



Museum of Newport Irish History
NewportIrishHistory.org

June 15, 2020

Dear Fellow Members,

As I shared with you in our [June 1 newsletter](#), initial response to our Annual Appeal outreach was overwhelmingly enthusiastic.

Since then, the outpouring of support from you, our members, has continued to inspire, particularly in light of the hardships facing many in our community due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. We are grateful so many of you have included the Museum among non-profits you've chosen to support during this challenging time.

While the 2020 Annual Appeal will continue for some time, I'm delighted to report that we've now received gifts that exceed the anticipated revenue from our two cancelled fundraising events, the June Steak Fry and the September gala, "Shamrocks and Seashells."

Please read on for the details, to view the list of donors as of June 14, and for other updates.

Le buíochas (with gratitude),

Mike Slein,
President, Board of Directors
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(401) 855-5097 - mobile

2020 Annual Appeal Update

Thus far, **170** gifts have been received.
We are truly grateful for each and every gift!

The total raised to-date is **\$21,725**

While the Appeal has now generated sufficient funds to cover our **Interpretive Center operating expenses and bolster its endowment** for future growth, we hope those who have not yet made a gift will consider doing so.

This Appeal will also help fund the **restoration of the fence surrounding the gravestones at the Barney Street Cemetery**, the final resting place of many of Newport's earliest Irish immigrants, which the Museum restored in 1999 and continues to maintain and beautify, thanks to many dedicated volunteers.

Your gift in *any* amount *will* make a difference, and is also a wonderful way to honor your deceased loved ones.

Donate NOW
Online

Download Appeal Letter & Reply Form to pay by
Check



Thank You to all those who have contributed thus far to the **Annual Appeal!**

Click the Button for a list of donor names, reflecting gifts received through June 14.

List will be updated as additional gifts are received.

Donors as of June 14

Coming Attractions:

A 'virtual tour' of the **Barney Street Cemetery**, featuring our Board Member/Interpretive Center Manager/historian and tour guide *extraordinaire*, **Steve Marino**, has been filmed by local photographer/videographer, [Allan Millora](#). The video is now being edited and we hope to be in the position to share the final product with you by the end of the month.

The cemetery video will include a reminder/save the date for Steve's upcoming lecture on the subject of Rhode Island's first Catholic church and the Irish who once worshiped there, on the very site of the cemetery. The lecture was originally scheduled for March 23 and was cancelled due to COVID-19. [Click here](#) for the lecture overview.

We hope to be in the position to present Steve's lecture as the first talk of our 19th Annual [Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series](#), in **late-September**, subject to COVID-19 reopening guidelines. You can anticipate social-distancing and other measures, such as mask-wearing and a much smaller audience size, to ensure the safety of all. As always, we will videotape the lecture and Q&A for home viewing.

Interpretive Center Update:



Photos by Allan Millora

The Museum's [Interpretive Center](#) remains closed to the public due to COVID-19 related restrictions. Normally, we would be open for the season beginning Memorial Day Weekend, with public hours of Thursday through Sunday, from noon to 5pm, through the last Sunday in October. Our docent staff are all Museum member-volunteers.

While the doors to the Center must remain closed to the public for the time being to ensure the safety of our docents, the majority of whom are over 60 years old, please know we are still here as a resource for you, our members.

Should you require access to Interpretive Center records, books, genealogical, or other information, please reach out to **Steve Marino**, Interpretive Center Manager at (860) 995-7367 or by email at enzoteach@aol.com.

Facebook News / Articles of Interest:

If you are a Facebook user, we encourage you to "Like" our new [Facebook page](#) where we share late-breaking news and other posts of interest, including information and learning from organizations who share your interest in Irish history, heritage and culture. We'll also publish some of these pieces via this e-newsletter so those without Facebook can also enjoy. Read on for two such articles.....



Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield



Dr. Christine Kinealy

We are pleased to share a link to an interesting article from [Irish America Magazine](#) by renowned historian, Director of Ireland's [Great Hunger Institute](#) at Quinnipiac University, and our past Crowley Lecture Series guest speaker, **Christine Kinealy**.

Dr. Kinealy's current research explores the experience of black abolitionists who visited Ireland. This latest article profiles American singer, **Elizabeth Taylor Greenfield** (c.1820–1876), dubbed "The Black Swan" (a play on Jenny Lind's nickname, "The Swedish Nightingale"), who broke down barriers wherever she sang.

Click For Article: "The Slave who Became a Singing Sensation"



Above photo taken on Boren Street, in the South End of Providence in 1912. While the Cholera epidemic was much earlier, in the 1850s, this photo depicts the conditions under which many Irish lived at that time. Photo by American sociologist and documentary photographer, [Lewis Hine](#).

Last month, the [Providence Journal](#) published a commentary by our past Crowley Lecture speaker, **Ray McKenna**. Click the below button to read the commentary, based on Ray's essay entitled "*Life in the Time of Cholera*," in which he draws a parallel between today's COVID-19 crisis and the epidemics which faced Rhode Island's 19th century Irish immigrants.

You can follow Ray's research and writings on his website, "**Federal Hill Irish: 19th Century Irish Immigration to Providence, Rhode Island.**" There, you'll also find his latest essay: "Harrisville, Rhode Island: A Sanctuary for Ireland's Banished."

[Commentary based on "Life in the Time of Cholera"](#)

[Federal Hill Irish Website](#)

Museum of Newport Irish History

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