



Mayo Society of New York

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Founded 1879; incorporated 1891 as Mayo Men's Benefit, Patriot and Social Association of the City of New York; later as Mayo Men's P & B Association and in 1985, gender neutral as the Mayo Society, Inc. of the City of New York.

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Newsletter

Apr 2019

Regular Meeting Tuesday, April 09, 2019

Where: Kelly's Bar
23 East 233rd Street
Bronx, NY 10470

Time: 7:30 P.M. Sharp

Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. There are no meetings July & August.

yearly celebration of Mayo community ethos, with activities taking place locally, nationally and internationally, catapulting the ties of Mayo togetherness onto a global scale. All events are posted on this site:

<http://www.mayo.ie/news/mayo-day-2019-the-mayo-word/>

The **Mayo GAA team** will be here from Ireland to play the NY team at Gaelic Park in the Bronx on **May 5th**. We congratulate them on their Allianz League Final win and wish them luck as they begin their Sam Maguire quest.

I'd like to wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.
Enjoy the day with your family and friends.

Betty McLoughlin

Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all survived St. Patrick's Day, week and month. The Mayo dance was a great success, and many thanks to the dance and journal committee members for their time and hard work. Our honorees, **Tommie Henry** and **Lynn McGoldrick**, had a wonderful evening and I would like to thank both of them and all of you for your support. The parade in NYC was wonderful as the Mayo Society had a large and proud presence. Also, it was an honor to march behind the **2019 Grand Marshall, Brian O'Dwyer**, and to be able to be the first county association to march up 5th. Avenue. The mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral was beautiful, and I was honored to be in attendance and represent Mayo at the mass.

March was a sad month as we lost a long-standing member and officer, Sean Finn. The Society provided a wonderful sendoff as we served as an honor guard at the church. I would like to thank those of you who were able to attend the wake and funeral. May Sean Rest In Peace.

Our next meeting will be held in the Bronx at **Kelly's Pub, 23 East 233rd. Street** on April 9th. We hope that by holding an occasional meeting in the Bronx that we will be able to attract new members who ordinarily may not have made the trip to Queens. In the future we hope to have additional meetings in the Bronx. It is important to continually attract new members as the Society has lost a large number of long standing members. We hope that they are smiling down on us, may they Rest In Peace.

Mayo Day, the day dedicated to the celebration of the culture, vibrant communities, and unquenchable spirit of County Mayo returns for its 5th year, **Saturday 4th May 2019**. It has garnered international recognition as a highly anticipated

Upcoming Events & News

Taste of Yeats This annual day of all things Yeats, organized by the Yeats Society of NY in partnership with Glucksman Ireland House NYU, is just a taste of a two-week program in Sligo that includes a tour of "Yeats Country." Free Event- Saturday, April 06: 10-5 pm
<http://as.nyu.edu/irelandhouse/events/Spring2019/taste-of-yeats-day.html>

Féile na Gaeilge / Irish Language Day: The Sea / An Fharrage- April 07 @ 12.30pm Irish Arts Center
553 West 51st Street New York, NY 10019
<https://irishartscenter.org/event/feile-na-gaeilge-irish-language-day-2019>

The Humours of Bandon; is a spirited coming-of-age story full of heart, laughter and pathos, for anyone who's had a childhood passion that threatened to consume their life. This will be performed at the Irish Arts Center, 553 West 51st Street, , NY Apr 10, 2019 – Apr 18, 2019
<https://irishartscenter.org/event/the-humours-of-bandon>

18th Annual NYC Irish Dance Festival will take place on Sunday, May 5, 2019 1:00pm. A free event at Riverside Park South Pier I at W 68th Street, New York, NY 10023. Kicking off NYC's Summer-on-the-Hudson series with a free day of dance and cultural activities. Join us in Riverside Park for performances by top Irish troupes and hands-on activities for the whole family. Performers include Donny Golden Dancers, Niall O'Leary Dance Troupe, Darrah Carr Dance, and Niall O'Leary School of Irish Dance, and special guests.

Michael Davitt: "The Father of the Land League"

Michael Davitt was born in Straide, Co. Mayo on 25 March 1846, during The Great Hunger. His family were evicted from their home in 1850, and then emigrated to England. They settled in a poor Irish community in Haslingden, East Lancashire. At the age of 9, he went to work in cotton mills. At the age of 11, he lost his right arm while working at a mill. A local benefactor arranged for Michael's education. Davitt read avidly and developed his interest and knowledge of Irish history and current affairs.

In 1856, Michael joined the IRB. He arranged to smuggle arms to Ireland for the Fenians. In 1870, he was arrested in London waiting to meet an arms delivery. He was sentenced to 15 years at Dartmoor Prison during which he was treated harshly and kept in solitary confinement. He managed to get letters to John O'Connor Power, MP for Mayo. Due to public outrage at his treatment, Davitt was released in 1877. Davitt came to believe that land ownership by the people was the only answer to Ireland's problems. He stated frequently "the land question can be definitely settled only by making the cultivators of the sole proprietors".

In 1878, he traveled to the United States on a lecture tour organized by John Devoy. The tour was to gather support for the land movement among the Irish in America. On his return to Mayo in 1878, he persuaded Charles Stewart Parnell; 1st Member of Parliament for Meath and leader of the IPP to become involved in the land issue. This unified approach brought widespread support throughout Ireland and financial backing from the Irish in America.

In August 1879, the Land League of Mayo was founded in Castlebar. A failure of the potato crop heightened concerns there about land and survival as it was a vivid reminder of the Great Hunger of the 1840's, which many people then living had experienced. The precursor to our Mayo Society of New York was founded that same year by previous emigrants to relieve this crisis. Davitt helped found the Irish National Land League in Castlebar, Co. Mayo in October 1879. Davitt adopted the slogan: "The land of Ireland for the people of Ireland". In 1880, an English land agent named Charles Boycott earned notoriety for numerous ruthless evictions. The Land League urged laborers to refuse to work for him. This was coupled with a campaign of ostracism when local shops in Ballinrobe refused to sell to him, and he was shunned in general. Loyalists from Cavan were hired to do the work for him. Due to local threats, a British Army regiment and 1,000 Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) police had to protect them. It ended up costing £10,000 to bring in a harvest worth only £500. The Captain left Ireland in disgrace that December; but not before lending his family name-Boycott to a new, influential form of protest.

On 3 February 1881, Davitt was arrested after a speech. His parole was revoked and he was sent to Portland Prison. The Irish MPs protested his arrest vociferously. He was elected in February 1882 as first MP for Meath, but was disqualified as a prisoner. He was released on 6 May 1882. Davitt was imprisoned again for sedition from January to May 1883 in Richmond Bridewell in Dublin. In 1885, Davitt's first book: "Leaves From a Prison Diary" was published. In 1886, Michael married Mary Jane Yore. The couple returned to live in a cottage in Ballybrack, Co. Dublin. The cottage was a gift from the Land League for his service. In 1890, his second book: "Defence of the Land League" was published. At the end of 1890, a disastrous scandal erupted when it came out that Parnell was having a longtime adulterous affair with Catherine (Kitty) O'Shea, the estranged wife of a colleague. Parnell refused to step down, causing a split in the party. Davitt was with the side that opposed Parnell. In 1891, Davitt helped found the Irish Democratic Labor Federation. It campaigned for innovations such as free education, land settlement, worker housing, reduced working hours, and universal suffrage. In 1892, he laid a sod of grass from Co. Donegal to dedicate Celtic Park, home of the Glasgow Celtic Football Club in Scotland where he was much admired.

In 1893, he was elected MP for North-East Cork. In 1895, he was elected MP for South Mayo. In 1898, a third book: "Life and Progress in Australasia" was written after a seven-month lecture tour of Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand. In 1899, he resigned from his seat in the House of Commons in protest of The Boer War in South Africa. In 1902, Davitt wrote "The Boer Fight For Freedom" after visiting South Africa. In 1903, Davitt wrote his fourth book "Within The Pale" about anti-Semitic pogroms in Russia earlier that year. In 1904, after an anti-Jewish sermon by Fr. John Creagh in Limerick City, Davitt said: "I protest as an Irishman and as a Catholic against the barbarous malignancy of anti-Semitism which is being introduced into Ireland under the pretended regard for the welfare of the Irish people." The sermon led to several attacks on Jews that became known as the Limerick Pogrom. In 1904, he wrote his sixth and final book: "The Fall of Feudalism in Ireland". It is considered by many to be a fair and balanced history of the land movement and a vital contribution to understanding the history of 19th century Ireland. By the end of his life he had also travelled extensively, including trips to Palestine, South America, and most of continental Europe in addition to Australia, America and South Africa. Wherever he went, he spoke of human rights abuses as he saw them. Michael Davitt died in Dublin on 30 May 1906. He is buried at Straide Abbey. The adjacent church is now a Museum dedicated to his life.

Kevin Rooney