

IRELAND

LONDON, PUBLISHED

1903

DESTINATION

AGE	COUNTY	DESTINATION
22	Lifford	St. J. City
17	Queen's	
17	Lifford	
114	48 th St	betw
136	42 nd St	St
114	48 th St	OK

S.S. *Coltice*

DATE	NAME	AGE	COUNTY
Nov 28	Maggie Conroy	19	Galway
	Kate Manning	19	Leitrim
	Dominic McEntee	23	Wexford
	S.S. <i>Campania</i>		
Nov 29	Patricia Ceelan	22	Meath
	Peter Ceelan	19	Kerry
	Lizzie O'Donohue	19	Wexford
	Esther Crowley	24	Leitrim
	Mary Brennan	22	Tipperary
	Lizzie Barry	21	Leitrim
	Margt Walsh	20	Leitrim
	Lumberia		
		16	Cavan
			Galway

THE IRISH MISSION

at Watson House



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

TYRE R

“The sword of famine is less sparing than the bayonet of the soldier.”

Thomas F. Meagher

Irish patriot, part of the ‘Young Ireland’ 1848 rebellion and with William Smith O’Brien shipped to Van Diemen’s Land (Tasmania), and distinguished American Civil War General

“The sword of famine...”

The Great Irish Famine (1845-1852) did not initiate Irish immigration to the United States – it institutionalized it. Those who were able left Ireland by the hundreds of thousands and arrived in North American port cities to begin new lives in urban immigrant communities. New Yorkers from poor schoolboys to John Jacob Astor contributed to the 1847 New York Relief Fund for the Irish poor.

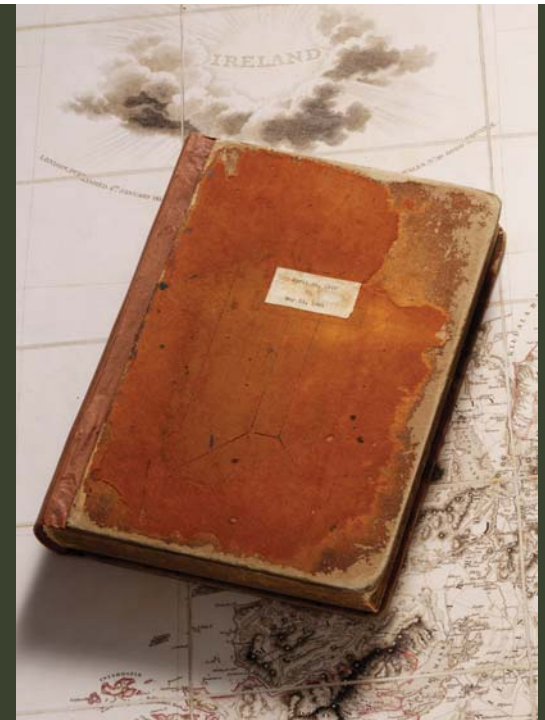
The post-famine custom of giving the land to one inheriting son and dowering one daughter meant that many non-inheriting sons and daughters emigrated. Irish emigration was unique in that it was an emigration of siblings with the annual emigration of women frequently outnumbering the men. A second agricultural depression that began in 1879 further stimulated emigration and those conditions encouraged the creation of a mission to serve young Irish women who emigrated alone.

When an Irish girl left her family and home in Ireland, the Catholic Church was her consolation. That the Church established the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls is a measure of its sense of obligation to protect and sustain the young Irish in New York. The Mission was the fulfillment of the folk prayer for immigrants:

*Beannaigh mé féin is mo ghaolta ag baile
Is an méid díobh atá thar saíle,
Le grásta an Spiorad Naomb, bí féin ár bhfaire
Is ná lig ar seachrán sinn.*

Bless me and my relatives at home
and those of them who are overseas;
with the grace of the Holy Spirit
watch over us and do not let us wander.

Donla uí Bhraonáin, *Paidreacha na Gaeilge*



Hunger Memorial New York City, 2010
Photograph by Conor O'Rourke



Seaweed Harvesting, Aran Islands
Photograph from *The Islands of Ireland* by Thomas H. Mason, 1936



top image:
Mission Record Book, 1897
Photograph by Frank Poole
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

The Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary, 1937
Photograph by Berenice Abbott
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK



Watson House: The Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary, The Saint Elizabeth Seton Shrine, 7 State Street
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

Watson House

Facing New York harbor and Staten Island, and across from Battery Park, Watson House is one of the very few colonial buildings still standing in the City of New York. The front columns built from ship masts were expressive of the successive sea merchant owners, starting with import/exporter and civic leader, James Watson. He purchased the site at 6 State Street in 1793 and built a federal-style house for himself and his wife Mary the following year. When Watson died in 1805, Moses Rogers, merchant and sugar refiner, purchased the house and the number changed to No. 7 State Street. Roger's wife Sarah Woolsey's brother was President Timothy Dwight of Yale; and Rogers's sister married shipping magnate, Archibald Gracie, whose spacious home on the northeast side of Manhattan became known as Gracie Mansion, now the official Mayor's residence. Watson House is a city landmark, and part of the National Register of Historic Places.

The United States government used 7 State Street during the Civil War; however, the tradition that the house was used as a stop on the Underground Railroad is not verified. In the years after the Civil War, the Harbor's Pilot Commissioners made their headquarters at 7 State Street and an Irish woman named Charlotte Grace O'Brien, disturbed at the plight of emigrating women came to New York City with an idea to create a home for Irish immigrant women situated near the harbor.

Support from the Catholic clergy enabled Rev. John J. Riordan to purchase Watson House from Isabella Wallace, on December 4, 1885, and to establish the Home of the *Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls*. Today, Watson House is a New York city landmark, and part of the National Register of Historic Places.



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



Saint Elizabeth Ann Bayley Seton, 1774-1821
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

SAINT ELIZABETH ANN BAYLEY SETON

(1774-1821) founder of the Sisters of Charity and the first native born US citizen to become canonized, lived at the site of the Shrine Church at 8 State Street, next door. During the time that her physician father, Dr. Richard Bayley, worked at the Bedloes Island Quarantine Hospital, St. Elizabeth Ann wrote a prescient observation in 1801 to her sister-in-law, Rebecca Seton, about a vessel in New York Harbor with sick immigrant Irish aboard:

"...there is one vessel of Irish emigrants just opposite the door who had a hundred sick passengers to land which they are doing as fast as possible and we are not suffered to go further than the gate for fear of contracting the ship's fever."



Dr. Richard Bayley, 1745-1801
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

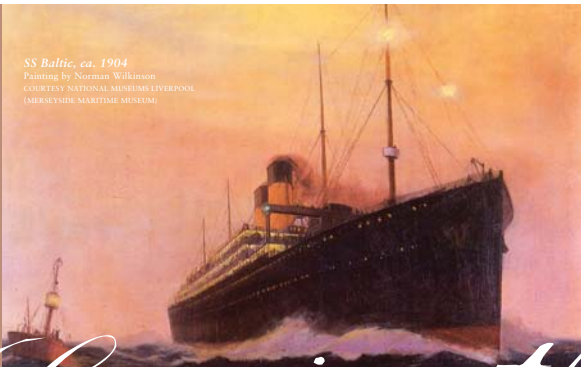


View of Quarantine Grounds and Buildings, 1859
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, PRINT ARCHIVES



The Bay and the Harbor of New York, ca.1855
Painting by Samuel Waugh
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, PAINTINGS COLLECTION

SS Baltic, ca. 1904
 Painting by Norman Wilkinson
 COURTESY NATIONAL MUSEUMS LIVERPOOL
 (LIVERPOOL MARITIME MUSEUM)



'The Irish Remedy: Emigration to America'
 Etching by C.J. Stranland
 NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, PICTURE COLLECTION



Crossing the Atlantic

ASSISTED EMIGRATION

There were many privately funded emigration schemes like that of Vere Foster's who promoted and financed emigration during the two great periods of Irish agricultural depression and unrest: 1849-1857 and 1880-1887. He claimed to have assisted 42,615 emigrants. There was also a government assisted emigration scheme, a scheme that the Nationalist MP Stephen Gwynn described in 1883 as "the Government's cure for Irish troubles... that meant paying five pounds a head to any person to quit the country. There was no test of fitness, the old, the infirm, the imbecile, went along with the healthy boys and girls and the families of young children, going out they knew not where, many of them clad in garments thrown at them from a slop shop and without a penny to their names when they landed. I had enough sense to know that no civilized state would deal so with those whom it really felt to be of its household."

Quayside at Cobh under St. Colman's spire, she waited at the pier, black Mayo dirt smooored into her shoes, daughter of a remnant of clachan and rundale, cottier and meitheal, and the big ships made the imaginable on postcards distributed at the crossroads in the townlands, on signs posted in market villages: Dominion, Cunard, White Star Line - "Splendid Accomodation" For the exile, for the deori: "There is nothing for you here."

Daniel Tobin
 The Narrows (2005)



Vere Foster, 1819-1900
 QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, BELFAST



'Farewell to the Old World'
 Irish Immigrants aboard ship, 1874
 LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Ellis Island Immigration Museum, old suitcases
 Photograph by Nikada
 COBRE

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

SOUTHAMPTON TO NEW YORK VIA CHERBOURG AND QUEENSTOWN.
 VOYAGE No. 17, WEST, SEPTEMBER 18TH, 1912.
 PASSED DAUNT'S ROCK L.V. AT 5:01 P.M., SEPT 19TH-DEPARTURE.

DATE	MILES	LAT.	LONG.	REMARKS.
SEPT 20	306	50.27	17.42	MODERATE EASTERLY WINDS
" 21	425	48.14	28.02	" S.E. TO STRONG S.S.W WINDS
" 22	435	45.00	37.20	" N.W. WLY WINDS, N.W. W SWELL
" 23	420	41.02	45.38	" TO STRONG S.S.WLY WINDS
" 24	444	41.02	55.00	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 10.48 A.M., SEPT 20				
DISTANCE 2048		PASSAGE - 6 DAYS 22 HOURS 47 MINUTES		
AVERAGE SPEED 17.67 KNOTS				



In Steerage, 1891
 Engraving by Otto H. Bacher
 COLLECTION OF MAUREN MURPHY

Vere Foster, noted Irish educator and philanthropist of the time, believed that the only immediate remedy to Ireland's troubles was emigration. He provided guidance on work and wages in America and Canada; he often paid the passages of emigrants out of his own pocket, and when his own money ran out, he borrowed from his brother. He opened subscription lists, encouraging contributions to his Irish Female Emigration Scheme. His first-hand account of the conditions which emigrants endured as they travelled to the new world led to changes in the laws.



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



Castle Garden,
ca. 1880
Postcard
COLLECTION OF
MAUREEN MURPHY

Alone in America

Between 1855 and 1889, some 8,000,000 immigrants arrived at the New York State immigration depot at Castle Garden which was situated on the site of Castle Clinton, the circular stone fort built at the Battery before the War of 1812 to protect New York Harbor. It was designated the immigrant landing depot in 1855. The first Commissioner of Immigration included Gregory Dillon, President of the Irish Emigration Society. The facility protected new arrivals from predatory individuals offering to change money, to guide the immigrant or to lure innocent girls into brothels.



'Alone in America'
COURTESY OF
DR. MARY HELEN THRENT

In 1890, the control of immigration passed from state to federal jurisdiction. They used the Barge Office at the Battery until their facility at Ellis Island was complete. The Immigration depot opened on January 1, 1892. Annie Moore from County Cork was the first immigrant to step off the tender at Ellis Island. That first facility, a timber building, was destroyed by fire in 1897. The Barge Office was called upon again from 1897 until 1900 to serve arriving immigrants. The Moorish, brick building with its distinctive turrets at each corner opened on December 17th 1900; in 1990, Ellis Island was reopened as a National Monument and interpretive center for the study of immigration.

Immigrants arrived at the Ellis Island's ferry slip and proceeded up the stairs to the registry area. En route they were quickly checked by public health officials. Those with health issues were transferred to the Ellis Island hospital. Those who passed the health screening were processed and collected their luggage and proceeded to city-bound ferries.

Mission agents, Patrick Mc Coole and later Patrick McDonough escorted the girls to the Mission who had neither family nor friend to meet them.



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



'Among the Immigrants.'
Interior of the Labor Exchange at Castle Garden
Engraving by S. Fox
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, PICTURE COLLECTION

O'Brien Emigrant Home, Queenstown, ca. 1876
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



Charlotte Grace O'Brien

Charlotte Grace O'Brien (1845-1909) was the daughter of the Young Irelander, William Smith O'Brien, who was transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) for his part in the unsuccessful 1848 Rebellion. She was responsible for a number of emigration reforms and the guiding spirit in the creation of the Mission. Critical of the overcrowding and overcharging in Queenstown emigrant boarding houses, O'Brien opened her own *O'Brien Emigrants Home* for 105 travelers at 7 The Beach, Queenstown. It was a daunting task for a woman of modest means who was almost profoundly deaf. The Home failed because it was boycotted by other boardinghouse keepers and local merchants, forcing her to order provisions from Cork. Concerned about conditions in steerage, O'Brien pressed for a reconfiguration of the sleeping accommodations in steerage that would give young women more privacy. In 1882, she travelled by herself on the *Germanic* to New York in order to investigate conditions aboard an emigrant ship and assess first-hand what the real circumstances were.

Her sonnet, "*Steerage of Germanic - Two Pictures of the Mind 1882*" describes her observation of her Irish fellow travelers:

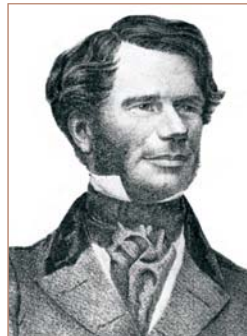
*Twelve dim-let decks, hard hands, and weary eyes,
Hearts so toil-worn that scarce they dare arise
To gaze upon themselves and own their youth.*

After spending a month with a longshoreman's family in a tenement house on Washington Street, O'Brien travelled to see Bishop John Ireland in St. Paul, Minnesota because she believed that of all the American hierarchy, he would be most sympathetic to her proposal to organize services for arriving Irish women: an information bureau at Castle Garden, a temporary shelter to provide accommodation for immigrants and a chapel. Telling Bishop Ireland, "*I am only the plank over the stream; it is you, the Catholic Church who has to build the bridge.*" Bishop Ireland promised to raise the matter at the May, 1883 meeting of the Irish Catholic Association who endorsed the scheme. He also contacted Cardinal John McCloskey, Archbishop of New York, about providing a priest for immigrants arriving at Castle Garden. And 1883, Watson House was purchased by Rev. John J. Riordan and the Mission was established.

O'Brien spent her last years in Ardanoir, her home above the Shannon at Foynes, Co. Limerick. She continued her active interest in the welfare of immigrants until her death in 1909.



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



William Smith O'Brien, 1803-1864
Portrait engraving, ca. 1840
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



Queenstown Dock (now Cobh), ca. 1900
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



Archbishop John Ireland, 1842-1906
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

“TAKE CARE OF THE IMMIGRANT GIRLS”

FATHER JOHN J. RIORDAN

Born in New York of Irish parents who emigrated from Cork, Fr. John J. Riordan was appointed the first Castle Garden chaplain in 1883. While Fr. Riordan founded the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls on October 1, 1883, the Mission did not officially begin to function until January, 1884. Fr. Riordan’s goals for the Mission were three: to establish a Catholic Bureau at Castle Garden providing information and counseling to arriving immigrants, to open a Catholic boarding house offering temporary housing for immigrants while they waited to meet family or friend, or transit to a final destination or for secure employment, and to provide an immigrant chapel to provide spiritual support to immigrants. From the beginning, the Mission welcomed all immigrant women. Father Riordan visited Ireland in 1885 to meet clergy and laity to let them know about the services of the Mission and to call on their support. When he returned, Father Riordan continued to serve at the Mission until his untimely death, at age thirty-six, on December 15, 1887. His last words were said to have been, “Take care of the immigrant girls.”

Fr. Riordan’s words inspired E. J. Leitch’s poem:

“Take Care of the Immigrant Girls”

*No hero’s last breath upon victory’s field
As his soul met the specter’s demand,
No soldier when forced to the victor to yield
E’er uttered a sentence more grand,
Than Erin’s dear son, as in Liberty’s name,
He thought of old Ireland’s bright pearls,
No dying request more enduring to fame
Than “Take care of the immigrant girls.”*

*Thy name and thy tomb we shall ever enshrine,
With hallowed affections impress:
No child of old Erin shall ever decline
To honor thy holy recess.
Where the patriot’s dust of Melchisedech’s pride
Appeals for the purest of pearls,
His last words to earth on the day that he died,
“Take care of the immigrant’s girl.”*

7 STATE STREET

When the Mission opened, Father Riordan placed immigrant girls in local boarding houses until May 1, 1884 when he rented part of a house at Broadway, opened a Home for Immigrant girls, and engaged Mrs. Boyle to look after the 160 young immigrant women who could be accommodated there. On December 4, 1886, Fr. Riordan purchased 7 State Street for the Mission Home from Isabella Wallace for \$70,000. Cavan-born Fr. Michael Callaghan, who served as the third Mission director from 1889 until 1896, retired the 7 State Street mortgage. The Home had a reception room, a dining room, a dormitory and a chapel.



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



Fr. Michael Callaghan
1842-1906
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Fr. Michael J. Henry
1853-1922
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Group Photo: Fr. Brosnahan, Mr McCoolle, and Fr. Henry, and
Irish immigrant women, ca. 1908
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Cardinal John McCloskey
1810-1885
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

PARISH OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

The Archdiocese of New York recognized worth of the Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls and took steps to provide institutional support in 1886 when Cardinal McCloskey divided St. Peter’s Parish and directed that the 1500 Catholics living in Lower Manhattan and on the Harbor Islands be constituted as the Parish of Our Lady of the Rosary; however, the change in commercial zoning meant that the Manhattan residents of the parish were largely gone by the end of the 1920s. The Church became the National Shrine Church of Mother Elizabeth Seton in 1964. The old residence at 8 State Street was demolished and the Shrine of St. Elizabeth Seton, the first American-born saint, was opened in the 1966. Mother Seton was canonized in 1975.

MISSION GUESTS, 1908

Fr. Michael Henry, the Mission Director until 1908, on the Mission’s 25th year, stands fifth from the last in the front row. During their first twenty-five years, the Mission served over 100,000 of the some 307,823 Irish girls who arrived in the Port of New York. They found jobs for 12,000.



Immigration,
Ellis Island, ca. 1900
MUSEUM OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK,
BYRON CO. COLLECTION

MISSION AGENTS

PATRICK MCCOOLE (1842 - 1906) &
PATRICK MCDONOUGH (1870 - 1959)

In 1886, Patrick McCoolle, an Irish speaker from Donegal, joined the Mission as its agent at Castle Garden and later at Ellis Island. His responsibilities were to interview arriving Irish girls, to provide information about how to reach their final destinations and, at the end of the day, to escort those girls not met by family or friends to the Mission Home. He estimated that he saw over 615,000 Irish girls during his years of Mission service. McCoolle also wrote to the Irish hierarchy and to provincial Irish papers giving them advice about how best to protect immigrant Irish girls. After McCoolle's death in 1906, Patrick McDonough, a Sligo immigrant became the Mission agent where he worked for fifty years. He met his wife, Ellen Healey, when she arrived at Ellis Island from Donoughmore, Co. Cork.

A graduate of Notre Dame, McDonough was a friend of New York's Irish and Irish-American literati. During the decade 1930 to 1940, the Mission published a quarterly journal called *Old Castle Garden* which McDonough edited. He also published pamphlet titled *Seven State Street, New York. A House with a History. Owners Past and Present. Letters from Archbishop Ireland and Charlotte Grace O'Brien. The Mission and its Record* (1947) [2005].

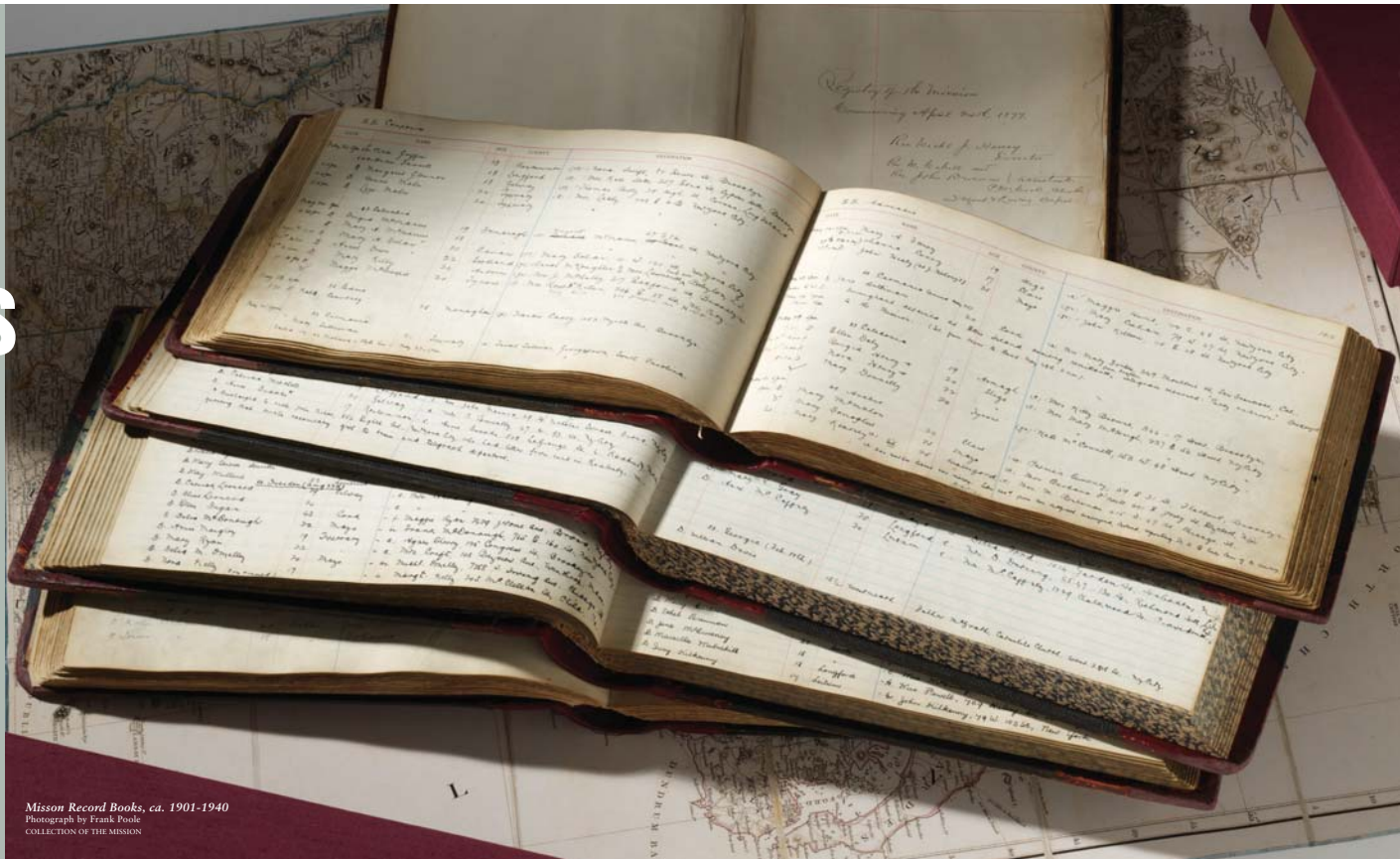
The cover of *Old Castle Garden* featured a reproduction of a 1850 engraving of Castle Garden framed by an interlacing border with motifs of the four Irish provinces in each corner. A stanza from one of McDonough's poems, "A Hosting at Castle Garden" links Irish national aspirations and Irish Catholicism with newly arrived immigrants. *Old Castle Garden* functioned as an agent of acculturation in its effort to provide readers with practical information about citizenship, with essays about American history and culture, as well as with stories and poems that spoke to the Irish immigrant experience: its promises, its silences and its losses.



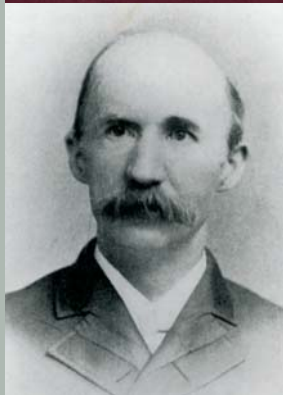
Letter from Patrick McCoolle to
Cardinal Logue, March, 1898
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



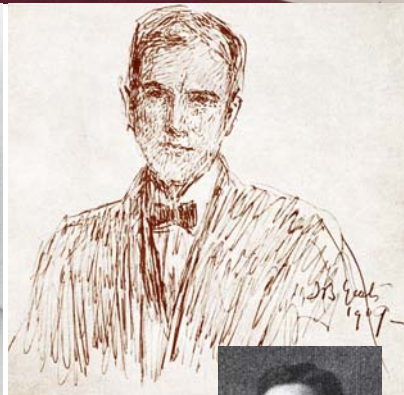
Cover, "Old Castle Garden," March, 1931
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Mission Record Books, ca. 1901-1940
Photograph by Frank Poole
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Patrick McCoolle, 1842-1906
Photograph
COLLECTION OF THE MISSION



Patrick McDonough, 1870-1959
Family photograph and a 1909 drawing by
John B. Yeats
COLLECTION OF CATHY MCDONOUGH CORCORAN



Women's Job Exchange, ca. 1901
Etching
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



New York Labor Exchange, 1891
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY

MISSION GIRLS: AT WORK

The receipt from the New York Labor Exchange at 10 Washington Street, New York, dated November 28, 1891, records that it received from Mr. T. F. Green the sum of \$2.00 as the office fee for hiring Annie O'Brien at the wage of \$8.00 per month, \$1.00 dollar of which was to be deducted from her first month's wages. A Labor Bureau report for 1882 stated that the average salary for women who obtained positions through their office ranged from \$8 to \$10 per month.

Mrs. M. L. Stone's "The Labor Exchange at Castle Garden, "Choosing a Girl," *Harper's Weekly*, January, 1892, depicts a scene at this Labor Exchange. While only domestic service positions were offered by the Labor Bureau, Irish immigrant girls frequently used the Castle Garden Labor Service. In 1882, just before the Mission opened, 80% of the employment secured that year (8,363 of 10,462) were Irish. There was some anti-Irish prejudice which was based on sectarianism. Tracts like *The Female Jesuit* or the *Spy in the Family* (1857) warned employers about secret baptism. Walt Whitman in his article "Wants" describes women just arrived in their thick woolen capes, their worn hats and their heavy boots sitting on long benches waiting for a master or mistress to come along and give them a "call."

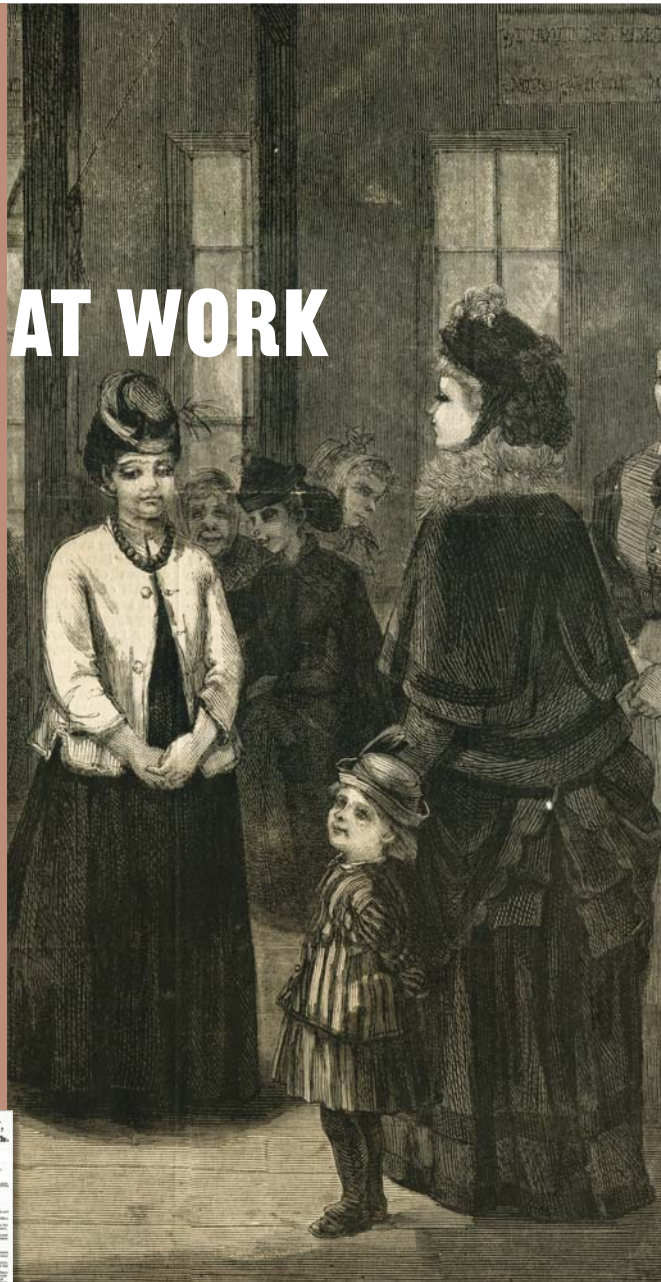
Despite anti-Irish prejudice, Irish immigrant women found a ready market for their services. Immigration historian, Oscar Handlin, wrote that as early as 1870, Irish servant girls in Boston had the reputation for cheerfulness and loyalty and they were willing to work for cheap wages. Autobiographies by sons of old Yankee households like Samuel Eliot Morrison talked about the kindness of the Irish cooks and nurses in their homes.



Irish Depositors, Emigrant Industrial Savings Bank
Frank Leslie's Weekly Newspaper, March 13, 1880
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



Remittances to Ireland
Clan-na Gael Program, 1905
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



"Choosing a Girl"
Harper's Weekly, cover, January, 1878
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



top image:
Annie O'Donnell, 1901-1904
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY



Irish Stogie-maker, 1909
Photograph by Lewis W. Hine
NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY, PICTURE COLLECTION

Annie O'Donnell left Galway for America in 1898, one of 15,175 Irish women who left that year with most of them going into domestic service. Annie went to work for the W. L. Mellon family of Pittsburgh as a children's nurse and in this photo she is wearing clothing lent to her by employers. Her lively letters to her prospective husband whom she met on the boat to the US, was compiled in a book, *Your Fondest Annie* edited by Dr. Maureen Murphy, and forms a unique contribution to women's emigration literature.

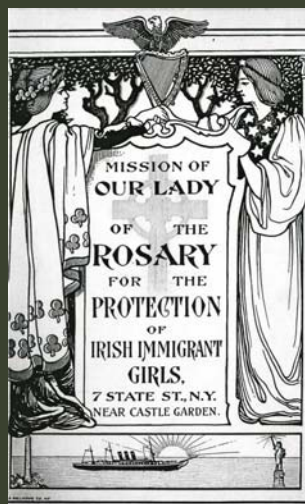
MISSION GIRLS: AT PLAY

TIME OFF:

Irish immigrant women often caught up with their friends and families on their afternoons or evenings off. They also enjoyed meeting other Irish from home at county societies or parish dances. The Irish girls were active members of their parish societies and various Catholic charities so meetings were often scheduled on the servants' nights off (Thursdays) to facilitate participation. Starting with the Ladies Land League, Irish women played a strategic part in the Irish nationalist movement in the United States. Many too, like Mary Harris Jones (Mother Jones), Kate Mullaney, Agnes Nestor, and Augusta Troup became active in the labor movement.

THE MISSION'S SILVER JUBILEE

The cover of the program features Erin and America clasping hands under the harp and eagle wearing robes with shamrocks and stars. At the bottom of the page a liner leaves an Irish round tower and sails toward the Statue of Liberty. The program marked the Mission's twenty-fifth year (1883-1908) of service to Irish immigrant girls. In later years, the Mission was supported by Irish organizations in New York City who sponsored athletic tournaments and *feiseanna* to raise money for the Mission.




Mission Silver Jubilee, 25th Anniversary Cover, 1908
 COLLECTION OF THE MISSION

NINETEENTH ANNUAL
Summer Festival
 in aid of the
Home for Irish Immigrant Girls
 No. 7 State Street, New York.
ON FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1909.
 Doors Open at 7 P. M.
 At Salsler's Haystack River Park,
 127th Street and 24 Avenue.
TICKETS, 50c. EACH.
 Music by Prof. Eiler's Orchestra.
IRISH PIPERS IRISH DANCING
 Seven very valuable Prizes awarded to the seven who by June 27 make the largest return for tickets.
 1st PRIZE—SOLID GOLD RING (Two genuine diamonds and one Ruby).
 2d PRIZE—14K GOLD LADIES' WATCH (Hunting case, 1 diamond in case).
 3d PRIZE—SOLID GOLD NECKLACE (Three genuine Amethysts and three Pearls in pendant).
 4th PRIZE—ORIENTAL PEARL "LEMAIRE" Opera Glass.
 5th PRIZE—SOLID GOLD BRACELET (Hand engraved).
 6th PRIZE—GERMAN SILVER WEIST BAG.
 7th PRIZE—SOLID GOLD BROOCH (With eight real pearls).
DOOR PRIZE—A TEN-DOLLAR GOLD PIECE.

Mission Ephemeris: Various Activities, 1896-1936
 COLLECTION OF JOHN T. RIDGE

Grand Athletic Tournament
 IN AID OF THE
"HOME FOR THE PROTECTION OF IRISH IMMIGRANT GIRLS."
 7 State Street, New York.
 AT CREEK PARK, L. I. CITY.
SUNDAY, MAY 7th, 1910
 UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE
 Irish Counties Athletic Union
Non-Sports Sponsors by the A. A. T. Over 200 Races (including Men and Women) Football, Track, Golf, Etc. The Ladies' Soccer and Soccer Tennis for the winners in each event. TWO HAZEL POSTBALL GAMES. KERRY vs. KILKENNY. Full Race by the Ladies' Athletic Union.
 Dance Music by Prof. Beggs' Orchestra.
Concessions at 2:00 P.M. Sharp.
ADMISSION, 50 Cts. a Person.

ENTERTAINMENT AND RECEPTION
 (Revival of Annual Summer Festival)
 In Aid of the
Home for Irish Immigrant Girls
 NO. 7 STATE STREET, NEW YORK
ON FRIDAY, APRIL 30, 1926
 AT PALM GARDEN
 56th Street at Lexington Avenue
TICKETS ONE DOLLAR EACH
 Music by McIlroy's Band

SECOND ANNUAL
Irish Feis
 A Revival of Ancient Ireland's Cultural Institution
 HELD AT
 STEEPLCHASE PARK
 CONEY ISLAND, N. Y.
 Saturday, August 1, 1916

 Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary
 24 Home for the Protection of Irish Immigrant Girls
 7 STATE STREET, NEW YORK
 REV. PATRICK J. TEMPLE, S. J., Director

G. A. S. I. G.
 ANNUAL ADDRESS TO THE FRIENDS
 of the
 "Mission of Our Lady of the Rosary."

 For the Protection
 of Immigrant Girls
 Rev. M. J. HENRY
 Director
 A. D. 1896
 7 STATE STREET
 New York City



SS Titanic, 1912
White Star Line Poster

SS Titanic
Postcard
COLLECTION OF MAUREEN MURPHY

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

THE MISSION & THE TITANIC

No account of pre-WWI trans-Atlantic Irish emigration would be complete without the story of the Irish on the *Titanic*. Fifty-four men, fifty-four women and five children boarded the *Titanic* at Queenstown. Irish girls arrived on the boat deck from steerage in time to get into Boat 15, the next to the last boat lowered from the starboard side of the *Titanic* at 1:35am. The *Titanic* went down at 2:20am. Irish girls survived at a slightly better rate than steerage women. Thirty two women (56%) were rescued; nine men were rescued. No Irish child survived.

Survivors from the *Titanic* who arrived in New York aboard the *Carpathia* were taken to the Mission. Later, they were invited back to the Mission on April 28th, 1912, for debriefing and to receive a share of the money donated to survivors. A *Titanic* survivor, who died in 1993, was Nellie (Ellen) Shine, the grandmother of the former New York City Council Speaker, Christine C. Quinn.

The piper, Eugene Daly, played "Erin's Lament" on the stern of the *Titanic* as the ship left Cork Harbor. He was one of the steerage men who roused the Irish girls who were then able to escape from the sinking ship.



Eugene Daly, Musician and *Titanic* survivor

Daly was from Co. Westmeath and realized quickly the *Titanic* was sinking even though the crew reassured passengers that all was well. He recounted:

"I managed to don a life preserver and failing to get a seat in a lifeboat on a raft, I jumped overboard and struck out just before the ship sank. The water was icy and for the first few minutes I thought I could not survive the cold shock. I do not know how long I was in the water when I caught the edge of a lifeboat or collapsible boat already crowded. It up set, but the people in it did not drown. Some of them scrambled back while others, including myself were dragged into a lifeboat containing women and a few men. My sufferings in the lifeboat were intense until we reached the Carpathia, where I was made comfortable. Here I am now, stripped of every worldly possession, including my beloved bag pipes, my baggage and ninety-eight pounds sterling which I saved for fourteen years in anticipation of spending the rest of my days in the United States."

The Evening World Newspaper, April 22, 1912

Some other *Titanic* survivors who arrived at the Mission on April 18, 1912

Pictures from
The Irish on the Titanic
by Senan Mohony,
Centenary Edition, 2012
MERCER PRESS, CORK

Other sources:
ENCYCLOPEDIA TITANICA



Thomas McCormack with Catherine, probably Catherine McCormack Evers, his sister



Kate, Margaret and Rose Murphy



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.



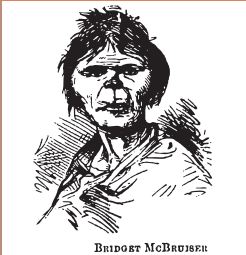
Kate Mullen



Daniel Buckley

OLYMPIC SENDS THE NEWS

Only Ship to Flash Wireless Messages to Shore After the Disaster.



BRIDGET MCBRUISER



left image:
"Bridget McBruiser"
Illustration "Contrasted Faces,"
1866

"Erin go Bragh"
St. Patrick's Day Postcard

MEDIA PORTRAYALS OF IRISH IMMIGRANT WOMEN

There were two types of Irish immigrant women who appeared in the political cartoons and popular media: the "Biddy" and the "Bridget." Irish servant cartoons varied from those that represented Irish domestics as good natured bumpkins, to ridiculous figures trying to assimilate into American middle-class life ("The Last Reception of the Season"), to the insubordinate bullying Biddy ("The Irish Declaration of Independence That We Are All Familiar With") and to the dangerous political Biddy intent on doing her part for Irish nationalism ("Another Blind for the Biddies"). These cartoons by artists like F. J. Opper in *Puck* and others drew on negative Irish stereotypes ("A Bombardment that Would Paralyze Them") and remained pernicious portrayals in the popular press for over fifty years (approx. 1845 - 1905).



HOW TO KEEP A GIRL



"How to Keep a Girl"
Illustration by Frederick Opper
Puck, January 30, 1884, centerfold

"The Last Reception of the Season"
Illustration by Frederick Opper
Puck, September 11, 1882, back cover



WHOLEY CARTOONS AND DRAWINGS FROM MAUREEN MURPHY COLLECTION

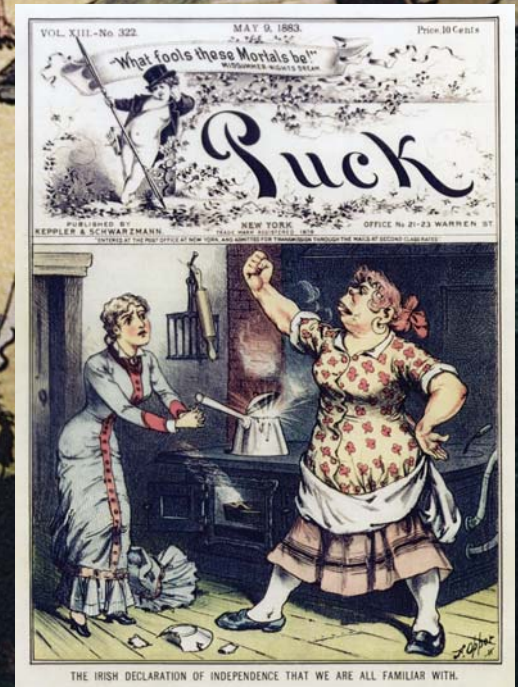
"A Bombardment that Would Paralyze Them"
Illustration by Frederick Opper
Puck, April 1883, back cover



"Another Blind for the Biddies - The Dynamiter's New Device"
Illustration by Frederick Opper
Puck Cover, March 11, 1885, back cover



"Look on this Picture, Then on this," ca. 1885
Advertisement Card



"The Irish Declaration of Independence That We All Are Familiar With"
Illustration by Frederick Opper
Puck, May 9, 1883, cover

Mission Record Book, 1897
Photograph by Frank Poole



THE IRISH MISSION *at Watson House*

THE BATTERY HERITAGE FOUNDATION
7 State Street New York, NY 10004 (212) 269-6865 www.watsonhouse.org

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April 24, 1897
TO
May 11, 1901

