



Mayo Society of New York

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Founded 1879; incorporated 1891 as Mayo Men's Benefit, Patriot and Social Association of the City of New York; later as Mayo Men's P&B Association and in 1985, gender neutral as the Mayo Society, Inc. of the City of New York.

Vol. 138

Newsletter

May 2017

Regular Meeting Tuesday, May 9, 2017
Where: St. Sebastian Parish Center
39-60 57th Street
Woodside, NY 11377
Time: 7:30 P.M. Sharp
Regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month excluding July & August.

Our President's Notes

As you are aware, there is a tremendous amount of interest in the story of John Curry, the youngest visionary of the miraculous Apparition of Our Blessed Mother at Knock, Co Mayo in 1879. A historic pilgrimage tour from Ireland is underway for his re-interment scheduled for Saturday May 13, 2017 at the Basilica of Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral in lower Manhattan.

In a brief snapshot, John Curry was born in 1874 in Lecarrow, Knock. He was the eldest of four children but was raised by his grandparents, the Byrnes Family in the village of Knock's. This was a time when Ireland suffered great distress from famine, 'rack' rents, the rights of tenant farmers and brutal evictions.

On the wet evening of August 21, 1879, John and three others from the Byrne house witnessed the apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist with a background of an alter and a cross, a lamb and adoring angels above at the gable wall of the village parish church, St. John the Baptist. At age five, John was the youngest of the 15 official witnesses. The eldest was 74.

At age 23, John Curry traveled to the United States for two years and then to England. In 1911. At age 37, he returned to the United States and resided in New York. He was employed as an attendant in the City Hospital on Welfare Island, now known as Roosevelt Island.

In 1932, due to ill health, John entered a home run by Little Sisters of the Poor on East 70th Street, where he remained until his death on May 27, 1943 aged 69.

Records indicate John was buried in a communal plot owned by the Little Sisters of the Poor in the Cemetery of the Resurrection now known as St. Charles Cemetery in Farmingdale, NY. His grave was unmarked by a headstone.

The original plans of Fr. Richard Gibbons, Pastor of Knock Shrine, were to install a headstone until his Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan became aware of the project and suggested John Curry's remains be reinterred at the Basilica of Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral in lower Manhattan which initiated plans for this pilgrimage tour.

On Monday May 8th, a full flight of pilgrims, including relatives of John Curry, is scheduled to leave Knock airport and arrive at JFK for this magnificent, historic event. On Thursday May 11th the Mayo Foundation and Mayo Society of New York have joined together to host an evening, "Irish Night New York Style" to welcome our pilgrims at Papillion Bistro and Bar, 22 East 54th Street, NYC. All members are invited to join us to welcome our guests.

On Saturday May 13th at 11am, a Solemn Requiem Mass for John Curry will be celebrated at the Basilica of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral located at 260 Mulberry Street (between Prince and Houston Streets) after which his remains will be reburied on the historic grounds of the Basilica in the adjacent cemetery. The ceremony will include a Choir and Orchestra also traveling from Mayo, Ireland.

The Mayo Society has arranged a round trip bus ride (\$20) for this celebration Mass leaving from St. Sebastian's Parish at 8:30am. Please contact **Betty McLoughlin 347-613-1303** or **Mary Coyne-Byrne 917-282-5538** for bus reservations.

A second mass of Thanksgiving will be held the following day, May 14th at Saint Patrick's (New) Cathedral in midtown. All are welcome to join us in these memorable events! Kindly remember that seating in both Cathedrals is on a first come basis.

Happy Mother's Day to our **miracle moms**. As the old saying goes, *men are what their mothers made them*.

James Prendergast, President

Membership Renewal

John Gray reports that nearly all members have renewed. About 14 members remain out of status. Kindly oblige!

News of our members

Heartfelt condolences to members Teresa Margaret Haugh and Teresa Haugh Prendergast and Families on the death of husband and father, Anthony Haugh. We have heard nothing but the highest praise and admiration for Tony from members and non-members. We also offer condolences to our president who had a warm relationship with his father-in-law.

Funeral Arrangements for Tony Haugh, Valley Stream, NY

(native of Co. Kildare), husband of Mayo member Teresa Haugh:

Flinch & Bruns Funeral Home, 34 Hempstead Avenue, (Corner Peninsula Blvd.) Lynbrook NY.

Viewing: Wednesday & Thursday 2-4 and 7-9pm.

Funeral Mass: Friday at 10:45 am, Church of the Holy Name of Mary, 55 E Jamaica Ave. Valley Stream, NY, 11580-6313

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Heartfelt condolences to Jim Lombard on the death of his beloved Rosemary, 'Rosie' McManus Lombard. Our email to our approx. 115 email list included a special tribute which we attach.

The wake will be in Williams Funeral Home, 5628 Broadway at 232nd St., Bronx, NY 10463 on Thursday from 7 pm to 9 pm and Friday 2 - 5 pm and 7 - 9 pm.

The Funeral Mass will be in St. Philip Neri on Saturday, May 6 at 10:15 am. St Philip Neri Church is located at 3025 Grand Concourse, Bronx, near 202nd Street.

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We offer our condolences to the Family of Clareman John O'Neill on his sudden death less than five weeks after the death of John's beloved wife Bea. Although not a member, John was well known to many of our

members and was an especially close friend of member Adrian Flannelly who quietly reminisced with him hours before he died. A terrific musician who led his own band, John was a member of the Clare Association, a delegate to the UICA and a loyal member of the Mineola Irish-American Society. We will miss this wonderful couple who contributed so much to the Irish-America.

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Events

The UICA 79th Annual Féis will take place Sunday, June 11, 2017 at Saunders Trade & Technical H.S., 183 Palmer Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701.

Doors open at 8am. Competitions in Irish step-dancing, music, language, and singing will start at 9am. A food vender is on the premises. Enjoy a great day.

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A short profile of Joe McLoughlin, grandfather of member Brian FitzPatrick

Did you know that, **Joseph F. McLoughlin, grandfather of member Brian FitzPatrick**, was one of the crucial founders, with his daughter Rita, Brian FitzPatrick's mother, of the UICA Féis in 1931. This first and oldest Feis in America took place in 1932.

While serving as Jury Clerk of the NYS Supreme Court, Mr. McLoughlin established the jury pooling system. Jurors, under this system, were summoned to a central assembly from where they were assigned to parts of the Court, as they were required. Mr. McLoughlin was the first chief clerk in charge of the jury pool.

Joe McLoughlin was born in Ahascragh, Co. Galway and emigrated to the US in 1902. He died on April 1 1956 aged 71. A superb speaker, Joe McLoughlin had a law degree but never practiced. His daughter, Rita, Brian's mother, was a classically trained lyric soprano who entertained

at Irish charitable events, one organized by a committee that included poet, Padraic Colum. The concert took place in Spring 1944. Padraic Colum was born in Ireland on December 8, 1881 and passed away in NYC on January 11, 1972. He was poet, novelist, dramatist, children's author and a leading figure in Ireland's Literary Revival. He was on the first board of the Abbey Theatre. Colum taught at P.H. Pearse's experimental school, Scoil Éanna in Rathfarnham, Dublin and Mary Maguire Colum, his wife to be at the girls' school, Scoil Íde or St. Ita's. They vacationed in the U.S. in 1914 and stayed on for most of their lives. Colum sent a letter to Rita McLoughlin expressing praise and appreciation for her performance in the concert sponsored by the Carl Hardebeck Testimonial Committee¹. The original second letter¹ is in the FitzPatrick Family Collection in the Irish Archives at NYU. Rita McLoughlin FitzPatrick assembled the most complete collection available of UICA Féis Journals, now in NYU's Irish Archives.

¹ Blind from infancy, **Carl Gilbert Hardebeck** (Carl G. Hardebec) (10 December 1869 – 10 February 1945) was an Irish composer and arranger of traditional music and eventually, after the Dublin Lockout in 1913, an Irish nationalist. He was one of the instigators in the revival of Irish music. (Wikipedia)

¹ Colum's first letter was delivered to the wrong address. Persistent, he typed another in which he noted that "He was carried away by your [Rita's] singing of, A Eire gaibh athais." This was high praise from such an eminent literary figure. We actually have an MP3 of Rita singing *Love Thee Dearest* recorded on 78 in 1942. It was digitized and cleaned as much as possible by Alan, son of Frank McLoughlin, Brian's cousin in Ireland who emailed it to me. Rita's dates are October 26, 1911 – January 22, 2008.

John J. Garvey, Editor with input from **Jim Prendergast, President**, and **John Gray, Financial Secretary**.

Items of interest for our newsletter may be sent to JGarvey386@aol.com