to California with her family. Pat and Jane Fitzgibbons recently spent time visiting daughter Emily at her college in Columbus, OH. Erin and Andy Rinderle spent St. Patrick's Day in Ireland.

Bridget Ward and Bobby Hamill were both named Young Ambassadors by the St. Patrick Centre of Downpatrick, NI. Bridget also graduated recently from college. Annie Blaha recently graduated from Marquette with an MS in nursing. Also, Julie Pikulik recently completed her Masters at UWM, and has been accepted into a doctoral program. Kami Murphy Amann graduated May 16, 2009 from Mount Mary College in Fashion Apparel Product Development.

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