



Henry 2 – King of Ireland

Ireland was in flux in the late 12th century. There was no centralized leadership on the island as the various kings fought amongst themselves incessantly.

The business of Irish succession is rather complicated because of the nature of kingship in Ireland before the Norman take-over of 1171. Ireland was divided into a multiplicity of kingdoms, with some kings owing allegiance to others from time to time, and succession rules, insofar as they existed, varied. Kings were often succeeded by their sons, but often other branches of the dynasty took a turn - whether by agreement or by force of arms is rarely clear. Unfortunately, the king-lists and other early sources reveal little about how and why a particular person became king.

To add to the uncertainty, genealogies were often edited many generations later in order to improve an ancestor's standing within a kingdom, or to insert him into more powerful kindred. The uncertain practices in local kingship cause similar problems when interpreting the succession to the high kingship.

There was a high king in Ireland, but Brian Boru's attempts to unify the island were ended, for all intents and purposes, with his death in 1014, and the lack of a strong male heir to inherit the mantle. Boru's desire to make Ireland into a unified nation had been stifled.

Boru's great-grandson was back on the throne as high king. Tairrdelbach Ua Conchobair, Turlough Mor O'Connor, was more invested in things Irish, and had begun to ignore the Irish colonies in Wales. Into this void strode Muirheartach Mac Lochlainn, king of the Cenél nEógain, Tír Eoghain, (Tyrone). His family was a part of the Northern Ui Neills, the Ui Brhians longtime foes. Muirheartach took hostages from

Turlough's client states, effectively dividing his electorate. This then allowed him to force O'Connor from the Ard Ri, or High Kingship.

MacLochlainn then served as High King of Ireland from around 1150 until his death in 1166. His was a ruthless reign. He held sway by killing and kidnapping his foes. After a point, both the Northern and Southern O'Neill's had enough of his bullying. In 1166, he was forced from both his ancestral title in Tyrone, as well as the high kingship, due to taking of hostages amongst his client kings in the North. When he blinded the king of Ulster, his allies left him. He then resigned from both kingships, but was hunted down and killed.

This left the High Kingship open. But, being Ireland, an easy solution was not to be seen in a mannerly succession. O'Connor's son, Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair (Rory O'Connor), took the throne as the high king 1166. He also kept the kingship of Connacht. His was not an easy path to the throne. Rory was not a favorite of his father; his brother Conchobar Ua Conchobair (Conor O'Connor) was Turlough's Tánaiste (blood successor) and designated heir. Conor and Turlough tried to have Rory killed. Yet it was Conor who died early, killed in battle in 1144, and Rory took over many of the roles his older sibling held.

Once on the throne in Tara, Rory's life was complicated by court intrigues. One of his client kings, Tiernan O'Rourke of

Breifne, implored him to depose the King of Dublin and Leinster, Diarmaid Mac Murchadha, because Diarmaid kidnapped Tiernan's wife, Derbforgaill. The kidnapping took place in 1152; the deposing took place in 1167. This set into play the introduction of the Norman English into Ireland.

Diarmaid asked the King of England, Henry II, for help. The English king agreed to allow Diarmaid to recruit mercenaries within his empire. Diarmaid put together a force of Anglo-Norman and Flemish mercenaries drawn from the Welsh Marches, including Richard de Clare, better known as Strongbow. To ensure de Clare's help, Diarmaid married off his daughter to the Norman noble. With his new supporters, he reclaimed Leinster but died shortly afterwards in 1171. With his father-in-law no longer in the picture, de Clare then claimed Leinster for himself. The situation in Ireland was tense and the Anglo-Normans heavily outnumbered, but well positioned.

Henry had been under assault in both his lands in France and in Wales, where many Normans set up independent states, away from the Plantagenet power. His sons were in revolt, and his killing of Thomas Becket had lost him support in England. The last thing he needed was another potential conflict.

Henry took this opportunity to intervene personally in Ireland. He took a large army into south Wales, forcing the rebels who

continued on page 5

JANUARY 7, 2016 • 7:00 PM
MILWAUKEE MONTHLY MEMBERSHIP MEETING
 Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue)
 ☘ ☘ ☘
 Potato Soup Potluck at 6:30 • Please bring a dish to pass.

☘ Milwaukee Calendar of Events ☘

For More Information visit <http://shamrockclubwis.com>

JANUARY

- 2 January Set Dance; ICHC, 2133 W Wisconsin; music by athas; 7 pm
- 4 Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin meeting; Shorewood Library; *Women of 1916*; Marguerite Helmers, Rosebush Professor of English, UW Oshkosh
- 7 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting**; ICHC; 7 pm; dinner at 6:30 pm
- 8 Celtic Women First Friday Lecture; Veronica Ceszynski, Speaker; ICHC; 5:30-7 pm
- 12 Celtic Women International Book Club; *1916* by Morgan Llywelyn; Hostess: Pat Powers; ICHC; 1 pm
- 16 Wisconsin Winterfeis; Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc; Sponsored by Cashel Dennehy; 8 am
- 17 Dairyland Feis; Olympia Resort, Oconomowoc; Sponsored by Beglan Academy; 8 am

FEBRUARY

- 1 Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin meeting; Shorewood Library; 7 pm
- 4 **Shamrock Club Monthly Meeting**; ICHC; 7 pm; Chili Cook-Off at 6:30 pm
- 12-21 Milwaukee Ballet Presents Oscar Wilde's *Dorian Gray*; Pabst Theatre; Friday and Saturday, 7.30 pm; Sunday 1.30 pm
- 20 Spirit of Home: The Tastes of Ireland; ICHC Annual Fundraiser, whiskey tasting & concert; ICHC; 6:30-10:30 pm

MARCH

- 3 **Shamrock Club Birthday Party and Monthly Meeting**; ICHC; 7 pm
- 12 **Shamrock Club's 31st Annual Mass in Honor of St. Patrick**; St. Patrick's Church; 8.30 am
- 12 **50th Annual Shamrock Club Parade**; noon
- 12 **Shamrock Club Post Parade Party**; ICHC; 1-6 pm

ON GOING ... Set dancing at the following: Set dancing Wednesdays, 7 PM at O'Donoghue's ☘ Craobh Curtin Conradh na Gaeilge meeting at O'Donoghue's Pub, 7 PM, last Tuesday each month ☘ Irish Emigration Library in ICHC open every Wednesday 12-6 PM ☘ Irish Sing-a-long, Irish Fest Center, First Sundays, (through May) 7 PM ☘ Irish Fest Sing-a-long: O'Donoghue's Pub, second and fourth Sundays, 7-9 PM ☘ Irish Music Sessions at the following: Session - O'Donoghue's, Sundays 7 PM; Thursdays @ Paddy's 7 PM; and The Pub in Oconomowoc, 7:30 PM ☘ Thursdays: Barry Dodd; County Clare Inn; 10 PM ☘ Fridays: áthas and Myserk; County Clare Inn; 6 PM ☘

Upcoming Feiseanna



There will be two Feiseanna in January. The first is the Wisconsin Winterfeis on January 16, sponsored by Cashel Dennehy School of Irish Dance. It will be held at the Olympia Resort in Oconomowoc.

<http://www.casheldennehy.org>



The second is the Dairyland Feis, held to benefit Beglan Academy of Irish Dance. It will also be held at the Olympia Resort, on Sunday, January 17th. The Olympia is located at 1350 Royale Mile Road in Oconomowoc, WI.

<http://www.dairylandfeis.com>

A Catholic mass and dancer blessing will be held at the Olympia on Saturday evening at 5:30. All faiths are welcome.

An Irish open music session will also be held in the Olympia Resort on Saturday night after Winterfeis. The Milwaukee Irish Fest School of Music will help lead the session. Grab your instrument and join the fun or grab a drink and enjoy the sounds. All ages and skill levels welcome!



Milwaukee President's Message

Happy New Year 2016!
Bhliain Nua Sasta!

Beginning a new year gives me a sense of renewal. I spend time reflecting on the past year, smiling at all the wonderful things that happened and learning from the less desirable life events. I have learned to embrace all the good and bad because it shapes us and gives us depth.

We have so many things to be thankful for as Shamrock Club members - incredible friendships made, a long rich history, and the best volunteers ever! So as we begin this new year, take a moment and share with someone something fun about the Shamrock Club. You never know who's looking for a place to belong.

See you at the meeting!

- Mary Culver, President



*Bliadhna
mhath
úir*

Board Meeting Time Change

The start time for the Shamrock Club board meetings has been changed to 6:30 pm. Meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month.

Celtic Women Lecture

January 8, 2016

Topic: "Irish Fest Memories/Tales,
Part 2"

Speaker: Veronica Ceszynski



The Literary Corner at the south end of Irish Fest has brought numerous authors to talk about their books in the Hedge School, as well as provide a selection of books to browse. This has been Veronica's domain for over ten years. Before that, she coordinated the display and sale of the beautiful festival posters for the first 25 years of Irish Fest. Did you collect the posters? Do you remember the first nun at Irish Fest? (Veronica). Paddy and Molly? Veronica, an Irish Rose, has collected memories of all the people and celebrities she has met and managed through the festival years.

This will be the third speaker of the current year to reminisce about Irish Fest memories which they experienced firsthand. We recently heard from Jane Maher and her co-horts about genealogy searches and expectations, as well as Julie Smith and some rather risqué events in her past volunteering with Irish Fest performers.

Please join us once again to hear these unusual, once-in-a-lifetime stories from the source.

All lectures are held from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee. Parking is available in the lots off the 23rd Street alley. This is our 19th year of lectures without interruption. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and snacks and promise a delightful couple of hours. Admission is \$3.

- Jean Bills

new e-mail address: JeanKBills@aol.com



We Banjo 3

Friday, March 18 - 7:30 pm

Continue the St. Patrick's Day glow with award-winning Galway band, We Banjo 3. Comprised of two sets of brothers, David and Martin Howley and Enda and Fergal Scahill have electrified concert halls and festivals across Europe and North America and are a Milwaukee Irish Fest favorite. Effortlessly combining the best of Irish and bluegrass music along with mining the rich vein of American old-time tradition, they perform "An astonishingly good live show" according to The Irish Echo.



"The most dynamic and highly entertaining group to come out of Ireland in years."
- John Doyle, founding member of *Solas*

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$28 on concert day and \$10 for students with ID. Go to www.ichc.net to order. Tickets may also be purchased by calling (414) 345-8800.

- Kathy Schultz



Nominations For Irish Honorees

Nominations for the 2016 Irish Rose, Irishman of the Year, and Parade Marshal, must be received by 6 p.m., January 28, before the start of the Shamrock Club Board Meeting. Nominations must be in writing, or e-mailed, and be made by members in good standing. Nominations can be mailed to Shamrock Club, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233, or e-mailed to Mary Culver at: redheadgardener@hotmail.com.

Emerald Reflections Copy Deadline

Content for Emerald Reflections is due on the 15th of the month (next deadline: January 15th to appear in the Feb. issue). Copy received after that date will not appear due to deadlines. While we try to include every submission possible, due to space limitations, we cannot guarantee that every submission will be included immediately. E-mail submissions preferred, send to:

Brian Witt, Editor
emeraldreflections@shamrockclubwis.com

Pam Canon, Publisher

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Web site: http://shamrockclubwis.com

To become a member of the Shamrock Club of Wisconsin contact the membership chair of the chapter you would like to join. MILWAUKEE ONLY: Family membership (includes both parents and all children under eighteen) - \$25.00. Single membership - \$20.00. Membership is renewable annually on the anniversary month of the original membership. Please send all new and renewal Milwaukee club membership dues to Membership Chair, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233. Be sure to send change of address notification to Membership Chair, also. The post office will NOT forward copies of Reflections.

Sunshine Report



Jack and Sue Suit's daughter, Lindsey had twin boys on January 6, 2016. All are doing well.

AJ Varelas, Captain of the Shamrock Club Griffins hurling team was seriously injured at work a few weeks ago, which resulted in the amputation of his leg just below the knee. Please keep AJ and his wife in your prayers.

If you have Sunshine news, please email it to: slainte4142-shamrock@yahoo.com.

- Maggie Blaha, Sunshine Chair



Dawn's Corner Cupboard

Potato soup and Snowflake Pot Luck Dinner. Please bring your food by 6:15 pm so we can eat by 6:30 pm. If you were not at the last meeting and didn't get a snowflake, please bring a side dish or dessert to pass.

We will also be accepting warm clothes and food donations for the homeless at the meeting.

- Dawn Fleming
Sergeant-at-Arms



Celtic Women International

The CWI Book Club meetings begin at 1:00 pm at the ICHC and include discussion, tea, and treats. New members and guests are always welcome to join us!

To start the new year, Pat Powers will host our January 12th meeting. Our topic will be *1916* by Morgan Llywelyn.

We will not meet in February, but will resume on March 8th when we will discuss *Paperboy* by Tony Macaulay. Our hostess will be Sheila Isakson.

On April 11th, Sharon Walsh will be our hostess. We will view the movie, *The Secret of Roan Inish*, at this meeting.

- Rosemary Walsh
rowalsh@wi.rr.com

Word of the Month

Bhi me - (Vee may) I was.
Bhínn tuirseach gach lá.
(Veen cher-shach gawk lah.)
I used to be tired every day.



Rent the ICHC for your next

Party
Meeting
Recital
Wedding

Spaces available for large
or small events

Email: director@ichc.net
or call (414) 345-8800

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had held the area since 1165 into submission prior to sailing from Pembroke and landing in Ireland in October 1171. Some of the Irish lords appealed to Henry to protect them from the Anglo-Norman invaders, while de Clare offered to submit to Henry if he was allowed to retain his new possessions.

Henry was no fool. His timing was influenced by several factors, including encouragement from Pope Alexander, who saw the opportunity to establish papal authority over the Irish church. The Irish Church nominally accepted oversight of the Papacy in Rome. The critical factor though appears to have been Henry's concern that his nobles in the Welsh Marches would acquire independent territories of their own in Ireland, beyond the reach of his authority. Henry's intervention was successful, and both the Irish and Anglo-Normans in the south and east of Ireland accepted his rule.

Henry undertook a wave of castle-building during his visit in 1171 to protect his new territories; the Anglo-Normans had superior military technologies to the Irish, and castles gave them a significant advantage.

Henry hoped for a longer term political solution, however, similar to his approach in Wales and Scotland and in 1175, he agreed to the Treaty of Windsor, under which Rory O'Connor would be recognized as the high king of Ireland, giving homage to Henry and maintaining stability on the ground on his behalf. This policy proved unsuccessful, as O'Connor was unable to exert sufficient influence and force in areas such as Munster.

Henry, instead, intervened more directly, establishing a system of local fiefs of his own through a conference held in Oxford in 1177.

Rory O'Connor ruled as High King until his death in 1183. He was, for all intents and purposes, the last High King of Ireland. Bhriain Ui Neill attempted to reestablish the kingship in the mid-thirteenth century. Edward Bruce, brother of Robert Bruce of Scotland, also tried to take over the role in the early 14th century, again to no avail.

The British, however, were to rule over Ireland for the next six hundred fifty years.

- Brian Witt

Contemporary Ireland from Two Acclaimed Playwrights January 13 - 18, 2016 at Next Act Theatre

Welcome to the Ireland of today. If you are not familiar with it you will come to know it through the rich textures and sublime poignancy of two celebrated playwrights.

Moment by Deirdre Kinahan

The impact of a crime is rarely confined to the initial events experienced by its immediate victims. What of the impact on the families of the perpetrators? How difficult can it be for loved ones to forgive, let alone understand, terrible acts committed by their own kin? How does a family live and cope with the pain of a conflicted love? Deirdre Kinahan's triumph with this new play lies in her extraordinary lightness of touch and her ability to bed her drama down in the almost mundane details of family life. Here, ordinary actions -preparing of tea, setting of a table, the small talk of a family meal - are laced with hidden drama and unspoken hurt. It is drama of a most personal kind, and its sheer, simple truth resonates with us the more for it.

This production was nominated for five awards at the Acting Irish International Theatre Festival 2015 in Cincinnati last May and won three.

Featuring: Lindsey Gagliano, Sharon Nieman Koebert, Nate Press, Sasha Katharine Sigel, Maggie McGwin, Zach McLain, Rob Moss and Annie Terry. Directed by James J. Gallagher.

Little Gem by Elaine Murphy

Elaine Murphy has cleverly interwoven monologues from three generations of women in the same family. It shows a year in the lives of these three women whose adventures in love, sex, birth, death, and salsa classes enthrall and entertain audiences in this revealing, poignant and extremely funny play. In his review in the Telegraph Charles Spencer wrote: "Elaine Murphy's *Little Gem* is indeed a little gem of a play, vivid, funny and touching. For a first work it strikes me as remarkable. . . . It is one of those rare plays that leave you feeling better about life when you leave the theatre than you did when you entered."

Featuring: Joan End, Libby Amato, Grace DeWolff. Directed by Lindsey Gagliano.

All performances will be at Next Act Theatre, 255 S. Water St., Milwaukee, WI 53204.

January 6 is Women's Christmas

Little Christmas (Irish: Nollaig Bheag) is one of the traditional names in Ireland for 6 January. It is also widely known in the rest of the world as the Feast of the Epiphany.

Little Christmas is also called Women's Christmas (Irish: Nollaig na mBan), and sometimes Women's Little Christmas. The tradition, still very strong in Cork and Kerry, is so called because of the Irish men taking on all the household duties for the day.

Most women hold parties or go out to celebrate the day with their friends, sisters, mothers, and aunts. Bars and restaurants serve mostly women and girls on this night. Children often buy presents for their mothers and grandmothers.



First Friday Ceili Dances

Join us at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., for family Irish dancing at its best! Beginners and all ages welcome. Instruction begins at 7:30 pm. and continues all evening. Music and dancing begin at 8 pm.

The dances are called, and direction is given by one of the Midwest's best ceili instructors, Gail McElroy.

February - June 2016

- Fri., Feb. 5 – Cream City Ceili
- Fri., March 4 – Ceol Cairde
- Fri., April 6 – Wise Maids
- Fri., May 6 – Ceol RíRá
- Fri., June 3 – Frogwater

Entrance is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students, seniors, and children. All proceeds benefit the work of the ICHC.

St. Patrick's Church Organ Fundraising



St. Patrick's Roman Catholic Church was built beginning in 1893 and completed in 1895. The church was built to serve the growing Irish immigrant population in Milwaukee. St. Patrick's is fortunate to have a very rare Schulke organ - one of only four like it in the United States. The organ underwent an extensive restoration twenty-five years ago. The bulk of the work on this two and a half-year project was done by Shamrock Club members Jerry Hill, Jack Noonan, Erv Jankowiak and Joe Donovan. This organ, which lends such beautiful music for our mass every St. Patrick's Day, is once again in need of some repairs.

We are hoping to raise the money needed for the repairs. The Shamrock Club is accepting all donations. Checks should be made out to the Shamrock Club, with "St. Patrick's Organ Fund" written on the memo line and can be mailed to the Shamrock Club, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233. Please give generously. It would be a shame to not be able to have the organ played at our mass this coming March.

For more information, please call Chuck McLaughlin at 414-771-0458 or email Maggie Blaha at slainte4142-shamrock@yahoo.com.

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dpcanon@wi.rr.com for rates

The Spirit of Home: The Tastes of Ireland ICHC Annual Fundraiser February 20, 2016



Come join us on Feb. 20th for the annual ICHC fund raiser. From 6:30 to 8:30 enjoy Irish whiskeys, craft beers, and superb wines, as well as tastes of Irish themed food selections. Myserk will provide Irish music during the tasting, and at 9:00 everyone will gather in the Shamrock Club Parlor for a rousing hooley with live music. A silent auction will add to the fun.

Tickets are only \$40 per person or \$70 for two people - a great value for food, drinks, and entertainment! Proceeds will go towards kicking off the Tierney Irish Music Fund and funding new flooring in the parlors. To order tickets, please go to our website at www.ichc.net.

*Savor the tastes that
remind you of home!*

St. Patrick's Mass Donations

The Shamrock Club will start accepting donations for the March 12, 2016 St. Patrick's Day Mass Book Memorials on January 1, 2016. You may give Gail Neville donations at the monthly club meeting or -

Phone - 414-354-1355 (leave a message with your name and phone number if Gail does not answer)

Email - gailtacht@aol.com (include your name, phone number, and any short message you would like used)

Address for mail orders - Gail Neville, 9011 N. 70th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53223

THE LAST DAY TO ACCEPT
DONATIONS IS MARCH 7, 2016



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Shamrock Club Christmas Party



Photos by Brian Witt
and Pam Canon





SHAMROCK CLUB OF WISCONSIN

2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53223

For Information: <http://shamrockclubwis.com>
or: www.saintpatricksparade.org

An Old Gaelic Prayer

May the Road Rise to meet you
May the wind be always at your back
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
till the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And, until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hands.



EMERALD REFLECTIONS PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Dan and Patti Stotmeister, Rand Harteau and Mitch Haycock entertained
at the Shamrock Club Christmas Party.

Photo by Pam Canon