

Larry S. Helms
 & Associates
 INSURANCE SERVICES

704.893.2793
www.LarryHelms.com

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St. Patrick's Day - Myth and Mystery



March 17th - Saint Patrick's Day

How did it become a day of green, green food and drink, leprechauns, and four leaf clovers?

St. Patrick's Day - the feast day of the patron saint of Ireland who is credited with bringing Christianity to the island (and is the legendary figure said to have driven the "snakes" of Ireland into the sea).

St. Patrick's Day has evolved to become a secular celebration of Irish heritage and pride in the form of festivals and parades, as well as more than a few pub crawls.

Many people (not just the Irish) get into the spirit of the day by dressing in green, eating corned beef and cabbage (a tradition from Irish immigrants in America), and drinking Irish beer.

What's correct: St. Paddy or St. Patty? St. Paddy is correct!

Start with the names people like. *Patrick* is the Anglicized form of *Pádraig*, nicknamed *Páidín* and *Paddy*. It's from the Irish name that "St. Paddy's Day" was formed, and being Irish-based, it won't cause a stir.

Sources: merriam-webster.com/wordplay/st-paddys-day-vs-st-pattys-day

Things you may not know...

St. Patrick wasn't Irish. He was born in Britain and his parents were Roman citizens.

He originally came to Ireland as a slave. As a teenager, St. Patrick was kidnapped by a pirate raiding party and sold into slavery in Ireland. As a slave, he looked after and herded sheep for many years before fleeing to a monastery in England. While there, he became a devout follower of Christianity and was ordained a bishop, after which he returned to Ireland as a missionary.

St. Patrick wore blue, not green. Surviving artworks of St. Patrick show him wearing blue robes. As time progressed, green as a national color grew in favor, particularly in the 17th century.

St. Patrick probably didn't drive all the snakes out of Ireland. One of the most popular myths about the Irish saint is that he rid the country of snakes, but modern science has since ruined that belief for everyone. As Ireland has always been an incredibly cold country, scientists have said that it's highly unlikely that there were any snakes to begin with and there are no fossils to disprove the theory.

Why March 17th? St Patrick's Day is held on the day he passed away. In the Catholic tradition, the day a saint passes away is considered a holy day to celebrate their ascension into heaven. St. Patrick passed away on March 17 and it continues to be when St. Patrick's Day is held annually.

St. Patrick isn't technically a saint. While he's been given the title in popular lore, St. Patrick was never actually officially canonized as a saint. However many still recognize his contributions to the Catholic church and he remains a spiritual figure to this day.

Patrick wasn't even St. Patrick's given name. St. Patrick's given name was Maewyn Succat. It wasn't until he became a priest that he adopted a new name - Patrick, after Patricius (which relates to the Latin root meaning father).

'Drowning the Shamrock' is said to have started with St. Patrick. The tradition of drinking to celebrate St. Patrick's Day is said to have started with the saint himself, who announced that everybody should have a drop of the 'hard stuff' after an innkeeper was less than forthcoming with a bottle of whiskey.

Legend has it that St. Patrick's walking stick grew into a tree while he was preaching. Another popular tale regarding St. Patrick tells the story of how he left his ash wood walking stick in the ground, while he went off to try and convert the villagers of a small town to Christianity. The effort took so long that the walking stick became an ash tree which the town takes its name from - Aspatria, Cumbria, in the north of England.

Sources: gocity.com/en/dublin/things-to-do/facts-about-st-patrick and farmersalmanac.com/st-patricks-day

The Shamrock

The shamrock as an Irish symbol is said to have been popularized by St. Patrick. As the stories go, St. Patrick supposedly used the iconic three-leafed shamrock to explain the Holy Trinity while preaching. With each leaf representing Christianity's Holy Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, it was a symbol that showed how they could be three different spiritual entities and yet all part of the same whole.

It is also said that the **deep green color of the shamrock**, which became Ireland's emblem, cancels out the superstition that it is bad luck to wear green.

Shamrocks Are Not Four-Leaf Clovers! Shamrocks and four-leaf clovers are often confused or used interchangeably. But shamrocks have 3 leaves. And four-leaf clovers are a symbol of good luck. Each of the leaves symbolize: Love, hope, faith, and luck! Four-leaf

clovers are considered to be especially lucky as they are thought to ward off evil spirits. This belief dates back to ancient Celtic times and predates St. Patrick.

Sources: gocity.com/en/dublin/things-to-do/facts-about-st-patrick and farmersalmanac.com/st-patricks-day

February is National Heart Month!





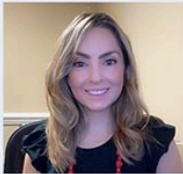


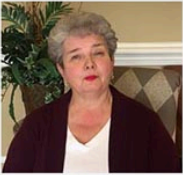







DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Daylight Saving Time begins on the second Sunday in March in the USA. The practice gives people an extra hour of sunlight in the evening by setting the clock ahead one hour on a predetermined date each year.

source: nationaldaycalendar.com/national-day/daylight-saving-time-second-sunday-in-march

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<p>Beth Atkinson</p>  <p>Commercial Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 313</p>	<p>Pedro Blancas</p>  <p>Producer</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 310</p>	<p>Teri Bunch</p>  <p>Producer</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 301</p>	<p>Crystal Hartis</p>  <p>Commercial Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793</p>	<p>Catherine Hoyo Mu</p>  <p>Producer</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 309</p>
<p>Paul Kaperonis</p>  <p>Producer</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 308</p>	<p>Karen Loughery</p>  <p>Personal Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 314</p>	<p>Lettie Palmer</p>  <p>Commercial Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 302</p>	<p>Meredith Privette</p>  <p>Commercial Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793</p>	<p>Robert Ross</p>  <p>Producer</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 304</p>
<p>Dolores Serrano</p>  <p>Commercial Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 306</p>	<p>Jim Short</p>  <p>Commercial Lines Account Manager</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 312</p>	<p>Chris Webb</p>  <p>Producer</p> <p>704-893-2793 ext 305</p>		

Larry S. Helms
& Associates
INSURANCE SERVICES

Larry S. Helms & Associates Insurance Services
4389 Indian Trail Fairview Rd., Suite 2, Indian Trail, NC 28079

704.893.2793

