New Haven’s Grove Street Cemetery has Irish roots ...

On Saturday, April 29, members of the Connecticut Irish American Historical Society enjoyed a professional quality guided tour of the historic Grove Street Cemetery in downtown New Haven. Established in 1797, the cemetery is the first chartered burial ground in the United States and a National Historic Landmark.

The tour guide was Patricia Illingworth, who in addition to being the chief docent of the cemetery is associated with the Jewish Historical Society which shares space with the Irish society at the Ethnic Heritage Center on the Southern Connecticut State University campus.

The burying ground in downtown New Haven is the resting place not only of numerous residents of early and even modern-day New Haven, but also of renowned early Americans: Eli Whitney, inventor of the cotton mill; Noah Webster, the author of American dictionaries; Roger Sherman, the only signer of all four of the nation’s bedrock documents: the Continental Association, the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation and U.S. Constitution; Mary A. Goodman, a former slave and New Haven tradeswoman who established a scholarship at Yale for African-American divinity students; Walter Camp, the father of American football; etc., etc.

Grove Street Cemetery is a particularly fitting destination for a tour by Irish Americans because James Hillhouse, the New Haven vener who was the driving force in establishing the cemetery was an Irish American.

A native of Montville in New London County, Hillhouse was a fifth generation descendant of ancestors who settled near Lough Foyle in County Derry during the plantation of Ulster that began in 1609.

The purpose of the plantation was to colonize much of Ulster with Protestant settlers from both England and Scotland. Wealthy men and London trade associations were designated as “undertakers” of the plantation. They were granted land on the condition that they import Protestant tenants to replace native Irish Catholics whose land had been confiscated after the “Flight of the Earls,” the emigration from Ulster of the native Gaelic lords in 1607.

In her 700-page history and genealogy of the Hillhouse family published in 1924, Margaret P. Hillhouse of New Haven, wrote, “Abraham Hillhouse, or his father, was one of those undertakers to whom … the peaceful development of Ulster depended after the expulsion of the native owners of its soil. Of these (undertakers), fifty were of Irish origin.”

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... and Mory’s Temple Bar probably does too

After the tour of Grove Street Cemetery on April 29, members of our historical society walked a block along nearby York Street on the fringe of the Yale University campus to lunch at, in the words of the song, “the place where Louis dwells” and “where sing the Whiffenpoofs assembled with their glasses raised on high.”

Like the cemetery itself, Mory’s Temple Bar is a treasured institution in downtown New Haven. Also like the cemetery, Mory’s seems to have had an Irish origin. Its name suggests that because it is a shortened version of the surname of the two New Haven residents — Frank and Jane Moriarty — who first owned the establishment that has been a gathering place for Yale students for more than a century.

Moriarty is an Irish name that originated centuries ago in the time when Celtic tribes ruled Ireland. The name is written “O Muircheartaigh” in the Irish language. It means “sea worthy” or “navigator.” That name is appropriate given the homeland of the Moriarty clan near Tralee at the base of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry on the southwestern coast of Ireland.

The clan was powerful and fierce. One source reports the Moriartys “possessed middle Kerry with Sullivans,” and built Castle Drum on the Bay of Tralee. Another says that in 1641 when Irish rebels in Ulster were attacking plantation settlers like the Hillhouses, County Kerry “became also infected ... and had several regular troops and companies (of rebels) proper to take the field.” Among the Kerry rebels was “Daniel Moriarty of Castle-Drum.”

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English and fifty of Scottish birth ... The family have held the tradition that our ancestor was from England. In his will, (Abraham) styles himself of Artikelly.

Artikelly — meaning "height of Ceallaih's house" — is a small village near the southeastern shore of Lough Foyle, which is the estuary of the River Foyle that separates County Donegal and County Derry.

In more recent research, Robert Forrest of the Ulster Historical Foundation writes: “The origin of the Hillhouse family is undoubtedly Ayrshire in Scotland. Hillhouse is a surname of local origin from one or other of the half-dozen small places of the name in Ayrshire. The second home of the family is most definitely north Derry.”

Immigration to Ireland

Forrest writes, “The earliest settler and the first of the name in Derry was Adam Hillhous of the parish of Dunboe whose will was probated in 1635.” Dunboe is on the coast five or so miles northeast of Artikelly. Hillhouse was a tenant of Robert McClelland of Bombie, Scotland, one of the undertakers in the plantation. Forrest says, “One family that came with McClelland to north Derry was the Hillhouse family who initially resided in the parish of Dunboe ...”

After the native rising of 1641, “the subsequent history of the family became inextricably linked with the parish of Aghanloo and with Artikelly ...,” writes Forrest. Referring to a tax list known as the Hearth Money Rolls, he adds, “Abraham Hillhouse of Artikelly in Aghanloo parish had two hearths in the 1663 hearth returns.”

Hillhouse, he says, was “a citizen of some means ... the largest tenant on the estate with an annual rent of £7 sterling.” He also was the collector of rents on the estate and an elected burgess of the nearby market town of Limavady.

The Hillhouses of Artikelly occupied a mansion house which they called Freehall. Their home stood at the foot of a mountain about two miles from the village of Limavady on the land adjacent to Artikelly. It commanded a fine view of Lough Foyle and the landscape for many miles around.

Abraham Hillhouse and his wife Janet had three sons: Abraham, John and James. John and his wife Rachel had six sons. Their second son, James, was born at Freehall in 1687. He entered the school of theology at Glasgow University when about 15 years of age, and was ordained a Presbyterian minister after returning to Artikelly.

After the death of their parents in 1716, the oldest brother Abraham inherited the family property and the Rev. James immigrated in 1720 to Boston where he was described by the Puritan clergyman Cotton Mather as “a worthy, hopeful and valuable young minister lately arrived in America.”

Such was the Rev. Hillhouse’s reputation that in 1722 he was invited to come to Connecticut. At that time, the growth of New London had prompted settlers in what today is the town of Montville to organize a second Congregational parish, the North Parish. The settlers took the advice of Connecticut Gov. Gurdon Saltonstall who urged them “to engage the services of Mr. James Hillhouse from Ireland ...”

Hillhouse agreed to accept their offer at a yearly salary of £100 and began his pastorate in October 1722. Because no meetinghouse had yet been built, he preached his first sermons in the tavern of Samuel Allen, one of the founders of the parish. In his first entry in the parish records, Rev. Hillhouse listed Allen along with six others as the founding fathers of the North Parish.

Return visit to Ireland

Whether the Hillhouses were of Scottish or of English origin, they retained a strong sense of attachment to their ancestral home in Ireland. While the meetinghouse was being built in New London in summer 1723, the Rev. Hillhouse became the first of many of the family to return, in the words of the family genealogist, Margaret P. Hillhouse, “for a brief visit to his fatherland.”

Several years after assuming his duties as pastor of the North Parish, the Rev. James Hillhouse married Mary Fitch the daughter of parishioners Daniel and Mary Sherwood Fitch. James and Mary had four children.

The Irish-born minister remained in New London until his death in 1740. Unfortunately, his later years there were marred by controversy with a faction of church members led by Capt. Robert Denison, one of the original parishioners. The rift notwithstanding, the registry of the pastor’s death in the New London record book included a
note: “He was descended from a respectable family in Ireland ... Good natural abilities, a liberal education, and a well attempted zeal for the truth rendered him eminent and useful in the ministry in this place.”

**Hillhouses in New Haven**

Two of the sons of the Rev. James and Mary Hillhouse became prominent in public affairs in Connecticut. Their first son, William, who was born in Montville in 1728, served in the Connecticut legislature, was a county and probate judge and a major in the Connecticut cavalry in the Revolutionary War. Their second son, James Abraham Hillhouse, born in 1730, left Montville to attend Yale. He graduated in 1749, and settled in New Haven where he became a prominent lawyer and was elected one of 12 assistants who advised the colonial governor and comprised the Connecticut colonial senate.

Unusual circumstances brought the most famous Hillhouse to New Haven. Because James Abraham Hillhouse had no children of his own, he adopted one of the seven sons of his brother William in Montville. That son—another James Hillhouse—was born in 1754 and named after his grandfather, the North Parish pastor. Young James was only seven years old when he came to live with his uncle in New Haven. He became, in the words of New Haven historian the Rev. Leonard Bacon, “an only child, the pride and hope of his adopted father.”

Young James attended the Hopkins Grammar School founded in New Haven in 1660 and graduated from Yale in 1773. He was described by the Rev. Bacon, as “Tall, long limbed, light in motion and light in step; firm, he seems like some Indian chief of poetry or romance…”

After graduation, young James began reading law with the intention of joining his foster father’s firm. But other events intervened. In 1775, his foster father died. That same year, the colonial ill-will toward England that had been simmering, boiled over into armed rebellion. Young Hillhouse was among the New Haven men who organized a militia unit—the Second Company of the Governor’s Foot Guard—to stand up against the mother country on behalf of the colonies. The company was commanded by an energetic town merchant named Benedict Arnold.

The company got a charter from the colonial legislature in March that year and on April 22, Arnold led 57 of its members, one of the officers among them James Hillhouse, off to Massachusetts to respond to the Lexington and Concord Alarm.

Several months later, on July 2, James Hillhouse was in command of an escort provided by the Second Company for another historic event when Gen. George Washington passed through New Haven on his way to take command of the rebel forces in Boston.

**British invasion in 1779**

During 1779-1780, Hillhouse served as the recruiting officer in New Haven for the Continental Army. On July 5, 1779, he led the Second Company in its defense of the city when a task force of 1,500 British troops landed at Savin Rock. “Capt. Hillhouse,” according to the Second Company history, “marched his men out Davenport Avenue, crossed the bridge over the West River, and encountering the invaders, fired upon them from every available shelter the roadside offered. Greatly outnumbered, the defenders retired, recrossing the bridge, which they destroyed ... The British, crossing the river at another point, met continued resistance until, cover becoming poor, further opposition was inexpedient.”

A contemporary hand-drawn map by Ezra Stiles contains two longhand entries on the West Haven side of the bridge. The one closest to the bridge reads: “Here Capt. Hillhouse’s party first began to fire.” The one nearer the shoreline reads, “Here Capt. Hillhouse first attacked them.”

That day, the Hillhouse family was caught up in the conflicting sentiments of the time for while young James was commanding the armed resistance, his foster mother, known for her loyalty to the king and the Church of England, was welcoming British officers to her home in New Haven.

The stand taken by James and his small band of troops against the English invaders won him considerable public support for in the following years he was, while still in his 20s and 30s, elected to the Connecticut House of Representatives from 1780 to 1785, to the U.S. House from 1790 to 1796, and to the U.S. Senate from 1796 to 1810. When Thomas Jefferson was elected president in 1801, Hillhouse was chosen to be the presiding officer of the U.S. Senate.

In politics, Hillhouse was a Federalist, the conservative party of that era. “He had supported the administration of Washington and the elder Adams, and he was in the opposition under the administration of Jefferson,” wrote his contemporary the Rev.
Leonard Bacon. "Yet his speeches show that he was by no means a mere partisan, and on the great question of statesmanship, he ordinarily rose above the range of party interests."

In 1808, motivated by his fear that the United States would fall under the influence of ambitious demagogues, he proposed a radical amendment to the U.S. Constitution as a safeguard to prevent that. His proposal was that members of the House of Representatives be elected annually by the people and that members of the Senate be elected for only three-year terms. Senators, in turn, would elect the president from their numbers for a term of only one year.

**Advocate for democracy**

Hillhouse feared that the longer terms stipulated in the Constitution would eventually lead to a dictatorship. "The office of President," he said, "is the only one in our government clothed with such powers as might endanger liberty ... and at some future period, they may be exerted to overthrow the liberties of our country. The change from four to 10 years is small; the next step would be from 10 years to life ..." He warned that some future crisis of public safety or possible invasion "might place in the hands of an ambitious, daring President, an army of which he would be the legitimate commander" and which he might use to destroy democracy.

In December 1814, Hillhouse was among the New England Federalists opposed to the War of 1812 who met in secret sessions in the Hartford Convention. The delegates proposed seven amendments to the Constitution including one restricting a president to one term.

The convention led to a decline in popularity of the Federalist party because of rumors that delegates were intent on secession from the Union. Hillhouse's participation in the convention was held against him by some even to his death. The *Columbian Register*, later the *New Haven Register*, mentioned in an otherwise laudatory obituary on Jan. 5, 1833, that Hillhouse "was unfortunately a member of the Hartford Convention."

While attaining national status in politics, Hillhouse was equally or even more so a mover and shaker in local affairs. City historian Rollin G. Osterweis described the period from 1784 to 1800 as formative years of New Haven. He singled out James Hillhouse among four New Haveners "who not only dominated the life of the community in their own generation, but set a pattern of civic consciousness for the generations to come ..." He described the four — Roger Sherman, Simeon Baldwin, Ezra Stiles and Hillhouse — as towering above their fellow citizens: "four figures of national importance who were never too preoccupied to work for New Haven's welfare."

Hillhouse began that period with an act of healing the wounds left by the Revolutionary War. When the war ended, he was instrumental in choosing a path of reconciliation toward those citizens who had remained loyal to England. He and David Austin headed a committee that recommended magnanimity toward Tories. Townspeople accepted that course and encouraged the return of loyalists.

That same year, Hillhouse was chairman of a committee on hospitality and set a similarly humane course "to welcome and assist all strangers coming to reside in New Haven and cultivate their acquaintance so that their residence may be rendered as agreeable and eligible as possible."

In 1782, Hillhouse was elected treasurer of Yale College, a position he held for 50 years. He suggested that the governor of the state be made a member of the corporation thus paving the way for funding that enabled the construction of new buildings.

In 1785, the state legislature granted to Hillhouse and three partners a license "to Coin and Manufacture Coppers." They produced the coins until 1787 in a mint on Water Street.

Also in 1785, Hillhouse and Ezra Stiles collaborated on designing a seal for the city. The seal depicted the city harbor with a ship at the entrance, and an Ionic pillar entwined with a grape vine.

In the early 1790s, Hillhouse was the leader in efforts to preserve and beautify the historic center of New Haven. "No man, has ever done so much by personal influence and labor for the beauty of New Haven," wrote the Rev. Leonard Bacon.

**City of Elms**

Hillhouse was chairman of the committee established to level the city's lower Green and enclose the whole square of the Green for the first time. More than any one else, he is credited with making New Haven the Elm
City. He originated the idea of planting elms on the Green and along the streets and, wrote George Hare Ford, "... devoted years of his life to bringing the small trees from off his farm between this city and Meriden and planting them in rows along our streets with his own hands ..."

In 1796, James Hillhouse was the driving force behind the establishment of Grove Street Cemetery. Because the city's original burying ground on the Green had become too crowded with an estimated 5,000 burials, Hillhouse headed a group of 31 citizens to establish a new cemetery on the edge of town. In October 1797, the state legislature issued a charter to "The Proprietors of the New Haven Burying Ground."

The cemetery they created has a national reputation. "Although it is much smaller than Green-Wood in Brooklyn or Arlington National Cemetery ... it is arguably just as significant," commented a (New York Times) article on June 16, 2015. "Grove Street, adjacent to Yale University, was the first planned cemetery in America and is the eternal home to some of Yale’s and New Haven’s most notable figures. The Interior Department added it to the National Register of Historic Places in 1977.

"While downtown New Haven and Yale have long encircled Grove Street, its maple- and spruce-lined alleys still feel a world apart from urban bustle ... And while the grounds seem full, Grove Street is a working cemetery, with more than 20 new burials a year ..."

**Arts, science and transportation**

In 1799, Hillhouse was one of the original members of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences, the third oldest such society in the United States, established "to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest and happiness of a free and virtuous people ..."

From 1797 to 1800, Hillhouse was president of the Hartford and New Haven Turnpike Company which modernized one of Connecticut's oldest and most important thoroughfares.

"Not many of the present generation," commented an article in the *New Haven Register* on June 27, 1881, "are familiar with the fact that there is practically a straight road from this city to Hartford. They may have ridden over it and may have been impressed with its excellent condition, its uniform width and the way it goes over hills high and low ... This remarkable turnpike was laid out under the superintendence of James Hillhouse to whom the city is indebted for many of its beauties ..."

A the age of 71, Hillhouse plunged into another transportation endeavor. The Erie Canal completed in 1821 quickly brought boom times to New York state and city by opening up a trade route into the midsection of the nation. Hillhouse and other New Englanders believed the success story of the Erie Canal could be repeated with a canal dug northward from New Haven to the St. Lawrence River on the Canadian border and "thence to all Western waters."

In 1825, Hillhouse was selected as superintendent of what they thought would be the first leg of that grand vision: a canal of about 80 miles northward to Northampton, Mass. He took on the responsibility, commented one historian, "with all the enthusiasm and hardy vigor of his prime and for six years he sustained that charge through every discouragement and difficulty. He even went back to Washington to lobby Congress for aid to what he described as a "national object of first importance."

**Farmington Canal**

Hillhouse's contribution to the canal project was evident in November 1828 when construction was completed as far north as Farmington and the first canal boat to come south was named the *James Hillhouse, Nr. 1.*

When the boat reached within several miles of New Haven, reported the *Connecticut Herald* of Nov. 18, it was greeted by a boat named for the descendant of another Irish family — the *DeWitt Clinton* — and escorted into New Haven "amidst the firing of cannon, ringing of bells and cheers..."

Ironically, the canal brought Hillhouse into contact with one of the early groups of poverty-stricken Irish and their families to come to Connecticut in the 19th century. A letter written by him in 1827 regarding a work site near Cheshire speaks of the plight of both the immigrants and the canal company: "The Irish men who worked on the North Half of Section 62 have completed their job and have a final estimate the balance of which is $485.85 which the men are very anxious to receive — but it is not in my power to pay it having paid out almost the whole of the money which I brought up ... but not being authorized to

Above is the gravestone of U.S. Sen. James Hillhouse in the Grove Street Cemetery, in downtown New Haven. Below is a poem that was published in the American Mercury newspaper in Hartford on Jan. 21, 1833, shortly after his death.

No craven fear — no selfish view,
His patriot zeal e’er felt or knew,
To vindicate the oppress’d he stood;
He labor’d for the public good;
Held Courts and Senates in control,
And spoke the language of the soul.

Prepared, his country’s right to shield,
The sword or mace alike to wield;
Whate’er his ardent mind conceived,
Was by his plastic hand achieved.
His task perform’d — he sunk to rest,
By Heaven’s approving sentence blest.

His name no proud mausoleum needs,
To say he lived — to tell his deeds:
While memory acts the herald’s part,
And Freedom’s course be fondly staid,
Be moistened by affection’s tears.

His grave, shall through revolving years,
Be moistened by affection’s tears.

His grave, shall through revolving years,
Be moistened by affection’s tears.

His grave, shall through revolving years,
Be moistened by affection’s tears.

His grave, shall through revolving years,
draw for the money I have requested Mr. Beach who is authorized to receive their estimates to furnish each man with a certificate of the amount due them favorably _-

While those Irish laborers were eventually paid, the canal project was beset with financial and other problems, including recurring damages from erosion and the increasing popularity of railroads.

James Hillhouse did not live to see the outcome of his final project. He died at his home in New Haven on Dec. 29, 1832. "In his last years," said his obituary in the *Columbian Register*, "he has been indefatigable in his labors by day and night as superintendent on the Farmington Canal. He has shown his honest zeal in that public work, by devoting a great share of his private property to the advancement of the enterprise. He has always been remarkable for industry in some calling."

Along with many family members, Hillhouse is buried in the Grove Street Cemetery, which was one of his fondest works.

**Hillhouses and Cahills**

Years after the death of the Revolutionary War hero, his descendants had a curious relationship with a Civil War hero, Col. Thomas Cahill, whose roots also were in Ireland. Cahill was the son of Irish immigrants Lawrence and Mary Ann Cahill. A native of County Waterford, Lawrence died in 1840 when Thomas was only 13 years old.

Not unlike Hillhouse in his diligence, Thomas Cahill found work as a stable boy taking care of the Hillhouse family's horses, and developing great riding skills in the process. Hillhouse family members were fond of the ambitious young man and loaned him books from the family library.

As a young man, Cahill eventually became a mason by trade, was elected to the New Haven Common Council in 1857 and commanded the Washington Erina Guards, an Irish militia unit similar to the Governor's Foot Guard led by James Hillhouse.

When the Civil War began, Cahill was appointed commander of the 9th Connecticut Infantry, an almost entirely Irish outfit. He served for three years in campaigns in Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia. During his service, he and his wife Margaret carried on a voluminous correspondence by mail. Their letters reveal that during the war, Mary Lucas Hillhouse, the daughter of Sen. James, kept in touch with Margaret Cahill and her children. On one occasion, Christmas in 1862, Margaret wrote Thomas that Mary Hillhouse and her daughter, Mary, had visited. "They were pleased to see the children," Margaret wrote, "they gave them some little presents and inquired particularly after you, my dear husband. We spent the evening very pleasantly."

Mory’s Temple Bar seems to have link to ancient Co. Kerry clan

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The Moriarty surname even found its way into literature. Arthur Conan Doyle, an Irishman himself, included in some of his Sherlock Holmes books, a ruthless criminal mastermind named Prof. James Moriarty.

It would seem without question that the Frank Moriarty of Mory’s was Irish. However, census returns record that Moriarty was born in England and that his wife Jane was a native of Wales. That, of course, does not rule out their being of Irish descent because Irish people frequently immigrated to England and Wales, many of them later moving on to America.

Carla Cruzoni, general manager of Mory’s, gave a brief account of the bar’s history at the luncheon after the tour of Grove Street Cemetery. She mentioned that Frank and Jane were English natives. Later, to a question about their maybe being of Irish descent, she emailed: “I’ve been in touch with a present-day relative of the Moriarty family and she believed that Frank Moriarty, the husband of her great-great aunt, Jane, had been Irish.”

The study leading to the placing of Mory’s on the National Register of Historic Places, bolsters her comment: “Mory’s derives its name from its founders, Frank and Jane Moriarty, who opened a small tavern called Moriarty’s in 1863 in Wooster Square, which was then a largely Irish neighborhood … Located near the New Haven harbor, the tavern was discovered one day by a number of Yale crewmen on their way back to the campus from a race and it quickly became popular with other Yale students. The Moriartys recognized the merit of moving close to campus to be near their devoted clientele and opened the Quiet House on Court Street … in the late 1860s. This move galvanized its standing as a favorite watering hole for Yale students.

“After Frank Moriarty died in 1876, Mrs. Moriarty moved still closer to campus to a location at the corner of Temple and Center Streets, and the tavern became known as Mory’s Temple Bar. When Jane Moriarty died in 1885, the Temple Bar was operated by Edward G. Oakley, a former waiter at the bar. While Oakley was popular with students, his poor business skills forced him to close the bar in 1898 …”

Oakley also was supposedly of Irish descent. One history of the establishment describes him as one of the waiters hired by Jane Moriarty: “a genial Irishman who gradually took over the management of the place … His popularity with Yale clientele was legendary — and with good reason: every undergraduate … had an automatic $20 worth of credit … No one ever asked to have his limit extended and the proprietor never dunned anyone for payment …”

Despite being described as an Irishman, Oakley, like Frank Moriarty, was listed on census returns as a native of England.

In 1899, a German immigrant named Louis Linder reopened the bar. A music lover, Linder encouraged Yale musical groups to play and sing while visiting Mory’s. In 1909, a quintet calling themselves the Whiffenpoofs began to meet at Mory’s on Monday evenings. In 1912, when the popular Yale tavern was again threatened with closing, alumni organized a non-profit corporation to keep it in business. The corporation purchased a Federal-style house at 306 York St., a venue which remains today the home of Mory’s.

Ironically, there was another immigrant in New Haven — Edward J. Moriarty — whose life was similar in several ways to that of Frank Moriarty. Like Frank, Edward was a native of England. He was born near Woolwich Arsenal in London. Located on the bank of the Thames River in southeast London, Woolwich was an arms manufacturing and explosives research center from the 17th century until 1967.

When about five years old, Edward Moriarty immigrated to New York City with his parents, Mortimer and Ann, both of whom were born in Ireland. Two daughters were born in New York: Bridget in 1873 and Mary in 1874. Within a few years, the Moriartys had settled in New Haven where Mortimer found work as a railroad switchman.

As a young man, Edward worked at Traeger’s restaurant, another downtown rendezvous for Yale students. Later he worked at C.M. Tuttle’s grocery near the Yale campus on Broadway. Tuttle’s store was famous for its cheeses which were imported from England and allowed “to ripen for years in his famous rathskeller.”

When Tuttle died, he willed the business to Edward Moriarty.

In addition to running the store, Edward Moriarty became a great friend and enthusiast of all things Yale. Known as the “Mayor of Broadway,” he is said to have attended every concert and every lecture at Yale. He kept a diary of Yale traditions and knew the record of every Yale athlete for 50 years.

He was so well known that a friend and Yale alumnus, George Chappell, wrote a poem which began:

“IT’s good, friend Ed, to sit with you
And drink a glass of beer or two,
Or three, as many as I please,
And munch your crackers and cheese
Sharing the old Yalensian lore.”

Moriarty’s enthusiasm for Yale was matched by his love of his Irish heritage. At the age of 23, he was the toastmaster for the St. Patrick’s Day banquet of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick. In the early 1900s, he became a perennial toastmaster for the Knights of St. Patrick’s March 17 banquets.

Just after introducing the main speaker for the 27th consecutive year at the 1932 banquet, Moriarty was stricken with a heart attack and died. He was buried in the Grove Street Cemetery.

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Edward J. was one of 2 famed New Haven Moriartys

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attack. Three doctors who were present at the affair tended Moriarty until he was taken by ambulance to St. Raphael’s Hospital where he died the next day.

The *New Haven Journal Courier* described Moriarty as “one of the most noted characters in the city of New Haven. He has been a chronicler of Yale and New Haven for the last half century. As an institution in the Knights of St. Patrick he is without counterpart.”

An intriguing question: Given the similarity of their origins, their lives and their careers, is it possible that Frank and Edward J. Moriarty were related?