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## American Irish Newsletter - February - March 1987

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - February - March 1987" (1987). *American Irish Newsletter*. 150.

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# THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 12, No. 1

FEBRUARY/MARCH, 1987

## The Great Starvation

by Miles R. Ellison, Jr., PEC,  
Associate Professor-Lecturer

**Malone:** "Me father died of starvation in the black '47, maybe yourself heard of it?"

**Violet:** "The Famine!"

**Malone:** "No, the starvation. When a country is full of food and exporting it, there can be no famine. Me father was starved dead; and I was starved out to America in me mother's arms. English rule drove me and mine out of Ireland."

[G. B. Shaw "Man & Superman" (1903)]

The use of the word "famine" to describe the events in Ireland, 1845-51, must now be removed from the public perception, to be replaced by the accuracy of the word "starvation", as procedure, process, and policy. A procedure to cleanse the land of its repulsive, superfluous, population, peacefully; a process of designed diminution; a policy prudently designed to erase a people and so realize the historic goal of "Expugnatis Hibernica". Our "dark fathers" died of hunger in the midst of abundance. They ate grass and dirt when as Thomas Gallagher documents in "Paddy's Lament", 17 million pounds worth of cattle, pigs, flour, and poultry were exported to England in the winter of 1846-47.

The 'Grazier Tribe of John Bull' exported from Ireland, in 1846, 258,000 quarters of wheat, 701,000 hundredweight of barley, 1 million quarters of oats plus untold tonnage of vegetables, dairy products, etc. That is, England exported from Ireland, at the same yearly rate, enough food to feed the population that produced it, twice over, but, as this exportation of food to England, for re-sale, was not to be interfered with, so as not to encumber or otherwise reduce the landlords absentee lifestyle, there was to be no substantial attempt to address the misery of those peoples tied to England by the 1801 Act of Union. Instead, a deliberate policy of extermination was to be pursued.

There was food imported to Ireland, grain for the distilleries, plus 3 million quarters of American Indian corn and 1 million quarters of American Indian meal. American Indian corn, or cows corn, is not digestible to humans. The Relief Acts of 1847, passed by Westminster, clearly stated that no able bodied destitute should get relief, i.e. food, if he possessed more than a quarter-acre of land. Starving tenants therefore surrendered their land in return for food that was not digestible, thereby exchanging a slow death for a

crueler one. The calculated policy of 'clearance' and desired depopulation was to be assessed by the 1851 Census Report as "gratifying to your excellency".

In 1851, the passage of the Civil Rights Act, and its legalization of eviction for "rents in arrears", of which 58,423 families were legally erased from the land, continued the desired British policy of extermination, of which a loss in population of some 2½ millions of human beings does not seem to be overstated, and, of this appalling total, approximately a million and a half Irish were peaceably slain by a policy of racial extermination, genocide, by a Government sworn to protect the lives of its citizens. A people despised by racial contempt, reduced to a condition of abject misery, were allowed to die of starvation when one vegetable crop, the potato, became diseased.

A policy of genocide, calculated extermination, to expunge a gentle people from their homeland, foreshadowed other attempts in the 20th Century to continue and improve the techniques of forcible reductions of undesirable peoples by Hitler, Pol Pot, Idi Amin and other notables. The Irish were allowed to starve or die of disease by legislative evasion, Parliamentary neglect, or Monarchical indifference.

Hunger not only is effective to reduce a population, but to the Parliamentary leadership of British rule, desirable. A people emaciated lack the strength to resist. A people starved could be evicted, even if the extortionate rent was paid, and the British political economist Nassau Senior could publicly deplore the fact that only one million Irish were starved dead, whereas it would have been in the interests of the Crown, if more Irish could have followed suit.

This expression of public remorse was clearly reflective of the official view of the government in Westminster, which was that of Lord John Russell, Sir Charles Wood, and Sir Charles Edwards Trevelyan who legislatively stressed that "No English funds were to be expended in Ireland for public relief (Jan. 1849 Rate-In Aid Plan), and that the English food supply was not to be interfered with, even though the Irish, who produced it, should starve, in the midst of abundance, that they themselves created." The Treasury that could not expend any funds to feed the starving did, in fact, find considerable public monies to refurbish those areas of Dublin which Victoria Regina would visit or dine on her 1849 visit. Areas that might

embarked on a deliberate course of trying to "break" this man by abusive treatment in hopes that he will consent to go quietly. Keep in mind that Joe is not accused of a crime in our country. Only overstaying a visa. He had been confined (without bail) in a federal prison in Manhattan during these protracted legal proceedings. The conditions there were not good but Joe was at least close to his lawyers and could see some visitors and other prisoners. Now the Justice Department has transferred Joe to Otisville Prison in upstate New York; placed him in solitary confinement; provided limited exercise and bathing facilities; deprived him of his personal and legal papers; removed his shoes; and refused to discuss any of these actions with his duly authorized counsel. Are we angry? You bet we are! But let's do something about it. Write to your Senators, Congressmen and media outlets to break the veil of silence that allows these foul acts in a country which always prided itself in protecting the little man from abuse.

## U.S. Government Abuse Of Joe Doherty

by Albert Doyle

A universally recognized reprehensible practice is that of abusing a prisoner — whatever the reason he is a prisoner. As Americans we like to believe that we do not practice such inhumanity. But abuse of a defenseless prisoner is exactly what our government is now doing to Joe Doherty. Because of space limitations I will not review the entire background of Joe's case. Most of our readers know it anyway. Suffice it to say that Joe has been the object of an unprecedented legal attack by our taxpayer — paid bureaucrats — at the behest of the British government. He has been held without bail for over four years while the British pursued unsuccessful efforts to extradite him, then, failing in these attempts, they got the U.S. to change the extradition rules retroactively. Joe can still defend himself by showing that he will not receive a fair trial in Northern Ireland, and he intends to do so. Apparently the British fear the results of such a battle with this lone man — if only for the bad publicity they would receive. It appears that they have now

## Newsletter Price Increase!!! Effective March 1, 1987

Time exerts its inevitable toll even on the American Irish Newsletter (AIN). Despite our persistent efforts to minimize our operating costs they have increased over the last four years since our last price increase. Therefore, with great reluctance, as of March 1, 1987, we will be required to increase the subscription renewal price from \$8 to \$10. The "Introductory Offer" price will change from \$6 to \$8 immediately.

You will be getting more for your money! We have increased the size of the Newsletter allowing us to bring you more information with each issue.

AIN serves as a nationwide network for our community and its interests. One of the Newsletter's by-products **The Action Letter** converts those interests into much needed action in the political and economic forums in order to effect our justified reforms. Monies raised through subscriptions help fund complimentary copies of AIN to over 200 major news media, all U.S. Senators and many Congressmen. These monies also help fund our EARP, PEC Action Alerts and Information on Northern Ireland advertising programs which in turn strengthens and increases our subscription base.

Your past support has allowed AIN to become what it is today — a nationwide conduit of information serving the needs of those interested in justice for Ireland and the cultural influences of American Irish. Your continued support is critical to our work and therefore, we hope you will understand the necessity of the price increases.

blight the royal view were screened from her monarchical vision, the beggars were kept from sight, and, all was normal, serene, comfortable, and hidden.

The Act of Union (1801) prohibited any governmental attempt, save what puny gestures Westminster might offer, and, when the mass graves were grown over, and the 'famine walls' plus the roads to nowhere, were forgotten, the deliberate policy of extermination of a people in pursuit of English political advantage, that is to ensure Ireland's powerless captivity, the silence of the grave, was complete and successful.

The starvation was the cruelest of the ordeals, but not the last. The other ordeals would be experienced then and now with vigor, vision, and the energy demonstrated by the adage, "It would be better to die on your feet, rather than live on your knees."

The "Grazier band" is still committed to "Expugnatis Hibernica". Its methodology, more sophisticated, psychological; a

starvation of dreams, and opportunities; a hunger for housing, education, and employment; an ache for truth, accuracy, honesty, and good-will. A new starvation technology joined with the historic intent is alive, and the ancient cry, "Tha' Shein Uchrais" is still heard.

Only the potato was affected, the bounty of the land was not.

"This land so kind was neer designed by providence on high.

To keep John Bull with mutton full While the natives starve and die."

(The Grazier Tribe)

A policy of official murder, to reduce by starvation or eviction a people, to ensure, as Thomas Gallagher demonstrates, the "departure of the redundant part of the population, a human cargo as paying ballast", was not the work of the Almighty, or an accident, visitation, or famine. It was starvation, as policy, procedure, and process.

(Bibliography available upon request)

## NEWS BITS

by Kathy Regan

**CALIFORNIA** — Dr. Roger McGrath, Western Region Director of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC), has contacted California State Assemblyman Thomas Hayden requesting he introduce MacBride Principles legislation in the State Legislature. Assemblyman Hayden has agreed and the legislation is now in the drafting stage (AINS-PEC 12/86).

The British government is preparing to reopen the case of the Birmingham Six. This case concerns 6 Irishmen sentenced to life terms in 1974 for a bombing in Birmingham that killed 21 people. They continue to maintain their innocence. The decision to review the case is the result of mounting pressure from many quarters including the European Parliament, British Parliament, and American sources. (AINS PEC) ... **Letter from Breda Power, 20 year-old daughter of Billy Power, serving a life sentence for the Birmingham bombings** — "Back in 1974 we were aged eight, five and three ... My dad ... lost his wife and, from prison, watched his children grow up without him. He has never had the chance to share our joys, our achievements and our sadness ... He has been absent from all the big events of our lives ... He has never been able to kick a football with my brother ... I want to see my dad free — sharing his life with me, my sister, and our brother, in peace and in the love we all have for him ... I must keep on hoping (Irish Post 12/20/86).

Before the decision to reopen the Birmingham Six case, the government of Garrett Fitzgerald in Dublin passed the Extradition Treaty by one vote. The Treaty was opposed by Charles Haughey and Fianna Fail Party because of the many injustices related to

British policies in Northern Ireland. The Thatcher government still refuses to end the Diplock Courts, Supergrass Trials, Strip Searching of Women, (AINS PEC 12/86) ... Prime Minister Fitzgerald's support for the Extradition Treaty has been widely condemned. Speaking in Dublin ... the British broadcaster and historian Robert Kee said: "If I was an Irish Prime Minister, I would be more than loath to extradite any of my people until the British establishment has looked into these cases" — meaning the Birmingham Six, Guildford Four and Maguire's (Irish Post 12/13/86).

Of the more than 2,000 deaths that have occurred in Northern Ireland during the recent two decades of that conflict, let the record show that more than a third were brought about by agents of the British government. Of that number 10 are children killed by plastic bullets fired in the name of British law (Boston Herald 12/28/86) ... Eight men convicted on the word of supergrass Robert Quigley in 1984 were freed after their appeals against conviction were granted (Irish News 11/86) ... Belfast Court of Appeals has set free 24 men convicted a year ago on the word of supergrass Harry Kirkpatrick (AINS PEC 01/87).

The National Council For Civil Liberties has issued a statement welcoming the British government's decision to turn down the Irish government's request for three-judge Diplock Courts in Northern Ireland. Instead, the NCCL urges a restoration of trial by jury. "Introducing three judges would neither improve nor be seen to improve the quality of justice in Northern Ireland (Irish Post 12/20/86) ... According to the latest opinion poll conducted by the Sunday Independent, a majority of people (in Ireland) are now opposed to Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, which prohibits interviewing Sinn Fein representatives ... 45% favor removing the ban while 39% endorse it (Irish Post 12/20/86).

**THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER**

founded 1976

A publication of the American Irish Political Education Committee with the support of the Emerald Society, Fire Department, City of New York. Address: Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 — (914) 947-2726.

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**From Washington**

The heads of the major American Irish organizations which make up the COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS met twice this January in Washington, D.C., with members of the 110 member Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs. The purpose of these meetings was to formulate a legislative agenda for 1987 which is the tenth anniversary of the Committee. On January 28th the Council members addressed the Committee spelling out the legislative agenda which was agreed to by the Committee. The statements of the organization heads demonstrated a united effort which is the purpose of the Council of Presidents.

The American Irish presence in the Nation's Capitol is expected to be greatly increased during 1987 as they work together with the Ad Hoc Committee to fulfill the legislative agenda. The key issues to be lobbied for on the Washington, DC scene are the MacBride Principles, Visa Denial Policy and to monitor U.S. aid to Ireland.

The Ad Hoc Committee is very optimistic for 1987. This is due to the fact that with the formation of the new Congress many committee members have moved into influential committee positions which is necessary to advance proposed legislation. Committee Chairman Mario Biaggi (NY) urges all of us to contact our Congressional and Senate leaders and request they join the Ad Hoc Committee (see Action Letter).

Legislation has been introduced in both Houses on the MacBride Principles. Also, a bill on U.S. Visa Policy will be introduced in the House of Representatives.

**"We Have Obligations To Our Roots"**

by Rev. John P. McHugh  
(The author is the Superintendent of Paterson Diocesan Schools in New Jersey and a Roman Catholic Monsignor)

Those of us in America who are of Irish decent should study the history of Ireland. Anna Nolan, who wrote a *History of Ireland* in 1904, said: "There is no omen more encouraging for Ireland's future than knowledge of Ireland's past." Even a cursory knowledge of Irish history leaves no doubt in the mind of a reader that the unfortunate people of Ireland have been savaged by the British for 800 years. There is no other example in world history to compare with the horrifying methods used on the Irish nation to dehumanize its inhabitants to the present day. The Mayor of Cork, Terrance MacSweeney, before he died on hunger strike, said: "It is not those who can inflict the most, but those who can endure the most who will conquer in the end!" Patrick Pearse, before the rising of 1916, prophesized at the grave ceremony for O'Donovan Rossa, referring to the British he said: "The Fools! They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree will never be at peace!" To the bravery of the millions of our ancestors who died of war, persecution, poverty and hunger strike, I dedicate the words of Longfellow: "I can resist no more, but I will not yield, this is no tournament where cowards tilt, the vanquished here is victor of the field."

What can and should we do as the descendants of these unfortunate but brave ancestors? Our first duty is to become informed, to know the truth about the past and present. To overlook, to varnish or to conceal truth is a disservice to justice and freedom. Given the British expertise at editing and twisting truth, our obligation to know the facts is even more critical. A classic example of the perfidy of the British editing of history to suit themselves is the great famine or hunger in Ireland between 1844 and 1847 (see "THE GREAT STARVATION" this issue.)

Get to know the truth, don't keep it, spread it. Too many American Irish are too timid about speaking out. They still regard themselves as second class citizens. Stigmas die slowly. Others, flushed by success, status, and affluence have no time for minority causes. Where are our

**1987 Annual Appeal**

Dear Member-Subscriber,

Your support of Operation One Million (OOM) has enabled the PEC to reach out to the people we need in our ranks — the uninformed members of the American Irish community. In 1986 we reached tens of thousands of our brothers and sisters throughout the United States, urging them to subscribe to the **American Irish Newsletter**. We solicited over 3,400 new subscribers, 16% of whom joined our action network (EARP and Action Letter). 1986 was our best year yet because of your support for OOM. This year we will farm out much of our mailings to a professional mailing house, thereby increasing our response ratio.

Through the **American Irish Newsletter**, we have made available to our community not only a reliable means of communication, but also, and most importantly, a democratic, effective and united voice through the **Action Letter and Emergency Action Request Program (EARP)**. This necessary action network is the first of its kind ever initiated in the United States to serve our community. No longer is frustration our only response to the degradation of the American Irish image by the entertainment and news media; no longer is anger our only answer to the injustices of British colonialism in Ireland. Veteran Newsletter subscribers have witnessed the increasing effectiveness of these action networks. From our first success in early 1983, when, at our insistent urging, the American Greetings Card Company discontinued producing St. Patrick's Day greeting cards depicting the American Irish as drunken buffoons and social misfits, to our most recent success, in late 1986, when Public Broadcasting System decided to cancel the airing of "Irish R.M." Series III.

The potential of these action networks was best demonstrated in 1986 during our efforts to defeat the US-UK Extradition Treaty and our successful campaign to win approval in the New York State Legislature of the Northern Ireland Investment Bill (MacBride Principles). We must continue to expand the potential of these action networks by increasing the number of participants. In 1987, we plan to seek support for Operation One Million outside our membership by conducting a direct mail campaign to non-members. This approach will also generate new members.

The strategy of this ambitious campaign is to turn American Irish apathy and indifference into concern and involvement. Its success will be determined by our resolve to raise the funds to meet our expenses. 1986 Operation One Million has given us a good strong start in meeting this goal.

We urge you to become a sponsor of 1987 OPERATION ONE MILLION. We are appealing to all members and those who gave in 1986, those who are still fulfilling their commitments for 1986, and those who have not yet sponsored Operation One Million. **Remember! This is our once-a-year appeal.** (If you have already given for 1987, please disregard this request and subsequent requests.)

To become a sponsor of Operation One Million, simply fill out and detach the coupon below and mail with your check or money order to American Irish PEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980. Suggested sponsorships are \$100 or whatever you can afford. Make checks or money orders payable to PEC. Outside the U.S. please use postal money orders made out in U.S. dollars.

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**From The Editor**

Our statement concerning the Senate ratification of the US-UK Extradition Treaty, — "... we have organized across the nation ... we have been heard in Washington" which appeared in the August/September 1986 issue of this Newsletter, is now beginning to be realized. Despite the defeat, through the Treaty experience, the American Irish, for the first time, have become a political force to be reckoned with in Washington, D.C. Apparently, the Reagan Administration is concerned with this new political force.

We have been advised that the Administration is gearing-up for an onslaught of American Irish political activism in Washington over the MacBride Principles. Already, the White House and State Department are reaching out to powerful political leaders in an effort to build opposition to the Principles. Further, we are advised, they are running into resistance. Unlike the Treaty, the Administration will not be able to use the guise of "combatting international terrorism" to defeat this equal rights legislation. This battle will prove very embarrassing for them. To oppose it they will allege that it is contrary to British law. This stance by the Administration will be very unpopular with many Americans. Remember! British law does not permit equal rights for Irish Nationalists in the north of Ireland.

So too, the American Irish are already gearing-up for this major political battle. Twice, this past January, the Council of Presidents of Major American Irish Organizations, of which the PEC is a member, met in Washington with leaders of the Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs. The purpose of these meetings was to formulate a legislative agenda and to discuss strategy.

The Treaty experience has taught us two important lessons. If we are to promote an issue effectively, our efforts must be intense and our organizations must work together. The Council of Presidents is the result of these lessons.

Now that we have established ourselves as a force to be reckoned with, we must strengthen and build on that influence. We can start by uniting behind the Mac Bride Principles campaign. To do so will require greater sacrifices on the part of all of us, both financially and physically. We urge all of you to support the PEC (1987 Operation One Million) and to respond to our Action Letter and Emergency Action Request Program (EARP) requests. Every letter on a national issue is worth the views of 1,000 Americans.

Let us all work together and make 1987 a successful year for the cause of Ireland's reunification.

American Irish business people, the number one richest group in America

today, or our American Irish politicians, lawyers, law makers, professors, doctors and clergy? What do we hear from them in opposition to the blatant injustice in Ireland? A faint noise indeed! What a roar we could hear if they shed their timidity, their narrow interests and spoke out as one! What advances we could make for our homeland and freedom if only we raised our voices — all 43 million of us — not timidly, not sporadically, but loud and clear! I say to American Irish: "Wake up!" "Speak up!" You are a sleeping giant. It is a great tragedy for a giant to allow himself to be tied up, rendered useless by selfishness, inertia and by crafty British midgets adept in the art of twisting and hiding the truth.

Ireland will never be free unless the American Irish see to it that the United States intervenes in the cause of justice and civil rights. We surely cannot depend on the lackeys, now in power in the South of Ireland, who spinelessly bow and bend to Margaret Thatcher's every whim. They will live on in history as an opprobrium, a disgrace to the brave patriots and martyrs who for 800 years gladly died for Ireland.

I conclude by calling to action all Americans with Irish blood in their veins.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

In our ongoing efforts to better serve the American Irish community, we are again expanding our operation. We have recently doubled the size of our office. This addition will be used to house our new American Irish Library and Research Center. We are also studying the feasibility of a Scholarship/Advancement Program for the benefit of our members/subscribers. These programs are designed to promote the study of Irish history, north and south, and the Irish race in

America.

To develop these programs we have created the AMERICAN IRISH AWARENESS COMMITTEE, INC. To start raising funds for these operations we will make available through this Newsletter, Irish music cassettes and books at reasonable prices. (See "Irish Music Cassette Tapes Now Available" below.) Now you can purchase items of personal value and at the same time, support an organization that promotes your interests.

### PEC OFFICE HOURS

The best time to call the offices of the American Irish Political Education Committee/American Irish Awareness Committee is between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. (E.S.T.), Monday thru Friday (914) 947-2726. If you should call and get the answering machine, please leave the day, your name and telephone number and a brief message. We will promptly return your call.

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**Order # KLP 300 — CLASSIC TRANQUILITY**  
Phil Coulter enjoys an international reputation as a phenomenally successful songwriter and arranger, and his huge collection of gold and platinum discs is a tribute to his sustained success as a record producer. But the passion for the music of his native Ireland has been obvious over the years in his studio work with groups like the Dubliners, Planxty, and the Fureys.

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**Order # RRL 2222 - THE CASSIDYS LIVE**  
This is the first USA release from the group who have been described as "A cross between the Chieftains and Clannad." **SIDE ONE:** The Boat To Baltimore ★ Danny Boy ★ The Wind That Shakes The Barley ★ The Silver Spear ★ Johnny I Hardly Knew Ye **SIDE TWO:** Dia Do Bheatha A Nai Naoimh ★ Minstrel Boy ★ Brian Boru's March ★ Polkas (And Reel; The Four Poster Bed) ★ Four Green Fields ★ The Mason's Apron

**CHIEFTAINS**  
**Order # SHAN 1300 — BALLAD OF THE IRISH HORSE**  
This music was arranged by the Chieftains' Paddy Maloney and performed by the Chieftains for this exciting six-part P.B.S. National Geographic series, narrated by Richard Kiley about the horses of Ireland. It's a great series, with a beautiful soundtrack to match.

**Order # SHAN 1350 — CHIEFTAINS 4**  
This album contains the lovely, evocative "Women of Ireland," which was used as the theme to Stanley Kubrick's award-winning *Barry Lyndon*.

**CHRISTY MOORE**  
**Order # SIF 1010 — CHRISTY MOORE - THE SPIRIT OF FREEDOM**  
This is the second successful release within a year from the man whom the Village Voice called "... a seanachie, a storyteller who weaves tales of events and people with humor, sorrow, wit and rage ..." Highlights include: Forever On My Mind ★ The People's Own M.P. ★ The Dying Soldier ★ Jesus Christ & Jesse James ... eight more songs as well.

#### SPECIALS

**Order # RTE 700 — IRELAND'S FAVORITE TENOR (Double Cassette)**  
Featuring: The Rose Of Tralee, Kathleen Mavourneen, The Battle Hymn Of The Republic, Bless This House, When You And I Were Young Maggie, Amazing Grace, and many others. (PRICE \$13.95)

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Paddy Reilly, Ireland's most beloved ballad singer, has just released a two-record set to rival his two previous recent hit LP's, *Fields Of Anthenry* and *Paddy Reilly's Greatest Hits Live*. What he has done on this new set is completely unique: He has chosen a tune to represent each county of Ireland — 32 in all. This is sure to be a Paddy Reilly classic. Every song is the most well-known favorite from its region. The low price includes two separate, full-length cassettes. (PRICE \$12.95)

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## The Irish In Colonial America: Virginia

by Margaret E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.  
(Lecturer-Consultant-Genealogist, Irish, Irish American, Irish Canadian History)

The founding of Jamestown in 1607 began the continuous English colonization of America. Religious persecution was continued from the mother country. The Virginia Charter of 1609 required the Oath of Supremacy, abjuring Romanism and the Pope. Irish coming to Virginia were expected to conform to the Established Church.

Governor Berkeley's 1641 proclamation forbidding Catholics to exercise their religion indicated the presence of Catholics, both Irish and English. By 1705, tolerance was granted to Protestant dissenters, but Catholics were deprived of the right to vote, declared incompetent as witnesses, and made liable for strict enforcement of the Penal Laws. In 1745, Virginia ordered the arrest of priests suspected of crossing from Maryland. In 1756, fearful of the Jesuits and of the influx of Irish immigrants, Virginia required the Oath of Supremacy to be taken anew. Even the Oath-taking conforming Irish were suspected of secret plotting with the Pope.

Not until several weeks before the Declaration of Independence did James Madison secure passage of the Virginia Resolution, setting a pattern for religious liberty. This did not mean disestablishment of separation of Church and state; it meant Virginians would not suffer civic persecution or penalties for religious beliefs. In 1786, dissenters secured disestablishment of Anglicanism, thus helping Catholics indirectly. However, Catholic corporate property rights were not legally recognized until 1830.

Therefore, the colonial Irish will be found not on non-existent Catholic Church records, but on other documents. Anglican Church records, ship's lists, and land transfers place the Irish in the earliest settlements of Virginia. In 1621, the ship, *The Flying Harte*, landed an Irish colony from Cork at Newport News. In 1622, 800 Irish were transported for service on the plantations. The 17th century colonial papers frequently report the transportation of Irish Tories and convicts. Warnings were given that these must be purged of their dangerous political and religious views.

Irish also entered Virginia as merchants, adventurers, and land developers. Hotten's "Original Lists of Persons of Quality" who emigrated in the 17th century from Great Britain to the plantations had names such as Murfie, MacBrian, Riley, Cassedy, Carroll, and O'Mullin. Immigrants Desmond O'Bryan, Dennis McCartie, Patrick Conly, Brian Kelly, Dennis Hogan, Teague Naughton, and Donough Garvie testify by name to their Irish origin. Richmond land office records indicate at least 300 unquestionably old Irish names on a list of 1623-1666 immigrants.

Many Irish names appeared on passenger lists from Barbadoes to Virginia, — one 1678 list with at least 90. These West Indies-to-Virginia lists give significant undercounts for several reasons: (1) laws registered the Irish as English on the basis of their last port of embarkation; (2) the English were trying to destroy Irish identity and nationalism by classifying colonists as English; (3) Irish found it possible to lighten the oppressor's boot by accepting the English designation; (4) children shipped as slaves during Cromwell's holocaust lost their Irish surnames; (5) prudent Irish in Barbadoes whose ancestors or themselves had been slaves or transportees anglicized their names before coming to Virginia, lest they be returned to servitude.

The early Irish began westward migration during the first half of the 18th century, as they founded settlements in remote areas of western Virginia and Pennsylvania, the Blue Ridge Mountains, and the Shenandoah

Valley. Contemporary local historians recorded that these pioneer Irish were Catholics bringing with them to the frontier the religion and customs of their ancestors. Catholicism was proscribed, but persecution was less where men had to stick together against the common Indian enemy lest they get an arrow in the back. Records show that, as time passed, many Irish Catholic families, long without priests, formed their own churches and accepted a self-made preacher, thus joining in the new Protestant religions springing forth on the Appalachian frontier. Similarly, back East, Irish joined the established Anglican Church.

Old Virginia church registers have many Irish names. The parish register of Christ Church, Middlesex, shows hundreds of Celtic and Norman Irish names, such as these christenings: Bryan Harkins on Feb. 20, 1663; Cornelius Mullins on Aug. 25, 1666; Katherine Farrell on April 12, 1685; Charles Mullins on Nov. 14, 1686; Phebias Macguire on March 29, 1687; and Elizabeth Hickey on April 1, 1705. The birth register of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, for 1720-1758, shows names such as Callahan, McCarty, Heffernan, Carney, Kenny, Higgins, Murphy, and Kelly. Revolutionary records of men serving in Virginia regiments have the names Kelly and Murphy, with many spelling variants, one and two in frequency.

Although numerous Irish were artisans and laborers, there were many Irish substantial enough to receive land grants. Denis Mac Cartie received a land grant in 1691, and many McCarthy's received land patents thereafter; their descendants are Virginia society today. Names such as Sullivan, Brady, Burke, Brennan, Dermott, Fitzgerald, Rourke, Hogan, and Leary in 17th and 18th century land books prove that many substantial, ambitious, and enterprising Irish settled in the Virginia colony.

In the 19th century, a great fraud was played on the American people by historians who coined the term Scotch-Irish to distinguish the old colonial Irish (desirable) from the new Irish Catholic immigrants (undesirable). The Scotch-Irish term was applied to Virginia where Irish emigrating as Catholics had in succeeding generations conformed to the Established Church or joined new frontier churches. Becoming Protestant did not make a colonial O'Donoghue or Sullivan Scotch, but the historians created this myth.

Catholic or Protestant, the Irish were Irish. The author has traced four Virginia Irish landholding families conforming outwardly, but secretly sending their children to Europe for education as Catholics. This and similar practices were followed by landholders in Ireland, such as the forebears of Daniel O'Connell, who dearly wanted to hold the lands of their ancestors. None claimed these conforming families in Ireland lost their Irishness, although some criticized them for choosing principal over principle. None should claim the Irish colonists of Virginia became Scotch by changing their religion.

The Kellys and Murphys of Revolutionary War Virginia forces were recognized as Irish. Land bounty warrants of 4000 to 10,000 acres each were granted to about 400 Irish officers with names like Fitzgerald, McCarty, McGuire, O'Neil, and Nowlan. The Irish heritage of these grantees of undeveloped land was proved by their immediate attempts to bring over settlers from Ireland, where many Penal restrictions still existed and where Catholic emancipation had not yet been granted.

Like our immigrating ancestors and ourselves, the colonial Virginia Irish became loyal Americans first, but they held their Irish heritage in their hearts and memories.

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# MacBride Principles Update

by Pat Dougherty

Administrative Associate to Harrison Goldin, Comptroller, City of New York

Recently an Irish journalist interviewed a British diplomat in New York and was told that there was nothing happening in America today that is causing the British government more concern than the growing campaign for the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment in Northern Ireland.

So far, New York City, Massachusetts, and New York State representing over \$50 billion in pension fund assets have adopted the MacBride Principles as their investment policy. Legislation is pending or will soon be introduced in nine states and several major cities. And bills requiring U.S. corporate adherence to the MacBride Principles have been introduced in the House of Representatives and Senate in Washington. The New York Times, the New York Daily News, the London Sunday Times and many other leading newspapers have editorialized on the Principles, while searching questions have been asked in both the British and Irish Parliaments. Both Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald and his British counterpart Margaret Thatcher, have discussed the Principles with top-level U.S. Officials during separate visits here and the Principles have now become part of the U.S. Anglo-Irish agenda.

With this campaign, we in America have succeeded in placing on the political agenda in Ireland and Britain an issue which governments and political parties have long swept under the rug. It is an issue which goes to the heart of the injustice of the Northern Ireland state and exposes the entrenched system of privilege over which the British government has presided for the last sixty-five years.

It is vitally important that we build on our successes in 1987 and move forward to increase the pressure on U.S. corporations to end discrimination and provide equality for all in Northern Ireland.

The nine states that will be considering MacBride legislation in 1987 are California, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. If you live in one of these states you should contact your state representatives and urge them to support the MacBride Principles. If your state is not on this list, you can try to get one of your legislators to submit a bill committing state investment funds to the MacBride Principles. We can provide copies of the New York and Massachusetts bills which can be used as models for the legislation.

The Northern Ireland Fair Employment Practices Act has been introduced in the U.S. Congress. This bill would require that U.S. corporations doing business in Northern Ireland adhere to the MacBride Principles, and is sponsored in the House by Congressman Hamilton Fish (R-NY) and in the U.S. Senate by Senators,

D'Amato (R-NY), Kerry (D-Massachusetts), Hatch (R-Utah) and DeConcini (D-Arizona). Write these men and thank them for their support. Contact your Congressman and Senators and let them know that you are interested in this bill's passage.

Finally, New York City is planning to raise the Northern Ireland issue at the annual stockholder meetings of the U.S. Corporations now operating in Ulster. The City's shareholder proposals will call upon the corporations to immediately implement the MacBride Principles in their Northern Ireland subsidiaries.

Several religious shareholder groups are co-sponsoring those resolutions. The resolutions will allow us to confront top corporate management at annual stockholder meetings and demand an explanation for the discrimination at their installations in Northern Ireland that they tolerate or condone. We also need your support and assistance in this campaign. You and organizations in which you are involved can do the following to help: Write the corporations involved to demand that they observe minimum standards of equal opportunity, as contained in the MacBride Principles. If you are a shareholder in any of the target corporations be sure to vote your proxies. If you own shares in a mutual fund, write the fund. Even if you do not own shares yourself, you may be a member of an organization that does, e.g. a labor union, professional association or university. Help persuade those institutional shareholders to vote for New York's resolutions. Shareholders may speak in support of the MacBride Principles at the annual meetings of companies in which they own stock. If you or your group purchases at least one share within the next two months, you can speak at one of these meetings. Non-shareholders can also speak if designated by shareholders to represent them.

(Ed. Note: For a complete list of the American Companies involved and/or a copy of the New York State Northern Ireland Investment Bill, send a self-addressed envelope with \$22 postage affixed to: AIPEC, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980.)

## MacBride EARP Campaign

Throughout 1987 the PEC will conduct an ongoing Emergency Action Request Program (EARP) letter-writing campaign in promotion of the MacBride Principles. If you would like to participate in this EARP campaign, send us a note indicating same, stating your name, address and zip.

# The MacBride Principles

1. Increasing the representation of individuals from underrepresented religious groups in the work force, including managerial, supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs.
2. Adequate security for the protection of minority employees both at the workplace and while travelling to and from work.
3. The banning of provocative religious or political emblems from the workplace.
4. All job openings should be publicly advertised and special recruitment efforts should be made to attract applicants from underrepresented religious groups.
5. Layoff, recall and termination procedures should not, in practice, favor particular religious groupings.
6. The abolition of job reservations, apprenticeship restrictions and differential employment criteria, which discriminate on the basis of religion or ethnic origin.
7. The development of training programs that will prepare substantial numbers of current minority employees for skilled jobs, including the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new programs to train, upgrade and improve the skills of minority employees.
8. The establishment of procedures to assess, identify and actively recruit minority employees with potential for further advancement.
9. The appointment of a senior management staff member to oversee the company's affirmative action efforts and the setting up of timetables to carry out affirmative action principles.

(Partial List)

## United States Corporations in Northern Ireland (June 1986)

Mr. Ed. W. Whittemore, Chief Ex. Officer  
American Brands Inc.  
245 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10167  
(212) 557-7000

Mr. J. W. Culligan, Chief Ex. Officer  
American Home Products  
685 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
(212) 878-5000

Mr. M.D. Butler, Chief Ex. Officer  
AVX Corporation  
60 Cuttermill Road  
Great Neck, NY 11021  
(516) 829-8500

Mr. Edward Jefferson, Chief Ex. Officer  
El DuPont de Neumours & Company  
1007 Market Street  
Wilmington, Delaware 19898  
(800) 441-7515

Mr. D.E. Peterson, Chief Ex. Officer  
The Ford Motor Company  
The American Road  
Dearborn, Michigan  
(313) 322-3000

Mr. Roger B. Smith, Chief Ex. Officer  
General Motors Corporation  
3044 General Motors Boulevard  
Detroit, Michigan 48202  
(313) 556-5000

Mr. W. I. Kistler, Chief Ex. Officer  
Hughes Tool Company  
6500 Texas Commerce Tower  
Houston, Texas 77002-3077  
(713) 924-2222

Mr. Rubin F. Hettler, Chief Ex. Officer  
TRW Inc.  
23555 Euclid Avenue  
Cleveland, Ohio 44117  
(216) 383-2121

Mr. R. Pugh, Chief Ex. Officer  
V.F. Corporation  
P.O. Box 1022  
Reading, Pennsylvania 19603  
(215)-378-1151

## Action Letter

by Albert Doyle

This month we ask you to write two or even three letters if you can do so. The letters are pretty much self-explanatory. The first should be addressed to your congressman and/or senators, asking them to join the Ad Hoc Committee For Irish Affairs if he or she is not already a member. A list of present committee members is set forth below. The second letter, to the State Department, is to complain about the present VISA Denial Policy. As you know the State Dept. is refusing to grant Visas to many individuals on purely political grounds. This has gotten considerable media attention. Again please write your own personalized letters along the lines outlined below and get your family and friends to do the same. If you prefer, simply rewrite our letter below as is on your own stationery.

Hon. (your congressman)  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. (your senator)  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman (or Senator):

I urge you to join Congressman Mario Biaggi's Ad Hoc Congressional Committee For Irish Affairs. This group has taken an active and effective role in U.S.-Irish Affairs and is well regarded by concerned American Irish.

Sincerely,

Hon. George P. Shultz  
Secretary of State  
U.S. State Dept.  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Shultz,

As a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee, I urge you to change the present State Department Policy of Visa Denial to Irish Nationalist spokesmen. I am appealing to you on grounds of fundamental fair play and traditional American willingness to hear all sides of disputes.

Sincerely,

## CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE AD HOC CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE FOR IRISH AFFAIRS

December 1987

### Chairman

Mario Biaggi (D-NY)

### Senators

Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY)  
Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz)  
Paul Simon (D-Ill)  
Orrin Hatch (R-Utah)

### House of Representatives

Frank Annunzio (D-Ill)  
Doug Applegate (D-Ohio)  
Chester Atkins (D-Mass)  
Helen Bentley (D-Md)  
Edward Boland (D-Mass)  
David Bonior (D-Mich)  
Robert Borski (D-Pa)  
George Brown (D-Cal)  
Albert Bustamante (D-TX)  
Beverly Byron (D-Md)  
Tom Carper (D-De)  
William Clay (D-Mo)  
Cardiss Collins (D-Ill)  
Silvio Conte (R-Mass)  
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