

March at the Museum!



Irish American Heritage Month!

By now you might have heard that we have moved to a new, larger location at 21 Quackenbush Square, next door to the Albany Pump Station. We are very excited about our new place, and while we are not completely ready yet, we are open and ready for March, so please call in or come to one of our many events this month. We will have rewarding opportunities for the community to get involved with this new space as we develop it over the coming months, so stay tuned!

Since 1631, St. Patrick's Day has been a religious feast day to commemorate the anniversary of the 5th-century death of the missionary credited with spreading Christianity to Ireland. For several centuries, March 17 was a day of solemnity in Ireland with Catholics attending church in the morning and partaking of modest feasts in the afternoon. There were no parades and certainly no emerald-tinted food products, particularly since blue, not green, was the traditional color associated with Ireland's patron saint prior to the 1798 Irish Rebellion.

Boston has long staked claim to the first St. Patrick's Day celebration in the American colonies. On March 17, 1737, more than two dozen Presbyterians who emigrated from the north of Ireland gathered to honor St. Patrick and form the Charitable Irish Society to assist distressed Irishmen in the city. The oldest Irish organization in North America still holds an annual dinner every St. Patrick's Day.

Historian J. Michael Francis, however, unearthed evidence that St. Augustine, Florida, may have hosted America's first St. Patrick's Day celebration. While researching Spanish gunpowder expenditure logs, Francis found records that indicate cannon blasts or gunfire were used to honor the saint in 1600 and that residents of the Spanish garrison town processed through the streets in honor of St. Patrick the following year, perhaps at the behest of an Irish priest living there.

On March 17, 1757, a celebration of St. Patrick's Day was held at Fort William Henry, an outpost along the northern frontier of British North America. Many of the soldiers garrisoned at the fort were actually Irish. The French (who may have had their own Irish troops) suspected the British fort would be caught off-guard, and they staged an attack, which was repulsed, on St. Patrick's Day.

Ironically, it was a band of Redcoats who started the storied green tradition of America's largest and longest St. Patrick's Day parade in 1762 when Irish-born soldiers serving in the British Army marched through lower Manhattan to a St. Patrick's Day breakfast at a local tavern. The March 17 parades by the Irish through the streets of New York City raised the ire of nativist, anti-Catholic mobs who started their own tradition of "paddy-making" on the eve of St. Patrick's Day by erecting effigies of Irishmen wearing rags and necklaces of potatoes with whiskey bottles in their hands until the practice was banned in 1803.

Parades on St. Patrick's Day continued throughout the early 1800s, and the early parades would often consist of processions marching from parish churches in the city to the original St. Patrick's Cathedral on Mott Street. As the Irish population of New York swelled in the years of the Great Famine, the number of Irish organizations also increased. Reading old accounts of St. Patrick's Day observances from the 1840s and early 1850s, it's staggering to see how many organizations, all with their own civic and political orientation, were marking the day.

The competition sometimes became heated, and in at least one year, 1858, there were actually two large and competing, St. Patrick's Day parades in New York. In the early 1860s, the Ancient Order of Hibernians, an Irish immigrant group originally formed in the 1830s to combat nativism, began organizing one massive parade, which it still does to this day.

The parades were not always without incident. In late March 1867, the New York newspapers were full of stories about violence that broke out at the parade in Manhattan, and also at a St. Patrick's Day march in Brooklyn. Following that fiasco, the focus in following years was on making the parades and celebrations of St. Patrick's Day a respectable reflection on the growing political influence of the Irish in New York.

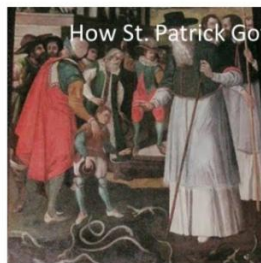
A lithograph of a St. Patrick's Day parade in New York in the early 1870s shows a mass of people assembled in Union Square. What's noteworthy is that the procession includes men costumed as gallowglasses, ancient soldiers of Ireland. They are marching before a wagon holding a bust of Daniel O'Connell, the great 19th-century Irish political leader. Published by Thomas Kelly this print probably hung in many Irish American homes at the time. It indicates how the St. Patrick's Day parade was becoming an annual symbol of Irish American unity, while combining ancient Ireland and 19th century Irish nationalism symbols.



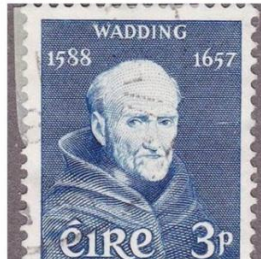


The parade as it exists today is essentially the same as it would have been in the 1890s, with many thousands of people marching, accompanied by bagpipe bands as well as brass bands. St. Patrick's Day is also marked in other American cities, with large parades being staged in Boston, Chicago, Savannah, and elsewhere. Our own Albany Parade is on March 14th - if members would like to march with the Museum, just call us! And come to the Museum before the parade at 12 noon for some Irish music!

How St. Patrick's Became a Feast Day **Irish American Heritage Museum** **Wednesday March 4, 7 pm.**



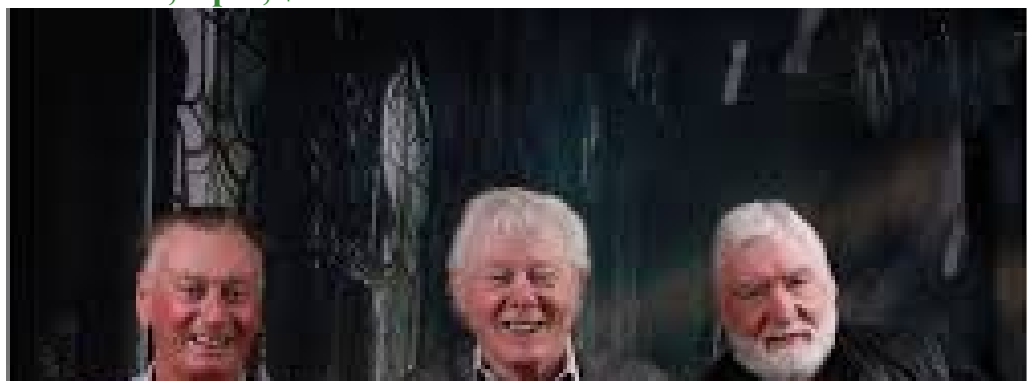
How St. Patrick Got His Feast Day. March 4th 7pm



"Luke Wadding, We Hardly Knew Ye: How Patrick Became a Saint"

In this presentation, Tim Madigan, founder of the St. John Fisher College Irish Studies Program, will discuss the little-known role that the Reverend Luke Wadding, O.F.M. (1588-1657) played in making St. Patrick's Day a feast day. Wadding also helped to found a College in Rome for Irish seminarians, and was a strong supporter for Irish independence from England. He is much honored in his native city of Waterford, and Madigan hopes to make him better known to Irish-Americans and fans of St. Patrick's Day. Tim Madigan is Professor and Chair of Philosophy at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, New York (Waterford's Sister City).

Dublin City Ramblers Concert **Celtic Hall, 430 New Karner Road** **Thursday March 5th, 7 pm, \$30**





The perfect show to get you in the spirit for Saint Patrick's Day!

The Dublin City Ramblers have thrilled audiences worldwide with their unique blend of ballads, folk tunes, humor, wit and foot-tapping music. Their impressive career has spanned more than 35 years, with over 30 albums, top ten hits, and several awards for best Ballad/Folk Group and, to top it all off, 8 Gold Albums. It is certainly no wonder that they are classed as Ireland's Number One Group! They have performed at most major festivals worldwide, including headlining The Milwaukee Irish Festival, The Cleveland Irish Festival, Hollywood Irish Fest, Florida, Miami Irish Fest, Ft Lauderdale and most USA, Canadian & other festivals throughout the Globe! Their music has also taken them all over Europe to rapturous receptions. They have performed at every major venue in Ireland and abroad, including Dublin's National Stadium, National Concert Hall, Cork's Opera House, England's Royal Albert Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall and any other venue you care to mention. Don't miss them!!

Join us at the Celtic Hall for this fantastic concert with doors opening at 6pm. Tickets are \$30 - call the Irish American Heritage Museum at 518 427 1916 to reserve. Proceeds to benefit the Irish Cultural organisations in the Capital Region.

Third Annual Sweater Run Corning's Preserve and Irish American Heritage Museum Saturday March 7th, 10 am



Go to our website www.irish-us.org to register for this fun run for all the family. We are doing a 5k and 10k this year. Reception with music, food and prizes back at the museum afterwards. 10 am at Corning's Preserve.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and run the 5k or 10k in aid of the Irish American Heritage Museum. New route with bigger and better prizes!

[Register online here](#) and get ready to have a great day filled with Irish craic!

Stick around after the race for an after party with Irish music and dance at the museum's NEW LOCATION: 21 Quackenbush Square.

REGISTER EARLY! Day of race registration is available for \$35 for the 5k and \$40 for the 10k.

Annual Soda Bread Competition and Family Festival, Irish Market Irish American Heritage Museum Saturday March 7th, 10 am



Maureen Farrell McCarthy Irish Soda Bread Competition. Family Festival with music, dance and craft fair.

March 7th at our new location in Quackenbush Square.
Join us for a day of crafts, craic, music, and bread!!
Bakers call 518 427 1916 for information



It's a Great Day (or month) for the Irish! Join us for our popular Irish Soda Bread Competition while we have Irish music and dance by Pdraig Timoney and Bethlehem School of Dance. This is the first weekend festival that we will hold in March and is a family-friendly day. We will have a craft market with handmade gifts made by local artists, and our gift shop has been replenished with Irish jewelry, quilts, and food. Come down and experience Irish culture and cuisine. Breads need to be registered between 10 am and 12 noon, and the awards will happen at 2pm. Baking entry fee \$5 per loaf. [All information for entrants](#) is here!

Green Tie Luncheon Capital District Irish American Association, Thursday March 12th, 12 pm \$25 per person

THE ANNUAL GREEN TIE LUNCHEON

Join the Irish American Heritage Museum at the CDIAA, for an afternoon of friendship, live music by Don Kelly, raffles, food, and good fun. All the proceeds raised from this event benefit the educational programs at the Irish American Heritage Museum. This is an event you do not want to miss!

Cost \$25 per person. **RSVP by March 9.** Call 518-427-1916 or email us at info@irish-us.org

Thursday 12th March, 12.30 pm



Join us for an afternoon of fun, music, history, and community as we celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland's feast day. Music will be provided by Don Kelly. \$25 per person. Call the museum to reserve your seats now.

Irish History in Ten Major Events
Irish American Heritage Museum
Thursday March 12th, 7 pm



A History of Ireland in Ten Events with Dr. Marc Meyer. March 12th at 7pm.

Dr. Marc Meyer will give us a whirlwind tour of ten significant events which took place from the fifth through seventeenth centuries that provide a framework for the History of Ireland. These "top ten events" illustrate the trials and travails of the Irish during this thousand year period. Each year will focus on a particular event that will be briefly discussed and placed in the larger context of the Irish historical experience. He will begin with Patrick's mission to Ireland in 435 CE and end with Arthur Aston and the Siege of Drogheda in 1649. Everything you wanted to know about Ireland but were afraid to ask!

The Story of Irish Dance
Irish American Heritage Museum
Friday March 13th, 7 pm \$10 nonmembers, \$8 members.



Steptune: The Story of Irish Dance.
March 13th 7pm \$10 nonmembers, \$8 members

Join us as ethnochoreologist, Danielle Enblom, takes us through the history of Irish dance. Her presentation is called "Choreographing Ireland: An Examination of the Evolution of Dance Forms in Ireland." Danielle and Steptune will then perform and we will see dance history in action.

Danielle is the only performer/practitioner/researcher in the country who has a background in modern Irish step dance, old-style Irish step dance, and sean nos dance who also practices North American forms of traditional percussive dance.

step dance, and sean-nós dance who also practices North American forms of traditional percussive dance.

She is influenced by her studies with dancers from many practices and paradigms, most notably Peggy McTeggart in Country Cork a direct component of the nineteenth century Cork dancing masters, and sean-nós; Cormac O'Shea of Dublin; the original Riverdance cast; and Kieran Jordan of Boston, MA.

**Pre-Parade Concert at the Museum
Irish American Heritage Museum
Saturday March 14th, 12 noon, \$5.**



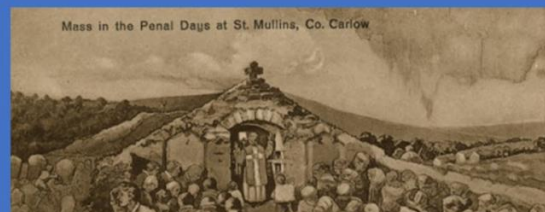
CELEBRATE PARADE DAY AT THE MUSEUM. Live music from 12 noon. \$5. March 14th.

Padraig Timoney and Flor O Riain will play all the greatest Irish hits for the day that is in it! Come celebrate your heritage and culture by enjoying live Irish music before going out to the Parade. Only \$5, children free.

**The Priest Hunters: Penal Laws and Mass Rocks in Ireland
Irish American Heritage Museum
Monday March 16th, 12 noon, \$5.**



**The Priest Hunters in Ireland.
March 16th, 7pm**





Dr. Martin Lyden will discuss the implications of the Reformation for Ireland, as various monarchs from Henry VIII to Queen Anne enacted more rigid, anti-Catholic laws, culminating in the Penal Laws. Priests were driven underground and hunted, as the faithful were hampered from practicing their religion. He will tell us the story of infamous priest assassins and finally discuss Catholic Emancipation and Daniel O'Connell.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Don Kelly
Irish American Heritage Museum
Tuesday March 17th, 7 pm, \$5 members, \$7 nonmembers.

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Don Kelly at the Irish American Heritage Museum. March 17th 7pm. \$5 members, \$7 non-members
Hear all your favorite Irish ballads and some interesting yarns too!

Join us for the Feast Day of Ireland's Patron Saint as Don Kelly serenades you with beloved ballads and songs. We will celebrate Ireland's rich culture and history with some of the best-known songs - we encourage you to sing along as you celebrate our heritage.

Rambling House Traditional Irish Music
Irish American Heritage Museum
Thursday March 19th, 7 pm

Traditional Irish Music session at the Museum. Thursday March 19th 7pm

Join us at the museum for our own rambling house and an informal music and song session by Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann (the Irish Musicians' Association). This is a monthly event at the museum and very popular. Bring your party piece or instrument! Audience participation welcome and encouraged by our friendly group. Hear traditional Irish music, and old songs, stories and poems in a traditional format that still happens in many Irish homes (and bars) today.

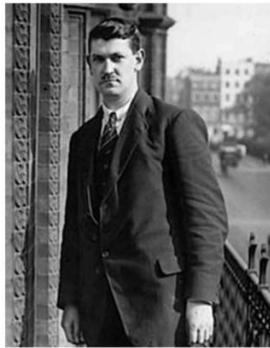
The motto of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann is "ceol agus gaol" (music and kinship). Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, headquartered in Ireland, is the primary Irish organization dedicated to the promotion of the music, song, dance and the language of Ireland. There are branches of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann all over the world.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Lecture Series: The Irish War of Independence

Lecture Three: Administering Random Terror: The Black and Tans in Ireland

Irish American Heritage Museum
Wednesday March 25th, 7 pm



Michael Collins and the War of Independence.
Squad Members: Mick McDonnell, Liam Tobin, Vinny Byrne, and Jim Slattery.
Double Agents: Eamon Broy and David Nelligan.

The lasting image of the Black and Tans as brutes derives from their outrageous behavior, which was anything but conducive to the restoration of law and order in Ireland. Their tendency to engage in the wanton destruction of property, indiscriminate shooting and violence and, on occasions, even deliberate murder, led to their being Public Enemy No. 1 in Ireland. Indeed the War of Independence is also known as The Tan War. Lecture Three in the War of Independence Series will look at the worst of the atrocities committed by this paramilitary organisation, and the Auxiliaries, as well as Michael Collins's reaction to them.