

JANUARY 2016

# IRISH HERITAGE SOCIETY

Mission: Promoting Irish Fellowship and Preserving  
Irish Culture for Future Generations



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**From: President Maggie Bratcher**

The start of a new year is upon us again, and I would like to thank our Board of Directors for supporting the many wonderful events and activities that we all enjoyed throughout 2015 such as: the **Starved Rock storyteller**, the ***Sharin' of the Green Parade*** to benefit our **Easter Seals partner**, the **History/Genealogy Studies tour** of the historic Irish sites in the **Merna area** and the **ISU Archival Depository and museum**, the **summer picnic at Tipton Trails**, and the finale of the year, the **performance of the Shanties Irish band** at our **Irish Autumn Social**.

**So what do we have in store for you this year?**

Well, how about these novel events: a **daytrip to the historic Fort in Lexington** in February, an **Irish cooking demonstration at the Garlic Press** in March to lead up to the very successful **St. Patrick's Parade**, a **joint program with the McLean County Genealogical Society** on the many notable Irish in **Evergreen Cemetery**, a **Funk's Grove picnic with Mike Matejka** speaking on the mass grave of Irish railroad workers there, and to finish in a big way, **Bill Kemp will give a fascinating program on the *Irish 40 Acres of Bloomington*** for the fall social. Oh, and don't forget the **Jaycees Christmas Parade** in December! Such a great time!

With a line-up like this, we think you'll love learning something new about our local Irish culture, and perhaps meet some new friends too!

And as always, our Board and I would like to encourage our current members to spread the word about our organization, and to invite new folks to join our Society so that our organization can remain vibrant and continue to put on a great variety of social and community programs in the New Year to come.

As a thank you to our loyal members, a one-year membership of \$15 for one person, and \$20 for a family provides entry to all events at either a reduced price or for free, so don't forget to send in your membership renewals using the form included with this newsletter and save when you come for this year's programs!

### SHARIN' OF THE GREEN PARADE

Partnering with Easter Seals. Families are encouraged to participate. This has become an annual tradition for some clans! All IHS members and friends meet at Pub II back room after parade to continue the fun.

### THE IRISH IN EVERGREEN CEMETERY

Denise Fries Romack, guide for the annual cemetery walk, will explain how the walk began and what benefits it offers; a list notable Irish in the cemetery who contributed greatly to the development of our community; the Irish that have been portrayed over the years; and in-depth bios of several of Evergreen's most unique Irish residents.



Col. McNulta

### ANNUAL SUMMER POTLUCK PICNIC

Enjoy a potluck lunch at Funk's Grove Picnic Shelter (chicken & beverages provided). Historian Mike Matejka will speak to us about the Irish Monument erected nearby in memory of fifty Irish railroad workers who perished nearby in the 1850s. Visit gravesite monument and the 1864 Funk's Grove Church.

### AUTUMN SOCIAL/ANNUAL MEETING

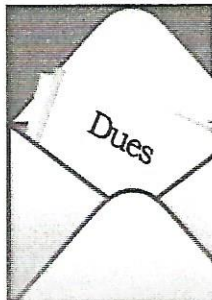
Enjoy a delicious dinner at Historic St. Patrick Church Hall. Bill Kemp, historian, will tell us of a time gone by when the area in which the church stands was once known as "Irish 40 Acres".

### IRISH BOOK GROUP

Books read are of great assortment: history, short stories, biographies, fiction. 2015/2016 book list is on our website.

### GENEALOGY/IRISH HISTORY GROUP

An active group that enjoys visiting local Irish history sites and sharing genealogy information. We also offer help for folks getting started in genealogy. See our website for schedule.



**TIME TO PAY YOUR YEARLY MEMBERSHIP DUES**  
**If your mailing label does NOT have 2016 on it, then your dues are due!!**

## EVENTS AT A GLANCE 2016

MARCH 12, SAT, 1:00 P.M.

Uptown Normal

*Sharin' of the Green Parade* to benefit our Easter Seals partner

APRIL 19, TUESDAY, 6:30 P.M.

*The Irish in Evergreen Cemetery* co-sponsored with the McLean County Genealogical Society at Mclean County Museum of History 2<sup>nd</sup> floor courtroom

JUNE 26, SUNDAY, 1-4 P.M.

Potluck Picnic at Funk's Grove and *Irish Railroad Workers* program by Mike Matejka

OCTOBER 30, SUNDAY, 4-7 P.M.

Autumn Social/Annual meeting at Historic St. Patrick's Church Hall  
*The Irish 40 Acres* by Bill Kemp

DECEMBER 3, SAT, 10 A.M.

Jaycees Christmas Parade

ONGOING:

IRISH BOOK GROUP

4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month @ 6:30

No summer meetings

Places tba monthly

GENEALOGY/IRISH HISTORY GROUP

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of alternate months

Time/places tba starting in

February 2016