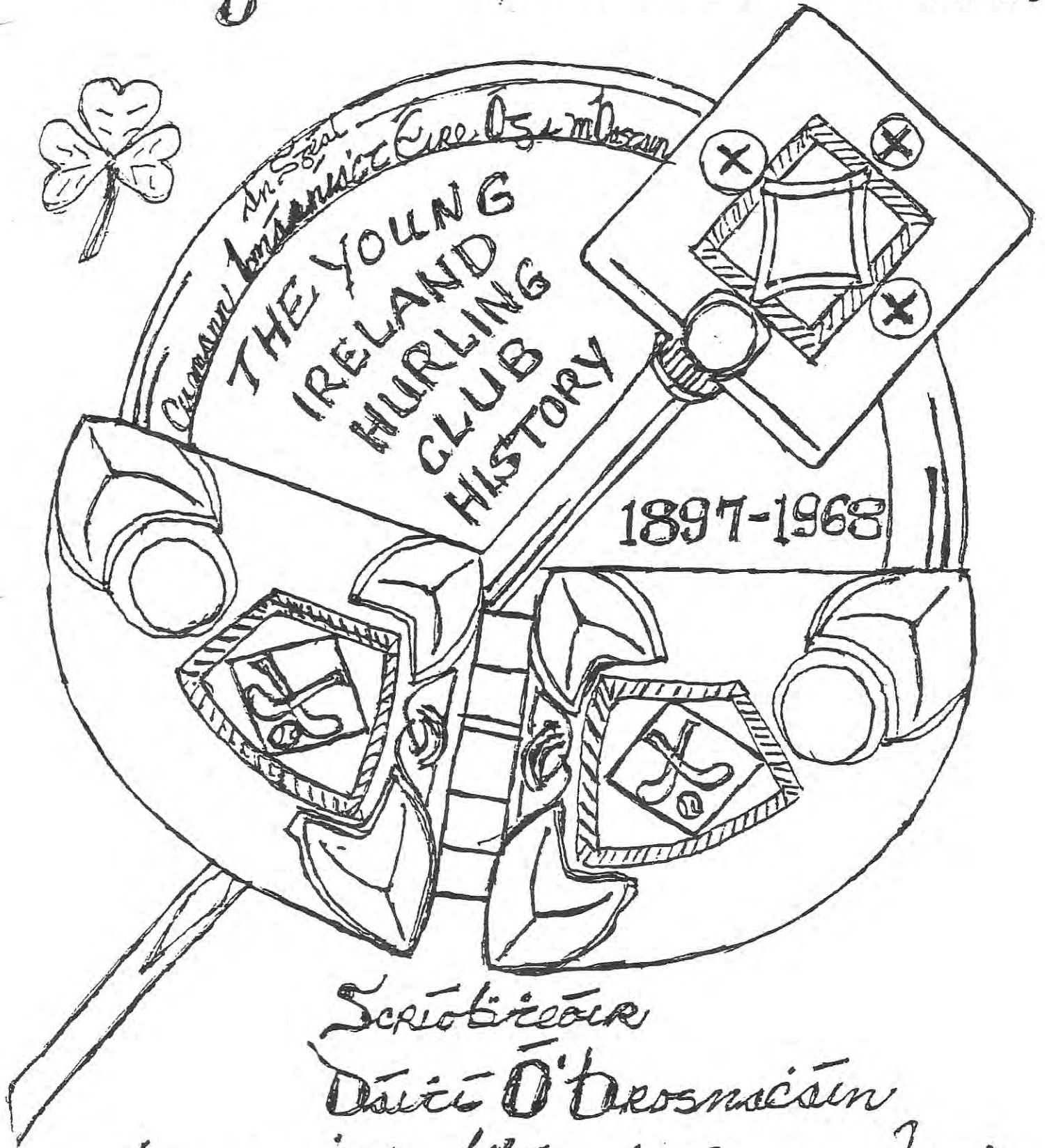


The Young  
Ireland  
Hurling Club

'Cum Fóire Dé 7 Onóra na hÉireann'



Scríobtóir

Dáire Ó'Drosnáin

Ar an Cás Déanao do Cumann Iúic  
Pleas Feil 1884 - 1984

# THE YOUNG IRELAND HURLING CLUB

## THE CAMAN CIRCA 1897



Former President of the Young Ireland Hurling Club

**Mr. William A. Howe**

Shown here with the Hurley, which the teams used around the  
turn of the century and before.

This was the type of Caman used by the club when it was founded.

# *THE YOUNG IRELAND HURLING CLUB*

*1897 to 1968*

The Young Ireland Hurling Club was founded in the year 1897 and actively took part in competition from then on. The first president of the club was Dan Mahoney, who hailed from Dungourney, Co. Cork. He was a member of the great Dungourney Hurling Team in his home town. Mr. Mahoney ran the Young Ireland Hurling Club until 1926.

The first championship was won in 1913, and from there on, there was plenty of success for this great club.

The teams in the early days, were supported by Clan Na Gael, who, provided funds and equipment for the various clubs. The names of these teams indicated close ties with the national spirit. There were names such as Wolfe Tones, Emmets, Redmonds, Young Irelands. The Young Ireland Hurling Club was named after the young Ireland movement, which was very active in Ireland from the early eighteen hundred to the turn of the century. These members were of Fenian stock, and kept a vivid memory of the fate of their uncles and grandparents some years prior. Some of their immediate families were transported to Van Diemen's Land for their part in the pursuit of equality and justice. The passion for freedom, burned strong then and has continued to this very day. Thus, it should come as no surprise to anyone that these men with many strikes against them and sometimes open hostility because of their origin and their faith, would succeed and do honor to the cause for justice, as well as keeping alive and promoting Irish culture and sport.

Hurling is the oldest sport of Celtic origin, and dates back to the fourteenth century and the great Cu Cullen, who has been credited with the establishment of the sport. Cu Cullen was a Fenian, and Hurling is the sport of the Fenians. Then prerequisites in those times for membership in that elite group were that those aspiring would have to pass a severe physical and endurance course of skill, courage and dexterity. These men were a class by themselves. Today, when those of us who have played the game, reminisce, these qualities are clearly evident, not only amongst team mates, but in the opponents as well.

Prior to 1903 teams played with twenty one men on a team, and while there were goals and points, in the scoring, no amount of points was the equal of a goal. There were two sets of goal posts, one for the goals and the other for points. The year 1903 saw the teams reduced to seventeen men to a team and one goal was the equivalent of five points. Later this was modified, to the present day ratio of one goal equals three points. The teams were also reduced to the present day, fifteen men to a team.

The game of Hurling is now played in England, Canada, U.S.A. and Australia. Teams from Ireland visit these lands on a regular basis, and play exhibition games for their pleasure and also to help promote the Gaelic Athletic Association. This helps keep the bonds of friendship between the exiles and the homeland tightly knotted.

The year 1929 was not the best year for the young Ireland Hurling Club. The club was going deep into debt and a meeting was called with the intention of dissolving the organization.

William A. Howe decided to take the club over and try to make go of it, in the best way possible. He was elected president at this meeting, a position he held until 1960.

The members reached an agreement, whereby, each would contribute ten dollars of their own funds. This money would be used to clear the club of all debts and start the new season off with a clean slate.

The membership then went to work running socials, field days and selling raffle tickets. They were successful in their ventures and as a result, the bleak days of 1929 were behind them. Those who

contributed were paid back in full and all stuck with and worked hard to make the young Ireland Hurling Club a success for many years to come. Through their efforts and Billy Howe's leadership the Treasury of this club was never again in need of funds. Every annual meeting from there on showed a sufficient balance to take them into the following year with everything they needed to put a team on the field for the coming season.

The great depression and World War II took its toll and slowed down things somewhat, but the club was solvent and as soon as things got better they were ready to go. The men who were responsible for this great recovery from the 1929 years were as follows: Billy Howe, Jack Herlihy, Jerry Mahoney, Joe MacKessy, Tim Carroll, Maurice Carroll, Dick Carroll, Connie Carroll, Danny Foley, Tim Sullivan, Tim Huggins, Bobby Brady, Bill Grady, Jimmie Thompson and Tommy Dunne.

The Forties saw a revival of the games again and a new infusion of players via the immigration route to Boston. The war was over and the clubs started to function again. This would be approximately 1947 and the most of the men who were playing before the war were now back in harness again. Immigration from Ireland was just a trickle at this time, but in 1948 and 1949 the flood gates opened and they were coming in very month. However, there were only two Hurling teams left from the pre World War II years. The teams were the Young Ireland Hurling Club and the Galway Hurling Club. These teams played each other every two weeks during the season, and amazingly the standard of Hurling was of a high calibre. The men playing were as fit as the proverbial fiddle. Some of these men were in their forties at this stage. While there was a great rivalry here, there was a great friendship amongst these players and after the game the losing team would visit the winners' locker room and we would all talk and help them celebrate their victory, be it them or us. The same was true at practice, if you walked on the field where the team in opposition was practicing, the Manager would usually ask you to take a Hurley and join the boys.

The year 1949 the game of Hurling in Boston had become a fine art and with some great players coming over the standard reached great heights. Near the end of the 1949 season, the personnel on the

Young Ireland Hurling Club looked so good that Billy Howe made a bold move and decided to take a shot at the New York Junior Hurling Championship. The possibility of taking it away from the big metropolis was indeed inviting to say the least. However, this had never been done in the history of the existence of the league there, and they had no worries about a team from Boston playing a few games up there. We were accepted and we later would find out for ourselves why it was so difficult to carry off the laurels from the Bit Apple. One of the reasons would be that the Junior competition started before the Senior games and therefore the Junior clubs starting out would be loaded with Senior players. Teams like Cork, Tipperary and Galway all had Junior teams. We would have to beat some of these teams to get there.

The decision would hinge on the results of our first home game of the season. The game was played at the old Dilboy Field in Somerville. Our opponent was the Galway Team of Boston, and as always, a very tough opponent. Galway now had a great Hurling team, and if we were to get anywhere at all a victory would greatly increase our chances in the Big City. Team morale would also receive a great boost.

The game was a thriller and one of the best seen around these parts for many years. There was a great crowd of spectators, and they were not disappointed with any aspect of this game. Young Ireland's played a super game and each lived up to this reputation. I might add here that there was free substitution at this time, both here and in New York. Denis Mulligan, the former All Ireland Junior Hurler from Co. Meath, was playing a great game at center field and he was ably aided by Paddy O'Keeffe from Limerick. These two kept feeding the ball to the forwards, who in the company of Mike Carroll a former Cork All Ireland minor and Jim Corbett from the Glen and former Irish Boxing Champ, on his right was every sharp and accurate Denny Cahalane from Tipperary. Our goalkeeper was John Merrick from Donegal and played for that County, as well as on the Railway Cup Team for Ulster. He was an excellent goalkeeper and he brought off save after save on that day. Galway pulled very close several times in the last quarter but our boys flashed home a couple of fast goals and for all intents and purposes, this match was over and we were on our way to try to bring home a championship. We knew now that no Junior team in New York was as good as the Galway Team of Boston. However, we had a long road ahead.

The next game on our schedule was played in Croke Park (now Gaelic Park) in New York. The opponent was the Offaly Team of that city. We had at this time added another fine Hurler by the name of Joe Riordan. Joe hailed from the Rockies, and played Junior for the Cork County Team. He was a full back and now we had two great stalwarts in he and Merrick, both of these men could land the puckout in the opponents square and they complemented each other very well. When things got tough out the field we would move out Merrick, who was a fine Hurler at any position and move Jack Swaine into the goals.

Merrick and Riordan were landing the puckouts in the Offaly square and Walter Norris, Jerry Donovan, Dan Shea, Mike Greene, and Mike Drummey were having the game of their lives. Offaly were really no match for this team.

The score of the game was:

Young Irelands .....	9 Goals.....	7 Points
Offaly .....	1 Goals.....	2 Points

Two weeks later, we lined out against the Tipperary Team of New York for the next step of our march. The Tipperary Team was loaded with Seniors and players from Chicago and anyone else that was eligible to play for them. The team could do this because no senior game had been played as yet by the club and we would have to make the best of it. The Young Ireland Hurling Team were in for the shock of



# YOUNG IRELAND HURLING CLUB

## 1934 CUB WINNERS

*Presented by Irish County Clubs, Boston*

*Back Row (L to R): J. Mahoney, J. Beale, T. Carroll, T. Murphy, M Carroll, J. Donne, J. Mackessy*

*Middle Row: (L to R): P. Mahoney (Vice President), R. hayes, J. Powesr, T. Glain, J. Mahoney, Jer Mahoney, J. Thompson, J. Smiddy  
M. McCarty (Manager)*

*Front Row (L to R): D. Cantwell, J. Healon, B. Mahoney (Captain), D. Mahoney (President), J. Cahill (Vice Captain-Secretary), W. Howe,  
W. Desmond, T. Murphy (Mascot)*

their lives. Tipperary had started off with speed and dash, before we knew what hit us, they had four goals and a point to our one point. The score stayed that way until the half time whistle blew.

Three of our players, Bill Kelly, John Merrick and Paddy O'Keefe missed the bus in Somerville that morning. They went to the airport and took a plane down. The three arrived just before half time, and they got ready to play the second half. When the players in the dressing room saw them, a complete change came over them, they said that they would go out and win this game. Nobody but the players believed that we had a chance at all. When the second half started the team played much better and they were beating their men to the ball regularly. A fast and cracking pace started to develop, and every man on the Young Ireland Team was now winning the battle for the ball. Fifteen minutes into the half we got our first goal.

Carroll double a high ball into the net. Cahalane followed suit and minutes later Paddy O'Keefe did a solo run past several Tipperary players passed to Mike Greene, who made no mistake and sent the ball to the net for a great goal. Tipperary could not now hold the Young Irelands at all. With Merrick and Riordan making long clearances and landing the puck out in their square. Fierce air Hurling was going on through the game and our boys were winning those battles. O'Keefe again got possession of the ball and sent a shoulder high drive direct to Carroll who, without hesitation doubled on it and rocked the back of the net. This tied the score, but time was running out. Mulligan got the puckout at midfield and sent it long and high directly between the post for a point. The final whistle went on the puckout. The capacity crowd at the game gave us a standing ovation as we left the field.

The finals score of this game was:

Young Irelands .....	4 Goals.....	2 Points
Tipperary.....	4 Goals.....	1 Point

The next game was against the Galway Team of New York. The Hurling was good in the first half, but we pulled away in the second half and ran out comfortable winners. However, we forgot to hand in the names of the players until half time, Galway objected and the Board in New York called a meeting to hear the objection. Billy Howe flew down to New York for the hearing. The referee stated that the Galway Team didn't hand in their slips until half time either. The board ordered a replay of the match for the replay was a very one sided affair, and with the team upset over the prospect of having to replay the match in the first place, didn't take any chances, and scored early and often. The result was this match was over after the first twenty minutes of the first half. The feeling amongst all, including some of the clubs in New York, was that we had a convincing win the first time and since both teams were guilty of the same infraction, of not handing in the list of players until half time, the score from the first game should have been let stand, and the objection dismissed. However, that's not the way things are done without side teams, who have the temerity to compete in their league and are threatening to take out the title for the first time ever. The scores of both the games with Galway were as follows:

Game #1	Young Irelands .....	8 Goals.....	4 Points
	Galway (N.Y.) .....	4 Goals.....	2 Points
Replay	Young Irelands .....	10 Goals.....	2 Points
	Galway (N.Y.) .....	4 Goals.....	0 Points

The sixth game was played at Gaelic Park. The opponent this time was Connecticut State. This team was a very good Hurling Team, and they played in the New York League for a good many years. Like the Young Irelands they had a collection of men from almost every county, the styles of Hurling were very similar to our own. This game was the closest game since the Tipperary game and they contested the



match every inch of the way. The standard of Hurling was exceptionally high and the spectators got their moneys worth. Young Irelands managed to keep ahead of them all through the game and in the last minutes put the issue away for good with a great goal by Johnnie Russell. Josh, who came from Mallow, Co. Cork and Maurice Ryan from the County limerick were the stars of the game. All the others as usual played a good game, but these two were outstanding. Another Limerick man was also very prominent in this game, Pat Connors and on this day he gave a great account of himself.

The final score was:

Young Irelands .....	5 Goals.....	1 Point
Connecticut State.....	2 Goals.....	3 Points

The final game for the championship was against the New Jersey Hurling Team and was played at Gaelic Park. This game produced great classy Hurling for about twenty minutes of the first half. We thought that we were in for another shock, and taking no chances with this one. The boys started to pour in now and by the time the half ended, this New Jersey Team was just a memory. They could not keep up the blistering pace set by the Young Irelands and with a championship within their grasp, there was no way that they were going to let up one fraction, until this game was over. With a commanding lead in the last ten minutes, the fellows started taking points, these scores could just as easily have gone for goals. The final buzzer went and we were the new Junior Champions of New York, and the first ever to accomplish this feat, in the history of the association in that city. No team from outside the greater New York area had done this before. We received the congratulations for our feat from nearly all the teams we competed against, but the board officials of New York kept their distance.

The score was:

Young Irelands .....	9 Goals.....	5 Point
New Jersey.....	5 Goals.....	4 Points

The winning of a championship may sound easy enough, but consider that this team had to leave Somerville at five thirty on the morning of the game in order to give ourselves plenty of time to make the twelve thirty deadline, which was the time the game started in New York. A team late getting on the field there would forfeit the game and in our case not very much grace would be given. The fact that a full team and subs were always on hand is an indication of the quality of player we had in those days. The great leadership and vision of our president, Billy Howe was indeed a fortunate stroke for us. Those players whom we thought may have trouble making the bus in the early morning were put up for the night by Bill and Amy Howe. We went to New York by chartered bus and there was plenty of money in the Treasury to pay for it. The New York boys underestimated us. They thought that we would run out of money, and if they made us take an extra trip it would put a damper on our finances. Nothing would have put a damper on this team. The greatest bunch of men to cross the ocean in a long time.

Two very fine members who traveled with the team and always helped run our socials and functions were Nora McGrath and her sister Eleanor McGrath Bohan. These ladies contributed immensely to the functioning of the young Ireland Hurling Club were without a doubt two of the finest and most hard working members of our club. They gave us great encouragement and when on the playing field, we would hear them cheer for us. We knew we had to give our best. Nora and Eleanor were born in Somerville and took an interest in our club that would be the envy of any club in Ireland. A passage in the history of this fine club would not be complete without mention of these fine ladies.

The members and players who helped accomplish this outstanding feat were as follows:  
Billy Howe, Jack Herlihy, Mike Greene, Walter Norris, Frank Murtagh, Bill Kelly, David Brosnan  
John Russell, Dave Mackey, Maurice Ryan, Dan Shea, Joe Riordan, John Smiddy, Denis Buckley  
Mike Sullivan, Patrick Lyons, Joe Fitzpatrick, Gerald Donovan, John Merrick, Joe Meighan  
Patrick O'Connor, Paddy O'Keeffe, Joe Commane, John Walsh, Jerry Mahoney  
Rev. Fr. O'Leary O.F.M., Mike Drummey, Gerald Carey, Joe O'Leary, John Swaine, Denis Cahalane  
John Cahalane, James Corbett, Denis Mulligan, Christy Ring, Denis Brosnan, Mike Carroll, Dave Ward  
Mike Purcell, Patrick Kelly, John Jealion, Dick Mulholland, Joe Calanan, Finbarr Calanan, Peter Smith  
Jack Twomey, Patrick Ruth, Martin Crowe, Liam Long, Nora McGrath, Eleanor McGrath Bohan.

The year 1952 saw a lot of the players, who were in the country for a while, being given their draft notices to report for duty with the armed forces of the United States. This depleted the club somewhat, but with the influx of new players so great in these years, the club didn't stay weak for long.

That same year, a member of the Young Ireland Hurling Club, and an officer, who had served with distinction as a Vice President. His name Mr. Martin Crowe, a native of County Galway, was taken seriously ill. A benefit was run for him at Circle Hall in Somerville. Representative John F. Kennedy, who at the time was running for Senate seeking Henry Cabot Lodge's seat, was present at this function. He spoke of the good work that Martin had done for him in his previous campaigns. Mr. Kennedy stayed a long time and danced a waltz with Mr. Crowe's daughter. I am sure that Martin would have been thrilled had he lived to see Mr. Kennedy become President Kennedy. May God Rest their souls.

The following years following 1957, several fine ball players again came into the Young Ireland Hurling Club and won many tournaments and championships. Some of the great players of this era to the sixties were: Paddy Greene, Joe Greene, Johnnie Green, Coleman Hickey, John Horan, Liam O'Brien, Barry McCarthy, Art Foley, Tony Stack, Tom O'Hanlon, Mike Horan, Joe Corliss, Mike Lonergan, Pat Devine, Derry O'Connor, Mike Cronin, Arthur Cusack, John Cusack, Tim Santry, John O'Brien, Joe Stapleton, John Brunnock, Martin Fitzgerald, Joe Fitzgerald, Liam O'Brien (Kilkenny), Frank O'Brien, John Slater, Mike Moxley, Mike Moss, Bernie Moss, Dan O'Neill, John Mooney, John Fennessy, Joe Canning, Noel Stack, Pat Doherty, Denis Horgan, Mike O'Neill, Sean O'Neill, Fr. Patrick O'Sullivan, Tommy Norris, John Cooney, Eddie Cronin, Arthur Griffin, Denis Griffin, John Foley, John Hedderman, Arthur Saich, John Saich, Joe Waldron, Jim Maunsel, Pat Daly, Billy Duggan, Dennis Duggan, John Shannon, Pat Doherty, Mike Barry, Oliver Kelly, Dave Geaney, Ritchie Fleming, Maurice Sonny Donovan, Fr. Dan Finn, John Egan, John Mahoney, Tom Finn, Pat Meade, Joe Considine, Jerry Coughlan, Ritchie Coughlan, John Devereaux, John Windham, Fr. Francis Hickey, Fr. Gene Riordan, Mike Langdon.

The above players played and did honor to the young Ireland Hurling Club from the late fifties into the late sixties, at which time, with the slowdown in immigration and the standard of living in Ireland on the uprise all the time, the men weren't leaving home like they were in the late forties and fifties. The Young Ireland Hurling Club didn't field a team again after 1968. The club didn't disband, just faded out of the picture. Should the tide swing the other way one of these days that there will be a Young Ireland Team.

The following are the Board Members of the Young Ireland Hurling Club down through the years:

*~ Presidents ~*

1897 - 1926	Dan Mahoney - Doughtourney, Co. Cork
1926 - 1960	William A. Howe - Bandon, Co. Cork
1961 -	Arthur Saich - Mitchelstown, Co. Cork
1962 - 1963	James J. Cahill - Middleton, Co. Cork
1964	Maurice Sonny Donovan - Bandon, Co. Cork
1965 - 1967	David Brosnan - Meelin, Co. Cork
1968	Thomas Glavin - Youghal, Co. Cork

*~ Secretaries ~*

Michael Greene	Liam O'Brien	David Brosnan
Michael Moss		Bernard Moss

*~ Treasurers ~*

Jack Herlihy	Gerald Donovan	Walter Norris
John Slater	David Brosnan	John Brunnock

*~ Club Officers - G.A.A. Board ~*

William A. Howe, *President*  
Thomas Galvin, *Vice President*  
Michael O'Neill, *Secretary*  
David Brosnan, *Registrar*  
James J. Cahill, *Sgt. at Arms*

To all the members and players who have passed on to their reward

*"May God Grant Them Eternal Rest and May the Peace and Light Shine on Them Forever"*

Beanacht De Oraibe Go Leih, Ar A Nanam

## A TRIBUTE TO A GREAT LEADER

There's a place In Young Irelands  
For Men of Great Sport  
There's No Place In There  
For Men Of Chaos And Distort  
With Pride In The Fold  
From The Days Of Old  
To Selfishness, They'll Never Resort

There's A Man In The Fold  
Who's Gallant And Bold  
Tradition And History  
Were His To Mould  
He's A Man Of Great Hope  
With Wide Vision and Scope  
He's Humble And Meek  
A Good Will Ambassador  
Every Day Of The Week

He's The Man In The Fore  
Being Our Leader Of More  
Than A Score And O'Er  
He's A Man Of Renown  
His Name Has Gone Down  
In The Annals Of The Great  
Gaelic Games Hall Of Fame

He Was Mister Young Irelands  
To All Of Us Members  
He Is Billy Howe  
Who Is Retired Now  
His Courage And Fearlessness  
Need No Reminisce  
Just Look At The Record  
And Wish Him God Bless

by David Brosnan

## THE MEETING ~ 1950

The general meeting of the Young Ireland Hurling Club and the Election of Officers was held on January 7, 1950. The club members were notified by post card two weeks prior as was the custom of the officers. This was done to give the members ample time to make sure that they would be available to be present for the meeting.

This particular meeting was packed to the doors of the small hall down stairs at Circle Hall in Somerville. Circle Hall was a home base for all of our social activities, and there was a great relationship between the hall management and the Young Ireland Hurling Club. Mr. David McPeake was the owner of the hall at the time. He took a keen interest in our club and attended most of our functions. David McPeake came from Canada by way of Nova Scotia.

The incumbent officers were elected by voice vote, unanimously. This was the type of confidence the membership had in the job done by these men.

A motion that we enter our team to compete for the Junior Championship of the New York League for the year 1950 was put forward and without any debate whatsoever the membership told Billy Howe to go ahead and register the team at the next Board Meeting in New York. The membership pledged their full support and stated that they would help in any way possible, even financially, if the case warranted it. Several of the members stated that we were going to take the whole works from the Big Apple and that they were going to see a glorious season. How Right they were! Only those present at this meeting could really tell what it was like to see the faith these members had in the team. We who played on that team won't forget either! A piece of this history was written on that day and the members realized it.

### THE OUTING

The Young Ireland Hurling Club and its members held an outing every year, about the end of July or the first Sunday in August.

The team and members would assemble in Somerville and we would take a chartered bus after the nine o'clock Mass to Lawrence. All playing gear would be loaded on the bus and John Smiddy and Francis O'Connor would supply plenty of fine music on their accordions. Both of these men were talented musicians. Paddy O'Keeffe who was an excellent piano player as well as one of the finest singers that anyone would care to listen to kept the members in great form.

When we reached Lawrence we would stop at the Holihan Brewery and tog off for a game amongst ourselves. We would pick two teams and start the game. The contest was usually so good that we would attract quite a lot of spectators as the game progressed. Some of these spectators often looked forward to this event, as it was an annual affair for our club at this venue.

The management of the Holihan Brewery would make their staff rooms and cafeteria available to us for the day. They would also supply all the food and beverages and have staff members there to see that we didn't run short of anything. Sandwiches of every description, tea, coffee, confectionery, tonic, and of course, their own famous beverage - Holihan's Beer. This was all underwritten by the brewery.

The owner of the brewery, Mr. Holihan, would pay us a visit in the afternoon and mingle and chat with the members. Billy Howe would introduce Mr. Holihan to the membership and would thank him for his hospitality. Mr. Holihan had a great interest in the Young Ireland Hurling Club.



Coley Lydon, Fr. Peter Quinn - Columban Father  
Member of the 1951 Mayo All-Ireland Champions,  
Kieran Sheehan



**1988 FOXBORO STADIUM**  
Seamus Kane, John Flynn, Sean Lyons



*Left to Right*  
John Greene, Matty Duggan, Joe Grealish