

THE WESTERN RESERVE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

REGISTER: Kevin Shanahan Photographs

PG. NO.: 531

Processor: Regina Costello

Editor: Jane Avner, John Grabowski

Date: April 6, 2004

Kevin Shanahan immigrated to Cleveland, Ohio, from Dublin, Ireland, in the 1950s. While living in Cleveland, he worked in refrigeration and taught Irish dancing at the West Side Irish American Club on Madison Avenue and West 98th Street. He was one of the main organizers of the first Cleveland Feis (competition) in the late 1950s. He taught several teachers at the Masterson School of Irish Dance, including the owner, Bobby Masterson. Shanahan and his wife Sally, have three children, Dennis, Colleen and Erin. The family moved to New York in the 1960s. Living in New York, Shanahan concentrated on Irish drama, and performed in many Irish productions in New York. He and his family returned to Dublin, Ireland, ca. 1980.

The Kevin Shanahan Photographs, 1947-1964, consist of 15 photographs, 8 which are black and white, and 7 which are color.

The collection is arranged by image content and then chronologically.

This collection is of value to those seeking illustrative materials about the traditional Irish Dance community in Northeast Ohio. There are images of Kevin Shanahan and native Clevelanders, in addition to out of state dancers participating at a number of Irish Dance competitions in Cleveland, Ohio. Also, there is an image of John F. Kennedy with Irish dancers from Cleveland.

Provenance: Bobby Masterson, 2003.

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: Portraits, group, Peggy Buckley, Mike Bergin, Cleveland Feis, 1947.
- Folder 2: _____, Kevin Shanahan with his pupils. Left to right, Bobby Masterson, Kevin Shanahan, Mary Hennessy, Mary Fitzgerald, Kathleen Forrestall, Mary Hastings, Francis Fitzgerald, Dennis Shanahan, Bridget Bernie, Tom Hastings, Cleveland, 1956.
- Folder 3: _____, Kevin Shanahan and Mae Butler, Cleveland, 1956.
- Folder 4: _____, Kevin Shanahan pupils, Midge Ginley, Jack Byrne, Brigid Bernie, Judy (surname unknown), Lynda Brown, Kerry Feis, Ireland, 1957.
- Folder 5: _____, main stage, Dennis Shanahan, Cleveland's first Feis, 1957.
- Folder 6: _____, Kevin Shanahan pupils, Tim Kilbane, Mary Fitzgerald, Francis Fitzgerald, Cleveland, 1958.
- Folder 7: _____, Kevin Shanahan pupils, Midge Ginley, Judy Nefores, Mary Nefores, Cleveland, 1958.
- Folder 8: _____, Kevin Shanahan with his pupils. Left to right Bridget Bernie, Kathleen Forrestall, Kevin Shanahan, Bobby Masterson, Mary Forrestal, Mary Fitzgerald, unidentified, Dennis Shanahan, Irish Night, Cleveland Public Square, 1958.
- Folder 9: _____, Kevin Shahanan's pupils. Left to right, Tim Kilbane, Mary Fitzgerald, Francis Fitzgerald, Cleveland, Ohio, 1958.
- Folder 10: _____, Kevin Shanahan's pupils. Left to right, Kathleen Forrestall, unidentified, Mary

Forrestall, Cleveland, 1959

- Folder 11: _____, John Forrestall, Bobby Masterson, unidentified, Edward Melody, Michael McNamara, Cleveland Feis, 1959.
- Folder 12: _____, Louise and Francis Fitzgerald with John F. Kennedy, 1964.
- Folder 13: _____, The Kerry Dancers, champion dancers from various Irish dance schools in New York, Ohio and New Jersey, undated.
- Folder 14: _____, Kevin Shanahan, Brendan DeGlyn, Jack Mullaly, unidentified, Sally Shanahan, West Side Irish American Club, North Olmsted, Ohio, undated.
- Folder 15: _____, Kevin Shanahan and pupils. Left to right, Colleen Costello, Dennis Shanahan, Kathy Hall, undated.