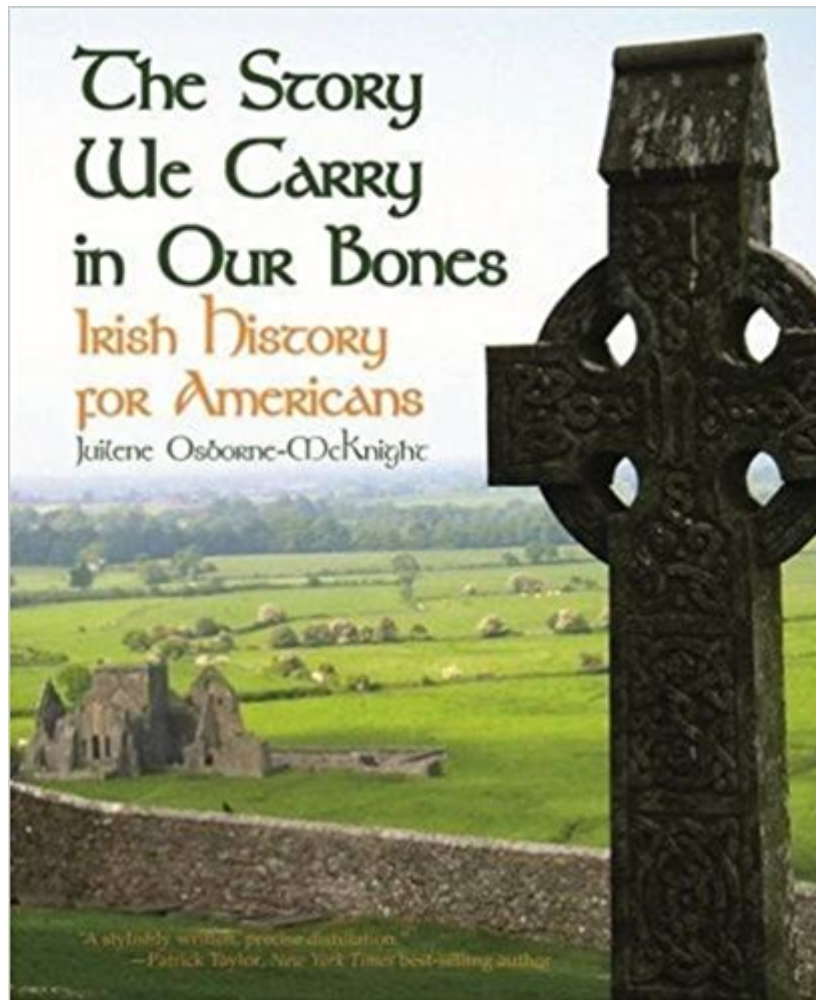




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# Story We Carry In Our Bones, The: Irish History For Americans



## Synopsis

The ancient legends and ancestral legacy of the Emerald Isle. “We will know them in the deep genetic river of our ancestry, Irish at the marrow, carrying the story in our bones, in our very bones.” from Part 4 From 3800 B.C. to the twentieth century, this comprehensive history examines the course of Irish-Americans. Celtic legends, the evolution of Christianity, the coming of the Vikings, and the time of the Tudors are just some of the topics covered in these pages. Juilene Osborne-McKnight addresses the events leading up the An Gorta Mor, or the Great Hunger, which initiated the Irish immigration to America. She then follows the Irish as they travel to the new country and establish themselves as Irish-Americans. Whimsical yet complex Celtic drawings and an annotated bibliography of recommended books and movies accent each part. The four sections are entitled “Knock Wood and Light the Pumpkin,” “Keeping Faith at the Cross Road,” “No One Leaves Your Table Hungry,” and “Irish Roots and Rising Irish.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Forty million Americans count themselves as Irish American, but enduring links to their Irish heritage often got lost at Ellis Island. Professor Juilene Osborne-McKnight, who teaches Irish literature, mythology and diaspora studies at DeSales University wants to help redress that with her new book *The Story We Carry in Our Bones: Irish History for Americans*. Unable to find a book that covered every aspect of her own Irish studies background, she decided the thing to do was write it herself. Osborne-McKnight focuses on ancient Ireland, the arrival of Christianity, the success of waves of

invaders and the mass migrations that would change Irish history and help shape American history. Her intent is to broadly tell the story of every Irish Americans ancestry for a general reader, and in this she succeeds admirably. Irelands history is epic, from its prehistoric sun forts to the transformative Easter Rising. Its a story that Osborne-McKnight insists we carry in our bones. -- Cahir O'Doherty, Irish Central, 8 Jan, 2016 This book is divided into 4 sections (Knock Wood and Light the Pumpkin, Keeping Faith at the Cross Road, No One Leaves Your Table Hungry, and Irish Roots and Rising Irish) that break down the history of pre-Ireland, Ireland and then the vast migration to America. It is an interesting look at the 'old country' and how Ireland evolved from the legendary Celts and Vikings, into a land taken by the English, before seeking independence. There are thinks you might not know, like the episode above, how the Choctaw Indians in America send money to Ireland to help out during the Famine. It helps you to understand how the Irish spirit is so integrated into the American frontier and traditions, and just how many influential Irish Americans there were. If you have Irish ancestors, you will definitely want to check out this book, for its great background, and even genealogical info (like the ports of entry above). This is a great reference book that your kids will go back to over and over. It would also make a great gift idea for the history lover! -- Nicole Henke, 6 Jan, 2016 Juilene Osborne-McKnight's book is an exhaustively-researched look at Ireland - the island, the people, the history and the myths. It's not a dry, dusty academic text, but neither is it a romanticized, rose-tinted look at the Emerald Isle, and it's written in a clear, concise story-telling style. -- Stephen Rea, author of Finn McCool's Football Club, 27 March, 2015

Did you know? ã ã More than forty million people consider themselves Irish-American. ã ã St. Patrick was not Irish. He was Romano-Welsh and ended up in Ireland as a captured slave. ã ã In ancient Ireland, the best storyteller (seanchaÃfÃ-) at any feast earned the choicest haunch of deer or boar to eat. ã ã The Irish already believed in three-part gods, so many readily adopted Christianity. ã ã The druids performed sacred ceremonies by moonlight, and the ancient order still exists today. ã ã One of the greatest warrior chiefs in Irish history, Brian Boru, was likely an ancestor of presidents John F. Kennedy and Ronald Reagan. ã ã Oliver Cromwell is considered one of the most hated figures in Irish history. ã ã When the English conquered Ireland, the Irish people had to live on potatoes. One half-acre of potatoes could feed a family of five for a year. ã ã Between 1845 and 1855, more than two million Irish immigrated to America. ã ã Irish immigrants fought in the American Civil War, 150,000 for the Union and 50,000 for the Confederacy. Many Irish-Americans today know little about Ireland and their ancestry. Talented seanchaÃfÃ- and historian Juilene Osborne-McKnight answers all of these

questions and more. She presents Irish-American history in a compelling narrative form, accented with photographs, illustrations, and original, literary interludes. Juilene Osborne-McKnight is the chair of humanities, chair of communication, and director of creative writing and an associate professor of journalism, literature, and creative writing at DeSales University in Pennsylvania. She is a seanchaí, a traditional storyteller in the ancient Irish tradition, and she speaks at libraries, schools, churches, and conferences. Osborne-McKnight is a member of the Association of Writers & Writing Programs, Historical Novel Society, and Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She has published four novels of historical fantasy. Osborne-McKnight and her husband, Thomas, live in Warrington, Pennsylvania. Mara McKnight, daughter of Juilene, received her bachelor of arts in communication from DeSales University in Pennsylvania. She works as a freelance artist and designer, with commissions from the Tipp Hill Music Festival in Syracuse, New York, and many other prominent clients. McKnight is also a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators.

The Story We Carry in our Bones seems to follow Irish history from the perspective of a storyteller rather than a history professor. Honestly, I prefer this style over more traditional history texts that I read. Details are woven together in a way that really helps increase my understanding of the overall impact on Irish culture and later American-Irish culture. The body of the book was very well constructed with a good pace and lots of interesting facts and details. The book has many beautiful illustrations, both in color and black and white, that fit the sense and style of the book. Overall, I would recommend this book to anyone that has any interest in learning Irish history.

I was afraid I would be slogging through a dry history text, but what I discovered was a lovely hybrid. From the first few pages of the introduction, I was drawn into a story that reads like a good novel. While Professor Osborne-McKnight teaches college level Irish history, culture, and literature, she is first and foremost a storyteller and novelist. In *The Story We Carry in Our Bones*, Osborne-McKnight creates a skeletal outline (please excuse the pun of bone imagery) of the history of Ireland as it relates to the soul of every Irish American but then fills in the frame with delightful and colorful vignettes. The clear chronology and annotative bibliographies create a perfect classroom text upon which I could organize and categorize all my previous knowledge and reading about Ireland. The details and fascinating sidebars and illustrations make it a "gather around the fire and listen to a good tale" storybook. Like any great story, the apex is reached near the end. The story of famine, immigration, and assimilation into a rising America is a story that

obviously touches deeply the soul of the author and reverberates in the hearts of all other Irish Americans.

Wonderful book.

Well documented and interesting perspective on part of my own DNA heritage. Nice to read about the people who came before, who they were, their lives, beliefs and dispersal in the world. Well worth reading and just cogitating on to understand humans better than many folks.

As an Irish-American this book gave me many thoughts to ponder. I realized actions and thoughts that I hold go back to "my bones." The author provided information that as a third-generation American I hadn't paid attention to through the years. Well worth reading.

very textbook like. informative with lots of interesting history

Bought this book as a gift for my brother, the historian in our family. He absolutely loved it.

Well researched and really interesting, even though I am not Irish. Lots of family is tho and thoroughly enjoyed it.

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