

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Catherine Leneghan Papers  
MS NO.: 4942

Processor: Regina Costello  
Editor: Steve Doell  
Date: November 25, 2005

Catherine Leneghan (b. 1964) was born in Cleveland, Ohio and is of Irish descent. Both sides of her family originated in County Mayo, Ireland. Her father, Francis Leneghan came from Ballycroy, County Mayo, Ireland. He married Catherine O'Donnell. Catherine's maternal grandparents are Julia Conway who hailed from Tourmekeady, County Mayo, and James O'Donnell () who came from Islandeady, County Mayo. Her paternal grandparents, Ellen Sweeney came from Innisbiggle, Achill Island, County Mayo, and Francis Leneghan came from Ballycroy, County Mayo. Living in a traditional Irish family upbringing, Catherine was associated with things Irish from an early age. Like so many Irish on Cleveland's west side, she attended St. Patrick's Grade School in Westpark, Cleveland, and subsequently was a student of St. Joseph's Academy, also in Westpark. She received a degree at Psychology in Cleveland State University. But Catherine's real love was of Irish music and dance. She pursued her career in this field, passing the TCRG examination (*An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha Scrudu Teastas Mhuinteora* – Teacher's Examination) and the ADCRG examination (*An Coimisiun le Rinci Gaelacha Scrudu Teastas Mholtora* – Adjudicator's Examination) in the early 1990's. She has not looked back since. Her school, The Leneghan Academy of Traditional Irish Dance has been a success since it opened its doors in 1991.

The Catherine Leneghan Papers, 1969-2002, consist of biographical information, newspaper clippings, photographs, a video and three traditional Irish Dance costumes.

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

This collection is of value to those seeking information about Irish American history in northeast Ohio. This collection will be of special interest to those researching Irish American culture in the greater Cleveland area. Those seeking information about traditional Irish music and dance will find pertinent data. Researchers documenting the lives of first generation Irish emigrants to northeast Ohio will find this collection to be a valuable resource. These papers will be a valuable resource to those with an interest in the various Irish festivals and feiseanna in northeast Ohio. This collection tells the story of three generations of Irish Americans and their lives in Ohio, illustrating how such families retain strong ties with Ireland and celebrate Irish traditions. These papers demonstrate how well Irish immigrants integrate in the Cleveland community, and tell the positive story of emigrants from Achill Ireland and north Mayo.

The video has been removed to the film collection. The three Irish dance costumes have been removed to the History Museum.

Provenance: Catherine Leneghan, 2002.

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

Size: 0.20 linear feet / 0.06 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

- 1      Folder      1: Biographical Data, 2002.
- Folder      2: Newspaper clipping, *The Plain Dealer*, June 27, 1997.
- Folder      3: \_\_\_\_\_, West Side Sun, August 2, 1990.
- Folder      4: Photograph, portraits, group, Catherine Leneghan, Sean McCafferty and Siobhan O'Donnell, Cleveland Feis, Ohio, ca. 1969.
- Folder      5: \_\_\_\_\_, Catherine Leneghan with others, Cleveland Feis, 1969.
- Folder      6: \_\_\_\_\_, Patrick and Eileen Leneghan, 1977.
- Folder      7: \_\_\_\_\_, students of the Leneghan Academy of Traditional Irish Dance, Ohio Cultural Festival, 1997.