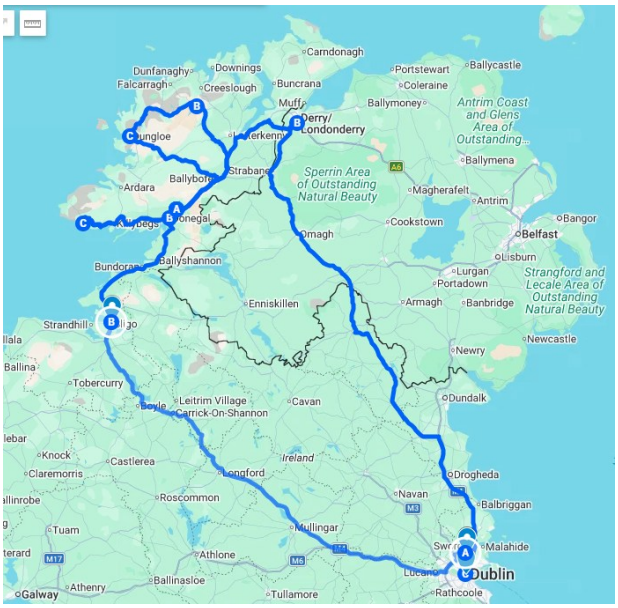
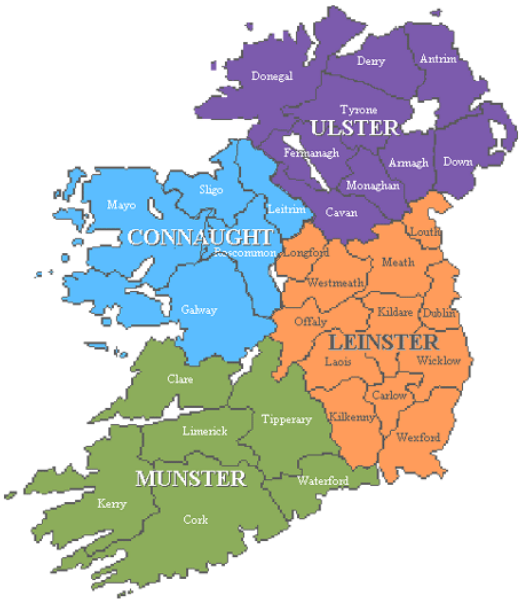
Fraser's Larry Kirwan Black 47 Ireland Tour Travelogue

October 15 – October 24, 2026





Overview Comments

We love Ireland! Pat's mom Gerry Rock (GG), the Rock family matriarch, had a lifelong desire to go to Ireland. In 2007 at 83 years of age she said, "Let's do it. My treat!" The trip came together quickly for 9 of us to join the adventure...5 Rocks (Gerry, Ginny, Kathy, Peggy, Pat) and 3 married-into's (Joe, Nora, Roger)…and one more, Ellie Bennett, Kathy's sister-in-law, timed her Ireland trip to correspond to ours. We flew into Shannon and did a counterclockwise loop of southern Ireland heading west to the Cliffs of Mohr, then south to Dingle and the Ring of Kerry, then east to Cork and back north visiting Tipperary, and Waterford before ending up in Dublin.

This trip, we traveled in three of the four historical provinces of Ireland in a northern loop. The four provinces correspond to the four major kingdoms that existed on the island around the 2nd century AD. In 2026 the four provinces have no administrative role but are used for rugby, Gaelic Football and Hurling (GAA), and cultural identity, hence **our driver/guide Patrick mentioned them frequently!**

- We started in Dublin in Leinster (east)
- We drove NorthWest to Sligo in Connaught (west)
- Continued North to Donegal and Derry in Ulster (north)
    - and returned to Dublin in Leinster
- The 4th province is Munster (south)

Leinster has 12 counties, the most counties of any province, but is the second smallest of the four Irish provinces by land area. With a population of 2.9M, it is the island's most populous province. Dublin is the only official city in the province and is by far its largest at 1.5M people.

Connacht with 5 counties is the smallest of the four Irish provinces both in terms of size and population. Galway is the only official city in the province.

Ulster with 3 Republic of Ireland counties and 11 Northern Ireland districts is the second-largest (after Munster) and second-most populous (after Leinster) of Ireland's four traditional provinces, with Belfast being its biggest city.

- Unlike the other provinces, **Ulster has a high percentage of Protestants**, making up almost half of its population.
- English is the main language in Ultser, but a many also speak Irish. There are Gaeltachtaí (Irish-speaking regions) in County Donegal which is home to a quarter of the total Gaeltacht population of the Republic of Ireland. There are also large Irish-speaking networks in Northern Ireland.

Phil Ternes, our brother-in-law/husband of Pat's sister Peggy, decided to celebrate his upcoming 70th birthday by touring Ireland with the frontman Larry Kirwan of his favorite Irish band, Black 47. Well, being that in 2026 are Pat and my 80th birthdays, we decided this was a very good idea to extend the celebration to include us as well!

Larry Kirwan has hosted an Ireland Tour annually for decades…each with a different itinerary. Hammond Tours (https://www.hammondtours.com/) created a fantastic Black 47 Tour for 120 people on 3 buses this year! With that many people the Tour went amazingly smooth! We had so many folks on the Tour because Larry wanted to be sure his "regulars" known as **"Crushers**" could come if they wanted….and come they did!

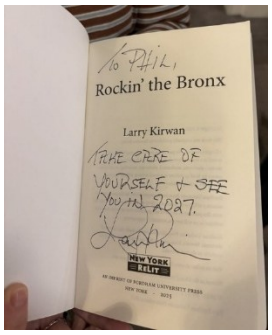
I spoke with several of them, some who had been following Larry and Black 47 for 20 years and had been on as many as 10 Tours with him! Each one told me how much they liked everything about Larry's Celtic Crush Sirius XM show and the music and found the man himself fascinating… after only a few days I started to see why. It was obvious he had many friends wherever we went.

Our Tour is featured on Larry's SiriusXM The Loft ch 710, Celtic Crush program with Larry interviewing Crushers while on the tour:

- **Celtic Crush Sunday Nov 1, 2026, 9:00AM** https://siriusxm.com/player/episode-audio/entity/1a6253de-40b6-f62c-4d1c-166e56fca5cf?utm_medium=shared our tour from Dublin to Donegal is covered.
  - **Larry's response to *"what's been your favorite Tour*" was remarkable!** He gave us a special insight into "Ireland's Peace Progress"…and much hope for the world. On recent trips to old haunts in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Larry has been able to *"NOT think of people in terms of which side, Catholic or Protestant. It's the first time in my life I could do that! Peace has changed people in one generation when I thought it would take at least three generations!"*

    Yeats was right, **"…things fall apart, the center cannot hold…"**

- **Celtic Crush Sunday Dec 6 9:00AM** show will feature our tour from Donegal to Derry and back to Dublin.



Ten of Peggy and Phil's family and friends went on this journey…Kathy Bennett, Mary Pat and Brian Coughlin, Mary Beth Enright, Pat and Roger Fraser, Terri Hilger, Therese Kelly, Kathy and Joe McLaughlin...unbelievably, WITHOUT Peggy and Phil! In August Phil had some heart complications that derailed their travel plans…fortunately treatments have him recovering slowly but surely.

We all kept in contact with Peggy and Phil during the Tour (see My Favorites)…and our group bonded into their extended family as only a special trip like this can do. As Larry Kirwan himself told Phil, *"Take care of yourself & see you in 2027."* We will be blessed to have many more journeys together, of this, I am sure!

Black 47, an American Celtic rock band from New York City, formed in 1989 by Larry Kirwan and Chris Byrne, derived its name from a traditional term for the summer of 1847, the worst year of the Great Famine in Ireland. Associated with Irish republicanism and left-wing politics, the band was considered a forerunner to Flogging Molly and Dropkick Murphys. The band broke up in 2014.

Phil Got to know the Black 47 years ago when they played at the annual Chicago Gaelic Park Irish Festival, near his Oak Forest home where their kids grew up. Irish Fest brings together the best in Irish music from America, Canada and Europe featuring as many as 40 musical acts, free parking, Irish import stores and Irish Step Dance Competition.

Irish Fest is a euphoric journey to the Emerald Isle, where the air will be filled with the enchanting tunes of Celtic music and the rhythm of dancing feet. This weekend-long extravaganza is lined up with an unprecedented ensemble of Irish bands, dance schools, and artists who will bring the true essence of Irish culture to the forefront.

Larry Kirwan

I found Larry Kirwan to be a complex man, but not that complicated…if that makes sense. Talking with him and doing a little bit of research expanded my understanding greatly. **I trust the online sources were more fact than myth.**



For years Phil has listened to the SiriusXM program The Loft on Sundays. It's an exploration of old and new Irish music from artists like Van Morrison, The Chieftains, The Pogues, Sinead O'Connor, the Dropkick Murphys...and, the program "Celtic Crush with Larry Kirwan"….

June 4, 2026: *"I regret to inform you that SiriusXM, in its "wisdom", is now only featuring Celtic Crush on the first Sunday of every month. Upcoming show this Sunday (Top 100 Crusher Countdown) June 7, then July 5, August 2, and so on and so forth and so fifth. Celtic Crush is hosted by Larry Kirwan on SiriusXM The Loft, Ch. 710 Sun 9am, Tues 9pm, and Wed Midnight ET. 8 full Celtic Crush shows are always available on the SiriusXM App."*

Larry's background blends Irish heritage, political and civil rights activism, and a multifaceted creative career in music, literature, and theatre, making him a prominent figure in the Irish-American cultural landscape, On our Tour I heard and sensed him to be a man of deep faith when he talked with

us…but not in traditional Catholic churchy ways. He is a man with a huge heart for the marginalized, the underdogs, the poor and disadvantaged, the hated, the oppressed, the needy, the hopeless, the sick, the abused, the vulnerable, the innocent, the immigrants, the refugees, the undocumented, the homeless, the LGBTQ and the Irish, who runs at one speed to change the world for the better: ALL IN!

Larry told us he was born in 1957 in Wexford, IR and lived most of his life in New York City, USA. He spent much of his childhood raised in the home of his maternal grandfather, Thomas Hughes, in a drafty old house in Wexford town. Hughes, born in 1880, held firm beliefs in Irish folklore, including ghosts, banshees, and púca, while embodying an ardent republican outlook that criticized Michael Collins for betraying Northern Catholics through the 1921 treaty.

This intergenerational proximity to figures who had lived through the Irish War of Independence (1919–1921) and its aftermath instilled early awareness of nationalist politics and historical grievances, including local sensitivities around groups like the IRA.

Kirwan's family dynamics reflected contrasting influences from both parental lines. His paternal grandfather, Lar Kirwan, operated as a prosperous cattle dealer with a farm outside Wexford town, favoring practical pursuits like racehorse betting over superstition, while his paternal grandmother, Maggie, attributed souls to all living things. His father worked as an ocean-going sailor, returning from South American voyages with exposure to tango and calypso, which blended with Wexford's pervasive local folk music and storytelling traditions that echoed through the streets and into the Slaney River. These elements fostered Kirwan's initial immersion in oral histories, rural customs like the Wren Boys' St. Stephen's Day rituals, and a cultural milieu where the boundary between the living and supernatural felt thin, particularly in remote farmhouses.

Post-World War II Ireland's economic stagnation, characterized by limited industrial growth and high unemployment in rural areas like Wexford, contributed to familial discussions of opportunity abroad, though Kirwan remained in Ireland through his formative years. The working-class ethos of maritime labor in his father's profession underscored household resilience amid such conditions, priming an appreciation for emigration as a pragmatic response to hardship without immediate personal application.

Kirwan attended local national schools in Wexford, beginning with convent-run nurseries before transferring, around age seven following his First Communion, to a boys' national school operated by the Christian Brothers. The curriculum emphasized Irish language (Gaelic), history, and literature as core components, reflecting the post-independence Irish educational system's focus on national identity and cultural revival initiated in the early 20th century under figures like Douglas Hyde and the Gaelic League. This structured exposure laid foundational knowledge of Ireland's anti-British colonial past, including events like the 1798 Rebellion in Wexford, fostering an early intellectual grounding in empirical historical narratives rather than idealized folklore.

Musically, Kirwan's influences emerged from Wexford's pervasive traditional ballad culture, where local pubs and community gatherings featured sean-nós singing and folk repertoires ubiquitous in southeast Ireland during the mid-20th century. A pivotal encounter occurred at age 18 while performing in a Wexford pub, when musicologist Jack O'Leary, a former sailor and collector of Irish tunes, joined him in harmonizing the obscure ballad "Donna, Donna," marking the start of a mentorship that deepened Kirwan's appreciation for authentic Irish melodic structures and lyrical storytelling. O'Leary's encyclopedic knowledge of ballads, drawn from oral traditions and cross-channel travels, encouraged Kirwan to prioritize unadorned, narrative-driven songs over commercialized variants.

These elements converged to shape Kirwan's political awareness, rooted in school-taught accounts of British colonial rule and Ireland's independence struggle, which highlighted causal factors like economic exploitation and failed reforms rather than mythic heroism. This context, amid the lingering effects of the 1922-1923 Civil War and economic stagnation, instilled a realist view of power dynamics, influencing his later artistic lens without romanticizing cultural nationalism.

Kirwan immigrated to the United States from Ireland at the age of 25 (or 16 or 19 depending on the source), departing Wexford amid disillusionment with the country's stagnant political landscape and the dominant role of the Catholic Church in daily life.

He initially settled in Manhattan's East Village, a rundown area attracting artists, immigrants, and transients during New York City's severe fiscal crisis, which peaked with near-bankruptcy in 1975 and unemployment rates exceeding 10 percent citywide.

As part of the wave of Irish emigrants arriving in the 1970s…many undocumented and seeking manual labor amid Ireland's economic stagnation…Kirwan encountered poverty, cramped living conditions, and cultural dislocation in a metropolis plagued by soaring crime (with over 2,000 murders annually by mid-decade) and decaying infrastructure. He adapted by taking entry-level survival jobs, including work at Greenwich Village establishments like the Bells of Hell, while navigating the tight knit but precarious Irish immigrant networks in bars and construction sites that sustained thousands from home.

This period of grit and reinvention in the East Village's ethnic enclaves, where Irish arrivals often clustered amid broader immigrant flux, provided Kirwan foundational exposure to New York's raw energy, contrasting sharply with Ireland's conservatism and laying groundwork for his personal resilience without immediate professional breakthroughs.

Kirwan partnered with fellow Wexford native Pierce Turner to form the duo Turner & Kirwan of Wexford shortly after immigrating, initially performing in local venues while experimenting with musical styles. In December 1973, the duo played as the inaugural act at CBGB music pub's opening night, securing an early foothold in the East Village's raw rock and punk ecosystem despite later being among the few bands banned from the venue for rowdy shows! The pair released two albums, Blast of Glass in 1977 and Absolutely and Completely in 1978, which featured a fusion of traditional Irish folk, progressive rock, and emerging punk influences. From 1978 to 1979, Turner & Kirwan of Wexford served as the house band at Malachy McCourt's Bells of Hell pub in Greenwich Village, where their performances attracted sizable crowds and honed Kirwan's stage presence amid New York's Irish expatriate circles.

These pursuits involved targeted experimentation with integrating Irish melodic traditions into electric rock formats, often performed in intimate East Village dives that fostered connections with Irish-American musicians and broader countercultural networks. Kirwan's gigs during this era, including residencies in the North Bronx and Village spots, emphasized high-energy sets that blended cultural roots with urban grit, building foundational skills in songwriting and performance adaptation.

Black 47 was formed in 1989 in New York City by Larry and Chris Byrne, a New York City police officer engaged with Irish republican causes.

The band's name derives from 1847, the deadliest year of the Great Irish Famine (1845–1852), during which approximately one million Irish died from starvation and disease amid British policy failures. Larry handled lead vocals, guitar, and most songwriting, with the initial lineup including Byrne on tin

whistle and bodhrán; the group evolved through multiple personnel changes over its lifespan, incorporating elements of Celtic folk, rock, rap, reggae, and punk to create a distinctive Irish-American sound addressing themes of Irish history, politics, urban New York life, and immigrant struggles.

The band's first performance occurred in October 1989 at a Bronx venue, marking the start of a rigorous touring schedule. The band gained traction with its self-released, eponymous debut EP in 1992, followed by signing to a major label for the full-length Fire of Freedom later that year, produced by Ric Ocasek of The Cars, which re-recorded and expanded material from the EP.

Songs like "Funky Ceili" and "James Connolly" blended high-energy instrumentation with lyrics critiquing colonialism, labor struggles, and Northern Ireland's Troubles, resonating during the 1990s Celtic music revival spurred by acts like The Pogues and events such as Riverdance.

Black 47 built a dedicated fanbase through relentless live performances, delivering approximately 2,500 shows across the U.S. and beyond over 25 years, often in Irish pubs, theaters, and festivals, while appearing on major TV programs and securing airplay on alternative radio. This grassroots approach, combined with commercial releases on labels like SBK/EMI, propelled the band from East Village clubs to headlining status in the Irish-American rock scene, though it remained niche without mainstream pop chart dominance.

Black 47 announced its disbandment in 2013, concluding with a final album, Last Call, and a farewell tour, performing its last show in November 2014—precisely 25 years after the debut gig—Larry had put the idea to break up the band to the other members, but all agreed with no internal conflicts to the collective decision to end on a high note.

The band's legacy endures as a pioneering force in Celtic rock, fostering cultural pride among Irish diaspora communities through unapologetic, politically charged music that prioritized authenticity over commercial conformity.

Following the disbandment of Black 47 in 2014, Kirwan shifted focus to solo performances that blended his rock roots with narrative elements drawn from Irish history and personal storytelling. He developed "Ireland – A History in Song," a book/a one-man multimedia show/a musical premiered around 2017, which interweaves over 25 original and traditional songs with historical commentary spanning Ireland's past from medieval times to modern emigration waves. The production, performed at venues including Bergen Community College in 2019 and Wexford Arts Centre in 2025, emphasizes causal connections between events like the Famine and revolutionary struggles, delivered through acoustic guitar, vocals, and projected visuals for audiences of 200–500.

Kirwan's solo live tradition includes annual St. Patrick's Day celebrations under formats like "Larry Kirwan and Friends," reviving Black 47's high-energy style with guest musicians in rock-fusion sets. A 2016 Times Square event drew crowds for its mix of comedy, traditional tunes, and rock covers, receiving praise for electric energy and eclectic lineups featuring acts like Barleyjuice. Subsequent shows at venues such as O'Neill's Irish Pub in 2019 and Bronx hotspots in 2025 maintained this format.

Earlier solo efforts laid groundwork for this evolution, including the 1998 release of Kilroy Was Here, Kirwan's first adult-oriented album outside Black 47, featuring raw rock tracks infused with Irish punk influences and themes of urban struggle, produced independently and distributed via small labels. That year also saw Keltic Kids, a children's album adapting folk-rock for young listeners with educational lyrics on Irish heritage.

Post-2014, while no full-length studio albums emerged, Kirwan's performances increasingly prioritized historical storytelling over pure rock, as evidenced by setlists in "Ireland – A History in Song" that repurpose Black 47 songs for contextual depth, earning acclaim for authenticity in reviews from Irish-American outlets.

Always a political activist and writer in some form, Larry is an Irish Echo columnist and was president of Irish American Writers & Artists for five years. In 2022 he received their Eugene O'Neill Lifetime Achievement Award.

Larry has written 3 novels including Rockaway Blue 2021, Liverpool Fantasy 2023 and Rockin' The Bronx 2025; a memoir, Green Suede Shoes 2005; and A History of Irish Music 2015. He collaborated with Thomas Keneally (Schindler's List) on the musical Transport for which he wrote music and lyrics. It was produced at The Irish Repertory Theatre (directed by Tony Walton). His political thriller Rebel in the Soul was also produced at "The Rep."

Larry has written and collaborated on 19 plays and musicals. In 2022 he received a Tony nomination for co-writing the book for Broadway musical Paradise Square. The play follows the frequenters of a Five Points neighborhood saloon in Manhattan during the American Civil War, including the Black woman who owns it, a conflicted newly arrived Irish immigrant, a freedom seeker, and a once-great songwriter.

Black 47, Mr. Kirwan noted, was heavily influenced by Five Points, the mid-19th-century immigrant slum in Lower Manhattan, where Irish and African-American people bonded over their mutual struggles. Thus, his band's music had "Irish melodies on the top and African-American beats on the bottom," he said.

Mr. Kirwan's 2012 musical, "Hard Times," also featured this eclectic music. "I took the music and story of American amalgamation and turned it into a musical about hope, inclusion and identity," he explained, adding that the production featured two oppressed communities: African-Americans, who were former slaves, and the Irish, who escaped the Great Hunger (the Irish Potato Famine).

Green Suede Shoes, Larry's primary autobiography, published in 2005, chronicles his emigration from Ireland to New York City in the 1970s, the formation and trials of Black 47, and broader reflections on Irish diaspora experiences amid political turmoil like the Troubles. The memoir draws on personal anecdotes, such as gigging in Bronx bars during economic hardship and navigating band interpersonal conflicts, grounded in specific events like the 1981 Hunger Strikes influencing his songwriting. It critiques romanticized Irish-American narratives by emphasizing raw economic migration drivers over cultural mythos, using first-hand accounts of 1980s New York Irish enclaves marked by poverty and IRA fundraising debates.

Black 47 Green Suede Shows - From car crashes to shootings | IrishCentral.com

"...Now usually after a gig, we're in great form and whooping it up in the van and this was no exception. Kevin Jenkins, our bass player, was in a rare mood and regaling us with stories of life on the road. Around Lyme, CT. the snow hit and we slowed down. The talk had turned to favorite bands and T Rex was mentioned. We were trying to remember how Mark Bolan met his Maker when all of a sudden Chris shouted, "Look out!" and we were flying around the van, as it hit the intersection, rolled over on its side, straightened up and turned over one more time into the ditch.

Like idiots, we didn't have our belts on and we floated around that van like rag dolls in a surreal rugby scrum. I ended upside down with Kevin's considerable black ass lying astride me. It was a scary few seconds that seemed to go on indefinitely. As we tried to right ourselves, I was sure my neck was broken. We were all bruised and battered as we tried to crawl out. At that moment, a car came slithering round the bend, hit us full on and we were thrown around once again, for good luck.

Finally, we did get out into the snow. Discombobulated but practical as ever, Fred grabbed a case of Guinness, seeking to hide the evidence, but it was too late. The other two cases were exploding like geysers on good old 95. With cars and trucks careening around the corner, we lit out for the hills.

What a sight! Jenkins looked like an Old Testament Prophet, the snow settling on his dreads. Hammy was searching frantically for his glasses. I met a dazed Fred hiding his case of Guinness up in the woods (I guess it's still there if the thirst ever hits you in CT.).

The troopers were on the scene instantly and we couldn't figure it - later we realized that we'd crashed almost on their front lawn. And yes, one of them was a Black 47 fan, as the song says, and uttered the immortal lines, "it's a pleasure to meet you, Black 47!"

The van was wrecked, the windows smashed, glass everywhere. We were taken into the hospital. My neck wasn't broken, but ribs badly bruised (I felt pain until the following September). And eventually, we took the commuter train home to NYC. What a sight! The six of us, battered, moaning, exhausted and depressed, mingling with the rush hour commuters."

"...It was the encore, the lights were flashing, the crowd was going crazy, the dance floor pulsing and we were doing Maria's Wedding. Suddenly, there was a strange smell - rather like too many firecrackers going off at once. I never heard the sound, although others say they did. Someone came out on stage and said something to me. I just smiled back. Then another person ran out, looking very worried. You have to remember that this is something that often happens when the crowd gets going and the mosh pit is erupting. Management, promoters, owners always seem to want to throw their weight around. But, from my perspective, once we hit that stage, we are the ones in control. The show goes on, no matter what, and no one but us is going to stop it!

Finally, Josh Cheuse came out. Now he is a close friend - he designed the covers of Home of the Brave and many of The Clash albums - and someone I trust. He looked shocked and had blood all over his clothes. At that point, I knew something had gone terribly wrong but the audience was still jumping around to the song. He said there had been a shooting on the balcony right next to him and I definitely became fearful. Ever since the British gutter press had pronounced us "the musical wing of the IRA," we had been wary of some kind of attack.

But, to my dismay, I could see that the side-exit doors of the Academy were not, as yet, open. I knew that if we stopped playing suddenly there would be a rush for the small front door – and that would have been catastrophic on that particular packed night. I told Josh that we couldn't leave the stage until the management opened the side doors. And so we played on for another couple of exceedingly long minutes.

Now everything looked ominous - particularly the balcony - and the smell of cordite was cutting right through the fumes of Guinness. Eventually, after the side doors were opened the lights came up. We finished the song, in an orderly manner, and people filed out onto the street unaware of the drama that had just happened above them. It was some minutes later before we found out that an off-duty member

of the NYPD had accidentally shot himself, and that members of our families had been wounded in the shooting!"

On this link, also read the first five installments of this series here:

- *Black 47 lead singer Larry Kirwan looks back on the band's history: "Home of the Brave"*
- *Making Irish republican records when Sinn Féin were still pariahs - The creation of "Black 47"*
- *Stirring up a "Fire of Freedom" with the Black 47*
- *Mistakes are easy to spot in hindsight: Larry Kirwan on how Black 47 first dealt with fame*
- *"The most difficult album I've ever been involved with" - When Black 47's fortunes failed*

Please see the attached **Appendices A & B – Larry Kirwan BLACK 47/CELTIC CRUSH Newsletters**

While on the Tour, Larry commented his wife June was shot during a concert…I had to know more about this tragic event!



Mar 17, 1996 Stunned friends and co-workers sought to understand the death of a young city cop who inexplicably shot himself during a rock concert.

"I couldn't believe it," said Officer Sandy Favuzzi, 39, who worked with 22-year-old Officer Christopher Gargan in the Manhattan Traffic Task Force. Gargan appeared entirely untroubled, Favuzzi said. "He was an all-around, all-American boy a clean-cut kid, very nice, very well-spoken, very funny. Everybody liked him."

But Gargan was "extremely drunk" at Saturday night's Black 47 concert at The Academy on W. 43d St., police said. "We do believe alcohol played a part in this," said police spokesman Tom Kelly. "To what extent we are not sure."

Ironically, Gargan fired a bullet into his head just after a song in which the audience chanted "Don't Do It!" en masse along with the raucous Irish cult group, Black 47, one of the city's favorite bar bands.

In the song, "Maria's Wedding," the crowd response was to lead singer Larry Kirwan's humorous pledge to find work. "We're singing about a guy threatening to get a job the worst thing I could fathom," Kirwan said.

Gargan, a Long Island native who joined the NYPD in 1994 after serving for one year as a volunteer firefighter, had just transferred from the traffic division to a coveted job at the Midtown South Precinct in Manhattan. He completed his first tour there Friday.

Saturday night, seated in the balcony during the band's encore, police said, Gargan suddenly pulled his 9-mm. Glock service pistol. His friend urged him to put it away, but Gargan put the gun to his head and fired once into his temple.

The bullet passed through his skull, then ripped through the hand of a woman sitting nearby 36-year-old Sharon Wormworth, wife of Black 47's tour manager and finally lodged in the hip of June Anderson, Kirwan's 43-year-old wife.

Kirwan said the band knew at once that something was wrong in the balcony. "I heard people screaming, and I thought they might be shooting at the stage," he said. "We kept playing, not out of callousness but so there wouldn't be a stampede. We thought that was the responsible thing to do. "The

police came in and started leading people out of there," he said. "They kept the situation under control."

Anderson said she never saw Gargan shoot the bullet that slammed into her side. "They had just finished playing 'Maria's Wedding,' a real happy song, and I was watching Larry," she said. "Next thing, I feel this tremendous explosion in my stomach. I didn't know I had been shot." Oblivious to the bedlam around her, Anderson stumbled down the balcony steps to the box office area. "Two women, either cops or security officers, tore my clothes off and I saw all this blood and I couldn't quite believe that I had been shot," she said. "I could wiggle my toes, so I knew I wasn't that bad. It was so strange."

A Brief History of Ireland

It was impossible to escape the history of Ireland while on the Black 47 Tour…we were immersed in it from our first day arriving in Dublin. It became obvious Ireland's history was closely tied to America's history.

> ***For example, the American term "hillbilly" most likely emerged in the late 1800s*** *to describe rural Appalachian people of Scots-Irish descent, blending older slang with the region's geography. The word's components point to several influences from British and American slang traditions:*
>
> - *"Hill" — a straightforward reference to the mountainous regions of Appalachia and, later, the Ozarks.*
> - *"Billy" — often linked to the common Scots-Irish name William, and possibly to the term "Billy boys," used for supporters of King William III in 17th-century Ulster.*
>
> *Between the 1700s and early 1800s, large numbers of Scots-Irish settlers moved into the Appalachian Mountains. They brought: a tradition of clan-based rural life, fiddle and ballad music, distinctive speech patterns, and a preference for isolated homesteads.*
>
> *By the late 19th century, journalists and outsiders began using "hillbilly" to describe these communities, often emphasizing their geographic isolation rather than any specific cultural trait.*
>
> *Today, many people view "hillbilly" as a derogatory term, though some Appalachian residents have reclaimed it in cultural or artistic contexts. Scholars emphasize that Appalachian communities have rich traditions, a long history of craftsmanship, music, and storytelling, and a complex social and economic history shaped by geography, industry, and migration. The term's evolution reflects more about outsider perceptions than the lived reality of the people it labels.*

And, we repeatedly heard several key **names of Irish heroes** throughout the trip:

Until recently, the earliest evidence of human activity in Ireland was dated at 12,500 years ago, demonstrated by a butchered bear bone found in a cave in County Clare. In 2021, a reindeer bone with chop marks found in the early 1900's at Castlepook Cave near Doneraile, County Cork was dated to 33,000 years ago.

How and when the island became Celtic has been debated for a century, with the migrations of the Celts being one of the more enduring themes of archaeological and linguistic studies. The long-standing

traditional view is that the Celtic language, Ogham script and culture were brought to Ireland by waves of invading or migrating Celts from mainland Europe.

The names Ireland and Éire both derive from Old Irish Ériu, which in turn comes from Proto-Celtic meaning 'fertile soil'. The Classical Latin name for the island of Ireland, Ivernia, also comes from this same root, and it remains a popular, poetic synonym for the island, usually Hibernia, under the influence of hibernum, the Latin word for 'winter'. The Romans referred to Ireland by its Latinized name, **Hibernia**, and later also used the term Scotia.

Ireland continued as a patchwork of rival kingdoms; however, beginning in the 7th century, a concept of national kingship gradually became articulated through the concept of a High King of Ireland. Ptolemy records 16 tribes and nations inhabiting every part of Ireland in 100 AD.

The Chronicle of Ireland (the modern name for a collection of church annals recording events in Ireland from 400 to 911 AD) records that in 431, Bishop Palladius arrived in Ireland on a mission from Pope Celestine I to minister to the Irish "already believing in Christ". The same chronicle records that Saint Patrick, Ireland's best known patron saint, arrived the following year.

From the 9th century, waves of Viking raiders plundered Irish monasteries and towns. These raids added to a pattern of raiding and endemic warfare that was already deep-seated in Ireland. The Vikings were involved in establishing most of the major coastal settlements in Ireland: Dublin, Limerick, Cork, Wexford, Waterford, as well as other smaller settlements

In the 12th century the Norman invasion reorganized territories in Ireland, but provinces remained cultural divisions. From the mid-14th century, after the Black Death, Norman settlements in Ireland went into a period of decline. The Norman rulers and the Gaelic Irish elites intermarried and the areas under Norman rule became Gaelicised. In some parts, a hybrid Hiberno-Norman culture emerged. In response, the Irish parliament passed the Statutes of Kilkenny in 1367. These were a set of laws designed to prevent the assimilation of the Normans into Irish society by requiring English subjects in Ireland to speak English, follow English customs and abide by English law.

By the end of the 15th century, central English authority in Ireland had all but disappeared, and a renewed Irish culture and language, albeit with Norman influences, was again dominant. English Crown control remained relatively unshaken in an amorphous foothold around Dublin known as The Pale (hence the term ***"beyond the Pale**."*),

The title of King of Ireland was re-created in 1542 by Henry VIII, King of England, of the Tudor dynasty. English rule was reinforced and expanded in Ireland during the latter part of the 16th century, leading to the Tudor conquest of Ireland. A near-complete conquest was achieved by the turn of the 17th century, following the **Nine Years' War** and the **Flight of the Earls.**

- ## 1798-1913 The Rebel Tradition

The "Rebel Tradition" in Ireland refers to a continuous insurrection against the British Crown in what was then the separate, but subordinate, Kingdom of Ireland. The legacy of resistance and political activism from the **1798 United Irishmen rebellion** through the **Land War, Home Rule movement**, and beyond, culminated in the 1913 Lockout and the rise of Sinn Féin.

The Irish Rebellion of 1798 was a popular insurrection against British rule, organized mainly by the Society of United Irishmen, which sought Catholic emancipation, parliamentary reform, and an independent Irish republic. Inspired by the American and French Revolutions, it united Protestants and Catholics in a non-sectarian, democratic movement. Although ultimately suppressed, it was a pivotal moment that inspired later generations of Irish nationalists.

The Robert Emmet Rebellion of 1803 was a smaller but symbolic attempt to renew the 1798 uprising. In the mid-19th century, **Daniel O'Connell** led the Catholic Association and the "Peasant Rebellion" of 1848, continuing the tradition of mass political mobilization

The Land War (1879–1882) was a campaign by the Irish National Land League to secure fair rent and land tenure. It was a direct continuation of the 1798 tradition of agrarian resistance, blending political agitation with rural mobilization.

By the early 20th century, the "Rebel Tradition" had evolved into the **Home Rule** movement and the Irish Republican movement. **The 1913 Lockout** — a major industrial dispute in which the Irish Transport and General Workers' Union (ITGWU) and the Irish Transport Workers' Association (ITWA) struck against the Dublin Corporation — was both a labor and political act, reflecting the same spirit of resistance that had begun in 1798.

From the United Irishmen to the 1913 Lockout, the "Rebel Tradition" was defined by political unity across sectarian lines (1798 United Irishmen), Agrarian and labor activism (Land War, Lockout), Nationalist aspirations for Irish self-government or independence. And Mass mobilization and symbolic acts of resistance. This tradition shaped Irish identity and political culture, influencing the 1916 Easter Rising, the Irish War of Independence, and the eventual partition of Ireland in 1921.

In short: The "Rebel Tradition" is the enduring thread of Irish resistance and reform from 1798 through 1913, rooted in the United Irishmen's vision and sustained by later movements for land, labor, and national self-determination.

- ## 1845-1852 An Gorta Mór (the "Great Hunger")



From the America magazine article, Finding my ancestors on a famine walk through Ireland - America Magazine :

"Many Americans know about the 19th-century famine that turned Ireland inside out. Whether we learned about it in school or from family stories, we understand the failure of the potato crop as a catastrophic event that shaped not only Ireland but America itself, as the Irish were forced to flee their homes in droves. More than 38 million Americans claim Irish ancestry; over half are Irish Catholics whose families emigrated as a result of the famine.

Known as An Gorta Mór (the "Great Hunger") in Irish, the famine is often discussed in terms of Ireland's overreliance on the potato as a food source and the misfortune of the blight that decimated its crops starting in 1845.

We tend to speak less about England's negligent response or the tons of food grown in Ireland that was exported to Britain even as Irish families starved. We do not always know or remember that Ireland was already reeling from centuries of foreign occupation before the first potato ever went black.

The failure of the potato crop was simply the last straw and brought Irish suffering to a fever pitch. In the seven years of the famine (1845-52), one million people died and more than two million (or a quarter of Ireland's population) emigrated to Canada, England, Australia—but most of all, to the United States. This trend continued for 50 years, so that, by 1901, Ireland's population had been halved. No county was left untouched, though the situation was particularly dire in the south and west, where 90 percent of the population relied on the potato to feed themselves."

- ## 1916 The Easter Rising

The 1916 Easter Rising was a pivotal armed insurrection in Ireland aimed at ending British rule and establishing an independent Irish Republic, marking a significant moment in the struggle for Irish independence.

The Easter Rising took place from April 24 to April 29, 1916, during World War I. It was organized by a group of Irish nationalists, primarily from the Irish Republican Brotherhood, the Irish Volunteers, and the Irish Citizen Army. The leaders, including **Patrick Pearse, Tom Clarke, and James Connolly**, sought to exploit the distraction of the British government due to the war to launch their rebellion against British rule in Ireland. Key events included:

- **Proclamation of the Republic:** On Easter Monday, Pearse read the Proclamation of the Irish Republic outside the General Post Office (GPO) in Dublin, declaring Ireland's independence.
- **Fighting:** The Rising involved intense street fighting in Dublin, where approximately 1,600 rebels seized key locations. However, the British response was swift, deploying thousands of troops and artillery to suppress the uprising.
- **Surrender:** After six days of fighting, Pearse and other leaders surrendered unconditionally on April 29, 1916. The rebellion was ultimately crushed, resulting in significant casualties, including around 450 deaths and over 2,000 injuries, many of whom were civilians.

Aftermath and Legacy included:

- **Executions:** Following the Rising, 15 leaders were executed by firing squad, which initially sparked public resentment but later transformed them into martyrs for the cause of Irish independence.
- **Shift in Public Opinion:** The harsh British response, including mass arrests and martial law, shifted public sentiment towards supporting the nationalist cause, laying the groundwork for future movements that ultimately led to the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922.

The Easter Rising is considered a seminal moment in modern Irish history. It galvanized support for Irish nationalism and independence, influencing subsequent events and movements in Ireland. The Rising's legacy continues to resonate in contemporary discussions about Irish identity and history.

In summary, the 1916 Easter Rising was a crucial event that not only aimed to achieve immediate independence from British rule but also set the stage for the broader struggle for Irish self-determination in **the years that followed**.

- ## 1916-1918 "All Changed Utterly"

The problem with political anniversaries is that they often focus on specific dates in the past without any recognition that they are part of a longer process. Easter Monday 1916 is an iconic date in Irish history that all and sundry seek to appropriate, but it can **only be understood by what preceded and followed it**. An additional problem is understanding the timeframe of past events from such a distance. Trying to imagine the scale of developments in the five years following the Irish Revolution 100 years later is difficult but essential.

Those who focus on the single date of the Easter Rising inevitably underplay its importance, but the memory of what followed it and of what has often been hidden from conventional histories is vital if we are to give full recognition of its significance. This chain of events led, at least in part, to the overthrow of British rule in Ireland. In addition, the uprising in Britain's oldest colony became a symbol for future anti-imperialist struggles. Even if the tone of W. B. Yeats's famous poem is decidedly patronizing, he was right. 1916 changed everything.

Against the wider canvas of the First World War, a war for the defense and extension of empires, the significance of these events was epochal. After the defeat of the uprising and the execution of its leaders *"famed in song and story, heroes of renown"* there were six years of widespread revolt that put Ireland in the vanguard of the anti-imperialist struggle. In 1918 there was a successful general strike against conscription to the British army and a general election which saw the election of 73 Sinn Fein candidates to the 105 seats of what they proclaimed as the Irish Dáil.

In January 1919 they voted for a declaration of Independence and a parallel mechanism of government existed alongside the increasingly marginalized British rule.

In April 1919 the Limerick soviet was declared and became the beacon of widespread social and labor mobilization against imperial rule. Also in 1919 the War of Independence began and, contrary to the mythologized accounts, a protracted period of bitter military struggle was combined with widespread social unrest and active boycotts of all British institutions. The British response combined repression in the South with encouragement for secession in the North. The Restoration of Order in Ireland Act unleashed a wave of terror against any town or village that supported the republican forces, and the Government of Ireland Act set the stage for separate parliaments, creating the basis for a Northern state.

1921 saw the third strand in the British strategy—an appeal to the "moderates" in the republican movement, led by Arthur Griffith and Michael Collins, for a settlement. A truce was called prior to the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty which gave limited independence to the 26 counties of the South while imposing partition of the six counties in the North. In the subsequent civil war the pro-Treaty forces—armed to the teeth by Britain—defeated the rejectionist forces. The foundations were laid for a conservative Free State in the South and a sectarian Unionist statelet in the North. However imperfect this outcome, it exposed the cracks in the edifice of Empire.1919-1921 War of Independence.

- ## 1921-1922 The Treaty

In 1921 the Partition clause created Northern Ireland and the Irish Free State. The Ulster province was split between two jurisdictions, 6 counties in Northern Ireland in the UK and 3 counties in the Irish Free State.

The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 6 December 1921 ended the Irish War of Independence and created the Irish Free State, a Dominion of the British Commonwealth, with significant autonomy but under the Crown, and it included provisions that led to the partition of Ireland.

The treaty followed the Irish War of Independence (1919–1921), a guerrilla conflict between Irish republican forces and British troops. It was negotiated between the UK Government and representatives of Sinn Féin after decades of failed "Home Rule" attempts.

- Creation of the Irish Free State: A new Dominion within the British Commonwealth, with a parliament (Oireachtas) and government over most domestic affairs, fiscal autonomy, and its own military force.
- Crown connection: The Free State remained under the British Crown; a Governor-General represented the monarch, and members of the Dáil and Seanad had to swear an oath of fidelity to the Crown.
- Partition clause: Northern Ireland (six counties of Ulster) could opt out of the Free State; it chose to remain part of the UK, triggering a Boundary Commission to adjust the border.
- Military control: The UK retained temporary control of certain strategic ports.
- Commonwealth status: The Free State was granted the same constitutional status as other Dominions, with a government modelled on Canada's.
- End of the War of Independence: The treaty formally ended the armed conflict.
- Political division: It was highly contested in the Irish parliament (Dáil Éireann), passing by a narrow margin, and deepened the split between republicans and those accepting the Crown.
- Irish Civil War: The dispute over the treaty's terms, especially the oath to the Crown and the partition clause, led to armed conflict from 1922 to 1923
- Path to independence: The Irish Free State later became the Republic of Ireland in 1949, while Northern Ireland remains part of the UK.

In short, the 1921–1922 Anglo-Irish Treaty was a compromise that ended the war but created a political and constitutional divide in Ireland, shaping the island's political map for decades.

- ## 1922-1924 The Civil War

The Irish Civil War was fought from 28 June 1922 to 24 May 1923 between pro-Treaty National Army forces and anti-Treaty IRA factions, over the terms of the Anglo-Irish Treaty, and is sometimes extended to 1924 due to continued internment of prisoners. The war followed the Anglo-Irish Treaty (Dec 1921), which ended the Irish War of Independence and created the Irish Free State within the British Empire. Supporters saw it as a step toward independence; opponents, led by **Éamon de Valera**, viewed it as a betrayal of the 1916 Republic. The split divided the Irish nationalist movement, pitting former comrades-in-arms against each other.

The Battle of Dublin (28 June – 5 July 1922): The opening clash, when Provisional Government forces attacked the Four Courts occupied by anti-Treaty IRA, marking the war's start.

Pro-Treaty victory: National Army, led by **Michael Collins** and **Arthur Griffith**, secured Dublin by July, then advanced to capture most major towns by August. Fighting continued in rural areas for another 10 months, with anti-Treaty forces resisting in strongholds like the "Munster Republic".

The end of hostilities was on 24 May 1923 when **Frank Aiken** ordered IRA units to "dump arms," effectively ending the war. Some prisoners remained interned until 1924, extending the conflict's legacy.

The pro-Treaty National Army win effectively consolidated the Irish Free State. The war left deep political and social divisions, influencing Irish politics for decades.

The Civil War's bitterness was compounded by reprisals, executions, and the internment of anti-Treaty leaders. It also shaped the later Northern Ireland dispute and the long-term split between republican and constitutional nationalist faction.

In summary: The Irish Civil War was a short but intense conflict rooted in the Treaty's political compromise, fought by former allies, and its consequences reshaped Ireland's political landscape well beyond 1924.

Dublin

We loved Dublin…it gave us vibes similar to Amsterdam…clean and vibrant and young!

The city of Dublin can trace its origin back more than 1,000 years, it was a Viking city. For much of this time it has been Ireland's principal city and the cultural, educational and industrial center of the island.

Beginning in the 9th and 10th centuries, there were two settlements where the modern city stands. The Viking settlement of about 841 was known as Dyflin, from the Irish Duiblinn ("black pool") This referred to a dark tidal pool where the River Poddle entered the Liffey on the site of the Castle Gardens at the rear of Dublin Castle. The Gaelic settlement, Áth Cliath ("ford of hurdles") was further upriver, at the site of the present-day Father Mathew Bridge at the bottom of Church Street.

Dublin's latitude of 53.35° N places it on a parallel that crosses parts of Europe, North America, and Asia. Cities that lie close to this latitude include Liverpool (UK), Hamburg (Germany), Groningen (Netherlands), Szczecin (Poland), Minsk (Belarus), and Edmonton (Canada)

UK ETA



We traveled to Derry in Northern Ireland and through the country to Dublin. Starting in 2025, travelers from several non-visa exempt countries, including the USA, must apply for a UK Electronic Travel Authorisation before entering Northern Ireland. Applicants provide personal details, travel history, biometric information and copy of their passport through the UK ETA app. Cost was $28.07pp. *[There weren't any border stops to check our visas. The locals have freedom to pass over the border without visas.]*

There Are No Leprechauns in Ireland!

My bubble is burst…Patrick our driver/guide did not let us down easily when he told us *"There are no Leprechauns in Ireland!*

There is no such thing as Leprechauns in Ireland, so apologies to any of us would-be believers in magical crocks of gold at the end of a rainbow…they don't exist or at least no one has found one yet! The whole notion of Leprechauns was much more of a Disney invention that came along with the likes of bad 'oirish' accents in films, such as 'Darby O'Gill'.

In Irish folklore, a leprechaun is a solitary male fairy who prefers to live alone rather than among the larger fairy tribes. They are best known as the tiny shoemakers (cobblers) of the fairy world, endlessly crafting and repairing shoes — a detail that sets them apart from other Irish folklore creatures.

Traditionally, leprechauns are depicted as small, bearded figures dressed in green or red, carrying tiny tools for their work. Though they are counted among the magical creatures of Ireland, they are not gentle storybook fairies but clever, sharp-witted spirits who keep to themselves and guard their treasures with caution.

In many legends, leprechauns were believed to possess magical powers and could grant wishes to anyone who managed to capture them. This belief gave rise to various superstitions, such as leaving out milk or butter to appease them and ensure good luck. Their mischievous personality, combined with their association with the famous pot of gold, made them enduring symbols of both fortune and trickery in Irish leprechaun folklore. But it's all myth…total hogwash!

However I have it on good authority that the Little People or Fairies, DO exist and in Ireland people do not mess with the fairies, ever!

In Irish mythology, the supernatural world is filled with many types of fairies, spirits, and magical beings. This entire realm is known as the Aos Sí — a powerful and ancient race believed to live underground, in fairy forts, or in a parallel world overlapping with the human one. The Aos Sí include nature spirits, warrior spirits, banshees, fairy queens, and many other mystical creatures found throughout Irish folklore. Fairy beings — such as the Sídhe, the Banshee, or the Púca — interact directly with humans or influence nature.

Fairies are known to live in very special places called **fairy forts or fairy rings** which are those raised circular mounds of earth, that you will see all over Ireland, there are some 40,000 in all, so you can't miss them....All are very welcome to visit the fairy forts, walk around them, make a wish by all means...But it is thought to be very bad luck to interfere with these mounds.

Patrick told us about an uncle who once tried to dig into a fairy fort on his farm and suddenly fell ill. No treatments seemed to work. But then he just as suddenly recovered when the fairy fort was covered again!

Certain trees are revered too, especially hawthorns and holly bushes which country people will never ever chop down, remove or even move them for fear of disturbing the fairies who often live underneath and who are likely to wreak havoc if disturbed…they will sour milk, cause crops to fail and animals to sicken and die....need I say more?

So, don't say you haven't been warned! In fact down in County Clare, the construction of a new motorway had to be diverted to avoid an important fairy tree on the ancient boundaries of Munster and Connacht only a few years ago and that my friends is a true story....

Gaelic Football and Hurling

On the Tour our driver/guide Patrick told us with much enthusiasm about Gaelic Football and Hurling. Stadiums seemed to be in every town we visited.

Gaelic Football and Hurling are amateur sports, so players do not get paid. This actually makes the sports better, as players are playing for the love of the game, for their teammates, for their hometown or county, for their family and friends, and for their team's supporters. The vast majority of GAA players play for the same teams for all of their playing career.

GAA players do get expenses covered for things like travelling to training, nutrition and meals, and the Irish Sports Council administers government grants to help athletes maintain their fitness and health without falling into debt. While these grants provide a helpful financial cushion, they do not equate to a living wage. Most players use this money to cover private health insurance, specialized gym equipment, or high-performance supplements. Financial support is a recognition of their status as elite athletes who contribute to the national cultural identity.

Gaelic games are an essential part of Irish culture, representing the country's deep-rooted traditions and national identity. The Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA), the governing body for both hurling and Gaelic football, has been central in preserving and promoting these sports since its founding in 1884. The GAA's creation was not only a response to the threat of English cultural dominance but also a deliberate effort to promote Irish language, customs, and heritage. At a time when Ireland was under British rule, the GAA provided a space for Irish communities to come together, celebrate their heritage, and resist cultural assimilation. Today, the GAA remains one of the largest and most influential organizations in Ireland, with over 2,200 clubs nationwide.





Hurling, often described as the fastest field sport in the world, and Gaelic football, a unique combination of soccer and rugby, each have their own rich heritage, dating back centuries. Both games are characterized by a blend of skill, athleticism, and passion, with intense competition and regional rivalries. More than just sports, they are symbols of Irish heritage, often celebrated in local festivals, communities, and national events.

Gaelic games, both hurling and Gaelic football, hold a unique and vital place in Irish culture, far beyond their role as sports. These games are deeply intertwined with Ireland's sense of identity, pride, and community. They serve as an enduring symbol of Ireland's history, its cultural resilience, and its national unity.

For the Irish diaspora around the world, Gaelic games are a vital connection to their homeland. Irish emigrants have long carried the torch of hurling and Gaelic football, with GAA clubs and teams formed in countries as far-flung as the United States, Canada, Australia, and the United Kingdom. These clubs serve as important social hubs where the Irish community can come together, celebrate their heritage, and stay connected to their roots. The All-Ireland finals are often watched with as much fervor in New York or Sydney as they are in Dublin, and the passion of the Irish abroad continues to be a testament to the enduring global appeal of Gaelic games.

W.B. Yeats

William Butler Yeats was an Irish poet, dramatist, and literary critic who became a central figure of the Irish Literary Revival and co-founded the Abbey Theatre. Awarded the 1923 Nobel Prize in Literature, his works often drew on Irish mythology, folklore, and nationalist themes.

In 1889, when he was 24, Yeats met Maud Gonne, a 23-year-old English heiress and ardent Irish nationalist. Yeats's love was unrequited, in part due to his reluctance to participate in her nationalist activism. In 1891 he visited Gonne in Ireland and proposed marriage but was rejected. He later admitted that from that point *"the troubling of my life began"*. Yeats proposed to Gonne three more times: in 1899, 1900 and 1901.

By 1916, Yeats was 51 years old and determined to marry and produce an heir. That September, Yeats proposed to 25-year-old Georgie Hyde-Lees (1892–1968), known as George/Georgie. Despite warnings from her friends—"George ... you can't. He must be dead"—Hyde-Lees accepted, and the two were married in 1917. Their marriage was a success, in spite of the age difference, and in spite of Yeats's feelings of remorse and regret during their honeymoon. The couple went on to have two children, Anne and Michael. Although in later years he had romantic relationships with other women, Georgie herself wrote to her husband, *"When you are dead, people will talk about your love affairs, but I shall say nothing, for I will remember how proud you were."*

The Second Coming

W.B. Yeats

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

"The Second Coming" is a poem written by Irish poet William Butler Yeats in 1919. The poem uses Christian imagery regarding the End Times and Second Coming to describe allegorically the atmosphere of post-WWI Europe. It is considered a canonical work of modernist poetry.

Yeats saw human history as a series of epochs, what he called "gyres". Each of these eras began and ended with a gyration of spiritual force…This system of gyres, consequently, was fundamentally a system rooted in conflict between a society's tendencies and a distinct set of principles: every two millennia, one gyre widens and the other narrows to reach a point of crisis, whereupon a new system and civilization is born.

The poem is split into two stanzas with different focuses: the first focuses on the present breakdown of world order, while the second describes the society and moral order which will emerge from this apocalyptic situation. This reflects Yeats' philosophy of the nature of gyres: as one society descends into incoherent chaos, another set of morals reflective of a more violent, heartless epoch will arise.

The poem reminds me of Richard Rohr's Order-Disorder-Reorder three-stage framework for spiritual transformation, describing a movement from initial structure (Order), through disruption (Disorder), into a deeper, integrated wholeness (Reorder).

Gives me hope in 2026!! Pat knew all this years ago, so she asked Damian about it…"too political!," he said backing up with eyes wide open!…it's good to have an English Major in the House!

"…Things fall apart, the center cannot hold…"

The Wild Atlantic Way is a tourism trail on the west coast of Ireland, and on parts of the north and south coasts. The 1,553 mile driving route passes through nine counties and three provinces, stretching from County Donegal's Inishowen Peninsula in Ulster to Kinsale, County Cork, in Munster, on the Celtic Sea coast. Traveler's fvorites include Slieve League, Downpatrick Head, the Cliffs of Moher, the Skelligs Viewpoint, the Dingle Peninsula, the Old Head of Kinsale.



Patrick our driver/guide kept mentioning the Wild Atlantic Way as we drove the coast of western Ireland. I wouldn't call the region beautiful but rather stark, windy and wild.

*We didn't see any wildlife…**there are no bears and wolves to ravage the sheep in Ireland!** The brown bear (Ursus arctos) and the Eurasian wolf (Canis lupus lupus) were extirpated (local extinction) long ago by humans…by hunting and causing habitat loss. The last wild wolf in Ireland was killed in 1786.*

Day 1 Thursday October 15 - Atlanta – Dublin

ATL High: 88°F, Low: 60°F, Sunrise: 7:41AM, Sunset: 7:02PM, 9,030 Steps:

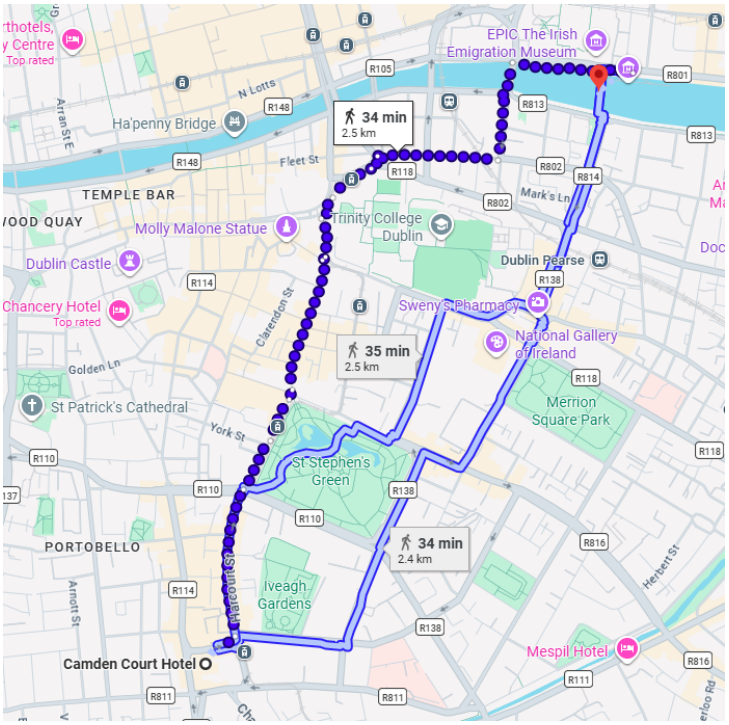
- Left home at 2:30pm. Drove to Parking Spot 1, Camp Creek Parkway
- LV Atlanta Airport (ATL), Delta 0176 Thursday 8:00pm – ARR Dublin, IR (DUB), Friday 8:45am (dur 7H 45m) (3,933 miles)
- Fitful sleep while on the plane…Comfort+ didn't seem to give much comfort…slept maybe 3 hours.
    - I loved watching the movie Temple Grandin, HBO's award-winning film. Mary Temple Grandin is an American academic, inventor, animal behaviorist, and autism advocate. A professor of animal science at Colorado State University, she has revolutionized humane livestock handling with innovations, drawing on her own experience with autism.






Day 2 Friday October 16 - Dublin

Dublin High: 55°F, Low: 41°F, Sunrise: 7:53AM, Sunset: 6:26PM, 12,154 Steps



- ARR Dublin, IR (DUB), Friday 8:45am
- Taxied from DUB to Camden Court Hotel to drop our bags. (normal 30 became 60 minute ride in Friday traffic)
- Got 200 EUROs for tips and expenses



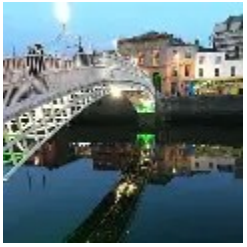
- Ate lunch at the Camden Court Hotel) while waiting for Kathy and Terri to arrive. My 1st encounter with **Seafood Chowder and Brown Treacle Bread**, a classic Irish loaf made with wholemeal flour, oats, and black treacle (molasses), giving it a rich, slightly sweet, nutty flavor. Love at first taste!
- Left hotel at 1:15PM
- Then walked to the river cruise with Kathy and Terri gave us a wonderful 1st tour of Dublin. We got our bearings walking past St. Stephens Green, through Grafton Street and past Trinity College campus to the River Liffey.



- Just before reaching the dock for our cruise, I noticed a statue of a dog but didn't think much about it…nor the other famine victim sculptures poised as if they were shuffling to the "coffin ships" to America and Canada!

  On our way back after Jerry the cruise guide pointed out the must-see sculptures, I was stunned that I previously strolled right past **The Famine Memorial**. The installation commemorates the Great Famine (1845-1849) featuring haunting sculptures that represent the suffering and emigration of the Irish people during this tragic period.

  "Famine" is located on Custom House Quay, was created by sculptor Rowan Gillespie and unveiled in 1997. It consists of six life-size bronze figures that depict starving individuals, including men, women, and children, dressed in rags and clutching their meager belongings as they walk towards ships bound for emigration. This poignant artwork serves as a reminder of the Great Famine, which resulted in the deaths of over one million people and the emigration of another million, drastically reducing Ireland's population.
- 2:00PM boarding, 45 minute Sightseeing Cruise on River Liffey with local guide Jerry and pilot Terry. €19.50 per senior. Boarded on the North side of the river beside
  - the Seán O'Casey Bridge, a pedestrian swing-bridge spanning the River Liffey, joining City Quay in the Grand Canal Docks area to North Wall Quay.
  - and across the street from EPIC the Irish Emigration Museum which covers the history of the Irish diaspora and emigration to other countries. The exhibition is made up of twenty galleries which are each individually themed, and fall under the headings of Migration (Galleries 1 to 2), Motivation (Galleries 4 to 7), Influence (Galleries 8 to 18) and Diaspora Today (Galleries 19 to 20).
  - The cruise ran between the Grattan Street bridge, west in the city centre, and the Thomas Clarke bridge on the edge of Dublin Port to the east. Along the way west, we passed under:
    - The Talbot Memorial Bridge
    - The Butt Bridge
    - The Rosie Hacket Bridge
    - The O'Connell Bridge
  - **The Ha'Penny Bridge**. Originally called the Wellington Bridge (after the Dublin-born Duke of Wellington), the name of the bridge was changed to Liffey Bridge after the Irish War of Independence in 1922, although it is most commonly referred to as the Ha'penny Bridge. Before it was built there were seven ferries across the Liffey. The ferries were in bad condition so the owner Walsh was informed that he had to either fix them or build a bridge. He chose the to build a cast iron pedestrian bridge opening it in May 1816, with Walsh holding the right to extract a ha'penny toll from anyone crossing it until 1919.





o **The Millennium Bridge** opened in 1999 is a pedestrian bridge spanning the River Liffey in Dublin, Ireland, joining Eustace Street in Temple Bar to the north quays.



o We turned before the Gratton Bridge and sailed east to see the sights of Dublin's old Georgian Quaysides including the beautiful 18th-century **Custom House** near our dock**.** The Custom House (Irish: Teach an Chustaim) is a 18th century building which today houses the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

During the Irish War of Independence in 1921, the Irish Republican Army burnt down the Custom House, to disrupt British rule in Ireland by destroying tax records. The original interior and many archives were completely destroyed in the fire and the central dome collapsed. Despite achieving its objectives, the attack on the Custom House was a setback for the IRA as a large number of Volunteers were captured either during the attack or when falling back. After the Anglo-Irish Treaty, it was restored by the Irish Free State government.



o We passed closely by the moored **Jeanie Johnston famine ship**, a replica 19th-century Irish emigrant ship (a.k.a Coffin Ship) that carried 2,500 passengers safely across the Atlantic during the Great Famine and now serves as a living history museum in Dublin.

The original Jeanie Johnston was built in 1847 in Quebec, Canada by Scottish shipbuilder John Munn and purchased by Kerry merchants John Donovan & Sons. Between 1848 and 1855, it made 16 transatlantic voyages carrying approximately 2,500 Irish emigrants fleeing the Great Famine from Tralee to North America, including Quebec, Baltimore, and New York City. Remarkably, no passengers or crew died on these voyages, a rare feat compared to other "coffin ships" of the era, thanks to careful management by Captain James Attridge and the presence of a shipboard doctor, Richard Blennerhassett. The ship even saw the birth of a baby boy during one voyage, named Nicholas Johnston Reilly.

The replica Jeanie Johnston, completed in 2002, is moored at Custom House Quay in Dublin's Docklands.

Not all the ships that transported Irish emigrants from their homeland to Canada and America were coffin ships. **The term 'coffin ship'** is reserved for those that set sail during the Famine of the 1840s, often unseaworthy and uncrowded and nearly always with inadequate provisions of drinking water, food and sanitation. At the time of the Famine, when **desperate and malnourished tenant farmers** were trying to flee poverty and starvation, the coffin ships represented the depths to which some people could stoop - whether through cynical disregard for life, pure greed or uncaring ignorance.

In 1845, potato blight seriously affected the potato harvest. For the majority of Irish people, tenant farmers, this was catastrophic because the potato was their main, if not only, food.

In 1846, the potato crop was completely ruined and it was clear that the Government needed to act. Rather than provide food aid, **Parliament introduced new taxes (which landowners would have to pay) to raise money for 'public works relief'.** The latter was a two-pronged scheme. It created work for laborers so that they earn enough to feed their families with food other than potatoes. And it provided for workhouses to be built to house the absolutely destitute.

The gentry land owners were more than a little alarmed since they could see this taxation level, which they considered onerous, continuing for years. Some decided **to bring a conclusion to their local problems by removing the burden altogether: by shipping their tenants to North America!** They calculated that the cost of transporting each individual was considerably less than supporting that person in the workhouse for a year.

And so the first ships were commissioned and set sail, loaded with human cargo, for British North America (Canada). Many of these vessels were overloaded. Each held an average of 300 persons, some two or three times the number that would have been allowed by a port in the USA, and some were not seaworthy.

But in 1846, the most severe winter in living memory, immigration ships continued to sail from Ireland. Most headed southwest, to US ports.
Alarmed at the level of destitution and illness arriving with these vessels, the US Congress quickly passed two new Passenger Acts in order to make the voyage even more expensive. That following March, the minimum fare to New York rose to £7, an amount way beyond the majority of families facing starvation in Ireland. Even so, all tickets had been sold by the middle of April.

In 1846, some 85,000 sailed directly from ports in the south and west, principally Cork/Queenstown and Limerick. Another 11,000 departed from Sligo while 9,000 left from Dublin and 4,000 crossed the Irish Sea to catch a ship from the English port of Liverpool.

In time, these boats became known as 'coffin ships' because, as the Irish Times described, their passengers *"were only flying from one form of death".* While they may have left starvation behind, many of these passengers were already in extremely bad health after a year or more of inadequate nutrition and exposure to illness. With their physical state already desperate, the last thing they needed was to be crammed into overcrowded, insanitary conditions with hundreds of others.

By the end of 1847, the awful toll could be calculated from the 441 immigration ships that had made the crossing. Of 98,105 passengers (60,000 were Irish. At least 20,365 people perished (the numbers of those that died further along in their journey from illnesses contracted on the coffin ships cannot be ascertained).

- Sailing east on the River Liffey



- we passed under the striking **Samuel Beckett Bridge**. The bridge is a cable-stayed swing-bridge in the shape of a harp lying on its edge (the national symbol for Ireland since the 13th century) that joins Sir John Rogerson's Quay on the south side of the River Liffey to Guild Street and North Wall Quay in the Docklands area.
- we immediately saw the **Convention Centre** Dublin's building which looks like a glass tilted at the perfect angle to pour a Guinness!

- We turned before the **Tom Clarke Bridge** which is a toll bridge owned and operated by Dublin City Council. The bascule-type lifting bridge is the last bridge on the Liffey which opens out into Dublin Port and then Dublin Bay just beyond. The bridge forms part of the R131 regional road.



- We also saw the entry to **The Grand Canal**, the southernmost of a pair of canals that connect Dublin, in the east of Ireland, with the River Shannon in the west via Tullamore and a number of other villages and towns. The two canals nearly encircle Dublin's inner city. Its sister canal on the Northside of Dublin is the Royal Canal. The last working cargo barge passed through the Grand Canal in 1960.

The idea of connecting Dublin to the Shannon (81 miles away) was proposed as early as 1715, but development was not initiated until 1751. Begun in 1756 to carry cargo to and from Dublin it is now exclusively used for tourism purposes with plenty of barges making the scenic journey through the heart of Ireland every year.

- Our return walk went through **St. Stephens Green**, a 22 acre garden square and public park located in the city centre of Dublin, Ireland. It opened in July1880. The Green is just south of one of Dublin's main shopping streets, Grafton Street.
- Checked-in hotel after 3:00PM.
- Dinner Reservations 6:00PM
  Went next door to the Camden Court hotel to **The Bleeding Horse** for a sleepy dinner. 25 Camden Street Upper Dublin 2 D02 NP22, https://bleedinghorse.ie/ There are (at least) two explanations for the name: *One is that when a horse got the "staggers" it was bled by a farrier at the inn. Another is that the name of the pub comes from an incident during the Battle of Rathmines in 1649, when a wounded horse fled from the battle.*

My Favorite 10/16



Peggy and Phil, my mind it filled with the day's activities, but that will be for my Travelogue. So for now I'll share my favorite…it was a surprise for me…

The Famine Memorial…or as this work of art is called simply Famine… striking…haunting! Near our Liffey River boat tour…History here in Ireland is everywhere…tragedies for sure but not to leave us in despair…1846- ? 1 million died,1million displaced…from this came true rebirth and THE joyous culture of hundreds of millions… probably Billions, of Irish!!

We toasted you at dinner yesterday, as we will every day! ***It's the way of the Irish to respond to setbacks and look to future joy filled occasions when we will be together again and again!!*** *So there!!*

Breakfast: On Plane
Lunch: at the Camden Court Hotel, Dublin
Dinner: at The Bleeding Horse, Dublin





Day 3 Saturday October 17 - Dublin

Dublin High: 54°F, Low: 36°F, Sunrise: 7:55AM, Sunset: 6:24PM, 12,907 Steps

- After breakfast left the hotel a few minutes after 10:30AM for the Walking Tour.




Arrived right at 11:00AM for "**The Original Dublin Walking Tour**" which started at the Grattan statue, on the traffic island, College Green, opposite the Trinity College front gate. (18 minute walk from Camden Court Hotel.) €19 pp + tip. https://historicaltours.ie/

The 2 hour historical walking tour of Dublin was an interesting exploration of the many features of Irish history: the English conquest, the influences of the American and French Revolutions, the Great Hunger, the struggle for independence, partition, and concludes with the Northern Ireland peace.

- We walked through the front gate of **Trinity College,** Ireland's oldest university, founded in 1592 by Queen Elizabeth I to strengthen English rule and the Protestant Reformation, later evolving into a major academic and cultural institution. It was established by royal charter in 1592 on the former site of the Priory of All Hallows. Its founding aligned with Tudor policy: the college was intended to consolidate Protestant control and provide a learned administrative class for Ireland. Modeled after Oxford and Cambridge, it became the sole constituent college of the University of Dublin

  For over two centuries, Trinity was associated with the Protestant Ascendancy, the ruling elite in Ireland. Catholics were admitted from 1793, though restrictions on scholarships and fellowships

persisted until 1873. The Catholic Church imposed its own ban on attendance from 1871 to 1970. This long religious exclusivity shaped Trinity's reputation as a socially elite institution.

The most important attractions at Trinity College Dublin are the Book of Kells, the Long Room, the historic campus architecture, and cultural stops like the Douglas Hyde Gallery and Trinity Trails guided tours:

- The Book of Kells is the college's headline attraction — a 9th-century illuminated Gospel manuscript known for its ornate illustrations and vivid pigments
- The Long Room (Old Library) is a 65-meter hall lined with about 200,000 of Trinity's oldest books and marble busts of notable writers and philosophers. It also houses the Brian Boru harp, Ireland's oldest surviving harp and the model for the national emblem
    - Trinity's grounds are free to explore and include several notable landmarks:
        - Front Square, the heart of the campus with 18th-century buildings
        - The Campanile, one of Trinity's most photographed symbols
        - Chapel & Exam Hall, twin Georgian buildings facing each other
        - Dining Hall, in use for over 300 years
        - Graduate Memorial Building, home to historic student societies including those of Oscar Wilde and Bram Stoker
        - The Rubrics, Trinity's oldest surviving building
- Douglas Hyde Gallery is a contemporary art gallery on campus featuring rotating exhibitions by Irish and international artists
- Sculptures & Hidden Gems include
    - Sfera con Sfera, a bronze globe sculpture by Arnaldo Pomodoro, symbolizing layered worlds and found in major cities worldwide
    - Apples & Atoms, a sculpture honoring Nobel physicist Ernest Walton
    - Rose Garden, a quiet biodiversity-focused space with swift nests, lichen, and wildflowers
- Museum Building is a standout architectural attraction featuring Connemara marble, Cork red limestone, and intricate carvings inspired by Irish flora.. The domed entrance hall is especially notable.



- From Trinity College we proceeded along Dame Street past the historic **Bank of Ireland headquarters**, with its grand neoclassical façade and statues visible under a clear blue sky. Once the seat of the Irish Parliament, the building now serves as the bank's main office and remains a notable landmark in the city.
- Continuing on Dame Street we walked past the south side of **Temple Bar**, an area bounded by the Liffey to the north, Dame Street to the south, Westmoreland Street to the east and Fishamble Street to the west. It is promoted as Dublin's 'cultural quarter' and, as a centre of Dublin's city centre's nightlife, is a tourist destination.

In the 1970s and 1980s, the state-owned transport company proposed to buy up and demolish property in the Temple Bar area to build a bus terminus. While these plans were in development, buildings were leased at low rents, which attracted artists, galleries, small shops, cafes, and other creative enterprises, creating a bohemian atmosphere despite widespread urban decay. Protests by An Taisce, residents, and traders led to the cancellation of the bus station project.



In 1991, the government established a not-for-profit company, Temple Bar Properties oversaw the regeneration of the area as Dublin's cultural quarter. The area was a network of narrow, cobbled eighteenth-century streets evolving into an inner-city Bohemia with restaurants, theatres, cafes, arts centres, galleries, and second-hand shops, with old buildings restored, streets recobbled, and new street lighting installed.

During 1996 the Temple Bar area underwent extensive urban renewal, with renovated historic buildings and contemporary cultural facilities, including the Irish Film Institute and the Gallery of Photography. From 2015 onwards, many long-term rental apartments were converted into short-term tourist accommodations through platforms such as Airbnb and the Key Collection, reducing the permanent population.

- Across from Temple Bar on Dame Street is the active **Dublin City Hall** which is in an 18th century Georgian landmark building.



- We turned on Castle Street to **Dublin Castle** which began as a medieval fortress in 1204 and evolved into the center of English/British rule in Ireland until 1922, later becoming a key site for Irish state ceremonies and a major cultural landmark.

From 1204 to 1922, Dublin Castle served as the administrative center of English, later British, government in Ireland. It housed the Viceroy of Ireland, the monarch's representative, and functioned as a ceremonial, judicial, and military hub. Over centuries, it also served as a royal residence, garrison, intelligence center, and even a prison.

A devastating fire in April 1684 destroyed much of the medieval complex. Rebuilding in the late 17th and 18th centuries transformed the castle into a Georgian palace, adding the State Apartments, which became the center of viceregal social life and major state occasions

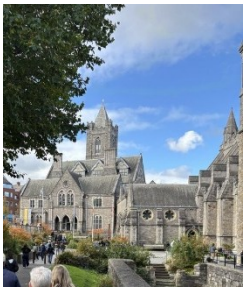
Dublin Castle was central to several pivotal events:

- Easter Rising (1916): A small force of Irish Citizen Army members briefly seized part of the castle.
- Anglo-Irish War: The castle served as the nerve center of British intelligence operations; three IRA members were killed there on Bloody Sunday (1920).
- Handover (1922): On 16 January 1922, the last Viceroy handed the castle over to Michael Collins and the new Irish Free State government. Collins' famous remark about being "seven minutes late" is widely remembered

Since independence, Dublin Castle has remained a major state venue:

- Presidential inaugurations have taken place in St Patrick's Hall since 1938. It hosts state dinners, foreign visits, policy launches, and EU Presidency events.
- The complex includes the State Apartments museum, Chapel Royal, Chester Beatty Library, and gardens

In order to accommodate Ireland's hosting of the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, the Dublin Castle campus was closed to the public until January 2027.



- We walked onto the property of **Christ Church Cathedral**, is the cathedral of the United Dioceses of Dublin and Glendalough, and the cathedral of the ecclesiastical province of the United Provinces of Dublin and Cashel in the (Anglican) Church of Ireland. It is the elder of the capital city's two medieval cathedrals, the other being St Patrick's Cathedral.

The cathedral was founded in the early 11th century under the Viking king Sitric Silkenbeard. It was rebuilt in stone in the late 12th century under the Norman potentate Strongbow, and considerably enlarged in the early 13th century, using Somerset stones and craftsmen. A partial collapse in the 16th century left it in poor shape and the building was extensively renovated and rebuilt in the late 19th century, giving it the form it has today, including the tower, flying buttresses, and distinctive covered footbridge.



- Around the corner from Christ Church we could see **The Four Courts** a block away. It's Ireland's most prominent courts building, located on Inns Quay along the River Liffey. The Four Courts is the principal seat of the Supreme Court, the Court of Appeal, the High Court and the Dublin Circuit Court.

On 14 April 1922, the courts complex was occupied by IRA forces opposed to the **Anglo-Irish Treaty,** with **Rory O'Connor** acting as their spokesman. On 28 June the new National Army attacked the building to dislodge the "rebels", on the orders of the Minister for Defense Richard Mulcahy, authorized by President of Dáil Éireann Arthur Griffith. This attack provoked a week of fighting in Dublin. In the process of the bombardment, the historic building was destroyed. The west wing of the building was obliterated in a huge explosion, destroying the Irish Public Record Office at the rear of the building. Nearly a thousand years of archives were destroyed by this explosion, the ensuing fire, and the water poured onto the fire.

The IRA was accused of mining the records office; however, those present, who included future Taoiseach Seán Lemass, said that the explosion was caused by the accidental detonation of their ammunition store during the fighting.

For a decade after the destruction, the courts sat in Dublin Castle. In 1932, a rebuilt and remodeled Four Courts was opened. However, much of the highly decorative interior was not replaced due to lack of funding.

All of the original documents lost in the destruction have been digitally restored from copies found in other locations.






- 1:00PM After walking tour, Pat, Kathy and Terri had lunch at Blooms Café, 13 Redmond's Hill Dublin 2 D02. I split off to visit Devitt's Pub for another excellent seafood chowder and brown bread!
- 4:30PM Returned to hotel to freshen up before dinner.
- Left hotel by 5:30PM for dinner







- Dinner Reservations 6:00PM
  Matt The Thresher (18 minute walk; 31/32 Pembroke Street Lower DUBLIN D02 Y523 CO DUBLIN. Matt Donovan, known as Matt The Thresher is a famous character in the classic novel 'Knocknagow, or the Homes of Tipperary' by Irish writer Charles Kickham (1828-1882). A mild-mannered farmer, Matt reluctantly finds himself in a sledge hammer throwing contest with English Officer, Captain French. Matt throws the hammer so far he breaks all records causing a frenzy amongst the crowd. Having won the battle in Birdhill he says: "It's for the sake of the little village and for the honour of the old home." https://matts.ie/about-us-dublin/ **5 Star meal!!**
- Overnight at The Camden Court Hotel

My Favorite 10/17

*Peggy and Phil, Today's seafood chowder at lunch was a special treat. But dinner was the event today. I took our Walking Tour guide's advice and tried a **12 year Redbreast Irish whiskey,80 proof**…he said it tasted as good as the expensive stuff. The flavor was excellent…I'm buying a bottle at the airport duty-free shop to get rid of my extra Euros!*

Dinners were great: Pat's calamari and scallops, Kathy's crab&prawn roll, Terri's crab avocado, and my Irish salmon special…plus heavenly deserts…we needed the walk back to the hotel!

A toast to our dear Peggy and Phil. You two will have to dine at Matt the Thresher on your next trip to Ireland!

Breakfast: At Camden Court Hotel, Dublin
Lunch: at Bloom's Café and Devitt's Pub, Dublin
Dinner: at Matt The Thresher, Dublin







Day 4 Sunday October 18 – Dublin – Carrick on Shannon - Sligo

Sligo High: 54°F, Low: 37°F, Sunrise: 8:07AM, Sunset: 6:29PM, 5,903 Steps

- 7:30AM Check out of Camden Court and 4 of us Taxied to DUB. (30 minute ride)
- 8:00AM Met our Hammond Tours Irish driver/guide Patrick Foley at DUB Terminal 2 (Arrivals) underneath the **"Golden Knot" Sculpture**. Patrick panicked when some of us took the escalator down with our bags when we were walking to the bus…didn't want to lose us.
- 9:00AM Tour left Dublin Airport
- We began our adventures by driving 96 miles northwest through the county Kildare, then into scenic Co. Westmeath, then up into Co. Longford to the village of **Carrick on Shannon**, Co. Leitrim for lunch at The Riverside Restaurant in the Cryans Hotel on the Quay. The Irish salmon and rhubarb-apple pie were superb.
- I was surprised to see across the countryside well-kept slate roof homes with groomed lawns close to the roads and surrounded by fields with sheep everywhere. **To me it's an indication the Irish economy is doing well, even for the farmers**. I don't recall seeing a rundown shabby house or village anywhere on the Black 47 Tour.
- Then onto Sligo town, a commercial and cultural centre situated on the west coast of Ireland. The culture of County Sligo, especially of North Sligo, was an inspiration for both poet and Nobel laureate W. B. Yeats and his brother, the artist and illustrator Jack Butler Yeats. A collection of Jack B. Yeats's art is housed in The Niland Gallery, part of The Model centre on The Mall.
- Welcome Dinner at The Glasshouse House Hotel
- Overnight at The Glasshouse House Hotel

My Favorite 10/18

Peggy and Phil, I most enjoyed getting to know "Cogs" and Joe and their wives…with Therese and Marybeth over dinner with Pat, Kathy and Terri. A great bunch of friends wishing you healing and health!!

Quiet day traveling to Sligo…Larry told us to read some of Yeats poems…2 or 3 at least! Sligo was his "hometown."

Breakfast: At the Camden Court Hotel
Lunch: at Cryans Hotel on the Quay, Co. Leitrum.
Dinner: Welcome dinner at the Glasshouse House Hotel, Sligo

Day 5 Monday October 19 - Sligo

Sligo High: 52°F, Low: 37°F, Sunrise: 8:09AM, Sunset: 6:27PM, 12,516 Steps

- Today was devoted to touring areas that inspired the poetry of W.B. Yeats…and there are many in Co. Sligo! Yeats' maternal grandfather was a successful local shipowner and businessman, and Yeats spent many summers in the area.



o We started with a tour of Yeats landmarks in Sligo walking up The Mall (street) **led by guide Damian**, a local Slogoite and former professor. He was a sweet old man but a soft talker in a village seemingly filled with construction and traffic noise! And yet, he piqued our interest in Sligo and Yeats by reading several poems of Yeats. We c



- The **WB Yeats sculpture** erected in 1989 to mark the 50th anniversary of Yeats's death looked just like Larry!



- Walked past the **Sligo Masonic Lodge**, a historic red-brick Arts and Crafts hall. Freemasonry in Sligo dates back to December 1760, when Lodge No. 355 was formed, but the first purpose-built meeting place was not constructed until 1895 after decades of fundraising. The building was erected at a cost of £1,525, with the Dodd family serving as caretakers from 1895 until 1951. Members of the Sligo Masonic Lodge have long been active in charitable work, supporting numerous local causes.



- We left The Mall and walked next to the Garavogue river where Damian read more Yeats poetry.

The Garavogue River originates from Lough Gill and flows through Sligo town into Sligo Bay, eventually reaching the Atlantic Ocean. Historically, it was called the Sligeach, meaning "abounding in shells," a name that reflects the abundance of shellfish in the area and gave rise to the town's name. The river played a crucial role in the town's development, providing a ford or crossing point that influenced the settlement's location. There are five bridges crossing the river in Sligo town, including three road bridges and two pedestrian footbridges, such as the John Fallon Footbridge and Hyde Bridge. The Garavogue river has been mentioned in ancient manuscripts, including accounts of Saint Patrick blessing the river for year-round salmon availability, and it was the site of the Battle of Sligo in 536 AD.



- We then walked to the Sligo Abbey, a Dominican Friary, founded in 1253. In 1414 the buildings were damaged in an accidental fire. The abbey did not have sufficient means for the reconstruction and appealed to the pope for help. At that moment **three "Popes" competed in the** "**Vatican Standoff"**: Benedict XIII was pope in Avignon, Gregory XII in Rome, and John XXIII in Pisa. As England supported John, this was the pope the abbey addressed. The friary was rebuilt in 1416 with 20 friars at the abbey at that time.

  The Dissolution of the Irish monasteries that had started in 1530 in The Pale, monasteries in the West of Ireland were also being shut down. Sligo in 1568 obtained a letter from Queen Elizabeth that exempted Sligo Abbey on condition that the friars would become secular priests.



- After the tour ended we went to **WB's Coffee House** on The Mall near the Glass House Hotel for lunch. I had tasty pureed vegetable soup and brown bread.







- After lunch we boarded the bus to visit Yeats' grave at the Anglican **Drumcliffe Church** (St. Columba's Church) Graveyard in the shadow of the table mountain Benbulben.
  - 8 minutes from Sligo town and set on the site of a 6th century monastery, Drumcliffe Church features a striking tower that looms over the ancient graveyard. Inside, the back altarpiece displays a colorful and inspiring display of "*Holy, Holy, Holy...Lord God Almighty…This Do in Remembrance of Me."*
  - Yeats humble grave was found in the churchyard, the simple headstone featuring no marble or other expensive materials. The inscription reads; *"cast a cold eye on life, on death, horseman, pass by",* and was penned by Yeats himself as his final epitaph.
  - St. Columba was a 6th-century Irish abbot and missionary best known for founding Iona Abbey and playing a central role in the conversion of Scotland to Christianity. On the island of Iona, Columba founded a monastery that became one of the most influential

religious centers in early medieval Europe. From there he evangelized the Picts, established churches throughout Scotland and the Hebrides. Iona became a hub of literacy, art, and manuscript production, later associated with the Book of Kells. He is venerated in the Catholic, Orthodox, Anglican, and Lutheran traditions.





• Next we drove another stone's throws to see the quaint **Glencar Waterfall**, famous for being an inspiration to Ireland's greatest poet William Butler Yeats and features in his poem 'The Stolen Child'. The waterfall reaches 50ft high and is situated at the beautiful Glencar Lough.
On our way to the Falls, we smelled before we saw two errant sheep who jumped the fence…I thought pigs were bad!



- Upon our return to Sligo, we ate dinner at Gracie's Pub, Sligo.

Solid pub food: Beef Pie, Seafood Chowder, Brisket Fries, Cheesecake, Guinness, Cabernet, Americano, sparkling water…

Tried to find some Irish Music…none to be had…

- Tuckered out…Overnight at The Glass House Hotel

My Favorite 10/19

Peggy and Phil, Our Sligo walking tour focused on WB Yeats. Our guide Damian, a local Slogoite, was a sweet old man but a soft talker in a village seemingly filled with noise! And yet, he peaked our interest in Sligo and Yeats by reading several poems of Yeats. We caught enough to set a mysterious mood…to hear more from Yeats! Who knew?

I told Larry Kirwan he looks just like the Yeats statue! He heard that from others but doesn't see it himself. I introduced myself as Phil Ternes' brother-in-law….Larry said he received Phil's email and wishes him a quick recovery.

We're going out to dinner soon at Gracie's Bar….to toast our lovely Peggy and her prince Phillip…

A poem to close a day of Yeats:

When You Are Old

W. B. Yeats

When you are old and grey and full of sleep,
And nodding by the fire, take down this book,
And slowly read, and dream of the soft look
Your eyes had once, and of their shadows deep;

How many loved your moments of glad grace,
And loved your beauty with love false or true,
But one man loved the pilgrim soul in you,

And loved the sorrows of your changing face;

And bending down beside the glowing bars,
Murmur, a little sadly, how Love fled
And paced upon the mountains overhead
And hid his face amid a crowd of stars.

Damian read us this poem: Written in 1892 and published in The Rose, Yeats's poem is addressed to Maud Gonne, the Irish nationalist and actress who was the great unrequited love of his life. *(I'm sorry William, you did much better with Georgie!)* The speaker asks the beloved to imagine herself old and grey, nodding by the fire, reading this poem, and recalling the love she once inspired. The poem contrasts the fleeting admiration of her youthful beauty with the deeper, lasting love of one man who cherished her "pilgrim soul" and the sorrows of her changing face.

Breakfast: INCLUDED at The Glasshouse House Hotel, Sligo
Lunch: at WB's Coffee House, Sligo
Dinner: at Gracie's Pub, Sligo




Day 6 Tuesday October 20 – Sligo – Sliabh Legue – Lough Eske Castle Donegal

County Donegal High: 59°F, Low: 46°F, Sunrise: 8:10AM, Sunset: 6:21PM, 6,701 Steps

- Left Sligo heading north into fabled Co. Donegal.



- Quick stretch-stop at Rosses Point Beach overlooking the Atlantic Ocean.



- Stopped in Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal, the oldest town in Ireland, settled 5000 years ago…and, birthplace of *Rory Gallagher,* to visit Rory's statue.

William Rory Gallagher, 2 March 1948 – 14 June 1995 was an Irish musician, singer, and songwriter. Regarded as *"Ireland's first rock star",* he is known for his virtuosic style of guitar playing and live performances. He has sometimes been referred to as *"the greatest guitarist you've never heard of".*

Over the last 15 years of his life, Gallagher's physical and mental health gradually declined. A fear of flying, combined with the demands of touring and increasing pressures from the music industry,

contributed to medical issues that led to increased use of prescription medication. By the late 1980s, Gallagher's health had visibly deteriorated. *"I think he was wearing too many hats and the pressure was getting to be too much", brother* Dónal Gallagher later reflected in an interview with Hittin' the Note.

Although touring had become more physically and mentally demanding, Gallagher had a tendency to become depressed and restless during periods of inactivity. *"Rory was only happy on stage, with a guitar in his hands",* Dónal said, *"It was a dilemma: he needed rest, but was only happy when he was on tour. He had no personal life that gave him fulfilment, that was the big tragedy".*



Gallagher was committed to his craft and treated music *"like a vocation in the priesthood".* He never married, had no long-term relationships, and had no children. Often described as shy and introverted, he led *"a solitary unindulgent life away from the stage",* avoiding the excesses commonly associated with the rockstar lifestyle.

Gallagher's final concert took place in Rotterdam on 10 January 1995, but was cut short due to illness. He died in the hospital on the morning of 14 June 1995, aged 47.

- Stopped for a super quick lunch (seafood chowder of course!) in Donegal at the **Abbey Hotel's Market House** restaurant.







- Then we drove to the **Cliffs of Sliabh/Slieve League** on Donegal's **Wild Atlantic Way**.

Sliabh League's Cliffs are almost three times higher than the Cliffs of Moher and among the steepest in Europe; sometimes you can feel like you're on the edge of the world up there. There's an innate spirituality to this rugged terrain, not surprising since it was a place of pilgrimage long before Christianity arrived. With the wild Atlantic crashing below, you can feel like you're floating away with the ever-changing clouds.

In a quiet, less windy place along the trail overlooking the cliffs, we gathered to hear an Irish ballad, and more about the cliffs and ties to the Appalachian Mountains in North America.

The Appalachian Mountains were formed more than 250 million years ago when the earth's plates collided to form the supercontinent of Pangaea. When today's continents separated **remnants of the Appalachians ended up in eastern United States,** eastern Canada, Greenland, Iceland, the British Isles**, Ireland,** the Iberian Peninsula, and the Atlas Mountains of Morocco..





The International Appalachian Trail (IAT) in Ireland officially launched in 2013. The Irish section spans both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland is a 279-mile (449 km) long-distance route **starting at Slieve League in County Donegal** and finishing in Larne, County Antrim, crossing dramatic cliffs, the Sperrin Mountains, the Causeway Coast, and the Glens of Antrim. It links directly to the Scotland chapter via ferry from Larne.

- So, to bring us back to reality we headed for beautiful **Lough Eske Castle Hotel** where we received the traditional "Downton Abbey" waving staff welcome on the steps of the castle. Then off to explore the grounds of this remarkable hotel. **How civilized!!**
- Overnight after an elegant dinner at the Lough Eske Castle Hotel

My Favorite 10/20









Peggy and Phil, I told Larry "I'm 80 years old and now I know where the rich people vacation!" We're staying in a CASTLE!

Yes, when we arrived, the staff was there waving to greet just like at Downton Abbey!

Breakfast: INCLUDED at The Glasshouse House Hotel, Sligo
Lunch: at Market House restaurant in Donegal
Dinner: Elegant dinner INCLUDED at Lough Eske Castle



Day 7 Wednesday October 21 – Lough Eske Castle – Glenveagh National Park – Lough Eske Castle

Donegal High: 52°F, Low: 37°F, Sunrise: 8:12AM, Sunset: 6:18PM, 5,922 Steps

It's often said that you can barely move a mile in Co. Donegal without *"tripping over some kind of scenery."* No truer words!

- So, after breakfast Lough Eske Castle, we headed for one of Donegal's most beautiful areas, **Glenveagh Castle and National Park.**

The hardest part of Glenveagh's history however is not decorative. John George Adair is closely associated with the **Derryveagh Evictions**, one of the most notorious landlord clearances in 1867 Donegal. Sources widely cite up to 250 tenants being expelled from the estate. *That history changed the mood and memory of the place for me. The gardens and scenery are lovely, but…*

The interpretive material at Glenveagh do highlight later conservation work, including habitat protection and the reintroduction of golden eagles. The park is not just a house with grounds. It is a major protected landscape, covering roughly 40,000 acres of mountains, lakes, bog, woodland and wildlife.

A Short Chronology

- 1857 to 1859: John George Adair acquires holdings that became the Glenveagh estate.
- 1867 to 1873: Glenveagh Castle is built.
- 1860s: The Derryveagh Evictions take place during Adair's ownership.
- 1938: Henry Plumer McIlhenny purchases Glenveagh.
- 1974 to 1975: Most of the estate lands are sold to the Irish State.
- 1979: McIlhenny gifts the castle and gardens to the Irish State while retaining lifetime residence rights.

We ate at the park's Nellie's Restaurant for a remarkably tasty lunch of a classic Ruben corned beef sandwich and a generous prawn Cobb style salad.

- Then it's back to the Western sea coast of Donegal and the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area) of Dungloe. The coast around here is sacred to the local population many of whose ancestors were forced to emigrate to America.
- **We stopped at the remote Leo's Tavern** getting a warm welcome from the current proprietor, Leo's youngest son **Bartley**
    - Tábhairne Leo or Leo's Tavern is situated in northwest Ireland in the picturesque County Donegal, in the village of Meenaleck. Situated along the **Wild Atlantic Way**, between the popular tourist destination of Mount Errigal and the Atlantic Ocean.

- Tábhairne Leo was originally opened by Leo Brennan and his wife Maire (Baba) in 1968 as an entertainment venue to enjoy live music. Following a complete refurbishment of the original Leo's, Bartley has elevated the premises to be the premier destination Entertainment Bar Restaurant in the northwest of Ireland.
- The walls are adorned with Gold and Platinum disks, memorabilia and numerous photos of the family with world famous musical faces.
- Leo's Tavern is renowned for its music being the family home of world famous musical talents Enya, family band **Clannad** and Moya Brennan.





▪ As we were leaving Leo's Tavern, something happened I don't remember reading about in any travel guide…**just how many rainbows you can see in Ireland!** Then as we were out and about, driving along those narrow roads (on the left side!), having a little luck…we spotted 4 more rainbows! And the funny thing was, I never got tired of seeing them. I had already seen three that day, but the 4th was just as exciting as the 1st! The 5th was like a blessing!

Another elegant dinner ended with Larry reading from his book Rockin' the Bronx and Overnight at Lough Eske Castle Hotel.

My Favorite 10/21









*Peggy and Phil, We visited Leo's Tavern because Larry had promised his dear friend Moya Brennan he would visit her family tavern in Donegal. Moya recently died before Larry could fulfill his promise, so we went with him to do so. Moya was part of Leo's family's band named Clannod (meaning family)…her sister Anya went on to have a superstar career…their father Leo was storied musician in Donegal for decades…**we were in "THE room where it happened" when Larry sang a song to Moya.***

Now we are without a doubt part of Leo's and Larry's Clannods.

If we 10 travelers discovered anything this week it was too get to know each other so well, we formed into your Clannod as well!!.

Breakfast: INCLUDED at Lough Eske Castle
Lunch: at Nellie's Restaurant, Glenyeagh National Park in Donegal
Dinner: Elegant dinner INCLUDED at Lough Eske Castle









Day 8 Thursday October 22 – Lough Eske Castle – Derry - Dublin

Dublin High: 55°F, Low: 41°F, Sunrise: 8:04AM, Sunset: 6:13PM, 7,239 Steps

- Bidding farewell to our magic castle we headed northeast to the city of Derry.
    - **Derry is a SPECIAL PLACE**, sacred to many as the birthplace of civil rights in Ireland. It's a walled city and special to both nationalist and unionist communities.

    - The city's original name was DERRY. This comes from the Irish DOIRE meaning Oak Grove. In 1613, King James 1 granted the city a royal charter and added LONDON to an anglicized Doire, creating LONDONDERRY. In simplistic terms, both names are in use today – nationalists use the name Derry and unionists call the city Londonderry. (so really, it comes down to whoever you are speaking to….) DERRY – LONDONDERRY is considered by some as a compromise. *I'm sticking with "Derry" because Larry and the locals used this name.*
    - Entering Derry we saw the bronze sculpture **Hands Across the Divide** depicting two men reaching out to each other. Created by Maurice Harron in 1992, the monument symbolizes reconciliation between the political divides of Northern Ireland during the Troubles.

- While waiting for our tour guide Ginny, we had a chance to walk across the **Peace Bridge** a 770 feet long pedestrian and cycle bridge, symbolizing reconciliation and connecting the historically divided communities across the River Foyle.
- I heard someone mention "German U-boats were docked at Derry in WWII."



On Monday 14th May 1945, 8 German U-Boats entered Lough Foyle, bound for the Royal Naval jetty at Lisahally, east of Derry on the River Foyle. The port was not under attack. The fearsome Kriegsmarine had surrendered and brought an end to the Battle of the Atlantic.

The choice of a port in Co. Londonderry as the venue for the U-Boats' surrender was significant. The area played an important role in the Battle of the Atlantic. Churchill had once called the U-Boats his "greatest fear". Airfields and ports in Co. Londonderry were central to the Allies' war on the U-Boat wolfpacks.

In total, more than 100,000 died during the Battle of the Atlantic before Hitler's successor Grand Admiral Karl Donitz surrendered. Donitz instructed all U-Boat captains to surrender to the nearest Allied warship before raising a black flag. Most captains obeyed although some scuttled their own craft rather than surrender.

Of the 156 U-boats surrendered to the Allies by Germany at the end of World War II, 116 were scuttled as part of **Operation Deadlight**. Several U-boats escaped Operation Deadlight. Some were claimed as prizes by the United Kingdom, France, Norway, and the Soviet Union.

Two U-boats that survived Operation Deadlight became museum ships. The U-505 was earmarked for scuttling, but American Rear Admiral Daniel V. Gallery argued successfully that she did not fall under Operation Deadlight. United States Navy Task Group 22.3, under Captain Gallery, had captured U-505 in battle on 4 June 1944. Having been captured not surrendered at the end of the war, **the U-505 survived to become a war memorial at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.** (as every kid in Chicago knew from going on school field trips…*I wound my way through it when I was short…in the 1950s!)*

- Ginny arrived and we drove to **Tour Derry's Historic Walls** where she described the many battles fought there and the hard won peace that the city enjoys.
  - Derry is famous for resisting a siege in 1689, it's also noted for the Battle of the Bogside in 1969.
  - We approached the Wall driving through Bogside. It's murals told the story of the Troubles.

The Incredible Bogside Murals

A few definitions and explanations:

- **The Troubles:** A common name for the Northern Ireland Conflict which lasted roughly from 1968 until the late 1990's.

- **Bogside:** A majority Catholic neighborhood outside the Walled Derry.
- **Battle of the Bogside:** August 12-14, 1969 – 3 days of rioting in the Bogside. British army were deployed on the 14th.
- **Bloody Sunday:** January 30, 1972. British soldiers shot 26 unarmed civilians during a civil rights march. 14 of those died.
- **Operation Motorman:** July 1972 – British Army operation to retake 'no-go' areas of the North
- **H-Block:** This refers to a wing of the Maze Prison where paramilitary prisoners were housed during the Troubles.
- **Hunger Strike:** In March 1981, **Bobby Sands**, the leader of the provisional IRA prisoners, began a hunger strike in the Maze. He died after 66 days. Another 9 hunger strikers died before the campaign was called off in October.

The People's Gallery



Many of the buildings, and indeed the people of the Troubles have moved on but the stories remain and are commemorated today in the street art of the Bogside neighborhood.

The 12 Bogside murals, collectively called the 'Peoples' Gallery', were created by brothers Tom and William Kelly and Kevin Hasson. The threesome have been working on the project since 1993.



THE PETROL BOMBER: Battle of the Bogside, August 1969. A young boy in a gas mask (to protect himself against CS gas) holding a petrol bomb made from a milk bottle. (This was painted in 1994, the year the peace talks began)



BERNADETTE: Bernadette McAliskey addressing the crowds in the Bogside. She was later elected to parliament at the age of 21.



BLOODY SUNDAY: A group of men, led by a local priest, carry the body of Jackie Duddy, the first fatality of the day



BLOODY SUNDAY COMMEMORATION: Portraits of the 14 people killed on Bloody Sunday.



DEATH OF INNOCENCE: 14 year old Annette McGavigan killed in crossfire near her home in September 1971. She was the 100th victim and represents the 3000 people who died during the Troubles.



MOTHERS AND SISTERS: Peggy O Hara was the mother of hunger striker Patsy O Hara and Mickey Devine's sister also features here. The little girl is pointing towards the Peace Mural on another building.



PEACE MURAL: The dove – a symbol of peace – emerges from an oak leaf (a symbol of Derry). The squares are equal on all sides – representing the equality of all citizens. Overall, it represents a symbol of hope for the future.



OPERATION MOTORMAN: Summer 1972 – 'Free Derry' ended when the British army moved in to the area and removed the barricades.



THE SATURDAY MATINEE: There were many riots in the Bogside from 1969 through the early 70's, often on Saturday afternoons.



CIVIL RIGHTS: Early marches were inspired by the campaigns of Martin Luther King and were peaceful demonstrations ….



THE RUNNER: A young boy running, after tear gas has been fired.



A TRIBUTE TO JOHN HUME: Hume cited Martin Luther King as the person who influenced him most. Mother Teresa was involved in the quest for peace in the North. Mandela's campaigns ran parallel with the campaign in the North. All 4 won the Nobel Peace Prize.



- Derry is now a bustling, modern city and we had lunch at **The Thirsty Goat**.

Expensive due to the £ to $ conversion rate.



- And, don't forget Derry Girls, the TV show which follows five teens at a Catholic girls' school in 1990s Derry navigating friendship, family, and absurd escapades against the backdrop of the Troubles. The show blends sharp humor with heartfelt moments, drawing on creator Lisa McGee's own upbringing. Netflix – 3 seasons

- Then we were off to Dublin by the less traveled rural route that took us through historic towns like Strabane & Omagh, and into Co. Monaghan. It's **"peat bog countryside"** so the road softly undulates up and down as the compacted ground has settled.
- Arriving late at the Camden Court hotel with rain threating, we decided to go next store to **The Bleeding Horse** for dinner. The hostess Barbara who took good care of us on our arrival day the Friday before found us a table for 4 in a quiet corner away from the bustle of the crowd and live

music. As we sat down I noticed one of Larry's "Crushers" at the next table with his family…we all had a great conversation.

- Overnight at the Camden Court Hotel.

My Favorite 10/22

Peggy and Phil, Today we dodged the rain and walked on the walled city Derry's Wall. Ginny our guide was a treat telling us all about where Ireland's modern racial and civil rights justice battles began in Derry…many murals told the stories.

Lunch at The Thirsty Goat…on to Dublin to overnight.

Breakfast: INCLUDED Lough Eske Castle
Lunch: At The Thirsty Goat in Derry
Dinner: at The Bleeding Horse, Dublin





Day 9 Friday October 23 - Dublin

Dublin High: 50°F, Low: 43°F, Sunrise:8:06AM, Sunset: 6:11PM, 11,175Steps

- 9:00AM After breakfast our last full day in Ireland is a free day and the Tour provides us with day passes for the HopOn-HopOff Bus Tours of Dublin. The route passes:
    - Fox House
    - Irish Whiskey Museum
    - Dublin Castle
    - Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin
    - St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin
    - The Dublin Liberties Distillery
    - Guinness Storehouse
    - Pearse Lyons Whiskey Distillery
    - Irish Museum of Modern Art (near Kilmainham Jail Museum)
    - Heuston Station
    - Phoenix Park
    - Parkgate Street
    - National Museum of Ireland - Decorative Arts & History
    - Jameson Distillery Bow St. Pass by
    - Temple Bar
    - Dublin Writers Museum
    - O'Connell Street y
    - GPO Museum, Dublin
    - EPIC The Irish Emigration Museum (across the street from "FAMINE")
    - The Convention Centre Dublin
    - Bord Gáis Energy Theatre
    - Merrion Square
    - National Gallery of Ireland
    - St. Stephen's Green (near Camden Court Hotel)
    - Mansion House
    - Arrive back at Fox House



- On our way walking from the bus to the Gaol, we stopped for a quick lunch at Cooper's Corner…their seafood chowder and brown bread tied for BEST with Devitt's Pub of the 5 I tasted during the week.

- We bought tickets online 28 days before to the 90-minute visit to Kilmainham Gaol/Jail Museum (near to Irish Museum of Modern Art).



Kilmainham Gaol was opened in 1796 and over 200 years held thousands of men, women and children for crimes that ranged from minor offences to being involved in some of the most momentous events in Irish history. In the late 1850s, the east wing was replaced completely. It opened four years later, and reflected the very different ideas of the Victorian age. Based on the Panopticon, it is possible to see all ninety-six cells from a central viewing area. The use of light was deliberate and philosophical. It was thought that the huge skylight would spiritually inspire the inmates, while the out-of-reach cell windows would encourage them to turn heavenward. Under the ground of this new wing were the kitchen and four cellar-level isolation cells intended for dark and solitary confinement.

Our visit to Kilmainham Gaol took us on a journey through 200 years of Irish history that connected the dots for me. We discovered the stories of people held here as ordinary criminals alongside those who fought for Irish independence. From the 1798 rebellion, to the 1916 Easter Rising, the Anglo-Irish War (1919-21), to the devastation of the Irish Civil War (1922-23) all these important events have a chapter in the story of Kilmainham Gaol.

Kilmainham Gaol opened in 1796 as the new County Gaol for Dublin. While most of the prisoners were common criminals, it also held political prisoners involved in Ireland's struggle for independence. Included amongst those held here were **Robert Emmet, Anne Devlin, the Fenians, Charles Stewart Parnell, Countess Markievicz** and the leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising, 14 of whom were executed by firing squad in the Stonebreaker's yard. (on the spot of the cross)

From the time it opened until the early 1850s, Kilmainham Gaol was used as a depot for convicts from the north-east of Ireland, who had been sentenced to transportation to Australia. Here they would wait before being transferred to a port in either Dublin or Cork, where they would board great convict ships bound for Australian penal colonies. This the main reason it was so overcrowded. Over 4,000 prisoners were processed through Kilmainham over time. Most were either petty criminals or political prisoners. The convicts were usually sentenced to seven years,

fourteen years, or life. Australia was chosen for its remoteness; it replaced North America as a penal destination after the American Revolution.

The cell of Grace Gifford at Kilmainham Gaol had a painted depiction of the Virgin Mary and Child on the wall. The artwork was created during her imprisonment in 1923 while she was awaiting trial for her role in the Irish Civil War.

The Gaol was closed in 1924 but was preserved as a national monument in the 1960s and restored by the Kilmainham Gaol Restoration Committee. It was handed over to the State in 1986 and today is run by the Office of Public Works.

- 6:00PM Farewell Dinner at Camden Court Hotel
    - …after which we headed to our bed rather than the celebratory "American Wake" with Larry and his youngblood "Crushers", next door at The Bleeding Horse. 25 Camden Street Upper Dublin 2 D02 NP22, https://bleedinghorse.ie/
- Over Night at The Camden Court Hotel

My Favorite 10/23








Peggy and Phil, we had a leisurely free day. Slept in late. Played cards, 6 card Golf, until 11AM when the rain stopped. Walked to the HopOn-HopOff bus thru St. Stevens Green. Toured the Kilmainham Goal/Jail…which connected the dots for 200 years of history…walked back to the bus thru Modern Art Museum park. Back for more cards and the farewell dinner where we roasted (I mean toasted) Peggy and Phil again.

Talk to you soon…praying for your healing and good health!!

Breakfast: INCLUDED Camden Court Hotel
Lunch: at Cooper's Corner, Dublin
Dinner: INCLUDED Farewell Dinner at Camden Court Hotel



Day 10 Saturday October 24 – Dublin - Atlanta

ATLANTA High: 69°F, Low: 44°F, Sunrise: 7:49AM, Sunset:6:53PM, 5,078 Steps:

- 7:00AM breakfast then checkout of Camden Court Hotel.
- 7:30AM Tour bus to DUB (30 minute ride)
- LV Dublin, IR Airport DUB on flight DL 0177 at 11:00AM, ARR ATL at 2:52PM (dur 8H 52m) (3,933 miles)
- Arrived at ATL on Saturday at 2:30PM!
    - Google Maps routed us north of the airport through neighborhoods of East Point from Parking Spot #1…the 285 expressway was CLOSED (both ways north and south) near the airport due to construction! Cars heading south on 285 didn't get the message and were backed up for miles…finally getting onto north 285, we got home in about 1 hour 15 minutes (about normal these days)…a friend took 2 hours and 30 minutes that day!
- Wake-up-in-Dublin to Heads-down-at-home only about 20 hours!
- Home again, home again, jiggety jig!

Breakfast: INCLUDED Camden Court Hotel, Dublin
Lunch: On plane
Dinner: Take out Rosatti's pizza and salad in Cumming, GA

Peggy and Phil's Clannod with our host Larry Kirwan

Kathy Bennett, Mary Pat and Brian Coughlin, Mary Beth Enright, Pat and Roger Fraser, Terri Hilger, Therese Kelly, Kathy and Joe McLaughlin



Appendix A

Larry Kirwan BLACK 47/CELTIC CRUSH Newsletter

June 4, 2026

"I got laid on James Joyce's grave
I was hoping his genius would rub off on me
But all I got was a kick in the head
From the caretaker who discovered me..."

Happy upcoming Bloomsday: Yes, indeed, the big day is ahead of us on June 16th. I hope you get a chance to celebrate. I'll be doing my usual inspired interpretation of Gerty McDowell alongside Aedín Moloney, Colum McCann & a cast of thousands at Ulysses, 58 Stone Street, NYC. 212-482-0400 Festivities begin around 1pm and continue until....

Both upcoming tours, Ireland Oct. 18, 2026, and Scotland April 18, 2027 are sold out. However, I always recommend that those who would like to come should sign up for the Wait List with Joe or Sue at Hammond Tours. 518-765-2056 or 1-866-486-8772. People inevitably have to drop out for one reason or another. For a flyer go to https://www.hammondtours.com/product/larry-kirwan/ Click on "ViewTour PDF" for full details.

I regret to inform you that SiriusXM, in its wisdom, is now only featuring Celtic Crush on the first Sunday of every month. Upcoming show this Sunday (Top 100 Crusher Countdown) June 7, then July 5, August 2, and so on and so forth and so fifth. Celtic Crush is hosted by Larry Kirwan on SiriusXM The Loft, Ch. 710 Sun 9am, Tues. 9pm, and Wed Midnight ET. 8 full Celtic Crush shows always available on the SiriusXM App.

Anyone going to Liverpool, UK on July 23-25, my play, Liverpool Fantasy will be resurrected at the Epstein Theatre, 85 Hanover St. Liverpool. With a bit of Beatles luck, this will lead to a longer run and a UK Tour. For tickets and info: https://www.epsteintheatre.com/whats-on/liverpool-fantasy/#book-now

Scroll down for recommended Irish books & movies.

Larry Kirwan's Irish Echo columns are collected at http://black47theband.blogspot.com/

Check out Christopher Carrol's Fans of Celtic Crush www.facebook.com/groups/98160297580 and Celtic Crush https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063454984357

Beir bua,

Larry Kirwan

CELTIC CRUSH T-SHIRTS & BLACK 47 LARRY KIRWAN MERCH
Mens & Ladies CELTIC CRUSH t-shirts. S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL. And for all BLACK 47 CDs,

T-Shirts, DVDs, Larry Kirwan signed books go to https://black-47-store.myshopify.com/

LARRY KIRWAN - BLACK 47 - IRISH ECHO BLOG

I had been meaning to visit Egypt for the last 40 years, so in April I bit the bullet and went. No big deal, except shortly beforehand Messrs. Netanyahu & Trump decided to blow the hell out of Iran. Everyone thought I was around the bend, but my travel agent said I'd have the place to myself - and how bad could that be.

The Pyramids, the spanking new Great Egyptian Museum, the graves of Ramses & young Tutankhamun were breathtaking but I had an ulterior motive, I wanted to walk the streets of Alexandria and catch the remaining echoes of a set of books that Pete Hamill and I had often spoke of, The Alexandria Quartet written by Irishman Lawrence Durrell....

For more go to: https:/black47theband.blogspot.com/

4 of LARRY KIRWAN'S BOOKS

- GREEN SUEDE SHOES - An Irish-American Odyssey
- ROCKAWAY BLUE
- LIVERPOOL FANTASY
- ROCKIN' THE BRONX

Available on Kindle:
https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B001K8NX96?ingress=0&visitId=160afe48-71ab-4ffc-867c-902755cf2927

RECOMMENDED IRISH BOOKS & POETRY

- Land - Maggie O'Farrell
- After Oscar - The Legacy of a Scandal - Merlin Holland
- The Alexandria Quartet - Lawrence Durrell
- John of John - Douglas Stuart
- Anthony's Aria - The Story of a Working Class Opera God - Derek Dempsey
- Shiftless - Anthony C. Murphy
- Heart Be At Peace - Donal Ryan
- Venetian Vespers - John Banville
- This Here Is Love - Princess Joy L. Perry
- Tumbling Down - Billy Roche
- That Old Country Music - Kevin Barry
- Afterburn - Sámus Scanlon
- Ninety-Nine Words For Rain - Manchan Magan
- Love and Summer - William Trevor
- The Green Road/The Gathering - Anne Enright
- Eddie Jordan Full Throttle - Keith O'Loughlin
- Inishowen, The Ghosts of Rome - Joseph O'Connor
- Ironweed, Legs Diamond or any book by William Kennedy
- Time of the Child - Niall Williams
- Amongst Women, The Dark or any book by John McGahern
- Rockin' The Bronx - Larry Kirwan
- Living By The River - Pierce Turner
- The Drowned - John Banville
- Middlemarch - George Eliot

- Intermezzo - Sally Rooney
- Old God's Time - Sebastian Barry
- All Souls: A Family Story From Southie, and Easter Rising - Michael Patrick MacDonald
- Trespass - Louise Kennedy
- The Heart in Winter - Kevin Barry
- The Alternatives - Caoilinn Hughes
- The Iron Heel - Jack London
- Rockaway Blue - Larry Kirwan
- Edge of the Grave - Robbie Morrison
- Pull Me Up, The Bottom of the 33rd, This Land, or anything by Dan Barry
- The Woman Behind the Door - Roddy Doyle
- Long Island - Colm Tóibín
- Small Things Like These/Foster - Clare Keegan
- Terri Hooley: Seventy-Five Revolutions & Trouble Songs - Stuart Bailie
- The Hunter - Tana French
- The Fall of Light/This is Happiness - Niall Williams
- Act of Oblivion - Robert Harris
- Prophet Song - Paul Lynch
- My Father's House. Shadow Play - Joseph O'Connor
- Factory Girls - Michelle Gallen
- The Bee Sting - Paul Murray
- June Loves Legs - Karl Geary
- The Lock-up - John Banville or any "Quirke" novel
- How To Build A Boat - Elaine Feeney
- The Heart's Invisible Furies - John Boyne
- Cross Bronx - A Writing Life, Banished Children of Eve by Peter Quinn
- Time Pieces - A Dublin Memoir, April in Spain by John Banville
- All Will Be Well, Amongst Women, The Dark - John McGahern
- Woodstock Goes To Hollywood - Colin Broderick
- Music + Revolution (Greenwich Village in the 1960's - Richard Barone
- Paddy's Day in Trump Town - Stephen Corbett
- All The Things I Know - Zebadiah Keneally
- Sean O'Casey's I Knock At The Door & the other 5 volumes of his autobiography
- Haven - Emma Donoghue
- The Queen of Dirt Island & The Spinning Heart - Donal Ryan
- Worlds by John Kearns
- We Don't Know Ourselves - Fintan O'Toole
- Sailing Ships of Wexford 1840's - 1940's - Brian Cleere & Jack O'Leary
- Seán Ó'Riada by Tomás Ó'Cannain
- We Were Rich and We Didn't Know It - Tom Phelan
- The Writing Irish of New York - Colin Broderick (Reissued)
- The Magician by Colm Toibín
- Did You Hear That Mammy Died - Seamus O'Reilly
- Beautiful World, Where Are You by Sally Rooney
- A Ghost in the Throat by Doireann Ní Ghriofa
- The Informer by Liam O'Flaherty
- Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell
- Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart
- The Searcher and The Witch Elm by Tana French

- Days Without End. On Canaan's Side and The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty - Sebastian Barry
- The Abstainer by Ian McGuire
- The Cold Millions by Jess Walter
- Real Irish New York by Dermot McEvoy
- Ask Again, Yes: A Novel by Mary Beth Keane
- American Dirt or The Outside Boy by Jeanine Cummins
- Heartbreak Ridge & other poems by Bill Nevins
- Milkman - Anna Burns
- The Mirror & The Light, Wolf Hall or Bringing Up The Bodies by Hilary Mantel
- Normal People and Conversations with Friends - Sally Rooney
- The Unstoppable Irish - Dan Milner
- The Green Road, The Gathering - Anne Enright
- Orchid and the Wasp - Caoilinn Hughes
- Death Need Not Be Fatal, A Monk Swimming - Malachy McCourt
- Samuel Beckett Is Closed - Michael Coffey
- Ashes of Fiery Weather - Kathleen Donohue
- Ten Men Dead - The Story of the 1981 Hunger Strike - David Beresford.
- City of Bohane, Night Boat to Tangier - Kevin Barry
- The Immortal Irishman - Timothy Egan
- Collected Stories or any book by William Trevor
- The Wonder, Astray, or The Pull of the Stars - Emma Donoghue
- Call of the Lark - Maura Mulligan
- Collected Poems of William Butler Yeats
- Horse Latitudes, The Howdie Skelp by Paul Muldoon
- Michael Collins : a biography, The IRA, by Tim Pat Coogan
- Little Chapel on the River - Wendy Bounds
- The Testament of Mary or Brooklyn by Colm Toibin
- Tender or Solace by Belinda McKeon
- Youngblood - Matt Gallagher
- The Butcher Boy and Breakfast on Pluto - Pat McCabe
- Country Girl Trilogy - Edna O'Brien
- The Merry Hearted Boys - Ron Leonard
- Mink River - Brian Doyle
- The Yellow Birds - Kevin Powers
- Irish Above All, Galway Bay - Mary Pat Kelly
- Dancer, Thirteen Ways of Looking - Colum McCann
- Havana Nocturne, The Westies, Dangerous Rhythms - TJ English
- Ironweed, Legs (Diamond) - William Kennedy
- Angela's Ashes, 'Tis - Frank McCourt
- Banished Children of Eve - Peter Quinn
- A Second Life - Dermot Bolger
- The Bogman - Walter Macken
- The Last of the High Kings - Ferdia Mac Anna
- Paradise Alley - Kevin Baker
- Where Have You Been , Star of the Sea - Joseph O'Connor
- The Great Hunger - Cecil Woodham-Smith

- The Orange and the Green - GA Henty.
- A Drinking Life - Pete Hamill
- Vibrations: Adventures & Musical Times by David Amram
- Against The Tide - Dr. Noel Browne
- Lost Boys of the Bronx, The Oral History of the Ducky Boys Gang - James Hannon
- Troubles - JG Farrell
- South Lawn Plot - Ray O'Hanlon
- Thy Tears Might Cease - Michael Farrell
- Borstal Boy - Brendan Behan
- Donnelly Trilogy of plays, by James Reaney concerning the Irish-Canadian experience.
- Tarry Flynn or The Green Fool - Patrick Kavanagh
- This is Your Brain on Shamrocks by Mike Farragher (Want to plumb the depths of your Irish psyche? Mike's your man!)
- Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man or Dubliners - James Joyce. Two excellent and slim books that will give you a feel for Sunny Jim's work before you tackle Ulysses. Don't despair if you find yourself bogged down in Ulysses; just have a drink, pop open any page and read aloud. But don't miss Molly Bloom's closing soliloquy - one of the wonders of literature.
- Astrakhan Cloak - Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill an earthy, yet spiritual, glance into the soul of a powerful Irish woman.
- Collected Stories - Frank O'Connor.
- Five Points - Tyler Anbinder. A history of the Irish and other immigrants who lived in New York City's most notorious 19th Century slum.
- The Captains and the Kings - Jennifer Johnston
- Station Island or any collection of poems by Seamus Heaney
- Good Behaviour and Time After Time by Molly Keane
- Year of the French - Thomas Flanagan
- At Swim Two Birds or The Poor Mouth - Flann O'Brien
- Strumpet City - James Plunkett
- A Traitor's Kiss: The Life of Richard Brinsley Sheridan - Fintan O'Toole
- Poetry My Arse - Brendan Kennelly
- Green Suede Shoes - Larry Kirwan Will give you a sense of Wexford and NY, along with with a dry-eyed glance at a life in the music business.. and Rockin' The Bronx - for a glimpse into some of the glory years of the Irish in the Bronx during the 1970's and 80's.

RECOMMENDED MOVIES

- '71
- A Bend in the River
- (featuring John Duddy)
- A Man of No Importance
- Adam & Paul
- An Cailín Ciúin
- An Everlasting Piece
- Angel
- Angel
- Arracht
- Bad Day For The Cut
- Bad Sisters

- Black '47
- Bloody Sunday
- Bloody Sunday
- Bloom
- Borstal Boy
- Breakfast on Pluto
- Bring Them Down
- Broken Harvest
- Brooklyn
- Cal
- Calvary
- · Calvary or The Guard
  John Michael McDonagh
  with
  Brendan Gleeson
- Celtic Soul
- Emerald City
- Foster in the Five Points
- Good Vibrations
- Grabbers
- Hamnet
- Hear My Song
- Hotel Rwanda
- Hunger
- Hunger
- In America
- In Bruges
- In the Name of the Father
- Into The West
- Jimmy's Hall
- Kneecap
- Little Women
- Local Hero
- Man of Aran
- Michael Collins
- My Left Foot
- North Circular
- Nothing Compares
- Odd Man Out
- Odd Man Out
- Omagh
- Once
- One Night in Mill Street
- Oppenheimer
- Peaky Blinders
- Room
- Rosie
- Rosie
- Ryan's Daughter
- Secret Scripture - Jim Sheridan
- Shake Hands with the Devil
- · Shalom Ireland
  by Valerie Lapin Ganley
- Siege of Jadotville
- Sing Street
- Sing Street
- Small Things Like These
- Some Mother's Son
- Song of Granite
- That They May Face The Sun
  (John McGahern)
- The Banshees of Inisherin
- The Boys From County Clare
- The Brylcream Boys
- The Butcher Boy
- The Closer You Get
- The Commitments
- The Crying Game
- The Drummer & the Keeper
- The Drummer and the Keeper
  Nick Kelly
- The Field
- The General
- The General
- The Guard
- The Guard
- The Informer
- The Last of the High Kings
- The Magdalene Sisters
- The Magdalene Sisters
- The Miracle Club
- The Nightingale

- The Problem With People
- The Quiet Man
- The Secret of Kells
- The Secret of Roan Inish
- The Secret Scripture
- The Snapper
- The Song Thief (Colin Carberry)
- The Van
- The Wind That Shakes The Barley
- The Wonder
- This Is My Father
- This is the Sea
- Trojan Eddie
- Veronica Guerin
- Waking Ned Devine
- Young Plato

Rockin' The Bronx is NOW ON SALE. Autographed copies by Larry Kirwan are available at SHOP at www.black47.com Also available at book stores, Amazon and all digital outlets.

Rockin' The Bronx vividly recalls vibrant and chaotic Bainbridge Avenue where Irish immigrants forged a new community in the pubs & dancehalls, amid a backdrop of political upheaval and social unrest. "Larry Kirwan blends drama and passion into a searing narrative of a neighborhood long since vanished that he knew so well."

Black 47/Celtic Crush/
For Newsletter or other Info CONTACT
blk47@aol.com

Appendix B

BLACK 47/CELTIC CRUSH Newsletter

July 3, 2026

"I remember your eyes from the 12th of July
When the sirens were screaming and the flames licked the sky..."

A very happy 4th of July weekend. What weather! I have a request on this blistering weekend. Most of you know my opinion of Spotify. It changed the world for musicians. Nonetheless, without a presence there, the world can forget about a band - and that would be too cruel a fate for Black 47, so while I still encourage you to download a musician's music, I'm asking you to visit the Black 47 Spotify page and make a playlist of your favorite songs or choose B47/Larry Kirwan songs that go with a particular feeling or genre that appeals to you. I just added my first playlist in memory of these fiery days. Feel free to let it rip https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0Z9S2H6Ay7dJZAf6p53lKx

Hallelujah!! CELTIC CRUSH will return to The Loft/SiriusXM 710 this coming Sunday, July 5th, 9amET. We'll play the final 33 songs you chose for the Top 100 Countdown. Look out for lots of surprises!

Larry Kirwan's Irish Echo columns are collected at http://black47theband.blogspot.com/

Check out Christopher Carrol's Fans of Celtic Crush www.facebook.com/groups/98160297580 and Celtic Crush https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063454984357

Keep the faith, Larry Kirwan



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CELTIC CRUSH T-SHIRTS & BLACK 47 LARRY KIRWAN MERCH



- Mens & Ladies CELTIC CRUSH t-shirts. S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL
- And for all BLACK 47 CDs,
- T-Shirts, DVDs, Larry Kirwan signed books go to https://black-47-store.myshopify.com/

LARRY KIRWAN - BLACK 47 - IRISH ECHO BLOG

"Send 'em Home Sweatin'!" was the battle cry of Irish showbands during their rambunctious dancehall reign back in the 1960's. As a callow youth I experienced the tail end of their scene, but I never regretted a moment. They taught me how to play in ever key, how to keep going through thick and thin, and how to fool the world with a smile even when it knew better.

Find out what Ben Dolan of The Drifters meant when he proclaimed "As long as the floor is black, you and me are on the pig's back."

For more go to:
https://black47theband.blogspot.com/

4 of LARRY KIRWAN'S BOOKS

1. GREEN SUEDE SHOES - An Irish-American Odyssey
2. ROCKAWAY BLUE
3. LIVERPOOL FANTASY
4. ROCKIN' THE BRONX

available on Kindle

https://www.amazon.com/stores/author/B001K8NX96?ingress=0&visitId=160afe48-71ab-4ffc-867c-902755cf2927

Appendix C Ireland Travel Tip: Power



Outlets used in Ireland

- Type G
  - 220-250 V, 50 Hz.
  - 3 pins
    G standard requires use of a three-wire grounded and fused plug for all connections to the power mains. Two-wire appliances are not grounded, but they still have a grounding pin which only serves to open the shutters of the outlet. The lack of such a grounding pin on a type C plug makes it impossible to connect it to a type G receptacle.
  - grounded
  - Max 13 A

Power Adapters

- Adapts USA Type B plug to British/UK Type G plug
- Use with iPhone 2-pin Chargers which operate from 100-240 VAC
- Buy on Amazon: Ceptics 2 in 1 Type G Adapter,
  US to UK Adapter, Ireland, etc.
  3 Pack, $10.18



Power Converters

- Converts 230V to 120V
- Adapts USA Type B plug to British/UK Type G plug
- Use with USA 120v devices, 25 - 880 W. (check power limits)
- Buy on Amazon: WAUDM International Travel Adapters + Voltage Converter to Step Down 230V to 120V from UK, Europe, Australia, etc. to USA voltage,
  1 Pack, $29.99

