



The Museum of Newport Irish History

2nd talk of our

21ST ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES

Lecture made possible by a generous gift from Margaret Armstrong Murray,
given in memory of her husband, Vincent J. Murray

From Emyvale to Providence: A Deep Dive Into A 19th Century Chain Migration

Guest Speaker:

Raymond J. McKenna, Independent Researcher

Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.



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

What began as a trickle of immigration in the 1790s, became a torrent by the 1840s as Irish men, women and children made Providence and its surrounding towns and villages home. In the process, they remade Rhode Island. Who were they? What was their experience during the years of death and disease? Why did they leave friends and family? Why did they come to Providence? How were they received in the Land of Roger Williams? These are the questions that Ray will address in this talk.

A descendant of that migration himself, and frustrated by the thin paper trail most R.I. Irish immigrants left behind, Ray follows every research lead he finds, whether in America or in Ireland. The result is an ever-growing understanding of our refugee ancestors and the lives they lived.

Along the way, Ray has reconnected with distant cousins in counties Monaghan and Roscommon. In this talk, he will tell the story of his family's friends and relatives who fled to Providence, leaving Ireland forever. This is a story he also had the privilege of sharing with an audience at St. Macartin's College, in Monaghan town, County Monaghan.

RAYMOND J. MCKENNA, who blogs at federalhillirish.com, has a BA in History from U.R.I. and an MA in History from UCONN. After teaching history for eleven years, Ray embarked on a new career in the fine wine trade. He may have left teaching, but he never lost his love of history. In the 1990s, he returned to a project he embraced during his academic career: learning everything he can about the Famine Irish immigrant experience in Rhode Island. One of Ray's latest projects is uncovering the stories of Irish immigrants as revealed in the Old Stone Bank Project, 1844 to 1896. Specifically, he has uncovered records of the birthplaces of thousands of Irish immigrants (4,000+ so far), as well as their occupations, employers, family members and more. To read Ray's chronicles of life in 19th century Rhode Island and Ireland, and to explore the Old Stone Bank Project, visit federalhillirish.com. We warmly welcome Ray for this, his 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 Oct. 18 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.

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