



Mayo Society of New York

P.O. Box 780214
Maspeth, NY 11378-0214

<http://mayosocietyofny.com>
E-mail: mayosocietyofny@gmail.com

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.160

Newsletter

Dec 2020

Regular Meeting **Cancelled due to COVID-19**
Where: **St. Sebastian Parish Center**
 39-60 57th Street
 Woodside, NY 11377
Time: **7:30 P.M. Sharp**

Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you and yours had a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Although times are tough in this new normal, this Christmas will be different for all of us. Many of our social and family celebrations will be curtailed due to the ongoing CDC guidelines. Don't forget your Mayo Society family are only a phone call away if you need help or simply a chat.

We look forward with optimism to 2021, that we will have a vaccine available for everyone, and that life will gradually return to normal, and we will be able to hold our monthly meetings and our social events as in the past.

In the meantime, please continue to practice social distancing, and wear your mask.

Please continue to pray for our dearly departed, first responders and essential workers.

Wishing you all a merry, and blessed Christmas.

May your 2021 be healthy and happy.

Stay safe.
Lé Grá Mór.

Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue
President



Top Ten Christmas Traditions in Ireland

1. Christmas Cakes and Puddings
2. The 8th December: The Feast of the Immaculate Conception,
3. Visit to Santa
4. The Christmas Tree
5. Candle in the Window
6. Midnight Mass
7. Christmas Dinner
8. The Panto
9. New Year's Eve
10. 6th January: The Feast of the Epiphany

Source: <https://www.irishcentral.com/travel/top-ten-irish-christmas-traditions-old-fashioned-and-modern-ireland-combined-184409151-238163651>



Top Ten Best Irish Food and Drink Treats for Christmas

1. **Minced pies:** Usually served after Midnight mass when the family gets home and enjoyed by all the family.
2. **Cadbury's Roses:** Box of the best of Irish chocolate with many different delights. Cadbury's roses are found under every Christmas tree.
3. **Irish trifle:** Delicious dessert made of jelly, cream, chocolate sprinkles, about 10,000 calories, but who cares its Christmas. Even better when brandy is added.
4. **Guinness porter cake:** Delightful after dinner treat and the kind of filling food that makes the waist size stretch just that little bit more.
5. **Tricolor drink:** Green creme de menthe, with white vodka and gold whiskey. If you can survive that you can live forever.
6. **Irish sausages and black pudding:** Served for breakfast on the great day itself...so you're stuffed before you even get to dinner.
7. **USA biscuit tins:** A long time staple, different flavor biscuits of every kind, in two separate rows. Woe betide the person that tries to reach down into the bottom level before the top ones are all gone.
8. **Whiskey eggnog:** The usual eggnog with a dash - or more - of Jameson - aaah perfect for relaxing in front of a roaring fire.
9. **Mulled wine:** Delicious when you come in from a cold walk. Heated wine that hits the spot (see also hot whiskey).
10. **Black and tan:** A favorite in the pub on Christmas eve -- Guinness and beer mixed half and half. Puts hair on your chest.

Source: <https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/food-drink/the-top-ten-best-irish-christmas-food-and-drink-treats-181993641-237793091>

God Save Ireland: The Manchester Martyrs

Michael O'Brien, William Philip Allen and Michael Larkin were hanged in Manchester, England on 23rd November 1867 for involvement in the shooting of a British Policeman. The men were known to be innocent, but nonetheless were proud to die for the ideals of republicanism and love of Ireland.

Michael O'Brien, 31, from Ballymacoda, Co. Cork was a veteran of the US civil war. He served in the Union (northern) army in the 5th New Jersey Light Artillery. William Philip Allen, 18, had been an apprentice carpenter. He was born in Tipperary, but raised in Bandon, Co. Cork. Michael Larkin, 32, was a tailor from near Banagher Co. Offaly.

All were Fenians-members of the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB); a secret oath bound organization devoted to winning Irish freedom by force. They were part of a group of about 40 who attacked a police van to rescue 2 important Fenian prisoners. They were being driven to Belle Vue Gaol in Manchester. Police Sergeant Charles Brett was shot and killed in the escape on 18 September 1867

His death appears to have been the result of a tragic accident. A shot was fired in an attempt to open the lock just as Brett looked through the keyhole. He was killed instantly. A woman prisoner in the van took the keys from Brett's pocket and the prisoners escaped.

The prisoners were Thomas J. Kelly and Timothy Deasy, who were arrested on 11 September 1867 for loitering. They were soon identified as wanted Fenians.

Thomas J. Kelly, 33, came from Mountbellew, Co. Galway. In 1857, he emigrated to Nashville, Tennessee. He started a paper called The Nashville Democrat. He moved north with the outbreak of the US civil war. He determined to go to New York to join the famous 69th. However, en-route, he enlisted in the 10th Ohio Infantry. He became a captain.

After the war, Kelly moved to New York. He was high in the IRB, named as successor to James Stephens, who founded the IRB in Dublin in 1858. Kelly was involved in the Fenian invasion of Canada in 1866-the first army to call itself the IRA. Kelly sailed to Ireland and England organizing rebellions. After the failures of the Fenian Rebellions in Ireland, he called an IRB convention in Manchester in August 1867.

Timothy Deasy, 29, came from Clonalkilty, Co. Cork. He emigrated to the US and served in the 9th Massachusetts Infantry in the US civil war. He was wounded at The Battle of The Wilderness in 1864. He returned to Ireland after the war to take part in the Fenian Rising. He commanded Fenian troops at Millstreet in Co. Cork.

Edward O'Meagher Condon came from Mitchellstown, Co. Cork. He emigrated during the Great Hunger. He had served with the 164th New York Infantry in the US Civil war. He had organized the escape. He, along with Thomas Maguire, were sentenced to death along with Allen, Larkin, and O'Brien. But Maguire was pardoned due to false evidence. Condon's sentence was commuted due to his US citizenship. Kelly and Deasy escaped to New York, where they were welcomed and cheered by the Irish there.

Upon the sentencing all men made protests of their innocence yet were brave and proud in their belief in the cause. At the end of his speech, Condon yelled "God Save Ireland!" They all repeated this. The song inspired by the incident has become one of the best known and powerful Irish Rebel songs ever written.

It was a sort of unofficial National Anthem. The tune actually came from an American Civil War song called "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp (The Boys Are Marching)".



High upon the gallows tree
swung the noble-hearted Three.
By the vengeful tyrant stricken in their bloom;
But they met him face to face,
with the courage of their race,
And they went with souls undaunted to their doom.

CHORUS

"God save Ireland! " said the heroes;
"God save Ireland" said they all.
Whether on the scaffold high
Or the battlefield we die,
O, what matter when for Erin dear we fall ! "

Girt around with cruel foes,
still their courage proudly rose,
For they thought of hearts that loved them for and
near;
Of the millions true and brave
o'er the ocean's swelling wave,
And the friends in holy Ireland ever dear.

CHORUS

Climbed they up the rugged stair,
rang their voices out in prayer,
Then with England's fatal cord around them cast,
Close beside the gallows tree
kissed like brothers lovingly,
True to home and faith and freedom to the last.

CHORUS

Never till the latest day
shall the memory pass away,
Of the gallant lives thus given for our land;
But on the cause must go,
amidst joy and weal and woe,
Till we make our Isle a nation free and grand.

CHORUS



Kevin Rooney