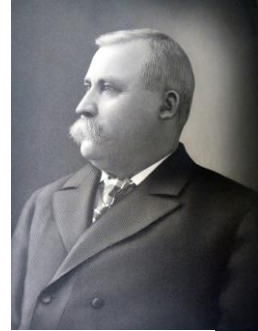


Eugene M. Moriarty (1849-1905)

As a "champion of the laboring people" Eugene Moriarty, an immigrant from Ireland in 1866, was active in Democratic politics in the city from an early age. He served on the school committee for 18 years, 1879-96. In 1897 he assumed the editorship of the *Worcester Evening Post* as a part owner, and he retained it until his accidental death after only eight years at the helm.

His biography in Nutt's history, included below, was written by an unknown author after his death in 1905.



AUGUST 28, 1907. 12 PAGES ONE CENT EVERYWHERE.

EUGENE M. MORIARTY DIES OF HEART FAILURE WHILE HE BATHES AT THE LAKE

Widely Known as Publisher, Politician and Public Spirited Citizen---His Death is Deeply Mourned.

EUGENE M. MORIARTY,
Late Editor and Publisher of the Evening Post.

Eugene M. Moriarty
Evening Gazette
Aug-28-1907

which gave the children of Massachusetts free books in the public schools of the state. This one matter probably was the greatest event in his career, and won for him fame far and near. In his efforts to accomplish the passage of this bill he was forced to combat the allied forces of the publishers of the country, but he engineered the bill through, and now most of the states of the Union have adopted practically the same measure.

Mr Moriarty while in the legislature was able to get an annual appropriation of \$10,000 made for the purpose of giving firemen of the state assistance in case of sickness and injury. This was the foundation of the Massachusetts State Fireman's Relief Association and the firemen of the state fully appreciated his efforts.

He was voted a gold medal by the firemen at the convention a few years ago in Northampton and he wore this for the first and only time last October when he addressed the state firemen in convention in Worcester. He was proud of the medal and glad of the success in establishing a permanent fund for the relief of all firemen.

Mr. Moriarty was one of the most prominent and best known Democrats in Worcester and in the state. He was known for his broad-minded principles in politics and his abhorrence of trickery. The death last night cast a gloom over the lake section and caused the greatest sorrow at the Wachusett Club.

He had been in the water but a short time when those on the shore noticed that he was not moving.

He had been floating on his back and it was thought he was trying to fool his friends on shore. Becoming alarmed at the continued motionless man, Elmer K. Kittredge, a clerk at the club, swam out to him and found that he was unconscious. He called for help and was soon joined by William McGuire of Shrewsbury and the two brought Mr. Moriarty to the club float.

Capt. J. J. Daley, in charge of the public baths there, saw what had happened, and he, with Dr. Oscar F. George of Lake View, who was hurriedly summoned, tried to resuscitate him. The two worked over Mr. Moriarty for 40 minutes, when the police ambulance arrived, and Dr. R. H. Goldthwaite, with Dr. George, agreed the man was dead.

The Rev. John J. McCoy and the Rev. Owen H. McGee of St. Anne's Church were notified by telephone and they

(CONTINUED ON PAGE SEVEN.)

All Worcester was shocked last night at the news of the death of Eugene M. Moriarty, editor and publisher of the Worcester Evening Post, which occurred about 6 o'clock while he was enjoying a swim in the Lake off the Wachusett club house.

Mr. Moriarty was an expert swimmer and it has been his custom for years to enjoy the waters of the Lake after business hours, and last night he was the merriest of a party to take a plunge.

Mr. Moriarty was widely known as the father of the free text book bill

hurried to the scene and administered the last rites of the Catholic Church.

Medical Examiner F. H. Baker was notified of the death, and he made an examination of the body and pronounced death due to heart disease. He said Mr. Moriarty was subject to heart weakness, and the water probably brought on an attack, and he had fainted while swimming. He said death probably came while Mr. Moriarty was in the water.

Mr. Moriarty was known not only in Worcester, but all over the state as a fearless politician, a Democrat of the old school, and a man who would not tolerate trickery in any public matter without the most vigorous protest. His paper, while a Democratic paper officially, was known to be free from entangling alliances with any faction of the party, and it was the dead man's boast in the office and to his friends that he had no friends to reward or no enemies to punish."

Mr. Moriarty was in every sense of the term a "self-made man." He came to the United States from Castlemain, Ireland, when 17 years of age, and his first employment was at hod-carrying. He was ambitious, however, and did not take kindly to this work. Later he secured employment with the Boston & Albany railroad, and was engaged in taking the numbers of cars. His aptness at figures soon attracted attention and he became prominent among the railroad men.

His rise dated from the day he entered politics, at the solicitation of some of his friends, who knew of his talents as a speaker and of his innate ability.

He was elected to the Common Council from Ward 3 in 1872, and again in 1873. After this he kept aloof from politics in general except as a voter for some time, but in 1878 he was elected to the school board from Ward 3, and served there for 19 years.

In 1879 he was a candidate for the Legislature from his ward on an independent ticket, and was elected. He was elected over his straight ticket opponent, David A. Shortall, and was kept in the House for four years.

In the campaign of Gen. Benjamin F. Butler he was one of the prominent figures, and in 1884 he was appointed a clerk in the office of the insurance commissioner.

Under President Grover Cleveland Mr. Moriarty was appointed deputy internal revenue collector, and held the office until 1889. Senator George F. Hoar paid him the tribute at this time by saying he should be retained in office because of his honesty and ability.

Following his retirement from public office, he again entered politics and was once more elected to the Legislature from Ward 3, serving there seven successive years, retiring voluntarily in 1897.

Eugene M. Moriarty

Evening Gazette

Aug-28-1907

Part 2 of 3.

Mr. Moriarty began his newspaper work as Worcester correspondent of the Boston Globe, and his weekly letters were always eagerly read here. The circulation of this paper at his beginning work in Worcester was three, and it steadily grew.

When he retired from the Legislature it was to take up the duties of editing his paper, the Worcester Post.

Eugene M. Moriarty was born in Castleton, Vermont, April 9, 1849 and was therefore 58 years, five months and 18 days old at the time of his death. He was a very robust man and his friends, who knew nothing of his heart trouble, were astounded to learn of the cause of his death. He was the youngest of a family of five, three girls and two boys. His early education was received in the Christian Brothers' school in Ireland and two days after he graduated he started for America coming to Worcester at once. He has resided here ever since.

All his life he has been a close student of English and it was his "hobby" to make his newspaper appear in only the best and most simple language possible. The staff on the paper have been instructed times without number on little points of the language and the straightest road to favor with him was a knowledge of English of the pure kind.

From his earliest days here he was interested in fraternal orders and at the time of his death he was a member of Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians and was county president of the order for six years.

He was a member of the Grattan Literary Society in the old days of that debating society. He was a member of the Fenian Brotherhood many years ago and later he became a member of the Knights of Robert Emmet of the Clanna-Gael. He was a charter member of Alhambra Council K. of C., and an associate of a social gathering known as the Round Table Club.

(continues)

He was particularly a home-loving man and before his marriage he lived with his sister, Mrs Patrick Noonan. Mr Moriarty was married Thanksgiving day, 1892 to Miss Julia Carroll, daughter of David Carroll of Worcester, the marriage being performed by a relative, the Rev John Nugent of the St Augustine Order. Mr and Mrs Moriarty lived at 21 Providence street until this spring when they moved to 52 William street.

No children have been born to Mr and Mrs Moriarty. His nearest relatives are three sisters, only one of whom lives in America, Mrs Patrick Noonan. His other sisters are Mrs Mary, wife of Lawrence Griffin, and Catherine, wife of Daniel Murphy, both of the parish of Keel, County Kerry, Ireland.

The funeral will be held from his late home, 52 William street, Friday morning at 8.15 with a solemn high mass of requiem in St Paul's church at 9 o'clock. Rev William H. Goggin, pastor of the church, will celebrate the mass. It is expected that a number of priests from parishes throughout the county and a delegation of priests from Holy Cross College will also be present. A delegation from the various communities of Sisters and Brothers of the city will also attend.

Burial will be in the family lot in St John's cemetery.

Eugene M. Moriarty

Evening Gazette

Aug-28-1907

Part 3 of 3

Charles Nutt, *History of Worcester and Its People*, v. 4, p.695

EUGENE M. MORIARTY, Editor and publisher of the "Worcester Evening Post," Democratic leader and legislator, was born in Castlemaine, County Kerry, Ireland, April 15, 1849, and died in this city, August 27, 1907. He received the equivalent of a high school education in his native land. At the age of seventeen he came to this country and made his home in Worcester.

He began his career here in the employ of the Boston & Albany Railroad Company, as a checking clerk, then he became a clerk in the main office and later in the train despatcher's office. His interest in public affairs soon drew him away from the railroad business. He became active in the local organization of the Democratic party as soon as he came of age, if not before. He was but twenty-three years old when he was elected in 1872 to the Common Council from Ward Three, serving two years, 1873 and 1874. His energy, force of character and zeal for service and the public welfare were in evidence here. He was elected to the school committee, serving from 1878 to 1896, a period of nineteen years from Ward Three, and during most of that time was the leader of the Democratic members. At the time of his death the school committee placed on record the following tribute:

The members of the School Committee place on record this tribute to the personal character and devoted public service of Eugene M. Moriarty, who for nineteen years was an active and very useful member of this board and whose death on the twenty-seventh day of August, 1907, is a public bereavement.

From his first position in his adopted country, he steadily advanced until death found him editor of one of our evening papers. He was a natural-born student and was all the time acquiring the education which made him one of the best-read men in Worcester county. He served the schools of the city of Worcester, all its public interests, and actively identified himself with every uplifting and refining local effort of a public character. He was one of our best citizens. The best years of his life were devoted to the service of the public schools. He was ever firm in his convictions, lofty in his ideals, steadfast in his principles, and always endeavored to do what, as he saw it, was for the best interests of the schools. No amount of persuasion, no influence of friends, could ever cause him to deviate from the path which he thought was right. He was a good man; may his memory live.

Mr. Moriarty was particularly active in the support of General Butler in the historic campaign in 1884, and was appointed by Governor Butler to a clerkship in the insurance department under Commissioner John J. Tarbox. In 1885 he was appointed by President Cleveland deputy collector of internal revenue for Worcester. He was elected to the State Legislature in 1879 from Ward Three and served four successive years; was elected again in 1889 and served until 1897, when he withdrew from the legislative contest to assume the editorship of the "Worcester Evening Post," of which he became one of the owners at that time. Some of the very best laws on the

statute books of the Commonwealth were enacted through the influence, perseverance and zeal of Mr. Moriarty. During ten years in the House of Representatives, he was a leader among his colleagues, serving on committees that investigated and reported on matters of vital interest to all sections of the State. The act in which he justly took the greatest pride and satisfaction, and which links his name everlastingly with the liberality and progress of the Commonwealth, is the measure providing free textbooks for the pupils of the public schools, a measure that has been adopted by other States, one after another, throughout the country. Colonel Thomas Wentworth Higginson called Mr. Moriarty "the father" of this bill. During the first four years of his legislative career, Mr. Moriarty was incessantly agitating the subject of free textbooks, nor did he confine his efforts to the House; he wrote constantly in support of the bill to newspapers all over the State and never lost an opportunity to speak in public in its favor. Year by year, during the nine years that he served, his power grew and he became more successful, sharing the leadership of a minority party, in procuring legislation in the interests of the laboring people, of whom he was always a champion. He was a member of the committee that investigated the big Boston gas combination in 1893, and was a prime mover in securing a reduction in the price of gas in Boston. In 1890 he originated and put through the measure appropriating \$10,000 annually for the aid of the Massachusetts Firemen's Association.

He was an able public speaker, quick of wit, ready in repartee, a keen debater on the floor of the house or in committee, and a popular after-dinner and campaign orator. His political campaigns were lively. He was fond of politics and always struck straight from the shoulder. There was no cunning or finesse about 'Gene Moriarty. In politics as in everything else he played a fair, square but strong game. He told the truth bluntly. Defeated again and again in measures he believed just, he renewed the fight and generally fought to a successful finish. He advocated the bill to make the poll-tax a prerequisite for voting; the Eight-Hour Bill for women and children; the Weavers' Fine Bill, the Anti-Pinkerton Detective Bill; the Ten-Hour Bill for Street Railway Employees and every other measure designed for the benefit of the people-at-large and especially wage earners. He was largely instrumental in securing the legislation providing the two-cents-a-mile railroad rate, being the originator of that law. It was through his efforts that a law was passed in 1892 giving better protection for policy holders in insurance companies. His reply to a speech reflecting upon the supporters of legislation for the benefit of railroad employees in 1892 was not only characteristic, but was a bit of eloquence well worth preserving. In the course of this speech, he said:

I have done some manual work in my life, Mr. Speaker, but I never belonged to a labor organization, because the opportunity did not present itself to me. I yield to no man, however, in an earnest desire to advance the interests of the working people by proper legislation. I have advocated this bill and kindred measures with all the zeal of my soul, and if for doing that the gentleman from Belchertown classes me as a demagogue or an anarchist, let me tell him that in all that goes to make up integrity, character and manhood I am willing to be weighed in the balance with him every day in the week and I do not think I will suffer by any comparison that can be instituted between us. * * *

The House has twice put itself upon record in favor of this bill. It is the only surviving remnant of all the labor legislation which was proposed this year. It is the only measure which has passed through the legislative Dismal Swamp where the ten-hour bill for railroad and street railway employees perished and where other measures in the interest of the people were stricken with disease and death. Upon the tombstones which mark the graves of all these good legislative measures the same monotonous epitaph "rejected by the Senate" has been inscribed.

In this speech he urged the adoption of the Saturday half-holiday. In the same year he made an historic speech in support of the municipal coal yard legislation. As early as 1890, the "Boston Traveler" commended Mr. Moriarty in an editorial that is typical of the support given to him by the more progressive newspapers at that time.

Mr. Moriarty's record in the Legislature as a champion of the laboring class and especially of railroad employees, has been creditable in all respects, while his manly independence and sterling integrity on all matters of legislation during his year's service has been such as to merit the esteem and commendation of all his associates, irrespective of party. Last session he was the particular opponent of the lobby, and was one of the first to demand a thorough investigation of the charges with reference to the West End investigation. If any Democrat in Worcester deserves to be returned it is Eugene M. Moriarty.

*Mr. Moriarty made a name for himself as a writer as well as a speaker. When he became editor and publisher of the "Worcester Evening Post" in 1889 he had had long experience as "Globe" correspondent for this city, and for twenty years had been a close student and an active participant in public affairs. He had a wide acquaintance among public men and an intimate knowledge of events in the city. His training for the editorial chair could hardly have been more thorough. In the newspaper he found a powerful weapon of usefulness. His editorials became the strong

feature of the paper, but he valued the news wisely and made the "Post" attractive to all classes of readers. Year by year he made his newspaper better and stronger, and at the time of his death he had it securely placed on a successful financial basis.

As a fellow publisher, the writer came into close personal relations with him for five years and came to know his sterling worth. At that time all his other ambitions had been subordinated to attain his ideal for the newspaper and to make it serve to the utmost not only his party and the legislation in which he believed but the city of Worcester in all possible ways. There was no narrowness in his policy, no sectarianism; he detested bigotry, shams and snobs. (See history of the "Evening Post").

Mr. Moriarty took pleasure in social life. He was one of the organizers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Worcester; was county and state president of this order and gained a national reputation for his service and devotion to it. He was a charter member of Alhambra Council, Knights of Columbus, and member of the Round Table Club, an exclusive social organization composed of kindred spirits. He was kind of heart, liberal with his means, giving generously in charity and various worthy objects, regardless of creed, politics or race. He was a faithful Catholic and for many years a communicant of St. Paul's Catholic Church.

His death came suddenly, while he was in the zenith of his powers, apparently in the enjoyment of his usual vigorous health. He was taken by an attack of heart disease while swimming in Lake Quinsigamond, off the landing at the Wachusett Boat Club, where he had been participating in an outing with friends. Twice he had been to the middle of the lake and started again, but when about twenty feet from shore was seized with a fatal attack. Life was extinct when he was brought ashore, after it was seen that something was wrong. His funeral at St. Paul's was largely attended by the most prominent citizens. Rev. John A. Nugent, of Ardmore, Pennsylvania, a cousin of Mr. Moriarty, officiated, and Rev. Dr. John J. McCoy pronounced the eulogy.

Mr. Moriarty married, in November, 1892, Julia E. Carroll, daughter of David Carroll (see biography). They had no children.