

the Irish and the American Civil War

APRIL 6-7, 2017
THURSDAY & FRIDAY

THURSDAY

LIBERATING IRELAND BY INVADING CANADA: THE FENIAN INVASION OF 1866 - *Keynote*

7 p.m., Wegmans School of Nursing 100

WHAT WERE THEY THINKING? WERE THEY OUT OF THEIR MINDS?

How could anyone think that an invasion of Canada could liberate Ireland from British rule? Such questions have been asked for 150 years. One Irish revolutionary in the 1860s called it a "mad and traitorous diversion from the right path." Over a century later, a prominent Canadian historian wrote that the idea was "essentially stupid." But there was a method to the madness and reasons why the Fenians believed that they could free Ireland by attacking Canada. David A. Wilson of the University of Toronto explains the rationale behind this strategy, arguing that it was not entirely far-fetched.

Wilson is a professor in the history department and the celtic studies program at the University of Toronto, general editor of the Dictionary of Canadian Biography, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. His books include *United Irishmen*, *United States*, and a two-volume biography of *Thomas D'Arcy McGee*. He has also written *Ireland, A Bicycle and A Tin Whistle*, consisting of stories about the traditional music scene in Ireland...some of the stories are even true.



FRIDAY

Friday sessions held in Wilson Formal Lounge, Haffey Hall, save for the 5:30 event.

1 p.m. WELCOME

Dr. Donald E. Bain, President Emeritus, St. John Fisher College

1:30 p.m. THE IRISH WHO FOUGHT IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

James Doherty, Military Historian from Waterford, Ireland

2:30 p.m. THOMAS FRANCIS MEAGHER AND THE IRISH BRIGADE

Dr. Tim Madigan, Director of the Irish Studies Program, St. John Fisher College

3:30 p.m. THE IRISH WHO FOUGHT IN THE CONFEDERATE ARMY

Michael McCarthy, President of the Irish American Cultural Association, Rochester Chapter

4:30 p.m. PATRICK O'RORKE AND THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Hon. Richard Dollinger

PROCESSION TO LAVERY LIBRARY

5:30 p.m. REDEDICATION OF THE O'RORKE SOCIETY BUST

Reception to follow

