

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: George J. McMonagle Papers

MS NO.: 4811

Processor: Lonnie McCauley

Editor: Deborah Shell, Michael McCormick

Date: October 27, 1999

George J. McMonagle (1906-) was born in Cleveland, Ohio, of Irish descent on both sides of his family. His mother was from County Mayo, Ireland, and his father's ancestors were originally from County Donegal. He attended St. Ann's Parochial Grade School in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, and Cathedral Latin High School, from which he graduated in 1924. He attended Cleveland Marshall Law School, graduating in 1930. After thirty-four years as a successful lawyer, handling product liability and personal injury cases, he was appointed a judge in the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court in Cleveland by Governor Rhodes in 1964, and ran for election for the first time in 1966.

In the 1970s Judge McMonagle adjudicated the court case of a dispute between the state of Ohio and the city of Cleveland, which led to the creation of the North East Ohio Sewer District. He has been recognized over the years for his community dedication and has been honored by Cleveland State University, which has established a scholarship in his name. In 1984 he was awarded the "Outstanding State Trial Judge of the Year" by the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He was honored in 1999 by the Ohio State Bar Foundation for fifty years of public service.

McMonagle was active in Irish organizations, being a charter member of the Irish Civic Association, founded April 4, 1942, and a member of the Irish Goodfellowship Club. The Civic Association was dedicated "to aid and help needy deserving families of Irish lineage." An annual activity was the organization of the St. Patrick's Day parade and banquet. Another annual event was the Euclid Beach Park daytrip for the orphans of Parmadale Orphanage. The Irish Goodfellowship Club's purpose was that of "promoting social intercourse among its members and to celebrate annually St. Patrick's Day in a fitting manner." The groups maintained a close relationship; the Civic Association's banquet also served to honor the Goodfellowship Club's selection for "Man of the Year." The banquet (luncheon) is still in existence, being held on March 17, St. Patrick's Day.

The George J. McMonagle Papers, 1910-1989, consist of his personal papers and also records of the Irish Civic Association, which he served as secretary and president. Included is correspondence concerning the articles of incorporation; a statement of continued existence of the Irish Civic Association; a membership list (1942) of the Irish Civic Association; articles of incorporation for the Irish Goodfellowship Club, September 1910; a compilation of Irish nicknames; speeches by attorney and Judge George J.

McMonagle; newspaper clippings relating to Judge James C. Connell; general correspondence of the Irish Civic Association, and reminiscences..

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

The collection is of value to researchers studying the history of the Irish in Cleveland, Ohio, especially during the war years 1939-1944. It is also of interest for its study of benevolent and fraternal organizations as reflected in the activities of the Irish Civic Association and Irish Goodfellowship Club. The membership list and newspaper clippings on James C. Connell, an Irish Goodfellowship "Man of the Year," are useful for genealogical purposes, as is the correspondence of Judge McMonagle.

Eleven issues of the newspaper *The Irish American* covering the years 1939-1944 have been removed to the newspaper collection.

Researchers should also consult Newspapers 34 C9.4 s020, *Irish American*, January 1932.

Provenance: Judge George J. McMonagle, 1993.

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

Size: 0.4 linear feet / 0.12 linear meters

Restrictions: None.

Container

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|---|---------------|---|
| 1 | <u>Folder</u> | 1: Articles of incorporation, Irish Goodfellowship Club, photocopy, September 1910. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 2: Correspondence, Irish Civic Association, concerning articles of incorporation and statement of continued existence, 1942 and 1971, and statement of continued existence, 1960. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 3: Correspondence, Irish Civic Association, 1939-1987 and undated, including brochure on Irish Cultural Garden and flyer of Knights of Equity. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 4: Correspondence, United Irish Societies, 1942-1981, and list of parade guarantors, 1989. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 5: Correspondence, speeches, and program, Irish Goodfellowship Club, March 17, 1943-1989. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 6: Magazine, "The Pageant of the Celt," August 28, 29, 1934. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 7: Membership list, Irish Civic Association, 1942. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 8: Miscellaneous papers, poems and "Irish Families," a compilation of Cleveland Irish nicknames, undated, and reminiscences, undated. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 9: Newspaper clippings, Irish community, 1936-1988 and undated. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 10: Newspaper clippings, photocopies, James C. Connell, 1928-1973. |
| | <u>Folder</u> | 11: Speeches and writings, George J. McMonagle, undated. |