

New Immigrant Station Building: Ellis Island, ca. 1892
Lithograph drawing by G.W. Peters
COLLECTION MAUREEN MURPHY



SS Olympic with Ship's Daily Log, 1912
Postcard
COLLECTION MAUREEN MURPHY

ABSTRACT OF LOG.
TRIPLE SCREW S.S. "OLYMPIC" - CAPT. H. J. HADDOCK, C.B., R.D., (COMMR. U.S.N.)

SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK VIA QUEENSBURG AND QUEENSTOWN
VOYAGE NO. 17, WEST, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1912.
PASSED DAUNT'S ROCK L.V. AT 8:01 P.M., SEPT 18TH - DEPARTURE.

DATE	MILES	LAT.	LONG.	REMARKS
SEPT 20	308	53 27	17 45	MODERATE EASTERLY WINDS
21	425	48 14	28 07	S.E. TO STRONG S.S.W. WINDS
22	435	45 00	37 29	N.W.'S WINDS N.N.W. SWELL
23	426	41 09	45 28	TO STRONG S.S.W. WINDS
24	444	41 02	55 02	LIGHT VARIABLE TO STRONG N.E. WINDS
25	425	40 36	64 28	STRONG TO MODERATE N.E. WINDS
427				TO AMBROSE CHANNEL L.V. ARRIVED AT 10:43 A.M., SEPT 26.

DISTANCE 3948 PASSAGE - 8 DAYS 22 HOURS 47 MINUTES
AVERAGE SPEED 17.07 KNOTS



The Irish Mission at Watson House, ca. 1908
Our Lady of the Rosary Parish
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



WATSON HOUSE
Our Lady Of The Rosary Parish
The Saint Elizabeth Seton Shrine
7 State Street
New York, NY 10004-1500
(212) 269 6865
www.setonshrine.com
Hours: By Appointment

Explore the *Irish Hunger Memorial*,
a few blocks north, and *Ellis Island Museum of Immigration* as well as other major points of interest in Lower Manhattan



Hunger Memorial New York City, 2010
Photograph by Conor O'Rourke
Turlough McConnell Communications
Tracy Turner Design

EXPLORE
THE IRISH MISSION
at Watson House
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE HOME FOR IRISH IMMIGRANT GIRLS IN LOWER MANHATTAN, 1883-1954

MISSION RECORD BOOK, 1901-1940
Photograph by Frank Poole

THE IRISH MISSION
at Watson House
THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE HOME FOR IRISH IMMIGRANT GIRLS IN LOWER MANHATTAN, 1883-1954

Watson House, State Street and the Battery, 1859
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Charlotte Grace O'Brien
1842-1909
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



"In Steerage", 1891
Engraving
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



Castle Garden, ca. 1880
Postcard
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



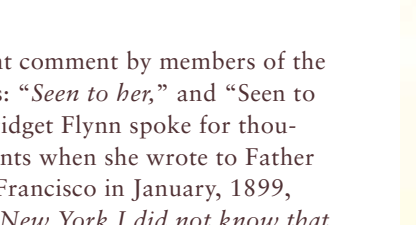
Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton,
founder of the Sisters of
Charity, once lived as a
young mother with her
family at 8 State Street,
a site, now designated her
shrine church of Our Lady
of the Rosary Parish.
Her significance and role
in founding the religious
order were key to
saving both buildings
from demolition.



Archbishop John Ireland
1842-1906
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Rev. John J. Riordan
1851-1887
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Mission Agent Patrick McDonough
1870-1959
1909 Drawing by John. B. Yeats
COLLECTION OF THE CATHY McDONOUGH



Media Portrayal: "Erin Go Bragh"
St. Patrick's Day Illustration, ca. 1910



IRISH MISSION AT WATSON HOUSE

"This is a story that has been waiting to be told... when I look at the faces of these girls, I know it's about our mothers, our grandmothers, our great grandmothers, our sisters, our aunts, our cousins and countless others..." were the heartfelt words of Kathleen Lynch, the Irish Minister of State for Health, Justice and Equality, on February 29th, 2012, at the opening of the exhibit "The Irish Mission at Watson House."

Born in 1845, the year that saw the first complete failure of the potato crop and the beginning of the Great Irish Famine (1845-52), Charlotte Grace was determined to do something about the unsatisfactory immigration conditions that she witnessed first-hand on the docks in Queenstown (Cobh, Co. Cork) and in the steerage of trans-Atlantic steamers.

Though she had modest means and was almost profoundly deaf, Charlotte Grace was responsible for a number of emigration reforms including her own O'Brien Emigrant home in Queenstown which failed because local merchants boycotted her. She sailed steerage on the *Germanic* and recorded her impression of the Irish below deck in her sonnet "Steerage of the Germanic—Two Pictures of the Mind, 1882," a poem that contrasted the image of a summer's evening in the Irish countryside with conditions in steerage:

*"Tween dim-lit decks, hard hands, and weary eyes
Hearts so toil-worn that scarce they dare arise. . ."*



Mission Record Book, 1897, Photograph by Frank Poole

Supported with a grant from the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs, the exhibition documents the untold story of the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls that is now on display at the site of the Mission home at 7 State Street.

The Mission was the inspiration of Charlotte Grace O'Brien (1845-1909) the daughter of William Smith O'Brien, the Young Irelander who was transported to Tasmania for his part in the 1848 Rebellion. Charlotte Grace inherited her father's fighting spirit and his concern for the poor and the exile.

O'Brien spent a month with a longshoreman's family to observe immigrant conditions in New York. Convinced that immigrant girls needed attention, she traveled to St. Paul, Minnesota where she enlisted Archbishop John Ireland's support in a plan to provide information services and to establish a temporary home for Irish immigrant women. Father John J. Riordan, who was appointed Chaplain to the Mission, purchased Watson House in 1883; it was opened the following year. Cardinal John McCloskey divided St. Peter's parish creating the parish of Our Lady of the Rosary to support the work of the Mission.

Patrick McCoole was the Mission's agent at Castle Garden and later at Ellis Island; he was succeeded by Patrick McDonough.

The men met Irish immigrant women when they landed, assisted them with meeting relatives and friends and brought those who needed further assistance or accommodation to the Mission. McCoole, an Irish speaker, thought that he had helped some 600,000 women. McDonough, a Notre Dame graduate and a poet, edited the Mission's quarterly *Old Castle Garden*, a journal that provided practical information, stories and poems that spoke to the immigrant experience: its promises, its silences and its losses.

The Mission's ledger books preserve the records of some 60,000 women who passed through the doors at 7 State Street. It is a priceless record of Irish women's emigration that includes information not available in any other sources.

The most frequent comment by members of the Mission staff was: "Seen to her," and "Seen to her," they did. Bridget Flynn spoke for thousands of immigrants when she wrote to Father Henry from San Francisco in January, 1899, "Until I came to New York I did not know that there was such a place as the Immigrant Girls' House, so when Mr. McCoole told me where he was taking me to, my heart felt lighter. It was not without some regret that I started on my journey out of here the next day. I could have lived within the shelter of that beautiful place all my life."

The Mission exhibition includes information about women's work and recreation and images of Irish immigrant women in the political cartoons of the day. One part of the exhibition links the Mission with the *Titanic*. Some survivors were brought to the Mission, and all survivors were invited to gather at the Mission on April 28, 1912.

Based on the research and archives of Maureen Murphy and John T. Ridge, the Mission exhibition documents the story of the Mission of our Lady of the Rosary Parish. The Mission is a parable of hospitality to the vulnerable immigrant; it is an inspiration for those who continue to work with those newly arrived to our city. A model of service that gave hope and encouragement to Irish immigrants, this city landmark reminds us about what is best about New York history.

RMS *Titanic* Postcard
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY

"New York Times" headlines from front page article April 16, 1912
NEW YORK TIMES ARCHIVES

Biggest Liner Plunges to the Bottom at 2:20 A.M.
RESCUERS THERE TOO LATE
Except to Pick Up the Few Hundreds Who Took to the Lifeboats.
WOMEN AND CHILDREN FIRST
Survivors.
SEA SEARCH FOR OTHERS
The California Stands By on Chance of Picking Up Other Boats or Rafts.
OLYMPIC SENDS THE NEWS
Only Ship to Reach Wireless Messages to Shore After the Disaster.

Titanic Survivor, Nellie Shine O'Callaghan, with her daughter Mary Ellen O'Callaghan Quinn, and her granddaughter, Christine C. Quinn, Speaker of New York City Council
COLLECTION OF QUINN FAMILY

Titanic Survivor, Margaret Devaney

From Co. Sligo, Devaney recounted that as she made her way to the collapsible life boat, she noticed that it was caught on the ship's rivets and the crew was having trouble freeing the boat. They begged the passengers for help in cutting them free. Margaret discovered she had the pocket knife her brother had given her as a token of good luck when she had left Ireland. She gave it to the crew and they were able to cut the collapsible free. She saved three mementos from the *Titanic* and these relics are still treasured by her descendants: the first, was her third class ticket (which she had in her sweater pocket when she left the *Titanic*); the second, was the actual pocket knife that the crewmen used; and the third, was the lifeboat emblem flag removed from the collapsible that was given to Margaret while on the *Carpathia*. The man who gave the flag to Margaret was in charge of the boat and told her that she was responsible for the lifeboat escaping the *Titanic* by having the knife.

COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

COLLECTION OF THE CATHY McDONOUGH

COLLECTION OF QUINN FAMILY

COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY