

**THE TOLEDO HIBERNIAN
NEWSLETTER
C/O MAURY COLLINS
2847 NASH ROAD
TOLEDO, OHIO 43613**



BORDERLINE GENIUS, LLC

IN GOD WE TRUST



June 9 ~ Druid Concert at St Clement Hall
June 11 ~ Toraigh An Sonas session at The Blarney
June 16 ~ Bloomsday
June 19 ~ Happy Father's Day
June 21 ~ Summer Solstice
June 25 ~ Hibernian Golf outing
July 13 - 16 National Convention
July 24 ~ Irish night at the Mud Hens Game
August 4 ~ Sandpiper River Cruise
September 25 ~ Father Ray Kelly Concert



Mother McAuley Division

HIBERNIANS OF TOLEDO NEWSLETTER

JUNE, 2022



John P. Kelly Division



AOH-LAOH NATIONAL CONVENTION PITTSBURGH 2022

AOH-LAOH National Convention July 13 - 16, 2022 Pittsburgh, Pa.
<https://www.2022pittsburghconvention.com/>

A MESSAGE FROM LAOH PRESIDENT, ANN DOLLMAN



Warm Summer Greetings!
I hope everyone is excited about all of the fun planned for this Summer! Join us June 9th at St. Clements for The Druids concert! July 24th is Irish night at the Mud Hens! You can get your tickets online through the following link-

<https://offer.fevo.com/columbus-clippers-g9izteh-17fbcaa?fevoUri=columbus-clippers-g9izteh-17fbcaa%2F>

Or I can pick them up for you. Email me at anndollman@yahoo.com
Call or text me at 4192500288

The cost is \$11 per ticket. If you do it on line you can choose your own seats at the discount price!

I am looking into a LAOH meeting at a restaurant for the Month of June. I will email everyone the date and time.

The Sandpiper is in August. Join us this summer! Let's make some wonderful Irish memories with friendship and festivities! Hope to see you soon!

These are pictures from our May meeting where we painted flower pots





A MESSAGE FROM AOH DIVISION PRESIDENT, ROBERT McMAHON

Please pray especially this month for all the victims of violence in our world. June is the month of the Sacred Heart; Let us all be moved by his example of infinite love as we do the work of our order and try to make the world a more holy place. Thank you to all the men who came out to our second Shamrock dinner. We had a great time at Shorty's BBQ. The weather was nice, and the food was delicious. It was good opportunity for some of our new members to meet. Special thank you to Seminarian for Toledo Declan Riemer and Randolph Boyer for joining since our last meeting. June is going to be a great month for the Hibernians. We have two great events lined up. Please plan to attend our joint event with the Toledo Irish American Club on Thursday 9th June at the St. Clement's Hall on Tremainsville Rd. We are bringing the Druids from Ireland to come to Toledo on their USA tour. Take a moment to look them up online. Mick the band leader will be providing a wonderful pre show lecture on the History of Irish Music as History at 6:15 before the show begins at 7. Tickets can be purchased before the day online or at the door. There will be a 5\$ discount for early ticket purchases. If you are not able to make online purchases, please contact me. The annual Hibernian fun family golf outing will be Saturday 25th June at Cherrywood. This is great for even the most inexperienced golfers. Nine holes and lunch on the patio. We always have a great time. Please contact Jimmy or me to confirm if you have a team or if you are an individual. We will be providing the meat so it will be good to get a rough idea for how much to buy. Bring a side or desert.

Remember to light a bonfire on June 24th!!

John the Baptist preached: "There will come one greater than I the latchet of whose shoe I am not worthy to loosen." On this night people make a fire to commemorate John's birth.

They say their prayers around it, play music and have a feast, usually boiled bread and milk with a few raisins added.

A coal would be taken home from the fire and throw it into their potato and crop fields for protection from disease.

Irish Saint of the month

Saint Columba. He became a monk when he was a young man and spent the next several years teaching and preaching in Ireland. By the time he was 25, he had founded over two dozen monasteries.


At this time, monasteries were not only houses of prayer, but also centers of art, literature and education. Monks lived in dome-shaped cells made of rock and lived simple lives of solitude. Many monks were scribes, whose job it was to copy books or manuscripts by hand. Since printing presses and computers were not yet invented, this was the only way to make copies of books. The monks added beautiful illustrations to the pages. These works are called "illuminated manuscripts." The Book of Kells, was most likely started at the monastery of Iona, which was founded by Columba. This manuscript has been preserved and is on display in Dublin, Ireland!

St Columba set off in 563 to the island of Iona, with twelve companions. They established a community in which they spent their days in prayer, work, and preaching the Gospel. He traveled by boat to the islands around Iona as well as to the mainland of Scotland and England where he founded several small churches.

Columba was also a talented poet. He celebrated the beauty of nature in his poems. "Alone with none but Thee, my God, I journey on my way. What need I fear when Thou art near, Oh King of night and day? More safe am I within Thy hand than if a host did round me stand." Saint Columba praised God in the wonders of nature and recognized the blessings that are given to us each day.

As St Columba got older, he spent much more of his time writing and copying manuscripts. It is said that he was personally responsible for copying over three hundred books. He died on June 9 in the year 597.

JUNE, 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9 <i>Druid Concert</i>	10	11 <i>Session @ The Blarney</i>
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 	20	21 <i>Summer Solstice</i>	22	23 <i>St. John's Eve</i>	24	25 <i>Golf Outing</i>
26	27	28	29	30		

In 2022, June Solstice is set to take place on **Tuesday, June 21, 2022**. It'll occur at exactly 05:14 EDT. It always takes place around this time of year, sometimes occurring on June 20 and sometimes on June 21. In 2023, the Summer Solstice will also be on June 21, while it'll be on June 20 in each of 2024 and 2025.

In ancient pagan times in Ireland, the Summer Solstice symbolized that the power of the sun was at its highest and was believed to be a sacred time. Held sacred by people from the Neolithic era, the Hill of Tara was believed by worshippers to be a 'homeplace' of the gods and an entrance to the world of eternal joy.

Every year on June 21, hundreds of Irish people flock to the Hill in Co. Meath to mark the day and watch the sunrise. Many towns and cities have 'Midsummer Carnivals' with fairs, concerts and fireworks either on or on the weekend nearest to the Solstice. Midsummer bonfires have also been a tradition in Ireland for hundreds of years. The tradition lives on in Ireland today with a few restrictions on times of day when bonfires are allowed. In rural spots particularly to Ireland's northwest, the bonfires are lit on hilltops. This tradition harks back to pagan times and is now associated with St. John's Night.



The Druids

PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY, JUNE 9TH
St. Clements Hall
2990 Tremainsville Rd., Toledo, OH

Doors 6pm For Half hour
Educational Talk
7pm for Concert

Druids Member, Mick O'Brien, will do a half hour educational talk discussing Irish Songs as Historical Artifacts. The doors for this portion will open at 6pm and Mick will start at 6:15pm. The ticket price for both this and the concert will be \$25 in advance(or \$30 at the door).

For those that wish to attend the Show Only, doors to enter will be 7pm. The advance ticket price will be \$20 in advance(or \$25 at the door).

We will also have a special performance by some local Irish dancers and there will be plenty of Adult Beverages (and soda) to purchase along with snacks! We can't wait for this night and encourage you to get your tickets in advance before this show sells out!

Order your tickets through Eventbrite on either club's Facebook page



A MESSAGE FROM THE CRAZY EDITOR, MAURY COLLINS

I wrote an article about John Kelly from Killane. There was a song written about him by P.J. McCall. Please don't confuse him with Toledo's John P. Kelly, who our AOH division is named after. John P. Kelly's code was; Never let your friends down and never break your word. At Mr. Kelly's retirement dinner, Judge Robert Franklin described Mr. Kelly as a politician with an outstanding record, a maker of presidents, loved by Republicans and Democrats, a sincere, dedicated American with an active fertile mind, competitive spirit and dynamic leadership. His achievements and effective service helped build Toledo and Lucas County, making them a better place in which to live. Somebody should write a song about him!!!!

Father's Day is observed on the third Sunday of June. It honors all fathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, and father figures for their contributions. Children have more need of models than critics. The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!!!! GOD BLESS US ALL!!!!!!

HIBERNIAN GOLF AT CHERRYWOOD



10:00 AM Saturday June 25th

Nine holes of golf w/cart

Plus lunch for \$25!!

Another \$10 to go around after lunch

**Bring your own beverage and
a salad or picnic dish to pass**

**It's scrambles golf. Fun for everyone
whatever your level!!!!**

Make up your own team or just come out.

Call Jim Dreps 419-480-9481

Here is what Jimmy Dreps says:

**Super cheap golf!! Best place for once a year golfer and for
first timers. Rental clubs are available cheap!!!!**

**This is an open event..men & women..Hibernians
family members, neighbors and friends are welcome!!**



Smile and be happy

A woman has a problem with the wardrobe door in her bedroom. Every time a bus passes outside the house, the door of the wardrobe would fall off. She calls a repairman to try to fix the problem. The repairman comes and sees the door fall off every time a bus passed by. "Okay" said the repairman, "I'm going to step inside the wardrobe, you close the door behind me, 'til I see if I can detect what the problem is." He steps into the wardrobe. The wife closes the door behind him.

At this point, the husband arrives home, and hears his wife in the bedroom talking to somebody. He rushes upstairs. Opens the wardrobe door, see's the repairman and shouts; "What the hell are you doing in there?" The repairman meekly replies; "Well believe it or not, I'm waiting for a bus"

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.' 'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?' 'The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'" Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, 'Which service, the 8:30 or the 11:00?'

"Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young student confidently. "Means carrying a child."

"Just relax", the hospital staff kept telling Jim, but it was to no avail. Jim's wife was in labor and Jim was a nervous wreck. After what seemed like a week, to both Jim and the hospital staff, a nurse came out with the happy news, "it's a girl", she cried. "Thank God, a girl", said Jim, "at least she won't have to go through what I just went through!"

The cowboy lay sprawled across three entire seats in the theater. When the usher came by and noticed this he whispered to the cowboy, "Sorry, sir, but you're only allowed one seat." The cowboy groaned but didn't budge. The usher became more impatient. "Sir, if you don't get up from there, I'm going to have to call the manager. The cowboy just groaned. The usher marched briskly back up the aisle. In a moment he returned with the manager. Together the two of them tried repeatedly to move the cowboy, but with no success. Finally, they summoned the police. The cop surveyed the situation briefly then asked, "All right buddy, what's your name?" "Sam," the cowboy moaned. "Where are you from, Sam?" With pain in his voice Sam replied..."The balcony."

A painter by the name of Murphy, while not a brilliant scholar, was a gifted portrait artist. Over a short number of years, his fame grew and soon people from all over Ireland were coming to the town of Miltown Malbay, in County Clare, to get him to paint their likenesses. One day, a beautiful young English woman arrived at his house in a stretch limo and asked if he would paint her in the nude. This being the first time anyone had made such a request he was a bit perturbed, particularly when the woman told him that money was no object; and in fact, she was willing to pay up to £10,000. Not wanting to get into any marital strife, he asked her to wait while he went into the house to confer with Mary, his wife. They talked much about the Rightness and Wrongness of it. It was hard to make the decision but finally his wife agreed, on one condition. In a few minutes he returned. "T'would be me pleasure to paint yer portrait, missus," he said "The wife says it's okay. I'll paint you in the nude all right; but I have to at least leave me socks on, so I have a place to wipe me brushes."

A 70 year old man married a 34 year old lady. The morning after the wedding night, the couple walked into a restaurant. He had a big grin and a spring to his steps. She had a shocked look and walked very slow. A waitress asked her if she was OK. She said, I dated my husband for five years. He was always a perfect gentleman. He told me that he has been saving up for 50 years. I thought he meant money!!!!!!!

Bonfire Night

Bonfire Night, or Bonna Night as it is known in Cork, is celebrated on June 23rd. It involves many communities burning bonfires across the City on the night. The tradition is an old pagan Celtic celebration to honor the goddess Aine. As with many pagan traditions, the Catholic church worked with the event and linked it to the birth of Saint John the Baptist. According to the Church, John had baptized Jesus and so brought the world out of darkness - hence the bonfire element.



In the mid 2000's, Bonna Night was causing difficulties in many neighborhoods where there were incidences of anti social behavior, damage to green areas, littering etc. Various community groups approached the City Council to explore options to deal with the negative side effects of the night.

In 2007, a pilot Bonfire Night Project was initiated, whereby 5 safe family friendly events were organized in the City's parks. The project, supported by the City Council, involved local community groups, the Council, youth groups, the Gardai etc. putting together a diverse range of fun activities on the night in each park as an alternative to the illegal bonfires. The project was very well received and continues to this day, having made a very significant impact on reducing the number of problem fires throughout Cork.

St. John's Eve in old Ireland

by Bridget Haggerty

At sunset on June 23rd, another of the ancient fire festivals begins. This midsummer festival was known as St. John's Eve, or Bonfire Night, and not that long ago, it was a wide-spread tradition throughout Ireland.

The following description is edited from a piece written in 1943 by an old schoolmaster who lived in West Limerick: "...old people of thirty years ago and more remembered how the fire used to be lit exactly at sunset and had to be watched and tended until long after midnight. Prayers use to be said to obtain God's blessing on the crops, then at the peak-point of summer bloom.

Round the fire gathered young and old. There was much fun and music; a dance was started and games were played while some young men competed in casting weights or in feats of strength, speed or agility. I gathered that it was mostly women who shared in the prayers for the gardens and for good weather. Neglect in this respect might lead to a bad harvest or cause "the white trout not to come up the river" as they usually did with the mid-summer floods.

Unless the weather proved too cold, summer swimming in the river began on St. John's Day and the observance of the festival was supposed to eliminate all danger of drowning.



Sandpiper river cruise is scheduled for Thursday, August 4th 7-9pm. Let Sherri know if you are able to attend, 419-382-3429

Mary Dalby, R.I. P. Will not be with us for the first time ever.



SUNDAY, JULY 24TH

Join the Ancient Order of Hibernians for a special Irish Night with the Toledo Mud Hens! Gates open at 3pm, and the Mud Hens take on the Columbus Clippers at 4pm.

The Ardan Academy Irish Dancers will perform as fans enter the ballpark at the Home Plate Gate before the game.
We will be in section 115

Everyone who purchase tickets on this link will receive a special group rate discount of \$11 per person. Don't forget to share with your friends and family!

<https://offer.fevo.com/columbus-clippers-g9izteh-17fbcaa>
If unable to order on-line

CONTACT ANN DOLLMAN
419-250 0288
anndollman@yahoo.com

*Tricia Cassidy will celebrate her birthday
by throwing out the first pitch*

Children 12 and under may run the bases after the game!!!!

IMPORTANT JUNE DATES IN IRISH HISTORY!!

June 2, 1938 - Robert and Edward Kennedy, youngest sons of the American Ambassador to London, open the children's zoo in Regent's Park. Children are charged sixpence to watch chimpanzees have a tea party

June 3, In the liturgical calendar, June 3 is the feast day of St. Kevin, also known as Coemgen and Kevin of the Angels. He is the patron of blackbirds, the archdiocese of Dublin and Glendalough, Co. Wicklow.

June 5, 1932 - Birth of Christy Brown, paraplegic painter and writer. His book "Down All the Days" and the film "My Left Foot" are based on his life

June 5, 2002 - Former US President Bill Clinton travels to Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh, to open a £3m peace center named after him in recognition of his special role in helping the divided North's community towards the Good Friday Agreement. The center is built on the site of the 1987 Remembrance Sunday bombing

June 7, 1952 - Birth of Liam Neeson (William John Neeson) in Ballymena, Co. Antrim

June 10, 1904 - James Joyce meets the love of his life, Nora Barnacle

June 10, 1968 - Belfast-born Patrick Joseph Magee, is found guilty of planting the Brighton bomb which killed five people and nearly wiped out most of Margaret Thatcher's cabinet two years ago

June 13, 1865 - Birth of W.B. Yeats in Dublin

June 13, 1886 - Molly Malone reputedly "dies of the fever". The famous song, "Sweet Molly Malone" is a tribute to the memory of a real person who was a fishwife selling cockles and mussels in the streets of Dublin. A statue of her can be seen at the foot of Grafton Street in Dublin. In popular Dublin parlance, she's referred to as "The Tart with the Cart and "The Dish with the Fish"

June 16, 1904 - Today was when James Joyce had his first date with Nora Barnacle; ultimately, it became the date on which everything takes place in his masterpiece, Ulysses

June 17, 2008 - More than 1200 people bare all at Blarney Castle in Cork for a naked photo shoot by the US photographer Spencer Tunick. "Dare to Bare" is part of the Cork Midsummer Festival and proves a stunning success with the turnout taking even the most optimistic of the organizers aback.

June 21, 1877 - On a day that will long be remembered as Black Thursday, four members of the Molly Maguires - Alexander Campbell, John Donohue, Michael Doyle and Edward Kelly, shackled with chains, walk to the gallows specially constructed to accommodate four people; their lives are ended at the same split second

June 25, 1970 - Restrictions on Catholics attending Trinity College removed

June 26, 1963 - President John F. Kennedy begins his state visit to Ireland

June 27, 1986 - After a bitter campaign, the referendum to legalize divorce is defeated, 63.1 percent to 36.3 per cent

June 28, 1922 - The Provisional Government of the Irish Free State bombards the Four Courts in Dublin, and the Civil War begins

The Legend of the Molly Maguires

By Matt Loy, supplemented by Matthew R. Hengeveld

On June 21, 1877, twenty men linked to the secret organization called the “Molly Maguires” were hanged in the Carbon and Schuylkill county prisons for first degree murder. These men were sentenced to death by judges who were heavily influenced by powerful mining companies and the biased testimony of a spy, James McParlan. Today, these hangings have been recognized as unjustified, and in 1979 the state of Pennsylvania gave John Kehoe, the alleged king of the Molly Maguires, a full state pardon over a hundred years after his death. June 21, 1877, the sad day when twenty members of the Molly Maguires were hanged, has since been referred by the state of Pennsylvania as “Black Thursday.”

The Molly Maguires’ name can be traced back to early 19th century Ireland. Molly Maguire, an Irish widow, in the 1840s, protested against English landlords who tried to steal peoples land. She headed a group called the “Anti-landlord Agitators” who were best known for getting in bare knuckle fights with their landlords in order to maintain their land and their dignity. “Take that from a son of Molly Maguire!” was often heard after group members would deliver a beating. Eventually their violence gained notoriety across Ireland, and they later proudly called themselves the “Molly Maguires” after their leader.

With almost no labor or mining laws, the coal mines were extremely dangerous and in decrepit condition. In 1864, the Workingmen’s Benevolent Association (WBA) was formed in Pennsylvania to help enforce appropriate and safer mining conditions. The WBA strictly forbade violence and opposed militancy. However, this organization catered more to its own interests than the needs of the workers. Due to this self-serving attitude and also due to prejudice that existed within the organization, the Irish decided to form their own group to protect their workers. This group was known as the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH). The AOH only allowed Irishmen or sons of Irishmen. They sought to provide fairness for the Irish working class and were willing to punish those who mistreated workers.

James McParlan was a native Irishman who worked for the Pinkerton Detective Agency, also known simply as the “Pinkertons.” The Pinkertons often sold their services to the mining and railroad industry. They were an organization that companies could hire as a private military in times of crisis. During The Long Strike, McParlan assumed the alias of James McKenna and infiltrated the AOH. He first became a member of the AOH in Schuylkill County by swearing he was a member of the Buffalo, New York chapter. From there he gradually worked his way deeper and deeper into the organization, eventually being initiated into the secret group of the Molly Maguires.

With the assistance of McParlan, the police were able to arrest over 60 men in 1875 accused of being linked to the Molly Maguires. These arrests made it possible to defeat the miners strike. Despite the strike ending, the mine owners wanted more. From 1875 to 1877 a series of trials were held in Pottsville, Pennsylvania to uncover alleged crimes committed by the Molly Maguires. Although the trials could not provide any evidence that the Molly Maguires actually existed, the media still referred to these men by that name. Since there was no evidence to link these men to the Molly Maguires, the men were tried as individuals. The trials resulted in 20 men being sentenced to hang. Emotions were so strongly against them that before they were executed, they were excommunicated from the Catholic Church and consequently denied a proper Christian burial.

To date, official documentation that the Molly Maguires ever existed in America has never been produced, but their legend will not be forgotten. After the hangings, the coal miners and the Irish community regarded the Molly Maguires as heroes. They admired their courage and determination through one of the most difficult union movements ever recorded. The Molly Maguires are recorded as the first worker-only labor movement in American history.

Today, the Mollies are remembered through numerous mediums including a monument in Mahanoy City, a 1970 movie titled The Molly Maguires starring Sean Connery, and a known historical meeting place of the Mollies called The Wooden Keg Tavern, to name just a few. The Mollies have even been the inspiration for music. An Irish folk band called “The Dubliners” wrote a tale about their ordeal that sings, “Make way for the Molly Maguires. They’re drinkers, they’re liars, but they’re men. Make way for the Molly Maguires. You’ll never see the likes of them again.”

JOHN KELLY OF KILLANE

Kelly the boy from Killane

1773-1798

a United Irish leader who fought in the Irish Rebellion of 1798.

The Kelly family originating in Kilbranish, Co. Carlow moved to Wheelagower, Kiltealy, and then to reside in Killanne c.1770. John Kelly was son of Mary Redmond and her husband John Kelly senior, a tenant farmer and shopkeeper. It is believed that it was Mary Redmond who owned the pub in Killanne and resided with a widowed or unmarried sister at the time of Mary's marriage prior to 1770



Kelly's Mother did not approve of him joining the United Irishmen as her own family the Redmond's had suffered greatly by being involved in the struggle for Irish freedom.

From a letter written by John in 1797 to Mr. Colclough of Duffry Hall, Kiltealy we know that he was probably not involved deeply with the rebellion until after that period. Kelly's cousin Fr. Mogue Kearns and his friend later General Thomas Cloney of Moneyhore probably influenced him greatly. It is believed that a northern United Irishman William Putman McCabe was also secretly recruiting in the area in 1797

On 29th May, 1798 Kelly marched with his men to Enniscorthy to join the rebels on Vinegar Hill. The next day he and General Cloney fought at the Battle of the Three Rocks near Wexford town. On the 4th June 1798 Kelly returned home to this house and in the early hours of 5th June mustered more men to join the thousand men from the Barony of Bantry to fight at the Battle of Ross.

Kelly was under orders from the Wexford commander Bagenal Harvey to attack the British outposts around New Ross but on no account to attack the town itself. The rebels outnumbered the British forces and so Harvey sent a messenger to give them an opportunity to surrender. The messenger was shot while carrying a white flag. This angered the rebels who began the attack without receiving the official order from Harvey. Kelly's column of 800 men attacked and broke through Ross's "Three Bullet Gate" and proceeded into the town itself. After initial success, they were eventually beaten back by British troops and Kelly was wounded in the leg. He was moved to Wexford to recuperate but after the fall of Wexford on 21 June was dragged from his bed, tried and sentenced to death. He was hanged on 25 June 1798 along with seven other rebel leaders on Wexford bridge, after which his body was decapitated, the trunk thrown into the River and his head was brought by his sister to be interred in the family grave beneath the large Celtic Cross in Killanne old Graveyard.



“Glory Oh, Glory O to her brave sons who died for the cause of long downtrodden man, glory O to Mount Leinster's own darling and pride dauntless Kelly the boy from Killanne.”

P.J. McCall

James Joyce

(1882–1941)



James Joyce was an Irish novelist, poet and short story writer. He published *Portrait of the Artist* in 1916. With *Ulysses*, Joyce perfected his stream-of-consciousness style and became a literary celebrity. The explicit content of his prose brought about landmark legal decisions on obscenity.

Born James Augustine Aloysius Joyce on February 2, 1882, in Dublin, Ireland, Joyce was one of the most revered writers of the 20th century, whose landmark book, *Ulysses*, is often hailed as one of the finest novels ever written. His exploration of language and new literary forms showed not only his genius as a writer but spawned a fresh approach for novelists, one that drew heavily on Joyce's love of the stream-of-consciousness technique and the examination of big events through small happenings in everyday lives.

Nora Barnacle was a hotel chambermaid who hailed from Galway, and became his wife. Joyce also had his first short story published in the *Irish Homestead* magazine. The publication picked up two more Joyce works, but this start of a literary career was not enough to keep him in Ireland and in late 1904, he and Barnacle moved first to what is now the Croatian city of Pula before settling in the Italian seaport city of Trieste. There, Joyce taught English and learned Italian, one of 17 languages he could speak, a list that included Arabic, Sanskrit and Greek. Other moves followed as Joyce and Barnacle (the two weren't formally married until some three decades after they met) made their home in cities like Rome and Paris. To keep his family above water (the couple went on to have two children, Georgio and Lucia), Joyce continued to find work as a teacher. All the while, though, Joyce continued to write and in 1914, he published his first book, *Dubliners*, a collection of 15 short stories. Two years later, Joyce put out a second book, the novel *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*.

The same year that the *Dubliners* came out, Joyce embarked on what would prove to be his landmark novel: *Ulysses*. The story recounts a single day in Dublin. The date: June 16, 1904, the same day that Joyce and Barnacle met. On the surface, the novel follows the story three central characters: Stephen Dedalus, Leopold Bloom, a Jewish advertising canvasser, and his wife Molly Bloom, as well as the city life that unfolds around them. But *Ulysses* is also a modern retelling of Homer's *Odyssey*, with the three main characters serving as modern versions of Telemachus, Ulysses and Penelope.

With its advanced use of interior monologue, the novel not only brought the reader deep into Bloom's sometimes lurid mind but pioneered Joyce's use of stream of consciousnesses as a literary technique and set the course for a whole new kind of novel. But *Ulysses* is not an easy read, and upon its publication in Paris in 1922 by Sylvia Beach, an American expat who owned a bookstore in the city, the book drew both praise and sharp criticism.

Bloomsday is a commemoration and celebration of the life of Irish writer James Joyce, observed annually in Dublin and elsewhere on 16 June, the day his 1922 novel *Ulysses* takes place in 1904, the date of his first sexual encounter with his wife-to-be, Nora Barnacle, and named after its principle character, Leopold Bloom.