



Ancient Order of Hibernians Division #2 Hartford CT Est. 1954

"To be Irish is a blessing, to be a Hibernian is an honor."

Irish-Catholic Canal Laborers Memorial Ceremony

*A memorial ceremony for the Irish-Catholic laborers who helped build the Windsor Locks Canal will take place on **Sunday, March 21, 2021, at 2 p.m.** and is being co-sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hartford Division 2 and the Windsor Locks Board of Selectman.*

The location for the ceremony will be in the Lower Picnic Area of the Windsor Locks Canal Trail State Park. To access the site, enter via the Montgomery Mills Apartments Driveway, which is at the intersection Bridge St., Rt. 140 and Canal Bank Rd.

Masks are required and social distancing will be observed.

The event will honor the 400 immigrant laborers who left their homeland in Ireland and came to this area between May 1827 and November 1829 to build the canal bypassing the treacherous Enfield Rapids - now known as the Windsor Locks Canal. These hardy souls lived in shanty camps and worked from dawn until dusk in damp and dangerous conditions to scratch out their piece of the American Dream.

The location overlooks a small parcel of land that is believed to be a forgotten Catholic cemetery, and the burial site of dozens of canal laborers and their family members.

AOH Hartford Division 2 will lay a memorial wreath at the park in honor of those buried in the cemetery and all of the Irish laborers and their families.