

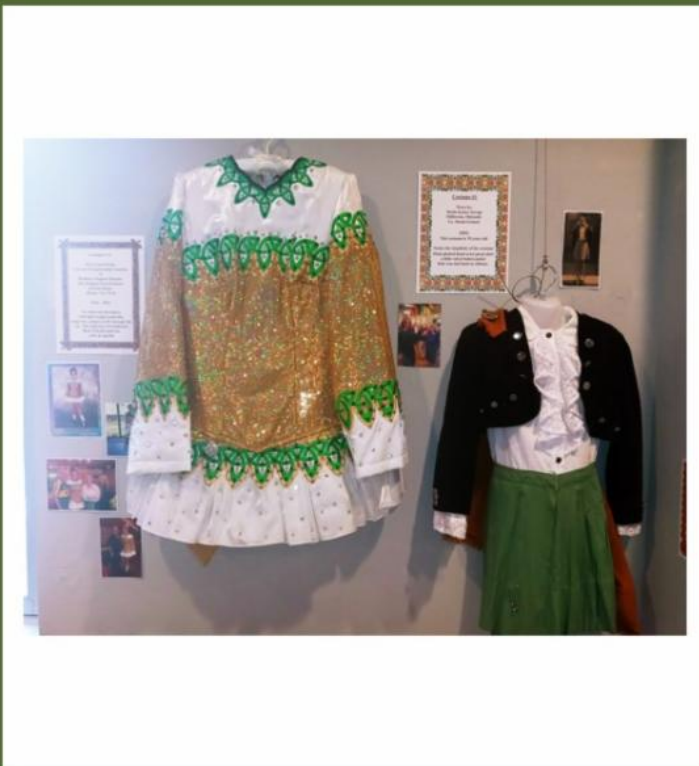


Upcoming Events

Become A Member

About Us

March at the Museum!



Irish American Heritage Month

St. Patrick's Day is here and again this year it will look very different for the millions of Irish people around the world who celebrate the feast of the patron saint of Ireland.

As a museum with an education mission to preserve and pass on our heritage, we are aware of the importance of tradition and culture every day of the year. So while we are sad that we can't march and express our pride in our culture together, we are delighted that the museum has - so far - weathered the storm of Covid 19, and are delighted to offer you a full month of talks and music online, as well as a gorgeous new exhibition at the museum. And there will be a virtual parade, which the Museum was delighted to participate in and which will air on Saturday March 13th. March is also Women's History Month, so we have several lectures to honor Irish American women this month.

This month, we are exhibiting a fantastic collection of Irish Dance costumes, dating from the 1950's up to modern times. Not only does it showcase the evolution of the fashions, but it highlights four generations of one family's

enjoyment of their Irish heritage. The Kenny/Savage women have been dancing since the 1930's and their story is one of commitment to and love of tradition. The exhibit has gorgeous costumes, including the simple kilt and brat that Sheila (Kenny) Savage wore in Oldcastle Co. Meath in 1951 and which she brought with her to America when she immigrated in 1962. Her daughter Sheila, and granddaughter Kathleen, have danced here in Albany since their childhoods - with the Kathleen Lynch School, and the Boland and Farrell Schools too. Please visit the Museum to see the fantastic costumes and the local history which Sheila Savage has so kindly shared with us. Interestingly, a version of this exhibit was actually the first thing the Irish American Heritage Museum ever displayed, in our original home in East Durham in 1990, so we are delighted to have this newly updated version in our new home in Quackenbush Square.

March always gets us thinking of tradition, family, heritage, and commemoration here at the museum. I wrote last year about the history of the St. Patrick's Day parade - which originated here in America - and I remember how excited I was as a child, to watch my Dad march (he was a Scout leader). When I was old enough, I marched with the Brownies and the Girl Guides, and now my nephews and niece march in the parade at home. It is so powerful to think of all of the generations of people who marched in little towns and villages - or up Fifth Avenue, or down Quail Street! - around the world. What a powerful testament to all of the immigrants who left home, and to their descendants, as we march with a sense of that history and inheritance. It is awe-inspiring to think about all the traditions and culture which meant so much to immigrants leaving their home and which they passed on to the next generation, even as they adapted to their new homes.

In the Proclamation declaring March to be Irish American Heritage Month, President Joe Biden wrote about his own very personal connections to Ireland, as well as the continued links between the two countries. The statement closely echoed our own mission here regarding the importance of preserving and passing on our shared culture.

Here is the Proclamation:

Since before the founding of our Nation, Irish immigrants have arrived on our shores with an unyielding spirit of determination that has helped define America's soul and shape our success across generations. Driven by the same dreams that still beckon people the world over to America today, so many crossed the Atlantic with nothing but the hope in their hearts and their faith in the possibility of a better life.

That's what brought the Blewitts from County Mayo and the Finnegan's of County Louth to the United States. For years, they brought Ireland into their homes in America. Working hard. Raising families. Remembering always where they came from. By 1909, my grandparents Ambrose Finnegan and Geraldine Blewitt met and married in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and passed on to my mother, Catherine Eugenia Finnegan Biden, a pride and a passion that runs through the bloodstream of all Irish-Americans.

The story of the Irish the world over is one of people who have weathered their fair share of hard times, but have always come out strong on the other side. From often humble beginnings, Irish Americans became the farmers, servants, miners, factory workers, and laborers who fed our Nation, kept our homes, and built our industry and infrastructure. They became the soldiers who won American independence, died to preserve our Union, and fought in every battle since to defend America and its values.

Irish Americans became the firefighters and police officers who have protected us. They are the activists who organized unions to give voice and strength to America's workers. They are the educators who taught generations of American students and the public servants who have answered the call to service in the halls of the Congress, the Supreme Court, and the White House.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the Irish-American inventors and entrepreneurs who helped define America as the land of opportunity. Irish-American writers pollinated America's literary landscape with their love of language and storytelling, while Irish lyricism has brought poetry, art, music, and dance to nourish our hearts and souls.

As I said when I visited Dublin in 2016, our nations have always shared a deep spark — linked in memory and imagination, joined by our histories and our futures. Everything between us runs deep: literature, poetry, sadness, joy, and, most of all, resilience. Through every trial and tempest, we never stop dreaming.

The fabric of modern America is woven through with the green of the Emerald Isle. This month, we

celebrate the sacrifices and contributions that generations of Irish Americans have made to build a

celebrate the sacrifices and contributions that generations of Irish Americans have made to build a better America, and we renew the bonds of friendship that will forever tie Ireland and the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim March 2021 as Irish-American Heritage Month. I call upon all Americans to celebrate the achievements and contributions of Irish Americans to our Nation with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this first day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-fifth.

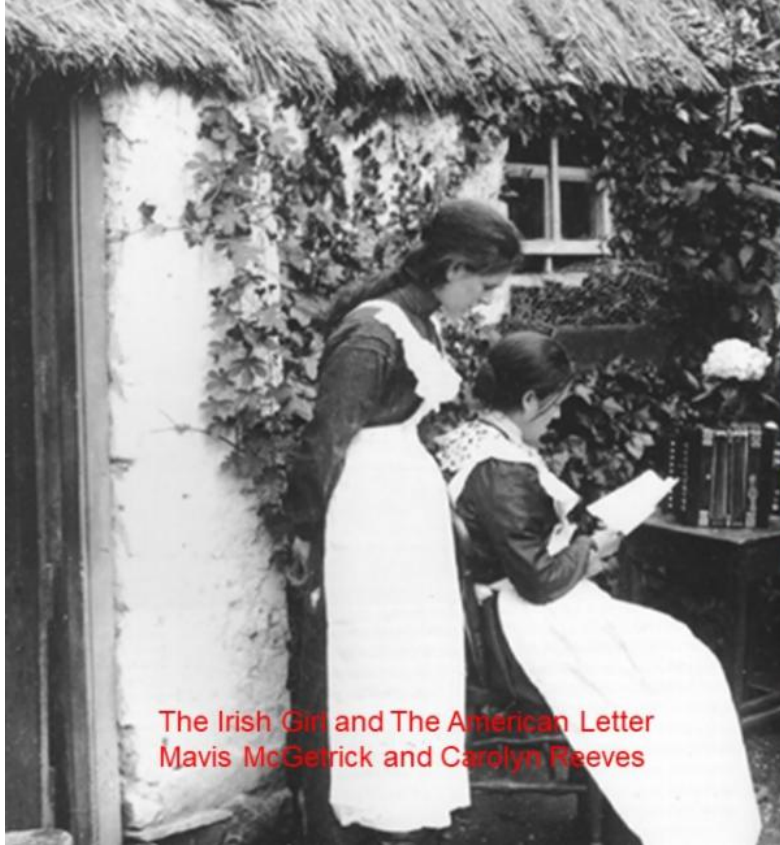
JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR.

We have been in Quackenbush Square for a year now and yet, because we were closed for so much of 2020 with Covid 19 restrictions, it still seems new in a way. We have transitioned our events to online for the moment, and so you must register with us for the Zoom link to see the talks - although we do try to livestream to Facebook when possible. Technology has helped us maintain a connection with our members, families, and friends that would not otherwise have been possible, and I am reminded of how lucky we are when compared with those of earlier generations who left home for good and had to wait weeks to get a letter. In fact, our first event in March discusses the "American Letter" and I am sure many of you remember money, clothes, and news being sent home to Ireland. We have a great variety of talks and events, and a fantastic performance with an Irish seanchai and comedian, Aindrias de Staic, who will join us live from Galway. And don't forget our March Sweat-er Run is back this year - although we are doing it virtually, so you can run on your own time, whenever it suits you, and then share the results. We will still have prizes in each category.

We look forward to celebrating this special month with you - whether it is virtually, as you join us for some of our events, or in person, if you come down to see the fantastic new exhibit. I leave you with some thoughts from John O' Donohue on memory, taken from his book *Eternal Echoes*. I hope you will feel "rooted and gathered" with us this month.

"It is surprising that years after something has happened to you the needle of thought can hit some groove in the mind, and music of a long vanished event can rise in your soul as fresh and vital as the evening it happened. Memory provides such shelter and continuity of identity. Memory is also fascinating because it is an indirect and latent presence in one's mind. The past seems to be gone and absent. Yet the grooves in the mind hold the traces and vestiges of everything that has ever happened to us. Nothing is ever lost or forgotten ... We need to retrieve the activity of remembering, for it is here that we are rooted and gathered."

The Irish Girl and the American Letter on Zoom
Mavis McGetrick and Carolyn Reeves.
Wednesday March 3rd 7pm.



The Irish Girl and The American Letter
Mavis McGetrick and Carolyn Reeves



During the Great Hunger of 1845 – 1851, approximately 1 million Irish men, women and children left Ireland, either voluntarily or through forced emigration. The majority of them went to England, Scotland, South Wales, North America, and Australia.

Of course, in the mid 1800's, communication back home was not as easy as it is in our day: no Zoom, no FaceTime, no messaging, no phone calls. The emigrants, often homesick and wanting to stay in touch with their loved ones, used the postal system to stay in touch. The Irish in America (and specifically Irish women) became prolific letter writers. The letters contained updates from their new homes, inquiries as to what was happening in Ireland, and very importantly, funds to support those who remained behind.

Join Mavis McGetrick as she discusses the sheer volume of letters sent from America and explains the impact of the financial support these women provided to their families back home. Carolyn Reeves will perform two songs to complement the lecture. PLEASE EMAIL THE MUSEUM AT info@irish-us.org FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

War of Independence Lecture Series: March 1921. Elizabeth Stack PhD. Tuesday March 9th, 7pm on Zoom.

March was one of the bloodiest in the War, with several reprisals and ambushes. The largest ambush at Crossbarry took place on the 19th of March. The IRA continued their campaign against spies and informers, and the infamous killing taking place in Cork of 59 year old Mary Lindsay and her driver James Clarke. Violence took place in every province of Ireland this month.

This is the tenth lecture in our Centenary Series about the War of Independence. Please email the museum at info@irish-us.org to get the Zoom link.



Fourth Annual Sweat-er Run VIRTUAL
MARCH 8th - MARCH 14th

Virtual Run for the Irish American Heritage Museum



March 8th to 14th

5k Or 10k

Our 4th Annual Sweat-er Run is back! This year it will be virtual, so you have a week to get into the healthy spirit of St. Patrick and run a 5 or 10k run on your own time! [Register here for the event](#) Slainte means good health, so get running this March. We will have swag for all participants and prizes for the winners in the usual categories.

Soda Bread Baking Demonstration with Harold and Pat! Wednesday March 10th, 3.00pm LIVE on FACEBOOK



Join us live on Facebook as chef Harold Qualters and Pat Hale bake us their favorite soda bread recipes. We will discuss Irish culture and history and the role of food in immigrant lives. This event is in place of the annual Soda Bread competition which we have had to postpone because of Covid 19. Check out [this webpage which tells you all](#) about Irish Soda Bread.

A Concert with Irish Don Kelly Friday March 12th, 7.00pm LIVE on FACEBOOK





Join Don for some of your favorite Irish songs as we celebrate Irish American Heritage Month. Live on Facebook. The concert is free but donations are appreciated. You can request your favorite songs too!

**Stories, Songs, and Shenanigans with Aindrias de Staic
Sunday, March 14th, 2.00pm on Zoom. Tickets cost \$10.**



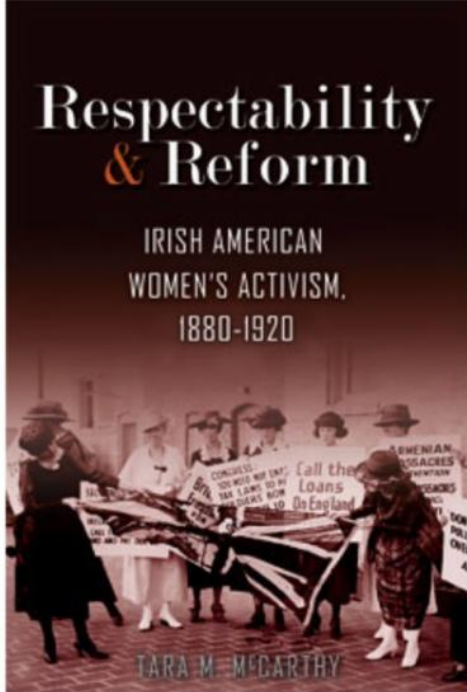
A rare opportunity to catch the eclectic elusive Seanachai as he fuses traditional storytelling with his own contemporary tales. A collection of stories, music, myth and magic with a blast of Wild Atlantic Wit. Hear tall tales and short stories of a hidden Ireland and of course, the latest & greatest 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. Tickets for this event are \$10 and can be purchased on our website or by calling the Museum. PLEASE EMAIL THE MUSEUM AT info@irish-us.org FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

Respectability and Reform: Irish American Women's Activism

Tara McCarthy PhD

Tuesday March 14th, 7.00pm on Zoom

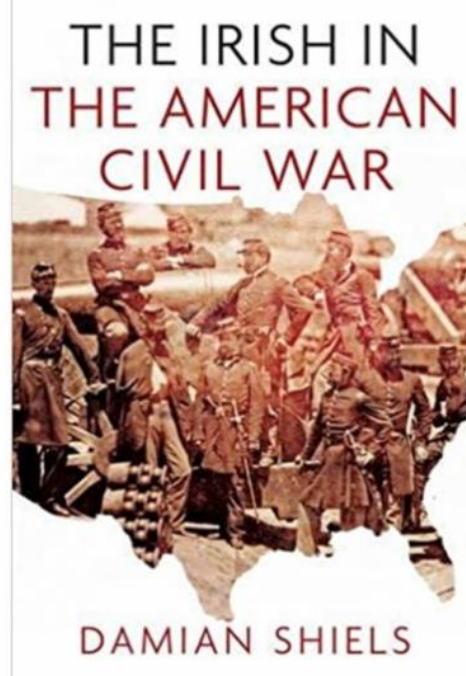


Dr. Tara McCarthy will discuss the evolution of women's activism in the United States during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, emphasizing the particular role of Irish American women in the politics of reform through the interlinked lenses of Irish nationalism, labor, and suffrage. She will bring together women of moderate and radical activism across the themes of labor, suffrage, and nationalism, highlighting the varied experiences of Irish American women of different classes, ages, and geographies.

Dr. McCarthy is on the faculty at Central Michigan University. She received her doctorate at the University of Rochester in the fall of 2005.

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

Capital District Irish in the US Civil War
Damian Shiels
Monday March 22nd, 7.00pm on Zoom



Damian Shiels publishes the popular Civil War blog online and works extensively with the military pension files. Over a number of years, he has been systematically analyzing files looking for working-class Irish correspondence, to highlight the experience of ordinary Irish and Irish Americans during the war.

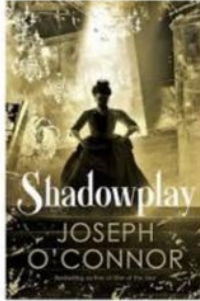
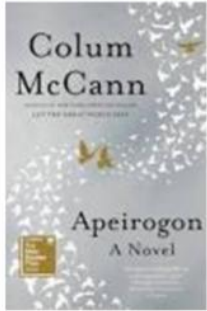
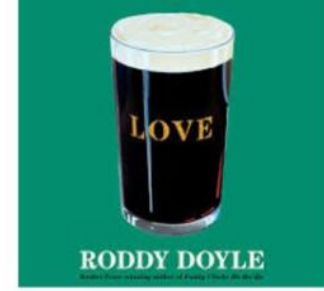
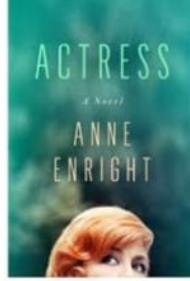
For this talk, he will highlight the lives of soldiers from New York State, examining their motives for joining as well as their experiences at the Front.

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

Irish Literature in 2020

Margaret Lasch Carroll, PhD

Wednesday March 24th, 7.00pm on Zoom



With the Covid 19 restrictions in place, there has never been a better time for bookworms! Dr. Margaret Lasch Carroll will discuss the new books published in Ireland during the Pandemic. John Banville, Roddy Doyle, Colum McCann, Marian Keyes, Anne Enright, Joseph O' Connor, Tana French, Emma Donoghue, Sally Rooney, Maggie O' Farrell all released new works and of course remain perennial favorites.

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

"Having No Use for Men at All": The Political & Private Lives of Irish Revolutionary Female Couples

Mary McAuliffe, PhD

Monday March 29th, 7.00pm on Zoom



Dr. McAuliffe will discuss the female revolutionaries who formed political and personal relationships with other women - the most famous couple being Kathleen Lynn and Madeline French Mullen. There was a great deal of transatlantic coming and going to during this period by Republican women, so there were several connections between Irish women with Irish American counterparts. These women were members of Cumann na mBan or labor organizations but worked together to further the cause for Ireland.

Mary McAuliffe is Assistant Professor / Lecturer in Gender Studies at UCD, specializing in Irish women's / gender history. She completed her BA (Hons) and PhD at the School of History and Humanities, Trinity College, Dublin (TCD). Her most recent publication was a biography of the feminist, trade union activist and revolutionary woman, Margaret Skinnider (UCD Press, 2020).

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

Ask the Genealogist with Lisa Walsh Dougherty
Wednesday March 31st, 7.00pm on Zoom





W.D. Marriage certificate of the Roman Catholic Church, a *Parish*, in the Bishop's Diocese of *Albany*, in the State of *New York*

No. of the Marriage	Date and Place	Age	Sex	Color	Place of Birth	Parents	Signature
1041	Aug 10 1898	25	M	White	Albany, N.Y.	James Walsh	[Signature]
1042	Aug 10 1898	22	F	White	Albany, N.Y.	John Walsh	[Signature]

Witnessed by the Roman Catholic Priest, *John Walsh*, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by the *John Walsh*

This Marriage: *James Walsh* in the presence of *John Walsh*

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by exploring your family roots, Irish or not! Our resident genealogist, Lisa Walsh Dougherty, will answer any of your questions. PLEASE EMAIL THE MUSUEM AT info@irish-us.org FOR THE ZOOM LINK.

Irish American Heritage Museum

21 Quackenbush Square,
Albany, NY 12207
(518) 427-1916

Email Us

