

# IN THE NEWS



## REVOLUTIONARY IRISH IN AMERICA

(Boston) - Preparations are officially underway to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of our nation and the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026.

The effort is being led nationally by America 250, which says the anniversary offers a chance “to pause and reflect on our nation’s past, honor the contributions of all Americans, and look ahead toward the future we want to create for the next generation and beyond.”

A new Boston Irish Tourism Association initiative called ‘Revolutionary Irish Trail’ will identify and share the distinctive role of the Irish and Scots-Irish in the American Revolution. The Trail will feature 100 public monuments and statues, historic homes and museums, battlefields and cemeteries and national parks and local parks from Maine to Florida, as well as relevant landmarks in Canada and Ireland.

Historic figures such as Commodore John Barry, General John Sullivan, matross Margaret Cochrane Corbin, spy Hercules Mulligan, Colonel Henry Knox, Declaration signer Charles Carroll and others will be included.

Organizers hope the Revolutionary Irish Trail will be an engaging resource for educators, visitors and local residents.

[irishboston.org/Rev\\_Irish\\_250.php](http://irishboston.org/Rev_Irish_250.php)

## AMERICAN IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

(New York) - The American Irish Historical Society has hired Dr. Elizabeth Stack as its new executive director, as the organization embarks on a fruitful new phase of its illustrious history. In recent years AIHS had struggled due to board changes and financial challenges.

Dr. Stack was previously executive director of the Irish American Heritage Museum in Albany, NY, and taught Irish and Irish American History at Fordham University, where she got her PhD and was Associate Director at the Institute of Irish Studies. A native of Listowell, Co. Kerry, Stack earned her master’s degree from University College Dublin.

Formed in Boston in 1897, the AIHS’s founding members included luminaries such as Theodore Roosevelt and sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. AIHS was formed to correct false historical aspersions about the Irish and to espouse the immense contributions of the Irish during the American Revolution.

AIHS moved to New York and in 1940 purchased its current home at 991 5th Avenue. Today, the AIHS Library contains 10,000 volumes of Irish and American Irish history and literature, including 1,000 rare books and 18th century newspapers, a treasure trove for scholars and future generations.

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

## FREDERICK DOUGLASS WEEK IN IRELAND

(Belfast) - In April, a 10-person delegation from Mass Humanities in Northampton, MA traveled to Belfast for the 4th Annual Douglass Week, a collaborative event celebrating the work and life of anti-slavery leader Frederick Douglass in countries around the world. The group also visited Cork City.

Led by Executive Director Brian Boyles, the trip was planned as part of Mass Humanities’ 50th anniversary, and in conjunction with its initiative, ‘Reading Frederick Douglass Together,’ which supports public readings and discussions of the orator’s famous address, “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”

Douglass was living in Massachusetts in 1845 when he visited Ireland, where he inspired everyone he met in Belfast, Cork and Dublin, including famous Irish leader Daniel O’Connell.

Boyles said he was inspired by Douglass Week and by grassroots efforts in Cork and Belfast to “make their cities more welcoming to immigrant communities.” He hopes such efforts are “also possible in Massachusetts, a state with the largest percentage growth in its immigrant population since 2012.”

Douglass’ inspiring life makes Boyles hopeful that through the humanities, “We can imagine a Massachusetts that celebrates its past by repeating its best chapters.”

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