

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: John J. O'Boyle Family Papers

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John J. O'Boyle is a native of Cleveland, Ohio, of Irish descent. His mother, Mary Gaughan, was born in County Mayo, Ireland. She traveled to the United States in the 1920s, initially working in Cape Cod. From there, she moved to Buffalo, New York, where she stayed with an uncle, and later moved to Cleveland. John's paternal grandparents came from County Roscommon, Ireland. John's father, John O'Boyle, worked as a mailman on the North Park Boulevard mail route based at University Circle Station for thirty-nine years. John O'Boyle was known as the poet laureate of East 105<sup>th</sup> St. and Wade Park. His mother worked as a maid in a home in University Circle. They met on John's mail route and were married in 1932 at St. Ann's Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

O'Boyle's mother returned to Ireland frequently, coinciding these trips with her husband attending postal conventions. John's parents adopted a baby girl, Trudy, whose mother had died in childbirth. They had planned to return her to her natural family after an illness Trudy contracted subsided, but unfortunately she remained ill all her life. The O'Boyle family raised Trudy as their own daughter. Trudy was afflicted with a recurring brain tumor, and passed away at the age of twenty. The O'Boyle family participates in Irish American organizations and events, including membership in the Irish American Club, East Side, and attending the annual Euclid Park Family Picnic.

The John J. O'Boyle Family Papers, 1872-2000, consist of a series of five lectures by British historian James Anthony Froude, answers to these lectures by Reverend Thomas N. Burke, a rebuttal by James A. Froude, an essay, memoirs, newspaper clippings, a pamphlet, and photographs.

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

This collection is of value to individuals interested in Irish history and Irish American history. It is also of value to those seeking information about the Irish community in northeast Ohio. It will be of particular interest to those seeking information about the British presence in Ireland from the perspective of a British historian, with answers and rebuttals from an Irishman. Those concerned with the history of the United States postal service in northeast Ohio and an Irish postal worker's memoirs and stories will find this collection useful. The material pertaining to Irish family life,

folklore, Christmas memories, and stories about growing up in Cleveland will be of interest to historians and sociologists alike. Those appreciative of Irish authors will find the books penned and donated by John J. O'Boyle, in our reference library, to be not only of interest, but also as a complement to this collection. These books are *Thorns in Arcadia*, *Linking Verbs*, and *No Stone for the Poet*.

Provenance: John J. O'Boyle, 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: Answers to James A. Froude lectures from Reverend Thomas N. Burke, 1872.         |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 2: Essay, <i>Cleveland Authors</i> , John J. O'Boyle.                               |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 3: Lectures (5), James A. Froude, 1872.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 4: Memoir, <i>The Bond</i> , John J. O'Boyle, undated.                              |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 5: Memoir, <i>The Innkeeper of Bethlehem</i> , John O'Boyle, undated.               |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 6: Memoir, <i>A Small Sprig of Pine</i> , John J. O'Boyle, undated.                 |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 7: Memoir, <i>The Story of the Innkeeper Twice Told</i> , John J. O'Boyle, undated. |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 8: Newspaper clippings, 2000.   |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 9: Pamphlet, <i>Linking Verbs</i> , John J. O'Boyle, undated.                       |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 10: Photographs (6), O'Boyle family, 1931-1986.                                     |
|   | <u>Folder</u> | 11: Rebuttal, James A. Froude to Reverend Thomas N. Burke, 1873.                    |