

# GALWAY IN NEW YORK: 1856-1910

By JOHN T. RIDGE

## The Development of County Societies

There has always been a very strong desire among the Irish immigrants in America for the companionship of their friends and relatives from the old country. It is therefore not surprising to learn that Irish people have been coming together in associations for over two hundred years, dating back to the first Irish society formed at Boston in 1737. Once this first society had been formed there followed a long procession of successor organizations and by the mid-19th century Irish groups were numerous in the larger American cities. All these early Irish societies were very broad in their appeal, welcoming Irishmen from all parts of Ireland.

The sudden and catastrophic nature of Irish immigration in the "famine" period (1847-1852) had tremendous social consequences for the Irish at home and abroad. Virtually whole villages gathered their few belongings together and set out for America, a great many to the bustling City of New York. What they found upon their arrival here was in stark contrast to the rural life of the old country, for New York was a city in every sense of the word, full of thousands of people whose sheer numbers made them strangers even though they might live but a few blocks away from each other. Naturally enough the desire to "keep in touch" with the companions of the old country was not satisfied completely by the broad appeal of the existing Irish societies. The new immigrants, torn away from family and friends by the terrible tragedy of starvation and illness, expressed the need to form societies designed specifically to attract people from definite geographic locations in Ireland, that is, associations to bring together friends and neighbors from the towns, villages or counties where the immigrants had grown up.

## Early County and Local Groups

Perhaps the earliest Irish county society formed in New York was the Sligo Young Men's Association which was begun in September of 1849. Although it is not the subject of this article to tell the story of another Irish county association, the Sligo Young Men's Association has a bearing on our own history, so a few words on its development are necessary.

While the Sligomen were growing in the first few years of the 1850's, there were many sad events taking place among the great numbers of Irish who were then employed predominantly as manual laborers. Since the most common employment was on public works and construction pro-

jects, work which requires large "gangs" of laborers in building construction, road works and on canals and railroads, it very often happened that these labor "gangs" were comprised pretty much according to one's birthplace in the old country since each gang would bring together former acquaintances from Ireland.

When work was scarce or when there was competition between labor gangs, it often brought about a conflict that was not just a labor dispute but a sectional fight between Irishmen of different counties or provinces. The American newspapers loved to portray these quarrels between the various parts of Ireland as an example of what they determined was the sham of Irish unity and the dubious right of the Irish to be an independent nation. This criticism became a very sensitive issue among the spokesmen for the Irish-American community, particularly in their newspapers like the *Irish American*, the leading New York Irish paper of the day.

A very short time after its inception, criticism of sectional feeling among the Irish immigrants grew to such an extent that the Sligo Young Men's Association (established September 1849) was forced to announce in the *Irish American* that it had changed its name to the Order of United Irishmen: Sligo Grand Lodge No. 1. It was further obliged to issue a statement decrying "sectionality, a cause of dissatisfaction with our friends." Eventually the Sligomen were able to drop the prefix as sectional tension in the Irish community died down, but the misunderstanding of the motives of the county groups continued to discourage their formation for many years to come.

## The Galway Society Formed

When research on the project of the Galway Society was begun, it was severely handicapped by lack of any existing records prior to 1916. The passage of time has also helped obscure the events of so many decades ago and together these factors made the task appear to be rather formidable. Yet, as a curious development of following the slender thread of events back over the years through the medium of the old Irish-American newspapers a startling revelation has come about which can be told for the first time only on this centennial anniversary. By an unusual coincidence, not only do we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 1881 incorporation, but we are now able to trace the origins of the Galway Association back 125 years this year to an earlier Galway Society which existed in 1856.

What is probably the first reference to a Galway group in New York comes with the November 1, 1856 issue of the old *Irish American* when a small classified ad headed "Notice to Galwaymen" appeared inviting Galwaymen to attend a meeting of the P. J. O'Connor Benevolent Association on Sunday, the 2nd inst., in Mechanic's Hall, 44 Catherine Street, N. Y., in the area just to the Northeast of City Hall. The ad read: "Galway and County Galway men, not members, are affectionately invited to join. By order Michael Daly, Sec."

Only one other reference has been found pertaining to this group, but it provides the link which connects it to the post American Civil War Galway society. Again it appears in the form of a small classified ad in a July 1858 issue of the *Irish American* announcing a meeting at the Mechanic's Hotel on Sunday, August 1st, 2 P.M. of the "Galway P. J. O'Connor Benevolent Association." Two officers are listed: John H. Tierney, Secretary, and James T. Larkins, President. The latter of these two individuals will once again appear in our story in the post-civil war activities of the Galway Association.

### Father Burke

Perhaps the greatest of Ireland's great 19th century orator priests was Father Tom Burke of the Dominican Order. Father Burke had won wide acclaim as a captivating speaker and advocate of Catholic doctrine in Ireland and he came to America in February of 1872 to begin a year long lecture series which eventually totaled in all some 700 speeches. He won the special thanks of the Irish-American community for a devastating series of five lectures at New York's Academy of Music in which he completely refuted the assertions of the English historian James Froude, who had up to then argued unchallenged in favor of England's right to rule Ireland.

It was the particularly proud distinction of the Galwaymen of New York to have the great Dominican with them on at least one historic occasion according to the *Irish World* of April 13, 1872:

"Rev. Father Tom Burke among the Galwaymen. The celebrated Rev. Tom Burke was born in the County of Galway, Ireland, and the Galway Club of New York invited the Rev. Father to an entertainment on last Monday evening at their neat club room, No. 115 East Broadway. The attendance was very large, a number of outsiders being present to do honor to the celebrated orator. General Thomas Burke and O'Donovan Rossa and lady were visible among the audience. Father Burke was called upon

for a speech and spoke for over an hour in his usual happy vein."

This event perhaps was the most distinguished assemblage of Irish men at a Galwaymen's gathering. General Richard O'Sullivan Burke, a Tipperaryman, was a civil war colonel in the Northern army and joined the Fenian Brotherhood in 1865. Burke journeyed to Ireland on secret missions twice and was in charge of the uprising in the Waterford area as well as personally planning and supervising the rescue of the three Manchester martyrs, Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien, as a result of which he served a prison sentence in an English jail until 1872. Rossa, a Corkman, had been a prominent Fenian leader and while imprisoned was elected an M.P. for Tipperary. He became the "grand old man" of the Nationalist movement in America by the time of his death in 1915. In a reminiscence twenty years later it was recalled that Father Burke spoke to his fellow countymen in Irish.

The 1870's began an active period in the life of the Galway Club. In May of 1873, the group presented Mr. B. J. Killian, a prominent and popular member of the club, with a handsome gold badge. The officers then were: President, Francis Burke; Vice Pres., Thomas J. French; Secretaries, C. T. McKeon and J. Sweeney, Treasurer, Thomas J. Finnerty; Conductor, Thomas J. McKeon and Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Griffin. At this time the elections of the organization took place semi-annually at their meetings at 229 Bowery. On July 9th, 1873, the annual Mid-Summer festival was held at Funk's Union Park with music provided by the 8th Regiment Band.

Several different events in the course of the year were on the normal calendar of the association. Galway held a semi-annual reunion in December of 1874 at Turn Hall, a German athletic Club, where "an elegant supper was interspersed with genial addresses, songs, etc., the balance of the night flying quickly by in the ball room. The Club, of course, like all the county clubs is an association of 'auld acquaintance' mainly for social purposes, and with nothing at all sectional in its composition." Officers for 1874 were: Michael J. Glynn, President; Peter J. Clancy, Vice-President; Michael J. Sweeney, Recording Secretary; J. S. Larkin; Financial Secretary; H. S. Prendergast, Treasurer, and Michael J. Healy, Sergeant-at-Arms; and Thomas J. French, Conductor. The club had by then changed its meeting site to 99 Broome Street.

Apparently even in the early years charitable concerns were foremost in the consideration of the Galway Clubs. In December of 1875, the club was busy organizing an entertainment in the aid of the Monastery schools in Galway. The build-

ing, in which the Christian Brothers had accomplished so much good for the poor and destitute children, stood upon government ground and therefore had to be vacated. Consequently, funds were needed to raise a structure elsewhere and the Galway Club pledged the proceeds from its annual reunion at Turn Hall to be held on the 29th of December.

At this time a familiar name appears again, J. T. Larkin, as President. No doubt he was the same man who was president of the Galway P. J. O'Connor Benevolent Association in 1858 and the Larkin whose initials appear as J. S. in the 1874 list of officers. It would be an amazing coincidence if it was otherwise. The remaining officers for 1875 were: M. Sweeney, Vice-President, M. J. Glynn, Financial Secretary, and M. J. Sweeney, Recording Secretary.

The affair for the Galway Monastery School was an apparent success for at a meeting held on Sunday, March 5th, 1876, on the "occasion of a happy reunion of the members, \$163 was turned over to Brother A. M. Hogan of St. Patrick's Monastery, Galway and the brother in a neat speech returned thanks."

James T. Larkins served as Galway President at least until 1877 when his supporting officers were: M. J. Glynn, Vice-President; John D. Bennett, R. S.; Michael J. Kirwan, F. S.; and Hubert F. Prendergast, Treas. Meetings were held at 193 Bowery until February of that year when they moved to "Military Hall," where it became common practice to hold a social after the business portion of the meeting was concluded.

### **Irishmen All**

If there was a scarcity of county groups and local societies in the 1850's, the decade of the 1870s proved to be the exact opposite. County associations flourished, so much so that they began to offer each other competition when more than one group competed for support from the same geographic region. Such was the case in February of 1876 when a society called the Connaught Men's Club announced a meeting for Washington Hall, 8th Ave. Between 47th and 48th Sts., under the presidency of John Ullyett, quite an unusual Irish surname. A few months later this group under a new President, Roger O'Halloran, summed up its aim to be an "independent Irish political association" at a meeting at West 3rd and MacDougal St. Fortunately, this society did not seem to last very long and the Galwaymen were soon left without a rival. However, an organization with the same name surfaced again in 1892 and a year later even had its own Gaelic football team.

The Galway Club again returned to Turn Hall, 66-68 4th Street, on Tuesday evening, December

2nd, 1879 for its annual ball. The officers were H. T. Prendergast, Pres., P. J. Clancy, V. P.; J. D. Bennett, Sec.; and P. J. Lynch, Treas.

Ireland in 1879 and 1880 was beset in many parts of the country by the same conditions that had led to the great exodus of the late 1840s and 1850s. The twin evils of famine and eviction again raked the tenant class where the vast majority of the Irish people were then to be found and soon men like Michael Davitt along with the Land League Movement entered into the fight for land rights. The *Irish World* reported on February 7th, 1880:

"The Galway Club opened its subscription for Irish relief February 22. The members directly subscribed \$153. Each member is furnished with printed forms to receive subscriptions. Half the money collected will be sent to the Brothers of St. Patrick, Galway, to help in 'maintaining the boys being educated in that institution, and the other half to the Irish Land League, which has not only the sympathy of the members but their heartfelt wishes for its success. The Galway Club endorses the programme adopted by the Land League."

Whereas research has revealed the origins of the Galway society to be some twenty-five years older than had been originally thought, it has not succeeded in putting much more light on the significance of 1881 as the date of the Galway incorporation.

A search through the records of the New York County Clerk's office has not turned up anything for 1881 and it now seems probable that the document is lost for all time. However, the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., has a record of the copyright of the name Galway Men's Association under the title 1881 G.M.A.

### **Troubled Times**

A noticeable demoralization took place in the Irish-American community in the 1880s. Difficult times at home coupled with the widespread outbreak of feuds within the two largest Irish-American societies effected the entire community. The St. Patrick's Day parade dwindled during the period and didn't fully recover until almost twenty years later. In such an atmosphere Galway activities seem to have subsided temporarily.

On the 18th of February, 1883, a group calling itself the "Galway Branch of the Irish Confederation" was formed at 352 W. 35th St. The Irish Confederation was an organization run by Fenians and strong nationalists in an attempt to bring existing Irish societies under its leadership and E. J. Rowe became its chairman. Rowe succeeded in getting approximately a dozen of the

existing county societies to join the confederation for a short time, but then the idea quickly fell apart. Nevertheless, this organization seems to have been the earliest equivalent to the modern United Irish Counties Association.

The "Galway Branch of the Irish Confederation" was short lived for that name is soon dropped from public notice and its only known officers from President Patrick Logan to Treasurer P. J. Redding never appeared in any of future items written about the Galway society. The Irish Confederation responded to a most distressing series of events in Ireland in an era of fierce controversy and agitation by the people to win the right to the land they long occupied, but when the cause achieved some results, the need for American support wanted. A June 23, 1883 item about them from the Irish World is of interest:

"The Galway Men are raising a fund to be used in defending the prisoners confined in Galway jail who are to be tried at the July Assizes on a charge of conspiracy to murder. An appeal was forwarded by a committee in Loughrea, of which Wm. Flynn, Town Councilor, is chairman, to Mr. J. J. Ryan, 408 E. 16th St., requesting him to make an effort to raise a fund to pay counsel to defend the prisoners. Mr. Ryan said that since the committee was formed the English government had prohibited the Loughrea committee from receiving contributions at home for the purpose named, and that unless the Irish men of New York took prompt measures to secure a fair trial by having the prisoners properly defended their convictions are a foregone conclusion. He believed they were innocent. Speeches were made by Patrick Logan and others, denouncing the coercive policy of England, and a committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions from the Irish societies and other sources in aid of the fund. J. J. Ryan has been appointed treasurer."

An announcement appearing in the Irish World of the 22nd of March, 1884, mentions the Galway Young Men's Association "being formed" at Egan's Hotel, corner of Clinton Place and University Place. A month later it is called the "County Galway Club" and accordingly voted \$100 for an evicted tenant, Fallon, of Moneen, Loughrea, who had over and over defied the efforts of the landlord to drive him from view of his old farm. Officers were Prof. P. E. Tarpey, President, P. B. Egan, Treasurer; and Messrs Edward Duvally, William H. Wallace, Michael White, Edward Slevin, James Egan and J. C.

O'Connor. It is improbable for a month old society to have been able to donate such a large sum as \$100 so quickly; it strongly suggests that this group was the same old Galway group calling itself a "Young Men's Association" in order to draw into the association younger, more active members.

By May under President Peter E. Tarpey, it had succeeded in drawing in many new members to meetings at 8 University Place including "Mr. J. S. Larkin and Mr. John Deely, officers of the former Galway Club and Mr. Michael Harris, brother of Matt Harris, widely known among the Land Leaguers of Galway." At the annual ball of December 23, 1884, a Mr. Blake of Ballinasloe was a guest speaker and music was provided by Prof. McAuliffe's band. Among the old timers like M. J. Glynn could be found a number of visiting State Senators, Assemblymen and aldermen who attended as guest of the club.

#### Times to Celebrate

Probably the most unusual meeting place in the history of the Galway Association took place in December of 1885 in the courtroom of Judge Kelly, 18th St. and 4th Ave., to plan the annual ball to be held in Irving Hall on February 10, 1886. Presumably, Judge Kelly was a Galwayman and a member.

In the county Clerk's records of New York County is to be found an 1886 incorporation of the Galway Club of the City of New York. The purpose of the society was to "give aid and countenance to all deserving persons more especially those who may be natives of the County of Galway in Ireland." The accompanying signatories who witnessed the incorporation on April 9, 1886, were Michael B. Gibbons, Michael F. Gilmore, Patrick F. Gibbons, James Kearns, Charles F. Kleinman, Patrick Hanbury and Hugh Gribben. Later in the year the Club held their annual dinner one August evening at Donnelly's Point View Hotel.

The annual Ball of February, 1887, was another successful gathering of Galwegians. The Irish World reported:

"At 10:30 Mr. Frank J. Mahon, Floor Manager, and his wife led off the grand march, followed by 200 couples, as well-dressed, as good-looking, and intelligent as could be found in New York."

Among those in attendance were Michael B. Gibbons, President; Michael F. Gilmore, V.P.; P. J. Cody, Treasurer; John O'Connor, Recording Secretary; P. McDermott, Corresponding Secretary; and P. Hanbury Sergeant-at-Arms; Trustees M. J. Glynn, Hugh Gribben, Michael P. Gibbons, Matthew Flynn, Thomas Carr, Charles

Kleinman, Thomas Monahan, James Carr, and John White.

Galwegians had to face a fierce winter snow storm one February evening in 1888 in order to attend the annual ball at Tammany Hall, but even so, one hundred couples arrived by the time the "Grand March" stepped off and many more came later in the evening. "When a lively march struck up as bright a lot of lads and lassies fell into line as could be got together 'in a day's walk' as the saying goes." Among the revelers could be found Patrick Ford, founder and publisher of the *Irish World* and a Galwayman by birth, his wife and other members of the Ford family. Committee members included a past Galway president, Professor Tarpey, and Floor Manager Michael O'Connor. During the course of the year regular socials were held in a hall on East 3rd St. on Sunday afternoon.

A rival Galway group was formed up in Yorkville in August of 1888 called the American-Galway Benevolent Association under the leadership of Peter Madden. They met at 160 East 86th St. and despite a claim that they were "fully organized" and had initiated 23 new members, no mention of this society has been found subsequent to this date.

By St. Patrick's Day, 1891, county societies had become the rage and New York had 22 county associations in all, 16 of these met that year to form the first United Irish County Association. Although only a few of these societies initially subscribed to the benefit plan, the U.I.C. apparently was a success for in 1896 we find them giving a Grand Ball and presumably Galway was represented there.

Another reorganization and streamlining took place in 1892.

"The Galway Club—some of whom were members of the old Galway Club which existed at the time the late Father Tom Burke came to this country, that club which he honored by attending one of its meetings and conversing in the language of the Gael, came together a few weeks ago and reorganized with a membership of sixty. This club promises to be one of the largest in the city shortly. For the present it holds its meetings at 811 6th Avenue."

The officers elected for 1892 were Matthew C. Flynn, Pres.; W. Keegan 1st V.P.; T. Lynch, 2nd V.P.; T. O'Gorman, R.S.; J. Mc Donnell, Cor. Sec.; James P. Ryan, F.S.; J. Callanan, Treas. and J. O'Neill Sergeant-at-Arms. In a six week period in the Fall of the year alone 72 new members were signed up.

Matthew C. Flynn, the Galway President, is responsible for putting the Galway Association

on a firmer footing and served at least four terms in the period between 1892 and 1897. An example of the vitality he brought to the organization was the annual ball held at Webster Hall on Wednesday evening, January 25, 1893. Some 300 couples danced until 5:30 a.m. and "one of the most enjoyable features of the ball was the sailor's hornpipe danced by a gentleman from the Claddagh in a sailor's uniform."

Despite Flynn's success there was competition from another Galway group which elected John O'Connor as their president in April of 1893. This club according to its secretary's report had also enjoyed prosperity and success.

### Galway Unity

The *Irish World* noted the presence of these two Galway Clubs in a combination editorial and news report on April 15, 1893. The *World* stated: "Two Galway Clubs in New York City, though, cause more or less confusion, for a number of Galwaymen are at a loss to know which is the genuine one. I should rather see the Galway Club and Galway Association become one and confine themselves exclusively to County Galwaymen and also to stay clear of politics." The Galway Club nevertheless enrolled 300 new members that year.

Although an item reported the election of the Galway Club officers in November 1893, with M. J. Glynn as president, it is probable that the two rival societies were able to patch up whatever differences they had and amalgamate sometime during the mid-1890's. In any event the name "Galway Club" is no longer used in subsequent reports of Galway activities, the name Galwaymen's Association being adopted exclusively from 1894 on.

Whereas the annual ball was the major event on the social calendar for the Galway group up to the 1890s, the big event soon turned out to be the annual "excursion." The annual outing on June 24, 1894, went to Riverview Park where a flag presentation ceremony by Miss Delia Donahue as a "tribute of ladies of Galway" was a highpoint of the outing. The flag was described as a "handsome piece of handiwork, is, of silk and embroidered gold." The profit from the day was more than \$500. The reference to the "ladies of Galway" may indicate the existence of a ladies auxiliary even at this early date.

On November 24th, 1894, the annual ball was held at Murray Hill Lyceum, 34th St. and 3rd Ave. where there was "ballroom dancing as well as reels and jigs" and "pipers and fiddlers were in attendance galore." Reportedly 3000 tickets were distributed, but it is not clear as to whether or not this was the number of people who actually attended.



**The Turn Verein Hall, once the home of a German athletic club, still stands at 66-68 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street. In 1874 and for several years thereafter, the Galway Association held their annual hall here.**



**Webster Hall, still widely used for political gatherings and for various concerts, was the site of the Galway Ball in January, 1893. A feature of the night was the dance of Galway men from the Claddagh who performed hornpipes while dressed in sailor's uniforms.**

We find the first use of the term Galway Men's Patriotic and Benevolent Association in July of 1896, when the society's outing chose Sylvan Beach Grove in New Jersey as its destination. This name was also officially incorporated in that year. The Steamer Lennox and Barges General Arthur Curry, Stephen Warren, William H. Vanderbilt, with tugs left the foot of West 129th Street, Hudson River, at 9 a.m., and made stops at 34th St. at 10 a.m., foot of Rector Street at 11 a.m. and at the same time some of the vessels made pickups at 31st Street on the East River at 10 a.m., Market Street, East River, at 11 a.m. Prof. Hugh Mc Donald's full orchestra played for their enjoyment. Tickets cost 50 cents for a lady and gentleman and with each extra lady, 25 cents. Sylvan Beach was a popular destination for many other county excursions as well with both Mayo and Longford having similar outings in the following weeks.

The first formal notice of the Ladies of Co. Galway came when the *Irish World* noted a special meeting held at 734 Third Avenue to appoint representatives to the committee of the great fair to be held to honor the memory of Robert Emmett. The Galway booth was run so successfully at the fair that over \$1000 in proceeds was turned over through Thomas Jennings to the Irish Palace Building Association. The Irish Palace Building Association was the ill-fated attempt of the Irish societies of New York to build a huge Irish center.

The formal incorporation of the Galway Ladies Association was not made until 1906 "for social purposes; and to promote the mental and moral advancement of its members." The ladies who signed the incorporation papers in 1906 were: Mrs. Mary Purcell, Mrs. Margaret Kearney, Mrs. Mary Leach, Miss Annie Doloughtly (sic), Mrs. John Donohue, Miss Katie McNamara, Miss Kitty Keenan, Miss Mary Kelly, Miss Katy Finnigen and Miss Delia Kane.

For 1898 the annual excursion switched back to Riverview Grove on the Hudson. This time two steamers and four barges were employed but all left from the Hudson side of the city. In 1899, Joseph A. McNevin succeeded Matthew Flynn as President of the Galway Men's Association. He was followed by Michael J. Ford in 1900.

A charity of long standing was again aided with the proceeds of a reception held on January 20th, 1901, at the West Side Lyceum, 52nd Street near Broadway. Brother Jarlath Whelan of St. Patrick's Monastery in Galway, who was in the United States on a fund-raising tour, accepted the generous gift of his fellow countymen just as his predecessor from the same institution had done more than twenty-five years before.

The period immediately following the turn-of-the-century contains a few years where there is

no mention of Galway activities. Undoubtedly, these activities were still continuing, but publicity of these events was non-existent. The next mention of the association came in December of 1904, when the *Irish World* reported that past Galway President Matthew Flynn had presented a "handsome loving cup" to J. J. Daly, the cross-country running champion of the world at a reception in his honor held at the Murray Hill Lyceum. John Joe Daly later served a term as President of the Galway Association in 1912 and 1915.

One of the new societies appearing at this time was the Irish Counties Athletic Union which held its first annual ball in March of 1905. Galway was an earlier supporter of this effort to promote Gaelic games and Thomas F. Goaley served as the Galway delegate on the committee of arrangements. The modern day United Irish Counties organization was a direct outgrowth of the I.C.A.U.

Just over a month after the I.C.A.U. Ball the Galway Ladies and the Loughrea Ladies Society combined to help run an entertainment under the auspices of the Galway Men's Association at the Grand Central Palace on May 2nd. The affair was run to raise money for St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea, and came about as a result of the promotional efforts of two visiting Loughrea priests, the Reverends Fallon and Joyce. The Galway Ladies President was Mrs. J. Purcell and Patrick J. Lally and T. J. Keating were president and vice-president respectively of the Galway Men.

Galway held its 18th Annual Excursion on August 6, 1905, to River View Grove on the Hudson where a musical program awaited the participants. A long time member, P. J. Cody, who was treasurer in 1887 and whose name appeared for the first time in our research some three years before that, served on the arrangements committee.

The annual ball for 1905 was held at the Amsterdam Opera House, West 44th St., on a Sunday evening, the 31st of December, and featured as its biggest attraction the traditional dancing group, Cumann na Rince and on May 2nd of the following year, St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea, again received the proceeds of another benefit dance held in Tammany Hall.

Readers of the *Irish World* in December of 1906 could not have missed the attractive ad of the Galway Men which invited them to "Dance the Old Year Out and Usher the New One In" to the tune of Professor James Begg's Full Orchestra at the Amsterdam Opera House on New Years' Eve. For only fifty cents, both a gentleman and his lady would be admitted to the festivities.

The society has frequently changed its meeting site as we have already seen. From at least

1905 and for the next few years, it met at 372 3rd Avenue on the second Wednesday of each month. Downtown Manhattan was left behind as the city expanded and the Irish societies followed the trek northward.

In the month of March, 1910, Galway men were saddened by the death of George Carey, a past president of the society for a number of years. Carey's term of office was unfortunately left out in the newspaper account of his passing, but it was most probably in the period after the turn-of-the-century.

As we come to the close of the first half of the story of the Galway Association in New York, it is perhaps fitting that in 1910 the organization "marched" symbolically into a new era, for 1910 marks the first year in which Galway is known to have marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, beginning a tradition that all of us look forward to seeing year after year: the sight of the magnificent Galway banner making its way proudly up Fifth Avenue to be cheered by thousands of Irish men and women.