

TPS @ DePaul

March 2011 Newsletter: St. Patrick's Day and Irish Heritage

Greetings! On March 17th we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, which marks the anniversary of St. Patrick's death, the patron saint of Ireland. The day is typically celebrated in Ireland as a religious feast day and in the United States with festive parades, speeches and parties. No matter how you celebrate, this time presents a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the origins of the holiday and to recognize the contributions of Irish Americans to the history and culture of the United States.

Irish Americans made significant contributions to American life and culture. Several U.S. Presidents were of Irish decent. Irish immigrants faced strong anti-Irish sentiment when they arrived in the U.S. during the 1840s, however many went on to serve with distinction in the Civil War. The Irish also have a strong history in music as demonstrated by the wealth of Irish-themed music in several of the LOC's collections. Please see below for links to these resources.

About the St. Patrick Holiday

Quick introduction to the origins of St. Patrick's day and links to primary sources of past celebrations: Library of Congress' Today in History page for March 17.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/today/mar17.html>

America's Story from America's Library: St. Patrick's Day

http://www.americaslibrary.gov/jb/modern/jb_modern_stpatric_1.html

Immigration

Presentation on Irish Immigration: click through the presentation to learn about Irish discrimination in America, adaption and assimilation, Irish identity, Irish contributions to American culture and more!

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/irish.html>

What's a celebration without food? Check out The Great American Pot Luck for recipe ideas from all over the world like the following recipe for the Irish classic, Shepherd's Pie.

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/ckbk/recipe.php?rid=329>

Music

Conduct a keyword search using "Irish" or "Ireland" in following collections to retrieve numerous music-related items.

Music for the Nation: American Sheet Music

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/musshhtml/musshhome.html>

America Singing: Nineteenth-Century Song Sheets

Note, song sheets are not to be confused with sheet music. Song sheets are single printed sheets with lyrics but no music, they were new songs or new lyrics sung to the tune of familiar songs of the day.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amsshhtml/amsshhome.html>

California Gold: Northern California Folk Music from the Thirties

<http://lcweb2.loc.gov/ammem/afccchtml/cowhome.html>

- A sample from this collection: Irish tunes (audio)

[http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cowellbib:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(afccc+a3369a2\)\)](http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/cowellbib:@field(NUMBER+@band(afccc+a3369a2)))

Fiddle Tunes of the Old Frontier

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/collections/reed/index.html>

Illinois Audio Samples from the American Folklife Center: Tracks 1 & 2. captain Francis O'Neill cylinder recordings of Irish Music in Chicago (two tunes)

<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/sampler/ILaudio.html#tracks1to2>

Photos

Use keywords like Irish, Irish Americans, or Ireland to search these collections.

Prints & Photographs Online Catalog

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/>

- For example, this collection of Images of Ireland:

<http://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2001700656/>

Chicago Daily News ~ Photographs~ 1902 - 1933

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/ndlpcoop/ichihtml/cdnhome.html>

Civil War

Civil War Treasures from the New-York Historical Society

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/connections/civil-war-treasures/file.html>

- For example this poster for an all-Irish Corcoran's Irish Legion:

<http://www.loc.gov/teachers/classroommaterials/presentationsandactivities/presentations/immigration/ckbk/recipe.php?rid=329>

Selected Civil War Photographs

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html>

U.S. Presidents

Several U.S. Presidents have Irish heritage including:

- James Buchanan
- Ulysses S. Grant
- Andrew Jackson
- John F. Kennedy
- William McKinley
- Richard Nixon
- James K. Polk
- Ronald Reagan

- Woodrow Wilson

Search the American Memory collection using a president's name to search all of the collections for items related to that president. Some collections of Interest include:

"I Do Solemnly Swear...": Presidential Inaugurations

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pihome.html>

Browse Presidential Inaugurations

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/pihtml/pimenu.html>

Presidents of the United States Resource Guides

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/presidents/index.html>

The Last Days of a President: Films of McKinley and the Pan-American Exposition, 1901

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/papr/mckhome.html>

By Popular Demand: Portraits of the Presidents and First Ladies, 1789 - Present

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/odmdhtml/preshome.html>

Links of Interest Outside the Library of Congress

Poor Pat Must Emigrate: 19th Century Irish Immigration

<http://www.hsp.org/default.aspx?id=79>

Famous Irish Americans

<http://www.biography.com/st-patrick/famous-irish-americans.jsp>

St. Patrick's Day Resources via Infoplease.com

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/stpatsday1.html>

Irish American Heritage Center, Chicago

<http://irish-american.org/>

Irish in Chicago via the Encyclopedia of Chicago

<http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/652.html>

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