



The Bristol and Mexico Monument

A Beacon to Irish-American and Long Island History

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF EAST ROCKAWAY AND LYNBROOK



In 1840, 175 years ago, local citizens erected a tall, white marble monument in the Rockville Cemetery in Lynbrook. It was purchased in part by using money taken from the unclaimed bodies of 139 victims of two tragic shipwrecks. The wrecks of the *Bristol* and the *Mexico* cost the lives of 215 persons, 75% of them Irish immigrants, who drowned or froze to death just a few hundred yards off Long Beach and Rockaway Beach. As a result of the two disasters, significant changes were made in U.S. maritime laws and regulations that made Atlantic Ocean crossings much safer for the millions of immigrants who followed.

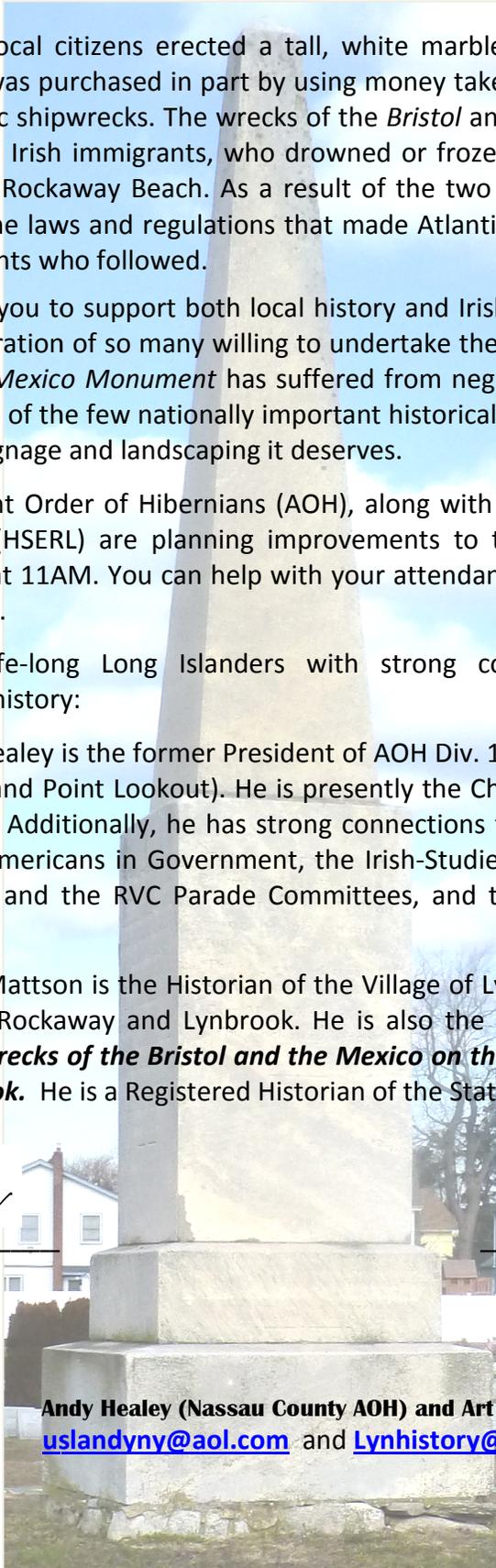
This is an opportunity for you to support both local history and Irish-American history. The mass grave attests to the desperation of so many willing to undertake the perilous journey to our great country. The *Bristol and Mexico Monument* has suffered from neglect. It is time that this site -- unique in America and one of the few nationally important historical sites in Nassau County -- gets the professional historic signage and landscaping it deserves.

The Nassau County Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), along with the Historical Society of East Rockaway and Lynbrook (HSERL) are planning improvements to the site prior to a memorial ceremony on October 24 at 11AM. You can help with your attendance and with your donation. A donations page is attached.

The Chairpersons are life-long Long Islanders with strong connections to Irish cultural organizations and to local history:

Andrew E. Healey – Mr. Healey is the former President of AOH Div. 17 – St. Brendan the Navigator (Long Beach, Island Park, and Point Lookout). He is presently the Chairman of the Nassau County AOH Charities & Missions. Additionally, he has strong connections to the Society of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Irish Americans in Government, the Irish-Studies Institute at Molloy College, the NYC St. Patrick’s Day and the RVC Parade Committees, and the “Fighting 69th Regimental Headquarters.

Arthur S. Mattson – Mr. Mattson is the Historian of the Village of Lynbrook and a Director of the Historical Society of East Rockaway and Lynbrook. He is also the author of the award-winning book, *Water & Ice: The Wrecks of the Bristol and the Mexico on the South Shore of Long Island*, and *The History of Lynbrook*. He is a Registered Historian of the State of New York.



Co-chairmen:
Info:

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