


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

 THE NEWSLETTER OF  
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**DERMOT RYAN SPEAKS ON THE BATTLE OF KINSALE**

Dermot Ryan of Kinsale,  
Ireland, addresses the  
full house at LaForge.



A fine crowd of over 60 filled Paul Crowley's LaForge Casino Restaurant function room Thursday, October 30th to hear and see an excellent talk given by historian and journalist Dermot Ryan. The subject of Dermot's illustrated slide presentation was the Battle of Kinsale, which took place 400 years ago.

Dermot explained that as the result of the English victory over the forces of Spain and Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill, Ireland experienced the end of the Irish way of life in the years to come. The English were determined to impose their laws and customs and to prevent Ireland from becoming a jumping-off point for invasions of England.

Dermot said that the Spanish forces arrived about 100 days before the actual battle, and their 4,000 men occupied the town of Kinsale, where soon after the English laid seige.

The Spanish forces had come at the request and encouragement of the Irish forces of Hugh O'Donnell and Hugh O'Neill, who both controlled the North of Ireland, and had successfully fought the English for many years. They felt that this was the time to finally drive the English off the shores of Ireland.

However, the Irish forces were far to the north and had some difficulty in communicating with the Spanish who were encircled in Kinsale. Previously, the Irish were able to fight off the English because they fought on their terms of 'hit and run', but this battle would be fought on the English terms with more modern techniques and weapons.

(continued of next page)

Join The Museum of Newport Irish History – Support Irish Heritage

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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

## Dermot Ryan speaks On the Battle Of Kinsale--Continued

Several factors hurt the Irish cause, including the fact that they had to march many miles from the north in freezing Winter conditions. O'Neill's march ended in an incredible 40 miles in the last 24 hours!

O'Neill wished to wait to regain strength, but O'Donnell insisted on an immediate attack. This proved fatal, and the ill-prepared Irish forces, which included many Scots, were overwhelmed by superior English tactics and cavalry. The Irish forces lost over 2000 in just a few hours.

O'Neill withdrew to Tyrone's wilds, leaving the famous inauguration stone of the O'Neills at Tullahoge to be destroyed later by Lord Montjoy, the English leader. O'Neill was continually pressured by the English, and finally in 1603 he submitted to King James.

O'Donnell took ship for Spain where he died shortly after in Salamanca. It was suspected that he was poisoned by an English agent. The Spanish forces failed to receive a message to attack, and were unaware of the battle taking place some 3-4 miles north of the Town. After the battle, the Spanish were allowed to take ships back to Spain-- Montjoy apparently believing it better to get them out of the country than deal with them in Ireland.

This battle ended forever the Spanish hopes of destroying England. They never again attempted to attack. The battle also marked the beginning of the end of Irish way of life with its' Brehon and semi-feudal laws.

Following O'Neill's submittal and later by other Irish chieftains the English began their 'Plantation' of Ulster. The initial plan of 1609 opened up 500,000 acres of land to Scots and English, forever changing the political 'landscape' of the area.

(Dermot Ryan, of Kinsale, is the Founder and Secretary of the Kinsale Historical Society. He is a member of the Kinsale Urban Council (since 1974), having served as Mayor four times. Dermot writes a weekly column for the Irish Examiner)

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

A hearty welcome to the following new members:

Royal and Joanne Philpott----Middletown  
Leon And Maureen Hull ----- Portsmouth  
Peter and Anne Farrelly----- Newport  
Nina Driscoll ----- Newport  
Noreen O'Neil-----Newport

And a New Life Member: Joseph F. McEnness, Newport

## The Ancient Order Of Hibernians-A Brief History

The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America has its' roots in the Order founded in Ireland in 1565, where the organization was organized as a protection for priests who were being harassed and hunted down.

The Order in America was founded in New York in 1836 on May 4th with the motto of 'Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity'. The AOH was founded to promote peace, (with justice) for all of Ireland, and to promote the ideals, history, traditions and culture of the Irish people.

The Newport Hibernian Division was organized in 1874, and was granted a charter in 1876. It is the oldest division in the State. The Hibernian's first parade was March 17, 1875 with fifty charter members. Their first hall was on Levin Street, behind St. Mary's Church. From Smith Hall they moved to Butler Hall on Bellevue Avenue, then to four different locations on Thames Street. The present hall on Wellington Avenue was purchased in 1906.

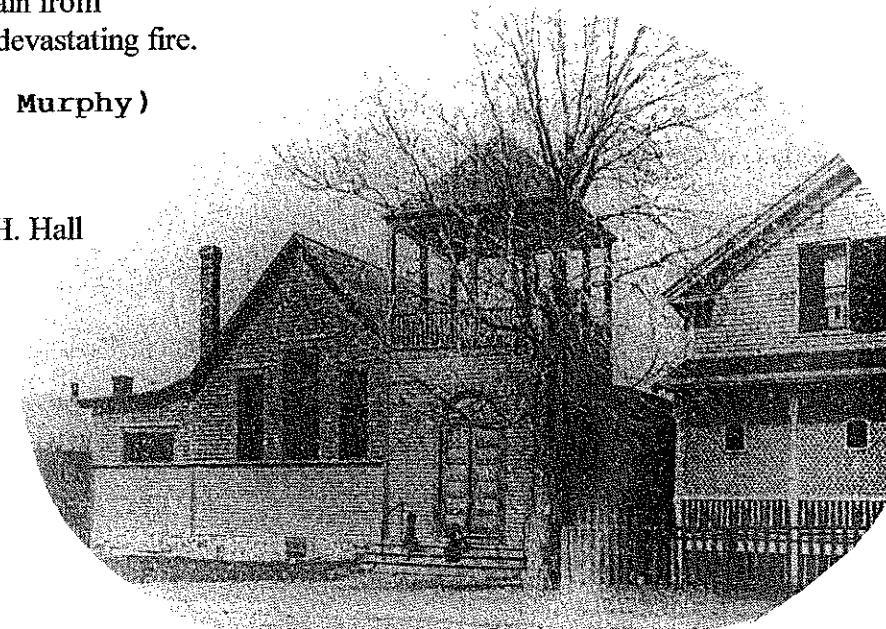
The present hall was constructed on Thames Street in 1884 by the United Congregational Church and was just south of Wellington Avenue. This edifice was moved to its' present location in 1886, and was the first site of the Presbyterian Church in Newport in 1888. It was known as Grace Memorial Chapel. (The newly-formed St. Augustin's Catholic Church used the hall from May 1911 until July 1912; then again from November 1957 until May 1958 after a devastating fire.

(Research provided by Pat Murphy)

The picture, right, of the A.O.H. Hall was taken in about 1902.

**ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS.**  
Our Irish fellow citizens have organized another society whose principal purpose is of a benevolent character--the "Ancient Order of Hibernians." This order is an extensive and prosperous one and is productive of much benefit to its members throughout the United States. A few weeks since the order was organized at Smith's Hall, on Levin street, and has so steadily increased in numbers as to warrant its members in organizing the society permanently by the election of a fine set of officers the 4th Inst. :  
President.....Jeremiah Sullivan.  
Vice President.....John Bailey.  
Secretary.....C. S. Currian.  
Recording Secretary.....Wm. P. Sullivan.  
Treasurer.....Morris Houlihan.

This newspaper clipping from the Newport Daily News, May 11, 1874 indicates the founding of Division #1 A.O.H. Newport. The Division received its' National Charter in 1876.



**Fort Adams- News from  
The Past---**

We received the following message from Jeanne Baldwin of California:  
Bridget O'Farrell was born in Newport in December 1834, the fourth child of John O'Farrell and Julia (Naddy) O'Farrell, who were married in Graignamanagh County Kilkenny in 1825. In 1828 or 1829, it is assumed that John was sponsored by the U.S.(Army) to work on strengthening the seacoast fort security along the Atlantic Ocean following the War of 1812. After working on Fort Adams for several years the family moved to Iowa in about 1835. John is cited in Iowa records as a prominent citizen in Des Moines. It was in a biography of Iowa pioneers that it was learned that John worked on the *Fort Adams construction*. Bridget married Patrick Guerin from County Limerick in 1852 and they later moved to California and raised 11 children. John died in Iowa in 1859 at the age of 61. His widow settled in California and died in 1888.

Jeanne Baldwin contributed this information about her great grandparents and she can be contacted via :dbaldwin@ix.netcom.com She would like to hear from anyone who may have more information about her relatives



Jeanne Baldwin also supplied this wonderful picture of Bridget O'Farrell taken in 1852 on her wedding day- it was made from a tintype. ( This version unfortunately suffers from being E-mailed)

***FORT ADAMS---***

***WE NEED YOUR HELP!!!!***

WE need more information ,articles, memorabilia,newspaper clippings, and family ties to Fort Adams. We know how the Irish immigrants built the Fort over some 35 years--1820's to the 1850's, but finding direct connections to those folks is very difficult. We are trying to get Army records which we know will help a great deal, but this is proving tough in present conditions, so we need everyone to search through old family records to help.

## MUSEUM BOARD HOLDS STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Eleven Museum Board members met on Friday, September 21st at the Newport County Chamber of Commerce conference room to review the first five years of the Museum's existence and to plan for the next five to ten years.

The Board members were lead in the planning process by Arnold Robinson, AICP, Director of Planning for the Newport Collaborative architects. Joining the Board members was Keith Stokes, Executive Director of the Newport County Chamber of Commerce. The attendees were split up into three groups to discuss its' vision for the future, to develop and prioritize goals and to develop action plans for 2001-2002 and beyond.

In summary, the Board's goals were: 1) Establish a Museum site in Newport, focusing on presenting Newport's Irish history to the public. The exhibits should be entertaining, child-friendly and at a downtown location.. 2) To dissemble the old church building at 19 Sherman Street, store it and raise funds to reassemble it on the original Barney Street location as an interpretive site. 3) Deliver excellent programs that tell the Newport Irish Heritage story through lecture programs, driving/walking tours, and developing genealogy resources. And finally, goal 4) , to strengthen the Museum organization by increasing the Board numbers, recruiting corporate leaders, building fundraising capability and building volunteer networks.

As the result of the planning session, several Board member groups have already been formed to pursue the various goals set down, such as fundraising and the Sherman Street project. The Newsletter will keep all members informed of the Museum's progress.

## A GREAT IDEA FOR CHRISTMAS!!!!

HOW ABOUT ORDERING SEVERAL COPIES OF  
OUR GREAT NEW VIDEO ON THE HISTORY OF  
THE IRISH IN NEWPORT!!!!

IT'S ONLY \$10 ( \$12 with mail)-- just use the enclosed  
information sheet to order.

## THE VIDEO-"THE IRISH IN NEWPORT"-A BRIEF HISTORY

The Museum now has for sale the *new video* on the history of the Irish in Newport County.

This video, produced by the Museum of Newport Irish History, is a brief introduction into the 350 year history of Irish immigration into Newport County.

The video, which runs about 20 minutes, is a great introduction to the history of the Irish in Newport County, and it will be a great gift or addition to everyone's library of videos.

*To order the video, call the Board Members listed below, or use the form below to have a copy shipped locally or anywhere in the U.S. For overseas shipments, please indicate the country. (WE do have a small quantity of PAL versions). Note: Shipment to Ireland -add \$5.00- Other countries: CALL.*

*Bill Nagle: 846-8499*

*Vince Arnold 847-2890*

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*Please send me( ) quantity video(The Irish In Newport)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Enclose \$10 ea, plus \$2 shipping. Payable to: The Museum of Newport Irish History. Mail to: P.O. Box 1378, Newport RI 02840**

The Museum of Newport Irish History  
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