

# THE FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 2016 47th Year Issue #6

FOXBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO OBSERVE THE IRISH EXPERIENCE



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The month of March in general and the days around March 17 in particular are usually a happy time for the Irish and their friends.

This was not always the case. Popular lecturer **Christopher Daley** will speak about the Irish experience in America at the March meeting of the Foxborough Historical Society.

**"No Irish Need Apply – A History of the Irish in Boston"** is a 90-minute slide lecture in which the many facets of the early Irish experience in Boston are examined.

Daley begins with the story of the Irish who were brought over unwillingly as indentured servants in the mid-17th Century. Then the first real migration of the Irish in 1718. The arrival of the Scot-Irish or the "Ulster Irish" will be discussed.

Next, we will explore the slow pre-famine trickle (1820's) of Irish Catholic immigrants coming into Boston as well as the corresponding increase in Anti-Irish/Catholic sentiment within Boston beginning with the notorious Pope's Day celebrations. Then the discussion will turn to the burning of the Ursuline Convent in 1834 in Charlestown and the Broad Street Riot of 1837.

In the third quarter of the lecture, the massive wave of immigration into Boston after the "Great Potato Famine" will be examined, including the condition of the new arrivals, the neighborhoods they settled, how they banded together, the kinds of work they did to survive and their eventual assimilation into American culture.

Finally, there will be a discussion of the rise of the Irish within the sphere of Boston politics and the emergence of the "Ward Boss."

Additionally, Daley will give short vignettes on famous Irish political leaders such as **Patrick Collins, Hugh O'Brien, Martin Lomasney, Patrick J. Kennedy, John "Honey Fitz" Fitzgerald**, and of course, the old "Rascal King" himself, **James Michael Curley**.

The lecture will take place on Tuesday, March 22, at 7:30 pm in the Community Meeting Room of the Boyden Library in Foxborough center.

There is parking at the library and on nearby streets. Please do not park in the Aubuchon lot.

#### **A final note from the program chairman....**

I am about to move on, having served a decade as program chairman, trying to fill the shoes of **Penny Ingram** who assured that the monthly historical society meetings were a bright spot in Foxborough's life. Up to now, the Foxborough Historical Society has had monthly meetings. That may change to quarterly meetings, at least temporarily, beginning in September 2016. In addition, in response to requests from members, we hope to have some meetings in the daylight hours. In saying "farewell," I want to thank members and guests for their interest and assistance; it has been a privilege serving with wonderful people and dealing with historians of all sorts, preparing programs of interest. Most important, I would like to appeal for volunteers who can help in this important area in the future. The historical society needs you! For further information, call me at 508-543-3727 or email [plyons01@comcast.net](mailto:plyons01@comcast.net). Thank you. **Patrick Lyons**

Those interested in joining the Foxborough Historical Society should ask for an application form at the meeting. The annual fee is \$8 for individuals, \$10 for families. For further information, call Patrick Lyons at 508-543-3728

**Memorial Hall** is open every Wednesday evening, 7 pm to 9 pm  
and on the second Saturday of each month from 9 am to noon

## **50 YEARS AGO IN FOXBOROUGH** [extracted from Foxboro Reporter newspapers]

March 1966

Professional building started on Mechanic Street.

Meta Rothschild dies. Civic responsibility was her métier. She was 1<sup>st</sup> Selectwoman.

Famous educator Frank Boyden, a Foxborough native, has 86<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Town meeting approves library, garage, record budget.

John F. Lynch, 99, presented with "The Post" cane.

6 homes to be taken by Rt. 495 construction.

Senior Class to give "Our Town" at high school

Sewage needs outlined in report to Plans Board.

Questions on sales tax answered by Tax Dept.

Cuban family reunited after a long struggle.

### **Websites for Foxborough History & Historical Society**

[foxboroughhistoricalsociety.org](http://foxboroughhistoricalsociety.org)

[Facebook.com/foxborohistory](https://www.facebook.com/foxborohistory)

[Twitter.com/foxboroughhistory](https://twitter.com/foxboroughhistory)

### ***Other Happenings in the Area***

Mar. 13 - 2:00 pm - Sharon Historical Society - "Learn Basic Genealogy".

Mar. 15 - 7:00 pm - Norton Historical Society - "Short Stories of the Civil War".

Mar. 20 - 2:00 pm - North Attleborough Historical Society - "History of Piano Industry"  
Buck Rogers

Mar. 24 - 6:30 pm - Norton Library - "New England's Most Famous Feuds"

Mar. 24 - 6:30 pm - Seekonk Library - "Weird Massachusetts" - Jeff Belanger

Mar. 24 - 6:45 pm - Attleboro Historic Preservation Society at Attleboro Area Industrial  
Museum - "Attleboro Women in History"

Mar. 29 - 7:00 pm - Richards Memorial Library - "Trip to Jerusalem" - Anne Lonzo -  
reservations

Mar. 30- 7:00 pm - Johnston Historical Society, 101 Putnam Pike - "The White Star  
Line".

Apr. 2 - N. Attleborough: Revolutionary War re-enactment and events starting at the  
Baptist Common and continuing at the Historical Society.

Apr. 3 - 1:00 - 4:00 pm - First Sunday of each month - Wrentham Museum open house.

Apr. 7 - 7:00 pm - Richards Memorial Library - "Go West Young Man" - Dr. Gary  
Highlander - reservations

### **Foxborough Historical Society Officers & Board Members 2015 - 2016**

President: Joan Stafford 543-6292

Vice President: Raymond Toomey 543-4388

Clerk: Ann Childs 543-2245

Treasurer: Mary Anne Baker 543-8945

Board Members: Past President Charles Clifford, Ralph Guimond

Margaret Boldrighini, Janet Haynes, Lauren Bitar

Program: Patrick Lyons 543-3728

Membership: Emelie Bonin 543-6160

Newsletter: Paul Godin 543-7945

Social Media: Lauren Bitar 847-1857