



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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The Newport Irish Heritage Association and the Museum of Newport Irish History joined forces for a gala celebration of the Irish at Fort Adams on Friday, September 10th. About 175 members and friends of both organizations gathered for a fine evening of hearty hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and great Irish music by the Publicans. The evening also featured a silent auction of over 100 items donated by local businesses and individuals. Popular auction items included golf foursomes, a vacation in Ireland, and fashion jewelry. The event took place in the newly restored North Casemates at Fort Adams. The casemates of brick, granite and various stonework are part of the ongoing restoration being directed by Ft. Adams Trust. (The recently approved bond issue will allow the Trust to begin work on the officers' quarters nearby.) Construction on the Fort, in its current configuration, began in 1824, with many Irish workers, and was completed in 1857.

Overall, the September 10th event raised about \$2000 for each organization. The Funds will assist the Heritage Association with its annual Irish Heritage Month celebrations in March, and monies raised will help the Museum's program of providing educational materials for Newport County's middle and high schools.



Some of the guests gathered in the North Casemate.

CELEBRATING THE IRISH AT FORT ADAMS

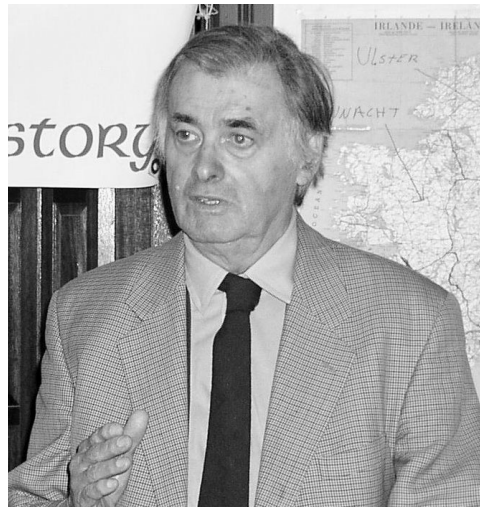


Members of the Publicans play for the crowd in front of Museum and Heritage displays.

THE MICHAEL F. CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES FOR 2004 • 2005 GETS OFF TO A GREAT START

The first speaker in the Museum's 2004/05 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series was Dr. Lawrence Arnold of Dublin who spoke at the LaForge Casino Restaurant October 13th. Dr. Arnold, the author of numerous articles dealing with seventeenth century Irish History, and author of *The Restoration Land Settlement in County Dublin 1660-1668*, spoke about the events in Irish history leading up to the Cromwellian war and the settlement following that war. A capacity crowd enjoyed Lawrence's descriptions of personalities, political infighting, and intrigue during this turbulent time in Irish history.

Fr. Robert Hayman, Historian for the Diocese of Providence and Associate Professor of History at Providence College, delivered the second lecture of the Crowley Lecture Series on November 18th. Father Hayman is the



Dr. Arnold addressing the gathering about the Cromwellian period



Fr. Robert Hayman speaking at The LaForge Restaurant

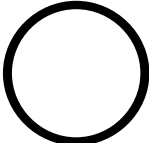
author of two volumes on the history of the Diocese of Providence: *Catholicism in Rhode Island and the Diocese of Providence, Vol 1, 1788-1886*; and *Volume II, 1886-1921*. He is currently working on the third volume, which will take the history of the Diocese up to 1971. Father Hayman's talk focused on the Irish immigrants in Rhode Island prior to 1860, with a special look at the Newport area. Father Hayman referred to memoirs written by Bishop Fenwick of Boston who noted that in 1827 there were about 150 Irish men working at Fort Adams, and some 35 working in the Portsmouth coal pits. Fr. Hayman also made reference to baptismal records of parents working at Ft. Adams in the late 1820's, and additionally he mentioned the Obituary of James Cottrell who came to Newport from Ireland to work on the Fort in 1828. A lively discussion period followed.

This 1844 article from *"The Pilot"* was sent by Fr. Robert Hayman, Historian of The Diocese of Providence, and was retyped by Museum Historian Pat Murphy for clarity. The Pilot newspaper was founded in 1829, and was run for many years by Irishman Patrick Donahoe who reported on the Irish immigrants through out New England. The paper was bought by the Archdiocese of Boston in 1904 and is still the Diocesan newspaper.

The Irish hero, politician, Daniel O'Connell founded the "Repeal Association" in 1841, in an attempt to force the English Parliament to repeal the Act Of Union of 1800, which abolished the Irish Parliament and "united" Ireland and Great Britain. The original intent of the law was to incorporate Ireland into the laws of Britain. However, Ireland was actually handled still as if a separate country, and was not given voting rights, not freedom of religion. A "Repeal Association" was also formed in the United States to help support the Irish efforts at repealing the union. These organizations, such as the group in Newport, sent funds (referred to as "subscriptions", below) and political support to aid those 'back home'. The articles reprinted below record several meetings in Newport—one of which was held at Ft. Adams, recording not only the names attending, but the counties in Ireland from which they had immigrated.

BOSTON PILOT

—Saturday, September 28, 1844
(RHODE ISLAND)

 On Saturday, Sept 14, the Repealers of Newport held a numerous and very successful meeting in the Town Hall, the Hon. DJ Pierce, Ex-M. C, in the chair. Thom. D. M'Gee, Esq. of Boston, who was present upon the occasion, delivered an address of

an hour and a half, ably presenting to view the cause of Ireland, the character of English policy towards that country, and the threatening aspect of the latters foreign relations. He was warmly and respectfully cheered. When he had concluded, the hall wardens, Messrs Galvin, McHugh, Glennon, Aylward,

1844 REPEALERS MEETING AT FORT ADAMS

Magner, R. McCormick, J. McCormick, proceeded to take up subscriptions in the hall while Mr. Thomas Roach, the Treasurer was occupied at the table in a similar manner. The following are the names of the subscribers at this meeting. Cath. Campbell, Patk Magner, John Sweeney, co.CORK, John Nowlan, John McCormick, Roger McCormick, Michael McCormick, Thos Galvin, Jun, Miss Elenor O'Connor, ROSCOMMON, Miss Mary Dunphy, Thos Aylward, Richard Aylward, Daniel Mackey, KILKENNY, 1 each; John Connell, CORK, Patk P. Manning, Thos Galvin, ROSCOMMON, 2 each; Terrence Sweeney, Jas Sweeney, Patk Murphy, Timothy Sullivan, CORK, Thos Gill, ROSCOMMON, 50 each; Jas McMahan, KILKENNY, Mrs Gorman, DONEGAL, Peter Mahoney, Tim Devine, KERRY, Chas Hogan, DOWN, Mrs Coe, KING'S Co, Ann Martin, WESTMEATH, 50 each; Thos Roach, Johanna Quirk, WATER-FORD, Cath McClusky, TYRONE, Andrew Harpin, LIMERICK, Patk Tierney, Wm Tierney, MEATH, Jas Britt, LONGFORD, Patk Gorman, John Mahoney, Edw McHugh, GALWAY, Wm Gleason, Thos Corcoran, KING'S Co, Timothy Flanagan, MONAGHAN,

Mrs Dwyre, WEXFORD, John Beater, Edinborough, Wm McCann, DERRY, John Brother, 1 each; Bartholomy Fitzgerald 2:Ann Able, DUBLIN, 25; A Friend, 50; Do, 25; L. Dowling, QUEEN'S Co, Henry McGown, DOWN, Patk Wall, CLARE, A Revolutionary soldier, John Quigley, Oliver Pew, SLIGO, George Denison, John Connor, Dan O'Brien, Mich Ryan, Patk Pierce, LIMERICK, A Repealer, A Friend, Francis Moran, Mich McCarty, 1 each; John Hynes, 50; A friend, 50, Total, 61.00.

This sum with a residue of \$ 33.35, which the Treasurer had on hand since the last meeting makes a total of \$ 94.35, which, after deducting all expences, has been forwarded to Boston.

—Loughlin Dowling, Sec'y

NEWPORT,
—September 17, 1844.

(The Repealers of Newport, and their friends in Fort Adams, whom we had the pleasure of addressing the evening previous to the Repeal meeting on the Temperance cause in Ireland, in a hall kindly furnished by the garrison, deserve great credit for their patriotism, which comes out victorious from every local obstruction. If our readers knew but half the narrowness of heart which characterizes some natives of that place, and the apathy of a few Irishmen they would not hesitate in saying with us – “honor and long life to Ireland’s real friends in Newport!”—*Ed, Boston Pilot*)



Nollaig Shona Duit



—Have a Merry Christmas

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH SPECIAL EVENT—SAVE THE DATE!!!

During March, Irish Heritage Month, the Navy Choristers will sing a benefit concert for the Museum.

Date: Sunday, March 20

Time: 2:00pm

Location: Saint Mary's Church - Spring Street
& Memorial Boulevard

DETAILS FOR TICKET SALES WILL FOLLOW.

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

THE MUSEUM WELCOMES RECENT NEW MEMBERS

From Newport:

Marcella DeLerno
Sandra Flowers
Maureen Greichen
Eilen Heffron
Jeanne Hennessay Nassa
Kay McNally

From Barington:

Patricia Grattan

From Middletown:

John & Trudy Duval
Joan Grady

From Portsmouth:

Bill, Virginia & Jay Pittsley

From Hamden, Connecticut:

Daniel Kirby

From Taunton, Massachusetts:

Robert Brady

WELCOME TO ALL AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTIONS BOOKS

—A circa 1860 “Doway” family bible—courtesy of Joe McEnness

—*The Irish Republic* by Dorothy Macardle, with a forward by Eamon De Valera (1966)
courtesy of Joyce Botelho.

CD'S

Federal census 1830 and 1870—courtesy of Pat Murphy



THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY
P.O. Box 1378
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Check Membership:

Individual(\$10/yr) Family(\$20/Yr) Life(\$100) Business(\$35/yr)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Donations are tax deductible—a 501(c)3 organization)

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