



The Blarney

UPCOMING:

Monthly Meeting:

July 13th 6:30 P.M.

The Mickle Center

**Dinner: 'Friends of the Sons'
Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chips,
Baked Beans, and dessert**

Next Meeting:

August 10th

6:30 P.M.

BOARD CONTACT INFO

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JULY (IÚIL) 2026

BOARD NEWS

The rain tournament, I mean golf tournament is in the rear view. Final tabs are still being counted but, we had 121 golfers and 29-hole sponsors.

This past month's sons social bike ride was a bit of a miss, we will try again on Saturday, July 25th. Once again, meet at Carl's at 11A.M. Or, if you would prefer to start with a beignet, or a Croissant and coffee, you can meet me at Nadias at 10 A.M. Address there is 2705 Grand Ave.

This year's Busch Light Carnival at Carl's looks to be even bigger and better than last year, lasting throughout the day. Many volunteers are needed for this event to run games and sell raffle tickets. If you are free on July 11th please volunteer. You can speak with anyone from the board to get signed up for a shift or all day.

Don't forget our annual halfway to St. Pat's car show is on Sunday September 20th. They are still looking for trophy sponsors. Contact either Scott Tilton, or Donnie Corben for more info.

This month's meeting is the 'Friends of the Sons' meeting. If you know of anyone that would like to try out a meeting and see what we are all about, please RSVP to this month's chef: Colton O'Connor. Likewise, if you are in contact with anyone that has sponsored us or helped support our causes, please invite them also.

Mr. Soliday has started his planning for our annual bags tourney, mark your calendars for the date: Saturday October 10th.

A word from your secretary -

This month's meeting is the 'Friends of the Sons' meeting, a special gathering dedicated to community building. If you know anyone interested in trying out a meeting and seeing what our group is all about, please invite them. To ensure we have an accurate headcount for food, kindly RSVP to this month's chef, Colton O'Connor.

Likewise, if you are in contact with any individuals who have sponsored us or supported our causes in the past, please encourage them to attend. Recognizing our supporters face-to-face helps strengthen those vital relationships and allows us to show our genuine appreciation for their ongoing generosity.

Bringing in new faces is the perfect way to drive membership within our organization of men. Many potential members simply need a personal invitation and a welcoming atmosphere to see the value in joining our brotherhood and supporting our philanthropic endeavors.

Expanding our network also opens doors for new sponsorships and community partnerships. By introducing local business leaders and community advocates to our mission, we can secure the resources necessary to further amplify our impact and successfully fund our upcoming projects.

Ultimately, this meeting is designed to be an engaging and relaxed introduction to our group. We encourage all current members to step up, use their personal connections, and help us build a stronger, more vibrant community organization for the future.

Thank you,
Jeff DeMoss



***Carl's
Place***

2nd annual Busch Light Carnival

Saturday July 11th, 12 P.M. – 8 P.M.

- **GAMES**
- **SHOWS**
- **ATTRACTIONS**
- **FOOD**
- **ICE COLD BUSCH LIGHT**

**Supporting The Friendly Sons of St. Patrick
of Central Iowa**



FRIENDLY SONS

Monthly ride

Here is an event I'm sure you all will love, a FREE one!

*Join us on **July 25th at 11:00 at Carl's place**. We will be gathering for a group ride around town. Once there we will decide where to go from there, the idea is to visit sponsors, and prospective or past sponsors.*

Sons and friends of sons are all invited, the plan is to do a ride around town every 4 to 6 weeks, spreading the craic, and having a good time.

*If you have any questions we will be at this month's meeting. Otherwise, you can contact either **Jeff DeMoss at 515-771-70710 or Jeff Stickel at 515-707-2501**.*

We hope to see you there!



F.S.O.S.P ACTIVITIES PAGE

Busch Light Carnival –July 11th, 2026.

- In conjunction with Carl's Place
- Volunteers needed
- Carnival Games
- Food and Drinks

Sunday September 20th – Annual Car Show

- Charlie's Filling Station
- Vendor spots are \$30.
- Trophy sponsors are \$150.
- Entry fee \$25.

Saturday October 10th– Annual Bags Tourney



Iowa Irish Fest

Iowa's Biggest Irish Celebration

Downtown Waterloo

2026 Iowa Irish Fest is July 31st - August 2nd!

Daily Entertainment, Music, and Dance include

BAND LINEUP

The full band lineup can be found online. Check back often as we are still making a few tweaks to this schedule. When finished it promises to be an AMAZING roster worthy of our 20th Irish Fest Celebration!

Full Band Lineup

Put your mixology skills to the test in this fun, hands-on cocktail competition this year with our Whiskey Workshops. From Five Farms Irish Cream to Hollady Bourbon, this won't be your typical workshop to attend. Learn more about this competition and other whiskey workshops and purchase your tickets today online.

WHISKEY WORKSHOPS

Visit <https://iowairishfest.com/> for more information or to purchase tickets

Irish History

In honor of our nation's 250th birthday –

How Tens of Thousands of Irish Immigrants Led the Patriots to Victory During the American Revolution

Soldiers of Irish heritage accounted for up to 50 percent of the Continental Army's ranks. Driven from their homeland by British oppression, Irish-born rebels also served as spies, politicians and more.

In 1745, a boy named John Barry was born by the sea in southeastern Ireland. He would spend his childhood under England's thumb. Like other Irish Catholics living in the Protestant kingdom, Barry was prohibited from voting, holding public office or owning a horse that cost more than £5. When he was a teenager, he and his family were forced off their land, reportedly by an English landlord. With few other options, Barry turned his sights toward the sea.

Around 1760, Barry immigrated to Philadelphia, where he pursued a career in shipbuilding and sailing. A decade and a half later, when the Thirteen Colonies revolted against unfair taxes and imperial rule, he became an early patriot, motivated by his experience with British oppression on both sides of the Atlantic.

Barry put this fervor to good use. Appointed a captain in the Continental Navy in 1775, he captured multiple British vessels at the helm of a brigantine called the Lexington. By the American Revolution's end, he was in command of the Alliance, protecting a cargo ship transporting Cuban gold—seed money for the United States' national bank. After the war, President George Washington selected Barry as the Navy's first commissioned officer; today, he's often described as the "father of the U.S. Navy."

When America declared its independence from Britain 250 years ago, on July 4, 1776, a diverse group of patriots joined the fight against the crown. Many were born on American soil. Some came from England or mainland Europe. Still others either emigrated from or traced their ancestry to that small Emerald Isle west of England.

These immigrants' beef with Britain went deeper than taxes on stamps and tea. The Irish soldiers and sailors who flocked to the patriot cause would prove indispensable to both the defense and the founding of their new country. Despite accounting for just 10 percent of the U.S. population during the war, individuals of Irish heritage represented 25 to 50 percent of the Continental Army.

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Few exemplified this dedication to liberty as much as Barry. When a British admiral attempted to persuade the Irish captain to switch sides, he replied, "I have devoted myself to the cause of my adopted country, and not the value or command of the whole British fleet could seduce me from it."

English rule in Ireland –

Ireland is sometimes called England's "first colony." During the Iron Age, the island was inhabited by Celts whose ancestors had migrated from mainland Europe. By the fifth century C.E., however, Christian missionaries (including St. Patrick) had arrived on the island to convert its pagan population. In 1171, Henry II of England invaded Ireland, marking the beginning of 800 years of British rule over the island.

By the dawn of the 17th century, England had devastated Ireland's ecosystem by cutting down most of the island's trees as lumber for shipbuilding. James 1 directed droves of his English and Scottish subjects to move to Ireland, encouraging them to settle on land confiscated from locals. The crown also sent thousands of Irish prisoners to work as indentured servants in British colonies in North America and the Caribbean.

The early modern period ushered in an era of intense religious persecution in Ireland. In the 1530s, England was torn apart by the Reformation, Henry VIII's forceful, public split with the Catholic Church. The Tudor king rejected the pope's authority and declared himself head of the Anglican Church. Under Henry's youngest daughter, Elizabeth I, Parliament outlawed Catholic Mass, preventing much of Ireland's population from worshipping as they had for centuries. In England itself, Elizabeth ordered the executions of more than 100 Catholic priests on charges of treason.

Irish immigration to America –

In the early 18th century, tens of thousands of Irish people, most of them Ulster Presbyterians, decided to leave their homeland in search of a "new life," says Melanie McComb, a senior genealogist at American Ancestors, a nonprofit family-history organization. Five ships carrying Presbyterian ministers and their congregations sailed to New England in 1718, beginning the so-called Great Migration of the Scots-Irish.

Lured by the promise of greater religious freedom and plentiful land, an estimated 250,000 Scots-Irish had immigrated to the American Colonies by 1775. Catholics also emigrated from Ireland in the pre-Revolutionary period, but they did so in far smaller numbers; as historian Kerby A. Miller writes in *Emigrants and Exiles*, "Catholics perceived emigration as forced banishment, and most remained at home," unwilling to relocate to "Protestant-dominated colonies, where they could expect mistreatment and discrimination."

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Irish patriots during the Revolution –

So, who were these Irish American patriots? They were foot soldiers. They were captains. They were spies. They were printers and designers, delegates to the Continental Congress, and signers of the Declaration of Independence.

After the Continental Congress adopted the Declaration, on July 4, 1776, delegates rushed the text to an Irish-born Philadelphia printer named John Dunlap. (Five years earlier, Dunlap had founded the Pennsylvania Packet, which would become America's first daily newspaper.) Into the early hours of July 5, Dunlap created 100 to 200 broadsides of the Declaration. Twenty-six of these poster-size prints are known to survive today.

Eight of the 56 men who signed the Declaration were of Irish descent. Three of them were born in Ireland, including James Smith, whose family had emigrated after enduring exploitation by landlords. As Irish Central noted in 2024, these signers' "brand of Irish defiance saw right through British imperialism and used Enlightenment republican ideas to create an alternative society for free people."

During the Revolution, Irish immigrants who enlisted to fight for the Americans were incentivized by both patriotism and the possibility of receiving land as a reward for their service. An Irish politician later reported that "the Irish language was as commonly spoken in the American ranks as English," adding that Irish valor had "determined the contest."

County Cork's Stephen Moylan, a Catholic whose parents had sent him to America to escape religious persecution, commanded a Continental cavalry regiment of light dragoons. Several Irishmen also served as aides-de-camp to Washington. One was John Fitzgerald, born in County Wicklow, and another was James McHenry, a surgeon from County Antrim. Nine of Washington's generals were born in Ireland, including two major generals and seven brigadier generals.

Inspired by America's success in liberating itself from English rule, some residents of the Emerald Isle came to view the Revolution as "a template that could be applied to Ireland as well," Mannion says. "Revolutionary fervor" inspired Irish radicals to imagine an independent republic of their own, the curator adds, and form the Society of United Irishmen in 1791. The group mounted the Irish Rebellion of 1798, fighting back against British rule. The crown crushed the revolt, but the seeds of Irish independence had been sown.

"Irish people in general always root for the underdog," Mannion says. "We do try to embody that rebel spirit as much as possible." In the 18th century, he adds, "you have Irish people on both sides of the Atlantic taking part in conflicts to secure independence from a colonial power, and in this case, the same colonial power: Great Britain."