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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 9, No. 6

DECEMBER/JANUARY, 1984/85

NEWS BITS

by Andy Prior

A Co. Cavan woman whose husband was shot dead by a British army patrol in Newry in 1971 is to receive 37,500 pounds from the Brit. Gov. in a settlement agreed before the European Commission on Human Rights. The dead man and his two companions were shot because British soldiers presumed incorrectly that a bank was about to be robbed. The Brit. Gov. admitted that the killing was "an unfortunate mistake." (Irish Post 11/3/84) ... On Friday, Oct. 12th, a bomb exploded on the fifth floor of the Grand Hotel, Brighton. At the time the hotel was occupied by senior Tory MP's and party members, including the Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher. The explosion killed 4 people and injured many others. In claiming responsibility the IRA stated, "Mrs. Thatcher will now realize that Britain cannot occupy our country and torture and shoot our people on their own streets and get away with it. Today we were unlucky, but remember we only have to be lucky once — you will have to be lucky always. Give Ireland peace and there will be no war." (Troops Out 11/84) ... The President of Sinn Fein, Gerry Adams has criticized those who had described the Brighton bombing as an attack on democracy, arguing that the British presence in N.I. was "undemocratic, unwanted, illegal and immoral." He went on: "All casualties and fatalities in Ireland or Britain as a result of the war are sad symptoms of our British problem, and the Brighton bombing was an inevitable result of the British presence in this country. Far from being a blow against democracy it was a blow for democracy." (Irish Times 11/5/84).

WASHINGTON — The Reagan administration told the Senate Intelligence Commission that private aid to Nicaraguan insurgents is legal and that it never sought to encourage or discourage anyone from providing it. As the CIA, the Pentagon and the State Department gave those assurances, administration lawyers determined it "can be perfectly legal" for private citizens and groups to contribute money to rebels ... it is "highly unlikely" the Justice Department will recommend the prosecution of private groups that are aiding the insurgents (The San Diego Union 9/12/84) ... WASHINGTON — US Rep. Mario Biaggi, chairman Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs, in response to his letter inquiring about any links between American Irish organizations and the recent seizure of weapons aboard the Marita Ann was told by the FBI Director, "We are not aware of any information to date to link ... this to an Irish American organization." Biaggi, in an Oct. 2 letter to the FBI noted, "Numerous press accounts of the seizure have suggested that the arms ... were in part paid for with funds raised by American organizations such as Irish Northern Aid ... Both the Irish and British governments have made this contention. Thus far, I have not seen any official American government response to these allegations and I would think one should be forthcoming to either confirm or dismiss these serious allegations." (PEC 11/1/84) ... Four Catholic bishops from the U.S. visited N.I. in Oct. at the request of the Irish Hierarchy. The delegation expressed concern "about the allegations of indefinite imprisonments without trials, charges of abuse in strip-searching, and the widespread distrust among certain communities of the Judicial system in general." The delegation included Bishops' Malone of Ohio, Stafford of Tenn., Hurley of Calif., and O'Connor of New York. The members met with some N.I. political parties, government officials and visited Armagh Womens Prison.

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ORIGINAL BRITISH VIEW OF MAJORITY RULE

In these days while the Irish Government waits patiently, hat in hand, hoping for some sign of approval from Margaret Thatcher with respect to the Forum Report, it might be well to recall the views of earlier English politicians confronted with the intransigent Orange minority in the north of then unified Ireland. There was precious little talk then about accommodating, "the two traditions". Churchill and Disraeli saw Orangeism for what it is — a crude appeal to bigotry and no more a "national tradition" than is racism anywhere in the world.

The Home Rule Bill in 1913 was a modest attempt by the British to defuse rising Irish unrest on the eve of World War I. Orange-

(Continued on Page 2)

BRITISH JUSTICE: IRISH NEED NOT APPLY

by Andy Prior

Fact 1 — In November, 1974 amidst an intense period of British anti-Irish hysteria, caused by a series of IRA pub bombings, four young people, three of whom were Belfast born, were arrested for the bombing of a Guilford, England pub. The bombing campaign didn't end, but instead continued without interruption until late 1975.

Fact 2 — In December 1975, four members of an IRA Active Service Unit were arrested. Three of these men confessed that they and not the four arrested the previous year and now convicted, were responsible for the Guilford bombing. After this arrest the bombings came to an abrupt stop.

Fact 3 — As of today, some nine years later, the four arrested in November of 1974 are still in prison.

The four, Patrick Armstrong, Gerry Conlon, Paul Hill and Carole Richardson were convicted on the basis of the main prosecution evidence, their own confessions which they all said were coerced and which were all repudiated in court.

Armstrong, born in Belfast, and Richardson, his English girlfriend, did not fit the normal characteristics of an IRA bomber. They shared an apartment and were known drug users. The apartment was raided three times by police in the three months before their arrest. Each time the two gave their correct names and did not change residences. On another occasion, two weekends after the Guilford pub bombing, Richardson was assaulted. Armstrong called the police and they were both interviewed about the incident. Both gave their names and addresses — not very likely actions for two desperate people taking part in a bombing campaign.

(Continued on Page 3)

IRISH AMERICAN FIRST WOMAN TO WALK IN SPACE

Astronaut Kathy Sullivan, an American of Irish heritage, became the first American woman to walk in space. This historic event took place on October 11, 1984. Joining Ms. Sullivan on this Challenger Mission was another American Irish Astronaut, John McBride. Just two more Irish making America great!

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

... about the PEC. Through **The American Irish Newsletter**, the PEC provides our community with an organized, regular and proven means of protest (or support). It is perhaps, the most effective and only tool of its kind available to us. Nationally, it provides us with the opportunity to work together — to speak with one voice. We are referring to the *Action Letter/Offensive Situation* letter-writing programs which were incorporated into the newsletter in January, 1981.

Our long-time members have witnessed many impressive Action Letter successes. For example, the Boston Globe, Grand Met Bill, Hallmark and American greeting card companies, Barclay Bank Divestiture, San Francisco's Bradbury Club and, most recently, our success with WNEW-TV. These programs have since been imitated by other publications.

We make the letter writing simple. The letters with format which appear in the newsletter are brief and to the point. They make quick, easy reading. We urge participants to write their own letters using ours

as a guide or simply rewrite as is, the letter we provide on their own stationery.

Our experience indicates that with greater member participation in letter writing, perseverance, and a strong growth in membership (new subscribers), we will make an American issue of Ireland's reunification. Statistics show that one letter to a national figure concerning a national issue reflects the views of one thousand Americans, a hundred letters represent one hundred thousand views, one thousand letters equal the views of one million Americans! Certainly there is great potential for success when you consider there are 43 million American Irish to draw from.

All members (subscribers) can help meet this challenge by writing the letters requested and by soliciting new subscribers to **The American Irish Newsletter**. This can be done by word of mouth, gift subscriptions (see Christmas Gift Idea pg. 3), and by distributing our newsletter promotional brochures which we will send on request. Using the adjacent coupon, you can also send us the names of people or organizations you feel might wish to subscribe.

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NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

(N.Y. Times 10/23/84 & Statement of Bishop James Malone 10/25/84).

According to the German magazine STERN British troops assigned to NATO duty, and so receiving financial assistance from the U.S., are being trained for duty in N.I. The British has secretly reconstructed a complete Northern Irish town in Senne, Germany. There is a church and a graveyard, a petrol station, bus stop, phone box, rows of houses with restaurants and shops. Even a separating wall between Protestant and Catholic areas is there — and right in the middle is the army fort — identical to the forts in Belfast and Derry. STERN also reports that a British soldier set fire to a pub in the German city where he was garrisoned because he preferred to go to prison rather than take part in the N.I. war. (Troops Out 9/84) ... For the second time the European Parl. has called for a ban on the use of plastic bullets in N.I. The resolution was passed by a massive majority of 150 votes to 29 against and 13 abstentions. (Irish Post 10/20/84) ... Margaret Thatcher has asked for position papers to be drawn up on the repartition of N.I. on two occasions since the publication of the Forum Report. The papers were never produced since officials have dissuaded her from this option which is commonly thought of as simplistic and unworkable. Any British hope that the 100,000 Nationalists in West Belfast might become a docile minority in a smaller N.I. is contradicted by the fact that this area is one of the most solid Republican strongholds. (Sunday Press 11/4/84).

The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

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Assistant Editor Andy Prior

ORIGINAL BRITISH VIEW

(Continued from Page 1)

ism stood against Home Rule — even threatening armed action of Britain should take this one small step in response, Winston Churchill said:

"We are then at the position that the minority in Ireland claim the right for all time and in all circumstances to bar it not merely by constitutional means but, if necessary, by the use of armed force."

Benjamin Disraeli, the Liberal Prime Minister; Churchill went on, *"I am not at all prepared to admit that there are two nations in Ireland. I look upon the Irish nation as one people. For the last forty years they have been a homogeneous people. If we come to an analysis of the elements of a nation ... I am not sure that we shall be able to prove that the English people are so homogeneous as political philosophy now requires people to be. I treat the Irish nation as one."*

In October, 1913 Churchill also said,

"... if we are now to be told that this whole process of constitutional remedy for the redress of grievances is to be nullified utterly by the pinch of violence, and that a minority in a single province (Ulster) is by audacity to bar the way for all time to the whole progress of the Irish nation and interpose a bully's veto more arbitrary than the veto of the Crown ... then, I say, if such things could happen, constitutional and parliamentary action and patient law-abiding agitation for the redress of grievances would in every part of the British Empire, and indeed throughout the civilized world, be discredited and mocked, and those dark and furious methods of lawless violence which civilized society has always banned would receive a supreme and devastating vindication."

These British leaders saw clearly where the causes of violence in Ireland lay. In the final analysis the British Government of that day lacked the power and the will to deal with the reactionary, sectarian Orange minority (Orange Order). It would be well for Margaret Thatcher to grasp the lessons in heartache and bloodshed caused by that earlier shrinking from the hard path. *"Stroke the nettle and it stings, grasp it firmly and there is no pain."*

RECOMMENDED READING: Northern Ireland: Who is the Blame? A powerful insight into Orangeism. (see enclosure).

FROM THE EDITOR

The British government, through a very effective and well financed propaganda machine, with the help of very powerful American and Irish government officials, has been quite successful in its attempts to portray the IRA as the sole cause of all the suffering and tragedy in Ireland. Remove the IRA and Ireland's nightmare will be gone. This success in deceit may soon be changing. It looks possible that Catholic Church leaders in America and Ireland may soon place Irish Nationalist violence (IRA) in its proper perspective — a rebellion against injustice and oppression.

A recent fact-finding mission to Ireland by four American bishops representing the prestigious National Conference of Catholic Bishops has all the ear marks of doing just that. Hopefully, we are correct in assuming that this powerful and respected body will soon be highlighting British injustices in Ireland. That it will make Ireland an American issue as it has with both Central and South America. We hope the Conference will go even further to suggest that the solution is a united Ireland — a British withdrawal. After all, 815 years of British colonialism in Ireland has been directly responsible for the deaths of almost 8 million Irish men, women and children. An ongoing holocaust that the American Irish community must never be permitted to forget.

The Anglo-Irish war of 1919-21 ended so quickly because a similar British propaganda effort failed. A principal reason for that failure was the Irish Bishops pastoral of 1920 which had an enormous influence on American, Irish and British opinion. The pastoral focussed predominantly on the injustice being done by Britain to Ireland, and regarded the violence (rebellion) as inevitable while the injustice lasted. We certainly hope and pray that history is about to repeat itself.

* * *

To all our members, friends and supporters.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Vol. 8, No. 6

## OFFENSIVE SITUATION

by Jim Beirne (PEC, New York)

Once again the Irish have been slandered. This time it was the October 4, 1984 episode of "Magnum P.I." on WCBS-TV, during which an alleged member of the clergy (Irish Catholic priest), "Fr. Patrick Higgins," was used to contrast the Irish boorishness with the refinement, breeding, and good manners of an English lady. What better way to do that than use the British stereotype of "Paddy".

We American Irish must not stand passively by and accept outrageous insults like this. We must remind America of the tremendous contribution American Irish have made to this great Republic.

We urge you to write to WCBS-TV. We must express our outrage. Please use our letter as a guide, or simply copy it on your own stationery. We must confront British propaganda and its anglophiliac counterparts in America at every turn.

address & date

Mr. Neil Derrough

President

WCBS-TV

51 West 52nd Street

New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Derrough:

In the October 4, 1984 episode of "Magnum P.I." an Irish clergyman, Fr. Patrick Higgins, was depicted as an uncouth, drunken buffoon. I strongly protest such a characterization. This stereotypical portrait is deeply insulting and totally unacceptable to respectable Americans, especially American Irish.

I urge that appropriate guidelines be prepared to avoid the televising of similar such injustices in the future.

Sincerely,  
signature

## BRITISH JUSTICE

(Continued from Page 1)

Richardson had a cast-iron alibi. Although she had initially told police she could not remember where she was on the night of the bombing, probably due to drug use, several witnesses appeared and placed her at a disco. Within 45 minutes of the explosion she was seen at the disco by four independent witnesses. Faced with this evidence the prosecution did not dispute it, but instead relied on police evidence that they had been able to drive a police car from Guilford to the disco in 48 minutes. This time is considered an amazing feat.

At one point the prosecution suggested that the IRA had gone to the trouble of setting up an alibi for Richardson. One would have to wonder why the IRA didn't do the same for the others. Also, upon her arrest why did Richardson make no attempt to offer an alibi. It only came to light as a result of witnesses coming forward some time later. Both of these points were put to the jury, but they made no impression.

Hill and Conlon were more likely candidates for bombers. Both had been involved with the Provo's. Hill had apparently fallen out with the IRA who suspected him of informing on them. He was wanted by the authorities in Belfast in connection with the murder of a British soldier. Hill was the first to confess and his implication of himself and the others was, it is claimed, a bid to avoid being returned to N.I. where he was wanted by both the IRA and the police.

The IRA bombing campaign continued a year after the "Guilford bombers" had been arrested and tried. Many of the later bombings bore a marked similarity to the ones for which four people had already been convicted. In fact, the bombing of a pub at Caterham in August, 1975 was almost a carbon copy of the Guilford bombing.

The bombings stopped abruptly in December of 1975 when four members of an IRA Active Service unit were arrested, three of which confessed responsibility for the Guilford bombing. Unlike Conlon, Armstrong, Hill and Richardson, these men

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# NATIONAL POLITICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

## EARLY IRISH SETTLERS IN AMERICA PART II

by Bob West (PEC, South Carolina)

Many historians are quoted in the following article. A rich bibliography is available upon request.

In the initial article of this series (Apr/May 1984) factual evidence demonstrated that under English occupation of Ireland, according to many eminent historians, during the 17th century between 150 - 200 thousand Irish people were transported against their will to colonies on the American mainland and West Indies and sold as slaves and servants. These people were almost exclusively Catholic and mostly of ancient Celtic Irish origin. Further evidence was given that in the 17th century well over one-half of white immigrants to the West Indies were Irish Catholic servants, most of whom were severely mistreated and that most of those in the West Indies departed for Mainland America.

In this second article we will treat the subject of Irish in 17th century Mainland America.

### Kidnapping and Transportation of Irish to America

Gwynn in *Analecta Hibernica* reporting on English Commissioners' letter of Dec. 8, 1620 to the English Government said, "that when many Irish in Wexford (County, Ireland) protested over their lands being seized, the English Government ordered them banished to Virginia to 'send them thither after their countrymen...' It appears some of 7 - 8 thousand Irish were banished to Virginia in 1607. They were followed by the Wexford protesters in 1620.

After the English Government seized their lands, ancestral homes and all their worldly possessions, most survivors of Cromwell's holocaust were forcibly driven to Connaught in 1651. These survivors were hunted down like animals and even forests burned lest some hide and escape English soldiers who were under directions, as Emmet states "... To seize all persons without any visible means of support ... For transportation to the American Colonies ..." Emmet continues, "throughout most of Ireland, all cattle, crops and supplies not needed by English troops or for shipment to England were destroyed. If one should wonder at the absence of trees in Ireland, under James I of England, most of the forests were destroyed for conversion to pastureland for raising of an enormous amount of cattle for shipment to England. Bruce said "In 1620, 100 thousand cattle were sent to England."

Condon recites Cromwell's Commissioners report of 1652 which urged "That Irish women as being too numerous now ... Be sold to merchants and transported to Virginia, New England, Jamaica ... etc." Licensed kidnapping was conducted on a large scale. Smith tells us that in 1653, David Selleck was granted a license to transport Irish: 400 children, 250 women and 300 men. Lord Broghill searched them out, kidnapped and delivered them. They were shipped to New England in the ships *Goodfellow* and *Providence*. Upon arrival, testimony given in Essex County, Massachusetts on one youth's experience, related that he and many others, were weeping and crying because they were stolen from their families and friends.

In 1654, English Governors in Ireland were ordered to deliver to various Bristol merchants for shipment to American Colonies, "All wanderers, men and women, and such other Irish without means, all such children as were in hospitals or work houses, and prisoners, men and women of marriageable age and not

past breeding, etc. ..." Condon states immense numbers of both sexes and all ages were so treated. According to Broudine, 100 thousand of the Irish race were thus swept from their native soil from 1651-1660. Bancroft said from 1652-1670, "The crowded exportation of Irish Catholics was a frequent event, and was attended by aggravations hardly inferior to the usual atrocities of the African slave trade." Smith said wholesale removal of Irish to American Colonies began about 1652 and continued unabated for many years and the reason the number was so large was "clearly a political reason".

### Religion's Effects On Settlers

To understand how the vast majority of Irish in the colonies could be Catholic in Ireland yet be Protestant in America, it is necessary to explain how England and its established religion played an all consuming role in every aspect of life in the colonies. Because of prevailing English law, those of England's religion owned the choicest lands and properties, administered the laws, filled the offices, named most places, lands, towns, rivers, etc. and erected social and political barriers against all who were not of their own way of thinking. There was discrimination against other Protestant sects but they were tolerated while Catholics were not tolerated except in Maryland from 1634-1654 and 1660-1681 and New York from 1683-1688. Under English law, Catholics were compelled to attend religious services in an accepted church; only a minister of the "lawful church" or an authorized civil officer could solemnize marriages; only children baptized in church were recognized as legitimate; they could not acquire property or carry on business unless they joined an accepted church and took the "test oath" and "oath of allegiance". Doyle reports that in 1631 in Massachusetts, Catholicism was treated as a political crime and could not vote at town meetings and "... Were not merely excluded from any share in the government of the colony, but were furthermore debarred from that local citizenship which formed so important an element in the life of Massachusetts."

Writers on 17th century America agree that all colonies had laws that expressly provided for freedom of thought or worship and enjoyment of liberty of conscience and equal civil rights for all except Papists. In essence, as Catholics, they had no rights.

The Irish being a traditionally religious people, attended any place set aside for the worship of God. They were married in various Protestant churches, their children baptized therein and their dead buried with Protestant rites. Records of various Protestant churches are replete with Irish names.

Since very large numbers of these Irish owned property and businesses and held positions of authority, we know they must have abandoned the faith of their fathers. It was their only chance to succeed in life lest they and their families remain in the condition of serfs. The changes did not make them less Irish since religion and nationality are not synonymous.

### Changes In Irish Surnames

It is of vital importance to be aware that because of English law many Irish names had been changed long before Irish arrived in America. Transported Irish children (Emmet asserts

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over 100 thousand) were the most vulnerable victims of this continuing attempt at eradication of Irish culture. They were sent, as Emmet reports, "... That they might lose their faith and all knowledge of their nationality, for in most instances even their names were changed."

In America today, many are aware of their ancient Irish origin but have names that are not certainly Irish in appearance (e.g. Cox, Fox, Wood, Ford, Black, Whit, Brown, etc. Translations and mistranslations from Gaelic and writing into records of names phonetically interpreted have caused some to believe they are not Irish. Typical translations/mistranslations are: "MacShane" meaning Son of John, anglicized becomes Johnson or Jackson; "MacGowan" meaning Son of the Smith, becomes Smith; "Mac Giolla-Muire" meaning Son of the servant of (the virgin) Mary, anglicized becomes MacGillmore, Gilmore, Kilmore, MacGill, Magill, Elmore, etc. Most names beginning with Mel, Mal, Mol, Mul and Con, Cu, Kil and Gil are Irish. Some typical phonetic interpretations are: "McGuire" or "Maguire" have become McWier, Makquire, Mogguire, Mekuier, Megquier, Megwire, etc. and "Sullivan" becomes Sulliphant, Silliphant, Soylevan, Swillevan, etc.

#### From Servants To Freemen

A servant was a transported person whose passage was paid by a proprietor "freeman". The average amount of land given to proprietors or (persons paying their own passage) in mainland colonies was 50-150 acres and they were given an additional 50-100 acres per servant whose passage they paid. McCormac said the servants had been transported, not because the proprietors cared for their labor but as a means of obtaining grants of land. Generally, servants labored with their hands. These included farmers, artisans, builders, laborers, husbandmen, mechanics, traders and even manufacturers and schoolmasters. In early to mid-17th century, servants outnumbered freemen by as many as 6 to 1. Later, freemen outnumbered servants because most freemen had been servants that served their terms. Average terms of indenture of were 4-7 years. While servants, most were mistreated. Upon completion of servitude, servants became freemen and many became landowners.

The vast amount of Irish who came to the colonies were of the laboring class. Many Irishmen of substance (who undoubtedly concealed their valuables from the English) also came, applied for and received tracts of land. In time, as recorded deeds clearly show, these tracts were divided into farms which in many instances were bought and settled by Irish families.

#### Presence Of Irish Colonists In America

According to Hakluyt, Sir Richard Greenville's second voyage to America in 1585 established the first English colony in America. The list of colonists landing at Roanoke Island contains 18 Irish names. Hakluyt said Sir Walter Raleigh was empowered by his charter of Mar. 27, 1585 to apportion his land in America among the English and Irish colonists. His ships were manned largely by Irish sailors. Neill relates that in London, 1622, Rev. Copeland, referring to the great exodus from Ireland said "Ireland has always been a hive from which America has derived sturdy hewers of wood to subdue the forests." Hotten lists 1,252 people living in Virginia on Feb. 16, 1623; 450 have Irish names. Winthrop, the First Governor of Massachusetts, list "the names of such as desire to be made freemen" from 1630-1648; this list contains 136 Irish names. Bruce said in Virginia during the 1650s, Irish patronymics are observed to be extremely numerous in lists of head rights entered in land patents. O'Brien counted 4 hundred Irish landowners in Virginia prior to 1666 from land office records in Richmond. The S.C. Historical-Genealogical Society states the first settlement of the Province of South Carolina in 1670 was Irish, English, Barbadian and Bermudan. O'Brien lists 110 soldiers with Irish names from the Colony of

Massachusetts in "King Philip's War" from 1675 to 1676. Hotten lists 84 people with Irish names that left Barbadoes in 1678 for Virginia and the Carolinas, the only year Hotten recorded official Barbadoes departures. There was vigorous and continuing trade between Mainland America and the West Indies. These ships provided means for the constant stream of people departing the West Indies, officially and unofficially, for mainland colonies and a better life. In addition, there was always considerable movement of colonists between colonies but especially to the frontiers.

O'Brien tells us that the Archives of New Jersey show that in 1683 two colonies from Tipperary and Waterford, Ireland settled in Gloucester and Burlington Counties. O'Brien recites from Maryland Land Office records that all land that is now Cecil County and part of Harford County was proclaimed "County of New Ireland" in 1684 by Lord Baltimore because it was inhabited almost wholly by Irish families. McCormac said Irish Catholics became so numerous in Maryland that government became alarmed and imposed a duty in 1696, but the duty had no effect. Smith reported Maryland's Governor's estimate in C.S.P. Colonial records: 6-7 hundred servants "chiefly Irish" were imported during 1698. Bruce said batches of unfortunate Irish were imported to Virginia in the 17th century for political offenses. Bruce also stated that the frequency of importation of political prisoners represented "the most useful elements in their country, it was no crime for Irishmen to defend their soil against the tyrannical intrusion of Cromwell" and his successors.

#### Irish Settlers In The Records

Many sources afford proof of early Irish settlement in the America Colonies. Chief among them are town and country records, church, court and land books, shipping statistics and rolls of military establishments. No one can deny the authenticity of such sources. They furnish solid groundwork for the contention that Irish (Celtic) not only were among early settlers but were here in massive numbers especially from 1650-1700.

We are indebted to Michael O'Brien who conducted such exhaustive research into these records for many decades. His contributions to the Journals of the American Irish Historical Society in New York City provide the opportunity for Americans to view the massive lists of Irish settlers and their contributions to the making of our America.

#### Conclusion

The majority of white immigrants to Mainland America, mostly of ancient Irish origin and of the laboring class, were transported especially to New England and Southern Colonies throughout the 17th century. Although almost exclusively Catholic in Ireland, most became Protestant in America. After serving their terms of servitude they became freemen and many became landowners, businessmen and held positions of authority as the abundance of Irish names in all colonies' records clearly demonstrate. Due to name changes, many of their descendants are unaware they are Irish. The majority of 17th century Irish colonists having survived slavery/servitude exercised the characteristically Irish virtue of prolificacy well known throughout America and formed a huge percentage of total Mainland Colonies population estimated by several sources at 250 thousand in 1700.

Survivors of 150-200 thousand transported Irish Catholics formed over one-half of white immigrants to Mainland America and the West Indies in the 17th century.

**Important:** A comprehensive research of the Irish in America from its founding through the Civil War is provided in *The Irish Race In America* (see insert "Books Books Books")

## ACTION LETTER

by Albert Doyle

On August 12th, in Belfast, a large group of people which included 130 Americans, assembled peacefully to hear political speeches. Without any provocation, the crowd was suddenly and brutally assaulted by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and British army forces with the result being one dead and many serious injuries which included at least six American citizens. Fortunately, there was widespread TV coverage. The world was horrified to witness this brutal event. In any civilized country such an event would result in an immediate, objective investigation by Government. But when it comes to Ireland, Britain is not the civilized country which its image implies. Mrs. Thatcher actually refused to institute an investigation, leaving the sole investigation to the RUC! The very group responsible for the violence. As a result of long experience with the partisan RUC, the Nationalist population is refusing cooperation and in time the usual whitewash may be expected.

What was the response of our own Government to this public assault on U.S. citizens? Indifference at best, hostility towards the victims at worst. The "official response" to our inquiries is rather open in evidencing these sentiments. We must let our Government leaders know that we expect more and are entitled to more from our own Government. We urge you to write the letter below using our letter as a guide, or simply rewrite it on your own stationery. Please urge your family and friends to write. It would also be very helpful to send a copy of your letter to your Senator and/or Congressman.

your address and date

Honorable George Schultz  
Secretary Of State  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am shocked at the absence of any response by our government to the TV-witnessed assault on U.S. citizens by British forces in Belfast on August 12th. This indifference signals a harsh disregard for concerned Americans of Irish heritage. Your spokesman, Mr. John Huges, has stated that U.S. policy is to withhold comment pending the results of an "official British investigation". But there is no such investigation! The only inquiry is by the sectarian Royal Ulster Constabulary, one of the "accused". I urge you to take some action or stand accused of favoring terrorism in a very real sense.

Very truly yours,  
signature

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## BRITISH JUSTICE

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presented exact evidence of how the bombings were carried out, the layout of the targets and other details down to the name they had used in hiring a car for one of the attacks. Two years after the event, the IRA men could draw accurate maps of the bombed pubs, including the one in Guilford. Even in their confessions, later repudiated, the four already convicted had been unable to supply such detail.

When the Balcombe St. unit eventually came to court, the 25 charges on which they were arraigned did not include the Guilford attack. Two of the men refused to plead on the grounds that the indictment did not include the Guilford bombing, "for which innocent people have been convicted". Instead of following normal IRA procedures and refuse to recognize a British court, the four men instructed their lawyers to offer no defense, but instead to concentrate on bringing out the evidence that they had engineered the Guilford bombing.

Under cross-examination by the defense Dr. Higgs, a police forensic expert, admitted that the Guilford attack fitted a "consistent pattern" with the other bombings. Dr. Higgs added that he had omitted the bombing from his list of similar incidents under instruction by a Bomb Squad officer. The head of the Bomb Squad, Commander Jim Nevill, was asked at the trial why Guilford had been omitted from the charges against the IRA ASU. He said that the Director of Public Prosecutions had advised him to tell Higgs to omit it from his evidence.

All of this clearly had an effect on the jury whose verdict had been considered a formality — since the IRA had been caught red-handed. In fact, the jury was out eight hours and upon their return proceeded to find the defendants not guilty on no less than 26 counts out of the 100 with which they had been charged.

Those convicted of the Guilford bombing applied for a retrial on the grounds that new evidence — the confessions of the Balcombe St. IRA men — now existed. A British Court of Appeal was set up without a jury to consider the new evidence. The IRA men were able to give detailed evidence. Despite rigorous questioning the men's stories were solid. So the prosecution adapted it's case to say that the Balcombe St. men had acted together with the four already convicted.

No evidence was produced to show that either group had met each other, and the prosecution fell back on it's strongest evidence, a letter found in one of the "safe houses" used by the Balcombe St. IRA men. This referred to "two Belfast boys" without naming them. But the court was told, without any supporting evidence, that it referred to Hill and Conlon.

In a surprising and dramatic ruling, however, the three appeal court judges upheld the original conviction, and the sentences which will mean that the four will spend the rest of their lives in British jails.

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