

“Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke”
Author Ellen B. Alden to appear
At the Irish Cultural Centre of New England
Friday, November 18, 2016 at 7:00pm



Figure 1 Ellen Alden at the ICCNE Festival in June, 2016

We are excited to have author Ellen Alden returning to the Irish Cultural Centre of New England on Friday, November 18, 2016 at 7:00pm. Ellen will be speaking about her book *“Yours Faithfully, Florence Burke”* which was launched in late June of this year. Ellen’s book is a historical novel and is based on the life and times of her 2x great grandfather, Florence Burke from County Cork, Ireland.

What makes this novel so special is that Ellen was inspired after discovering nineteen letters that were written by Florence to his wife Ellen while Florence was fighting for the Union army during the US Civil War. The book details Florence’s immigration during Ireland’s Great Hunger. It follows Florence as he works to raise and provide for his family in West Springfield, Massachusetts as well as his experiences in the war between the North and South. Ellen will have the original letters as well as the tin type photos and the leather box that she discovered these items in, on display during this reading.

The ICCNE Library and staff members were involved in post release research as well as the development of some creative audio / visual displays for this book. This is the first time we have undertaken such involvement with an author and Ellen has been very gracious in allowing us to use excerpts from the book. ICCNE Library Director, Dave Barrett promises that this will not be a standard author reading.