

B The Irish heritage



◆ The Claddagh ring

Growing up in a very Irish family, Claddaghs were everywhere. My dad's wedding ring is a Claddagh. Almost every anniversary gift that my dad got for my mom was from the Irish shop, and consisted of some form of a Claddagh. My grandma had the Claddagh in various forms. It was a symbol that was part of my family, and from a young age I fell in love with the story and symbolism behind it. I would like to share that story with you.

10 In Claddagh, Ireland, a fishing village, there was a young man and woman who were just a week away from being married. Pirates came into their village and took the men to sell them into slavery. Mr. Richard Joyce, the young man who was to be married, 15 was sold to a Turkish goldsmith¹. While he was working for this goldsmith, he never forgot about his true love back home. He crafted² a ring that he hoped to

eventually³ return home and give to the love of his life. This ring is now called the Claddagh. He was eventually freed from slavery, and was able to return home. When he got home he found his love and gave her the ring. After receiving the ring, 20 they got married and their love lasted⁴ forever. [...] The Claddagh has been such an important part of my heritage, and I am excited to share it with my children in the future. It is one of the most beautiful symbols of love. I hope that you will go out and share this story 25 with other people!

Shannan McQuade

◆ www.theodysseyonline.com, Oct 11, 2016

1. jewellery maker and seller 2. created 3. finally 4. continued