



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

June 2019

Regular Meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Where: St. Sebastian Parish Center
39-60 57th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
Time: 7:30 P.M. Sharp

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

Our President's Note

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all had a nice memorial weekend. Well, we had a very busy month of May. I want to say thank you to Noreen Lydon O'Donohue for leading the May meeting while I was enjoying myself on the Gertie Byrne Irish Cruise to Alaska.

The first weekend of May was wonderful, starting off at the Irish Consulate, meeting and greeting visitors from Mayo, and on Saturday there was a visit to the Irish Hunger Memorial in Battery Park. I had the great honor of placing a wreath at the Mayo stone at the memorial. It was extremely touching. Congratulations to Brian O'Dwyer on being honored that day. On Saturday, there was a good turnout at Rosie O'Grady's for a wonderful night of Mayo spirit. On Sunday, a great number of Mayo supporters showed up to cheer on the team in the pouring rain. I hope that the team will keep up their winning spirit and ways. The crowd in the park was amazing, even in the rain. With the number of Mayo supporters at the match, it's a wonder that there was anyone left in Mayo! It was a great weekend.

We are getting ready for our Knock shrine trip to East Durham and lunch in Gavin's on August 21. If you are interested in going, call me at 347-613-1303. The bus will leave from St. Sebastian's with a stop on McLean Avenue in Yonkers like last year.

Our June meeting will be a social, so please bring your spouse or friend for a cup of tea and a chat. Over the summer we will be working on the scholarship. Whatever your plans are, be safe.

Just spoke to Teresa Cunningham in the Nursing home and she's getting adjusted. Keep her and Tommy Henry and all our sick and deceased in your prayers.

Wishing all the fathers a Happy Father's Day

Have a wonderful summer & Good Bless

Betty Mc Loughlin

Upcoming Events:

- **Celtic Cruise** around Manhattan in support of the Emerald Isle Immigration Center on Wednesday, June 12th at 6pm, returning at 10 pm. Contact Eva @718-478-5502 ext. 216 or at Eva@eic.org. \$125.00 in advance or \$135.00 dockside. Price includes cruise, dinner, music provided by 4 bands and unlimited open bar.
- **Irish Music Festival-Bergen Irish Pipe Band** Saturday, June 15th 2:00 to 10.00 at Rockland GAA at 160 Old Orangeburg Rd, Orangeburg, NY. Vendors, food, bar, pipe band and live Irish music.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/irish-music-festival-2019-tickets-56745930606>
- **United Irish Counties Dance Feis** on Sunday, June 9th at Sanders Trades & Technical High School, 183 Palmer Rd. Yonkers, NY starting at 9:00am
<https://www.uicany.org/feis.html>
- **Sean-nós Singing Workshop with Clare Horgan.** Award-winning vocalist and educator Clár Ní Argáin takes you on a journey of songs from her native south Kerry and Ireland's other Gaeltacht regions. Sat, Jun 15, 2019 at 2:00pm
<https://irishartscenter.org/event/traditional-irish-singing>
- **Bloomsday on Broadway XXXVIII.** Presented by Symphony Space and Irish Arts Center. This Father's Day we mark the 38th Bloomsday on Broadway, a great New York tradition begun by the late Symphony Space co-founding artistic director Isaiah Sheffer, with a special nod to father figures and yearning sons. Sun, Jun 16, 2019 at 7:00pm
<https://irishartscenter.org/event/bloomsday-on-broadway-xxxviii>
- **Frank McCourt Creative Writing Summer School** June 27-30th. Glucksman Ireland House NYU. Study writing in a fun and relaxed atmosphere with bestselling authors Joseph O'Connor, Donal Ryan and Sarah Moore Fitzgerald, poet Martin Dyar, UL professor Eoin Devereux, memoirist Kerry Neville and others. The Summer School offers a taste of Creative Writing as taught at UL, with the emphasis on enjoyment, collegiality, mutual respect and love of words.
<http://frankmccourt.ulfoundation.com>

The Irish Republican Army Invasion of Canada

On June 1, 1866- an estimated force of 1,000-1,300 Irish Republicans-known as Fenians, invaded Canada. Their aim was to ransom Canadian territory for Ireland's freedom; or at least, to divert British resources and focus world attention to their cause. They were members of the Fenian brotherhood, the American branch of the Irish Republican Brotherhood. They are the first armed force to be called the Irish Republican Army (IRA). An 1869 painting confirms this. They achieved the only Irish republican victory in battle from 1798 to the War of Independence.

They crossed the Niagara River into Canada from Buffalo, New York, USA. The force was comprised mainly of veterans of the American Civil War. These were battle-hardened veterans of both sides. The Union (north) and the Confederacy (south). Regiments came from New York, Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Louisiana.

General John O'Neill was their commander. He came from Drumgallon, Conitbrit, Co. Monaghan. He emigrated to New Jersey in 1848, during The Great Hunger. He enlisted in the US cavalry, and served on the Union side of the American Civil War. The 13th Tennessee regiment of Nashville was commanded by Captain Laurence Shiels in his place, as O'Neill assumed overall command. O'Neill joined the Fenian Brotherhood while in Tennessee.

The British were aiding the Confederates in the south, which was their supply of cotton. The Union had blockaded southern ports to cut them off from trade. The British had also massed troops in Canada, prepared to intervene in the war. Perhaps for these reasons, Fenian Brotherhood recruitment was quite open and successful among Irishmen in the Union army. It appears to have been not only tolerated, but permitted by the US army.

The Fenian Brotherhood was founded in New York in 1858 by John O'Mahony and Michael Doheny. At the same time, James Stephens founded the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB) in Dublin on St. Patrick's Day. Both were connected, secret oath-bound organizations dedicated to establishing an independent Irish Republic by force of arms. The name "Fenian" came from the Fianna, an ancient warrior band from the legends of Fionn MacCumhail, a mythical Irish warrior.

O'Mahony, Doheny, and Stephens fought together in the Young Ireland Rebellion of 1848. They fled to Paris to avoid arrest and execution. After a few years, they settled in New York. Their intention was to organise a rebellion in Ireland, but the outbreak of the American Civil War delayed their plans. Stephens was not happy about Irishmen participating in this fight, but the Fenians in America saw the war as a chance to gain battle experience and improve the standing of the Irish in America.

By the end of the war in 1865, which resulted in a Union victory; there were two factions in the Fenian Brotherhood. One followed O'Mahony, the other followed William Randall Roberts. Roberts was born in Co. Cork, 1832. He had emigrated to New York in 1849. The faction split occurred over the plan to invade Canada. Roberts was quite openly making arrangements for it, while O'Mahony was not initially for the idea.

The invasion or raid set the stage for The Battle of Ridgeway, or Limestone Ridge, which was fought on June 2, 1866. They faced a like number of Canadian troops-not British. The Canadian infantry were routed due to their inexperience as compared to the veterans on the Fenian side. The Fenians won a second small victory at Fort Erie. However, the victory was short-lived as British and Canadian reinforcements were arriving. O'Brien headed his army back to the US.

The returning Fenians were detained and disarmed by the US authorities, who didn't seem interested in punishing them. They were basically told to go home. Preparations then began for the Fenian Rebellion in Ireland in 1867. A flag captured in Tallaght, Co. Dublin reveals a clear American influence. Fenians from America did land in Ireland, but the Rebellion was unsuccessful.

For this, Stephens chose young John Devoy. Devoy was captured and imprisoned in 1866, but released in exile to the US in 1871. He received an address of welcome from the US House of Representatives (a branch of the US congress- the upper house is the US senate). By this time, William Randall Roberts was elected to that body as Representative for New York (Democrat, 1871-1875). Devoy continued to plan, arrange and finance Irish revolutionary activity; most notably with Tom Clarke, who would also emigrate to New York after being imprisoned himself for Fenian activity. So here we see the passing of the torch from the Young Irishmen, to the Fenians to 1916.

Kevin Rooney