



# 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.

**Vol.143**

**Newsletter**

**Dec 2018**

**Regular Meeting** **Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

**Where:** **St. Sebastian Parish Center**  
**39-60 57th Street**

**Time:** **Woodside, NY 11377**  
**7:30 P.M. Sharp**

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

Please keep our sick and deceased members in your prayers at this very special time of year.

I'd like to wish everybody a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,  
Betty McLoughlin

## Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and friends.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you all for electing me as your President for another year. I will do the best I can and look forward to a prosperous with my newly elected Officers and Directors. I hope 2019 will be a healthy and happy one for everyone.

I am happy to announce our honorees for the Mayo Society Ball scheduled for March 09, 2019 at Antun's, Queens Village: **Lynn Mc Golderick and Tom Henry**. Lynn hails from Belmullet and Tom from Balla. Tom is a member of Noel Henry's Irish Showband that played at our ball for several years. Biographies of both our esteemed honorees will be forth-coming in next month's newsletter. We hope you will come out to support our honorees.

Again, we are so excited about Brian O'Dwyer being the Grand Marshall in the New York City Saint Patrick's Day parade on March 16. The Mayo Society will be there as he proudly leads the parade on Fifth Avenue.

Congratulations to Rita Lydon Lenz on being named the Grand Marshall of the Mineola Saint Patrick's Day Parade on March 3rd.

Our next meeting will be short as the annual Christmas party will follow. This is an opportunity to bring your families and friends to enjoy some food and drinks, celebrate our accomplishments and learn about our Society. I'd like to thank Mike McMahon in advance for donating the delicious food.

## Upcoming Events

- **Christmas Concert at St. Francis de Sales Parish**, 129-16 Rockaway Beach Blvd, Belle Harbor, New York. Featuring Irish Tenor, Anthony Kearns on Friday, December 21 @ 8pm
- **Holly & Ivy Dance, The Irish American Society of Nassau Suffolk and Queens** Music by Sharon, Mike Keogh & Friends. December 22 @8pm. \$20 p.p. [http://irishamericansoc.com/pdf/calendar\\_current.pdf](http://irishamericansoc.com/pdf/calendar_current.pdf)
- **Irish Arts Center Winter Solstice Celebration, Friday, December 14 @8pm** A beloved holiday gathering returns with a joyful celebration of culturally rich musical traditions from Ireland and the Gulf of Mexico. <https://irishartscenter.org/event/irish-arts-center-winter-solstice-celebration-2018>
- **The Irish American Society of Nassau Suffolk and Queens** will be having a **Pre New Years Eve Irish Dinner on December 30th at 2pm**, The cost is \$40 and a cash bar. Brendan and Anne and committee are our chefs. If you are interested in coming call the center at 516-746-9392. Music by Tommy Clynne.
- **Blarney Star Concert Series Brian Conway & John Walsh**, December 07 @ 8pm, Glucksman Ireland House NYU, 1 Washington Mews, New York City.

## The Ballad of Kevin Barry

In Mountjoy jail one Monday morning  
High upon the gallows tree  
Kevin Barry gave his young life  
For the cause of liberty  
Just a lad of eighteen summers  
Yet there's no one can deny  
As he walked to death that morning  
He proudly held his head on high

Just before he faced the hangman  
In his dreary prison cell  
British soldiers tortured Barry  
Just because he would not tell  
The names of his brave companions  
And other things they wished to know  
"Turn informer or we'll kill you"  
Kevin Barry answered, "No!"

Another martyr for old Ireland  
Another murder for the crown  
Whose brutal laws may kill the Irish  
But can't keep their spirit down  
Lads like Barry are no cowards  
From the foe they will not fly  
Lads like Barry will free Ireland  
For her cause they'll live and die.

The Ballad "Kevin Barry" was written shortly after his execution on 1st November 1920 by an unknown author. The song spread like wildfire. Of course, nowadays we have the Internet and Facebook and Twitter where songs or stories go "viral" as we say. So popular was this song, it is said that a little girl once asked her mother "what used they sing before 'Kevin Barry?'"

In those days songs could sometimes travel like newspapers. Often, among those of poor education, it was the news. Street ballad singers would busk or play on the street for spare change, as they still do now. But now, we have radio, and television, and the aforementioned Internet.

In the days before recorded music became available, songs were transmitted from singer to listener. Sometimes the songs would have different lyrics depending that sang them, or different airs/melodies. Often, new lyrics would be written to the music of songs that were already well known. For example: "The Rising Of The Moon" was written to the tune of "The Wearing Of The Green". "The Boys of Kilmichael" about the west Cork ambush in 1920 is very obviously patterned after "The Men Of The West" about the French invasion of Mayo in 1798. .

The songs mentioned above are categorized as Rebel Songs. They were written throughout Irish history to tell the stories of brave heroes and events that would not be written in history books nor taught in schools. Many names and events survive because of them. This goes back to the old baric tradition. A warrior was more afraid to cross a bard than a king. A king could end your life, but a bard can destroy your name forever.

The song about Kevin Barry fits well within that tradition. It assured that he was remembered. It angered the listener to hear the story of a brave, honest 18-year old young man who fought for his country being tortured and hanged. His refusal to inform on his comrades under pain of torture and death earned admiration in the ears and eyes of the listener. It spurred many to action, and countless others to support action being taken.

Songs like this, and especially this one in particular, had a part in bringing down the British Empire.

Kevin Rooney

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## Interesting Facts About Mayo, The Series Continues.....

### Mayo was the birth-place of one of the most fearsome and famous Irish pirates.

The Pirate Queen (c. 1530 – c. 1603) was Grace O'Malley of the famed [O'Malley clan of Mayo](#). Her father was a chieftain and sea trader and she learned how to handle herself on his ships. Striking out on her own, she became known as the Pirate Queen capturing English ships and taking their cargo. The English moved against her, but she went to London and met the Virgin Queen, Elizabeth the First, who recalled her armies and released O'Malley's family, who were being held by the English. She lived to a ripe old age.

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All Articles are welcome