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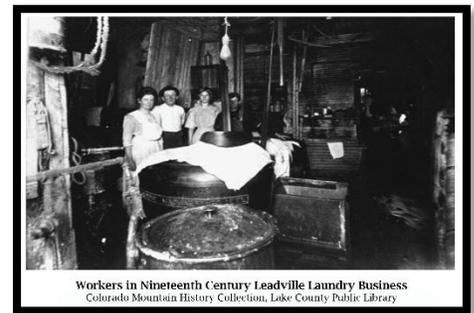
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Unearthed: Voices of Leadville's Shanty Irish

NEW EXHIBIT OPEN AT THE MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

Historic Denver, January 2026 - Unsinkable socialite. Activist. Proud Irish woman. Margaret Brown's story is not only remarkable, it also serves as an entry point to the history of the Irish in the West. The 4.7 million Irish who settled in America between 1820 and 1975 shaped our country, and before Colorado was even a state, Irish-born made up 25% of its foreign-born population.



Now on view outside of Leadville for the first time, this exhibition uncovers stories of the mining boomtown's Irish immigrant community. First established in the late 1800s, Leadville became known as "The Little Ireland of Colorado" and attracted immigrants and first-generation Irish Americans, including Margaret and J.J. Brown, who sought their fortunes in the West. The legacy of the emigre miner settling the West from such places as Ireland or Wales and resisting the forces of industrialized labor to indeed reach the American Dream, underpins the history of mountain towns like Leadville.



For nearly a decade now, an international effort has been underway to honor the brave Irish and immigrant communities who once inhabited Leadville, often the poorest of the poor. This exhibit also recognizes and celebrates the many immigrant people who call Leadville and Colorado home today.

First opened in September 2023 to coincide with the unveiling of the Leadville Irish Miners' Memorial, **Unearthed** explores the history of the Irish in Colorado and the lasting impacts they left behind, especially in the mining industry — the eight-hour workday, stronger safety, and livable wages, among others. **Unearthed** was created by local students based on decades of research conducted by Dr. James Walsh of the University of Colorado – Denver and in collaboration with History Colorado and the Molly Brown House Museum.

**EXHIBIT
OPENING
WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 18th
AT 6:00 PM
RSVP HERE:**



The exhibit, research, education materials, resources, Memorial support, and program elements have been brought to you in part by:



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



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Historic Denver – *Saving the Past to Shape Denver's Future*

Margaret “Molly” Brown has been the subject of many books, movies, and stage productions, and has become one of Denver’s most intriguing legends. Margaret Brown was an amazing and spirited woman and became active in the women’s suffrage movement, labor reform efforts, and even survived the sinking of the Titanic! By 1970 her home had fallen prey to deterioration and was in danger of being demolished. A group of concerned citizens incorporated themselves as Historic Denver, Inc. and fought to save and restore the Brown home. Get involved at www.historicdenver.org.