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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO.

How Louisville Irishmen Celebrated St. Patrick's Day With Religious Ceremonies and Parade, Ball and Banquet, Oratory and Music and Song.

Patriotic Men Who Honored God and Country—The Wearing of the Green Was in Style—Shamrocks and Souvenirs From Erin's Daughters.

Twenty-five years ago St. Patrick's day was more eagerly anticipated, joyously welcomed and generally observed in Louisville than now. For months preceding committees were appointed, meetings held and preparations made for the various celebrations. About thirty Irish and kindred organizations, priests and laity, entered heartily into the arrangements for honoring Ireland's patron saint.

The grandest of the religious celebrations was in St. Patrick's church, where the Right Rev. Bishop pontificated at solemn high mass, assisted by numerous priests, the pastor usually inviting all those of the city. The choir rendered their choicest music, and a panegyric of St. Patrick was delivered, a memorable one being by the Very Rev. Thomas N. Burke, O. P., then on a lecture tour of this country. The church was densely crowded with people from all parts of the city. Rev. M. D. Lawler, the pastor, always urged his parishioners to observe their patron's feast by receiving holy communion, and arranged that only the women and girls do so at early mass on St. Patrick's day, and the men and boys on the following Sunday. Nearly 1,000 received holy communion in this church on those occasions.

The Sunday following St. Patrick's day was thus a grand one at St. Patrick's church, as the male societies made it a public demonstration. The L. & N., (known as the Limerick band, because the members, though employed in the L. & N. shops lived in Limerick,) was engaged, and by 6 o'clock Sunday morning men and boys were flocking to St. Patrick's school hall, the three floors of which presented animated scenes of preparation. As the first bell rang for mass the order was given to fall in; the band in the street struck up "St. Patrick's Day in the Morning," the Boys' Sodality, St. Aloysius Cadets, Young Men's Sodality, St. Vincent de Paul's and St. Patrick's Total Abstinence Societies, all in full regalia and with banners flying, marched out, down Main street to Seventeenth, where St. Patrick's Benevolent Society opened ranks at their hall, the procession passing through, the Benevolent Society closing in at the rear; out to Market, up to the church, the societies opening ranks to Fifteenth street and the Benevolent Society marching through and into the church. The societies filled the middle aisle and part of the side aisles, and in their varied regalia presented a beautiful sight. Father Lawler celebrated the mass, and at the gospel approached the altar rail, his face beaming with the joy he felt, and in faltering voice welcomed the societies and commended them for their edifying example in honoring Ireland's patron saint. All the societies approached communion in reverent order. After mass St. Patrick's Benevolent Society, passing through the open ranks of the other societies, was escorted to its hall by the band.

The organizations of the city annually elected a grand Marshal, who with his aides conducted all public parades. About the first of the year the Grand Marshal notified the organizations to appoint delegates to the annual convention to be held early in February, to elect a Grand Marshal and arrange for St. Patrick's day parade. The largest and most notable of these conventions was held in St. Nicholas Hall, Sixth and Court Place, presided over by Dr. W. B. Doherty, Grand Marshal, elected a year previous by the young element led by the Sarsfield Rifles, a military company of fine Irishmen, whose manly bearing and thorough drill commended them as the leading military company of the State. The young men were hustlers and usually carried their point. The canvass for Grand Marshal had been active, the total abstinence societies, their strong, joining with the Sarsfield Rifles, and the benevolent societies claiming the honor for the year. The outcome of the convention was anxiously awaited. When the convention met an effort to exclude delegates from the junior total abstinence societies (cadets) being defeated, most of the delegates of the benevolent societies withdrew and elected Matthew Curran as Grand Marshal. The remaining delegates, representing eighteen organizations, elected Michael Hargadon as Grand Marshal. Excitement ran high in Irish circles over the split and the prospect of rival parades on St. Patrick's day. But the question must be settled by the societies, and before any of the benevolent societies met there was time for cool consideration and discussion among leaders. Then St. Michael's Benevolent Society, the largest in the city, met and after a stormy meeting decided to sustain its one delegate who refused to bolt, and voted to recognize Hargadon as Grand Marshal. Then the olive branch was extended, concessions made and honors divided, the Sarsfield Rifles, next to the clergy, being foremost in restoring harmony and unity. Mr. Curran was appointed Chief Aide to the Grand Marshal, the benevolent societies were assigned to lead the parade as the first division after the Sarsfield Rifles, the total abstinence societies to form the second division. The Ancient Order of Hibernians of Covington were the guests

of the day and were given the position of honor, the right of the line. It was a bright day and the largest and most gorgeous parade ever witnessed here on St. Patrick's day was the outcome of what threatened to be dissension and disruption. The parade was over an hour in passing. All the Louisville bands and several from elsewhere furnished the music. Irish and American colors, flags and banners and the bright regalia and uniforms of the marchers made a beautiful spectacle. A platoon of mounted police, each wearing a green rosette, led; the Grand Marshal and his aides with bright sashes and plumes next; the Sarsfield Rifles in regulation military uniform of dark blue, trimmed in green, commanded by Capt. Donovan, and carrying the American and Irish flags; the Covington A. O. H., rich green collars; the United Sons of Erin, the pioneer Irish society; St. Michael's Benevolent, purple sash; St. Michael's Roman Catholic, St. John's, St. Thomas, St. Dominic, St. Cecilia Benevolent Societies; St. Patrick's Benevolent, green sash with white trimming.

The total abstinence division, under County Marshal William Campbell, with new and varied regalia and banners, parade hats and uniforms, were drilled to march in platoon. This division included St. Bridget's Society, St. John's Cadets and Society, St. Mary's Society, Father Mathew Society of St. Louis Bertrand church, carrying the old Father Mathew flag; Sacred Heart Cadets, fully uniformed, dark blue caps, jackets and knee pants and equipped with wooden guns; Sacred Heart Society, black suit, rich green badge, white gloves, parade hats with long green plumes, thoroughly drilled; St. Cecilia Cadets and Society; St. Aloysius Cadets of St. Patrick's church, dark suits, knee pants, dark blue caps, light blue badges, white gloves and white satin banner; St. Patrick's Society, the pioneer, large green banner, dark suits, green collars, white gloves, parade hats with long white plumes.

Officers of societies were mounted, the horses being decorated in Irish and American colors, as were the carriages containing the pastors and other clergy, officials of county and State organizations, city and county civil officials, that followed the various societies.

The streets were thronged, the daughters of Erin wearing their best, displaying a bit of green, with happy hearts and smiling faces, waved their welcome to the marchers. The wearing of the green was fashionable then, not only by the Irish but by people generally, who honored the day out of respect to their Irish friends. The shamrock, now so rarely seen, was conspicuous, as it (or a plant resembling it) grew in the Beargrass and canal bottoms and in marshy places in the western and southern suburbs. People of Limerick, St. Bridget's, St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart parishes hunted this little plant, joying with each other to find the largest and finest for their pastor. The writer had the pleasure to find and present one to Rev. Father Lawler, which after being beautifully entwined in red, white and blue by Miss Annie Hennessy, was worn by him in the parade. Many were the emblems worn—the green bow-knot; rosette of red, white and blue, with a green shamrock, bow or small rosette in center; bow knot of red, white and blue and green intertwined; harps and sunbursts of gold or silver on green. These were usually the work of Irish girls, who designed the most novel and prettiest to present their friends as souvenirs, and were proudly worn by the recipients. But the parade was only one feature.

The Knights of St. Patrick, the prominent Irishmen of the city, always gave a banquet on St. Patrick's night, at which Ireland was honored in toast, recitation, poetry, music, song and story.

And then the ball for the young and middle aged on St. Patrick's night. By common consent St. Patrick's Benevolent Society gave this ball, but about this time the Sarsfield Rifles, desiring new uniforms, concluded the town was big enough for two balls on St. Patrick's night, and in December, before St. Patrick's Society had appointed a committee, the Sarsfields secured the only large dance hall, Wedekind's (now Rhodes & Burford) for St. Patrick's night. Of course the older members of St. Patrick's were hot, and at the following meeting their hall was crowded. But the Sarsfields, a number of whom were also members of St. Patrick's, again showed their diplomacy by sending a committee to explain and make a proposition. It was only after a lively debate that this committee was admitted to the meeting, but when they were they soon smoothed the ruffled tempers of their elders. They disclaimed all purpose to interfere with St. Patrick's ball, urged them to appoint their committee and go ahead, promised to aid in securing a hall and making arrangements, and by working together make both balls a success. This was adopted. St. Patrick's secured and fixed up the Exposition building, Fourth and Chestnut, where the Custom House now stands. The two committees co-operated in a general way, with the result that both balls were jammed on St. Patrick's night, the crowd and even the managers going from one to the other. The balls were

the most thoroughly enjoyed and successful ever held in this city. St. Patrick's netting over \$1,500 and the Sarsfields nearly as much. And this recalls to mind the bands that furnished the music. Scales, blind of an eye, to whose lively music young and old delighted to step, who was ever ready to give a jig, breakdown or Irish reel, and "Ole Cole," as he was known, the jolly, fat and very black darkey, who played cotillions and Virginia reels, sing-singing the figures without a miss, sleeping soundly all the while. It was always Scales or "Ole Cole" at Irish dances and picnics in those days.

And what of the men of those days, who prompted and gave life to this national spirit, originated and managed those grand demonstrations? Among the clergy were the Rev. Fathers Meagher and Rooney, O. P.; Rev. M. D. Lawler of St. Patrick's, Rev. T. J. Disney of Sacred Heart, Rev. Hugh Brady of the Cathedral, Rev. John A. Creary of St. Bridget's, Rev. L. Bax of St. John's. Of the laity there were men who had braved persecution for religion and country. Patrick Bannon, Jeremiah Kavanagh, Dan Cantwell, Matthew Curran, John McAttee, Edward and Michael Gorman, Peter Tivenan, J. Louis Brady, Barney J. and William Campbell, Edward White, John P. McGrath, Martin Corcoran, Michael Keane, Michael Hargadon, Dennis, Pierce and William C. Lincoln, E. B. Nugent, Gran W. Smith, Samuel McGill, John and Michael Broderick, Thomas Slevin, John Doyle, James and William O'Connor, Thomas Small, James and Michael Barrett, Patrick Shea, James Cahill, Henry Cassin, Patrick Shaughnessy, Patrick Whelan, B. McAttee, B. Cassidy, Michael Gleason, John P. Byrne, Patrick Raily, Thomas Reardon, Thomas Hines, Major Mangan, Timothy Driscoll, Miles Ferry, Owen, James and William McBride, Gerald and Edward Finn, Frank Maguire, John Colgan, Edward McDonogh, Jerome Sinclair, Peter Martin, John Kerrigan, Patrick Flaherty, Felix O'Neil, Martin Kennedy, Robert Rowe, Thomas and John Hallinan, John Kavanaugh, Dennis McCarthy, Peter Moran, Michael Minton, Jerry Logan, John Gilligan, Hugh and Michael Dermody, John Duddy, John Allen, D. J. McAuliffe, Patrick McCrory, Tim Leahy, Thomas Feely, John O'Leary, Dennis Murphy, Michael King, James Dougherty, J. P. Cooney, Michael Reagan, John J. Barrett, Thomas McShane, Patrick Dillon, Capt. Keating, Capt. O'Neil, J. Watts Kearney, Nicholas Holloran, John Shelly, Michael Lawler, James Mullen, Patrick Keegan, Daniel Guy, Charles White, Dr. John E. Crowe, Dr. Brady, Dr. Corrigan, Patrick Carroll, Ben Cassidy, Peter Riley, James Delaney, Thomas Cain, Stephen DeCoursey, William Ross, M. R. Scully, Dennis Crowley, Dan Connolly, Joseph Farrell, Thomas Joyce, P. J. Sullivan, Michael Curtayne, Patrick Burke, Patrick Scally, Thomas R. Hackett, John O'Day, Lawrence Foley, John Carroll, Patrick Cody, Mat Lyons, John Hanley, Patrick Winn, Patrick Crane, Owen Reilly, John Dore, John Reagan, John Gilmore, McMahon, Cosgrove, Thomas Clines, Coyle, the Kirwans, the Quinlans, the Kinneys, the Mullarkeys, James Nevin, Coleman, Flannery, Burns, Donigan, Bryan, O'Brien, Martin Dugan, Ahern, Dunleavy, Crotty, Murray, McClinton, Comerford, Callaghan, the Kinells, the Mullovs, O'Mara, the McDonaldis, Forbes, Flynn, O'Hara, the Mackeys, the Conroys, Fitzgibbons, McWilliams.

And of the younger men Capt. Donovan, M. J. Duffy, James J. Boyle, Patrick and Michael Dwyer, Robert Mullen, Dr. W. B. Doherty, Dr. McDonough, Thomas W. McNally, Charles Byrne, Patrick Ford, Thomas Keenan, Martin J. Keyer, James Hyland, Philip Donahoe, John H. Byrne, John and Michael Hourigan, Martin Gannon, Maurice Holland, John Kelly, Con Sullivan, Patrick Lally, Joseph Nevin, John Noonan, William Galway, P. F. Dougherty, Newton G. Rogers, Thomas J. Kennedy, Will and James H. Horan, Peter D. Byrne, Patrick Dacey, Michael Norton, William McDermott, Thomas Maher, James Dealy, William Collins, Peter Fitzpatrick, Phil McGovern, Charles McGoff, Michael J. Pilbin, John Scanlon, Bryan Manly, James Mooney, Dan Quill, Thomas Dufficy, Peter J. Dowling, James, Hugh and Patrick Connors, John J. Slattery, Thomas Scally, John Cain, Patrick Fahy, Martin Heffernan, Michael Sheehan, Martin Cusick, John Mungovan, Farrell Curran, Michael Feeney, Patrick Powers, Michael Scott, Edward Dolan, John Doran, Phil Kern, John McNamee, Capt. Michael Boland, John Naltv, John Larkin, James Colson, Thomas Fogarty, John Lambert, John N. Smith, John Monahan, the Malones, John O'Neill, William Fitzgerald, John Ryan, James Cassin, Ed Parley, Patrick Holley, Robert McLaughlin, William Doody, Matt O'Doherty, John Tierney, William Patterson, Patrick Walsh, Judge John McCann, Michael Doyle, C. A. Curtin, Hugh Kennedy, James McClelland, Ed Stevens, Ed Dalton, Mat Gill, and others whose names escape memory.

But, alas! it is sad to reflect that most of the elders and not a few of the younger have gone to their reward, and others have left Louisville to make their homes elsewhere, in the East, the West, the North, the South. Throughout our great country are scattered many of the Irishmen and maidens who honored St. Patrick's day in Louisville twenty-five years ago, and they doubtless recall, as do those here, those grand demonstrations to honor God and country. C. N. J.

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