

**FRIENDS OF FORT TRUMBULL**  
**WELCOME SALLY RYAN**  
**AT THEIR MAY MEETING**



For their second presentation in the series, ***Historical Notables of New London County***, the Friends of Fort Trumbull will present New London Historian, Sally Ryan, speaking on Joseph and Sebastian Lawrence. Joseph Lawrence immigrated to the United States from Venice when he was only 16 years old. Through a combination of skill, determination, and intelligence- upon his death- he was reputed to be the richest man in Connecticut at that time.

In addition to having amassed a fortune in the whaling trade, Joseph was also very community minded. He established the Young Men's Library Association, a pre-cursor to the New London Public Library. He also owned Lawrence Hall which was used for public meetings and exhibitions.

His son, Sebastian, inherited not only his father's businesses but also his civic-mindedness. He donated money for the Sailors and Soldiers Monument in downtown New London and helped finance the Firemen's Monument on Broad Street. A part of Riverside Park was also acquired through his generosity. One of his most well-known donations was the founding in honor of his father of the Joseph Lawrence Free Public Hospital, which is now known as Lawrence and Memorial Hospital.

The lasting memorials that these two men have contributed to New London are reminders of New London's heralded past in the whaling industry and the unique contributions of immigrants to our shores.

Ms. Ryan is a proud product of New London. Having been born and raised in the city, she spent 30 years as a teacher at the Edgerton Elementary School. During that time, she pursued her interest in local history which had been encouraged by her Irish family. In a recent interview she said, "I grew up in a family who saw history as something to be enjoyed; as something important," she said. "If you know your history, you know your roots. You value who you are and where you came from."

The meeting will take place on Thursday, May 26, 2016, at the Fort Trumbull Conference Center, 90 Walbach Street, New London, CT at 7 p.m. The public is welcome to attend this free presentation. New members are always welcome. Come early as seating is limited.