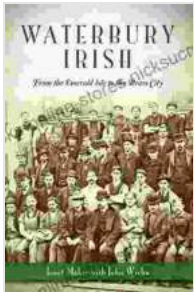


# From the Emerald Isle to the Brass City: American Heritage



## Waterbury Irish: From the Emerald Isle to the Brass City (American Heritage) by Janet Maher

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 6808 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 242 pages



The history of Waterbury, Connecticut, known as the "Brass City," is deeply intertwined with the story of Irish immigration. From the early days of the city's founding to the present day, Irish immigrants and their descendants have played a significant role in shaping the city's cultural, economic, and political landscape.

### Early Immigration

The first wave of Irish immigrants arrived in Waterbury in the 1840s, fleeing the Great Potato Famine that devastated Ireland. They came to the city in search of work and a better life. Many found employment in the city's burgeoning brass industry, which was then in its early stages of development.

The Irish immigrants faced many challenges in their new home. They often lived in crowded and unsanitary conditions, and they were often discriminated against by the native-born population. However, they persevered, and they gradually began to make a place for themselves in the city.

## **The Irish Community**

As the Irish population grew, they began to establish their own institutions in the city. In 1853, they founded the first Catholic parish in Waterbury, St. Patrick's Church. They also established a number of other organizations, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, and the Emerald Society. These organizations provided a sense of community and support for the Irish immigrants.

The Irish community in Waterbury also played a significant role in the city's political life. In the late 19th century, Irish immigrants and their descendants began to win elected office. The first Irish-born mayor of Waterbury was Thomas F. Welch, who was elected in 1891.

## **The Brass Industry**

The brass industry was the lifeblood of Waterbury for many years. Irish immigrants played a major role in the industry, working in the factories and foundries. They were known for their hard work and dedication, and they helped to make Waterbury one of the leading brass producers in the world.

The brass industry declined in the mid-20th century, but the Irish community in Waterbury remained strong. Today, many Irish-Americans are still employed in the city's manufacturing sector, and they continue to make significant contributions to the local economy.

## **Cultural Legacy**

The Irish have left a lasting cultural legacy on Waterbury. The city is home to a number of Irish pubs and restaurants, and there are several Irish cultural organizations in the city. Every year, Waterbury hosts a St. Patrick's Day parade, which is one of the largest in the state of Connecticut.

The Irish have also made significant contributions to the arts in Waterbury. The city is home to the Mattatuck Museum, which has a large collection of Irish art. The museum also hosts a number of Irish cultural events throughout the year.

The Irish have played a vital role in the history of Waterbury, Connecticut. They have helped to shape the city's cultural, economic, and political landscape. The Irish community in Waterbury is a vibrant and active community, and it continues to make significant contributions to the city.

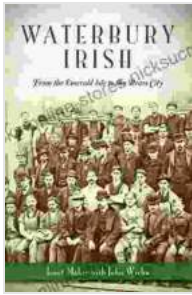
The story of the Irish in Waterbury is a story of struggle, triumph, and lasting legacy. It is a story that is worth telling and remembering.

## **Image Gallery**





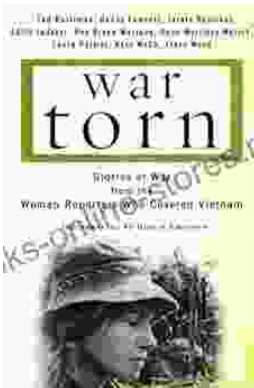




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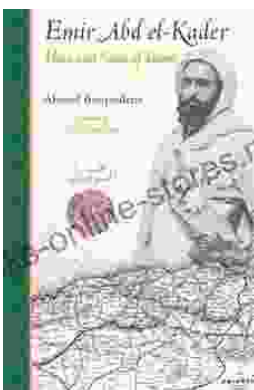
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