



Feb. 2011

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Michael Sheehan and Franklin Village – St. Martins

by Brian Witt

In 1834, Michael Sheehan registered a land claim in a section of southwestern Milwaukee County. The Irish immigrant from County Cork was one of the first people to settle in the area. His brother, Patrick, and Patrick's wife, Bridget, built a log cabin on section 17 on Milwaukee Street, later known as St. Martins Road, in 1836. Thus began the settling of Franklin.

The Sheehan log cabin is believed to be the first home built in the township. With the arrival of the Irish came the arrival of the Irish priest, Father Patrick O'Kelley. By 1839, 112 people had purchased farms in the area, so the priest was a busy man on Sundays. On sunny days, Father O'Kelley held services under Garrett Fitzgerald's elm tree, and in bad weather, in the Sheehan cabin.

Father O'Kelley left in 1842, and was succeeded by Father Martin Kundig, a Swiss priest. Under Fr. Kundig's leadership, the residents petitioned Bishop Henni on the formation of a parish. Garrett Fitzgerald and Lewis Kent deeded over portions of their land for the building of a structure, which was known as Holy Assumption Parish. The first church was built in 1848, and lasted until a lightning strike destroyed it in 1866.

In the late 1840s and early 1850s, a number of Germans emigrated to the area, and at first were happy to worship with their Irish neighbors in English, but by 1858, they moved into their own church, the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, where services were conducted in German.

One of the first schools in the area was the Whelan School, at what is now St. Martins and Puetz Roads, reflecting the Irish nature of the village. A church school was built near Sacred Hearts Church,

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and was referred to as the “German schoolhouse.” German was taught in the morning, and English classes were taught in the afternoon.

There was a desire for more commerce for the area. The Town of St. Martins was platted by the civil engineering firm of Gregory and Power on March 22, 1850. There was hope that a canal would be built between the Root River and Big Muskego Lake, one that would allow farmers to be able to move their grains to both Milwaukee and Chicago, thus solving the problem of muddy and inconsistent roads that made shipping difficult. Increase Lapham weighed in on the positive aspects of the idea, and Byron Kilbourn bought tracts of land in the area for just such a purpose.

The first lot sold in the village of St. Martins was sold to Margaret Sheehan on May 5, 1850. Other longtime families also purchased township lots. The first post office in the township of Franklin was in St. Martins. In the 1870s, the census listed 292 Irish families, and 260 German families.

However, within a few years, the idea of a bustling center of commerce died out. As a village though, it lasted until 1907.

Many people thought that Fr. Kundig named the village after himself, but one genealogist found that three of the German families came from the village of Lingenfeld, and their church was St. Martins Catholic Church.

As for Holy Assumption and Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, by the 1990s the two were merged into one parish, St. Martin of Tours, and in 1999, Holy Assumption was closed and sold to the New Hope Community Church. Many of the parishioners at Holy Assumption were angered and resentful of the Archdiocese’s decision.

As for the Sheehan’s log cabin, it has had a longer life. A two-story addition was attached to the cabin during the 1850s and it remained in the family until Dennis Sheehan sold the farm to Michael Godsell in 1911. The Godsell family were Irish-Americans from Clyman, and they moved their farm livestock by foot, driving them across Wisconsin’s rural roads, from Central Wisconsin to the southeastern part of the state.

Michael Godsell and his wife raised five children, including a son, Tom, who bought the farm in 1920. Tom Godsell married Mary Wallace in 1921 and they continued to live on the farm with their seven children until 1967.

Tom Godsell would be the last town chairman of the Town of Franklin, as it incorporated as a city in 1956. When the Godsell farmhouse was demolished in 1975, the log cabin was moved to Legend Park, on Loomis Rd. and Drexel Ave., where it is a part of the historical settlement.

Michael Sheehan was looking for a place to farm and live, and



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grow a family when he left Cork. He grew a bit more than that, as it turned out.

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New Dublin News

The Shamrock Club of New Dublin is very excited to announce that in conjunction with the Irish Festival and Grand Parade, this year there will be the “New Dublin Dash” run right before the parade.

For those of you who might remember our past runs, the organization of this run will be different. The run is being organized by Gloria West of Midwest Sports Events out of DePere WI. Gloria has organized many of the premier runs in the Midwest. At the time of this writing the route for the run was not yet established. But planning was underway for registration which will take place, Saturday morning at the Washington Center in New London, where the run will begin. If plans go as expected spectators waiting for the parade to start, will be able to watch the runners finish on the parade route.

More information is available on the Midwest Sports Events website. To register or for information call 800-429-8044 or go to [www.midwestsportsevents.com].

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Milwaukee President’s Message

Greetings! Well we have made it through another Wisconsin winter, a winter a little colder than usual but with less snow than normal. Me, I prefer snow over the cold. And I got both on my vacation to Ireland this fall. As well as wind and rain. But I digress.

And how about those Packers winning the Super Bowl? Who would have imagined that just a month ago. And the outstanding seasons of both the Marquette and Wisconsin basketball teams as they prepare to meet each other in the Final Four. Again, I digress.

To some, February might seem like a slow month but the excitement is just building.

At the general meeting, in honor of St. Valentine, Veronica is

hosting a lasagna dinner. Please remember to bring a dish or dessert in keeping with the theme of romance and the color red. A finance committee will be appointed that will oversee the funding and budgeting for the upcoming year. Tom McAlesse, our parliamentarian, will present a report from the By-Laws committee. We will be updated on the St. Patrick's Day Mass, 45th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Post Parade Party. Kris Pluskota, Production Manager and Mike Boyle, Parade Manager and the assistants Meghan and Erin Boyle, and Bill Sherry promise a more vivid, musical and entertaining parade this year.

And the Membership will be introduced to this year's honorees: the Parade Marshal(s), the Irish Rose and the Irishman of the Year.

On January 15 and 16, the Frontier Airline Center was the home of back to back feiseanna. Sunday's feis was sponsored by the ICHC. The Shamrock's retail booth was set up for both events by Daryl and Kris (pulling double duty) Pluskota. Thanks to Mary Culver, Amanda Danielson, Kathy Donovan, Mary Fisher, Mary O'Herron and Julie Smith who staffed the booth.

If you were not at the January meeting you missed the annual chili competition, won this year by Ed Heck. Congratulations to the runner-ups: Ron Danielson, Mary Jo Kaufmann, Alonzo Zepeda and Mary and Clay Culver. Last year's competition ended with a chili dump. This year there was not a spoonful to merge, the chilis were that good.

A belated thanks to Ken Tehan for the donation of the enormous Christmas wreath given as a door prize at the December meeting.

See you at the next meeting,

– Josh Walton, President
joshwalton1@yahoo.com

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Veronica's Cupboard

February, as we all know, is the month of St. Valentine. So, it seems that "red" food is in order. We will serve lasagna (red sauce). Donations of heart cookies or cakes, red salads, etc. are all foods welcomed and needed. All new ideas are welcomed! Come and join your Shamrock Club members for dinner at 6:30. Meeting follows at 7.

March, our wonderful month of St. Patrick, will find us again sharing a meal. Featured this month are baked potatoes and all the trimmin's. Bring a dish to share to complement the potatoes. Shamrock Club members look forward to this meal and the

beginning of March festivities. Come meet the 2011 Irishman of the Year, Irish Rose 2011, and Parade Marshal. They represent us all.

Questions? Suggestions? I'd love to hear from you! All ideas welcomed! Call me, Veronica, (414) 228-8621, or email [irishv@ameritech.net].

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Ceili for Peace February 5

The annual Ceili for Peace will be held at the ICHC on February 5. This ceili benefits Casa Maria House and the ICHC. Julie Clark will be the caller and instructor. From 7 to 7:30 p.m., there will be a Mini concert of Irish music. Ceili Dancing, with instruction for beginners of all ages, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. *Ceol Cairde* will provide music for both the concert and the dance.

For more information, contact Kristina at (414) 372-3060.

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ICHC Ceilis

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center has released its list of Ceilis for winter/spring. Entrance fee is \$8 Adults; \$5 Students / Seniors / Children. All proceeds benefit the ICHC. For more information please call Julie Clark at (414) 489-1110.

- February 4 – *Cream City Ceili Band*
- February 19 – *Myserk*
- March 4 – *Frogwater*
- March 19 – *Ceol Cairde*
- April 1 – *Wise Maids*
- April 16 – *RíRá*
- May 6 – *áthas*
- May 21 – *Myserk*
- June 3 – *Nancy Maio & Jim McVeigh*

Due to low attendance during Summer Break and Holidays, Ceilis will not take place in January or during the summer and early September.

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Shamrock Club Scholarship Applications

The Shamrock Club's annual Irish Studies Scholarship Application is ready. Applications must be received by May 1, 2011 for consideration. Applicants must be of college age, and are encouraged to volunteer for Shamrock Club events. Applications are available at the ICHC and online for download. Please contact Tim O'Brien, scholarship chair, for more information, at (414) 444-1989.

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Lá Ghaeilge - Irish Language Day

On Sat., February 26, 2011, Lá Ghaeilge - Irish Language Day will take place from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m., at The Hefter Center, 3271 N. Lake Dr., Milwaukee. A warm welcome waits with classes at every level, from absolute beginner to those almost fluent, and workshops in Sean Nós singing and dance. The day also features our annual Douglas Hyde commemorative lecture and the popular Siopa Leabhar book shop. Registration will be \$30 with lunch or \$20 without. E-mail us at [celtic@uwm.edu] or phone (414) 229-6520 for more information. Instructors include John Gleeson; Dineen Grow; Bairbre Ni Chiardha; Sean Beglan; and Aine Ní Mhuineachain; world-renowned traditional Irish Singer.

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You're Invited

The Emerald Society of Wisconsin, Inc., cordially invites you to their meeting on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 7 p.m. at the Irish Fest Center, 1532 Wauwatosa Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI to hear guest speaker Tim Reilly, Vice Counsel General of the Chicago Irish Consulate.

Mr. Reilly will provide applications for Irish citizenship and speak about benefits of Irish citizenship for those of Irish ancestry who

are eligible and answer questions about the process. He will also provide us with an update on issues of the day affecting Ireland which will be of interest to us all.

Seating availability and entrance to the hall will be on a first come basis. There is no charge to attend.

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“The Outside Track” At ICHC on Feb. 25

Hailing from Canada, Ireland and Scotland, the five members of *The Outside Track* will bring a stunning synthesis of virtuosity and energy to their performance at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 25.

The band members – each of whom is an award-winning musician – met while students at the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance in Limerick, Ireland. Their eclectic combination of influences and backgrounds “buzz and fizz together,” according to the UK’s *Maverick Magazine*, resulting in traditional music with a modern twist that is far greater than the sum of its parts.

Lead vocalist and wooden flute player Norah Rendell, a native of Canada, began her career as a professional recorder player and then turned to folk music, which led to a 2008 nomination as Traditional Singer of the Year by the Canadian Folk Music Awards. She is currently the education director at the Center for Irish Music in St. Paul, Minn.

Canadian Mairi Rankin, a member of the legendary musical Rankin family, plays fiddle, sings backing vocals, and does Cape Breton-style step dancing. She has performed at many of Europe and North America’s most prestigious festivals, including Milwaukee Irish Fest, as a member of the supergroup *Beolach*.

Allie Robertson from Edinburgh, Scotland, plays the clarsach (Gaelic for harp) and is also highly regarded as a composer, arranger, teacher and improviser. Recent awards included first prize at the inaugural London Harp Competition. She has performed for Queen Elizabeth II as a soloist for Yehudi Menuhin’s *Live Music Now!*

Piano accordionist Fiona Black developed a love for music and dance while growing up in the Scottish Highlands. Her distinctive rhythm and vibrant style intertwines influences from Scotland, Sweden and Cape Breton.

Guitarist and vocalist Cillian O’Dálaigh was born in Germany and

moved to Ireland as a child, where his Irish father formed the family band *Trazz*. O'Dálaigh has played guitar and flute with *Trazz* since he was 14 and has toured extensively in Ireland, the United Kingdom, Germany and France.

“Simply a consummate blend of skill, talent, flair and intensity. Best of the best! The perfect blend.” – *Folkwords*.

Tickets for the show are \$19 in advance and \$23 the day of concert with discounts for students and groups. To order online, visit ichc.net. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

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Celtic Women First Friday Lectures



Bairbre Ní Chiardha

DATE: February 4, 2011, 5:30-7 p.m.

TOPIC: “Speaking a Language That the Strangers do not Know”

SPEAKER: Bairbre Ní Chiardha; [bairbre@uwm.edu]

Bairbre Ní Chiardha is a native speaker born and raised in the Cois Fharráige Gaeltacht in County Galway, Ireland. Having inherited a love of the Irish language, culture and local history from her teacher parents, she pursued a career in education, including 25 years in Dublin at both the primary and university levels. Ms. Ní Chiardha currently resides in Milwaukee and teaches Irish at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is passionate about her first language and avidly promotes its use.

Please join the Celtic women and men for a couple of satisfying and educational hours at UWM Greene Hall at 3347 N. Downer Avenue. Tea and refreshments are plentiful and cheery on a

winter's day. \$7 admission for all and all are welcome. Bring a friend!

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Nomination of Milwaukee Officers

Nominations for officers of the Milwaukee chapter will take place at the April meeting. Persons nominated must be members in good standing of the Shamrock Club, with dues paid in full, and must be present for their nominations. Elections will take place at the May meeting.

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Milwaukee Bylaws Committee Review

The bylaws committee has completed its review. Suggested changes will be published in an upcoming edition of Emerald Reflections. After review by the general membership, if no other changes are suggested, they will be voted on for approval.

– Tom McAleese, **Parliamentarian**

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26th Annual Mass In Honor of Saint Patrick

Saturday March 12, 2011 – 8:30 a.m.

At St. Patrick's Church •
723 South 7th at Washington Street, Milwaukee

The Shamrock Club Choir will sing the liturgy. The Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums will pipe in the colors and stand as honor guard for the Mass. There will be a sign reader for hearing impaired. There are readings and songs in Irish and English.

If your Irish group is interested in being a part of the Mass, please contact us. We will reserve a pew for you.

For more information, please contact Chuck McLaughlin at (414) 771-1458, or at [cmclaughlin3@wi.rr.com].

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Donations For Flowers For The Mass

We will again be collecting donations for flowers to be used at the Mass, and at the Easter Rising Mass. Please call Gail Neville at (414) 351-1355 for information.

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Bus Service To Mass From ICHC

We will again have bus service to/from the ICHC before and after the Mass. If you wish to reserve a spot on the bus, please contact Jack Noonan at (414) 769-9675.

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Time for a Parade

The Shamrock Club of Wisconsin's 45th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in partnership with the Westtown Association is scheduled to step off at Noon on Saturday, March 12, from the corner of Old World 3rd Street and Wisconsin in Downtown Milwaukee.

With my daughters, Erin and Meghan as Co-Directors, along with Kris Pluskota, we're working hard to make this annual presentation of Irish Pride the best ever. At this time (early January) it's a bit early to mention specifics, but we're targeting more and better bands and other units to make this 45th annual Parade the grandest this side of the Emerald Isle.

I'm pleased to have been asked to once again assume a leadership role for the Parade. I've been a volunteer for 25 years, beginning in 1987, when I assisted Chuck Ward as we moved the parade from Mitchell Street to North Avenue. I've served as Parade Co-Director, Director, and for the past 11 years as Reviewing Stand Announcer. Involvement in the Parade has always been a family tradition – Erin and Meghan appeared with their dance schools when they were younger, graduated to helping my wife, Brigid, walk our Irish Wolfhounds in the Parade, and more recently have been assisting with line up, as well as setting up and working at the reviewing stand.

If you're looking for a way to become more involved in Club events, I have an idea for you – we're looking for volunteers to carry the sponsorship banners in the Parade. It's not hard work – the parade route is only a little over a mile, and the banners aren't heavy (although they can be a wee bit challenging in wind, so this would be appropriate for anyone from middle-school-age on up). Please drop me a note at [parade@shamrockclubwis.com] if you're interested in joining us.

I'll present updates at the monthly membership meetings, and you can check in at the Parade website - [www.stpatricksparade.org] - for the latest information.

– Michael Boyle

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Milwaukee St. Patrick's Day Parade

March 12, 2011

Downtown Milwaukee –
3rd and Wisconsin to Highland and State Streets

Step off: Noon

Pipe Bands, Dance Schools, Wisconsin's Irish community

[<http://www.saintpatricksparade.org>]

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Shamrock Club

Post-Parade Party

2011 Entertainment Schedule

Hallamor

2:00 – S.C. Pipes & Drums

2:30 – Kinsella Irish Dancers

3:15 – Cashel Dennehy Irish Dancers

4:00 – The Gleasons

5:15 – Trinity Irish Dancers

Quinlan's Pub

1:00 – Tis

2:15 – Myserk

3:30 – Evan & Tom Leahy

4:45 – Dublin O'Shea

Upstairs

2:00 – Blarney

3:15 – Caledonian Scottish Dancers

3:45 – Blarney

Basement: Childrens Area

3:00 Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories

4:15 Eileen O'Rourke: Leprechaun Stories

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Volunteers Needed For Post Parade Party

We will need volunteers for the Post Parade Party on March 12. We will need help in food, bars, doors, children's and set up. If you can help, please contact PPP director Al Moss at [mossjr.alton@millercoors.com] or (414) 234-9811.

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Brendan Ward Heart Fund March 6

The Emerald Society Fundraiser benefiting the Brendan Ward Heart Fund will take place on Sunday, March 6, from Noon until 6 p.m. It will feature *Atlantic Wave; Reilly; Greater Milwaukee Fire Police Pipes Drums; The Glencastle Irish Dancers;*

Shamrock Club Color Guard, Pipes and Drums and a Monster Raffle.

It takes place at Derry Hegarty's Irish Pub, 5328 W. Bluemound Rd. The cost is \$6 at the Door. For more information, go to [<http://emeraldsociety.us>]

100% of raffle proceeds and 60% of admission proceeds will go directly to the Brendan Heart Fund at Children's Hospital.

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Milwaukee Feb. Membership News

Please welcome the following new members joining in December; Mary Ann Kniep, Kathleen McNamee, and Tammy Wolfe. Please be sure to extend some warm conversation to them during this frosty season.

I would like to recap our membership status from the 2010 year. The Milwaukee Chapter as of December 31 has 387 members with 177 Family, 192 Single, and 18 complimentary (libraries, businesses, etc.) memberships. Statewide our Membership totals 501 members where the others receive a copy of our *Emerald Reflections* newsletter with a reduced fee of \$14.

For the year, our Milwaukee Chapter added 92 new members but also dropped 133 memberships due to non-renewal (over 60 days past due), no forwarding address change, and/or deceased. However, the membership rate has begun to improve in the last three months and is now showing positive increases. Our state wide membership saw 32 new but dropped 105 memberships.

Please contact friends and other family members to tell them of the mission and fun that the Shamrock Club has. Get them to join and participate in our events, fundraising and volunteering. If they can sing, the Shamrock Club Choir can definitely work them into their next international tour.

Please be sure to have your memberships renewals in before February 1 for those who's expire on or before 1/31/2011.

We hope you can attend our February meeting and see you soon.

– Denis Donohoe, Membership Chair

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Donate to the Shamrock Club

The Shamrock Club is a 501(C) (3) corporation. If you donate to us, you can write this off on your taxes. Donate to our Scholarship fund, our general fund, or to the parade. Thank you!

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Members' Doings

It was a good month for the Quinlan girls. Kari was accepted into Notre Dame University, and Kelly had straight "A"s during her first semester at Winona State. They are members of the Color Guard, and their parents are Kevin and Sandy Quinlan.

Olive Witt traveled to Seattle to visit her daughter, Maureen.

If you have done anything you want us to know about, send it to [Membersdoings @shamrockclubwis.com].

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Sunshine Club

After a long term illness Ralph McCarthy passed away in December. He was the club's insurance man. Jean Carrell, sister of Kris Pluskota, died recently after a long illness. Jo Moze, mother of Mike Moze, died recently at the age of 91. John Finnegan was recently hospitalized.

Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

If you have any news for the Sunshine Club, please call me at (414) 344-0688. I have a new email address. Please note: [slainte4142-shamrock@yahoo.com].

– Maggie Blaha