



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

Jan 2020

Regular Meeting Tuesday, January 14, 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

Happy and a Healthy New Year to you all. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas with family and friends as that is what life is all about.

My two-year term as your President is coming to an end. This will be my last letter and I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you for all your help and support. I most certainly enjoyed being President to the best County in Ireland. I wish Noreen and Mike all the best for the next two years.

Our **Installation of Officers** will take place on **Sunday January 19th at the Irish American Center in Mineola**. The celebration will begin at 3pm and we hope to see you there.

Please support our journal and dance this year. We have two great honorees, Rita Lydon Lenz and Bill Lynn. The bios of our esteemed honorees will be enclosed next month.

A special thank you to Mike McMahon for donating the food for our Christmas party.

Membership dues for the upcoming year are now due.

Please remember our sick and deceased members.

May God bless you all.

Love Betty

Upcoming Events:

- 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"**. The presentation begins at 6 p.m.
- **IBO2020 Kickoff at Glucksman Ireland House EVENT:** IBO January Evening Meeting with Peter Quinn - Novelist, Political Historian, and Foremost Chronicler of New York City
<https://ibonewyork.org/event-3664929>
- **United Irish Counties 116th Annual Dinner Dance** on January 31, 2020 at Antun's Queens Village at 7.30pm
<https://www.uicany.org/dinner-dance.html>
- **First Irish Festival 2020 runs from January 7 - February 3, 2020.** The world's only theatre festival dedicated to showcasing the work of contemporary Irish writers, Origin 1st Irish is New York's only month-long theatre festival exclusively devoted to presenting contemporary plays from the island of Ireland. The Festival takes place in several distinguished venues across New York City
<http://murphguide.com/event/first-irish-festival-2020/>
- **International Irish Country Music Star NATHAN CARTER** comes to The Cutting Room on Saturday, January 11
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/international-irish-country-music-star-nathan-carter-tickets-73471855297>

The Battle of New Orleans

On the 8th of January, 1815 was fought the Battle of New Orleans, Louisiana where the US fended off a British Invasion and secured America's independence. The hero of the battle was Major General Andrew Jackson, whose parents were born in Carrick Fergus, Co. Antrim. He later became President of the United States. The battle was the last of the War of 1812. It was an overwhelming and humiliating defeat for the British that ended their attempts to interfere with the expansion of her former colony. Many of those involved had Irish connections.

French General Jean Joseph Amable Humbert, who led the French invasion of Mayo during the Irish Rebellion of 1798, also fought at New Orleans. He served as an aide to General Jackson, who proclaimed Humbert "a man in whose bravery I have unbounded confidence." Humbert had left the French Army because he disapproved of Emperor Napoleon's imperialist expansion, also because of a romantic affair with Napoleon's sister of which the Emperor disapproved. He settled in New Orleans, which had been part of the huge Louisiana Territory purchased from France by US President Thomas Jefferson in 1803.

Twice Humbert opposed British General Edward Pakenham. Pakenham was a Lieutenant Colonel at the time of General Humbert's surrender to Lord Cornwallis at Ballinamuck, Co. Longford in 1798. Cornwallis had earlier surrendered to George Washington at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781 to end the American Revolution. Pakenham was the Commanding General of the British forces at New Orleans, where he was killed in the battle. He was buried at Tullnally Castle in Co. Westmeath. Pakenham's sister Catherine married Arthur Wellesley, the famous Duke of Wellington; who was in command of the British Army forces in Europe fighting Napoleon, and ultimately defeated him on 18 June 1815 at Waterloo.

US Commanding Major General Andrew Jackson was born a short time after his family's arrival from Ireland, where his elder brothers Hugh, and Robert were born. His father died before he was born. He was greatly affected by the American Revolution. In June of 1779, his brother Hugh died at the Battle of Stono Ferry, South Carolina. Andrew and his brother Robert were taken prisoner in 1780, when he was about fourteen. British Major Coffin slashed them both with his sword for refusing to clean his boots, as they were prisoners of war. Their deep wounds went untreated, they were nearly starved to death in captivity and had both contracted smallpox. Their mother secured their release as part of a

prisoner exchange, but Robert died a few days later. She volunteered to nurse her nephew and American POWs on ships in Charleston, South Carolina, but developed cholera there and died November 1781. Jackson was embittered towards the British for all these losses.

The US declared war on Great Britain in 1812 for several reasons. The British were interfering with US trade because of their war with France. They were also trying to maintain a presence in North America to limit the growth of the new independent republic, to which they showed much disrespect. Another key issue was the Impressment or forceful conscription of as many as 10,000 American sailors to British ships.

On 24 August 1814, the British seized and burned much of Washington D.C. Fortunately, a fierce storm swept Washington and put out many of the fires and drove them off. On 13 September 1814, the British laid siege to Fort McHenry, Maryland near Baltimore which withstood heavy bombardment until the attack was repulsed. Francis Scott Key was so moved to see the US flag still flying proudly and defiantly that he was inspired to write a poem that would become "The Star-Spangled Banner", now the US National Anthem.

The British wanted New Orleans to control access to the Mississippi River. Jackson's force consisted of only about a thousand regular army and Marines. The rest were militia; including free blacks, citizen volunteers, native Choctaw warriors, even a force under French pirate Jean Lafitte, who was a friend of General Humbert. The British attacked on 8 January with a force of 8,000. They suffered a humiliating defeat taking about 2,500 casualties as compared to only dozens of Americans. Jackson became a national hero and became President of the United States in 1829. The Battle was also known as the Miracle on the Mississippi and the 8th of January was celebrated as a holiday for years.

Kevin Rooney

