



City of Cambridge

11.

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 12, 1990

COUNCILLOR WALSH
VICE-MAYOR REEVES
COUNCILLOR RUSSELL
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY

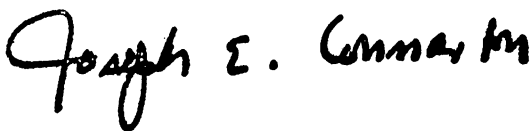
- WHEREAS: Among the hazards of living in a throw away culture such as ours is the often cold shortsightedness with which we treat history, historical events and the persons who were part of them. Tending to think that the present is all there is, we toss the past into the dumpster of history. By so doing, we lose; and
- WHEREAS: This tendency is particularly evident in our treatment of the history of the Irish people who emigrated from Ireland to America between 1845 and 1855. In two waves of emigration, one quarter of the entire Irish population left the homeland in search of survival and a better life in America. It was a type of journey that the timid never start and the weak die along the way. Many did not complete the journey. Those who did, strong in conviction and courage, began what continues to be a beautiful chapter in the history of hope in the face of harassment, help in the face of hurt and humor in the face of humiliation; and
- WHEREAS: That not only was the welcome mat not rolled out but was rolled up by the panderers of prejudice into whose neighborhoods the Irish arrived is clearly indicated by Doris Kearns Goodwin when she writes, "Of all the immigrant nationalities in Boston, the Irish fared the least well, beginning at a lower rung and rising more slowly on the economic and social ladder than any other group." They knew what it was to be not only looked at but looked down at. It was not that many years ago when those in search of jobs were greeted with the sign, "Irish need not apply"; and
- WHEREAS: Deep in their roots, these Irish immigrants were a people of Faith and a faithful people. They took pride in their work and they were proud to work. They knew, as many in our own day still know, what it was to be victimized by the politics of exclusion at the hands of the so-called "better" people, the elite who, because these newly arrived were different, they judged them to be inferior and treated them accordingly; and

- WHEREAS: No appreciation of the travails and triumphs of the Irish immigrants and their offspring down through our own day would be complete without noting the core of their early community life, their anchor of stability in a sea of change, the local Catholic Church. In describing the impact of the Church on the immigrant community, a writer in the Atlantic Monthly in 1868 declared, "All in their lot, all in their surroundings, is mean, nasty, inefficient, forbidding - except their Church"; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED: That this City Council expresses its recognition and respect for this legacy of life of the Irish immigrant community in the past and the continued vitality of its beliefs and values in the lives of residents of Irish descent in the City of Cambridge today by declaring Saturday, March 17, 1990 to be **IRISH HERITAGE DAY IN CAMBRIDGE**; and be it further
- RESOLVED: That all of us, whatever our ethnic, racial or religious roots, will celebrate that day by adopting and adapting to every circumstance in our lives the sentiments of the Irish saying, "There are no strangers, just friends who have never met".

In City Council March 12, 1990.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-



Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.



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MAR. 12 1990

City Council _____

Adopted by the affirmative vote

of 9 members

Joseph E. Conorton City Clerk

Order # 11 *S-223*
VM Reels, Russell & Mooney
Councillor Walsh resolutions on Irish
Heritage Day in Cambridge.

In City Council,

March 12, 1990

Order adapted