

Diane Helentjaris Reignites a Forgotten Woman's Extraordinary Story in Ivy in America, the Second book in Her Ivy Series

Award-winning author reimagines the extraordinary life of Honora O'Flynn, inspired by the Irish woman's kidnapping by pirates and journey to colonial Maryland

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, September 3, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- What if a journey born of hardship became a legacy of hope? Continuing the saga begun in *The Indenture of Ivy O'Neill*, award-winning author [Diane Helentjaris](#)' *Ivy in America* (The Life and Adventures of Ivy O'Neill) reimagines Honora O'Flynn Logsdon's journey through the hardships of colonial America and the courage that transformed her past into a legacy of hope for generations to come.

"I think it's fascinating, the life of Honora, so I created the Ivy series. I want readers to have a fun and memorable experience reading about Ivy and the resilience and determination she had. Her contributions to Maryland's history are significant, and so are the legacies many of her children left behind," Helentjaris says.



Published August 28, 2026, *Ivy in America* is the latest installment in Helentjaris' Ivy series. Honora O'Flynn, described as beautiful and red-haired, was kidnapped by pirates off the coast of Ireland and carried to colonial Maryland, where she was reportedly sold to planter William Logsdon for a large barrel of tobacco.

Then the historical record began to confirm the family story.

"I was saddened by the trafficking of young women, the apparent lack of choice in the trajectory of Honora's life, and the heartache this must have caused her and those she left back in Ireland," Helentjaris says.

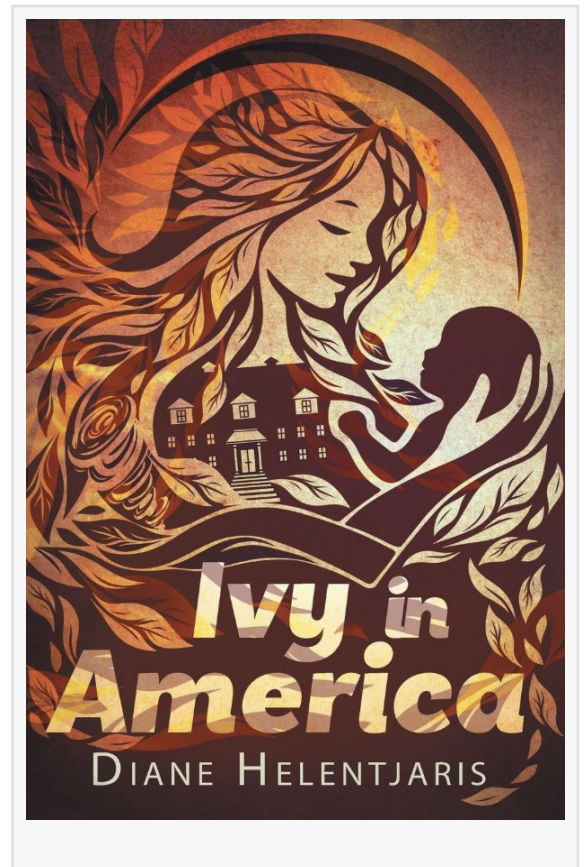
But Honora's story did not end with her arrival in America. Her courage and faith shaped

generations to come, including William Durbin, who helped establish the Methodist Church and left his own mark on America's religious history.

"The vision of a woman overcoming hardship and leaving a heritage of leadership and faith grabbed me," Helentjaris says.

That vision became the heart of *Ivy in America*. Built on a foundation of documented history, Helentjaris draws on the art of storytelling and her own imagination to bring Honora's story to life, filling the gaps in the historical record to reveal the woman behind it—and the life she may have built after such a harrowing beginning.

"I wanted to puzzle out what type of person she might have been," Helentjaris says. "I wanted to figure out ways a woman and her partner might have created a unity after such an uneven start, to leave the gift of faith and good works."



Digital archives have transformed the preservation of women's history, opening doors to sources that once required hours in libraries and archives. Helentjaris credits these resources with helping her complete her work, including the first biography of Lulu Bell Parr, "*I Ain't Afraid: The World of Lulu Bell Parr, Wild West Cowgirl*." For Helentjaris, historical storytelling is about more than looking back. It is about finding the women whose stories nearly disappeared, and bringing their lives, voices, and contributions back into view for a new generation.

"The work I do is enjoyable, but also important," Helentjaris says. "These women left a legacy that continues to shape their community and the world around us today, and it should not be forgotten."

Helentjaris will appear at several upcoming author events, including the 85th Waterford Fair October 2–4, the Yellow Springs Street Fair in Ohio October 10, and the 3rd Annual Crozet Book Fest October 24 at the Crozet Public Library.

Ivy in America is available now.

Please click here to purchase copies: <https://bit.ly/4ctDXwR>

About the Author

Diane Helentjaris is an award-winning author and historical storyteller dedicated to bringing the

lives of remarkable women into the forefront of American history. Drawing on decades of research, she transforms historical records, family stories, and overlooked voices into compelling narratives that connect the past with the present. Her books include the award-winning Lulu Bell Parr and the Ivy series, including Ivy in America, published August 28, 2026.

To learn more, please visit: <https://dianehelentjaris.com/>

Diane Helentjaris is available for interviews.

Amanda Kent
Boundless Media USA
2128334448 ext.
[email us here](#)

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