



**THE REMARKABLE LIFE & TIMES OF**

# **JOHN MORRISSEY**

**Pirate, Prospector, Pugilist, Politician, Promoter**

**Troy Resident, Irish Mob Boss, Congressman, Senator**

**Founder of the Saratoga Racecourse**

**Dead at 47**



Making headlines from coast to coast, John Morrissey's Irish immigrant story cuts across immigrant running, voter fraud, gang riots, and illegal gambling, prizefighting, and horseracing. Once among the most recognized names of the nineteenth century United States, questions remain: Was he the leader of the Dead Rabbits gang? Was he responsible for the murder of William "Bill the Butcher" Poole? Are his contributions recognized? It's time to uncover the story of a man who rose from the streets to the highest echelons of power and left a lasting, if little-known, legacy.

Led by Sandy Schuman, storyteller and author, our examination of John Morrissey's story features over 150 images and reveals:

- The brutal brawl that earned him the nickname, "Old Smoke"
- His rivalry with (and murder of?) "Bill the Butcher" Poole
- The prize fights that earned him the title Heavyweight Champion of America
- His leadership and eventual betrayal of Tammany Hall
- His ascent to Congressman and State Senator
- His creation of the Saratoga Race Course, and his legacy in American sports history
- The tragic events that led to his untimely death at age 47

Sandy Schuman is fascinated by familiar things and their unfamiliar stories. He brings folk tales and historical sagas to life ("some of our folklore is truly unbelievable, some of our history is even more so") and reveals the little-known stories behind some of our best-known songs. When you hear him play the guitar and sing, you'll know why he calls himself a storyteller.

