



# Michael F. Crowley Lectures

*Our 5th Program of the 2014-2015 Series*

## Scott Molloy, Ph.D.

**Thursday, March 26, 2015 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

Salve Regina University ~ Young Building

518 Bellevue Avenue, at corner Ruggles Ave, Newport \*

### *Rhode Island Irish Socio-Economic Progress: From “Shanty” to “Lace Curtain” during the Gilded Age*

Irish immigrants faced a punishing arrival in our state, and their forward progress over the years was not much kinder. By the end of the 1800s, Rhode Island Irish had at least progressed from “shanty” Irish to “lace curtain” status in some quarters. Prof. Molloy will discuss the conditions in Providence’s Irish-dominated Fifth Ward (Newport did not have a patent on fifth wards!) and describe the breaking of the barriers for Irish-Catholics to get into Brown University—and who those students were. Learn how a pro-Irish Yankee editor of the Providence Journal treated the Gaels in the 1880s with fairness, and even published the essays and stories of some of the most famous Irish literary figures in the world. That editor’s collection of Irish sources is now one of the most important collections of its kind in the world, and is housed at the Providence Public Library. Prof. Molloy will also outline the continued, almost angrier, animosity against the Rhode Island Irish as they finally climbed the ladder of success by the end of the Gilded Age and the beginning of a new century in 1900.

**SCOTT MOLLOY** is an award-winning professor at the Schmidt Labor Research Center, University of Rhode Island. He previously drove a bus, was a union activist, and was chief of staff to a United States Congresswoman. He earned his doctorate in American History from Providence College. A prolific writer, Molloy wrote, *Trolley Wars: Streetcar Workers on the Line* (U. of New Hampshire, 2007) and *Irish Titan, Irish Toilers: Joseph Banigan and Nineteenth-Century New England Labor* (U. Press of New England, 2008), the latter the topic of a past lecture for the Museum. Professor Molloy has a bibliographic essay about the John Gordon case about to be published and was recently inducted into the R.I. Labor History Society Hall of Fame as well as the R.I. Hall of Fame. We welcome him for this, his fourth speaking engagement with the Museum.

*Following the lecture, a reception with light hors d'oeuvres will be held. Cash bar.*

**Reservations are required. Please call or e-mail Ann Arnold at 401-841-5493 or [tpm1@earthlink.net](mailto:tpm1@earthlink.net)**

**Members – \$5 donation ~ Non-members - \$15 donation, which can be applied to 1-year Membership.**

*\* Wheelchair Accessible via ramp. Lecture and reception on first floor.*

**PLEASE SEE IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON NEXT PAGE**



## *Some important information as we resume the 2014-15 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series*

- ❖ Our regular lecture venue, the International Tennis Hall of Fame Special Event Room, is undergoing renovation and will be unavailable for our use until late this spring, by which time the remaining two talks in the current series will have taken place.
- ❖ The March 26 and April 16 lectures, which will conclude the 2014-15 Series, will be held at the historic Young Building, home of Salve Regina University's Pell Center for International Studies.
- ❖ The Young Building is conveniently located at 518 Bellevue Ave, with its entrance at the corner of Ruggles Ave, on the left side of Bellevue, as you travel south. Plenty of parking is available and the venue is handicapped-accessible.
- ❖ While the Young Building is well-suited to our lectures, it accommodates 100 total guests, somewhat fewer than can be hosted in the Tennis Hall of Fame. As a result, reservations will be a "must" if you'd like to attend the 3/26 or 4/16 talks. "Standing room" will not be allowed by Salve, due to fire code.
- ❖ This temporary lecture location is a bit over 1 mile from the La Forge Casino Restaurant/Tennis Hall of Fame, only about 2 minutes by car. Those of you who enjoy dinner at the La Forge before or after Museum lectures are encouraged to continue to do so, and to make reservations with the La Forge, as in the past (restaurant phone: 401-847-0418).
- ❖ In order to defray the additional cost of moving the lectures "off premises" from the THOF/La Forge complex, the per-person lecture donation for Museum members will be increased temporarily from \$3 to \$5 per person for these two talks. Thank you for your understanding. The fee may be paid in cash or check to "MNIH".
- ❖ As always, your lecture fee also includes the post-event reception featuring light hors d'oeuvres and a hosted cash bar.
- ❖ The 2015-2016 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series will return this fall to our usual venue, the Tennis Hall of Fame Special Events Room, directly above the La Forge Casino Restaurant.
- ❖ Questions? Please contact Ann Arnold May at **401-841-5493** or **tpm1@earthlink.net**

### ***Our Thanks to:***

*Salve Regina University, Conferences & Special Events Office  
Management & Staff of the La Forge Casino Restaurant  
Special Events Staff, International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum*