



# 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.155

Newsletter

Feb 2020

**Regular Meeting** Tuesday, February 11, 2020  
**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,

On this my first newsletter as President of the Mayo Society of New York. I would like to pay tribute to our outgoing President Betty McLoughlin, for a job well done.

I am humbled and honored accepting the role of President of the Mayo Society of New York, along with our Vic President Mike McMahon, and a team of dedicated officers. Going forward as a team, it is our goal to focus on, and promote this great legacy we inherited from generations of dedicated officers, and members alike.

We are entering a very busy two months of dinner dances and parades. We encourage the full participation of all members. Our main focus is and will always be our own Mayo Society Dinner Dance. (Or Ball as it was fondly known in times gone by.)

This year we have two distinguished honorees, who deserves your full support. "Mayo Man of the year" William Lynn, and. "Mayo Woman of the year" our own treasurer, Rita Lydon Lenz. Please show your support by attending the dance and purchasing and soliciting journal ads. all paid up members are in title to fifty percent of journal ads.

We participate in many local parades including the NYC parade. We respectfully request you to march in as many as possible under the Mayo Society banner, observing the dress code and guidelines set out by the parade committees.

Please make sure your dues are up to date.

Kind Regards

Noreen Lydon O'Donoghue  
President

## Upcoming Events:

- **Salute the Aides and Grand Marshal of the NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade** at Antun's 96-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, New York. Sunday February 23, 2020 at 3pm. More information please contact [NYCStPatricksParade.Org](http://NYCStPatricksParade.Org)
- **Bayside Saint Patrick's Day Parade Dinner Dance** on Saturday 15 February 2020 at Antun's 96-43 Springfield Blvd., Queens Village, New York. at 7pm. Mayo Member Eileen Flannelly Mackell is the Grand Marshall. More information please contact: [baysideirish@aol.com](mailto:baysideirish@aol.com)
- **Queens County St. Patrick's Day Parade & Cultural Committee 45th Annual Ball** in Antun's Springfield Boulevard Queens Village, New York 11429 on Saturday 8 February 2020. More information please contact [KroppyBoy@aol.com](mailto:KroppyBoy@aol.com)
- **Irish American Society of Nassau, Suffolk & Queens Grand Marshal & Aides Dinner Dance** Sunday 23 February 2020 at the center. Mike Byrne is the Grand Marshall. More information, please contact [www.irishamericansoc.com](http://www.irishamericansoc.com)
- **Irish American Heritage & Culture Committee** holds a seminar on topics of interest to the Irish American community. On February 6th, we will examine a subject which will have a profound impact on Ireland: **"Brexit - A Challenge to the Peace Process in Ireland"** at the American Irish Historical Society 991 Fifth Avenue, NYC (at 80th St.) at 6pm. More information, please contact [rmbks@aol.com](mailto:rmbks@aol.com)
- **Mid-Winter Kids' Celtic Celebration at the New York Irish Center, LIC** on Thursday, February 20, 2020 12:00 PM to Friday, February 21, 2020 1:00 PM. Registration: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2020-mid-winter-celtic-kids-celebration-tickets-88561625205>
- **Incantata from Feb 18 – Mar 15.** Irish Repertory Theatre presents A Galway International Arts Festival and Jen Coppinger Production on the Francis J. Greenburger Mainstage by Paul Muldoon Directed by Sam Yates Starring Stanley.

## The Colleen Bawn

The Colleen Bawn was the name by which murder victim Ellen (Ellie) Hanley was called. It comes from the Irish "Cailín Bán" (literally "White Girl"-white meaning pure, honest or innocent). Her remains washed ashore in Moneypoint, Co. Clare in early autumn 1819. She was fifteen years of age.

She came from Ballingarry, Co. Limerick. Her mother died when she was six, so she was raised by an uncle in Ballycahane, Croom. She was said to be a great beauty. She caught the attention of a young man in his twenties named John Scanlan.

"Squireen" Scanlan came from a family of wealth and position in the Anglo-Irish ascendancy. He had been a Lieutenant in the Royal Marines, known as something of a playboy- a man used to getting his way and having his way.

He proposed marriage when Ellie refused to consummate the relationship out of wedlock. Being a poor farmer's daughter, and a peasant, Ellen had thought that the difference in their positions was too great. Ellie's first language was not English but Irish, for example. She feared it would not work out well, so she declined.

Scanlan calmed her fears and persuaded her to marry him. His family had raised strong objections, particularly his mother, but Scanlan was undeterred. Ellie eloped and met Scanlan in Limerick city and they were married in secret. It is unknown what form of marriage took place. It has even been supposed that the ceremony was a ruse to fool Ellie, that the officiant may have been an impostor. In any case, they then took residence in Glin, West Limerick.

Scanlan employed local woman Ellen Walsh, a part-time housekeeper and companion for Ellie; and Stephen Sullivan, his close and faithful servant and boatman. He was locally rumored to be Scanlan's foster brother and there may have been an element of dependence in that relationship.

According to Glin local tradition Sullivan's nickname was "Stampy"; a word used for undercooked or half-baked bread. He was thought to be mentally challenged and was the object of local pity because his unstable mother once hit his father in the head with a spade from which he never recovered.

After Ellie had gone missing for several weeks, Ellen Walsh approached The Knight of Glin, who was the local magistrate. She had seen other women wearing articles of Ellie's clothing. The Knight had earlier been asked to mediate a dispute between two women over a grey cloth mantle she recognized as Ellie's. When asked when she had last seen Ellie, Walsh replied that she had seen her two months before with Scanlan and Sullivan in a boat leaving from Glin.

While Ellen Walsh was talking to the Knight, two policemen arrived and told him of the discovery of the body across the Shannon in Moneypoint, Co. Clare. The Knight asked her to accompany him across the river to see if she could positively identify the body as Ellie, along with John King, the boatman. The body was too badly decomposed to be identified, but a length of rope found with the body was identified by King as a rope he had loaned to Scanlan.

When asked how he could positively identify a rope, King replied that he recognized his own distinctive splice. Eventually it would emerge that this rope had tied her body to a stone to weigh her body down. She was shot with a musket in a boat in the middle of the Shannon.

The Coroner's Court recorded a verdict of willful murder against Scanlan and Sullivan. The two men went into hiding. It is said that the search for them was not very intensive due to Scanlan's position and station, especially for a crime against a peasant. However, there was an outcry for their capture due to the brutality of the crime.

Scanlan was captured first and tried in March 1820. Such were his connections that he was defended by famous barrister Daniel O'Connell (yes-THAT Daniel O'Connell), but was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

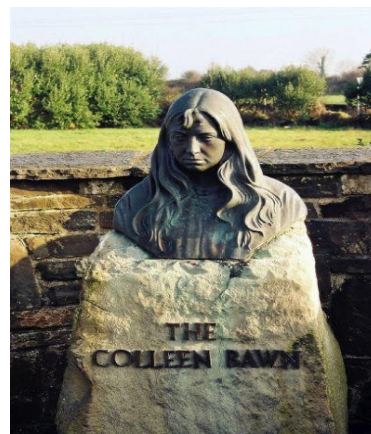
On March 16, 1820, Scanlan was being taken by carriage to Gallows Green on the Clare side of the river when the horses mysteriously stopped, refusing to continue further. Finally, Scanlan was made to walk to his place of execution. This gave rise to a local legend or superstition that this was an omen of innocence.

Shortly thereafter, Sullivan was captured and confessed that he had taken Ellie in his boat out on the Shannon from Glin and murdered her on July 14th; but at the behest of Scanlan, who had plied him with liquor in the town to nerve his arm. He was also hanged.

The crime says much about social stations and pressures of the time, and the double standard of the ascendancy and the peasantry. The shocking brutal murder of such a young and innocent victim and the intrigue of involvement of a prominent family brought great interest to the case.

Ellie Hanley, an cailín bán, is buried in Burrane cemetery, near Kilrush, Co. Clare.

**Kevin Rooney**



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