UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS LOWELL & QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST



DIGGING FOR AMERICA: FROM CROSSAN TO THE ACRE

Spring 2010

IRISH PARTNERSHIPS CENTER

"A Shared Heritage... A Shared Future"

Co-Directors: Professor Ann Marie Hurley • Dr. Stephen McCarthy • Dr. Frank Talty

UMass Lowell and Queen's University Belfast Sign Collaboration Agreement

In March 2009, Chancellor Marty Meehan of University of Massachusetts Lowell signed a Collaboration Agreement with Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson of Queen's University Belfast (Queen's) at the Queen's campus in Belfast.

Queen's is a research-driven university with a dynamic world class research and education portfolio and strong international connections. Areas of research excellence range from conflict resolution and peace studies to drug design.



(Seated L to R) Vice Chancellor Peter Gregson, Queen's, and Chancellor Marty Meehan, UMass Lowell, sign the institutional collaboration agreement. (Standing) Dr. Stephen McCarthy (Co-Director), Dr. Susan Braunhut, Provost Ahmed Abdelal, Pro-Vice Chancellor Gerry McCormack (Queen's), Dr. Frank Talty (Co-Director)

Our Mission

"To work with Irish partners to create a dynamic model for Cross-Atlantic collaboration that will promote and advance UMass Lowell's goals to enhance the student experience by providing a global perspective to teaching and research, while contributing to Irish interests through exchange and service."

Education Partnership Bridges Lowell, Belfast, Haifa for Project on **Reflective Practice for** Equity and Excellence

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The UMass Lowell Graduate

School of Education is partnering with St. Mary's University in Belfast, Ireland and University of Haifa, Israel to study the effect of reflective practice on social equity and academic excellence in school settings.

This summer several faculty members from each institution will meet in Lowell to examine patterns of privilege and marginalization in the educational system of their regions, learn about reflective practices, and develop context sensitive action plans for their schools.

PROJECT ORIGINS

THE COLLABORATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN UMASS LOWELL AND **QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST, MARCH 2009**

A TRANSATLANTIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT FOCUSING ON THE IRISH IN **IRELAND AND THE IRISH IN** THE USA DURING THE 19th CENTURY

Partnership with Queen's University Yields Study Abroad Opportunities

Summer 2010

UMass Lowell students can spend three weeks at The International Summer School at Queen's University Belfast. Students will study Irish history, politics, literature, music and culture. They will tour historic sites, visit the Parliament, and the North coast of the island. Upon completion of the course, they will receive three UMass Lowell credits.

Fall 2010

UMass Lowell students can study at Oueen's University Belfast for the Fall term. They will learn Irish politics, history, sociology and anthropology with some of the top Professors in Ireland. They may also participate in a community internship.

Located on the historic Falls Road, West Belfast's St. Mary's University (affiliated with Queen's) offers a unique academic experience. Students will study Irish history, politics and culture. They will also intern in the West Belfast community and explore first-hand the process of conflict resolution.

IrishCenter@uml.edu | www.uml.edu/International/Irish/ | 978-934-3417



Spring 2011

TO DATE, EXCAVATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LOWELL (AUGUST 2010, AUGUST 2011) AND IN COUNTY TYRONE (AUGUST 2011)

LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS





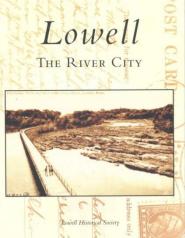
Engineering and Industry in Nineteenth-Century America

PATRICK M. MALONE

INCORPORATED IN 1823 AS A PLANNED MANUFACTURING CENTRE FOR TEXTILE PRODUCTION. A GREEN-FIELD DEVELOPMENT ON FORMER FARMLAND IN EAST CHELMSFORD, DEVELOPED BY THE BOSTON ASSOCIATES.

ESTABLISHED AS AN URBAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK IN 1978





POSTCARD HISTORY SERIES

BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICA'S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION



THE CANAL WORKERS

LOCATED AT CONFLUENCE OF THE MERRIMACK AND CONCORD RIVERS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WATER.

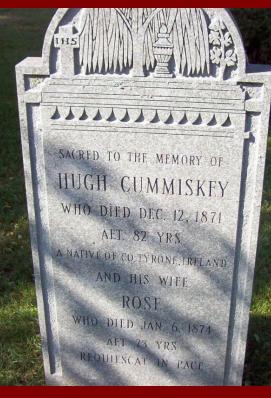
BUT NEEDED TO BRING THE WATER TO THE MILLS BY MEANS OF CANALS.

AND SOMEBODY HAD TO DIG THE CANALS ...

KIRK BOOTT, AGENT TO THE NEWLY FORMED MERRIMACK MANUFACTURING COMPANY, HIRES HUGH CUMMISKEY AND HIS TEAM OF 30 IRISH WORKERS ON 5TH APRIL 1822 TO WORK ON THE WIDENING OF THE PAWTUCKET CANAL.

AS MORE IRISH EMPLOYED THEY SETTLE IN AN AREA OF LAND – THE ACRE – WHERE BY 1830 THERE IS A GROUP OF 400 IRISH RESIDENT. BY 1850 THIS POPULATION HAS RISEN TO 6,000

"The Canal Worker", a bronze sculpture by Ivan and Elliot Schwartz, located where Market Street crosses the Merrimack Canal, to commemorate the workers who dug Lowell's canals



RESULT: INCREASED LEVELS OF "PULL" MIGRATION TO CANADA AND USA FOR ECONOMIC REASONS.

CHAIN MIGRATION OF THE CUMMISKEYS, RELATIVES AND NEIGBHOURS FROM TYRONE TO MASSACHUSETTS

1821: HUGH MARRIES ROSE SHERRY IN BOSTON; MARRIAGE PAPERS NOTE THAT HE IS FROM CROSSAN IN COUNTY TYRONE.

HUGH CUMMISKEY PRIMARY LEADER OF THE IRISH IN LOWELL

BORN ABOUT 1789 IN IRELAND AND MOVED TO BOSTON IN 1817 (28 YEARS OLD). WORKED AS CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN ON CHARLESTOWN DOCKS AT THE TERMINUS OF THE MIDDLESEX CANAL

POOR HARVESTS AND ECONOMIC DOWNTURN IN IRELAND IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE NAPOLEONIC WARS (1812-1815)

To Machan Bigton Come Which of the limit bout of borning the for the Middle brout with Hugh barneter bing on alim the white person make aport that I am twinty fire years was been at brafsary with any of Sycone in the Kingdom of Iseland allegiances to George the Third tind Muito they down of Quet Bratan and Sector hat I came from Said brafs any more in the United State og at Boston in the Commonwealth of Mapachusety on the sound to get in hundred in the que of our the second to get in hundred and , and an more settled in the the det of the det the set the set of the det the set the set of the det in the det of the det and that I am deriver of bing a naturalized aligue of the United States Charlaberon January 4th 1820theigh fremmer I Heigh burn mis ky new michaet in Sharbstows in the landy of Middlers charille balances descroning hair naturalized and in order to tene a litigen of the limited that do make report of anycelf as letters namely, that I was been in the Town of the County of Syrone in Intand, and baptured of Bush burnerky, I am ney tenet age and and allegiam to the Wester hington of Grad Restar and bolond I in dente from and inform in dard bolon to the United that, and said Charlestown is the intended plan of my detterned mindenp f. cicking barting the

THE CUMMISKEY HOMESTEAD



HISTORICAL RESEARCH ENABLED THE TEAM TO IDENTIFY THE CUMMISKEY HOMESTEAD IN THE TOWNLAND OF CROSSAN, NEAR DROMORE IN COUNTY TYRONE

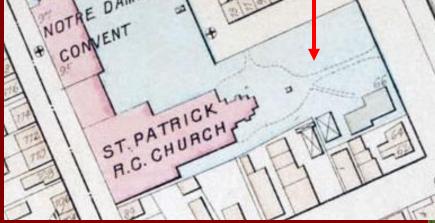
ST.PATRICK'S CHURCH, LOWELL

1st CHURCH CONSTRUCTED 1830-31

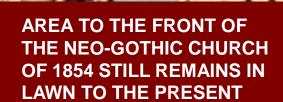
REBUILT IN 1854

1869: AREA TO FRONT OF CHURCH PURCHASED BY BISHOP OF BOSTON

1879: MAP SHOWS AREA AS LAWN







L.

Extract from

1850 map of

Schell

rdan

Contan

Lowell

THE 1850 MAP OF LOWELL SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, THE ONE-TIME PRESENCE OF A HOUSE BELONGING TO "REV McDERMOTT" IN THE AREA NOW OCCUPIED BY THE CHURCH LAWN

LOWELL SEASON 1 (AUGUST 2010)



B

(A)

Interpretation: (A) is a beaten clay floor, and (B) is the foundation trench for a sill-beam or for a foundation wall supporting the sill-beam of a timber house

TRENCH 2

The excavation exposed a level compact stony surface (Context 204) that extended across the area under investigation

Interpretation: This is a yard associated with the house located in Trench 1

REVEREND McDERMOTT'S HOUSE

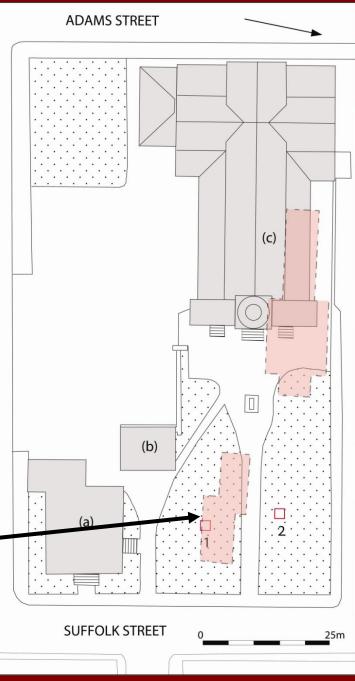
CARTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE INDICATES TRENCH 1 IS LOCATED OVER THE SOUTHERN SIDE-WALL OF THE HOUSE NOTED ON THE 1850 MAP AS THE PROPERTY OF Fr JAMES McDERMOTT, PARISH PRIEST, ORIGINALLY FROM MOHILL, COUNTY LEITRIM

THE PLOT HAD BEEN PURCHASED BY HIM IN 1847

Fr McDERMOTT DIES IN 1862 AND THE BISHOP PURCHASES THE PLOT IN 1869, AFTER WHICH THE SITE IS LAID OUT AS A LAWN

OUR HOUSE DATES TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1847 AND 1869



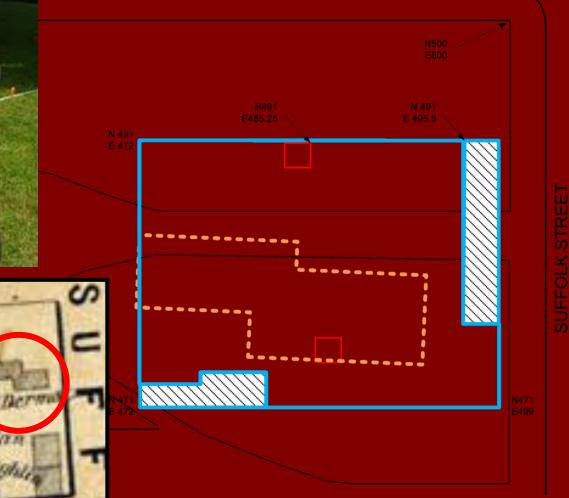




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GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY DAN LYNCH, UMASS AMHERST

GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY OF THE AREA WHERE Fr McDERMOTT'S HOUSE IS NOTED ON THE 1850 MAP



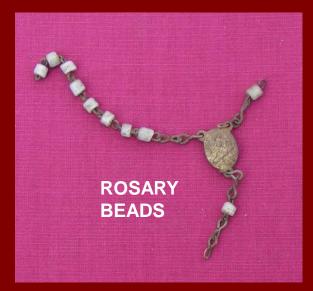
LOWELL, SEASON 2 (AUGUST 2011)

EXCAVATION IN AUGUST 2011 FOCUSED ON FURTHER EXCAVATION IN TRENCH 1 AND THE OPENING OF A NEW TRENCH (TRENCH 3) TO INVESTIGATE GEOPHYSICAL ANOMALY A:

FOUNDATION SLOT FOR THE SOUTHERN WALL OF Fr McDERMOTT'S HOUSE FULLY REVEALED

STONE COVER FOR A WATER CISTERN?

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THE EXCAVATIONS IN LOWELL HAVE RECOVERED AN ASSEMBLAGE OF OVER 1,500 ARTEFACTS OF 19th-CENTURY DATE

SHERD OF WINDOW GLASS





CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

MEDIA INTEREST IN MASSACHUSETTS



HOPING TO UNEARTH IRISH HISTORY, THEY'LL BE DIGGING AGAIN IN LOWELL

By Peter Schworm

n August 1822, some 30 Irish laborers walked north from Charlestown on the promise of steady work. They settled in came central to the city's creation, digging canals along the Merrimack River to power textle mills and the rise of a clothmaking cantial.

They lived in a shanty town and, as more of their countrymen joined them, built a wooden church beside their homes and named it St. Patrick. There, a rebuilt version of the 1831 church remains, its grounds all but untouched over the nearly two centuries since the settlement's founding.

Now, archeologists are poised to excavate the church lawn in search of clues to the early Irish settlement and how its inhabitants lived day to day in their new country, from the food hey at to the hearths they cooked over and the pipes they smoked. Starting next week, students at the University of Massachusetts Lowell will team up









IN MASSACHUSETTS 24% OF THE POPULATION (ROUGHLY 1.5 MILLION PEOPLE) REGISTERED THEIR ANCESTRY AS "IRISH" IN THE 2000 US CENSUS

CROSSAN, SEASON 1 (AUGUST 2011)

A TRANSATLANTIC EXCAVATION AND A TRANSATLANTIC CREW



THE EXCAVATION FOCUSED ON ESTABLISHING THE DEVELOPMENT SEQUENCE OF THE HOUSE. IT WAS SHOWN TO HAVE COMMENCED AS A BYRE-DWELLING, PROBABLY IN THE 18th CENTURY, WITH AN EXTENSION ADDED IN THE 19th CENTURY. THE HOUSE PASSED TO THE COLTON FAMILY (THROUGH MARRIAGE WITH THE CUMMISKEYS) IN THE 1870s AND WAS ABANDONED FOLLOWING A FIRE IN 1979



TRENCH 2: EXCAVATION AT ENTRANCE INTO ORIGINAL BYRE-DWELLING TRENCH 1: EXCAVATION OF FOUNDATION CUT FOR 19th-CENTURY EXTENSION

RECONNECTING WITH A TYRONE DIASPORA IN MASSACHUSETTS (Cummiskeys, McQuaids, McCuskers, McSorleys, McLaughlins, Murrays)

DAVE McKEAN (LEFT), PARISH ARCHIVIST AT ST. PATRICK'S, WITH JOHN McLAUGHLIN. JOHN'S GREAT-GREAT GRANDFATHER WAS DANIEL McLAUGHLIN FROM DROMORE, COUNTY TYRONE WHO CAME TO LOWELL AS ONE OF HUGH CUMMISKEY'S WORKERS