



THE DOWNEYVILLE TIMES



Peter Robinson
1785 - 1838

Upcoming: Peter Robinson Events

- Peter Robinson Settlers 1825 "The Play"
Friday May 9 - 7 pm
Saturday May 10 - 7 pm
- Commemorative Tree Planting - TBD
- Student's 200th Anniversary Garden planting - TBD
- Baseball game
Douro vs Downeyville
June 21, 2025.

For more information on upcoming events, follow us on Facebook, email us or watch for our posters

Downeyville Hall Upcoming Events

- May 2- Progressive Euchre - 7pm
- May 4- Drive thru Beef BBQ - 4pm
- Peter Robinson Settlers 1825 "The Play"
Friday May 9 - 7 pm
Saturday May 10 - 7 pm
- June 6 - Progressive Euchre - 7pm
- June 20 - Trivia Night

More info - Downeyville Hall on Facebook



*They set sail from Cobh Harbour,
Cork, Ireland*



Molly Malone
Statue, Dublin, Ireland

**EDITOR'S NOTE
FROM THE DESK OF
MOLLIE MALONE,
1825**

It's May 10th, 1825, and the first two ships, The Fortitude and The Resolution have boarded and set sail for Upper Canada.

We can see the ships disappearing on the horizon; we are mourning the loss of our loved ones. We know we'll never see them again and our hearts are breaking. Tears are flowing like the River Shannon - emotions are raw.

Two ships have sailed, seven more to go. Will our hearts ever mend?

We are all praying for their safety.

God have mercy on them.

Fortitude ~ Resolution ~ Brunswick



Albion ~ Star ~ Amity ~ Regulus



Elizabeth

John Barry



Call Mary Connell
@ 705-793-2013

if you can lend a hand
on August 3, 2025 or

the week of August 1 to 9, 2025.
Many hands make light work!

**Everyone is Welcome - A Hundred Thousand Welcomes!
Céad Míle Fáilte!**



downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com



Downeyville Peter Robinson Settlers Committee
presents:

Peter Robinson Settlers 1825

The Play
**The ship is sailing soon!
Get your Tickets NOW!**

Call or email Mary Connell at
705-793-2013
irishmist48@yahoo.ca

Friday May 9, 2025
&
Saturday May 10, 2025
7 p.m.
\$20

Downeyville Hall
Call Mary Connell for
Tickets 705-793-2013

For e-transfer payments use
downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com
write ticket # and name in
comment section



200th Anniversary Garden

The students of St. Luke's school, along with the 'Garden Team', are gearing up to plant their seed potatoes. The team will till the soil and the students will get their hands dirty planting.

"Getting back to nature"

Thank
you



"It takes a village....."



Thank
you



Many thanks to Mary Catherine Jilesen
& Megan O'Neill

for organizing the *Family Movie Night*
"INTO THE WEST"

Family nights are special nights!



Ron Sullivan

may

AUGUST 3, 2025 VENDOR OPPORTUNITIES

Enhance this year's Jamboree and Homecoming with your unique talents. We are now accepting applications from vendors who wish to showcase their crafts, goods, and skills to our community.

Please contact Jess Carroll @ 705-341-1641 for more information.



THE GREAT DOWNEYVILLE IRISH CHALLENGE



It's a grand
shillelagh the
Lord Mayor will
be havin'

**Get Your Nominations in
for the Lord Mayor of the
Greater Downeyville Area
by May 31st, 2025**

Simply email - downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com
or call 705-344-5232



Hurry!



COMING SOON

Peter Robinson Settlers
Downeyville

Merchandise available soon!



Commemoration Trees



Sugar maple trees will be planted in the former Emily Township by Peter Robinson descendants in memory of the Peter Robinson Settler families who were granted land in Emily Township in 1825.

In years to come, when you see a blaze of colourful sugar maples, perhaps you will stop for a moment and remember the Peter Robinson Settlers of 1825.

Downeyville Calendar - May 2025

Ron Sullivan is a direct descendant
of John Sullivan 1804 - 1858,

who came on the

Regulus from Mourne Abbey, Cork to
North ½ Lot 21 Con 12, Emily



LOOK → 2

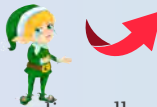


John C. O'Leary
1840 to 1937

John Cuff O'Leary, eldest son of Denis O'Leary and Catherine Cuff and grandson of John Leary who came from Ireland on the ship John Barry in 1825, was a true citizen of Downeyville. He was born, lived and died on the original O'Leary Farm just west of St Luke's Church and Hall in Downeyville. John C. believed that he was very fortunate to have been born in the most beautiful place on Earth and therefore, had no reason to leave it. In a newspaper article about the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the Peter Robinson Immigration, he was described as follows:

One of the most familiar of the older residents of Downeyville is Mr. John C. O'Leary, whom has been a continuous resident of the parish for 86 years. In fact he still resides on the old homestead just west of the village, where he hewed out for himself and family one of the best farms in the Township. Mr. O'Leary grew up with the Parish, has always been one of its chief supporters and has worked for every good cause for the advancement of the Parish. Mr. O'Leary has always been content to remain and to reside in the Parish. His pleasure trips have never taken him any farther away from home than Buffalo. That was years ago and he was glad to return home and live the life of peace and quietness.

John C. O'Leary married Catherine O'Brien of Douro in 1869 and they had six children before Catherine's untimely death in 1880. By 1890 John C. was remarried to Bridget Houlihan and they had a son John Joseph, known as "Johnnie." Around that time, John C.'s eldest daughter Lillian, at the tender age of 19, entered the convent as Sister Mary of the Holy Ghost. In this letter to her "Papa", in March 1890, she tries to put a brave face on her homesick feelings and might already be suffering from the effects of tuberculosis that would end her life within 5 years.



Oh, from out the sounding cells,
What a gush of euphony
voluminously wells!
How it swells!
How it dwells
On the Future! how it tells
Of the rapture that impels
To the swinging and the ringing
Of the bells, bells, bells,

From 'The Bells'
by Edgar Allan Poe



Photo by R Titus

The bell in St. Luke's belfry was christened "Peter" after Peter Murtha who donated it. The inscription on it reads, "I to this church the living call, and to the grave do summons all."

YOUR STORIES

Monastery of Our Lady of Charity
March 4th 1890

Dear Papa,

I received your kind letter some time ago. I was so glad to know that Martha and Monica are getting along alright without me but they must not forget me and must write to me every week. I am always anxious to hear from them. (Ellis) and Veronica were here and were in the room with me when I received your letter. I could not help crying over it. Veronica was watching me and at length exclaimed, Lillie don't you want to go home? I had to laugh then. We have not heard from them since they left save a few lines Veronica wrote. I have just received a nice letter from Dennis and laughed heartily over it. He says Martha is keeping you up on gruel. I suppose this sugar gets hard times. Do you have hard work to keep the fires going? Did you get the summer work up yet? There has been beautiful weather since I came but very little snow. I suppose it is bad for the fall wheat and clover. I was going to ask if you killed Dorgan yet but I suppose she is gone by this time. Write to me soon and tell me all the news. I think of you every day many times and wonder what you are doing. I pray for them all at home especially you poor pa who was so kind to me; it is just a month since I came. It does not seem long. I was not very well this first couple of weeks but I am getting better now. Sometimes I feel very lonesome and think it is time for me to go home but I will get over it after a while- all the sisters say they were lonely at first. Dear Mother and my Sisters are very kind to me. I am getting along pretty well. I have charge of the community room, the (noncrate?) and the bells. Then I have about an hour to study and I have to practice; - I find it a little hard to get up at half past five & go to bed at half past nine. I ring all the bells except the rising bell & the mass bell. I will try and name them just to surprise you - 1st bell for meditation at 6.00, 2nd at half past 6 - 3rd before the (offer) at 7, then we have mass before 8 o'clock. 2 (offer) bell at half past 8 - At quarter past 10 - another at half past 10. 1. Dinner bell at a quarter to 11 o'clock, last dinner bell at 11 o'clock - the afternoon bells are at 1 o'clock, 3 o'clock, half past 3, 4 o'clock, ½ to 5, 5 o'clock, ½ to 6, & 6 for supper. ½ past 8 - last bell at 20 min to 9 for the (offers). I forgot the Angelus bell. It is rung three times a day.

Write to me soon. Dennis says you may bring Johnnie with you when you come to see me. My poor little pet - I would be so glad to see him. I am afraid I cannot write home again till after lent. But make them write to me. I remain in union with the S.H. of Jesus,

Your loving daughter,

Lillie - Postulant
Of Our Lady of Charity - Parkdale,
Toronto Ontario

Letter submitted by: Andrea O'Connell,
Great, Great Granddaughter of John C. O'Leary

Do you have some memorabilia that you would like
to share with us?



Bealtaine - May Day

Bealtaine is a traditional Irish and Celtic festival celebrated on May 1st, marking the beginning of summer and the midpoint between the spring equinox and summer solstice. In the Irish language it means 'bright fire' or 'fire of Bel' and is celebrated as the Fire Festival with bonfires to honour the sun. This is a time when the land bursts forth with life and colour. Bealtaine is strongly associated with feasting, music, fertility, dancing and fire.

You may find a few 'curses' mixed in with the 'old ways' too, such as, 'You shouldn't light a fire until you see smoke rising from a house of your neighbours'. There are some rituals like, 'wake up at six o'clock' or 'wash your face with the morning dew and let it dry in the sun' and 'protect the cows from the faeries with flowers'.

Do you have any family traditions that date back to the Bealtaine? Perhaps you recall - The May Bush, The Maypole, May Flowers, Bonfires & Dancing.

Celebrate May



The Maypole



Holy Wells & May Day

Holy Wells and the First Dew
The water from Holy Wells was thought to be especially potent at this time of year and flowers were left at Holy Wells. The first dew of May was considered to be a cure for the rest of the year and washing one's face with this or walking in the dew of May Day was considered to have powers that would cure and restore.

Photo: National Library of Ireland

READ MORE



downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com



[Peter Robinson Settlers Downeyville 1825-2025](#)



[Downeyville Hall](#)

www.nineships1825.com



[Peter Robinson Settlers in Canada](#)

[www City of Kawartha Lakes, Moments & Memories](#)



[Douro 200th Anniversary](#)



[Ennismore Heritage Days](#)



[Young's Point Bi-centennial](#)



[Asphodel-norwoodhistoricalsociety](#)



Poet's & Writer's Corner



Once upon a time a handsome honey bee
Fell in love with a butterfly he met in a tulip tree
He said, "I love you madly and want to share your life
Let's fly away together, will you be my wife?"
She shook her head in sorrow, "no, no", cried she
"For I'm a Monarch's daughter
And you're just a son of a bee".



Submitted by Eileen (Winn) Hennessey,
a little poem from her mother's scrap book

IT'S MAY IN DOWNEYVILLE 2025

Join us this May 9th and 10th for a powerful original play that tells the story of the Peter Robinson Settlers who set sail from Ireland and came to Canada; brought to life by local community members and friends. Meet the Wynne Family and other Irish men, women and children as they make the difficult decision to leave their homeland, brave the stormy Atlantic and make a new life in the wilderness of Upper Canada. We hope to entertain you with this three act play and our version of the Peter Robinson Emigration to their new home in Downeyville.

DON'T MISS IT!

**THE PLAY SETS SAIL SOON
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!**

call or email Mary Connell
705-793-2013

irishmist48@yahoo.ca



YOUR STORIES



We would love to receive any relevant stories, quotes or poems to publish in future newsletters. Please keep them short as space is limited.

If you have anything to share, please send your submission to
downeyvillesettlers@gmail.com or
call Leann @ 705-344-5232

Everyone is welcome!