



## Richard F. Long Remembered

Jan 1, 1926-Dec. 5 2011

Frank Murphy and I (Anne Emperor) were introduced to Dick Long by Jigger Roth. Dick had returned from Washington, DC to live again in Syracuse. Jigger thought he would enjoy our Irish company and indeed he did! Dick was a great contributor to the activities of our group. He was a wonderful writer and publicist but more than that a great friend. Who can forget his naming of Frank Murphy as the Cardinal of Marcellus or the Chief Druid?

Dick loved sports and organized us to attend baseball games and created a Baseball Trivia contest. He was a fan of the Washington Nationals and also the football Redskins. He loved to show his friends from Washington around Syracuse and Skaneateles and brought them to Murphy's, Denny Owens's and my house or boat.

Extremely proud of his Irish heritage, Dick and Margaret were thrilled to visit the Long homestead in Tipperary Ireland. He was also a TV producer and used that skill to create a series for *The Irish Connection*. These shows took the audience around Central New York exploring the history of the Irish immigrants and their contributions to our community. The series is a treasure trove of information and history.

Dick went on location to the north side of Syracuse where the Irish were among the salt workers who made Syracuse famous as

the "Salt City." He interviewed Dennis Connors who brought pictures and clips from the Salt Museum. A great find for this excellent reporter and historian was Dallas Tramell. Dick went to the Tramell house to learn about Dallas' great great grandfather, Thomas McCarthy. Thomas McCarthy was one of the first Irish salt barons. McCarthy donated the land for St. John the Baptist Church, the first Catholic Church in Onondaga County, built by Irish salt workers.

As an avid political watcher and Democrat, he loved interviewing the Kelley family for the TV series. This immigrant family created Kelley Bros. Quarry. It supplied the Onondaga limestone for the Cathedral, City Hall and the Court House. William H. Kelley was Chairman of the Onondaga Democratic Party for many years and was a personal friend of President F. D. Roosevelt.

Dick and his camera journeyed to the famous Tipperary Hill neighborhood and then down to the farming communities where the Irish settled, like Tully, Pompey, Otisco and Skaneateles. Producer Dick Long tells his own family story relating how Thomas and Catherine Long came from Ireland in 1852. The 1874 cadastral map of Onondaga County shows "T. Long" on the southern border. Dick and his nephew tramped through the snow to see the foundation of the farm and later see the graves in Truxton cemetery. One of the sons in this family was Patrick who joined the Union army in the 122<sup>nd</sup> regiment from Onondaga County.

Dick and John Mahoney took John's mother back to the house in Pompey where she was born. Marian Gorman Mahoney was 96 years old when she sat on the porch of that house to tell stories. Her grandfather Carey came over on the boat with Patrick Mahoney, her husband's grandfather. Marian and her brother Paul spent the summers on Grandfather's farm and still remembered the large milk cans they filled.

Leaba go raibh aigi I measc naoimh na  
H'eireann.

(May he be at rest among the Saints of Ireland)