

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

Janet Maher

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The hard work of nineteenth-century Irish immigrants in Waterbury helped place the city on the map as the
Brass Capital of the World. In the early years of immigration, Irish Catholics held Mass in secret, but
eventually beautiful churches were built, attracting the most revered clergy in Connecticut. Soon Irish and
Irish Americans established themselves as city leaders and professionals in the community. Dr. Charles A.
Monagan was a founding member of St. Mary's Hospital, while his son John later became mayor. Some
achieved fame through their excellence in sports, such as Roger Connor, who held a long-standing record for
career home runs until it was broken by Babe Ruth. Detailed research and oral histories from living
descendants bring to light the remarkable Waterbury Irish legacy.



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