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O'Reilly • Jack Welch • COMMUNITY • Dorothy Day • Loretta Brennan Glucksman • EDUCATORS
Mike Quill • Mother Jones • LAW • Sandra Day O'Connor • Judge John Roberts • MEDICINE • William
ack Obama • The Kennedys (JFK, RFK, EMK, JKS) • Ronald Reagan • Hugh Carey • Daniel Patri
Cohan • Michael Flatley • Gene Kelly • Ed Sullivan • STAGE & SCREEN • James Cagney • Walt Disne
acer Tracy • John Wayne • THE SERVICE • James Brady • Fr. Duffy • Fr. Colby • Steve McDonald • Th
owd • F. Scott Fitzgerald • William Faulkner • Pete Hamill • Frank McCourt • Flannery O'Connor
McEnroe • Mark O'Meara • Gene Tunney • ART • William Michael Harnett • Georgia O'Keeffe • Sea
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McCourt • Flannery O'Connor • George O'Neill • William Kennedy • SPORT • Mauree
arnett • Georgia O'Keeffe • Sean Scully • BUILDERS • Henry Ford • Louis Henry Sullivan • BUSINES

The Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C.

BUILDING OUR PLACE IN HISTORY...



TOGETHER



A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT TO IRISH AMERICA MAGAZINE
Produced by Turlough McConnell • Written by Patricia Harty

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“The history of the United States is the history of Irish America. That history deserves its rightful place in our nation’s capital.”

Carl Shanahan
Chairman
Irish American Museum of
Washington, D.C.

For the past two years, a group of Irish Americans led by Connecticut businessman Carl Shanahan has been working to create a national museum in Washington, D.C., to honor Ireland’s legacy in America. “The history of the United States is the history of Irish America,” says Shanahan. “That history deserves its rightful place in our nation’s capital.” The 71-year-old Shanahan is no stranger to the preservation of history: he co-founded The Wild Geese, a Connecticut organization that promotes Irish culture and Ireland’s contributions to Western civilization.

The goal of the Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C., is to become a major cultural institution that will bring Irish-American history to life for visitors of all ages, from all ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds. The museum will initially be housed in temporary gallery space; ultimately, the plan is for a prestigious establishment that will provide future generations of Irish-Americans a sense of their history.

“We believe that the museum belongs in Washington to reflect the national character of our story, the Irish legacy is evident all across North America.” This will be a “museum of identity,” whose goal, says Shanahan, “is to explore the experience of a people’s immigration and the evolution of its community, as well as to acknowledge their struggles and triumphs.” The group intends that the Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C., joins the roster of similar museums of identity honoring African Americans, Native Americans, Jewish Americans and Chinese Americans among others.

“Education is at the heart of the Irish American Museum’s mission,” says board member Jim Dougherty, whose ancestors came to America during Ireland’s Great Famine. “The museum will begin to build its collection online.” While museums have been experimenting with the Web for years, only recently have Web users had the technology to play a more active role in shaping a museum’s collection.

“We want to tell the story from the beginning,” says creative executive Patrick Sean Flaherty, a founding member. “The museum will be a home for all of those of Irish and Scots-Irish descent, and will promote dialogue and understanding among people of all cultural backgrounds. It will illuminate 250 years of Irish-American history through innovative exhibitions, education and cultural programs.”

Since promoting the idea, Shanahan, Dougherty and Flaherty have gained the support of numerous Irish-American associations, Irish Studies groups and cultural centers. Commenting on the possibility of an Irish American Museum, Ireland’s Ambassador in Washington, Michael Collins, said: “Ireland and America enjoy an enduring friendship. Irish immigrants and their descendants have made a huge contribution to the birth and growth of America. Theirs is a fascinating story, which will not be forgotten.”

The Museum is now soliciting financial support for its website, temporary gallery and public programs. — **Turlough McConnell**



John F. Kennedy



Barack Obama

U.S. PRESIDENTS OF IRISH ANCESTRY

1. **Andrew Jackson** (both parents born in Ireland)
2. **James Buchanan** (both parents)
3. **Chester Arthur** (father)
4. **Woodrow Wilson** (paternal grandparents)
5. **Grover Cleveland** (maternal grandfather, maternal great-great-grandmother)
6. **Andrew Johnson** (paternal grandfather)
7. **John F. Kennedy** (all eight paternal and maternal great-grandparents)
8. **Benjamin Harrison** (two maternal great-grandfathers)
9. **Ronald Reagan** (two paternal great-grandparents)
10. **Ulysses Grant** (maternal great-grandmother)
11. **William McKinley** (two paternal great-great-grandfathers)
12. **James Polk** (paternal great-great-great-grandfather)
13. **Barack Obama** (maternal great-great-great-grandfather)
14. **Richard Nixon** (paternal and maternal great-great-great-grandparents)
15. **Theodore Roosevelt** (maternal great-great-great-great-grandparent)
16. **George H. Bush** (at least one Irish ancestor at great-great-great-great-grandparent level and above)
17. **Lyndon Johnson** (Irish-born great-great-great-great-grandparent unconfirmed)
18. **Jimmy Carter** (Irish ancestry unconfirmed)
19. **Gerald Ford** (father’s name King: Irish ancestry unconfirmed)
20. **William J. Clinton Blythe** (father’s name Blythe: Irish ancestry unconfirmed)
21. **George W. Bush** (at least one Irish ancestor at great-great-great-great-grandparent level and above)

Inishfail: Island of Destiny By Patricia Harty

“It must have been the Irish who built the pyramids, ‘cause no one else would carry all them bricks.”

—from an Irish-American song

The Irish have been drawn to America since the time of St. Brendan, who made his legendary trip in a skin boat. Later the Irish reached “Inishfail”—that “island of destiny” of the poets—as migratory fishermen making their way to Newfoundland in the holds of brigs that would return to Britain laden with timber.

They came as indentured servants and as prisoners transported for crimes against the Crown. Some made their way up from the West Indies where Cromwell had sent them as slaves. What began as a trickle in the 17th and 18th centuries became a deluge in the 19th. Fleeing starvation with few or no possessions, they spread out across America.

From pre-Revolutionary days they gave their names to towns and streets, and left their traces in ghost towns, mining museums, and graveyards. They fought against the British in America’s struggle for Independence. Three Irish Americans signed the Declaration of Independ-

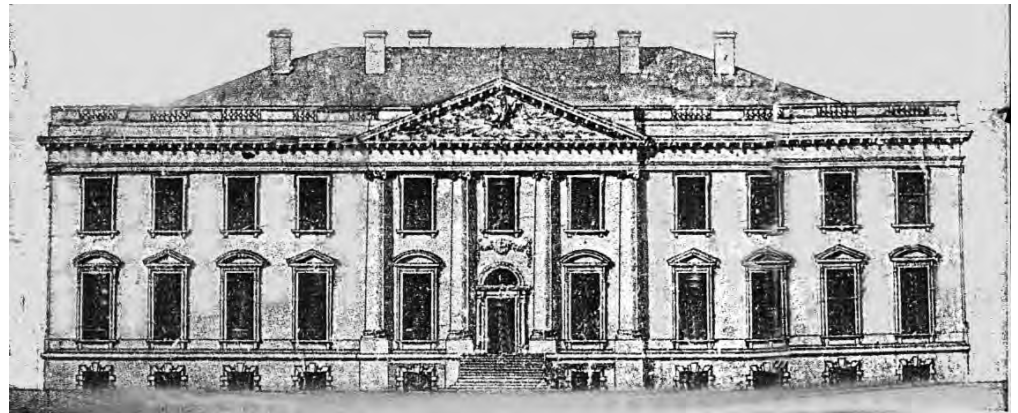
ence (1919-1929) and the Democratic nominee for President in 1928. George M. Cohan was reaching the pinnacle of his career with songs like “I’m a Yankee Doodle Dandy” showing Irish-American patriotism, and James Cagney was starting his career in films.

Still, an anti-Irish, anti-Catholic bias lingered. In the early 1950s the Speaker of the House “Tip” O’Neill led a boycott on a Boston bank that had no Catholic employees. By the century’s end, however, the Irish were the most successful immigrant group. JFK helped banish the “No Irish need apply” signs forever and touched the lives of millions of Americans.

Many others made unique and lasting contributions to American life and culture. Another famous son of Cork, Henry Ford, changed the landscape of America forever with his automobile. The history of the labor movement is replete with Irish names, from Mother Jones, the angel of the mining camps, to John Sweeney, the former head of the most



Kilkenny-born architect James Hoban and his winning design for the White House, 1792



The American Revolution

“It was the Scots-Irish who would bring the fire of the revolution to the pulpits of almost every frontier church and also provide a disproportionate share of guns and soldiers to the battlefield once the war broke out.”

James Webb

Author

Born Fighting: How the Scots-Irish Shaped America

ence, including Charles Carroll of Maryland, the only Catholic. Irish born Commodore John Barry (born 1745) is credited as “The Father of the American Navy.”

A huge Celtic cross on Grosse Ile in Canada marks the spot where thousands of Famine Irish are buried. In San Francisco’s Mission Dolores a stone commemorates an Irishman killed by vigilantes. They died in riots precipitated by the anti-Irish, anti-Catholic Native American Party in Philadelphia in 1844, and they started others, notably the 1863 New York Draft Riots. They fought in the Civil War on both sides and died at Bull Run and Gettysburg, Fredericksburg and The Wilderness.

They built the great transcontinental railroad and mined for gold, and prevailed past the “No dogs or Irishmen allowed” signs. From the wretchedness of those Famine Irish came the greatest mobilization of a people in the history of the United States. The schools, hospitals, political clubs, and labor unions born of their struggle would leave their mark on America forever.

By the 1920s, the Irish in America had established a foothold. Al Smith was governor of New

York and led the most powerful labor union in America.

The Irish built grand educational institutions, and joined the military and were awarded more Medals of Honor than any other ethnic group. They produced great sporting heroes such as Jack Dempsey and Connie Mack, and became politicians and captains of industry who helped “the cause” in Ireland—from the early days of John Devoy and Eamon de Valera to the peace process and George Mitchell and Bill Clinton.

They became patriotic Americans who remained proud, as George M. Cohan said, “of all the Irish blood that’s in me.” As Americans, they maintain interest in their Irish heritage, and even a poignant emotional connection to Ireland. At first this connection took the form of care packages; now Irish Americans bring peace initiatives and business investment.

Today the Irish are celebrated in every aspect of American life. Their journey, and the American dream is being kept alive in corners of Ireland across America. It’s a dream that must be kept alive and The Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C. plans to do just that and deserves our full support.



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The Irish legacy is evident all across the United States and Canada. **Patricia Hart** selects corners of Ireland that preserve the memory of those who came before, and where current generations honor their Irish-American heritage.

U.S. Census Record

36.5 million Americans claim Irish heritage, according to U.S. census records. That number accounts for 12 percent of the U.S. population and exceeds the population of Ireland by 10 times.

O'Neill, Nebraska

Dubbed "the Irish capital of Nebraska," O'Neill got off to a slow start among Irish settlers. Though established on the desolate plains in 1874, O'Neill was not settled until the gold strike in the Black Hills of South Dakota some years later, when John O'Neill, a Co. Monaghan native, came to the town with the hope of luring Irish immigrants from Philadelphia to start farming communities. Many of the inhabitants today are descendants of the original settlers.

Mission Dolores Street Graveyard, San Francisco

Consecrated in 1776, the Mission Dolores Cemetery is the oldest graveyard in San Francisco. The church was the city's preeminent Catholic parish and the burial place of many Irish settlers, including James P. Casey, a convict who became involved in local politics and in the shootings of political rivals. He was hanged for murder in 1856. The cemetery contains a monument to Casey as well as many headstones with Irish names and places of birth.

The Alamo, San Antonio, Texas

The pivotal point of the Texas Revolution took place at The Alamo in 1836, when a relatively small number of Texan soldiers then occupied the compound. General Sam Houston believed the Texans could not hold the fort and ordered Colonel James Bowie to destroy it. Bowie and fellow Irish-American frontiersman Davy Crockett chose to disregard those orders and instead worked with Colonel James C. Neill to fortify the mission. Today you can visit a museum to their patriotic sacrifice.

Robert Emmet Statue, Golden Gate Park

Though it stands proudly in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, the Robert Emmet Statue was originally meant for the town square in Emmetsburg, Iowa. The project was commissioned during World War I, but was abandoned when materials became scarce. The statue was then

bought by California Senator James Duval Phelan and unveiled by Eamon de Valera on July 20, 1919. Emmet's speech from the dock is read on September 20th of every year, the anniversary of Emmet's execution.

Bunker Hill, Massachusetts

First- and second-generation Irishmen played a crucial role at the Battle of Bunker Hill. On June 17, 1775. Commanded by Irish-American John Stark, who later became a colonel in Washington's army, the group smashed a column of light infantry sent by the British to quell the rebellion, forcing the small British unit into a bloody frontal assault. The battle demonstrated that the inexperienced Colonial forces were able to stand up to government troops.

Tipperary Hill, Syracuse

A hub between Albany and Buffalo during the construction of the Erie Canal, Syracuse became a popular place for Irish laborers and their families to settle. Many Irish Americans still live in the Tipperary Hill district of Syracuse. A signature of the neighborhood is its inverted traffic signals, with the green light on top to elevate the Irish "green" over the British "red."

Annie Moore, Ellis Island, New York

When Ellis Island officially opened on January 1, 1892, the first passenger registered through the now world-famous immigration station was a young Irish girl named Annie Moore. Just 14 years old, Annie departed from Queenstown (County Cork) on December 20, 1891 aboard the S.S. Nevada, one of 148 steerage passengers. They were processed through Ellis Island the following morning, New Year's Day and also Annie's 15th birthday.

Molly Maguires, Jim Thorpe, PA

The Irish comprised the largest ethnic group to work the coal mines of Pennsylvania, where they endured a dangerous work environment and long, grueling hours. In response to these



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1. Grace Kelly in "To Catch A Thief"
2. Annie Moore, first immigrant on Ellis Island (courtesy The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.)
3. American Irish Historical Society, NYC
4. Frank McCourt, author of "Angela's Ashes"
5. Maureen O'Hara, Dublin born movie star
6. William Hartnett, 1848-1892. Metropolitan Museum
7. Glucksman Ireland House at NYU
8. George Clooney, Hollywood's leading man

extreme conditions, the Irish miners of Pennsylvania formed the Molly Maguires, a secretive union that was charged with inciting terror and crime among the coal community. Two major trials were held to prosecute supposed members and 20 men were hanged. Carbon County Jail, the site of the original trial, is closed to the public, but the Jim Thorpe visitor center contains information on the history of the Molly Maguires.

Kennedy Library, Boston

The JFK Presidential Library and Museum is located on a ten-acre park in Boston, Massachusetts. The museum includes three theaters and twenty-five multimedia exhibits that chronicle the lives of John and Robert F. Kennedy and trace the Irish ancestry of the Kennedy family.

Donner Pass, Nevada

The Donner Pass, now traversed by Lincoln Highway, is the route taken by the Donner Party across the Sierra Nevada. Members of the party, which became snowbound in 1846, resorted to cannibalism in order to survive. The Breen and Reed families, both from Ireland, were among the few to survive the horrible ordeal.

John J. Burns Library, Boston College

For a rare collection of Irish books and original literary manuscripts, visit the Burns Library at Boston College. The collection includes paintings and publications from the mid-19th to mid-20th century that reflect the history, culture and identity of the Irish in America.

Butte, Montana

Montana's significant Irish population is largely due to Marcus Daly, the Irish "Copper King" who turned Butte into a copper mining center and employed thousands of Irish immigrants at above-average wages. When the mining boom ended, many Irish stayed in Montana. Each summer Butte is home to the An Ri Ra festival run by the Montana Gaelic Cultural Society.

The Corby Monument, Gettysburg, PA

The numerous war memorials and statues at the battlefield are testament to the participation of Irish and Irish Americans at every military rank. The 100th anniversary of the dedication of the statue of Rev. William Corby on the battlefield will take place on October 29, 2010. On July 2, 1863, just before the Irish Brigade went into battle, Father Corby gave the men absolution. Corby was born on October 2, 1833, in Detroit, Michigan. He died on December 28, 1897, and is buried in the cemetery of Notre Dame University.

Margaret Mitchell House, Atlanta, GA

The Margaret Mitchell House offers guided tours of the apartment where Mitchell wrote *Gone with the Wind* as well as exhibits celebrating the life and work of this cherished American author. The house also includes a Literary Center where visitors can attend lectures and workshops.

Louis Sullivan's Birthplace, Boston

Louis Sullivan, mentor to Frank Lloyd Wright, is regarded by many as the "father of modernism" in architecture. He was born in 1856 to an Irish father and a Swiss mother who had emigrated in the 1840s. After studying at MIT, Sullivan became known for his designs of theaters and, eventually, the steel skyscrapers. The Boston Society of Architects has placed a plaque on Sullivan's childhood home on Bennet Street in Boston.

Glucksman Ireland House, New York

Located in the heart of New York's Greenwich Village, Glucksman Ireland House is the center for Irish Studies at New York University. For the New York community, there is a weekly public events series during the academic year, as well as a monthly traditional Irish music series. For the non-credit adult learner, there are evening Irish language classes.



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In every state but New Mexico and Hawaii, Irish is among the top five ancestries, with Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Delaware the highest.

Monte Cristo Cottage, New London, CT

In 1884, actor James O'Neill and his wife Ella purchased the Monte Cristo Cottage in New London as a summer home. This was also the childhood home of Eugene O'Neill, perhaps America's greatest playwright. Named after *The Count of Monte Cristo*, a play James O'Neill starred in several times, the cottage is also the setting for *Ah, Wilderness!* and *A Long Day's Journey into Night*, two of O'Neill's most famous plays. The house is now owned by the Eugene O'Neill Theater Center and is a historic museum containing memorabilia and artifacts from O'Neill's life. In addition, it is furnished to replicate the setting of *A Long Day's Journey into Night*.

Mother Jones' Gravesite, Mt. Olive, IL

Mary Harris "Mother" Jones was born in Co. Cork in 1837 and immigrated to the U.S. while still a child. After marrying George Jones, a member of the Iron Worker's Union, she became involved in labor and community organizing. Her passion for workers' rights and her flair for public speaking carried her to prominence in the labor movement, and she remained a voice for workers into her nineties. Present at the Haymarket riot in 1886 and the American Railway Union Strike in 1894, Jones made it her life's work to fight child labor. Mother Jones is buried at the Miners' Union Cemetery in Mt. Olive, Illinois, just off Old Route 66.

Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago

The Irish American Heritage Center on the city's northwest side is the focal point for Irish culture and heritage in Chicago. The center includes a library, museum, art gallery, theater, pub, and dance practice studios. Proudly a non-profit organization, the IAHC offers live music, films, lectures, Irish language classes, and countless other events celebrating the Irish-American experience. All events are open to the public.

Irish GI Memorial, Brooklyn

Though often considered the "Forgotten War," the Korean War resulted in 2 million casualties, including 50,000 American dead. Twenty-eight of

these Americans were Irish nationals, who were finally honored in 2006 with a memorial in Green-Wood Cemetery. The memorial bears the names of the 28 Irish GIs, who were granted U.S. citizenship in 2003, as well as a Celtic cross and epigraph. The memorial lies 60 feet from the grave of Matilda Tone, widow of republican patriot Theobald Wolfe Tone.

Georgia O'Keeffe's Ghost Ranch, Abiquiu, NM

Already an established New York artist, Georgia O'Keeffe was looking for a change to energize her work when she visited New Mexico in 1917. She had led a privileged life as the granddaughter of well-off Irish immigrants who owned a woolen business. O'Keeffe was so inspired by the rural landscapes of New Mexico that she visited often before moving to Ghost Ranch permanently in 1949. O'Keeffe's paintings from this time depict her desert surroundings, and she remained at Ghost Ranch until her death in 1986. Ghost Ranch is now a retreat and educational center owned by the Presbyterian Church, which runs an O'Keeffe landscape tour from March to November.

Father Duffy Statue, Duffy Square, New York City

In the northern end of Times Square is Duffy Square, named after Irish Catholic priest and American soldier Francis P. Duffy. Ordained in 1896, Father Duffy rose to fame as the military chaplain for the 69th New York regiment in the Spanish-American War and for the Rainbow Division in World War I. Visitors can see his monument, positioned in front of a Celtic cross, in Duffy Square.

Hibernian Hall, Charleston, SC

Designed by Thomas Walter, who also worked on the U.S Capitol building, Hibernian Hall has housed the Hibernian Society of Charleston since 1840. The Hibernian Society is an Irish benevolent organization founded in 1801 to assist new immigrants, regardless of religion. The society continues to hold regular elections, and alternates

Photo by Kit DeFever



Irish Americans in the 9/11 Rescue effort: Firefighter Danny Foley; Fr. Brian Jordan, St. Francis Assisi Church; Joe Mooney, Ironworkers Local 580; Kerry McGinnis, Kennel Manager, Manhattan Humane Society and her dog Stormy; NYPD Captain Paul McCormack; Lieutenant Matt Galvin, NYPD Pipe and Drum Band.



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To make a donation or for more information about the Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C. see details next page.

annually between a Roman Catholic and a Protestant president. The society has hosted St. Patrick's Day dinners for President Harry Truman and Gerald Ford and has a years-long waiting list for membership, which is limited to 550. Closed to the public, the building is one of the few examples of Greek-style architecture in Charleston.

Tenement Museum, New York City

Located at 97 Orchard Street on the Lower East Side, the Tenement Museum provides a glimpse of the immigrant experience at the turn of the twentieth century. The tenement was home to 7,000 immigrants over the years, many of them Irish. The Moores, Irish immigrants who lived at 97 Orchard in 1869, are the subject of a new tour in their restored apartment on the fourth floor.

Phoenix Irish Cultural Center, Arizona

Since its inception in 2001, the Arizona Irish Festival has presented the best of regional Celtic bands and dance troupes every October. The authentic stone and slate Irish Cultural Center is an outstanding tribute to the Irish in the Southwest.

Patrick Cleburne Memorial, Franklin, TN

Major General Patrick Cleburne, County Cork, was a popular commander nicknamed "Stonewall of the West" for his service to the Confederacy during the Civil War. He was killed in a Union assault at the Battle of Franklin in 1864. His memorial now stands in Franklin, Tennessee.

John Boyle O'Reilly Memorial, Boston

John Boyle O'Reilly was an outspoken nationalist both in his home country of Ireland and later in Boston. Sentenced to 20 years of penal servitude in 1866 for his membership in the radical Fenian Society, O'Reilly arrived at a penal colony in Australia after two years of solitary confinement. He quickly began plotting his escape and finally arrived in Philadelphia in 1869. From there, O'Reilly became famous among the Irish-American community as a journalist for the *Boston Pilot*, which he used as a platform to push for Irish

Home Rule and for the rights of oppressed groups in the U.S. O'Reilly's memorial, by Daniel Chester French, stands in the Boston Fenway.

American Irish Historical Society, NY

The American Irish Historical Society headquarters in Manhattan reopened March 16, 2008 after a two-year restoration and renovation. The Society, founded in 1897 to inform the world of the achievements of the Irish in America, is today a national center of scholarship and culture. From its home on New York's Fifth Avenue, across from the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Society makes its library and select events open to the public.

Black Rock, Montreal, Canada

When thousands of Irish immigrants arriving in Grosse Ile were diagnosed with typhus, many were transferred to "fever sheds" in Windmill Point, Montreal. About 6,000 immigrants, most of them Irish, died as a result of the epidemic fever. When Victoria Bridge was being built in the 1850s, workers found human remains of Irish immigrants who had died from typhus. The Black Rock memorial was erected at the bridge in 1859 to honor the victims.

Grosse Ile, Quebec, Canada

Commemorating Irish immigration via Quebec starting in the 19th century, Grosse Ile is home to the Irish Memorial National Historic Site of Canada. Thousands of Irish fled to Grosse Ile in Quebec during the Great Famine. One hundred thousand immigrants, most of them Irish, arrived in a single season of 1847. Because they traveled on unsanitary boats, many came infected with typhus, which reached epidemic levels in Quebec. Despite its large quarantine station, Grosse Ile was ill-equipped to deal with the epidemic, and thousands died in transit and on land. Over 5,000 Irish are now buried in the Grosse Ile cemetery, the largest Irish burial ground associated with the famine outside of Ireland. Visitors can tour the buildings and quarantine station used by immigrants as well as the Irish Memorial.

- 9. John J. Burns Library at Boston College
- 10. Vintage baseball card
- 11. Phoenix Irish Cultural Center, Arizona
- 12. John Wayne, movie star and cowboy icon
- 13. Georgia O'Keeffe, American artist, 1887-1986
- 14. Old St. Patrick's Cathedral, NYC
- 15. Tenement Museum, Orchard Street, NYC
- 16. Eileen Collins, space shuttle commander

Why we must build the Irish American Museum of Washington, D.C.

There is no better way to enhance the future than to honor the past. Now is the time for a national museum that tells the story of America through the experience of Irish Americans from the earliest days to the present.

A new museum in the nation's capital will celebrate the personal journeys of those who shared in building this country.

It's time to build our new museum together.

All contributions are fully tax deductible.

To make a donation or for more information visit our website: www.irishamericanmuseumdc.org

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