

JAMES HACK TUKE

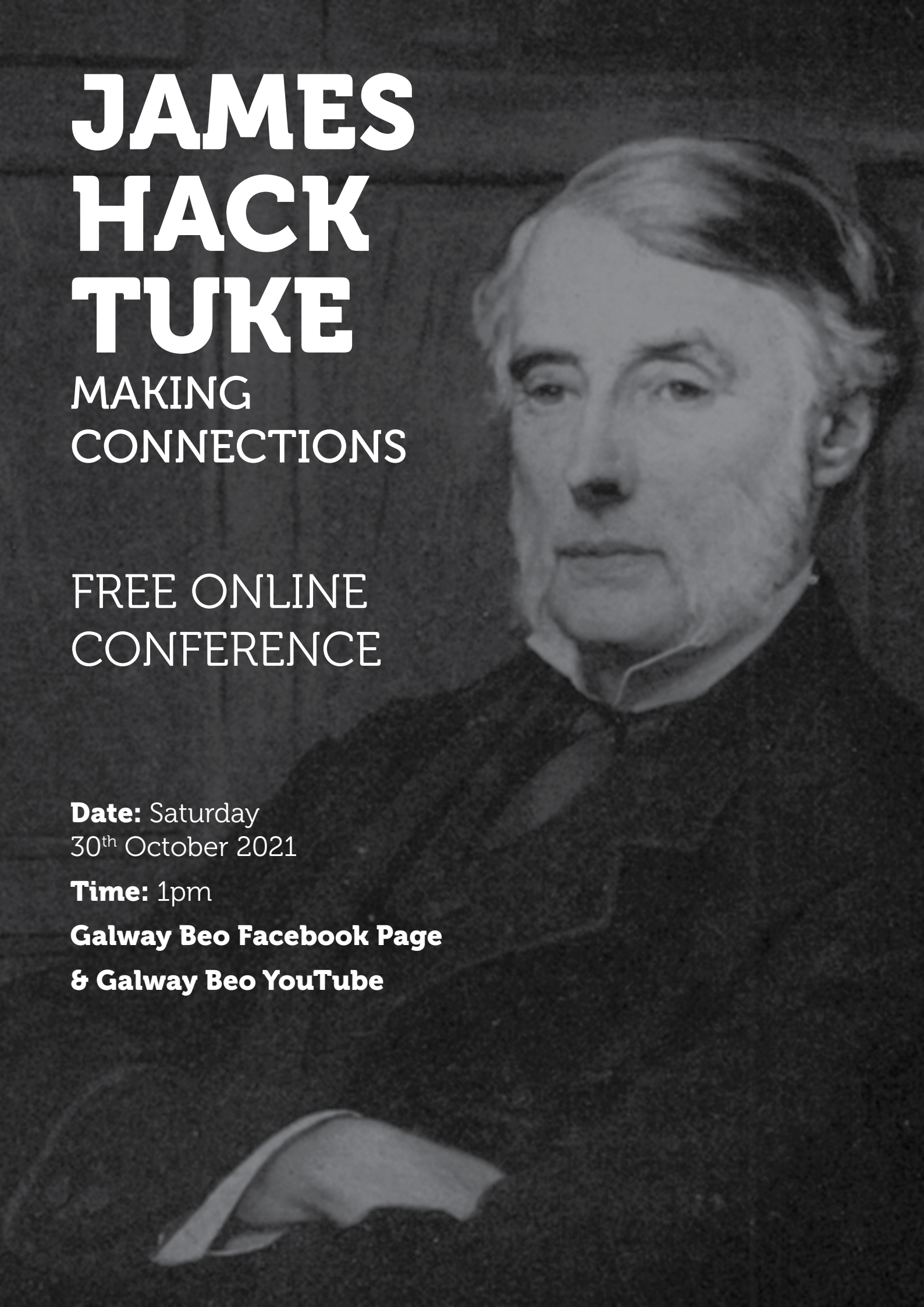
MAKING
CONNECTIONS

FREE ONLINE
CONFERENCE

Date: Saturday
30th October 2021

Time: 1pm

**Galway Beo Facebook Page
& Galway Beo YouTube**



1pm Introduction – Professor Christine Kinealy

'The Humanity of a Stranger': James Hack Tuke and his campaign in helping the Poor of the West of Ireland, by Gerard Moran

'Witness' a poem by Geraldine Mills

'Re-establishing a Bond' by Rosemarie Geraghty

'Clifden Tuke Committee' by Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill

'Our Building Bricks to Connections: Oughterard Heritage's approach' by Antoinette Lydon

'Connecting the Connemara Diaspora' by Eileen Davis

'Leaving' a poem by Geraldine Mills

'A Reflection on the Immortal Mr. Tuke' by Jane Kennedy

'Uprooting: My family's journey from Camus Uachtair, Éireann to St. Paul, Minnesota'
by Leslie Thomas

'The Impact of the Tuke Emigration Scheme: An investigation centered on Cleveland, Ohio'
by Margaret Lynch

'Just Across the Pond: The Emigration Connection between Connemara and Portland, Maine'
by Michael C. Connolly

'The Toghers in New England: Textile Mills and Railroads' by Richard T. Rook

Exhibition

'Bone Road' a poem by Geraldine Mills

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Biographies

Michael C. Connolly



Michael C. Connolly is a life-long resident of Portland's Munjoy Hill. He earned his BA in Social Sciences at Florida Southern College (1973), his MA in Modern Irish History at University College Dublin (1977), and finally his PhD in American Immigration History at Boston College (1988). He taught for 36 years in the Department of History and Political Science at Saint Joseph's College of Maine and now holds the honorary title of Professor Emeritus.

In 2004 the University of Maine Press published his edited collection of essays, *They Change Their Sky: The Irish in Maine*. Along with Dr. Kevin Stoehr of BU he co-edited another collection of essays, *John Ford in Focus: Essays on the Filmmaker's Life and Work* published by McFarland in 2006. In 2010 the University Press of Florida published the book largely based on his BC dissertation, *Seated by the Sea: The Maritime History of Portland, Maine, and Its Irish Longshoremen*. In the summer of 2016 he completed a documentary film, *Building Bridges: Connections between Maine's Governor Joseph Brennan and Senator George Mitchell*. His latest book is his first historical novel, *Murky Overhead* (Tower Publishing, 2021) and deals with a typical Irish family, the Folans, living in Portland at the turn of the 20th century.

Eileen Davis



Eileen Davis is a tourism development officer based in Ionad Cuimhneachain na nImlirceach, which is a centre built to commemorate the Irish emigrant, located in the village of Carna in the heart of Connemara Gaeltacht. With a professional background in hotels and catering, she has, for most of her adult life, worked in community development on a voluntary basis.

Arising from this background, she has become aware of the loss suffered by communities that have had mass emigration and migration down through the generations.

The effects on community development, culture, language and heritage as a reduction in population has encouraged her interest in preservation and exploration, which has brought about building a network that is active in forging ties with the descendants of those who emigrated, both locally and nationally.

Wild food foraging and cooking occupy her time when relaxation calls. Her pastimes include walking, patchwork, quilting and gardening.

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Rosemarie Geraghty



Rosemarie Geraghty is a Local History Researcher, attached to Ionad Deirbhile Heritage Centre, Eachléim, Blacksod, County Mayo since 2006. Rosemarie sourced and transcribed the manifests of the fifteen Tuke Emigration sailings that left directly from Blacksod Bay 1883-84. This brought about the www.blacksoybayemigration.ie database in 2013, to provide a focal point and help descendants of the Mayo families re-establish a bond with the home of their forebears.

Jane Kennedy



Jane Kennedy lives in St. Paul, MN. Her interest in exploring Irish famines is linked to her family's emigration in the 1880s from the Belmullet Peninsula, County Mayo, Ireland. She has a B.A. in English and Journalism from St. Catherine University and an M.A. in Business Communications from the University of St. Thomas. A proud Tuke descendant, she is passionate about sharing Tuke's story to keep his memory alive for generations to come.

Christine Kinealy



Professor Christine Kinealy was appointed founding Director of Ireland's Great Hunger Institute at Quinnipiac University in 1913. She has published extensively on nineteenth-century Ireland including, *Charity and the Great Hunger: The Kindness of Stranger* (2013) and *Black Abolitionists in Ireland* (2017).

Margaret Lynch



Margaret Lynch has served as Executive Director of the Irish American Archives Society since 2008 and was a founding Board member in 1994. She helped to commission a sculpture by noted Irish artist, Rowan Gillespie, that commemorates world champion boxer, Johnny Kilbane. The book she wrote about the history of the Irish in Cleveland, *The Day We Celebrate: 175 Years of Cleveland's St. Patrick's Day Parade*, has received recognition from the *Irish Echo* and the United Irish Societies of Greater Cleveland. She has a PhD from the University of Chicago and did her undergraduate studies at Marquette University. She is the mother of three daughters.

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Antoinette Lydon



Oughterard Heritage Group was formed in 2006. In July 2010, it published its first web post. They have digitised and archived thousands of images and documents.

In February 2011, the first article about James Hack Tuke was published on their website. From 2011 to 2016, David Collins worked tirelessly on digitising the manifests and creating the Tuke Database; that went live in 2015. In April 2015, the group held a Tuke Emigration Conference in conjunction with the local arts group uachtarArts, the Oughterard Writers Group and Galway County Council. As part of the group's heritage undertakings Antoinette Lydon has researched all 196 townlands in the Oughterard Poor Law Union with the aim to make it easier for descendants of Tuke emigrants to find where their ancestors came from.

Geraldine Mills



Geraldine Mills is the author of five collections of poetry, three of short stories and a children's novel. She is the recipient of many awards including the Hennessy New Irish Writer Award, three Arts Council Bursaries and a Patrick and Katherine Kavanagh Fellowship.

She was awarded a Galway County Council Individual Artist's Award to complete her poetry collection, *Bone Road* (Arlen House, 2020) which explores the emigration of her great-grandparents and their six children, (one of them her grandmother) from North Mayo in 1883 to Warren, Rhode Island, as part of Tuke's Assisted Emigration Scheme and their subsequent return less than two years later. She lives in County Galway with her husband, Peter Moore.

Richard T. Rook



Richard T. Rook is a lawyer, genealogist and author. He is fortunate to be a descendant of a family who availed of the Tuke Assisted Emigration scheme and is in a position to pass on the story. He lives in Massachusetts with his wife Dyan, an artist and proud female pirate descendant.

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Gerard Moran



Dr Gerard Moran is a retired academic who lectured at NUI Galway and Maynooth University, and currently is a researcher at the Social Science Research Centre at NUI Galway. His areas of research include Irish emigration and the Diaspora, the Great Famine, landlord tenant relations and local history. He has published extensively on nineteenth-century Ireland, including *A Radical Priest in Mayo: Fr Patrick Lavelle; The rise and fall of an Irish Nationalist, 1825-1886; Sending Out Ireland's Poor: Assisted Emigration to North America in the Nineteenth Century, Sir Robert Gore Booth and his Landed Estates in County Sligo, 1814-1876; Fleeing from Famine in Connemara: James Hack Tuke and his Assisted Emigration Scheme in the 1880s* (Dublin, 2018). He has edited collections of essays, *Galway: History and Society; Mayo: History and Society*, and *Famine Before and After the Great Famine* which was recently published by Quinnipiac University Press.

Leslie Thomas



Leslie Thomas lives in Minnesota, where her family settled after emigrating from Connemara in 1883. She is a retired aviation professional, writes poetry, enjoys hiking, rivers and researching her family history. Leslie co-administers 'Connemara to Minnesota in the 1880s', a Facebook group dedicated to sharing stories and connecting families with a similar emigration history. She holds an MSc in environmental history from University of Edinburgh and a diploma in Irish Studies from National University of Ireland, Galway.

Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill



Kathleen Villiers-Tuthill is a native of Clifden and the author of several books and numerous articles on the history of West County Galway. Her work is based principally on primary sources, from public archives and private collections. In recognition of her contribution to the heritage of the county, she has received two Heritage Awards from Galway County Council and an honorary Master of Arts degree from NUI Galway.

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For further information please contact:

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Tel: 087 908 8387 or Email: mmannion@galwaycoco.ie

Clifden & Connemara Heritage Society

<http://clifdenheritage.org/>

Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe

<https://www.carnaemigrantscentre.com>

Ionad Deirbhile Heritage Centre, Eachléim, Blacksod, County Mayo

Contact: rosemarie@ionaddeirbhile.ie

www.blacksodbayemigration.ie

Geraldine Mills

geraldinemills.com/

Oughterard Heritage

www.oughterardheritage.org/

Conference Organisers

This conference has been organised by the Heritage Office, Galway County Council in partnership with the Tuke Emigration Project Clifden Committee, the Tuke Emigration Project Oughterard Committee, Dr Gerard Moran, Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach, Carna, Co. na Gaillimhe, Ionad Deirbhile Heritage Centre, Eachléim, Blacksod, County Mayo and Ireland's Great Hunger Institute, Quinnipiac University. It has been funded by Galway County Council.



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Ionad Deirbhile
Fód Dubh, Co Mhaigh Eo