



The Celtic Group, L.L.C.

The Celtic Mariner

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The Celtic History (kelt'ik)



Black hair and beady eyes — little is known about the Celts; there were no known documented historical facts other than what other European people wrote from stories that were passed down from generation to generation. We do know that these indo-European people whose culture spread rapidly (not to mean that the people expanded and took over) across the whole of Europe up to Scandinavia, down to the Spanish peninsula were strong enough to dominate and be adopted by other people in those areas. In the beginning they had black hair and beady eyes, that is to say before the Viking invasion around 800 A.D. The Vikings integrated with the Celts and suddenly red or blonde hair with blue or green eyes was part of the genetic make-up of this race of people.

The word "Celtic" (from the Greek, keltoi) actually refers to the dominant pre-Christian culture of Europe north of the Mediterranean, although most often associated with Ireland. The Celts were immigrants who molded the Irish nation. Around 600 AD, two Celtic branches spread to the British Isles — the Brythoni (in Britain) and the Gaels (in Ireland) — importing oats and iron

objects. Irish Celts were sea farers (expanding from west coast Ireland to areas as far as Greenland / Iceland and possibly Nova Scotia, Canada, and farmers).

There is a lot of Irish literature now available to learn more about the Celtic society such as The Tain Bo Cuailinge (The Cattle Raid of Cooley). This is the epic account of the raid of the men of Connaught lead by Queen Maeve to capture the marvelous bull owned by the men of Ulster. The Navigatio Brendani (Voyage of St. Brendan) is another example of this type of writing. These are probably the best known books that were produced by the early monks, along with the Book of Kells.



O'Connor Crest

CMC Restarts Barge Service to Milwaukee

Using river barges to move cargo to the Port of Milwaukee is not new. This service was first started in 1993 by Conti Carriers, using thirty dedicated barges moving between New Orleans and Milwaukee. Tim Klein, CMC's Chicago-based Vice President Marketing, administered this program for Conti until 1995, when it was discontinued because of cost factors and industry consolidation.

In May, 2002, the Port of Milwaukee, working with the U.S. Coast Guard, succeeded in easing the regulations for river barges transiting Lake Michigan between Chicago and Milwaukee, opening the door to restart this service. CMC, working with the Port, barge carriers, Lake Michigan towing companies, and prospective shippers, has subsequently set up a program that will allow shipments from almost anywhere on the inland waterway system to / from Milwaukee at fixed costs to the shipper.

CMC arranges and coordinates all parts of the movement, therefore assuming some of the risk factors

involved in this transit; any type of non-hazardous cargo is acceptable for this program.

The first barges in this service are already loaded and in-route to Milwaukee, scheduled to arrive mid July. Please contact your CMC marketing representative to see how this program can work for your company.

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Celtic Marine Corporation — A History

Celtic Marine Corporation was founded in July, 1985 when Mr. Brendan F. O'Connor, having built a career which spanned over 20 years as corporate transportation manager for a large trading firm in New York, decided to strike out on his own. At the time Celtic was founded, the concept of third party logistics providers (known today as 3PLs) was almost unknown in the transportation industry.

From humble beginnings, working with his wife Sylvia out of a spare bedroom in their Baton Rouge home, and with nothing more than a desk, typewriter, and 20+ years of experience and know-how, Mr. O'Connor began offering cargo supervision services to customers bringing cargo into Gulf ports. Within a short time, Brendan took advantage of opportunities to offer transportation management and arrange services on behalf of Celtic's customers. The stage was set for the growth of the company into third party logistics.

By 1989, rapid growth of the company warranted the need for additional help. Michael O'Connor, their son, joined the team that year, assisting in operations and other areas of management. In addition to cargo supervision services, the company was by now offering ocean vessel chartering, contract barge freight,

contract stevedoring services, and truck brokerage, growing rapidly over the next 13 years.

Today, as Celtic celebrates our 17th anniversary, we are a full-service, third party logistics provider. Still owned and operated by the O'Connor family, with our corporate office in Baton Rouge, LA and satellite offices in New York, Chicago, and Houston, Celtic Marine Corporation provides the highest quality of services in the transportation industry. Our staff of highly skilled, experienced, and motivated professionals allows Celtic to manage millions of tons of cargo annually, ranging from steel coils, pipe, wire rod, and beams, alloys, minerals, and limestone, to carbon products, fertilizer, containerized, and project cargo. Celtic offers all forms of transportation as part of a full service package, or individually, as required by our customer.

As we look toward a bright future, in this inaugural edition of the Celtic Mariner, we wish to express our gratitude for the business relationships with our customers and service providers. We wish to commend, as well, all those employees who have contributed to the growth of our organization. It is this unique combination, where opportunity meets preparedness, that has made the success of Celtic Marine Corporation truly possible.

Celtic Marine Corporation: Truck and Rail Division

The Truck and Rail Division started up in June 1997 as a licensed, bonded carrier offering competitive truck and rail rates to all of North and South American as well as Canada. Our services include but are not limited to bulk, break-bulk, packaged and containerized cargo. We can arrange service for Special Cargo Projects and Specialized Hauling, arranging a full turn-key package to transport big volume cargoes from Origin to final destination, as well as, oversized or overweight material that requires permits and special trailers.

Starting this winter, Celtic Marine working with The Port of Greater Baton Rouge and Osprey Lines is

**“Get on Board with
our new service,
Container-on-Barge,
starting this Fall”**

introducing our new service, **CONTAINER-ON-BARGE.**

What does this mean? Celtic Marine will provide agency and booking services of containers for The Port through Osprey Line to the container ports of New Orleans and Houston. Once loaded, containers can make the Baton Rouge to New Orleans trip in less than 24 hours and Baton Rouge to Houston in less than a week. Each container can stow up to five more tons of cargo than a truck while eliminating weight / height restrictions and improving economics of scale. Not to mention the cost savings! As the start-up time approaches, more up-to-date details will become available.

AARC / ABC Commercial Movers

In 1999 Brendan O'Connor became partner with Randy Oliveri in AARC, LLC / ABC Warehouse and Commercial Delivery Services, Hot Shot Deliveries and Full Commercial Movers Services in the Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans areas. Our Data Record Storage Facility is fully air conditioned with dust collectors allowing climate & humidity controlled storage of your records. There is seven day access via internet

connections and quick record retrieval when required.

Our ABC Commercial Moving Division has over 15 years professional experience and we have the specialized equipment for handling computers and glass. Please check our website www.aarc-abc.com for more information or call 225-751-8535 for free written estimates.

Celtic International Shipping Agency

Celtic International Shipping Agency, formed in 1997, is a joint venture between the Celtic Group and the LBH Group, based in Rotterdam and Curacao, N.A. The agency was formed as the LBH Group's sole representative company in the United States, to initially provide this service on the Mississippi River ports as well as the entire U.S. Gulf Coast. Our service has now expanded to all U.S. and Caribbean ports, with continued emphasis on the Mississippi River and U.S. Gulf.

Celtic International offers a full range of agency services including acting as Charterer's Agents, Protective / Supervisory Agents and Owners Husbandry Agents for all types of vessels.

Global Connections: Through its affiliation with the LBH Group, Celtic International can provide information on a worldwide basis covering such items as port congestion, draft and berthing restrictions, pro forma cost calculations, and a variety of other things at major ports around the world.

In addition, the combination of services between Celtic International / LBH and Celtic Marine can provide shippers with an all-encompassing menu of services to take care of the movement of cargo from origin to destination, with one group providing all necessary services at the most competitive rates and the highest level of service in the industry.

Recently, the LBH Group has launched a vessel management program called NAVIGATE, which is currently being offered to LBH customers around the world. This secure, internet-based program (developed exclusively by LBH's I.T. company, Tech Overseas, and marketed exclusively by the LBH Group) allows customers to track the progress of its current shipments, as well as archive records of all matters involved in past shipments. It also allows the customer to make one contact to its LBH representative to manage the whole shipping process: from vessel nomination, to loading, to transit, and finally to discharge. The initial set-up and use of this program is free to vessel charterers by using LBH subsidiaries in the major origin and destination ports. The functions of the program can also be customized to meet a shipper's specific requirements (at an agreed-upon additional cost).

If you are interested in finding out more about the services of Celtic International Shipping Agency, the LBH Group, or NAVIGATE, please contact Tim Ford at Celtic International Shipping Agency (phone 225-368-0980 or e-mail: tford@Celtic-International.com), Michael O'Connor at the Celtic Group (phone 225-752-2490 or e-mail moconnor@celticmarine.com) or Bob Walls at Celtic International Shipping Agency (phone 281-332-7297) or e-mail bwalls@celtic-international.com.

Celtic Group Presentation

As a part of the Celtic Group's new marketing strategy, we have developed a presentation which delivers clients an overview of Celtic Marine and Celtic International Shipping Agency. The presentation was created with Microsoft's PowerPoint program and was professionally narrated. In addition to the new presentation, we have redesigned our corporate website. The

new and improved site features Celtic's entire group of companies including Celtic Marine, Celtic Financial Services, Celtic International Shipping Agency, Celtic Management, AARC Archiving and ABC Commercial Movers. To request a copy of the presentation, please send email to info@celticmarine.com and visit our website at www.celticmarine.com.

Celtic Financial Services

Celtic Financial Services, LLC began business in July 2000. The initial focus of the company was purchasing private mortgages from individuals throughout the United States. Private mortgages are created when one individual sells real estate to another individual with the seller providing the financing for the buyer.

During the 2000 calendar year, Celtic Financial registered the trade name "Celtic Mortgage" with the Secretary of State of Louisiana in order to market the origination of new real estate loans among the state. The primary function of Celtic Mortgage is making mortgage loans on one-to-four family dwellings. These

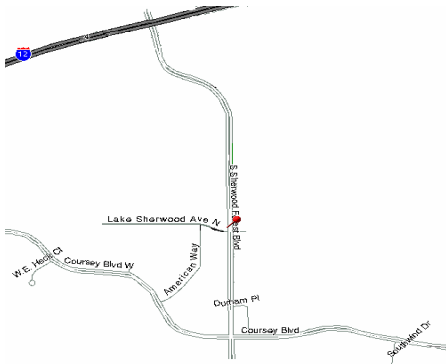
loans are passed through to large institutional investors who make up what is known as the secondary market. Lenders in the secondary market buy and sell large blocks of mortgage loans. This is why many individuals find that their mortgage company changes from time to time.

In 2001, Celtic Financial and a group of attorneys formed Celtic Title, LLC which provides real estate closing services and title insurance. In future issues of the Celtic Mariner each of the companies will be discussed in greater detail.



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Celtic Financial (225) 752-2492 * **AARC/ABC Movers** (225) 751-8535

Celtic has a new home

As some of you may be aware, on October 1, 2001 we moved to our new location. Our home office now houses The Celtic Group consisting of: Celtic Management Corp, Celtic Marine Corporation, Celtic International Shipping Agency and Celtic Financial Services. As well as AARC, LLC / ABC Commercial Moving. Our new address is 3888 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Celtic Centre, Bldg. 1, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. We are located on the corner of S. Sherwood Forest Blvd and N. Lake Sherwood, next door to the Community Coffee Building.

Our new 12,000 sq ft facility provides room for all our current operations, and room for future growth.

Building II is 6,000 square ft shared by Jerrold Black, CPA and a future tenant.

Our next phase of construction will be a bank building which will house Britton & Koontz First National Bank. Along with the bank building, Celtic Centre will be comprised of several new buildings available for long term lessee to retail business.

So the next time you are in the area, stop by and visit us at our new home. Need directions? Give us a call at (225) 752-2490. We look forward to seeing you soon.



Main Office Building in the Celtic Centre Complex