

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Sean A. Boland Papers

MS NO.: 4880

Processor: Regina Costello

Editor: Michael McCormick

Date: December 20, 2002

Sean A. Boland (1943-2000) was born in Manchester, England. At two years of age, his family moved to Gurteen, County Sligo, Ireland. After his mother Margaret Boland died, he was adopted by his uncle and his wife, James and Bridie Boland. This family immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, when Sean was twelve years old. Sean graduated from St. Joseph High School, and married Bridget Ginty, and together they had three children. Sean joined the Ohio Lottery Commission in 1974, working as an investigator, marketing director, and lastly as a fiscal officer in the purchasing department.

Sean was extremely involved in the Irish community during his short life. His uncle, Gus Boland, introduced him to Irish dancing, and together they organized an annual Cleveland Feis. In later years, Sean was president of the Greater Cleveland Feis Society, and he is credited with making it the largest such society in North America. Sean led the Cleveland Feis for seventeen years, and also served on the North American Feis Commission as President and board member. He was the driving force behind the establishment of the Irish Music Academy of Cleveland in 1993 and was an avid supporter of the Cleveland Branch of the Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (Music, Language and Dance of Ireland). Sean was a member of the Irish American Archives Society, the Irish Northern Aid Society, the Irish American East Side, Inc., the West Side Irish American Club, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Cleveland Branch, and the Cleveland Irish Cultural Festival Committee. In 1994, he was named Irish Person of the Year. During the last ten years of his life, he made annual trips to Gurteen and became involved in establishing the Michael Coleman Heritage Center. In Cleveland, Sean was instrumental in planning the Cleveland Memorial in the Flats, in memory of those who died in the Great Famine.

The Sean A. Boland Papers, 1995-2000, consist of correspondence, a biographical sketch, a Liturgy, a memorial, an obituary, a souvenir program and a tribute to Sean.

The collection is arranged alphabetically by document type, and then chronologically.

This collection is of value to those seeking information about Irish Americans in general, and in Northeast Ohio, in particular. It demonstrates the celebration of an Irish culture and participation in various Irish activities. Those interested in the history of Irish music and dance will find this collection useful, particularly the data that pertains to the North American Feis Commission, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, and the Michael Coleman Heritage Center. Researchers seeking data on the promotion of the Irish culture in the Greater Cleveland area will find this collection to be useful.

All photographs have been removed to the print and photograph collections.

Provenance: Teresa Reilly Kowalski, 2002.

Number of Containers: 1 Oversize Folders: 0 Oversize Volumes: 0

Size: 0.20 linear feet / 0.06 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

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| 1 | <u>Folder</u> | 1: Correspondence, regarding tributes to Sean A. Boland, 2000, and undated. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 2: History, outlining the life of Sean A. Boland, unauthored, undated. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 3: Liturgy, Cleveland's Irish Cultural Festival, paying tribute to Sean A. Boland, 2000. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 4: Memorial, Sean A. Boland, April 19, 2000, including information on his life, 2000. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 5: Newspaper clipping, obituary, <i>The Plain Dealer</i> , April 18, 2000. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 6: Souvenir Program, American Promotional Tour by Friends of Coleman Heritage Center, Gurteen, County Sligo, Ireland, 1995. Includes information regarding a benefit concert of the same date. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 7: Tribute to Sean A. Boland, unauthored, undated. |