

The Bronx Gaelic League was founded in 1939 on Washington Avenue in the Bronx under the name Teannacas na Gaedilge. It was renamed Comradh na Gaedilge, Bronx Branch in 1949 which was eventually shortened to its present form.* The St. Brendan Society was founded on January 11, 1949.**

There have been other Gaelic societies in this city which have since disappeared. Proper research on these groups should be carried out by consulting the numerous reports of their activities that must have been preserved in the archives of the Press of New York.

I have in my possession, for example a scrapbook of newspaper clippings from various papers covering roughly the period from 1910-1914. This book was the property of a member of the now defunct Harlem Gaelic Society. Representative of these clippings is one which makes mention of several of the organizations that were active in the city at that time. The article is entitled "Dinner to Padraig O'Daly". It is dated 1912. A selection from it follows:

The New York branches of the Gaelic League will give a dinner to Padraig O'Daly, General Secretary of the Gaelic League of Ireland, at the Hotel Knickerbocker, Forty-second street and Broadway, on Tuesday evening, June 18th... The societies taking part in the affair are the New York State Gaelic League, New York Philo-Celtic Society, Irish Gaelic Society, Harlem Gaelic Society Brooklyn Gaelic Society, Brooklyn Philo-Celtic Society, John McHale Branch, Greenpoint; Jamaica Gaelic Society and St. John's Gaelic Society... Among the guests invited are Cardinal Farley, President Taft, Theodore Roosevelt, Bishop Greer Governor Dix, Mayor Gaynor, Senator O'Gorman, James Butler, James Byrne, William M. Byrne, Rev. James W. Porter, General Thomas Barry, Commander of the West Point Military; General John F. Ryan, John D. Cismmins and the leading judges of New York...***

The New York Philo-Celtic Society mentioned in the article is most probably the present society of the same name. The New York Gaelic Society was not mentioned unless the name Irish Gaelic Society refers to it. The similarity and recurrence of names and parts of names did cause a problem among the groups. The New York Gaelic Society known officially now and previously only as th Gaelic Society objected when the Harlem Gaelic Society was formed and chose a similar name. Reference to this fact in the minutes of the New York Gaelic Society gives an idea of the founding date of the Harlem Gaelic Society. The following passage is dated June 3rd, 1899:

The new Gaelic Society in Harlem: This matter came up for discussion, and it was pointed out that the purpose of certain persons to injure the Gaelic Society as reported at last officer's meeting was evidenced by the fact that the new society in Harlem took the name of the Gaelic Society.****

* Information supplied by Joseph, President Bronx Gaelic League

**Information supplied by Sean Condon, St. Brendan Gaelic Society

***Taken from a newspaper clipping contained in a scrapbook in my possession, the year 1912 is written on it, no newspaper name appears

**** "Minutes of Meetings", New York Gaelic Society, June 3, 1899