Baseball Star!

A Lawrencian is on the ballot for the National Baseball Hall of Fame! His name is Patrick "Patsy" Donovan. Donovan was born on March 16, 1865 in County Cork, Ireland, and brought to Lawrence, MA at age 3. He started playing professionally with the minor league club of Lawrence in 1886, one year after the Lawrence Club victory of the New England League Championship. When the Lawrence club disbanded midway through the 1887 season, he joined the Salem MA club of the New England League. He had an extraordinary year, hitting .398. In 1888 he moved to the International League to play for the London Club of Ontario, Canada, leading the league with a .359 batting average.

Donovan finally received the call from the big leagues in 1890, the year of a massive players strike and the formation of the Players League. Also in 1890 he was signed by the Boston Beaneaters of the National League. His stay in Boston was short; he was sold to the Brooklyn Bridegrooms after only thirty-two games. In 1891, he joined the Louisville Colonels of the American Association, but due to the collapse of the Louisville franchise, he finished the season with the Washington Statesmen. When the American Association disbanded in 1892, the Washington franchise became part of the National League. He again split the season, playing half the season with Washington and half with the Pittsburgh club. Donovan remained with the Pittsburgh club until 1899, when he left to play for St. Louis. Donovan served as a rare player manager in Pittsburgh in 1897 and 1899 and St. Louis from 1901-1903. He coached Washington in 1904, and coached Brooklyn from 1906-08. He coached the Red Sox for two seasons. When the club was sold in the winter of 1911, Donovan was replaced as the manager and the Sox won the pennant and World Series in 1912.

Donovan then went on to coach in the minor leagues, coaching in Buffalo to two pennants in 1915 and 1916. He left the club in 1918 when Buffalo could not pay his salary. He then served as a scout for the Yankees covering baseball in New England. Donovan stayed in the area coaching at Phillips Andover Academy. Little did he know that he was coaching a future U.S. President. George Bush Senior played for Donovan at Andover, and Bush sent a letter to the Hall of Fame supporting Donovan’s nomination.

Donovan’s playing career spanned 17 seasons. He appeared in 1,821 games, compiling 2,253 hits and 1,318 runs scored., ranking him among the top 100 of all time. Not much of a power hitter, Donovan was more of a place hitter and ended his career with a .371 lifetime batting average. Known as a speedster on the bases, he stole 518 bases, which ranks him in the top 30 of all time. He led the league in stolen bases in 1899 with 45, and half the season with Washington. Donovan's name is Patrick "Patsy" Donovan. Donovan was born on March 16, 1865 in County Cork, Ireland, and brought to Lawrence, MA at age 3. He started playing professionally with the minor league club of Lawrence in 1886, one year after the Lawrence Club victory of the New England League Championship. When the Lawrence club disbanded midway through the 1887 season, he joined the Salem MA club of the New England League. He had an extraordinary year, hitting .398. In 1888 he moved to the International League to play for the London Club of Ontario, Canada, leading the league with a .359 batting average.

Donovan finally received the call from the big leagues in 1890, the year of a massive players strike and the formation of the Players League. Also in 1890 he was signed by the Boston Beaneaters of the National League. His stay in Boston was short; he was sold to the Brooklyn Bridegrooms after only thirty-two games. In postseason play, Donovan shone in five games, compiling eight hits, five runs and a series batting average of .471. In 1891, he joined the Louisville Colonels of the American Association, but due to the collapse of the Louisville franchise, he finished the season with the Washington Statesmen. When the American Association disbanded in 1892, the Washington franchise became part of the National League. He again split the season, playing half the season with Washington and half with the Pittsburgh club. Donovan remained with the Pittsburgh club until 1899, when he left to play for St. Louis. Donovan served as a rare player manager in Pittsburgh in 1897 and 1899 and St. Louis from 1901-1903. He coached Washington in 1904, and coached Brooklyn from 1906-08. He coached the Red Sox for two seasons. When the club was sold in the winter of 1911, Donovan was replaced as the manager and the Sox won the pennant and World Series in 1912.

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The Board and Staff are grateful to the family of Edward Morrison for naming the Lawrence History Center to receive Memorial Gifts in his name.
Another Mystery

The Lawrence History Center recently received from Gerard Ryan of Pembroke a bronze plaque commemorating Andy Callahan. For those not familiar with him, Callahan was a celebrated boxer from Lawrence who simultaneously held the New England lightweight, welterweight, and middleweight championships. This was an unprecedented feat. His life was cut short at 33 when he was killed in action in 1943 in Italy.

The plaque is rather a mystery. It was evidently found mounted in a Boston building that was being demolished in anticipation of the Big Dig. If anyone has an idea of its origin and the nature of the place it was housed, please let us know.

Plaque dedicated to Andy Callahan

Use Your Credit Card!

For membership, contributions and purchases, you can now use your credit card. Join or renew your membership at our website:

www.lawrencehistorycenter.org

Or by phone:

(978) 686-9230

LAWRENCE HISTORY CENTER: IMMIGRANT CITY ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

6 Essex Street, Lawrence, MA 01840
Phone: 978-686-9230
Fax: 978-975-2480
Email: icarchives@qwest.net
Memorabilia Day: On Saturday and Sunday, May 17-18, there will be a rededication of the Needham and Civil War monuments at Bellevue Cemetery and North Lawrence Common. On Sunday, May 18, collectors from the Greater Lawrence area will hold a Memorabilia Day at Lawrence Heritage State Park.

Annual Meeting: On Wednesday, May 28, the Lawrence History Center will hold its 25th Annual Meeting at Heritage State Park, 1 Jackson Street, Lawrence. The meeting will begin at 6:00. The program afterward is a slide show presentation by Gary Thomas on his research into the history of diners. He has recently published a book featuring a number of Lawrence diners. He will sign books afterward. The Annual Meeting is free to members. The cost of the program is $10 per person.

Civil War Base Ball: At Devlin Field at 10AM on June 28, Lawrence History Center will sponsor an exhibition base ball game employing 19th century rules. The public is welcome. If you want to play, call the office.

Boston Landmarks Orchestra: In partnership with the Puerto Rican Festival on July 20, the Lawrence History Center is hosting a free concert by the Boston Landmarks Orchestra. The concert is entitled Ritmo Latino! Classical Sounds. The Festival is being held from 12 noon to 8PM on the North Lawrence Common. The concert will take place at 1:00.

A Great Success: The Fourth Annual Eartha Dengler Award Dinner

A wonderful time was had by all at our History Award Dinner at Holy Rosary Parish Church. Our recipient this year was David R. Burke, a lifelong resident of Lawrence. His contributions to the preservation of Lawrence History are too numerous to mention in this article. He has been overwhelmingly active in his work with the history of the Irish in Lawrence, serving for 24 as of the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 8’s cultural chairman. He was recognized as one of the top 100 Irishman of the Year in 1991 by Irish American Magazine. Recognizing the importance of preserving all of Lawrence’s history, he was an early benefactor and board member of then Immigrant City Archives, has served on the Advisory Board of Lawrence Heritage State Park for 15 years (past three years as Chair), was a founding member of the Lawrence Cultural Alliance, and is a member of the Board of the Lawrence Public Library, establishing the nation’s largest collection of Irish materials outside of an academic library. As Senior Volunteer for Mayor Michel Sullivan, he organized the first Mayor’s Conference on the Arts, and has worked with the LCA, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the North of Boston Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce to promote Lawrence’s arts, culture and history as a means to improve the city’s image, its economy, and its quality of life.

Our Volunteers

As we end our fiscal year, we are delighted to have made substantial progress on several fronts. Al Koch, Armand Girouard, Jonathan Smith, and Frank Traynor have been fantastic in preserving history by reproducing photographs and strengthening revenue by developing reproductions to sell. Barbara Brown has as her most recent effort taken on the cataloguing of the complete histories of many churches of Lawrence. Chuck Parrott and Diane Haynes have devoted their skills to plans for improving the Essex Company site. Art Dallon continues to spearhead the effort to develop genealogy resources. Marie Leone is always ready to find ways to promote revenue development through our Museum Store. Diane Beauchesne, Jim Beauchesne, Helen Sapuppo, Pam Yameen, Joe Bella, and Frank and Marie Martin continuously and enthusiastically find creative ways to improve the functioning of the Lawrence History Center. To these wonderful people, to the Board members who have put so much effort into events and then into the less glamorous LHC activities, to ever loyal Carmela Dome and Elaine Sullivan, to neglected spouses, and finally to the under paid loyal staff, thank you for the wonderful contribution you have made.
Lawrence History Center, as Immigrant City Archives, was created in 1978 by Eartha Dengler to preserve the history of Lawrence. Along with preserving the growing collection, we mount exhibits, develop educational programs and assist researchers. LHC’s site—the Essex Company complex in the North Canal Historic District—is on the National Register of Historic Places.

We're on the Web! lawrencehistorycenter.org

25th Anniversary Sale!

As part of LHC’s 25th anniversary, we are holding a sale featuring great savings on a number of popular items. Sale begins May 16.

Note cards featuring vintage Lawrence trade cards
pkg. Of 8 (2 series) $6.95
Old Store Front Poster $7.50
Fasanella 1912 Strike Poster $5.00
History of Essex Company $4.00
Print of Dam Watercolor $5.00
Cookbooks $5.00

Only until June 30!

Custom Photograph Reproductions 20% off the standard prices.
8 x 10 photograph reproductions in stock $7.50

We also have a good stock of our regularly priced books, including:

Images of America: Lawrence Volume 1 $18.99
Images of America: Lawrence Volume 2 $18.99
Shanty Pond $25.00
Looking at Lawrence $7.25
Week-end Genealogist $18.99
Crafting Your Own Heritage Album $24.99

And Much More....

If you wish to purchase by credit card, just give us a call and we can send out your items immediately. Moderate shipping and handling charges will apply, depending upon size of order.