

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

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**IS THIS THE OLD
CHURCH FROM BARNEY
STREET?**

Several years ago, the author spent many hours researching the possibility that #19 Sherman Street was the original 1809 original Trevett schoolhouse that was purchased by the Diocese of Boston in 1828 to become the first parish church in Rhode Island.

My search through hundreds of Newport City records and the records at the Newport Historical Society always came up short of proving that the building, which was always thought to be that old structure by long-time neighbors, proved fruitless. I also contacted the historical offices of the Dioceses of Boston, Hartford and Providence. All to no avail.

However, late last year, just before Christmas, the new owner of the Sherman Street property contacted our 1st VP Bob McKenna, and told him that he thought that he had uncovered the old building. As his crews were stripping the inside of the building in preparation to convert it to condominiums, they

stopped and called in architect Richard Long, who has worked on ancient buildings in the Newport area for many years. Dick confirmed that the exposed structure was, indeed, an early 1800's construction. He felt that it must be the old Barney Street school/church, and wrote up a detailed summary of why he thought it to be 'the original' structure.

Since that time, 4 months now, the Museum has been doing further research, including interviews with old-time residents. However, we were again fortunate to have an 'old friend' jump on board to assist. Dr. Jim Garman of Salve University, who had assisted us 4 years ago in our original Cemetery restoration efforts, volunteered to do further research on the City records and any historical documents available.

Dr. Garman recently issued a draft document in which he concludes that while there is no 'smoking gun', or specific paper trail showing the transfer and move of the old church, the physical evidence and the reasonableness of the move, dates, etc, make it

seem almost certain that this structure is, indeed, the Trevett schoolhouse which was purchased in 1828 to become the first Catholic church building in Rhode Island.

Dr. Garman, Professor of Archaeology History/Culture and Historic Preservation titled his discourse "The lot Much too Small & the House- Much Too Mean" after Bishop Fenwick's

can be made as to the authenticity of the structure. Currently, that panel, headed by Dan Snydacker, Executive Director of The Newport Historical Society has held a first meeting and has viewed the building on Sherman Street. Further research and discussions are necessary before final conclusions are possible.

It is the Museum's



notes about the little building after seeing it the first time. He insisted that more land and a new bigger church be built, and so a new church, St. Joseph's was started, and opened in 1837.

After Dr. Garman's article was issued, The Museum asked the Newport Historical Society if they would form a 'blue ribbon' committee of experts in old structures and documentation to examine that building and the history as we have it to see if a positive determination

intention that if the building is determined to be the original church structure, we will develop plans to purchase and move the old building back to its' original site to be used as a Museum, restored to its' 1828 appearance.

SALVE STUDENTS 'DIG' AT BARNEY STREET

On March 31st and April 1st, students of Dr. James Garman's course in archaeology worked a 'dig' on the site thought to be the original location of the Trevett school which became the first parish church in Rhode Island. Picture below are the students working the 'grid' digs to attempt to determine any 'footings' of the old structure. Dr. Garman said later that they were unable to find specific evidence of the foundation, which was probable only shallow stone work, but several items of interest were uncovered. A report will be issued soon. The Museum is grateful to Doctor Garman and his students!



SAVE THE DATE!!!-----MAY 31st !!!!!

The Museum will again sponsor a train ride on the Old Colony Newport Railroad on Thursday, May 31. We'll have the 'usual' good food and Bring Your Own Beverages. Soda, ice and set-ups provided. This is a great way to view the beautiful Bay, have a relaxing ride and enjoy friends, conversation, together with a narrative of the ride provided by the super train crew. So, save the date-- a flyer will be sent for reservations.

LIST OF LETTERS,
REMAINING IN THE POST OFFICE, NEWPORT, R. I.
JANUARY 1st. 1835.

Persons calling for them will please say "advertised," as they are placed in a separate box.

A	N
Benjamin Allen	Zackariah Norton
Thomas Austin	O
Stephen Allen	Samuel Omuston
B	P
Charles C. Burleigh	Messrs. S. & T. Perry
Levi Barlow	Joseph T. Perry
N. G. Boss	Lydia Pollock
H. M. Brownell	R
Obad Barlow	Stillman Rand.
Jonathan S. Ball	Theophilus Rix
C	Mrs. Robinson
Caleb Carr	S
Judah Crowell	Chapman Stevens 2
Levi H. Crampton	Russel C. Smith
Mr. Almy G. Cooke	Sarah Stevens
Sarah Cook	T
F	Mrs. Sarah Thompson
Job Fish	Fanny Tylor
Eliza Ann Few	Hestor Thompson
G	V
Susan J. Gelston	Capt. Simon Valler 2
H	W
Capt. John Hord	William Wright
J	Samuel Whitney
Isaac Jaunson	MIDDLETOWN.
K	Daniel Bates
Capt. Isaac Kerby	Taun.
L	John Hogan
William Lewis	John Murphy
William Leeds	Edward Kelly
Robert Lawton	James McGraugh
M	Florence Sullivan
Capt. Gurden Montague	Messrs. Patrick James &
Phebe Moor	William Russell.
	R. R. CARR, P. M.

Wanted.

A good cow that has lately calv'd, for which a fair price will be given,
Dec. 2d. Enquire of **SAM'L CARR,** *Ferry Wharf.*

TABLE CLOTHS.

5 to 13-4 Green—Blue—Crimson—Brown—Scarlet & other colored Table cloths to 10-4 white linen damask.
For sale by **JAMES HAMMOND.**
Nov. 25.

HOSIERY—GLOVES.

MOHAIR—Vigons—Worsted & Lambs-wool Ladies Hose. White—Black—Colored—plain & ribbed Gentleman's do. do. do.—Ladies Angola—Castor & Hoskin Gloves—single or lined, and fured. Gentlemen's real Duck—Berlin & Beaver Gloves, single, or lined and fured. For sale by **JAMES HAMMOND.**
Nov. 25.

At a Town Meeting holden Newport Dec. 2. 1817.
VOTED, That no person or persons be suffered to smoke or carry a lighted pipe or segar in any of the streets, or down on any of the wharves in this town after sunset, upon the penalty of paying a fine of four dollars, the one half to and for the informer, and the other half to and for the use of the town, to be prosecuted and recovered before any or either of the Justices of the Peace in said town, who are required to take cognizance of the same—

BRICKS WANTED.

PROPOSALS will be received until the 15th of February next, to supply at Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, R. I. of **1,500,000 BRICKS.**

These Bricks must be cast in moulds of such sizes, as to average, when burned, eight inches by four inches, by 2 1/2 inches.—They must be of the best quality of merchantable Bricks. The proportion of salmon or pale Bricks must not exceed one-eighth of the whole; and no soft or very pale Bricks will be received. The proportion of arch Bricks must not exceed one-eighth of the whole, and none of these that are much warped, will be received. The proportion of broken Bricks must not exceed two per cent.

At least 200,000 to be delivered by the first day of June next, and the remainder in the course of the Summer, and Autumn of the year, at such periods as may suit the convenience of the contractor, provided there be always on hand the supply requisite for the progress of the work.

Should any persons desire to furnish the stated number of Bricks or a less number, of a size different from that given above, they will please to accompany their Proposals with a statement of the length, breadth and thickness of well burned Brick, of the kind they wish to supply.

Before forming the contract, a fair sample will be required to be deposited in the Engineer Office, at Fort Adams, which, should it prove satisfactory, will govern in the inspection of the several deliveries.

Payment will be made, if required, on each cargo duly inspected and received. All communications touching this subject, to be directed to Brevet Col. Joseph G. Totten, U. S. Engineers, Newport, R. I.

JOS. G. TOTTEN, Lt. Col. Eng'rs.
Brevet Col.
Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, R. I. }
January 6th, 1836 }

75,000 Bushels of SAND, for Mortar.


PROPOSALS will be received by the subscriber, until the 15th of February next, inclusive, for the delivery on the Wharf at Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, R. I. of

75,000 Bushels of SAND, for Stone Mortar.

The sand must be clean, coarse, and free from pebbles. The Proposals must be accompanied by a fair sample thereof. The delivery to commence on the 1st of April next, and to be made in such quantities, and at such times as the progress of the work may require.

JOS. G. TOTTEN, Lt. Col. Eng'rs.
Brevet Col.
Fort Adams, Newport Harbor, R. I. }
January 6th, 1836 }

WINTER ARRANGEMENT.
For the Newport & Boston Mail Stage.



VIA—FALL RIVER AND TAUNTON.
Fare to Boston, \$3.

A stage will leave Newport, every morning, Sunday's excepted at 7 1/2 o'clock, A. M., arrive in Fall River at 10 1/2 A. M. in Taunton at 1 P. M. in Boston, at 6 1/2 P. M.

Returning, a stage will leave Boston every morning, Sunday's excepted, at 1 1/2 past 7 o'clock A. M., arrive in Taunton, at 1 o'clock, P. M. in Fall River, at 4 o'clock, in Newport, at 6 1/2 o'clock.

Stage book at Townsend's, & Hassard's Hotels in Newport. The stage will leave Townsend's at 7 1/2 & Hassard's at 7 1/2. Stage books at Barker's Marlborough Hotel, Boston.

This Stage is connected with the New-Bedford stage at Fall River.—Leaves Fall-River 10 1/2 o'clock every day, Sundays excepted, arrive in New-Bedford at 1 1/2 past 12 o'clock. Leaves every day, Sundays excepted, at 1 1/2 o'clock, arrives in New-Bedford at 3 1/2 o'clock.—Returning leaves New-Bedford every day, Sundays excepted, at 8 o'clock A. M. and arrives in Fall River at 10 A. M. and at 1 P. M. 3 o'clock P. M.

Stage Books, at Colo's & Blake's Hotels New Bedford.

Passengers wishing to go to New Bedford; are informed that they can, by this stage, leave Newport in the morning, and return early the same evening, and have half an hour leisure time in New-Bedford.

A stage leaves Fall River every day Sundays excepted at 1/2 past 3 o'clock p. m., for Swansea, Warren, & Bristol.—Returning, leaves Bristol every day, Sundays excepted, at 8 o'clock a. m., and Warren at 9 a. m., and arrive in Fall River at 10 1/2 o'clock a. m.

A stage leaves Fall River every day, Sundays excepted, for Providence, leaves Fall River at 10 1/2 o'clock, arrives in Providence 1 1/2. Returning, leaves Providence every day at 10 o'clock a. m. arrives in Fall River 1 p. m.

Passengers wishing to go to Fall River, can have 6 hours in Fall River, and return the same evening.

Extra Coaches furnished at all times & on reasonable terms.

All baggage and small parcels at the risk of the owners thereof.

R. B. KINSLEY Agent.
Dec. 9th.

SCUTTLE or Platform Balances for stores, to weigh from 1 oz to 2000 lbs., warranted to weigh with the greater accuracy. A specimen may be seen at our store.

ARTICLES OF INTEREST FROM 1836

The articles above are from the *Rhode Island Republican* newspaper, published in Newport, and are from the files of the Rhode Island Historical Society Library. The Republican was one of the early Newport newspapers and the issues from 1836 through 1840 were being searched for any evidence of the old Barney Street /St. Joseph's church being moved to Sherman St. While failing to find any information related to that move, we did come across the several notices reprinted above. On the right are notices requesting bids for bricks and sand for mortar for the construction of Fort Adams, dated January, 1836. On the far right, the Post Office lists letters on hold at the P.O. awaiting pick up, and listed by name. Notice, however, that the IRISH are listed separately! (After all, one wouldn't want to mingle such mail with other citizens).

Another notice shows the Mail Stage to Boston, and a Town Meeting notice the prohibits smoking after sunset-- no doubt as a fire prevention measure, but interesting considering today's smoking laws. (*segar* it was back then)

Annual Meeting and Reception At Eisenhower House

March 31st reception at Fort Adams' Eisenhower House featured the first viewing of the Museum's 'Brief History of the Irish in Newport'.

About 50 Museum members and guests attended the very successful reception and Annual Museum Meeting Saturday, March 31 at the beautiful Eisenhower House at Ft. Adams State Park.

At the brief Annual Meeting, the Nominating Committee, Maria Carroll, Chair, presented the slate of Officers for the next two years. They are: President, Vincent Arnold; 1st Vice President, Robert McKenna; Second Vice President, Elliott Carter; Secretary, Margaret Ahearn; and Treasurer, Bill Nagle. All were approved unanimously.

Bill Nagle's Treasurer's report for the Fiscal Year was available for review. In summary, income for the year was \$12,337; which included donations of \$4,205; grants of \$3,650, dues of \$1,930, with the balance from various fundraisers. Expenses were \$11,827, with the largest items of \$3,639 for our new brochure, and \$3,300 for the new video history. Postage, copying and other various expenses including cemetery costs added up to the balance. The detailed report is available to all. Please call Bill Nagle or Vince Arnold if you wish to review this report.

Maria Carroll also gave a brief review of the changes to the Museum By-Laws. Most changes were corrections or clarifications, with the major change being changing the length of time between election of Officers and Directors to Two years from one year. All changes were approved by the meeting attendees.

After the brief meeting, President introduced and showed the new Museum video, 'A Brief History of the Irish in Newport'. The 20 minute video traces the history of the Irish immigrants in Newport County from the 1600's to the present. Interviews of several prominent persons are interwoven with 'stills' and 'on-the-scene' video recordings. The video was well received, with almost all in attendance asking for copies. Currently, several small changes are being processed, and it is anticipated that the video will go on sale by mid May, after the next scheduled Board meeting, when quantities and prices will be set.

The evening concluded with members and guests enjoying wonderful food and beverages provided by local restaurants including the LaForge Casino Restaurant, The Glass Onion, 'Big Dawgs, Johnny's House of Seafood, The Mainstay Inn, and Coastal Extreme Brewing, which provided Newport Storm beer. Several members provided wine and soda. All in all a great time was had!!.

New additions to the library

Two fine new books have been added to the Museum's library. THE IRISH CIVIL WAR, by Tim Pat Coogan and George Morrison, is a superb telling of that terrible civil war of 1922. The first part is a history of the conflict and Part II is a pictorial. The photos are great, although quite chilling in part.

INVENTING IRISH AMERICA, by Timothy J. Meagher, tells the story of the Irish immigration in Worcester, Mass. Timothy, from Worcester, is the Director for Irish Studies at Catholic University, certainly well qualified to document this history. The book is an excellent documentary with copious references of Irish immigration in general, and of course of the Irish in Worcester. He tells how the first Irish came to the area with the building of the Blackstone Canal, and there are a number of references with Rhode Island connections. For instance, he quotes a certain Edward Lincoln who said "The Irish have come to build the canal, not to live among us", referring to the fact that in the 1820's the Irish could not be buried in town, and were sent down the river to Rhode Island for interment! (See a related article about the Blackstone Valley and the Irish below)

THE IRISH IN THE BLACKSTONE VALLEY

The Rhode Island Historical Society has set up a new exhibit at the Museum of Work and Culture, 42 Main Street, Woonsocket, entitled "The Irish in the Blackstone Valley". This exhibit, which depicts the lives of the Irish immigrants from the 1820's through the present is sponsored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Division 17 of Blackstone, Mass. The exhibit is open through June 1st. (If you have not yet been to the Museum of Work and Culture, it is certainly worth the trip, as it is beautifully done, and this particular exhibit should be very interesting.

Join The Museum of Newport Irish History - Support Irish Heritage

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check type of membership:

Individual (\$10.00/year) Family (\$20.00/year) Life Member (\$100.00/year) Business (\$35.00/year)

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Donations are tax deductible - a 501(3)(c) organization)

Mail to: The Museum of Newport Irish History, P.O. Box 1378, Newport, Rhode Island 02840