

# Annotated Bibliography of Irish Literature in the Library's Collections

Created by Ryan T. McGovern, Rutgers History Intern, for the New Brunswick Free Public Library, 28 June 2014

The following is an annotated bibliography that lists the books that are available in the library containing information about Irish history, culture, and the Irish experience in America. In addition to the sections mentioned above, I have also included Irish works of fiction, children's books relating to the Irish, and Irish dramatic pieces such as plays, poems, etc. The list is broken down into seven categories; this enables the reader to focus in on a specific category in order to find what they are looking for in a clear and concise manner.

**Ancestry/Genealogy Guides-** The first section in the guide has three books that show the reader how to trace their Irish ancestry. These books are not an exhaustive guide on how to trace your family lineage. Instead, they provide a starting point on the ancestry process for the curious reader.

**Black, J. Anderson. *Your Irish Ancestors: An illustrated history of Irish families and their origins*. New York: Paddington Press, 1974.**

This is a book for finding out the history of your Irish family. It starts off with a detailed account on how Ireland came into existence and is accompanied by illustrations that provide the reader with an enhanced understanding. The second part of the book lists a number of the Great Irish Families and gives a detailed description on the background of the family name, where the name is most common, and a few prominent people that share the same last name. The final section of the book gives us a brief overview on tracing your ancestors.

**Grenham, John. *Tracing your Irish Ancestors: The complete guide*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 1999.**

This book gives the reader a direct and detailed description of the way to trace ancestry. This work is a research book as the author provides the reader with a variety of different materials that allows the reader to trace their ancestry. The book is broken down into three categories; the first is major sources, followed by secondary sources

and concludes with a reference guide. Through these distinct categories the reader has access to information that will help during their search.

**Mitchell, Brian. *Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing, 2002.**

The first section of this book provides the reader with a brief overview of some of the genealogical history of Ireland. Through the use of major record sources and other sources this book provides the reader with a basic plan to trace ancestry. The book provides the reader with illustrations and examples on the best way to begin their research.

**Children's Literature-** The next section in the guide is children's books that pertain to Irish history. Children's books contain valuable information about perception of the Irish and the Irish experience.

**Derkins, Susie. *The Irish Republican Army*. New York: Rosen Publishing Group, 2003.**

This is a children's book that gives a look at the Irish Republican Army. Some people believe they are fighting for a unified Ireland while others believe they are operating as a terrorist organization. The book starts off with a brief introduction of the IRA and is followed by the political history of Ireland. It follows with an explanation of how the IRA was formed, the troubles that are present in the organization, and the new direction the organization is heading.

**Fitzpatrick, Marie-Louise. *The Long March: the true story of the Choctaw Indians' gift to the Irish during the potato famine*. Berkeley: Tricycle Press, 1998.**

This book has illustrations that tell the relatively unknown story of how the Choctaw Indian nation came to the aid of the Irish during the potato famine in 1847. In an effort to help the Irish during the famine, the Choctaw Indian's collected \$170 and put it toward the relief effort.

**Osborne, Mary Pope and Natalie Pope Boyce. *Leprechauns and Irish Folklore: a nonfiction companion to Leprechaun in late winter*. New York: Random House, 2010.**

This is a children's book with illustrations that acts as a beginner's research guide for children on Ireland. Some of the topics covered in this book are Leprechauns, fairies, Irish folklore, and magical places.

**Wilson, Laura. *How I Survived the Irish Famine: the journal of Mary O' Flynn*. New York: Harper Collins, 2001.**

This book tells the fictional tale of a young girl by the name of Mary O' Flynn during the Irish Potato Famine between 1845 and 1847. The book begins with a brief history of how the potato was used to provide for Irish families and leads into the first signs of the blight that occurred in 1845. After the introduction the author uses a fictional journal to describe the events that took place over the next two years.

**Cultural-** The third section of the guide focuses on books about Irish culture and the Irish way of life. In this section you will find an Irish cookbook, a travel memoir, a book on the Irish experience from a feminine viewpoint, a book based on a classic American movie, and books that give the reader an idea of what it means to be Irish.

**Barich, Bill. *A Pint of Plain: Tradition, change, and the fate of the Irish pub*. New York: Walker and Company, 2009.**

There are over 12,000 pubs throughout Ireland but for some pub patrons it is becoming more difficult to find one that fits personal taste. This book takes an in depth look at how the Irish pub has evolved and changed over time. The pubs are now filled with flat screen televisions, trivia contests and pub games to keep their guests entertained. However, some pub-goers want to visit a pub were they can have a drink, relax and talk amongst the locals.

**Bestic, Alan. *The Importance of Being Irish*. New York: William Morrow and Company, 1969.**

Bestic tries to paint an accurate picture of the Irish. He started in the United States and travelled to Ireland to learn what people really thought of the Irish. He talked to whoever he could on his trip to try to ensure his book would display the true nature of the Irish. Areas of focus include politics, education, the church, industry and commerce, arts, sports, etc.

**Cahill, Thomas. *How the Irish Saved Civilization: The untold story of Ireland's heroic role from the fall of Rome to the rise of Medieval Europe*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.**

This book details how Irish missionaries and scribes fought to preserve the literature and culture of Europe during the Viking invasion of Rome. By laboring to copy extensively, the scribes preserved Europe's cultural identity.

**Eagleton, Terry. *The Truth About the Irish*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.**

This book puts a new and an interesting spin on the classic "A to Z" guide of the country of Ireland. It starts off with a brief overview and history of the country followed by a more intense examination of a variety of topics including: Emigration, Shillelagh, Potatoes, Wilde, Limerick and Dracula. It is a humorous take on the Irish culture.

**Fisher, James T. *On the Irish Waterfront: The crusader, the movie, and the soul of the Port of New York*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2009.**

Fisher tells the story of Irish culture and corruption that were prevalent on the New York-New Jersey waterfront. The book is a companion to the Academy Award winning film, *On the Waterfront* (1954) starring Marlon Brando. The book investigates the Irish waterfront in more detail than the film. Through the eyes of Catholic priests, politicians, longshoremen and Irish American gangsters, we see how much is at stake and how truly dangerous New York's ports were.

**Jen, Gish. *Who's Irish? : Stories*. New York: Random House, 1999.**

Jen tries to explain how the notion of the "American Dream" has changed from one generation to the next. In eight stories we learn how different individuals came to see the American Dream. The author writes to elicit sympathy for each character's pain in stories of failure and exultation in the achievements of the character's triumph.

**Kearns, Caledonia. *Cabbage and Bones: An anthology of Irish American women's fiction*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1997.**

This is a collection of women's fictional narratives about their life and the experiences they faced growing up as an Irish American woman. Dating from 1938 until the turn of the century we learn about the hardships, sacrifices and triumphs these women endured. Through their experiences with family, their parish, love and their "role" as women we see the difficulties they had to overcome.

**MacDonald, Michael Patrick. *Easter Rising: An Irish American coming up from under*. New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2006.**

This is a story about a young man's journey to escape the poverty and crime-riddled streets of a Southie Housing Project in Boston. MacDonald grew up in a large Irish family and met tragedy at a very young age. He lost four of his siblings and did not meet his father until much later in life. He was able to escape the projects several times but tragedy always pulled him back in. He eventually takes two trips to Ireland, one solo and the other with his mother, in order to rediscover himself.

**Stevens, Peter. *The Voyage of the Catalpa: A perilous journey and six Irish rebels' escape to freedom.* New York: Carroll & Graf, 2002.**

George Anthony was the captain of an American whaling ship named the *Catalpa*. He became famous for risking his life and career when he accepted a secret mission in the name of Irish freedom. He was tasked with escorting the “Fremantle Six” from the Australian coast to freedom after they had escaped captivity from the Australian prison of Fremantle Gaol. With the help of Irish nationalists, spies and Captain Anthony, the “Fremantle Six” were able to escape persecution from the British Crown.

**Tall, Deborah. *The Island of the White Cow.* New York: Atheneum, 1986.**

After her senior year of college, Deborah Tall and the visiting English writer at her school boarded a plane to a distant island off the West Coast of Ireland known as The Island of White Cow. Deborah and Owen lived here for five years and embraced the simple lifestyle of the locals. It was during this time that Deborah discovered writing and embraced the strong sense of community that was present on the island.

**Walsh, Helen. *Irish Country Cooking.* Avenel: Crescent Books, 1993.**

Walsh gives us a brief overview of the history of traditional Irish food and some of the most popular ingredients that are used in these dishes. The book is broken down into sections that allow you to pick and choose an area of focus. The sections include soups and appetizers, fish and seafood, meat and poultry, side dishes and snacks, desserts, cakes and breads.

**Williams, Niall and Christine Breen. *The Luck of the Irish: Our Life in County Clare.* New York: Soho Press, 1995.**

This is a travel memoir of a married couple who left their careers in New York City in order to achieve a more fulfilling life in a tiny village of County Clare, Ireland. The couple wanted to be a part of the community, write and paint the extraordinary scenery, and raise their children in the countryside where they believed they were meant to be. Times had changed and they had struggles, however, they faced those challenges head on and continue to embrace the life they sought.

**Drama-** The fourth section in the guide focuses on Irish works of drama. There are three books in this section which show the versatility of the Irish entertainers of the time. In addition to the plays, there is a book that contains Irish poems of various types.

**Colum, Padraic. *Anthology of Irish Verse*. New York: Liveright, 1948.**

This is a collection of Irish poems written by some of the most influential Irish writers and young poets of their times. The poems are of varied themes and are broken down accordingly. Some of the categories include street songs and countryside songs, poems of place and exile, faery tales, satires, and heritage poems.

**Dixon, Michael Bigelow, and Michele Volansky, edited. *A Brave & Violent Theatre: Monologues, Scenes and Historical Context for 20th Century Irish Drama*. Lyme: Smith & Kraus, 1995.**

The book is a collection of works of 20th Century Irish drama. It starts off with a brief history of modern Irish drama and is followed by a few tips on how to write plays in today's Ireland. Theater works follow including monologues for men and women and scenes between one or two male and female characters.

**Nathan, George Jean. *Five Great Modern Plays: The Complete Texts*. New York: Random House, 1941.**

This is a collection of five modern plays that demonstrate the versatility of Irish theatre. Both drama and light-hearted comedy are represented.

**Emigration/Famine-** The fifth section in the guide is devoted to books that contain information on the Irish Potato Famine and the mass emigration that followed it. Emigration and famine in Ireland are associated with each other in time which is the reason for the combined heading. Along with emigration and famine there is information on how emigration paved the way for the Irish experience here in America.

**Golway, Terry. *The Irish in America*, edited by Michael Coffey. New York: Hyperion Publishing, 1997.**

This book looks at how the Irish emigrated across the Atlantic during the mid-nineteenth century and participated in American society. Other areas of focus in the book include the Irish devotion to their church and parish, the emphasis they put on gaining political power in their respective districts, the types of jobs they did, and their contributions to sports and the arts. Contributors include writer Frank McCourt, comic Denis Leary, writer Marry Higgins Clark, and Black 47 lead singer Larry Kirwan.

**Karen Price. *The Irish Americans*. Farmington Hills: Lucent Books, 2003.**

This book provides the reader with a look at how Irish immigrants made their way to the United States in search of a better life for themselves and their families. It starts

off with an introduction to Irish immigrants and the massive emigration that followed the Irish Potato Famine. It details life during the famine and the strenuous journey they made across the Atlantic in what came to be known as the “Coffin Ships.” Descriptions include how their life was here in America, the jobs that most Irish people obtained, the political power they were able to gain and the eventual assimilation they made into American society. It concludes with the future of Irish Americans.

**Keneally, Thomas. *The Great Shame: And the triumph of the Irish in the English-Speaking world*. New York: Double Day, 1998.**

Famine, the forced removal of prisoners to Australia, and massive emigration to the United States and Canada were a few of the challenges for the Irish during the nineteenth century. Through individual accounts of despair and tragedy, we see the devastating effect it had on the Irish experience. Over time, a number of these individuals were able to achieve great things.

**Laxton, Edward. *The Famine Ships: The Irish exodus to America*. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1996.**

Between 1846 and 1851 Ireland experienced a potato famine that devastated the country. During this time over one million people left Ireland and ventured across the Atlantic Ocean for refuge in North America. This was one of the largest emigrations in history and the people who made the trip became known as the “famine emigrants.” The *Famine Ships* takes an in-depth look at the hardships the famine emigrants faced on their journey across the Atlantic. In compiling his research, Laxton focuses primarily on ships that were of Irish origin.

**Miller, Kerby and Paul Wagner. *Out of Ireland: The story of Irish Emigration to America*. Washington D.C.: Elliot & Clark Publishing, 1994.**

This book details the massive Irish emigration that occurred during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The book is based on a documentary television film of the same name. It begins with an overview as to why so many Irish chose to make the decision to leave their home of the “Emerald Isle” in search of greater opportunities in America. Through the lens of a series of individual letters sent by the emigrants to their families back home, we are able to see the Irish experience in America. Along with the letters, there are one hundred and ten compelling photographs that allow the reader to visualize what the emigrant’s experience was like.

**Riehecky, Janet. *Cultures of America*. New York: Marshall Cavendish Corporation, 1995.**

This book tells the story of Irish Americans from the mid nineteenth century forward. It starts off with the massive emigration from Ireland and details the difficult journey to America. The book continues with the Irish experience in America through the building of the Irish family and focuses on the importance of the Catholic Church for Irish Americans. The book ends with a few areas of Irish influence on America, combined with a number of achievements Irish Americans gained over the years.

**Zulu, Joan Mathieu. *An Irish Journey*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1998.**

This book examines why so many Irish people emigrated during the early twentieth century. The author focuses on the small and close-knit community of Roscrea, County Tipperary to better understand the effects that emigration had at home and abroad. In addition to Roscrea, Zulu also interviews Irish immigrants in New York to get their take on how emigration has changed over time and how it continues to effect people of both the old and new community.

**Irish Fiction-** The sixth section in the guide focuses on Irish works of fiction. In this section you will find mystery, suspense, romance, fantasy and folklore.

**Baker, Keith. *Inheritance: An Irish novel of suspense*. New York: William & Morrow Company, 1998.**

This story takes place during the troubled times between North Ireland and the rest of Ireland when violence and death were an everyday occurrence. A gas explosion takes the life of Bob McCallan, who was a retired Northern Ireland police officer. He leaves a substantial inheritance for his son Jack. Jack isn't quite sure how his father came across this money and begins looking for answers to a dangerous question.

**Deere, Dicey. *The Irish Cottage Murder*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999.**

This is the first book of a mystery series featuring the female lead of Torrey Tunet. Torrey was a thief when she was younger. She has passed that dark moment in her life, however; there is one crime that still affects her to this day. Torrey is grown now and has become a highly successful international translator. During a job in Dublin she meets a wealthy American man by the name of Desmond Moore who invites her to stay at his lavish castle. There are a few other guests staying at Castle Moore with Torrey and everyone is enjoying themselves. A stranger turns up dead on the outskirts of the castle's swamp and the mystery begins...



**Fowler, Earlene. *Irish Chain*. New York: The Berkley Publishing Group, 1995.**

This is part of the Benni Harper mystery series. Benni is an ex-cowgirl who currently works as a curator at a folk-art museum. She is taking time out of her busy schedule to sponsor a “Senior Prom” at the local retirement home. At the party she hopes to share a dance with the Police Chief Gabe Ortiz. Instead, she ends up dancing with Clay O’Hara, her longtime crush. Benni discovers the bodies of Clay’s uncle and an elderly woman in one of the resident’s room. It is now up to Benni to get to the bottom of this mystery.

**Gill, Bartholomew. *The Death of an Irish Lover: An inspector Peter McGarr Mystery*. New York: William Morrow, 2000.**

The town of Leixleap, Ireland is well known for their prized eels that live in in the famous River Shannon. Thieves have started stealing the eels out of the river and selling them on the black market. When local Chief Inspector Peter McGarr gets a call from his childhood nemesis Tim Tallon about a double murder, Peter questions Tim’s motives. It turns out that local Eel Policewoman Ellen Gilday and her boss Pascal Burke are the ones who have been murdered. Peter has his work cut out for him and will have to deal with the Irish Republican Army and a whole cast of mysterious characters to find out who is responsible for the double murder.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Whiskey: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 1998.**

This story takes places in the DePaul area of Chicago. Dermot has met the love of his life, Nuala, and the two are a few weeks away from getting married. Nuala is a psychic of sorts and has the ability to see the past. In their latest quest the couple seeks to find out what happened to the body of Jimmy “Sweet Rolls” Sullivan. Sullivan was a famous bootlegger and Al Capone’s biggest rival during the prohibition era in Chicago. He was thought to have been buried right next to Dermot’s grandparents. However, Nuala believes that the grave is empty.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Mist: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 1999.**

Dermot and Nuala have recently married and her singing career is taking off fast. She has released her first CD and has been invited to sing at Irish Aid, a charity concert to help out Ireland’s poor. On the flight, Nuala has another one of her “spells” and the couple is tasked with finding out what really happened to Kevin O’ Higgins. They meet a variety of characters along the way some of whom want to help and others who want to keep the truth of O’Higgins death a mystery.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Eyes: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2000.**

Nuala and her husband Dermot have just welcomed their first child into the world. Just like her mother, Nelliecoyne is “fey,” which means she has the ability to see into the past as well as the future. Nuala is on the verge of releasing her fourth folk album and Nick Farmer wants to sabotage her. Nick will stop at nothing in order to see her fail. To make matters worse, Nuala and her newborn have been experiencing strange premonitions about the lake where they are staying. One hundred years ago this lake saw a shipload of Irish Americans tragically lose their lives

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Love: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2001.**

Nuala and Dermot are back in the “Old Country” with their daughter Nelliecoyne, Irish wolfhound Fiona, and the latest addition to their family, their son “The Mick.” The couple feels that there might be someone or multiple people out to get them during their trip to Ireland. Dermot receives an old diary of a Chicago newspaperman that tells the story of a mass murder trial in which one of Ireland’s most beloved heroes was accused of the crime.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Stew: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2002.**

Nuala and Dermot have just welcomed their third child Socra Marie into the world. She was a pre-term baby and was delivered at about twenty five weeks. Through one of her premonitions Nuala sees that a local hot-shot lawyer by the name of Seamus Costelleo has been marked for death. In addition to trying to prevent Seamus’ murder, Nelliecoyne, their oldest child, has her own vision which takes us back to the Haymarket Riot that occurred over a century ago.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Cream: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2005.**

Nuala and her husband Dermot have been looking for someone to look after their two Irish wolfhounds for quite some time. Nuala has stumbled upon a local man by the name of Damian “Day” O’ Sullivan and she believes he is the perfect fit for the job. During the interview, Dermot finds out that a few years ago Day was convicted of involuntary manslaughter when he ran over Rodney Keefe in a Chicago parking lot after a night of drinking. The couple believes that Day was not responsible for the death of Mr. Keefe and that the O’ Sullivan family might be hiding something.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Crystal: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2006.**

Nuala lives in the Irish part of Chicago with her husband Dermot, their three young children and their beloved Irish wolfhounds. Nuala has been experiencing bad dreams each night and she fears that a horrific evil will strike soon. Tragedy occurs when a car-bomb explodes on the Chicago riverfront and the search for the bomber is on. The past and present collide and Nuala and Dermot are tasked with solving the mysteries and making them as clear as an "Irish Crystal."

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Linen: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2007.**

Dermot and Nuala have recently had their fourth child, "Patjo". A local man by the name of Desmond Doolin has gone missing during a tour in Iraq. His family has lost hope for him being alive and the U.S. government says that they have no idea where he is. Nuala believes this is just the tip of the iceberg and seeks to find out the truth of Desmond's whereabouts. In typical Nuala and Dermot fashion they stumble upon the memoirs of Timothy Patrick Clarke, who was the Irish ambassador to the Nazi's during World War II. We learn about the risks Timothy experienced during his time as ambassador.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Tiger: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2008.**

Nuala is hired by John Patrick Donlan and Maria Angelica Connors and is tasked with finding out who is trying to sabotage the older couple's future. The story begins with petty gossip and a number of threats toward the couple which eventually leads to an attempted murder. The attacks continue to mount and it is up to Nuala and her husband Dermot along with their trusted wolfhounds to find out who is responsible for these acts.

**Greeley, Andrew M. *Irish Tweed: A Nuala Anne McGrail novel*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2009.**

In this Nuala and Dermot tale, we learn that Nuala feels that there is an evil out there waiting to hurt her family. Who would want to hurt this lovely family? Nuala and her oldest daughter Mary Anne have begun taekwondo lessons to fight off bullies at her school. Dermot investigates a memoir of a Galway woman whose family died during the Great Famine. As we have seen before, the past and present have an interesting way of bringing this family together. Their nanny Julie has begun dating an Irish lawyer who comes from a mysterious family. He is later attacked and the quest for the criminal begins.

**Llywelyn, Morgan. *Bard: The Odyssey of the Irish*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1984.**

This book tells the epic journey of one group's quest to find a better life. Amergin is a Gaelic bard who inspired his people to leave the Iberian Peninsula in the fourth century B.C. He was in search of the land of mysterious Erin which we presently know as Ireland. Upon arriving in Erin, Amergin meets a lovely woman by the name of Shinann. Her people are somewhat mysterious and Amergin is intrigued with exploring what this mysterious island has to offer.

**Roberts, Nora. *Irish Hearts*. New York: Silhouette Books, 2000.**

*Irish Hearts* is a special edition published by the author that combines two of the author's previous novels, *Irish Thoroughbred* and *Irish Rose*. *Irish Rose* is the sequel to *Irish Thoroughbred*. Both of these works are romance novels. In *Irish Thoroughbred*, we learn of a young orphan girl by the name of Adelia who comes to America looking for a better life. In addition to finding a better life, she also finds love upon meeting Travis Grant. In the sequel, it is Adelia's success story of employment and romance that inspires her cousin Erin to make the same trip across the Atlantic to America. Erin is enticed by a job offer from Burke Logan and is pleasantly surprised when the job turns into a romance with Burke.

**Taylor, Patrick. *An Irish Country Doctor*. New York: Tom Doherty Associates, 2007.**

This book is loosely based on the firsthand accounts of the author during his time as a doctor in Ireland. The story takes place in the beautiful hills of Northern Ireland at a rural doctor's office. Barry Laverty has recently graduated from medical school and is looking for a career in the medical field. His dream comes true and he ends up working for Dr. Fingal Flahertie O' Reilly. Dr. O'Reilly shows Barry the tools of the trade and teaches him his unique philosophy on medicine. While working with Dr. O'Reilly, Barry meets a whole group of animated characters that live in the town. Through his interactions with the townspeople and with Dr. O'Reilly, Barry learns about the joys and wonders of life.

**Yeats, W.B. & Lady Gregory, *A Treasury of Irish Myth, Legend, and Folklore: Fairy and folk tales of the Irish Peasantry* and *Cuchulain of Muirthemne: The story of the men of the red branch of Ulster*. Avenel: Gramercy Books, 1986.**

The first part of this book is by Yeats and it is a collection of Irish fairy and folk tales and myths. Yeats breaks these tales into different categories so the reader can focus on a selected aspect of Irish folklore. Some of these areas include trooping fairies, ghosts, witches, giants, solitary fairies, saints and the Devil. The second part of the

book is by Lady Gregory and it retells the Ulster myth of the legendary Cuchulain, the chief leader of the House of the Red Branch. The House of the Red Branch was a group of warriors who were the Irish version of the Knights of the Round Table. Through an epic tale of adventure, bravery, and battle we learn about the life and death of a legend.

**Reference-** The final section in our guide consists of reference books and New Jersey history books that contain information about the Irish. In this section you will find books that tell the history of New Brunswick in its entirety up to 1931, detailed descriptions of New Brunswick's finest families including the Neilson family, and the Oxford companion to everything that you need to know about the Irish.

**Barth, Linda J. *Images of America: The Delaware and Raritan Canal*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2002.**

This is a New Jersey history book that explores the beginning of the Delaware and Raritan River canal. This is the first edition in the series and it focuses on the creation of the canal and the history revolving around the towns that were located along the way. In 1830, the second Canal Act was passed and the construction of the canal began. At that time companies were looking for a way to travel from Manhattan to Philadelphia while avoiding the rough seas of the Atlantic Ocean by traveling around Cape May. The Delaware and Raritan canal was commissioned and the canal began in Bordentown, NJ and concludes in New Brunswick, NJ. We see how different communities and businesses flourished through the canal and we experience what life was like for the people who lived in those towns. Through pictures and postcards from the past we can learn a great deal on how this historic canal made its mark on the history of New Jersey.

**Barth, Linda J. *Images of America: The Delaware and Raritan Canal at work*. Charleston: Arcadia Publishing, 2004.**

This is a New Jersey history book that shows the creation of one of the most influential waterways in the country, the Delaware and Raritan canal. Many Irish emigrants contributed to the construction of the canal at its final destination. Eventually, the railroad took over as the main source of shipping and the canal had to close in 1937 due to freight inactivity. Through a series of short anecdotes, photographs, and paintings we witness the birth of the canal and experience the transformation of the canal into what it is today.

**Benedict, William H. *New Brunswick in History*. New Brunswick: Published by the author, 1925.**

This is a New Jersey history book that provides us with information about the city of New Brunswick up until 1925. New Brunswick has a decorated history and this book gives the reader the ability to easily reference the city's past. The city played a pivotal role in the Revolutionary War and it is discussed in detail here. Colonel John Neilson was of Scotch-Irish descent and proved to be one of George Washington's most trusted commanders. Another prominent family of New Brunswick that is discussed in detail is the Guest family. Their original house is located right next door to the library. The Guests were instrumental in the Continental Army's war efforts.

**Byrne, Margaret M. "The Irish Community," in *The Tercentennial Lectures New Brunswick, New Jersey* edited by Ruth Marcus Pratt. New Brunswick: Library of Congress, 1982.**

The following is a lecture about the history of the Irish community in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The author of the lecture comes from a "third generation New Brunswick family of Irish extraction." We learn about the multiple waves of Irish emigration into the city. The first took place in the early eighteenth century and the second wave took place during the Great Potato famine which lasted from 1845 to 1851. The lecturer explains the significance that the English Penal Laws had on the Irish community and how difficult it was for the Irish to succeed at first. Another topic of importance was the commercial success of the city and how the Irish were instrumental in helping build New Brunswick into the "transportation hub" as it is known now.

**Connolly, S.J. Editor, *The Oxford Companion to Irish History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.**

This is a reference book that is filled with detail on everything related to the Ireland and the history of Ireland. There are over 1,800 entries from a collection of 87 specialist authors that feature the earliest history of Ireland up through modern day. This book covers all of the important people and events that have taken place over the years. In addition, it contains new areas of study that were previously left out of the older version such as public health and women's history.

**McSwain, Felicia Sanford. *Sketch of Col. John Neilson*. New Brunswick: Jersey Blue Chapter of D.A.R, 1928.**

The sketch is part of a book about New Jersey history and this is a section about the life of Colonel John Neilson. Neilson is of Scotch-Irish descent and his family became prominent throughout the New Brunswick and the Raritan area. Colonel Neilson was instrumental in the Revolutionary War and was a key officer for General

George Washington. He turned down a seat in the Continental Congress in 1776; however, he is believed to be the first resident of New Brunswick to read the Declaration of Independence standing on top of a table on the corner of Albany and Neilson streets. The Neilson family made numerous contributions to the City of New Brunswick and Rutgers University.

**Quinn, Dermot. *The Irish in New Jersey: four centuries of American life*. Piscataway: Rutgers University Press, 2004.**

The following is a book about the Irish population in New Jersey. In addition to looking at the Irish in New Jersey, the author seeks to understand what it means to be an Irish-American. In looking at the waves of emigration that took place and the differing levels of "Irish-ness" we get a better understanding of what their experience in America was like. Through a series of case histories of Paterson, Newark, and Jersey City we learn how the Irish have gone from being outsiders to becoming integral parts of the community in New Jersey.

**Thompson, Robert T. *Colonel James Neilson: A business man of the early machine age in New Jersey 1784-1862*. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1940.**

This is a New Jersey history book which was developed through extensive research of family papers that can be found in the Rutgers University Library. The author has included a wealth of detail about the life of Colonel James Neilson. Neilson worked at a number of different jobs as he went from a merchant, to a Texas land speculator, to a proprietor of real estate in New York. Neilson played a pivotal role in the establishment of the Delaware and Raritan River Canal and the book discusses his involvement. The end of the book focuses on Colonel James Neilson's love for agriculture and his services to his state and society.

**Wall, John P. *The Chronicles of New Brunswick, New Jersey 1667-1931*. New Brunswick: Thatcher-Anderson Company, 1931.**

This is a book focused on the history of New Brunswick from before the Revolutionary War to the early part of the twentieth century. Some of the areas covered in the book include the city's critical role during the Revolutionary War, the building of the Delaware and Raritan River Canal, the tornado of 1835, Rutgers University, and the history of the churches, banks, schools and hospitals throughout the city. Some of the most prestigious citizens of the city are of Irish descent: they include the Neilson family, the Butler family and New Brunswick's "All Time First Citizen" William Paterson.