

**College of the Holy Cross
Archives and Special Collections
Collection Inventory**

Accession Number: **SC 2000-43**

Collection Name (Title): **O'Flynn, Richard Collection**

Dates of Material: **1845-1905**

Size of Collection: **20 Volumes; 1 Box**

Arrangement:

Restrictions:

Related Material:

Preferred Citation:

Processed on:

Biography/History:

Richard O'Flynn (1829-1905) was born in County Waterford, Ireland in 1829. He received three years of education in Ireland from a local priest when many Catholic children were forbidden to attend schools. O'Flynn immigrated to America in 1851 and soon settled down in Worcester and chronicled the history of the Irish in the city. He was a founding member of the Worcester Society of Antiquity (now the Worcester Historical Museum). He owned a book store on Front Street in the city and was active in bringing Irish immigrants to Worcester. O'Flynn was married twice, first in 1861 to Anne O'Reilly, who died in 1875, and then again to Ellen White in 1877. O'Flynn died in Worcester in 1905.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains twenty scrapbooks with handwritten comments and notes interspersed between news paper clippings. Each has its own focus. Volumes vol. 1 through vol. 4 contain extensive records of the Irish in Worcester and western Massachusetts. The subjects include biographical sketches of Irish citizens in the city and a year by year account of the Irish parade which O'Flynn helped organize. There are five volumes, no. 6 through no. 11, dedicated to the history of the Emmet Guards (9th Massachusetts Regiment) including articles about their deployment to Cuba in the Spanish-American War. Volumes 12 through 17 concern the religious life of Worcester. There are articles about religious controversies and evils committed by the "non-Irish."

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O'Flynn also gathered articles for four volumes on specific Churches in the city. There is also a volume of Irish history written by O'Flynn, vol. 18; bound issues of the *Irish Echo* and the *Gael*, vol. 19; and a volume concerning witchcraft in New England, vol. 20. Volume 2 contains an extensive history of Irish settlers in Worcester. It also contains news clippings concerning Irish people in Worcester, histories of specific Catholic Churches in the city as well as a larger history of Catholics in Worcester. The volume has a section dedicated to Epitaphs from St. John's cemetery, of which a modern database has been constructed and included in the collection. There is a card catalog in the collection which corresponds to volume no. 2.

Box and Folder List:

Box 1:

- Folio 1: Irish Settlers of Worcester, MA to 1885
- Folio 3: Records of the Conventions of Irish Societies of Worcester, Jan 1884 – Aug. 1891
- Folio 4: records of the Irish-American Societies of Worcester, Jan 1892 – 1904

Item 1:

- Folio 2: No Title

Box 2:

- Loose Items taken for Folio 2

Item 2:

- Card Catalogue for Folio #2: A – H

Item 3:

- Card Catalogue for Folio #2: I – Z

Box 3:

- Folio 5: History of the Irish in Worcester; clippings and notes
- Folio 6: Jackson Guards Meeting, 1853-1854
- Folio 7: History of Jackson and Emmet Guards Vol. I, 1861 – 1897

Box 4:

- Folio 8: Co. G, 9th Regt. Emmet Guards Vol. II, 1888-1898
- Folio 9: History of Emmet Guards Vol. III, 1897 – 1898.

Box 5:

- Folio 10: History of the Emmet Guards Vol. IV, 1899 – 1904
- Folio 11: History of the Emmet Guards Vol. V, 1904 – 1905
- Folio 12: Religious Controversies in Worcester Clippings, 1888

Box 6:

- Folio 13: History of St. Stephen's Church
- Folio 14: History of Immaculate Conception Church
- Folio 15: History of Sacred Heart Church
- Folio 16: History of St. Anne's Church

Box 7:

- Folio 17: *The Dangerous Classes* clippings concerning evils committed by non-Irish, 1889 – 1891

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Box 7:

Folio 18: Irish History: Varia

Folio 19: Bound Issues of the *Irish Echo* (Boston) and the *Gael* (Brooklyn), 1890
– 1891

Box 8:

Folio 20: New Hampshire Witches; Witches in Salem and Europe; History of
Witchcraft; Last Trial for Witchcraft

Box 9: Loose Items

Folder 1: Biographical Information and Family Tree

Folder 2: Notes and List of the Collection

Folder 3: Database of Names on Tombstones in St. John's Cemetary, Worcester
based on O'Flynn's Listings.

Folder 4: Loose Items