

**“We are more than St. Patrick’s Day” The Story of Irish Americans**  
**Presented by: Mary Sue McFarland Brooks and James Elliot Brooks**



**Date: Thursday, March 11**  
**Coon Rapids: 10 a.m. - noon**  
**Legacy Room, SC270**  
**Cambridge: 1-2 p.m.**  
**Rm. E126**

**Presentation Synopsis:**

*The Irish came to America as a result of desperation as the potato famine left millions starving and in need of a new beginning. An estimated 4.5 million Irish came to America with the east coast being a primary emigration port. The Irish were looked at as the lowest of all peoples in the city and it was not until they agreed to support the Union when war was evident with the Confederacy, did they start to make advances in social class. The presentation will look at the history of Ireland and the values and culture that the Irish brought with them to America as well as what the Irish found when they landed in America and ultimately the story of the Irish in Minnesota. St. Patrick’s Day is really an opportunity to reflect on how people can struggle through a century of hardships and come out looking as good as the Irish.*