



Real Lace: America s Irish Rich (Paperback)

By Stephen Birmingham

ROWMAN LITTLEFIELD, United States, 2016. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. America s Irish Catholic rich have long enjoyed the designation of F.I.F., or First Irish Family or Real Lace , as it delineates their place in the Irishtocracy , where names such as Cuddihy, Murray, Doheny, and McDonnell inspire respect and awe. Yet, in almost every case, their origins in this country were humble. Fleeing the Irish potato famine in the 1840s, they found themselves penniless in the slums of New York and Boston where they were regarded as invaders and a curse, humiliated by signs that said No Irish Need Apply and forced to accept jobs too degrading to be accepted by native and other immigrant populations. Nonetheless, they possessed one important advantage over other immigrants: they spoke the language. They were also, by nature and tradition, political. And they had ambition, courage, a fighting spirit, and-perhaps most important-Irish charm. Here, in this engrossing and often hilarious book, we read of how the Irish elite emerged-frequently in less than a generation s time-out of poverty into positions of both social and business prominence. One of the F.I.F., Robert J. Cuddihy, was behind one of...



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