



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

Michael F. Crowley Lectures

Fourth Program of the 2018-2019 Series ~ Our 17th Annual

Under the Starry Flag: How a Band of Irish Americans Joined the Fenian Revolt and Sparked a Crisis over Citizenship

Guest speaker: Lucy E. Salyer, Ph.D.



Monday, March 25, 2019 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Mainstay Hotel & Conference Center, 151 Admiral Kalbfus Rd. Newport

In 1867 forty Irish American freedom fighters, outfitted with guns and ammunition, sailed to Ireland to join the effort to end British rule. They never got a chance to fight as British authorities arrested them for treason as soon as they landed, sparking an international conflict that dragged the United States and Britain to the brink of war. *Under the Starry Flag* (Harvard University Press, Oct. 2018) recounts this gripping legal saga, a prelude to today's immigration battles.

The Fenians, as the freedom fighters were called, claimed American citizenship. British authorities disagreed, insisting that naturalized Irish Americans remained British subjects. Following in the wake of the Civil War, the Fenian crisis dramatized anew the idea of citizenship as an inalienable right, as natural as freedom of speech and religion. The captivating trial of these men illustrated the stakes of extending those rights to arrivals from far-flung lands. The case of the Fenians, Lucy E. Salyer shows, led to landmark treaties and laws acknowledging the right of exit. The U.S. Congress passed the Expatriation Act of 1868, which guarantees the right to renounce one's citizenship, in the same month it granted citizenship to former American slaves.

Dr. Salyer will examine how the small ruckus created by these impassioned Irish Americans provoked a human rights revolution that is not, even now, fully realized. Placing Reconstruction-era debates over citizenship within a global context, *Under the Starry Flag* raises important questions about citizenship and immigration.

LUCY E. SALYER is Associate Professor of History at the University of New Hampshire and author of *Laws Harsh as Tigers: Chinese Immigrants and the Shaping of Modern Immigration Law*, which won the Theodore Saloutos Book Award for the best book on immigration history. A former Constance E. Smith Fellow at the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Salyer received the Arthur K. Whitcomb Professorship for teaching excellence, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the American Council of Learned Societies.

A reception with light hors d'oeuvres will be held following the lecture. Cash Bar

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED

Email/Computer Users: Please visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org, click "Lectures" page, then click on the link to Reserve, under the listing for the Mar. 25 lecture. You will receive an immediate confirmation via email.

To Reserve by phone: Please phone Ann at (401) 841-5493. Be sure to leave your name, phone, # in your party.

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