

Media Advisory

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ADAMS COUNTY IRISH FESTIVAL TO BE HELD THIS SATURDAY

- What:** Ninth annual Adams County Irish Festival
- Who:** Irish Heritage Foundation of Gettysburg
- Where:** Gettysburg Moose Park, just off Route 30, east of Gettysburg
- When:** Saturday, July 19, 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Southcentral Pennsylvania might not be a place you'd expect a lot of Irish heritage, but that's all changing. In the last census, about 15 percent of Adams County's population claimed Irish ancestry. Many of the county's settlers in the early 18th century were Irish or Scots-Irish.

And the Irish are ready to celebrate their heritage once again.

The Adams County Irish Festival, the oldest and largest in the region, drew a crowd of more than 3,000 last year.

This year, the festival will showcase John Whelan – an All-Ireland champion musician who played in the original Broadway production of Riverdance. Whelan, a native of England born to parents of Irish descent, has recorded more than a half-dozen albums and has made TV appearances, a film, and produced the Celtic rock band Black Thorn in 2001. The John Whelan Band hits the stage at 5 p.m.

In addition to the non-profit Irish Heritage Foundation of Gettysburg, the festival benefits the American Ireland Fund, an affiliate of The Ireland Funds – an international charitable organization in 11 countries which raised more than \$300 million to support programs of peace and reconciliation, arts and culture, education and community development in Ireland.

The festival features a day packed with music, dancing, food, art and exhibits.

The event also includes several interactive music workshops on the fiddle, penny whistle and bodhran (Irish drum).

For more information on the Adams County Irish Festival, visit www.adamscountyirishfestival.com