

The Shamrock and the Shield: An Oral History of the Irish in Montreal By Patricia Burns

Although there have been some Irish living in Montreal since the early 1600's augmented by Irish soldiers arriving with the conquering British army it was only in the early 1800's that an Irish presence was truly noticed. By 1824 there were sufficient Irish in Montreal to organize the first St. Patrick's Basilica Montreal's first church built for the Irish Catholics opened--a year before thousands of sick Irish escaping the famine in Ireland arrived, The Shamrock and the Shield: An Oral History of the Irish in Montreal



. Patrick's Day Parade and ten years later the St. Patrick's Society was founded. In 1847 St