

## DON'T TELL A SOUL

Paul Sachs is an alumnus of Jack Hardy's Monday night songwriting gatherings in Greenwich Village. In 2010, he ventured from his life-long home of New York City for a road trip to Kerrville, Texas with Jack. He returned to Texas as a finalist in the Kerrville Folk Festival New Folk Competition in 2012 and as a winner in 2013. Paul's maternal grandparents met in New York City after they emigrated from Ireland. This Irish heritage is subtly evident in some of his songwriting, including **Family Secrets**. You can hear this song on his excellent just-released CD, Full Detroit, or here: <https://youtu.be/rnBIW5M0Dvw?si=RtqAuZosIRIReKKk>.

### FAMILY SECRETS

*By Paul Sachs*

**D** **G**  
Off the coast of Ireland my mother's parents came.

**D** **Bm** **Em** **A**  
Landed in Hell's Kitchen long before I had a name.

**Bm** **Bm7** **G** **Gm**  
"Don't tell a soul what I've said to you,"

**D** **G** **A** **D**  
My father whispered – I don't know if it was true.

**G** **A** **D** **Bm** **G** **A7** **D**  
Outside the wind is blowin' co--o--old – -- family secrets remain untold.

My uncle was in Rikers – had a shamrock tattoo.  
Ran with the Westies back in nineteen eighty-two.  
He told me how to steal – how to cheat and lie;  
To this day I don't know how that man died.

Outside the wind is blowin' co--o--old – -- family secrets remain untold..

**G** **A7** **D**  
Grandma would take me into church every day.

**G** **A**  
We'd go to the Blarney Cove after we'd prayed.

**Bm** **Bm7** **E7**  
Sawdust on the floor – whiskey on our lips.

**G** **Em** **A7**  
Burnt-out Chesterfield between her fingertips.

They're all gone now – into the light of day.  
And to the Iris Islands where there's nothing left to say.  
To the quiet meaning of blood ties that fade.  
Where unanswered questions are taken to the grave.

**G** **A** **D** **Bm** **G** **A7** **D**  
Still outside the wind is blowin' co—o--old – --family secrets remain untold.

**G** **A** **D**  
Down the line, down the road –

**G** **A** **Bm** **E7** **G** **Gm**  
Family secrets, family secrets