



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

First talk of our 22nd Annual Lecture Series

☞ *Made possible by a generous gift from Virginia Pittsley, given in memory of Dr. Cheryl A. McCarthy* ☞

Forgotten Heroes of Ireland's Great Hunger

Guest Speaker:

Dr. Christine Kinealy

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Wyndham Newport Hotel

240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, R.I. 02842

and Live-Streamed via Zoom

The tragedy that struck Ireland between 1845 and 1852 is often viewed through the lens of cold-hearted bureaucrats, greedy merchants, or indifferent landlords, who put profit, principles of political economy, and prejudice, above the need to save the lives of the Irish poor. But this is only part of the story of the Great Hunger. This presentation will examine the contributions of several men and women who risked their lives—and sometimes their livelihoods—in caring for the sick and the starving. A number of them had no connection to Ireland. As Jacques Judah Lyons, Rabbi of Shearith Israel in New York, told his Congregation in 1847,

There is but one connecting link between us and the sufferers...That link, my brethren, is humanity.

Professor Christine Kinealy is Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University. A graduate of Trinity College, Dublin, Christine has published extensively on Ireland's Great Hunger and the Irish Abolition movement. Her publications include the award-winning, *This Great Calamity*, *The Great Hunger in Ireland*, and two recently edited volumes, *Heroes of the Great Hunger* (2021) and *More Heroes of the Great Hunger* (2022). The latter two books were inspired by the front-line workers, unsung heroes of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Christine's research on the Great Famine has been widely acclaimed. In 2017, she received an Emmy for her contribution to the documentary, 'The Great Hunger and the Irish Diaspora.' In 2019, she was one of the five international historians who launched The National Famine Way in Ireland, which recreated the 100-mile walk from Roscommon to Dublin, undertaken by 1,490 tenants of Major Mahon in 1847. Hundreds would die before they reached their ultimate destination, Canada.

Based on her research on Frederick Douglass's time in Ireland in 1845 and 1846, Christine has created a number of walking trails that follow in Douglass's footsteps in Belfast, Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford and Youghal.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres and Cash Bar available before and after the lecture.

Reservations Required for In-Person & Zoom Participation

To reserve: Visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org, click "Lectures," then the appropriate link to reserve under the Sept. 26 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? Please contact Ann Arnold at (401) 841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net

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