

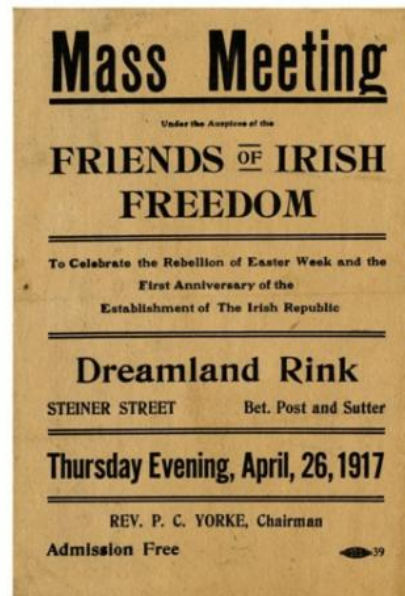


Upcoming Events

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About Us

April at the Museum!



The 1916 Rising

Ever after known as the Easter Rising, an armed insurrection aimed at establishing independent Irish rule took place during Easter Week, April 24-29, 1916. Led by the Military Council of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, members of the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army (mistakenly referred to in the US press as “Sinn Feiners”) occupied numerous locations in Dublin, proclaiming the establishment of the Irish Republic. However British soldiers soon massed to quell the rebellion and by the end of the week, over 400 people were killed and well over 1,000 were injured, the majority being civilians. Irish American involvement in the Rising was critical - in fact, without John Devoy's influence, the Rising might never have happened.

The road to Easter Week began in earnest for the Irish American community in 1859, when John O'Mahony, an exiled veteran of the Young Ireland movement, started the Fenian Brotherhood. This organization was inspired by the Irish Republican Brotherhood – the secret organization that aimed to free Ireland by physical force – that James Stephens had founded in Ireland the previous year. Once the Brotherhood was established, New York, Boston, and Philadelphia became a hotbed of anti-British activity, and it would continue to be one through to the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922. Prior to the 1916 Rising, America's Irish communities had maintained some equilibrium between those who favored constitutional methods of Home Rule, and those

for physical force and agitation. And within this spectrum are viewpoints about socialism and worker's rights, women's suffrage, Celtic mythology, and cultural revivals as antidotes for Ireland's woes.

By the early 20th century, Clan na Gael was led by the Irish exile John Devoy who, despite becoming a naturalized American citizen, made independence for Ireland the focal point of his life's work. To this end, Devoy established the weekly newspaper the Gaelic American which he would use to editorialize and gain support for the cause of Irish independence in America. When World War I broke out the Irish republican leaders, including Devoy, realized that with the British entangled in a war with Germany the time was right to stage an uprising. Devoy had close contact with many of the movements leaders including Patrick Pearse, James Connolly, and Roger Casement. They visited the states various times, holding pro-Irish rallies, delivering speeches, and trying to galvanize as much support as possible. Their success was somewhat varied, as they did manage to gain some support and raise money, but not nearly as much as they had hoped to.

On June 29, 1915, Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, the old Fenian, died on Staten Island. Legend has it that Devoy wired Clarke in Dublin, "Rossa dead. What should I do?" Clarke replied: "Dig him up and send him home!" There, in what was to be one of the great shows of nationalistic theatre, Clarke paraded the body around Dublin, arranged for him to lie in state at City Hall, and gave him a funeral mass at the city's Pro Cathedral. (Devoy said: "No matter how the Irish treat a leader when living – and the treatment is often very bad – they never fail to give him decent burial.") Thousands followed Rossa's coffin to Glasnevin Cemetery, where, on August 1, Pearse gave his famous graveside oration, "...the fools, the fools, the fools! – They have left us our Fenian dead, and while Ireland holds these graves, Ireland unfree shall never be at peace." Rossa's funeral was the unofficial launch to what would become the Easter Rising eight months later.

There are several monuments to Irish nationalism across the country. There are three identical statues of Robert Emmet in the U.S. Each dedicated in the years following the Rising in memory of the event, the original was crafted by Irishman Jerome Connor. A copy now stands in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park, in Emmetsburg, IA, and near the Irish Embassy in Washington, D.C. It's a simple statement of Emmet's importance to the ideals of 1916.

As well as the bust of him in Troy, a life-size statue of James Connolly stands in Union Park. The sculpture monument was commissioned by Frank O' Lone, President of the Irish-American Labor Council of Chicago and was placed in 2008.

Of course, not everyone supported the Rising - it was not until the executions continued for several days that public opinion in Ireland itself changed in favor of the rebels, who were now martyrs. "Easter, 1916" captures Yeats's reaction to the Rising, and was first published in 1920 in his collection Michael Robartes and the Dancer (The Cuala Press, 1920). Even though he was a nationalist, Yeats usually rejected violence as a means to secure Irish independence, and as a result had strained relations with some of the figures who eventually planned and led the uprising. The sudden and abrupt execution of the leaders of the revolutionaries, however, was as much a shock to Yeats as it was to ordinary Irish people at the time, who did not expect the events to take such a negative turn so soon. Yeats is working through his feelings about the revolutionary movement in this poem, and the insistent refrain that "a terrible beauty is born" turned out to be prescient, as the execution of the leaders of the Easter Rising had the opposite effect to that intended. The killings led to a reinvigorated Irish Republican movement rather than its crumbling.

Easter, 1916

BY William Butler Yeats

I have met them at close of day
Coming with vivid faces
From counter or desk among grey
Eighteenth-century houses.
I have passed with a nod of the head
Or polite meaningless words,
Or have lingered awhile and said
Polite meaningless words,
And thought before I had done
Of a mocking tale or a gibe
To please a companion
Around the fire at the club,
Being certain that they and I
But lived where motley is worn:

All changed, changed utterly:

All changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

That woman's days were spent
In ignorant good-will,
Her nights in argument
Until her voice grew shrill.
What voice more sweet than hers
When, young and beautiful,
She rode to harriers?
This man had kept a school
And rode our wingèd horse;
This other his helper and friend
Was coming into his force;
He might have won fame in the end,
So sensitive his nature seemed,
So daring and sweet his thought.
This other man I had dreamed
A drunken, vainglorious lout.
He had done most bitter wrong
To some who are near my heart,
Yet I number him in the song;
He, too, has resigned his part
In the casual comedy;
He, too, has been changed in his turn,
Transformed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

Hearts with one purpose alone
Through summer and winter seem
Enchanted to a stone
To trouble the living stream.
The horse that comes from the road,
The rider, the birds that range
From cloud to tumbling cloud,
Minute by minute they change;
A shadow of cloud on the stream
Changes minute by minute;
A horse-hoof slides on the brim,
And a horse plashes within it;
The long-legged moor-hens dive,
And hens to moor-cocks call;
Minute by minute they live:
The stone's in the midst of all.

Too long a sacrifice
Can make a stone of the heart.
O when may it suffice?
That is Heaven's part, our part
To murmur name upon name,
As a mother names her child
When sleep at last has come
On limbs that had run wild

On mines that had run wild.
What is it but nightfall?
No, no, not night but death;
Was it needless death after all?
For England may keep faith
For all that is done and said.
We know their dream; enough
To know they dreamed and are dead;
And what if excess of love
Bewildered them till they died?
I write it out in a verse—
MacDonagh and MacBride
And Connolly and Pearse
Now and in time to be,
Wherever green is worn,
Are changed, changed utterly:
A terrible beauty is born.

The Museum will host several events to commemorate the 1916 Rising this month.

Inside the GPO

A play streamed on YouTube, by Fishamble Theater Co.

April 1st - April 5th



Fishamble's *Inside the GPO* by Colin Murphy was a must-see cultural event at the heart of the 1916 commemorations. This unprecedented documentary drama, directed by Jim Culleton, was a once-in-a-century opportunity to experience the Easter Rising, in the main hall of the GPO itself. Audiences witnessed the rebel leadership navigate the perils of the Rising across the five days during which they occupied the GPO.

The filming took place in April 2016 in the GPO, Dublin. This year, we are delighted to present a specially remastered version to share with audiences around the world from 1 – 5 April 2021 to celebrate the 105th anniversary of the Rising.

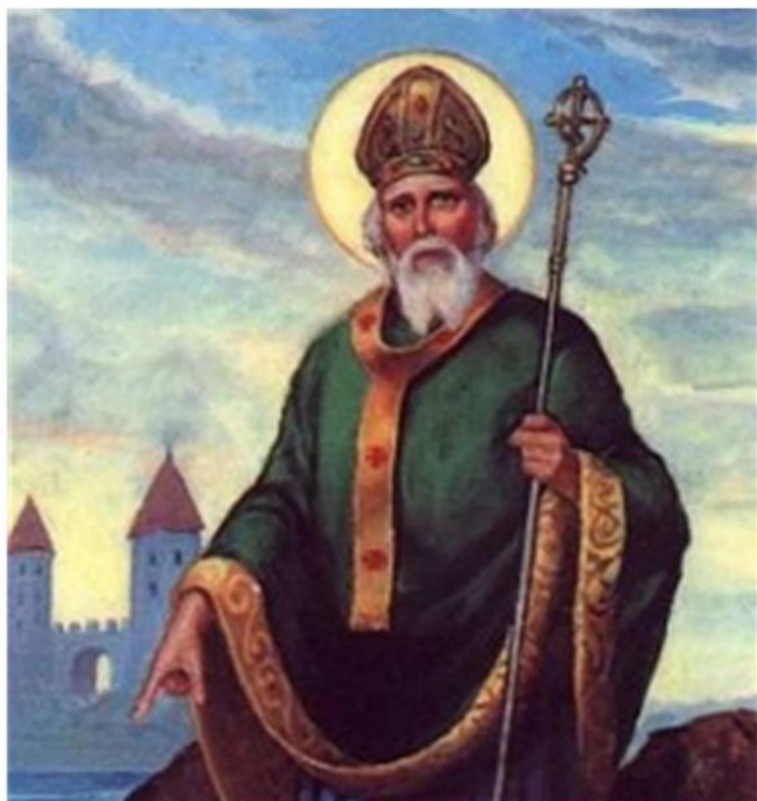
[Please visit this link to purchase tickets](#) to view this play in your own home any time before the end of April 5th.

Inside the GPO was originally produced in partnership with Fáilte Ireland, Dublin City Council, Ireland 2016, An Post, DublinTown, & Arnotts. This online presentation is supported by Culture Ireland.

Irish History in Ten Major Events

Marc Meyer PhD.

Wednesday April 7th, 7pm on Zoom/LIVE on FACEBOOK



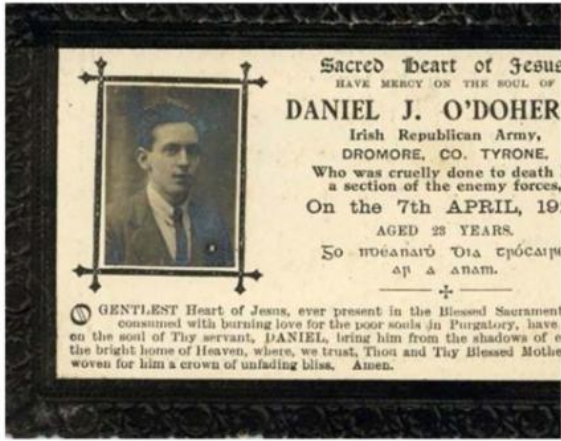
Dr. Marc Meyer will give us a whirlwind tour of ten significant events which took place from the fifth through seventeenth centuries that provide a framework for the History of Ireland. These "top ten events" illustrate the trials and travails of the Irish during this thousand year period. Each year 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!

Please email the museum at info@irish-us.org to get the Zoom link, or watch it live on Facebook

War of Independence Centenary Series: April 1921.

Elizabeth Stack PhD.

Monday April 12th, 7pm on Zoom/LIVE on FACEBOOK



The attacks became even more pronounced in April and the IRA had some high-profile targets including Sir Arthur Vickers. Mayo and Tyrone experienced a horrific series of attacks and reprisals, and the Irish government still worked for international recognition of the struggle, focusing this time on South Africa. This is the eleventh lecture in our Centenary Series about the War of Independence. Please email the museum at info@irish-us.org to get the Zoom link, or watch it live on Facebook.

The Irish in Washington: The Swampoodle Trilogy

Paul Belford

Wednesday April 14th, 7PM ZOOM/LIVE on FACEBOOK



The Swampoodle Trilogy by Paul A. Belford.

Author Paul Belford will discuss his books, the Swampoodle Trilogy, which follows the fortunes of three generations of the Hennessey and Riley family. Outcasts landing on a foreign shore, they trusted to Providence and mercy that a better place was to be built and, by their faith and courage, they helped to build it – America. For those wishing for a truer sense and feel of the Irish in our now common American heritage, the Swampoodle Trilogy is offered.

Please email the museum at info@irish-us.org to get the Zoom link, or watch it live on Facebook.

Stories, Songs, and Shenanigans with Aindrias de Staic
Thursday, April 15th, 7.00pm on Zoom.



Back by popular demand!! Listen to the eclectic elusive Seanachai as he fuses traditional storytelling with his own contemporary tales. A collection of stories, music, myth and magic with a blast of Wild Atlantic Wit. Hear tall tales and short stories of a hidden Ireland and of course, the latest & greatest misadventures of Galway's favorite Bard. Aindrias is the Best Radio Comedy Winner - Celtic Media Award 2018. Finalist Irish Comedian of the year 2016. Three Weeks Editors' Choice Award Winner 2009. Malcolm Hardee Nominee Alternative Comedy Award Edinburgh 2008. PLEASE EMAIL THE MUSUEM AT info@irish-us.org FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

"Supported by her Exiled Children in America:" American Support for the 1916 Rising
Elizabeth Stack, PhD
Monday April 19th, 7.00pm Zoom/LIVE on FACEBOOK



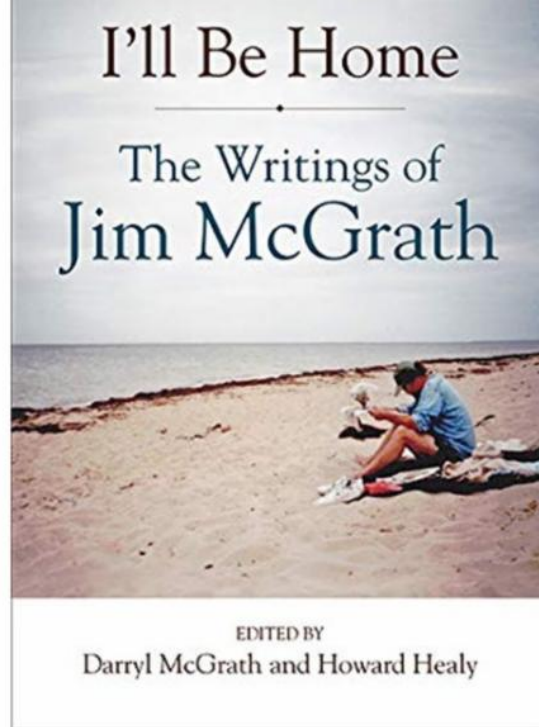


“Supported by her exiled children in America”: US Involvement in 1916

Irish America’s role in the 1916 Rising was much more than just financial. One important facet of Irish-American involvement was that many of the leaders of the rebellion had travelled extensively or lived in the United States, and some were even American citizens. Both Thomas Clarke and James Connolly had made lives for themselves for a period in the US and about a half dozen others, including Joseph Plunkett and Sir Roger Casement had made visits to and tours of the United States. In fact, John Devoy, the founder of Clan na Gael, instigated and took part in Roger Casement’s attempt to gain German support for Irish freedom after the breakout of World War I. The Friends of Irish Freedom (FOIF) was founded a few weeks prior to the 1916 Rising ostensibly to promote the cause of Ireland in the United States.

Please email the museum at info@irish-us.org to get the Zoom link, or watch it live on Facebook.

I'll Be Home: The Writings of Jim McGrath
Wednesday April 21st, 7.00pm Zoom/LIVE on FACEBOOK



As the Times Union's chief editorial writer for nearly 18 years, the late Jim McGrath drew on his upbringing in a working-class Boston neighborhood as inspiration for his journalism. Born into a family whose immigrant roots lay in what Jim always called the Irish Potato Genocide, he had a particular affinity for writing about Ireland. His work on the Irish peace process, Gerry Adams, and the persistent prejudices that Irish Americans still face are as relevant today as they were when Jim wrote them 20 years ago. Jim's former editor, Howard Healy, and his widow, Darryl McGrath, will talk about Jim's editorials and essays on Ireland from the 2019 book published by SUNY Press, *I'll Be Home: The Writings of Jim McGrath*. Audience members may order the book at a discount after the talk.

Please email the museum at info@irish-us.org to get the Zoom link, or watch it live on Facebook.

Reading of the 1916 Proclamation **Saturday April 24th, 11AM. Outside the Museum**



105th Anniversary of the 1916 Rising
Reading of the Irish Proclamation
Music by Triskele



POBLAICHT NA H EIREANN.
THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT
OF THE
IRISH REPUBLIC
TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.

AND IRISHWOMEN : In the name of God and of the dead generations
she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons
to her flag and strikes for her freedom.
and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary

To commemorate the 105th anniversary of the 1916 Rising, the Museum will read the 1916 Proclamation, which was declared by Padraig Pearse on the steps of the GPO before the fighting began. Triskele will perform the Irish National Anthem and The Foggy Dew.

The Military Aspects of the 1916 Rising **Robert Mulligan**

Monday April 26th, 7.00pm on Zoom/LIVE ON FACEBOOK





The Military Aspects of the 1916 Rising

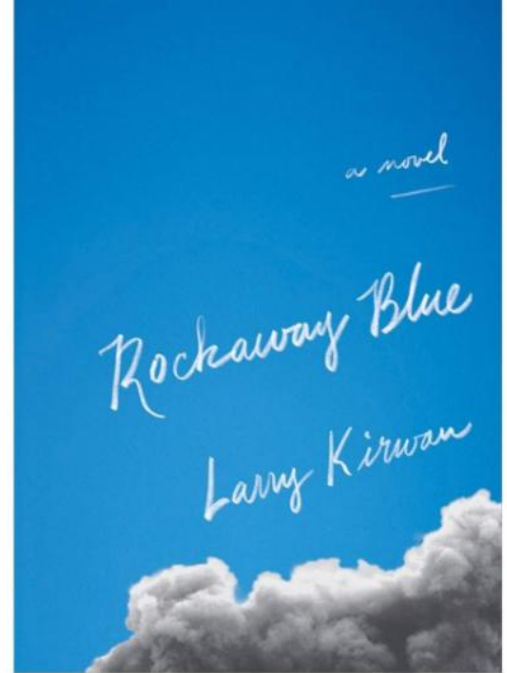
Previously the Military Curator at the NYS Museum, Robert Mulligan will discuss the military aspects of the 1916 Rising, when a small group of Irish nationalists took on the might of the British Empire, from several centers in Dublin city. Mulligan was a Member of the Military History Society of Ireland for a quarter century. In 1967 Col. P.J.Hally authored a two part study titled "The Easter Rising of 1916 in Dublin: The Military Aspects." This, supported with subsequent publications as the centennial approached, form the bulk of his presentation.

PLEASE EMAIL THE MUSUEM AT info@irish-us.org FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

Rockaway Blue

A Discussion with Larry Kirwan

Wednesday April 28th, 7.00pm on Zoom/LIVE ON FACEBOOK



Retired NYPD detective-sergeant Jimmy Murphy is on a mission to find the truth behind his son's death inside the World Trade Center on 9/11. Murphy's investigation takes him from his home turf in the Irish American enclave of Rockaway Beach to Muslim Atlantic Avenue and beyond in order to find his own truth about 9/11. Dry-eyed and determined, Murphy battles barstool patriotism, the NYPD blue wall of silence, and a ticking clock - all the while haunted by his own secrets and the raw memory of his difficult relationship with his dead son.

Written by author and musician Larry Kirwan, *Rockaway Blue* is a thrilling and poignant story of a family struggling to pull itself together after an unthinkable trauma. Kirwan was the leader of the New York-based Irish political rock band Black 47 for twenty-five years. He is the author of five previous books, including *Liverpool Fantasy*, *Rockin' the Bronx*, and *Green Suede Shoes*, he has written or collaborated on eighteen plays and musicals, including Broadway bound *Paradise Square* and *The Informer*. Kirwan writes a bi-weekly column for *The Irish Echo*, and hosts *Celtic Crush*, a popular radio show on SiriusXM. He was president of Irish American Writers & Artists for five years.

PLEASE EMAIL THE MUSUEM AT info@irish-us.org FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

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