

Boston  
Galway  
Hurling Club



## BOSTON GALWAY HURLING CLUB

(1908 - 2000)

From the very earliest times hurling was played in Galway, except for Kilkenny, where in 1367 the use of land for hurling was prohibited, the Galway hurling tradition is surely among the very oldest in Ireland. It was banned in the town of Galway in 1572 by town statute. The game was then known as hurley, but was changed to hurling in the mid 1700's. In 1850, immediately after the great famine, hurling survived only in North Clare and South Galway. Only for the poor health of Bishop Duggan of Clonfert, he would have been the first patron of the G.A.A. A brilliant athlete and hurler in his youth, he was Michael Cusack's first choice, but for health reasons he declined and recommended Bishop Croke of Cashel. This moved the initial meeting from Loughrea to Thurles on November 1, 1884.

It was this great hurling tradition that Galway exiles took with them to every land, none more so than to America, and particularly to Boston. In 1888, four short years after the G.A.A. was founded, when hurlers, footballers and athletes under the leadership of Maurice Davin of Garrick-on Suir, toured America, there were four active hurling clubs in Boston. County names were not used then, but we do know that at least two of them were comprised mainly of Galway men. That situation continued up to 1910, when a man named Tom Coen from Ardrahan, organized the first Galway Hurling Club, and was its first President.

Its first noticeable achievement was losing to the Young Irelands in the New England Senior Final of 1913. In the years 1914 to 1918, World War I restricted the games in Boston, rebirth came in the 1920's and in 1930 and 1931 Galway won successive Massachusetts Senior Championships. J.J. Flaherty captained that great team. Joe Kelly was Vice Captain and John P. Coen was manager.

Of the names of the men who guided the destinies of the Galway club in the 1930's and early 1940's, only Jim Powers, is still with us. Joe Kelly, Johnnie Monahan, Tommie Sheilds, Martin Barrett, Paddy Hutchinson and Martin Qualters have passed away. (R.I.P.) World War II ended the games in Boston until 1947, when competition was resumed, and with a new influx of immigrants that included players like Jim Cahill (R.I.P.), Pat Hoarty, Mike Fahy (R.I.P.), Tom Bohan and many others, Galway resumed its winning ways.

The 1950's was again a winning period that led up to Galway's appearance in the first every American Co. final at Balboa Stadium, San Francisco on July 3, 1960 in the 1959 final. After winning the New England championship that year, Galway defeated a strong Washington Gaels team in the quarter final, and at Syracuse in the semifinal defeated a strong Toronto selection. In the opinion of this writer, that was the best Galway team for many years, maybe the best every. Martin Kelly, the Stanleys and Brian Mullvihill (R.I.P.) of Woodford, Tommie Egan of Turloughmore, Pat Holland of Maree, Austin and Jim Connors of Kinvara, Jim Lawless, Malachy McGrath, P.J. Glynn, Pat Feeney, Sean Cormican, Mike Hynes, Jim Cahill (R.I.P.), Pat Aherne and many others wrote a glorious page of Galway hurling history that year. Internal problems and an eighteen hour plane journey cost us the 1959 championship, losing to San Francisco in the final.

Winning continued through the late 1960's, and the 1970's, under the Presidency of Sean Lyons of Closetoken, was again marked with victories in several New England and two American Co. championships. Jimmy Egan, a member of the great Turloughmore Co. champion teams of the sixties and captain of one, Frank Kavanagh, Tommie Egan, Martin Kerrigan, Sean Cormican and later James Grealish, Sean Murphy and E. Sheilds saw to it with others that Galway won its share of the spoils.

This was one of the clubs most successful periods, New England and North America county senior championships were won in 1962, '64, '67, '68, '73. In more recent time while remaining competitive, winning championships has evaded U.S. narrow losses to Harry Bolands in the '96 Co. finals and later in the Junior final are likely indications of better things to come.

Jack Hanlon, Martin Joyce, Micky Grealish, Phil Callaghan, Brendan Morrissey and many others are making sure that Galway hurling in Boston is alive and well. Hopefully the first year of the 21st century, under the presidency of Joe Morrissey, will be the year for Galway hurling to resume its winning ways.

Researched and written by John Hehir, my apologies for any errors or omissions.

J.H.



## GALWAY HURLING TEAM OF BOSTON 1926 CHAMPIONS

*Back Row:* Patrick Connors, James Furey, M. Curley, Patrick Morrissey, Thomas Mulryan, M. Furey, John Burns, Joseph Keely, John J. Dignon, Patrick Kelly, Patrick Curley

*Middle Row:* Thomas Kelly, Richard Connoughton, Myles Freaney, Martin Feeny (President), James W. Flaherty, Patrick Mulryan (Manager)

*Front Row:* Edward J. Duggan, Roger Furey, Thomas Curley, Jr. (Captain), Martin Henehan (Mascot), Patrick McGrath (Vice Captain)



**GALWAY HURLING CLUB  
CHAMPIONS — BOSTON, 1955**



**The BOSTON-GALWAY TEAM ALL AMERICAN CHAMPIONS 1949**

**Galway Hurling Club, pictured at Tech Field, Brookline in 1956.**

*Note the narrower bas on the hurls.*



**Back Row; John Hehir (President), Eddie Hamill, Jackie King (R.I.P.), Johnny Monaghan (R.I.P.), Mick Grealish, Pat Ahearn, Malachy McGrath, Seán Lyons, Michael Kelly, Michael Farren, Jim Powers (V.P).**

**Front Row: Brian Mulvihill, (R.I.P.), Tommy Egan, Matty Duggan, Paddy Casserley (RIP), Paddy Grealish, Paddy Feeney, Willie Crowe, Walter Duggan (R.I.P.), Johnny King, Tom Kelleher.**



### **GALWAY HURLING TEAM, BOSTON - 1961**

*Back Row (L to R):* J. Power, P. Ahearn, S. Lyons, M. McGrath, P. Felle, M. Kelly, M. Farren,  
S. McNulty, A. O'Connor, J. Hehir

*Middle Row (L to R):* J. Lawless, M. Kelly, P. Lydon, T. Egan, T. Cummings, T. Reid, B. Quinn, J. O'Connor

*Front Row (L to R):* M. Hynes, J. Monahan, E. Hammil, P. Feeney (Captain), P. Casserly, P. Bird, M. Kellehir








### **1975 GALWAY BANQUET**

*Left to Right:* John Hehir - M.C., Fr. Gallagher - Columban Fathers,  
Vera & Sean Lyons - Guests of Honor



**GALWAY HURLING TEAM, BOSTON - 1980**

*A Hurler's Prayer*


 Grant me, O Lord, a hurler's  
 skill,  
 With strength of arm and  
 speed of limb;  

 A nerring eye for the flying ball,  
 And courage to match them  
 whate'er befall,  
 May my stroke be steady, my  
 aim be true,  

 My actions manly, my misses  
 few;  
 And no matter what way the  
 game may go,  
 May I rest in friendship with  
 every foe.  

 When the final whistle for me  
 is blown,  
 And I stand at last at God's  
 judgement throne;  

 May the Great Referee when  
 he calls my name,  
 Say, "You hurled like a man;  
 you played the game."  
 Eternal rest grant unto him,  
 O Lord.





**CLADDAGH HURLING CLUB - 1930**



**GALWAY HURLING TEAM, BOSTON**

**1937 New England Champions**

*Back Row (L to R):* Martin Crowe, (Manager), Jim Finnerty, John Cahill, Paddy Cloherty, Bill Tonry  
John Mahon, Jim Lenahan, Michael Kelly, Joe Barrett, John O'Brien, Roger Furey, Willie Small (Treasurer)

*Front Row (L to R):* Tom Donlon, Paddy Hutchinson, Jim (Red) Flaherty, John Swain  
Mike Moyland, Joe Kelly, Jim Costello, Martin Qualters



## **ST. THOMAS FOOTBALL CLUB - 1930**

*Back Row (L to R): J. Gill, J. Crowley, Doyle, Welby, J. Bowes, B. McCart, D. Sullivan*

*Middle Row (L to R): E. Rick, G. Ring, T. Sullivan, Welby, J. Healey, J. Sullivan*

*Front Row (L to R): B. Bowes, J. Burke, G. Sullivan, T. Burke, F. Bowes*



## GALWAY HURLING CHAMPIONS OF MASSACHUSETTS - 1930 & 1931

*Back Row (L to R):* P.J. Curley, J. Curran, E.J. Duggan, P.J. Morrissen, J.P. Coen (mgr.), J.J. Mahon, M.F. Henehan, P. Cahill, P. Burns

*Middle Row (L to R):* D.S. O'Leary, W.J. Lyons, J.A. Raftery (Sec.), J.L. Cahill, P. Curran, M. Tierney, P.J. Sherry  
R.J. Furey, M. Kelly (Treas.), E.F. Sherry

*Front Row (L to R):* P. Cloherty, J.J. Costello, J.J. Flaherty (Captain), J.F. Kelly (Vice Captain), J.J. Furey, J.J. Cahill (Mascot)



Redmond's Hurling Club

F.R.J. Linehan	J. Gleason	S. Mc. Namara	C. Cuhane	S. Cuhane	E. Norton	M. Flavin	J. Scully Manager
S.R.F. Upperman	J. Ahearn	P. Creamer	T. Cogan, Capt.	A. Driscoll, President	C. O'Connell, V. Capt.	T. Corcoran	T. Desmond
M. Lombardi	R. Mc Nally		D. McCarthy		P. Duncliffe		E. Sheehan
							J. Donovan

Champions of New England.....1919.

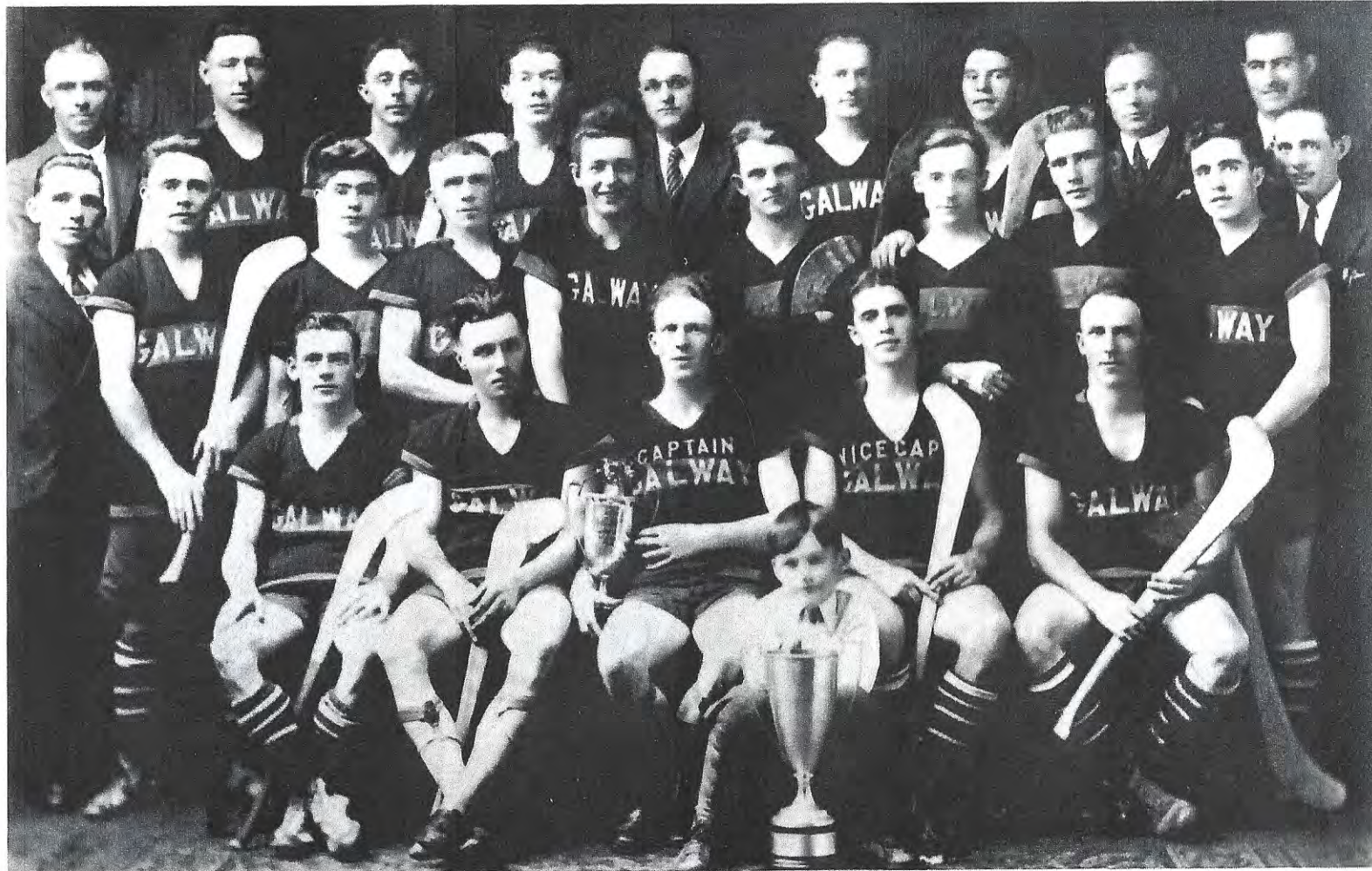


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