



## June 2008

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## The Story of Seamus MacManus

*by Brian Witt*

Many Irish-American homes have a copy of a book entitled, The Story of the Irish Race. It is a readable book, going back to the mythic start of Ireland, and uses historical references and counter-references in its citation. For many, it was the first in-depth introduction to Irish history and life.

The author of the book was Seamus MacManus, an Irish writer, Nationalist, Sinn Fein founder, and Irish speaker, among other things. He said that the reason he wrote the book was that during speaking tours of the United States, many people questioned him as to whether Ireland had a history. He was amazed that so many sons and daughters of Erin had no idea of the rich fabric of the Irish people, woven full of stories and peoples, beauty and horror, for over three thousand years. This was a wrong he decided to right.

MacManus was born in Mountcharles, County Donegal, in 1868, the son of Irish rebels. According to a 2005 story in the Donegal Times, he became a teacher in the local Glencoagh School, and by 1898, his nationalist activities and teaching of Irish history drew the attention of the Department of Education. He started the Gaelic League in the county and a branch existed in Mountcharles into the 1940s. He was also the organizer of the first County Board meeting of the GAA in 1905, the same year he helped to establish Sinn Fein. It was a busy year for him as he also financed the formation of a Republican flute band in Mountcharles, which existed up until the Treaty.

MacManus' involvement in the growing "Irish Ireland" movement of the early part of the century was typical of the rising patriotism of the period and the intense and dedicated involvement of many prominent nationalists of the times.

He was not the only one active in his family in the causes of Irish rights and language. Seamus' older brother, Patrick, emigrated to North America at fourteen and spent eight years in the United

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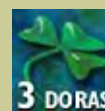
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States navy. Patrick McManus then settled in Argentina, where he attended college at Mar del Plata. After two years, he was appointed to teach mathematics and English literature. After trips back home to Ireland to direct the 100th anniversary of the United Irish in Mountcharles, as well as writing for Irish journals in France, he returned to Argentina to found the first chapter of the Gaelic League outside of Ireland, in Buenos Aires. He was an active member of the Irish Republican League in Argentina, (Argentina was home to a large Irish community), and constantly wrote articles advising the Argentinean government to seize the Falkland Islands from Britain.

In 1897, MacManus first met Belfast poet Anna Johnston, better known as Ethna Carberry. Under her pen name, she is best known for the rewriting of the song, "Roddy McCorley", regarding the Presbyterian United Irish leader who was executed in her hometown of Ballymena. Carberry was also the editor of the magazine Shan Van Vocht, which brought her into contact with leaders of the Gaelic League, including Douglas Hyde and MacManus. That trip to her mother's Donegal home led to love and marriage in 1901. Sadly, Carberry died the following year in Revlin House, near Donegal Town, and was buried in Frosses. MacManus was devastated, and was unable to complete her biography for almost a decade.

In 1911, MacManus married Catalina Violante Paex, a granddaughter of a former President of Venezuela. The couple had two daughters, both of whom are still living in America. He was a prolific writer and in 1917 he wrote Ireland's Case, dedicating it to the Fenian John Devoy. His Story of the Irish Race was published in 1938, and is still in print. He also wrote many novels, poems and books on Irish folklore. He was well known in the U.S. and lectured extensively in colleges and universities all over the States.

MacManus was an unbending nationalist. In the 1950s, he was to be the main speaker at the unveiling of a memorial to the men who had killed Lord Leitrim in Fanad in 1878. When he learned that a Member of Parliament, Eddie McAteer, would share the stage with him, he refused to appear, because McAteer had taken the oath of loyalty to the British Monarch.

MacManus was active until he fell in New York City at the age of 92, where he died a few weeks later. When his remains were brought to Donegal in the summer of 1961, he was given a Sinn Fein funeral, which was attended by people from all over Ireland. A Sinn Fein Guard of Honour met the hearse at the foot of the Glen of Mountcharles, and his friend, Eamonn Monaghan, placed the tricolor on the coffin.

The funeral procession moved slowly through Mountcharles, which was thronged with mourners, before stopping at the Corner Pump. This was the spot from which MacManus entertained the children and people with his folk tales. Sinn Fein member Sean Ohlgline of Glencolmcille recited the Rosary in Irish at the Pump. The cortege

continued on to the graveyard in Frosses where he was interred in the MacManus plot.

Seamus MacManus, the Donegal schoolteacher, created a good deal of his own modern Irish history. His foresight to bringing the history of Ireland to its expatriates and their children may very well have been a catalyst for the current interest in Ireland and what it means to be Irish.

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### **Milwaukee President's Message**

Ni ceart go cur le cheile. There is no strength without unity. An rud a lionas an tsuil lionann se an croi. What fills the eye fills the heart.

It has been an interesting and satisfying two years for me. Sometimes, it has been a bit more interesting than I might have liked, and sometimes, not as satisfying. Still, I tried to make a difference, and I think that I did for the most part.

Our new board will be a really good board. I always feel it is good to have a mix of both older and newer viewpoints. Yes, we did try something in the past, and it didn't work, but maybe today is the day it will. Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to all who ran for an office.

I just wanted to add a point of clarification about the board, and how our leadership has evolved over the years. When I was elected president the first time, I was the oldest person, other than Pete Dundon, to hold the position, in seven years. Patti Garrity, Chuck Ward and Barry Stapleton were all in their twenties when they were initially elected to the post. The Shamrock Club has never been an organization that is afraid to have youth lead it. We have constantly changed over the years, from a charter business to Ireland to where we are today. We have had to change, and we will always do so, or we will wither and become superfluous to the world. We are not, and we should not go quietly into that night.

The best part of the Shamrock Club is also a point of where we get lost at times. What are we, and who are we? We are an Irish-American organization, and we provide a focal point for the Irish community in Milwaukee and Wisconsin. But that somewhat plastic nature of what we are can be a hindrance. We don't have the definitions of many of the groups we support, such as the hurlers, Irish Fest, and the dance schools. But that allows us, in some ways, to adapt and be able to jump at chances that other groups may not be able to take advantage of.

The best part of the Shamrock Club is its membership. It is a magnificent group of people, diverse and interesting, and always

ready to work, or do what is needed when asked. Thank you.

Over the years, I have tried to keep the focus on being an Irish group. We have something unique to offer the world. Our monthly meetings have been a great place for people to hear Irish music, learn about subjects they may not have, and just generally enjoy being Irish-American, or the part about hanging around with the Irish that makes people happy.

Our annual installation dinner will be at Alioto's Restaurant on Burleigh and Mayfair Roads on Thursday, July 10. It will be a buffet. Shamrock Club member Dennis Moroney will swear in the new board.

Julie Smith and I met with the leadership of Westown for a parade recap on April 25. Both sides expressed their concerns and fears. We both have common concerns, and we both have common interests. We will both make a concerted effort to make certain that the relationship will be a stronger one for the future. It is in our best interests to present one of the greatest parades in Wisconsin each year, but it is also in our best interests to keep a strong partnership intact. On a related note, Mike O'Leary will be returning as parade director.

We will need volunteers for what we are doing this summer. We have the Feis on July 20 at the Pettit Center. Money raised at this can help to defray our expenses for other things we will want to do later in the year. Also, there is Irish Fest. Noreen will need people to help in sales, and we will also need people to man our information booth in the Cultural Exhibits Tent.

We have our Golf Outing on August 24. It is, in the words of the past chair, Pat Fitzgibbons, "The easiest day of golf you can play all year". We will also have our picnic later in the summer. It will be our first time without Pete and Dawn Fleming in charge of the event in many years. They did a magnificent job, and their energy will be hard to replace. Speaking of Dawn, her bio in the May issue wasn't the one she had given me. I had dummied up some of the May issue to get a jump on the late arrivals, and had used older bios of candidates until I got the current rewrites. Somehow, Dawn's new submission didn't get into Reflections. I apologize for that gross error.

If people want to walk the Hank Aaron 5K walk this year, it is August 9. You get a team shirt with the Club's logo emblazoned on the sleeve. It is a good way to exercise.

I hope that my articles over the past number of years have helped to bring some interest in Ireland and Irish America your way. I have tried to make Reflections an interesting publication. Gheobhaidh tu gach eolas san bhileog. Read all about it inside the newsletter.

Slán agus beannacht leat. Goodbye for now. Thank you for giving me two years to lead this organization.

– Brian Witt

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## South Central Shamrock Club News for June

June Birthday Wishes to Charlie Montgomery and Ruth Judkins!

June Anniversary Blessings to Dick and Annette Baker 6/7; Tom and Corky Powers 6/13; John and Rita Bill 6/13.

Belated Birthday Wishes to Rosemary Mitchell who celebrated her birthday on May 18.

Welcome back to our Floridian Snow Birds Ken and Elaine Bentley of Montello. Both Ken and Elaine had birthdays in April while enjoying warm weather while the rest of us poor Irishmen weathered our wintry weather here. Happy Belated Birthday wishes to Rosemary, Ken, and Elaine!

George Havey celebrated his birthday on April 12, he and Bette Wheeler enjoyed their winter in Florida. We were saddened to hear that Bette Wheeler's daughter (Brenda Mulhorn) passed away on April 18 in Tampa, FL.; our deepest sympathy goes out to Bette and her family.

Happy Father's Day! June 15th

F.A.T.H.E.R.S. (author unknown)

"F" aithful.

"A" lways there.

"T" rustworthy.

"H" onoring.

"E" ver-loving.

"R" ighteous.

"S" upportive.

NOTE: The South Central Shamrock Club will meet at Erin's Snug Pub on Sunday, June 22 at 4 p.m. Erin's Pub is located on Hwy. H (across from the Voyageur Inn) Reedsburg. We may order off the menu so please let me know if you will be attending to give the pub a general count of dinners to expect. Dana's # (608) 524-6821.

This meeting is to elect new officers and will also be our last one till September so please try to attend. REMINDER: The meeting schedule I sent out is being revised due to the fact that Longley's Restaurant, Reedsburg has closed. A new one will be sent out this summer.

On June 14 the Reedsburg Butterfest Parade will begin at 10 a.m.

Our Irish Rose Kay Scanlon and Irishman Bill Crowley will be in the parade. June is Dairy Month so support our local farmers by eating their delicious dairy products.

June 8: St. Joseph's Catholic Church Festival at the Sauk County Fairgrounds.

June 27: Reedsburg, Webb Park-American Cancer Society Relay for Life Walk. Join in the fight against cancer. Silent auction, food, music, and a great community event begins at 5 p.m. At 10 p.m. the luminary lighting takes place remembering those who have passed or honoring those fighting the battle of cancer.

My personal favorite in June is to pick strawberries (a little tip) my delicious berries are found at The Berry Farmer, E10222 Hoot Owl Rd, Baraboo, WI 355-1965 for picking times. You won't be disappointed!

Enjoy your summer with family and friends.

Slainte,

– Dana Horkan-Gant,  
South Central Chairperson

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## **Color Guard News and Notes**

June. A little over two months and counting till Irish Fest! The band is hard at work and has been practicing outside for a month now. We start in January and it all culminates in our performances at Irish Fest. It's what we wait for all year! The kickoff to the parade season happened at the end of May with parades in Menomonee Falls and Milwaukee. June is our busiest yet. Highland Games on the 2nd, Waubeka on the 6th. Speaking of the 6th, we also have a fund raiser at Pizzeria Piccola at 3:30 p.m. after the parade. Continuing into June, Appleton on the 14th, University of Phoenix Commencement on the 21st, Eagle Parade on the 22nd, and Thiensville and Hartland on the 28th and 29th. Whew. What a busy month. For more information, please visit our web site [www.sccgpd.com]. A few will also be attending Pipe School again this year.

We continue to receive large numbers of requests to appear. This is such an honor for a band, and sad when we have to turn so many down because we just can't be everywhere. We have been doing quite a few gratis performances These are ones that bring pride to the band like no other parade. In May, the band traveled to Oshkosh to be a part of the Traveling Wall ceremony for the second year. I heard they lit up the town. Then in June, a second

year request to appear at a Breast Cancer Benefit on Lake Drive for their “Luck O’ the Irish Night”. We hope to continue to be a part of the community that represents our club well. I know we do for sure.

A few congratulations are in order! The band has four new members on the Shamrock Club Board! This is an unprecedented number, and they’ll be sworn in in July. Congrats to Sandy Quinlan on the Vice President position, Malkin Wallace for Sergeant-at-Arms, Mary Culver for Trustee. I will be representing as Membership Chair and filling the shoes left by Tom Smith. I had many, many of the Shamrock Club members come up to me with congratulations on the position. It’s a nice feeling that we are becoming one big group, not the band vs the club. We’ll continue to work together to make sure the Wisconsin Irish community is represented well. Thank you to all who voted.

Also a congratulations to piper Pete Cobb, on the birth of his son, Philip Andrew. I think we’re going to change the band name to Shamrock and Cobb Color Guard, Pipes and Drums! All the very best to the family. Also, a little birdie told me that two other band members are now expecting wee ones very soon. I’ll fill you in when they arrive.

We also have a few new faces you’ll see marching down the street this year. Hans has been practicing on the chanter under the tutelage of Neil McCafferty and should be up on pipes sometime this summer. Welcome to the SCCGPD, Hans. We’re glad you’re with us. As always, we are looking for members that have the love of wearing a kilt and being part of the Irish community. Join the club as color guard, learn to play the pipes or drums, or carry a banner. We always need water bearers or support during the summer as well. It’s not too late. It never is. Check out our web site for contact information.

Until July my pretties.

– Noel Tylla, 5th year piper

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## **Celtic Spirit Feis**

On Sunday, July 20, the inaugural Celtic Spirit Feis will take place at the Pettit National Ice Center, 500 South 84th Street. The Shamrock Club is excited to be one of the sponsors of the event. We will need volunteers for the day. If you wish to help out, please sign up at the ICHC, or email us at [info@shamrockclubwis.com].

The Feis will run from 8:30 a.m. at Pettit National Ice Center with registration beginning at 7:30 a.m. An Opening Ceremony will start

the event. Feis Competition begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. Advance check-in will take place the day before from 2 to 4 p.m. at Pettit National Ice Center. Mass will be celebrated when the competitions are completed, approx. 5 p.m. in the Pettit Center's Bronze room (downstairs).

Watch for additional information once it becomes available.

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## **Bylaws Committee Review 2008**

We will be having a bylaws review in 2008. If you have any suggestions on changes, please send them to Josh Walton, 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue. The current bylaws will be printed in the July Reflections. Bylaws are reviewed every other year.

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## **Budget Review**

A budget review was scheduled for May 14 for the 2008-09 Shamrock Club fiscal year. The completed budget will be presented to the membership upon its approval by the Board.

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## **Installation Dinner 2008**

**Thursday, July 10, 2008**

Alioto's (Mayfair Rd. and Burleigh St.)

Cocktails (Cash Bar): 6:00 pm

Dinner Buffet: 6:30 pm

Ceremony / Swearing in of Officers: 8:00 pm

Cost: \$25 Per person / Reservation Deadline: June 30, 2008

Installation Dinner Reservation Form

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Address : \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone : \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ / Price: \$25 @ / TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Return to: Julie Smith,  
2133 West Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233  
(414) 384-4119

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## **Celtic Women First Friday Lectures**

Although the Lecture Series has been relocated to UWM Greene Hall, the lectures for the coming season 2008-2009 will continue for a twelfth year. It is with great pride that we offer these wonderful educational and cultural events for the women and men of Milwaukee. There is nothing else like them in this community, and we are pleased to be able to continue this unique cultural treat for everyone. The public is invited as always. We offer tea and cookies and promise a delightful couple of hours.

**DATE: June 6, 2008**

**TOPIC: “Be a Frugal Scot and De-clutter your Home”**

**SPEAKER: Brenden McDaniel**

There is a condition known officially as “Chronic Disorganization”. Do you have it? Brenden McDaniel is a real specialist expert in correcting it, also known as hoarding. He is a certified professional organizer. From his own personal experience, he has decided to help others with what he had learned at home. In his other life, Brenden is very active in local Scottish organizations such as St. Andrew’s Society, Clan Donald and he is pursuing a certificate in Celtic Studies at UWM.

Greene Hall on the UWM campus: 3347 N. Downer Ave. 5:30 – 7 p.m. with \$7 admission.

– Jean Bills

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# **Shamrock Club of Wisconsin Annual Family Best Ball Golf and Dinner Outing**

**Sunday August 24, 2008**

Edgewater Golf Club, Grafton

1762 W. Cedar Creek Road

(I-43 north to Hwy 60, west 1.7 miles to 12th Avenue, right 1.4 miles to Cedar Creek Road, left to course)

There will be Door Prizes, a Putting Contest, and other events too numerous to mention.

Golf will begin at 1 p.m. (Carts Included)

Cocktail Hour: 4:30–5:30 / Buffet Dinner: 5:30–7:00

AWARDS to be presented during dinner

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### **Piping School 2008**

The Milwaukee School of Pipes and Drums will commence its tenth session Sunday, June 8 through Friday, June 13, 2008. Our chief instructor is Ken Eller who is ably assisted by piping instructors Ron Bowen, Bruce Gandy, Doug MacRae and Lyric Todkill; and, drumming instructors John Fisher and Tyler Fry.

The school is open to any and all students who wish to pursue studies of the Highland Bagpipe and Scottish Drumming.

The classroom teaching environment features small classes of 10 to 12 students with students grouped according to their skill level. Evening seminars are held on topics such as competitive preparation and strategy, effective practice techniques, piping for dancers, and other topics as suggested by students.

The classes are held at Alverno College located in a residential area in the southern section of the city of Milwaukee. The facilities are excellent, with air conditioned classrooms and common rooms in the dorms.

Piping Recital: A formal recital will be held on Thursday, June 12 at 7:30 p.m. This event is located at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. 2133 W. Wisconsin Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233.

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### **Jeremiah Curtin Summer School**

Mark your calendars now for Scoil Samradh Jeremiah Curtin August 11-15, 2008. You're cordially invited for an Irish language week that includes immersion classes at all levels, special class in translation for people interested in pursuing a career in Irish translation (eg. at EU level in Brussels), Liam Ó Cuinneagáin will host a nationwide reunion for people who attended Oideas Gael down the years, Irish language movies, a tour of Gaelic Milwaukee and a special celebratory event at the home of Jeremiah Curtin. Further information can be obtained from the Center for Celtic Studies.

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### **Club Officers 2008-09**

At the yearly elections on May 1, the following officers were elected:

President, Julie Smith; Vice President, Sandy Quinlan; Secretary, Linda Tuescher; Trustee, Mary Culver; Sergeant at Arms, Malkin Wallace; Treasurer, John Fisher; Membership Chair, Noel Tylla; Parliamentarian, Josh Walton; The following are in mid-term as Trustee: Noreen Barclay and Kathy Donovan. Brian Witt will take over as Past President. The following had reached their term limits: Pat Fitzgibbons, Dawn Fleming and Peter Fleming. Marianne Fisher decided not to run for another term as treasurer. Tom Smith passed away during his term as membership chair.

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### **"Luck of the Irish" Friday, June 13**

Join us for "Luck of the Irish" party on Friday, June 13 at the Wisconsin Breast Cancer Showhouse, 3580 N. Lake Drive, Shorewood. Enjoy an evening of Irish fun with a casual buffet dinner, the sound of traditional Irish music with Ceol Cairde and

dance by the McMenamin Academy of Irish Dance. Silent Auction includes authentic Irish gifts and more. "An Irish Ramble" super silent auction features a rare opportunity to bid on a week's stay at a lovely private home in County Clare.

The evening includes a tour of the Showhouse, a beautiful East Side mansion with a rich history. Dozens of local interior designers, landscape artists and artisans have contributed time, talent and furnishings to the Showhouse. The Boutique will also be open.

Our mission is to invest in early stage, promising breast and prostate cancer research at the Medical College of Wisconsin. WBCS has contributed more than \$3 million in the past ten years. Reservations are required at \$60 per person. Mail checks (payable to WBCS Irish Party) WBCS, P.O. Box 170588, Milwaukee, WI 53217. Check out web site at [wbc.mcw.edu].

– **Mary June Hanrahan**

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### **Milwaukee Highland Games**

The 2008 Milwaukee Highland Games will be held on June 7 at the Bavaian Inn. Open from nine in the morning until nine at night, admission is \$10. See pipebands in competition, and the awesome massed bands, working sheepdogs, heavy athletics (tossing telephone poles, etc.), colorful clan tents and the parade of tartans, plus many purveyors of Scots clothing, food, cds., living history, ancient weapons demonstrations, and more.

– **Tom Cobb**

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### **Members Doings**

It was a busy few weeks for Bob and Kathy Donovan. Bob was reelected Milwaukee alderman. Daughter Amanda graduated with honors from Concordia University as a Medical Assistant. Daughter Eileen is also a graduate of the Milw. Police Academy. Congratulations to all.

Julie Smith's niece Erin Stephens is a graduate of the William Mitchell Law School in St Paul.

Peter and Mary Cobb are the parents of a new son, Phillip.

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## **Sunshine Club**

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Dono-van, (414) 259-8040.

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## **New Members**

Sherry Daley-Jung, Milwaukee; Douglas and Sue Smith, Milwaukee.

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