



Upcoming Events

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About Us

September at the Museum!



Collars, Canals, and Conflagrations!

Dear Members and Friends,

September will be a busy month here at the Museum as we have several events planned each week, and we are still working on the new exhibitions which we hope to install in the coming weeks.

As we open up and get back to having events in person, the pitfalls of running hybrid events are making themselves known! Zoom is great if the speaker is also on Zoom, but it is not a great way of hosting an event if the speaker is in the museum. Viewers on Zoom can not hear the audience, and it requires two different laptops to run the slides in-house and on Zoom. So if a speaker or an event is IN the museum, we will livestream it to our Facebook and YouTube page but not use Zoom. This month might be a transitional one, but do like us on [Facebook](#) or subscribe to our [YouTube page](#), so that you can watch the talks from the comfort of your home going forward. We have uploaded all of the talks we have hosted online since Covid 19 began to our YouTube page, so you can check out any talks you missed there!

We are delighted to announce two different lecture series which will be accompanied by exhibitions. One series is

called Collars, Canals, and Conflagrations: Irish Immigrants in the Capital Region, and is funded in part by a grant from the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area. This series of lectures and events will explore the role of the Irish in our region, and we have prepared a map of areas of interest too which we will shortly be sharing. The first lecture will be this month when we host Paul Cole who will discuss our local labor leader and hero, Kate Mullany.

The other series is partly sponsored by a grant from Humanities New York and is called Making Change: Irish Immigrant Activists. This series will encompass a wide range of topics and people who advocated for a better life - not just for the Irish but for everyone in America seeking a better life. This month we have three events to launch this series. Dr. Stack will discuss the influence of Irish women on the national labor and suffrage movement. We will also highlight Fr. Mychal Judge this month - not only because he was designated the first official victim of 9/11, but his friend Brendan Fay (an important activist in his own right) will discuss his work with alcoholics and members of the LGBTQ community. Finally, national archivist and author, DeAnne Blanton, will discuss the life of Albert Cashier, an Irish immigrant who lived a singular life, fighting for the Union in the Civil War.

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Eireann are back on the 3rd Sunday of the month with their free music sessions. Come in to hear traditional music being played in a relaxed and informal atmosphere. Unfortunately, given where we are with Covid numbers again, masks are required while visiting the museum in order to protect our staff and guests.

The Big Irish Campfire took place last week in Manhattan and Elizabeth chaired a panel and received a Rebuilder Award from the Irish Echo newspaper. The conference was remarkable and shows the depth and resilience of the Irish American community across the country. Cultural institutions are in fact "bouncing back," and we hope to partner with some of the centers on events going forward. It was a day of inspiration and hope, as we saw the amazing work that centers are doing across the country, and how communities pulled together to adapt to the restrictions that Covid 19 forced on everyone. We have said before that the perseverance of the Irish as they moved to America has inspired us, so it was great to see that spirit of grit and tenacity at play still.

We are aware of the reported closure of the Great Hunger Museum in Quinnipiac and have reached out to the university to let them know that we would be willing to house and exhibit some of the collection. Although they may wish to keep the collection together, it may not be possible to do so, and we would be honored to have a part of it here in Albany.

Finally, we are hoping to put together a Garden Committee to help us keep our gorgeous courtyard garden tidied, so if anyone would like to volunteer to help form one, just email us at info@irish-us.org and we will get that set up!

This month's poem, appropriately titled *In September*, is by Irish poet and critic, Edward Dowden, who was born in Cork in 1843. His description of a September greener than spring is usually apt; the weather always dries up for the first few days in September - just in time for the kids to go back to school!

Edward's literary tastes emerged early, in a series of essays written at the age of twelve. His home education continued at Queen's College, Cork and at Trinity College, Dublin; at the latter he had a distinguished career, becoming president of the Philosophical Society, and winning the vice-chancellor's prize for English verse and prose, and the first senior moderatorship in ethics and logic. In 1867 he was elected professor of oratory and English literature in Dublin University.

Dowden's first book, *Shakespeare: A Critical Study of His Mind and Art* (1875), resulted from a revision of a course of lectures, and made him widely known as a critic: translations appeared in German and Russian; his *Poems* (1876) went into a second edition. His *Shakespeare Primer* (1877) was translated into Italian and German. In 1878 the Royal Irish Academy awarded him the Cunningham gold medal "for his literary writings, especially in the field of Shakespearian criticism."

Later works by him in this field included an edition of *The Sonnets of William Shakespeare* (1881), *Passionate Pilgrim* (1883), *Introduction to Shakespeare* (1893), *Hamlet* (1899), *Romeo and Juliet* (1900), *Cymbeline* (1903), and an article entitled "Shakespeare as a Man of Science" (in the *National Review*, July 1902), which criticized T. E. Webb's *Mystery of William Shakespeare*. His critical essays "Studies in Literature" (1878), "Transcripts and Studies" (1888), "New Studies in Literature" (1895) showed a profound knowledge of the currents and tendencies of thought in various ages and countries; but his *The Life of Percy Bysshe Shelley* (1886) made him best known to the public at large. In 1900 he edited an edition of Shelley's works.

As commissioner of education in Ireland (1896–1901), trustee of the National Library of Ireland, secretary of the Irish Liberal Union and vice-president of the Irish Unionist Alliance, he enforced his view that literature should not be divorced from practical life. He was a friend and staunch fan of American contemporary Walt Whitman, but maintained an ongoing clash with Irish contemporary William Butler Yeats over their opposing political viewpoints. His biographical/critical concepts, particularly in connection with Shakespeare, are played with by Stephen Dedalus in the library chapter of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Leslie Fiedler was to play with them again in *The Stranger in Shakespeare*.

Dowden married twice, first (1866) Mary Clerke, and secondly (1895) Elizabeth Dickinson West, daughter of the dean of St Patrick's. His daughter by his first wife, Hester Dowden, was a well-known spiritualist medium.

Edward Dowden died in Dublin. His *Letters* were published in 1914 by Elizabeth and Hilda Dowden.

In September

Spring scarce had greener fields to show than these
Of mid September; through the still warm noon
The rivulets ripple forth a gladder tune
Than ever in the summer; from the trees
Dusk-green, and murmuring inward melodies,
No leaf drops yet; only our evenings swoon
In pallid skies more suddenly, and the moon
Finds motionless white mists out on the leas.
Dear chance it were in some rough wood-god's lair
A month hence, gazing on the last bright field,
To sink o'er-drowsed, and dream that wild-flowers blew
Around my head and feet silently there,
Till Spring's glad choir adown the valley pealed,
And violets trembled in the morning dew.

Making Change: Irish Immigrant Activism Series

Irish Women in the American Labor Movement

Elizabeth Stack, PhD

September 7th 7pm.



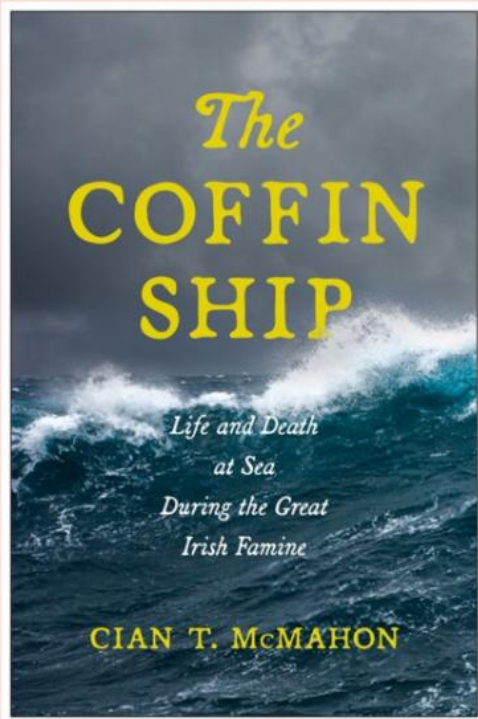
Making Change: Immigrant Activism Series
Irish Women in the American Labor Movement



Dr. Elizabeth Stack will discuss the work of Mother Jones, Leonora Barry and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn in the inaugural lecture of this new series and exhibition. These three women were instrumental national leaders for labor rights for all Americans. Mother Jones, the “most dangerous woman in America,” marched with striking garment workers in Chicago, bottle washers in Milwaukee breweries, Pittsburgh steelworkers, El Paso streetcar operators, and Calumet copper miners. Leonora Barry was the first woman to hold a national position in the Knights of Labor. She investigated abuse by employers, advocated equal pay, and lobbied to abolish child labor. She played a key role in securing Pennsylvania's first Factory Inspection Act. Elizabeth Gurley Flynn worked for the Industrial Workers of the World since she was 16 years old. After WWI, she co-founded the American Civil Liberties Union, and campaigned for female suffrage and birth control. She was arrested under the Smith Act for her involvement with the Communist Party, becoming the first woman to head the party in 1961.

This series has been funded in part by Humanities New York, with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Coffin Ship: Life and Death at Sea During the Great Irish Famine
Cian McMahon, PhD
Thursday September 9th 7pm ZOOM



Thursday 9th September 7pm. ONLINE on Zoom or FACEBOOK

Between 1845 and 1855, over two million people fled Ireland to escape the Great Famine and begin new lives abroad. The so-called “coffin ships” they embarked on have since become infamous icons of nineteenth-century migration. Based on archival research on three continents and written in clear, crisp prose, *The Coffin Ship* analyzes the emigrants’ own letters and diaries to unpack the dynamic social networks that the Irish built while voyaging overseas. At every stage of the journey - including the treacherous weeks at sea - these migrants created new threads in the worldwide web of the Irish diaspora.

Dr. Cian T. McMahon has written a groundbreaking work of transnational history, and offers a vibrant, fresh perspective on an often ignored but vital component of the migration experience: the journey itself.

[Register here for the Zoom link.](#)

September 11th Memorial
Saturday September 11th 12pm





We will hold a short commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy. It will be a short, formal ceremony with a piper, a wreath-laying, and a minute of silence in our courtyard to honor those lost that day.

Collars, Canals, and Conflagrations: The Irish in the Capital Region

Kate Mullany, Local Labor Hero

Paul F. Cole, Kate Mullany National Historic Site

Monday September 13th 7pm ZOOM



Collars, Canals & Conflagrations: Irish Immigrants in the Capital Region
Kate Mullany, Local Labor Hero by Paul F. Cole

Supported by Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area

Paul F. Cole, Executive Director of the Kate Mullany House, will discuss the life and times of Kate Mullany, as this young Irish girl rose through the ranks of organized labor. She led a successful six-day strike in 1864 with over 300 other women to increase wages and improve working conditions. It is both a local and national story, beginning with her establishment of the all-women Collar Laundry Union in Troy, to her election as second vice-president of the National Labor Union.

This lecture is part of our Collars, Canals, and Conflagration Series, funded in part by the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area.

Making Change: Irish Immigrant Activism Series
Fr. Mychal Judge, Saint of 9/11
Brendan Fay, St. Patrick's For All
Thursday September 16th 7pm





**Making Change: Irish Immigrant Activism Series:
Fr. Mychal Judge - Saint of 9/11**

**With Brendan Fay,
Founder of St. Patrick's Day for All.**




**HUMANITIES
NEW YORK**

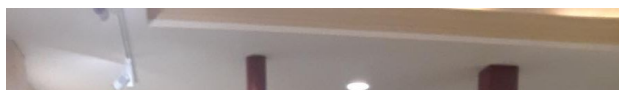
Chaplain to the New York City Fire Department, Fr. Mychal Judge became the first certified fatality of the September 11, 2001 attacks. The photograph of Judge's body being carried out of the rubble by the five men became one of the most famous images related to 9/11, dubbed an "American Pieta."

The son of immigrants from County Leitrim, Judge was also well known in New York City for ministering to the homeless, the hungry, recovering alcoholics, people with AIDS, immigrants, the LGBTQ Community, and those alienated by society.

We will screen a short documentary first (not available for online viewers), and then Brendan Fay will discuss this remarkable man's work.

This series has been funded in part by Humanities New York, with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann Seisiún
Sunday September 19th 12pm**





Join us for some "craic agus ceol" (fun and music) in a traditional Irish music seisiún. The general session scheme is that someone starts a tune, and those who know it join in. Good session etiquette requires not playing if one does not know the tune and waiting until a tune one knows comes along. In this "open" session, anyone who is able to play Irish music is welcome. If you have a song to sing or a poem to recite, you are also welcome to take part!

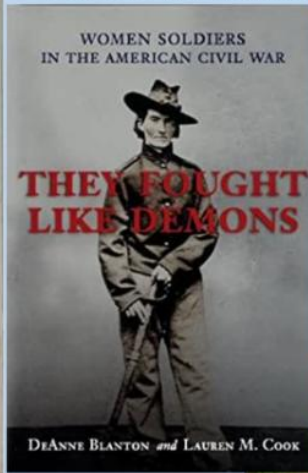
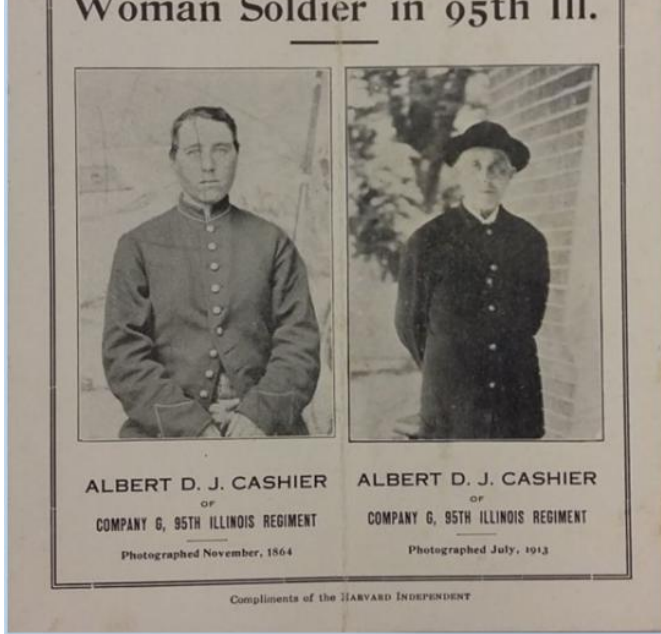
Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is the primary Irish organization dedicated to the promotion of the music, song, dance and the language of Ireland. The organization was founded in 1951 and has promoted Irish music and culture among the Irish people and the Irish diaspora since then.

Making Change: Immigrant Activism Series

Albert Cashier: A Life Apart

DeAnne Blanton

Tuesday September 21st 7pm ZOOM



Albert Cashier was born Jennie Hodges in County Louth in Ireland. Cashier became famous as one of a number of women soldiers who served as men during the Civil War. Cashier adopted the identity of a man before enlisting and maintained it until death, so the consistent and long-term (at least 53 years) commitment to a male identity has prompted some contemporary scholars to wonder if Cashier was a trans man, or if she had decided to live as a man to give herself more options. Albert/Jennie's story is one of adversity and loneliness, although his army colleagues rallied around him in his last days.

DeAnne Blanton retired from the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, DC after 31 years of service as a reference archivist specializing in 18th and 19th century U.S. Army records. She was recognized within the National Archives as well as in the historical and genealogical communities as a leading authority on the American Civil War; 19th century women's history; and the history of American women in the military. Her groundbreaking book, *They Fought Like Demons: Women Soldiers in the American Civil War*, co-written with Lauren Cook, was published by Louisiana State University Press in 2002 and by Vintage the following year.

This series has been funded in part by Humanities New York, with the support of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

[Click here to register for the Zoom link.](#)

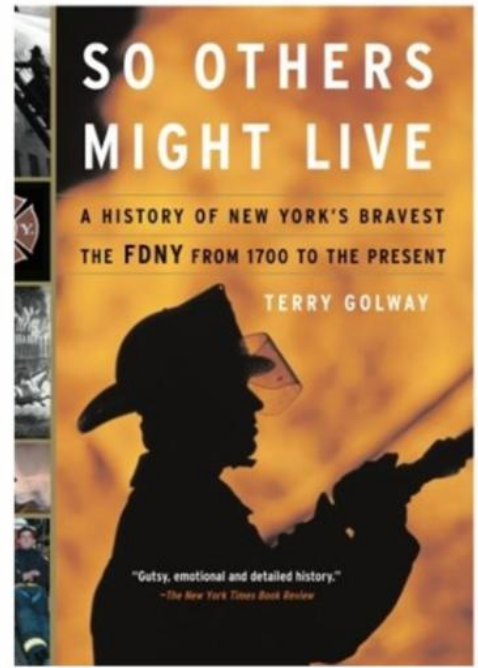
So Others Might Live: The FDNY from 1700 to the Present

Terry Golway, PhD

Thursday September 23rd 7pm



Thursday September 23rd, 7pm.



On September 11, 2001, the courage and sacrifice of the Fire Department of New York inspired the nation, giving new meaning to the word “hero.” But the heroism of the firefighters was not unique to September 11 - it has been part of the FDNY’s tradition from the very beginning. From the original eighteenth-century volunteer force to the New York Firefighter unit in the Union Army, from the Triangle Shirtwaist Fire to the arson epidemic of the 1970s, to contemporary issues of diversity and efficiency, Golway will give us a comprehensive chronicle of the FDNY.

From America’s most ambitious public-works project of the 1700s - the building of aqueducts from upstate to help control fires - to firefighter-turned-politician Boss Tweed’s backroom politics, fire and firefighters have always been an integral part of the history of the city.

Journalist Terry Golway, whose father, father-in-law, godfather, and uncles were all New York firefighters, tells as no one else could the story of the men and women, tragedies, and triumphs of the FDNY throughout its history.

The Life and Times of Sir Horace Plunkett

James Kennelly, PhD

Tuesday September 28th 7pm



For all of his faults, which were neither few nor small, Sir Horace Plunkett, the founder of the Irish cooperative movement, left a tangible legacy – a network of co-operative enterprises that still dominate certain sectors of Irish agriculture. Yet today he is all but forgotten, a footnote to the Irish Revival and the tumultuous days of the Rising and the War of Independence. With his cooperative creameries burned by the British in 1921, and his own home of Kilteragh mined and burned by Republicans in 1923, Plunkett lived the remainder of his life in self-imposed exile in England. Trevor West wrote that “though his last decade was darkened by rejection and exile, he never abandoned a constructive vision of his country’s future, remaining an Irishman without rancour, an aristocrat with a desire to serve.”

Dr. James Kennelly has written several books and articles about modern farming, the emerging Irish economy, and cooperative agriculture. He is Professor of International Business & Management in the Department of Management & Business at Skidmore University.

War of Independence Centenary Series: *September 1921*
Elizabeth Stack, PhD
Thursday September 30th 7pm





War of Independence Centenary Series: September 1921

Our Centenary Series continues with an in-depth look at the events of September 1921. The reality of partition was more apparent now and violence in the North continues, despite the Truce. Machinations were happening within the Irish government to appoint a team to attend the talks in London, as potential delegates hedged and clashed.

Great Famine Voices Roadshow Sunday October 10th 12 - 4pm

The purpose of the Roadshow is to bring together Irish emigrants, their descendants, and members of their communities to share family memories and stories of migration from Ireland to Albany and the United States, especially during the period of the Great Hunger and afterwards. Dr. Jason King, Academic Coordinator at

Strokestown Park, will record your interview for the Great Famine Voices online archive, which you can view here: <http://greatfaminevoices.ie/>

Come and share your family memories and stories about coming from Ireland to Albany, New York, and the United States. Contact the museum to register as Dr. King will only be able to conduct a number of interviews and we will schedule the day according to interest. We will have a number of documentaries on show that day while people wait.

The Great Famine Voices Roadshow is hosted by the National Famine Museum, Strokestown Park and the Irish Heritage Trust. It is funded by the Government of Ireland Emigrant Support Program.

Irish American Heritage Museum

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