

**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 Brauhn, 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

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.

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 Queen'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.

Spring 2011

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.

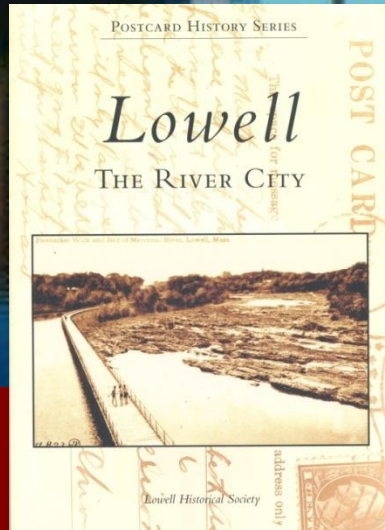
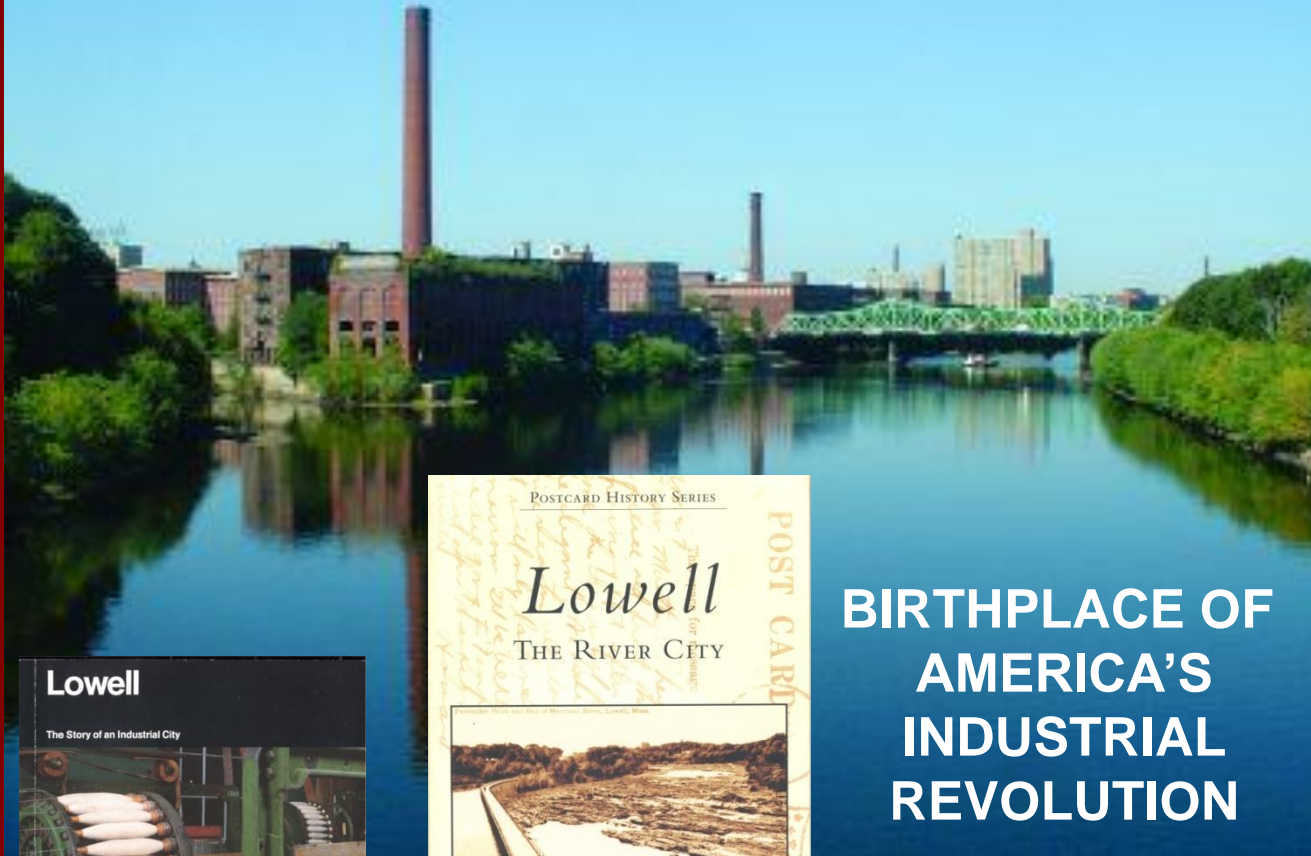
PROJECT ORIGINS

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

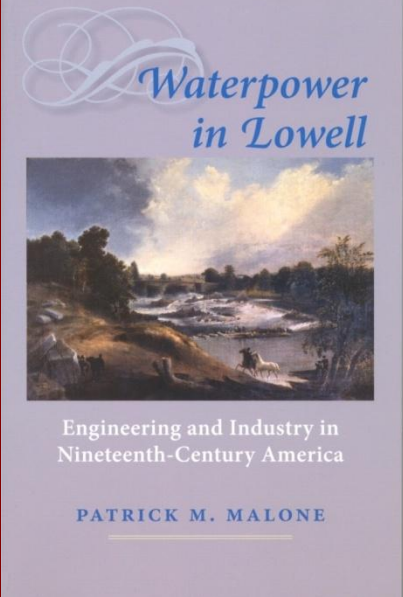
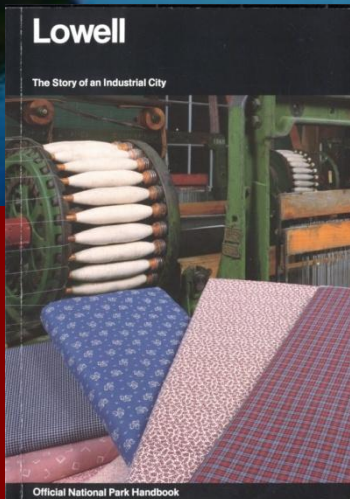
TO DATE, EXCAVATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN LOWELL (AUGUST 2010, AUGUST 2011) AND IN COUNTY TYRONE (AUGUST 2011)

LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS



**BIRTHPLACE OF
AMERICA'S
INDUSTRIAL
REVOLUTION**

**ESTABLISHED AS AN URBAN NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK IN 1978**



**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.**



THE CANAL WORKERS

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

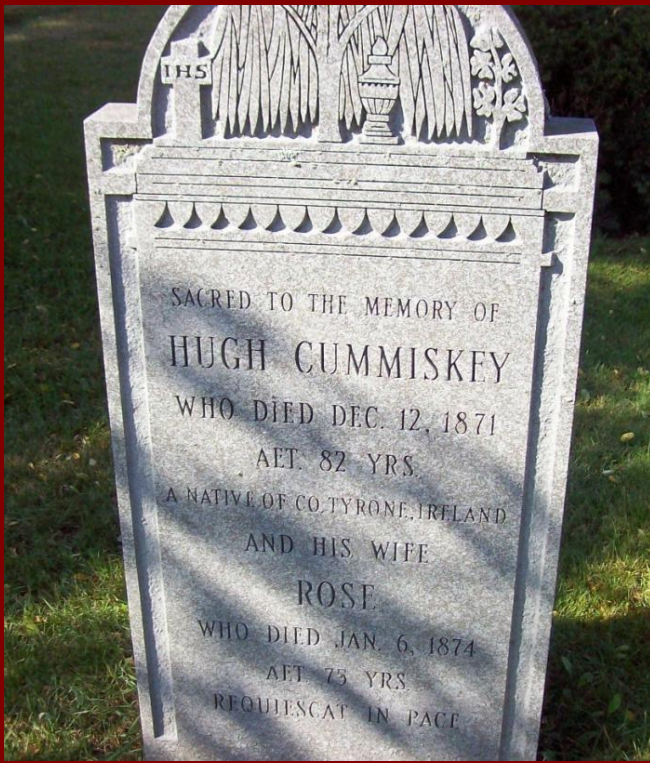
BUT NEEDED TO BRING THE WATER
TO THE MILLS BY MEANS OF CANALS.

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



HUGH CUMMISKEY PRIMARY LEADER OF THE IRISH IN LOWELL

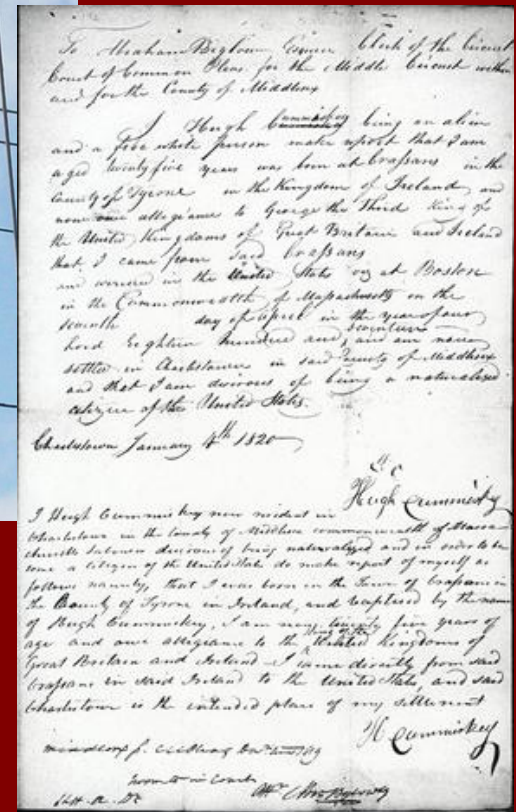
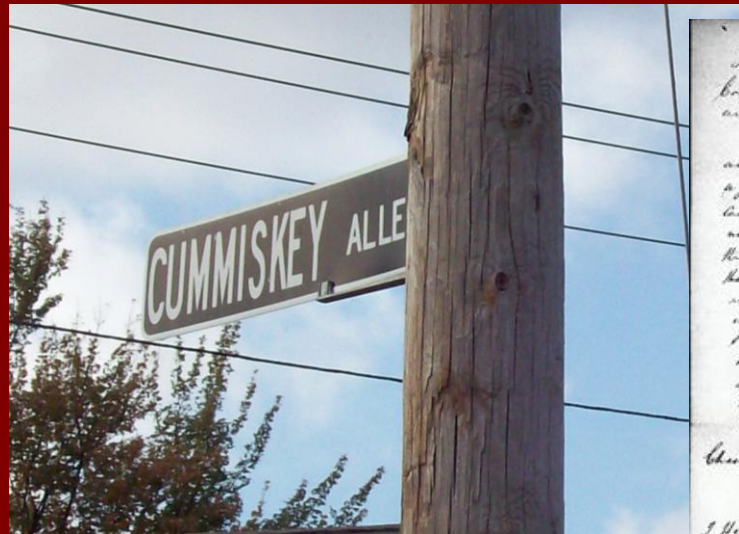
BORN ABOUT 1789 IN IRELAND AND MOVED TO BOSTON IN 1817 (28 YEARS OLD). WORKED AS CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN ON CHARLESTOWN DOCKS AT THE TERMINUS OF THE MIDDLESEX CANAL

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

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

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

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

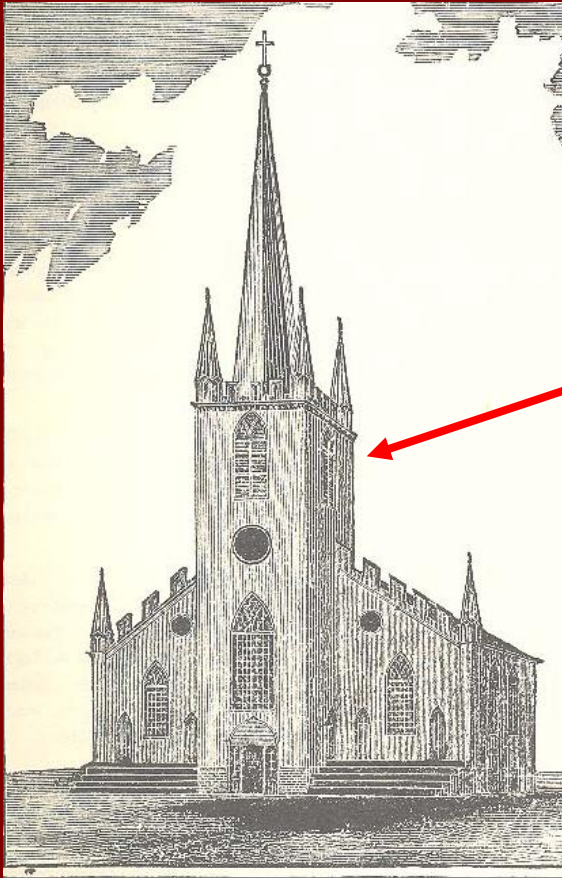


THE CUMMISKEY HOMESTEAD



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





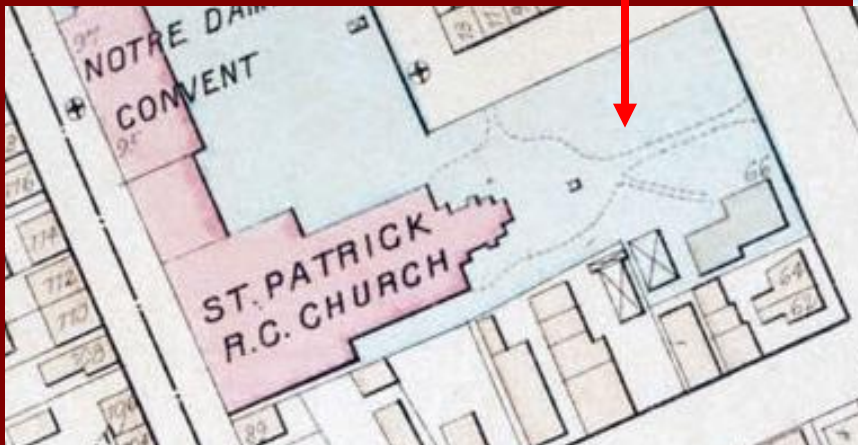
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH, LOWELL

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



Extract from
1850 map of
Lowell

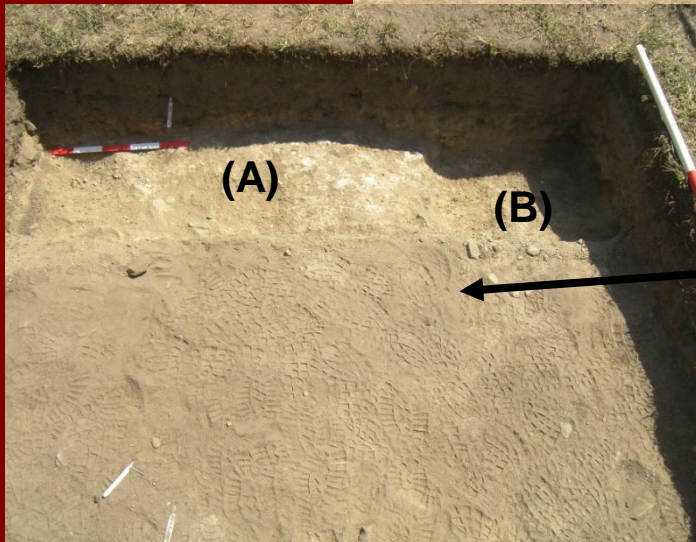


**AREA TO THE FRONT OF
THE NEO-GOTHIC CHURCH
OF 1854 STILL REMAINS IN
LAWN TO THE PRESENT**

**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)



TRENCH 1

The excavation revealed a compacted clay surface, Context 110, labelled (A), associated with a foundation trench, Context 109, labelled (B)

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

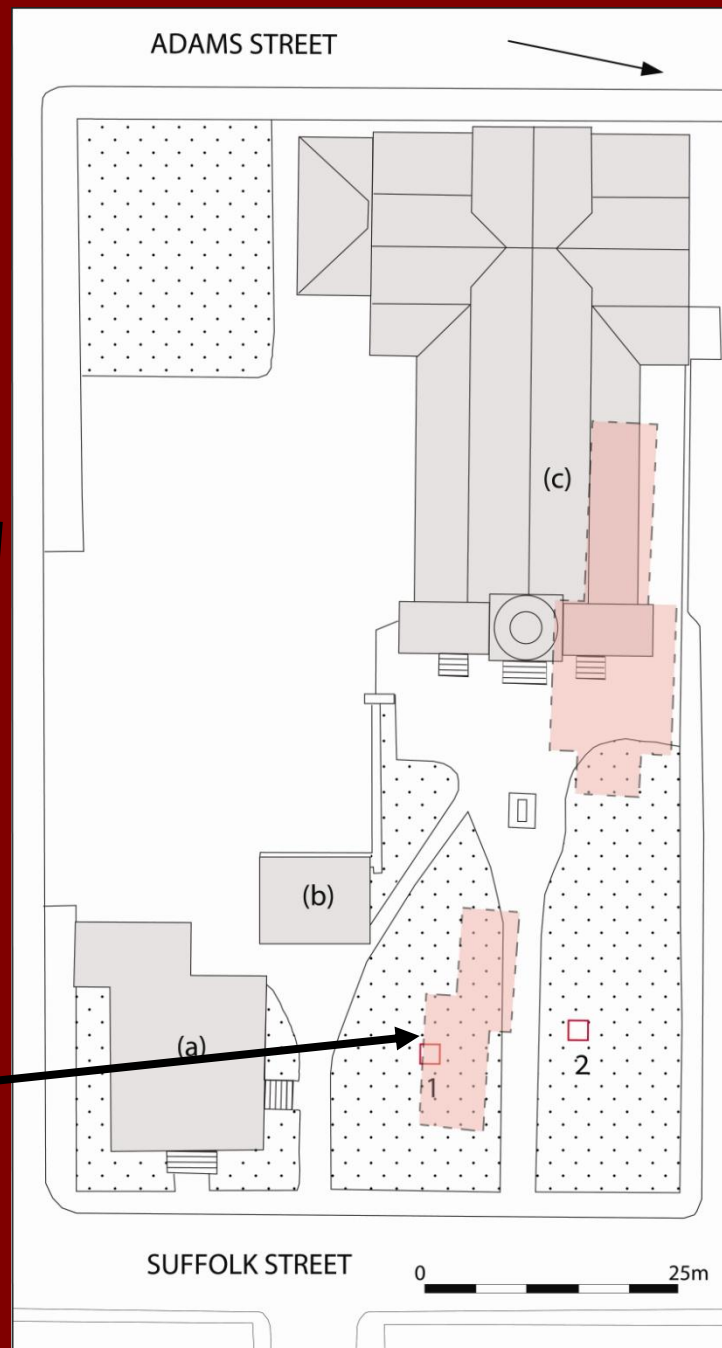
REVEREND McDERMOTT'S HOUSE

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

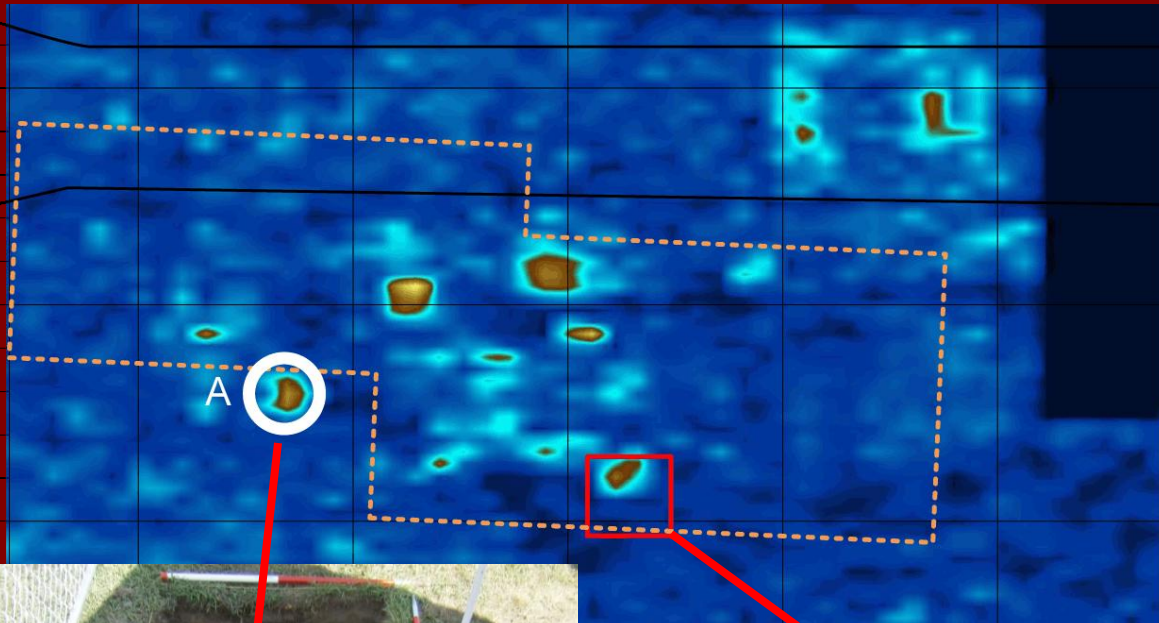
Fr McDERMOTT DIES IN 1862 AND THE BISHOP PURCHASES THE PLOT IN 1869, AFTER WHICH THE SITE IS LAID OUT AS A LAWN

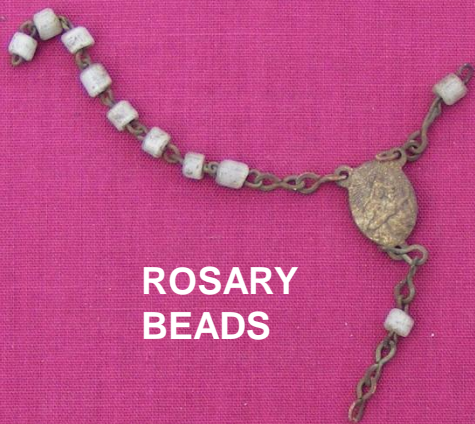
OUR HOUSE DATES TO THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1847 AND 1869



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:





**ROSARY
BEADS**



MARBLES



CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

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

SHERD OF WINDOW GLASS



**GLASS SHERD
FROM FRUIT JAR**

MEDIA INTEREST IN MASSACHUSETTS



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 (Cummiskey, 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 HIGH CUMMISKEY'S WORKERS