



# THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

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**MEMBERSHIP:** Dues are \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family. Individual or Family membership each receive one subscription (4) issues to The Irish Genealogical Society Quarterly. Individual membership has (1) vote in elections and Family membership has (2) votes in elections. The membership year runs from 1 March to 28/29 February.

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With the amiable persistence of my wife Yolanda, and the guiding knowledge of my uncle Dan Bard, I am pleased to be able to tell you about a wonderful achievement. It is genealogical. Generally the hunt is for distant ancestors. This time however it's close. My father died suddenly in 1993. It was a painful time for us. Three years later, using Xeroxes of family trees he had sent me that I had duly filed away, I began family history research in earnest.

My father's body was cremated. We scattered his ashes on the Sea Island, Georgia oceanfront early one very foggy morning. I would be hard pressed to say exactly where now. Yolanda said (more than once), "he needs a marker". I agreed. But I had no idea how. Uncle Dan, a veteran, like my father, briefed me in March 2011 on the process and recommended a location for a memorial plaque, that it be placed near my grandparent's graves in the Rienzi Cemetery in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin. The steps we followed - obtaining and submitting the details and proofs of my father's US Air Force service, filing the request, obtaining the co-operation of the cemetery, and having the marker installed - all required more time than we anticipated. We took the following pictures just a few days ago after being notified it was in. As Dan's wife - my father's sister Sally - now says, "Bill has two places to go for comfort - St. Simons Island ocean shore and Fond du Lac (where he was born) with his Mom and Dad."



Gary Shea

## **NEWS FROM THE WEB**

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

### **IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT LAUNCHED**

The Genealogical Society of Ireland and the Irish Royal College of Surgeons are on the lookout for Irish people who can trace their ancestry back to eight great-grandparents from a general area of the country.

The plan is to collect DNA samples with two purposes in mind: genealogical study connecting to other European populations, and study researching genetic influence on common diseases.

Ireland's cultural heritage ultimately has roots in migrations from Europe. The Irish DNA Atlas will reveal migration and settlement patterns from the most ancient times.

It hasn't been stated whether Irish descendants living in other parts of the world would be welcomed in the study. More can be learned from [<familyhistory.ie>](http://familyhistory.ie)

### **NEW IRISH NATIONAL ARCHIVES WEBSITE**

John Grenham has reported in *The Irish Times* that a newly designed National Archives website is much clearer, with expanded guides to collections, digital resources and genealogy. Searches of the online catalog are much more powerful, with a full-text search possible for any word in the catalog. See [<nationalarchives.ie>](http://nationalarchives.ie)

The old catalog featured the Ireland-Australia transportation database. This has been taken out of the new catalog, and may be downloaded at [<tinyurl.ie/61u>](http://tinyurl.ie/61u)

### **GLASNEVIN CEMETERY RECORDS ONLINE**

For twenty years the Glasnevin Trust has been compiling the burial records of over 1.5 million people in Dublin cemeteries. The records have been digitised and are now available at [<glasnevintrust.ie>](http://glasnevintrust.ie) The records begin in 1828 and include the name, address and date of burial as well as a photograph of the original record. Glasnevin is Ireland's largest cemetery. Four other Dublin cemeteries, Dardistown, Oldenbridge, Newlands Cross and Palmerstown, have been included in the database.

## **ONLINE VIDEOS ABOUT IRELAND**

Videos featuring Irish topics are at <[ireland-information.com/irishvideos.htm#5](http://ireland-information.com/irishvideos.htm#5)> They include The Flight of the Earls, The Story of Ireland, Irish Scenery, the Book of Kells, and footage from the 1922 funeral of Michael Collins.

## **THE OLDEST HOUSE IN IRELAND**

Ennis, Co. Clare's oldest inhabited house on Parnell St. has revealed evidence of a structure dating back to medieval times. After a house inspection in 2008, the Clare Co. Council deemed it unstable and in need of structural repair. The Council planned a restoration costing E170,000. Recently archeologists found an earlier structure contained within the house. Using tree rings to date the large oak beams in the walls, they plan to prove its medieval provenance and obtain new information about the construction skills and techniques of that time in Ennis.

## **IRISH IN NEW BRUNSWICK**

The New Brunswick Provincial Archives has a website called "The New Brunswick Irish Portal" at <[archives.gnb.ca/Irish/databases\\_en.html](http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/databases_en.html)>

The site includes Saint John Almshouse Records, Brenan Funeral Home Records, Fitzwilliam Estate Emigration Books 1847-1856, Provincial Secretary: Immigration Administration Records, Immigrant Letters, Newspapers, Passenger Lists, Teachers Petition Database and Irish Immigrants in the New Brunswick Census of 1851 and 1861.

## **MAY THEY REST IN PEACE**

Five of the recovered remains of the allegedly murdered Irish immigrant railroad workers of 1832 at Duffy's Cut near Philadelphia were reburied in a moving ceremony March 9, 2012. Video of the event is at <[youtube.com/watch?v=QulW2jtg](http://youtube.com/watch?v=QulW2jtg)> You will note a selection of other videos on Duffy's Cut and the reburial to the right side of the screen.

Previously it was reported that the Duffy's Cut project had been stopped because Amtrak was under the impression that the remaining fifty bodies were buried directly under their tracks. Since then Amtrak has been informed that the men are fifty feet away

from the tracks. Amtrak has indicated it is now open to considering recovery of the bodies and has requested further information. The Duffy's Cut team has organized a petition to Amtrak and has over 2541 signatures. To show support for a proper reburial of these Irish victims sign the petition at < [change.org/petitions-demand-justice-for-massacre-victims](http://change.org/petitions-demand-justice-for-massacre-victims) > You can also locate the petition by googling "Duffy's Cut Petition." Please consider adding your name so that these men can one day rest in peace.

## **IRELAND'S CITY DIRECTORIES ONLINE**

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [PRONI] has searchable digital images of 30 city directories from 1819 to 1900. The original volumes had been so heavily used at the search room in Belfast with resultant damage and missing pages, that it was decided to scan them. There are some gaps in the series. At PRONI's main site, <[proni.gov.uk](http://proni.gov.uk)>, click on "street directories" on the right, listed under "online records." The next page will have a box on the right that says "search the street directories."

The City Library of Cork has directories at <[corkpastandpresent.ie](http://corkpastandpresent.ie)> These date from 1787 to 1945.

## **ONLINE FAMINE ARCHIVE**

The University of Limerick has placed online translations from the French of accounts of Famine emigrants who came to Montreal and of the French-Canada Sisters of Charity, also known as the Grey Nuns, who cared for them in 1847. The famine archive is available at <[www.history.ul.ie/historyoffamily/faminearchive](http://www.history.ul.ie/historyoffamily/faminearchive)>

## **VIEWS OF TYPHOID MARY'S LAST HOME**

Tyrone-born Mary Mallon, known to history as Typhoid Mary, spent years imprisoned at North Brother Island, close to the Bronx in New York. The island was opened in 1885 as a quarantine locale for lepers and sufferers of tuberculosis, typhoid, scarlet fever, yellow fever, and other contagious diseases. At first they lived in wooden huts or tents. Ferries brought food supplies, but bad weather meant the inhabitants went hungry. Rich people could avoid confinement there by arranging their own private retreat.

The island was closed in 1963. Visitors are not allowed, and armed coast guard patrols guard the site. Recently, Ian Ference, a photographer, was given access, and his haunting pictures of the ruins are online at <[tinyurl.com/7alzyba](http://tinyurl.com/7alzyba)>

One picture shows a stone carved with the words "Help me, I have been held here Against my will."

### **CONNECTICUT IRISH AMERICAN JOURNAL ONLINE**

Twenty years of The *Shanachie*, the journal of the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society, is now online. Find it at <[digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/shanachie](http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/shanachie)> Or google "Shanachie Connecticut."

### **SLIGO HERITAGE**

<[sligoheritage.com](http://sligoheritage.com)> presents an assortment of articles that cover Irish history, tradition and folklore in County Sligo.

### **NY LIST OF PAYMENTS FOR ERIE CANAL WORK**

*Documents of the Senate of the State of New York, Vol. 3*, by New York (State) Legislature, 1851, lists payments made to workers enlarging the Erie Canal in 1849. As expected, the lists turn up many Irish names. The lists start on page 11, and go through page 271. There is a search engine. See <[tinyurl.com/3lmu7pr](http://tinyurl.com/3lmu7pr)>

### **COBH PIER ENDANGERED**

Thousands in the 19th century took their last steps in Ireland on the wooden pier at Cobh, then known as Queenstown. 123 people trod the pier in 1912 to board the Titanic. Now the wooden structure is near collapse, with no likelihood of restoration.

The pier is called the White Star Line pier or "Heartbreak" pier. It is not on Ireland's register of protected structures. The Cobh Town Council has estimated a cost of over 350,000 euros (about \$445,000) to restore the structure.

### **WEBSITE FOR COUNTY DOWN**

Raymond's County Down Website offers a lot to County Down researchers. Find it at <[countymdown.x10.mx](http://countymdown.x10.mx)>

## MORE ABOUT THE NEW FAMILYSEARCH WEBSITE

BY Patricia Keeney Geyh

In the June 2011 issue of the Irish Genealogical Quarterly there was an article about a good many changes that have occurred in the *familysearch.org* website and a number of ways to access information in this new format were suggested. In this second article I will write about some additional resources available using the new format. This will include a discussion of various articles and books available as well as instructional videos.

Get out your computer and enter *familysearch.org*. Once the website, with the pale yellow strip at the top, comes up, click on **Learn**. Immediately you will get a large tan/brown map with a large purple rectangle on which is printed *Getting Started*. After reading the information in the purple rectangle, click on *Get Started Now*.

At this point you get a choice of four step-by-step videos. These are largely created for beginning genealogists, but will provide an excellent review for more advanced researchers.

1. Finding Easy Information
2. Recording and Sharing Your Family History
3. Finding Challenging Information
4. Using FamilySearch.org

Let's click on *Step 2--Recording and Sharing Your Family History*. Be sure to turn up the volume on your computer, then click on the white arrow in the red box--and the show begins. When the video for Step 2 is completed, scroll down on the screen and you will find a summary of the information given in the video.

Scroll down a little more and you will find a tan box in which are given additional resources. In Step 2 the additional resources include information titled *What's in a family history?*, *Family tree forms*, *Family group record forms* and *Free family history software*.

Let's look at two of these additional resources. If you click on *Family Group Records* you will find an excellent copy of a family group sheet that you can download and print. Nowadays I use a program on my computer in which I enter my data. However I usually have a few of these paper group sheets available when I am going to do research in a place where it will not be convenient to use my laptop computer. In the days before I owned a computer I used these forms completely.

Another source of interest is *Free family history software*. At this point I have not used any of these programs offered, but I think I'll do a little studying and see if any of them will be of value to me.

So now we come to the end of Step 2 in *Getting Started*. This procedure is followed for each of the four Steps available, but of course the information and resources discussed vary with each step.

So let's leave *Getting Started Now*. Click back until you get to the original *Getting Started* page. This is the one with the purple square with letters printed on it in **white**. Scroll down on that page and you will find a heading , *What's in learning resources?* Underneath it are three columns labeled *Research Wiki*, *Research Courses*, and *Discussion Forums*.

Let's look at *Research Wiki* and read the description below the picture. It is interesting to note that the word, wiki, traces back to the Hawaiian wiki-wiki, meaning quick-quick. In modern parlance it has come to mean a website that allows collaborative editing of its content and structure by its users. And this section of *Familysearch* is just that.

Having read the information below the picture, click on *Go to wiki*. To the right is a purple rectangle in which you will find the words *Learn More*. Click on *Learn More* and you will find yourself on a page that provides all the assistance you need to use the huge amount of information available in *Research Wiki*. It will take time exploring all the options offered to you, but will be well worth the search.

Another of the three columns is labeled *Research Courses*. Read the information below the picture and click on *View the courses*. You will now find yourself in *The Learning Center*. As the subheading tells you, this is the section where you can browse hundreds of online genealogy courses to help you discover your family history.

As with most sections of the **LEARN** section of this website, you can spend many hours discovering everything of help to a genealogist that is available here. Let's just explore one of them.

To the left is the column labeled, *What course are you looking for?* Then begins a list of countries for which there are courses for you to take. Below the list of countries for which courses are available the list continues with names of subjects you might wish to learn all about.

Let's click on *Ireland*. You will note the number 8 in parentheses after the word Ireland which tells you that there are eight lessons about Ireland available. Once you have clicked on Ireland you will find a description of each of the eight lessons and the length of time for each. Upon looking at the descriptions of all of them it can be seen that they are all online classes.

The next of the three elements in *What's in learning resources?* is *Discussion Forums*. This is a section that probably deserves a separate article in the Quarterly. Anyone out there willing to write it?

Below these three columns labeled *Research Wiki*, *Research Courses and Discussion Forums* are two sentences. One reads, "Discover technologies that will improve your family history research and knowledge." This sentence is followed by *Try Tech Tips*. Click on *Try Tech Tips* and you will have access to hundreds of helpful ideas such as how to use google for ancestry research, selecting software, using facebook, going digital at the cemetery, genealogical research on your smartphone. It goes on and on.

The second sentence at the bottom of the page is, "Learn more about TV shows like *Who Do You Think You Are?* that spur interest in family history." At the end of the article about these shows appears links that allow you to watch many of these programs on your computer. I watched a couple of *Who Do You Think You Are?* shows that I had missed.

So let's click back until we get to the beginning **Get Started** page and click on the Familysearch Logo (FAMILYSEARCH with the Y being used as the trunk of a tree). You will now be on the home page of familysearch.org. Scroll down to where the words *Records, Trees, Catalog and Books* appear. *Records* is in black ink and the rest in blue ink. Click on *Books*.

In the article I wrote last year about the new familysearch website I said that there were books listed from only one library. Well that has changed. As of this date I find that collections from seven libraries are included. This, of course, means that there are a lot more books in which to find that for which you are looking. Enter the name of the place or person or whatever you are looking for. Click on search and choose a book from the list that appears. Wait awhile--it takes time for the whole book to download. Then sit back and read.

This will probably be the last of articles I will write about changes in the Familysearch.org website. But how about you? Have you found something I failed to comment on? Did you have special problems using this site? Send a paragraph or two to me at [pgeyh@wi.rr.com](mailto:pgeyh@wi.rr.com) and we'll probably put it in the next issue of the Quarterly.

Be sure to check the three Membership Lists dated May 22, 2012 that you received this month. If there are any additions or corrections to be made please call or e-mail Robert Towne.

For the latest update of the Irish Genealogy Society of Wisconsin, the Irish Emigration Library and the Genealogy Tent at Irish Fest log on to the IGSW Home page <http://www.igswonline.com/>

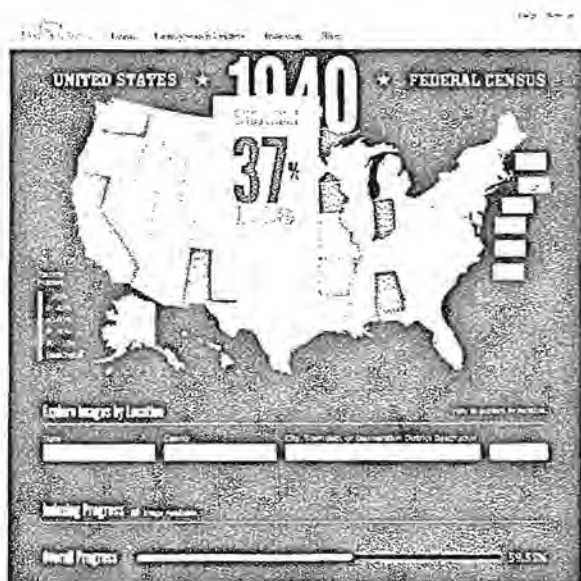
## IGSW Roundtables April 2, 2012

IGSW always has a good turnout for our semi-annual roundtables, and April 2012 was no exception. One of our April roundtables featured a topic that was most timely — coinciding with the release date of the 1940 census images to the public. Members were eager to learn about the census and how to use it.

Members Patrick Tyrrell and Michele Patin moderated a table relating to the 1940 census and provided some helpful handouts for working with this material. Participants at the table commiserated about the fact that the National Archives website was not initially able to handle the demand for browsing and download of images. The site received close to 2 million hits in four hours!

But IGSW director-at-large Tim Dowling was among the lucky few to successfully browse and download some pages, and Tim shared his census image findings with the roundtable.

Patrick Tyrrell conducted a hands-on workshop using the computers of the Irish Emigration Library and walked people through simple procedures for finding your 1940 family using the "One-Step" Enumeration District Finder by Stephen Morse & Joel Weintraub at <http://stevemorse.org/census/unified.html>.



The handouts used at our roundtable on the pages which follow in this *Quarterly* will still help you today. But we are happy to report that indexing of the 1940 census is moving ahead rapidly — and by the time you read this, the information published will be obsolete.

As of early June, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) was reporting indexing progress of more than 50% for the 50 states overall. Wisconsin was 37% complete.

If you subscribe to [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), you receive regular email alerts on progress. Recently, they completed indexing of New York state — the fifth state now searchable, and the most populous one to date.

The best way to keep abreast of this rapidly changing "landscape" of 1940 census images is to just dive in: start looking, and keep looking until you find the neighborhood you seek, or until an index is available for your state.

And then... use the 1940 census to solve your mysteries!

Watch the IGSW website for more news on the 1940 census at:  
[www.igswonline.com](http://www.igswonline.com).



## IGSW Roundtables April 2, 2012

### The 1940 Census

#### **Celebrating the Release of the 1940 Census by the National Archives and Record Administration of the United States (NARA)**

The 1940 census recorded information for 132 million people, 21 million of whom are estimated to be alive today. (Statistics are not available for how many of these are genealogy buffs. Any guesses?!) An infant appearing in the 1940 census would now be 72 years old.

IGSW's Spring 2012 Roundtables date coincides with the release of the 1940 census by the NARA. Tonight, we will access the census online and explore its mysteries.

#### **Finding Yourself: Are you in the 1940 census?**

IGSW encourages you to share your story of discovery: Did you find yourself for the first time in this census release? Did you learn something new about your family? Share your tale with IGSW.

In a future *Quarterly*, we hope to publish some "findings!" Email yours to member Michele Patin at [michele@gid.com](mailto:michele@gid.com) or by post to IGSW at P.O. Box 13766, Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766.

#### **About the April 2, 2012 Release of the 1940 Census by the National Archives and Record Administration of the United States (NARA)**

- The 1940 census went online at 9 a.m. E.D.T. at <http://1940census.archives.gov>
- The images are digital scans, the first time a census has been released by the National Archives for free and online. Prior censuses were released on rolls of microfilm, purchased by libraries, archives and family history centers.
- The census images are browsable, but as yet there is no index.

To find a relevant page, you must know the Enumeration District. Enumeration district maps and verbal descriptions can be found in NARA's Online Public Access catalog (OPA) at <http://www.archives.gov/research/search>

In the dialog box, enter "1940 Census maps" + (county) + (state). You can narrow the search by giving a town name in addition to the county. The search will return several relevant maps (be sure to click the button that lets you view them all). Browse the map images until you find the street and block where your ancestor lived, and note the enumeration district number written on the map, such as "ED 40-74," for example, an enumeration district in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Or, you can go to the same OPA page and enter "1940 Census enumeration district descriptions" + (county) + (state), to search by a narrative description. (Note this can return a large number of results.)

Maps and descriptions are also available from the main portal at <http://1940census.archives.gov>

- Three organizations have announced plans for creating searchable name indexes: Ancestry.com, Familysearch.org and Findmypast.com. The indexing may take a year. Commercial genealogy website Ancestry.com has plans for detailed indexing which will include most of the 45 fields on the form (i.e. in addition to first and last name), so finding a match will be easier. They also plan to create a virtual "1935 sub-census" using data captured on the 1940 census form. (see below)

## **IGSW Roundtables April 2, 2012**

### **New Features and Questions on the 1940 Population Schedule:**

There are two interesting features concerning persons named:

- The instructions ask the enumerator to enter a circled X after the name of the person furnishing the information about the family (the informant); and
- Household residents temporarily absent will be noted with an "ab" after their name.

Numerous new questions were asked in 1940, including:

- If they attended school or college any time since March 1, 1940;
- Highest grade of school completed;
- Place of birth: "U.S. state, territory or possession; OR if foreign born, give country in which birthplace was situated on Jan. 1, 1937, distinguish: Canada-French from Canada-English and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland.";
- In what place did this person live on April 1, 1935? (same house as at present, or a different house but in the same city/town, or in a different city/town and state); and
- For persons 14 years old and over, there were detailed employment questions, including occupation, job-seeking, whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA or NYA; and what was their income in the 12 months ended December 31, 1939.

### **The Line 14 & 29 Sweepstakes Jackpot**

You may be so lucky to learn that your relative was enumerated on line 14 or 29 of the form. If so, that person was one of two persons per page — a 5% statistical sampling — who were entered on the supplemental schedule. The 1940 supplemental asks...

For persons of all ages:

- The place of birth of the person's father and mother;
- Mother tongue — language spoken in home in earliest childhood; and
- Is this person a veteran of the United States military forces; or the wife, widow, or under 18-year-old child of a veteran?

For persons 14 years old and over:

- three Social Security questions; and
- the person's usual occupation (not just what they were doing March 24-30, 1940).

And, for women who are or have been married:

- Has this woman been married more than once;
- Age at first marriage; and
- Number of children ever born (not including stillbirths)

**The enormous data set in this census gives the genealogist a chance to demolish brick walls, flesh out family stories, and better know America's "Greatest Generation."  
We all look forward to plumbing the depths of the 1940 census in the coming months!**

## Night of the Round Tables April 2, 2012 - Beginners Genealogy Workshop Exercises

Although billed as a beginners' table, I enjoyed the camaraderie of a few veterans as we talked genealogy while going through exercises that I use when teaching a Beginners Genealogy Workshop. The goal of the workshop is to jump start beginners, getting them to the intermediate level more quickly and with less pain. As it is a six-week class that meets weekly, just two selected exercises were covered in the Round Table: the placement quiz (ten questions beginners should not find easy that set the tone and foundation for the class) and an analysis of a family enumerated in the information packed 1900 Census. I see the class as a work in progress....

- Gary Shea

## **MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST AUGUST 16, 17, 18, 19, 2012**

**1981-2012 - This will be IRISH FEST'S 32<sup>nd</sup> year at the Henry W. Maier Festival Park.**

**1983-2012 – Genealogy at Irish Fest celebrates 30<sup>th</sup> year in 2012.**

**The space that was once the Cultural Village (Ballyfest) at the South end of the Festival Grounds is now occupied by a Stage. It has been built to accommodate 10,000 plus people.**

**So where will you find “Ballyfest”? Come in at the South Gate and there we'll be just West of the Stage area.**

**It's going to be fun discovering the new locations of all your favorite tents in the Cultural Village. The Genealogy Tent will again be 60' by 60' so we have been told. Come find us and enjoy our all new Village at IRISH FEST 2012.**

## **"Field of Blood; Field of the Forgotten: A history of Milwaukee County's Potter's Field"**

A presentation by Dr. Michael McBride  
given on Monday May 7, 2012  
to the Irish Genealogical Society

by Kristine Mooney

After hearing Dr. McBride speak at the Medical College of Wisconsin about Milwaukee County's Potter's Field, my husband mentioned that the IGSW membership might also enjoy the presentation. When I contacted him, he laughed and said, "Of course! My Irish mother would kill me if I said no." He was very enthusiastic to present at the ICHC as he had never been inside the building and wanted to see Quinlan's Pub.

Turns out enthusiasm is a prominent part of Dr. McBride's personality. We were treated to a passionate, and compassionate, presentation about the County grounds and the unfortunate many who died and were buried there. Dr. McBride was a medical student when the burial grounds were discovered during 1991 construction. He began research on the burial grounds and published an article in the Wisconsin Medical Journal in 1992. For the next 20 years he has continued to advocate for the over 6000 persons buried there. He finds time to speak for them despite a busy family life, his psychiatry work at the VA and medical college, and his 9-11 inspired military service including several extended deployments to Iraq with the Army and recent enlistment with the Navy.



Dr. Mike McBride

Potter's Field dates back to 1852 when the county board purchased a farm on the far west side of Milwaukee County to act as a poorhouse. Admission to this Almshouse required court order on the grounds of poverty and lack of family as attested to by two taxpayers. Records show the basis for admittance included:

- Deaf and dumb
- Disabled by blindness
- Disabled by old age
- Disabled by disease and loss of limb
- Epileptic
- Feeble minded
- Alcoholism
- Out of work

Over the years the facility expanded to include a children's home (1858), a hospital for the poor (1860) and an insane asylum (1878). Several in the audience shared their connection with the institutions on the County grounds, including one man who lived there as a child in the orphanage.

Who were the people buried in Potter's Field? Thousands lived on the County grounds campus and many of these died impoverished and without known family. Nothing is recorded about burials that surely occurred from the 1850s into the 1870s.

Documentation of burials at the "County Farm" Cemetery or Potter's Field begins in 1872, and the last burial occurred in 1974. There are 6400 names on a burial register now held by the Milwaukee Historical Society. The registry begins only with names, later adding age and later still the cause of death. Photos of the bodies being exhumed in 1991 show some were children, often with religious medals still around their skeletal necks. Records reveal many were immigrants, many were sick and disabled, but the overriding common feature is that they were poor.

There exists a separate small cemetery discovered in 2000 that holds the remains of some 200 asylum patients. Dr. McBride gave a history of the asylum buildings and the



evolution of psychiatric treatment. Many psychiatric inmates worked on the grounds, and it is believed they built the magnificent stone stairways in the oak forest north of Watertown Plank Road. Dr. McBride shared the story of one patient who was admitted for mania. On learning he was a mason, the hospital administrator secured a large block of stone from which the patient created an extraordinary urn decorated with fish and other creatures. The man's medical record ends simply, "Sculpture finished. Patient discharged."

That the resting place for thousands of Milwaukee's citizens became lost and so neglected is a tragedy. There had been previous outcries when newspaper stories in 1882, 1930 and 1967 bemoaned the state of Potter's Field. Despite these alerts, the cemetery in its entirety appears to have been forgotten until the 1991 construction began to unearth bodies. Many remains removed during that construction were taken to UWM where archeology students have worked on identification. This was to have been time limited but the bodies remain stored there twenty years later. Dr. McBride challenged the group to reflect on these people and whether they deserve a final resting place more peaceful and dignified than a basement shelf. At around that moment, bagpipes began playing from somewhere above, as if to underscore his message.

Dr. McBride ended with an invitation to join him on a walking tour of the County grounds the following Thursday May 10, 2012. We were gifted a beautiful and pleasant spring evening for the hike. Beginning at the above urn on the east side of the Ronald McDonald House, we walked past ruins of buildings and by the remarkable stone staircases in the woods. We then went west to the small asylum burial ground. Then through the fields to loop by the Eschweiler buildings, then along the monarch butterfly trail next to I-45, and then behind the Parks building and the electric plant back to where we started. It was a trek that taxed most of us. Except for Dr. McBride whose energy and enthusiasm never waned.

(Two days later he would report to the Navy for orientation and, he hopes, deployment to Afghanistan. Godspeed.)



# Upcoming Programs

## **Monday, July 2, 2012 – 7p.m.**

Shorewood Public Library - 3920 N Murray Ave – Shorewood, WI

Cindy Allgaier will do a presentation on what's new at the Family Research Centers.

*She has new information on the indexing of Irish records and  
using the 1940 US Census Reports to share.*

## **Monday, August 6, 2012**

We're taking a break for Irish Fest. See you there.

## **Monday, September 10, 2012 – 7p.m.**

Shorewood Public Library

Ever wanted to write down your family story? Didn't know where to start?

Join Jo Mc Reynolds as she presents a workshop on writing memoirs  
and family histories.

## **Monday, October 1, 2011 – 7p.m.**

ICHC - 2133 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

"A Night of the Round Tables"

A crowd pleaser, this meeting gives us time to share our successes and failures.

The regular attendees of the IGSW meetings have so much knowledge to share,  
that it is possible to find the answer to your questions in a single evening.

Come join us, you'll be glad you did.

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Watch \_\_\_\_\_ for further information as to time and place.

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin • P.O. Box 13766 • Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766



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