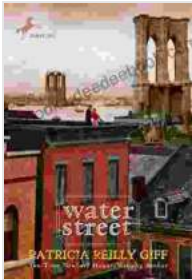


# Meet Water Street Nory Ryan: The Dynamic and Daring Pioneer of Late 19th Century Whiskey Production



The Early Life of a Spirited Trailblazer

Born in County Tipperary, Ireland, in 1840, Eleanor "Nory" Ryan was destined to leave an indelible mark on the world of whiskey. Her journey began in humble circumstances, but her spirit and determination would propel her to remarkable heights.



### **Water Street (Nory Ryan Book 3)** by Patricia Reilly Giff

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 361 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 178 pages



In her early twenties, Nory immigrated to the United States, seeking a new life filled with opportunities. She settled in the bustling city of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, where she began working as a domestic servant. Despite the arduous nature of her job, Nory's entrepreneurial spirit burned within her, and she longed to chart her own path.

### **From Domestic Servant to Distilling Innovator**

In 1868, Nory's life took a pivotal turn when she married Michael Ryan, a successful grocer. With Michael's support, Nory opened a small saloon on Water Street, becoming one of the first women in Milwaukee to own and operate a liquor establishment.

Nory's saloon quickly gained a reputation for its lively atmosphere and exceptional whiskey. She possessed an innate talent for blending and aging spirits, and her whiskeys soon became the talk of the town.

Recognizing the growing popularity of her creations, Nory decided to expand her operations and establish her own distillery.

### **The Rise of Water Street Distillery and the Whiskey Wars**

In 1876, Nory Ryan founded the Water Street Distillery, a state-of-the-art facility that would become one of the largest and most respected distilleries in the Midwest. Her whiskeys, renowned for their smoothness and complexity, garnered numerous awards and accolades, including the prestigious gold medal at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

Nory's success, however, was not without its challenges. The late 19th century was marked by intense competition in the whiskey industry, and Nory faced fierce opposition from established distillers who resented her encroachment on their territory.

Undeterred, Nory fought back against her detractors, becoming a vocal advocate for women's rights and fair business practices. Her unwavering resolve earned her the nickname "Water Street Nory," a moniker that symbolized her indomitable spirit and determination.

### **Navigating Prohibition and Legacy**

The outbreak of Prohibition in 1920 dealt a devastating blow to the American whiskey industry. Nory's distillery was forced to close, but her entrepreneurial spirit remained unbroken.

During the Prohibition era, Nory turned her attention to other ventures, including real estate and banking. She also became actively involved in politics, serving as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1932.

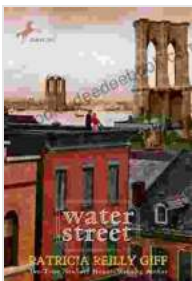
After Prohibition was repealed in 1933, Nory did not return to the distilling business. However, her legacy as a pioneer in the whiskey industry lived on.

## A Lasting Impact on the World of Spirits

Nory Ryan's contributions to the whiskey industry cannot be overstated. She shattered gender barriers, defied convention, and produced exceptional whiskeys that delighted consumers for decades.

Today, Water Street Nory Ryan is remembered as a trailblazing pioneer whose legacy continues to inspire aspiring distillers and entrepreneurs. Her story serves as a reminder that anything is possible with determination, resilience, and a passion for excellence.

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