



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

1st talk of our

21ST ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

*Lecture made possible by a generous gift from Virginia Pittsley,
given in memory of her husband, Bill Pittsley, and their son, Jay Pittsley*

Immigrant Activists: Irish Americans who Built a Better Society

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Stack, PhD

Monday, September 19, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.



Wyndham Newport Hotel
240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, R.I. 02842
and Live-Streamed via Zoom

Irish immigrants have been coming to this country since its inception, many of them impoverished and desperate for a new life. While in Ireland, Catholics lived under British rule and were often persecuted and denied basic rights, until Daniel O'Connell's Catholic Emancipation in 1829 hastened the demise of the Penal Laws. Still, evictions, emigration, and death reached their zenith in the 19th century with the Great Hunger and the Land Wars, driving even more Irish to America. Their long experience of being second class citizens in their own land contributed to their awareness of injustice in their new country. As Daniel O'Connell once said, *"Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong,"* and these people worked to ensure that justice prevailed.

Dr. Stack will discuss some of the lawyers, labor leaders, journalists, politicians, and ordinary citizens who advocated for inclusion and dignity for all. Marked by their own experiences and inspired by the promise America held, these immigrant activists were some of the most positive forces for change in American life and fought hard for a more equitable society.

ELIZABETH STACK, PhD, a native of Listowel, Co. Kerry, is the executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany. The museum hosts historical exhibits as well as a robust series of lectures, musical performances, film screenings, plays and more, consistent with its mission: *"We explore the contributions, history, and culture of Irish people in America, and fosters dialogue and exchange between America and Ireland today. By sharing our stories, we strive to create connections and community between all Americans, as we appreciate and study the universality of the immigrant story in American history."* Elizabeth joined the museum from Fordham University, where she taught Irish and Irish American History and was an Associate Director of the Institute of Irish Studies. She completed her PhD at Fordham, writing about Irish and German immigrants in New York at the turn of the twentieth century. To learn more about the Museum, visit www.irish-us.org. We warmly welcome Dr. Stack for this, her second lecture for the Museum of Newport Irish History.

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

Reservations Required for In-Person & Zoom Participation

To reserve: Visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org, click "Lectures," then the appropriate link to reserve under the Sept. 19 listing (In Person or Zoom). You will receive an e-confirmation. If you do not see this email, check your SPAM. The talk will be videotaped and a link to view will be available later, on our website "Lectures" page.

~ \$5 fee/donation payable at the door via cash or check to "MNIH." No fee to participate via Zoom. ~

Questions or Assistance with Registration? Contact Ann Arnold at (401) 841-5493 or [tpm1@earthlink.net..](mailto:tpm1@earthlink.net)

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