

THE NEWPORT MUSEUM OF IRISH HISTORY  
P.O. BOX 1378  
NEWPORT, RI 02840



THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE NEWPORT MUSEUM OF IRISH HISTORY  
**NMIH** P.O. BOX 1378

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March 1998

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear Fellow Members:

This Winter/spring Newsletter marks a milestone in the history of the Museum, in that we are now concluding our first "full" fiscal year. (Our by-laws state that the fiscal year runs March to March), with our Annual Meetings taking place in March, even though for simplicity's sake we have our membership renewals set for January 1st, each year.

We will have our Annual Meeting this March 8th at the Laforge Casino Restaurant. Please see the article further on in the newsletter and please try to join us for our planned "social" Irish Country Breakfast as only the LaForge can do it. preceding the brief meeting.

The year has been a good one, starting with a "kick off" fund-raiser in February, a presentation by Ed Connelly at the Newport Historical Society on historic Barney St. cemetery and other historic cemeteries in September, and our recent Cemetery Fund-raiser at the LaForge, with our honored guest, Governor J. Joseph Garrahy.

Our membership is over 100 (final count is awaiting the last "returns" from several "reminder" notices sent recently), with members from across Newport County, and very encouragingly from around the State, from such towns as Exeter, Warwick, Providence and even Marlboro, MA.

Our efforts on the Restoration, preservation of the St. Joseph's Cemetery continue. We are working on an agreement with the Diocese of Providence that will give the Museum proper legal "coverage" to proceed with installation of a "period" fence as approved by the Historic District Commission, and other improvements such as the repair of the Celtic cross. We are planning several fundraising programs to complete this project in 1998.

All in all, we've had a good year, and we look forward to 1998.

Sincerely,

Vincent Arnold, President

Assessions for the Library:

**THE 1798 REBELLION** From the National Museum of Ireland. Photographs and Memorabilia from the National Museum of Ireland.

**THE RECORDER** Spring and Fall 1997 - The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society.

Note: This is a great "Centenary" issue from the Society. The issue contains many stories, poems, and articles by Irish and American writers such as Seamus Heaney (1995 Nobel Prize) and James McCourt.

Incidentally, your President is now a member of the American Irish Historical Society in New York and anyone wishing information on that excellent organization, and its' great rare book collection, is encouraged to call me. The Society has year round events scheduled, which can be attended when in the City, such as an evening event with young Irish writers on March 10th and a lecture on the Irish in London, about the working men in that city—on March 25th.

**OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE:**

Through the generosity of Bill Finn, the Museum has a copy of a photograph, dated 1913, of the group of Hibernian Rifles team. Also, from Pat Murphy's files, a print of some good ladies preparing to put on a play about woman's voting rights, which we assume is from about 1918. Thanks to both.

**MARCH ACTIVITIES:**

In addition to our first Annual Meeting on March 8, the museum is co-sponsoring with the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a bus tour of Irish Newport, beginning with an Irish step dancing demonstration, visits to about 10 sites of significant Irish connections, finishing with an Irish Pub lunch at the Hibernian Hall. All this for a donation of \$ 15.00. Tickets available at the LaForge Casino Restaurant and the AOH Hall (847-8671). Dates are March 7 and 21.

**ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE**

All members are invited to attend the Museum's FIRST ANNUAL MEETING, to be held on Sunday, March 8th, at the LaForge Casino Restaurant, Bellevue Ave., Newport.

We'll begin the event with a "Social" breakfast- The famous LaForge Irish Country Breakfast, consisting of eggs, muffin, corned beef, hash, Irish bangers, potatoes, grilled tomatoes—the works. (\$ 8.95) Or, of course, you may have any of the other great LaForge breakfasts. But come and join your fellow members for a nice breakfast and get together before the brief, for Annual Meeting. The breakfast will begin at "about" 11:00 AM and the meeting at 12:15 PM.

Our meeting should be relatively brief and will include the election of officers for the 1998/1999 (to March 1999) year.

After the meeting, Paul Crowley will give us a briefing on his recent trip to Ireland and he'll discuss the Kinsale "Sister City" project.

Also at the meeting, the Barney Street Committee will have on display, an architectural rendering for the fencing arrangement for our restoration project.

So, come one, come all—enjoy a great social, and the First Annual Meeting of the Newport Museum of

of Irish History—Help us make History!!!

PLEASE CALL THE LAFORGE CASINO RESTAURANT AND MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS SO THAT PAUL CROWLEY AND HIS "CREW" CAN SET UP PROPERLY - TEL.: 847-9418.

Nominating committee slate of officers for 1998 (to March 1999)

President:	Vincent Arnold
1st Vice President:	Hon. Robert J. McKenna
2nd Vice President:	Elliott (Skip) Carter
Secretary:	Margaret Ahearn
Treasurer:	Barbara Donnelly

Additional nominations to the Board of Directors:

Maria Carroll  
 Thomas Mahoney  
 Hon. J. Joseph Carrahy - Honorary Director

**MEMBERSHIP**

We wish to warmly welcome the following new members:

Michael and Elizabeth Cullen	Newport
Beverly Roach	Tiverton
Patricia Livernois	Exeter
Jean MacCormick	Middletown
Cherry Bamberg	Marlboro, MA.

**LIFE MEMBERS**

Our last three "Plank" members who became "Lifer" in 1977

John McSweeney	Portsmouth
Thomas Byrnes	Bristol
Karen Weathers	Jamestown