



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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MUSEUM RECEIVES LEGISLATIVE GRANT

On Saturday, April first, Rhode Island State Representative Paul Crowley presented Museum President Vincent Arnold with a check for \$3,000, representing a grant from the House of Representatives. These funds will help the Museum carry out its research of records and archives that will help document the history of Irish immigrant servants in service with the many Newport mansions over the years.

The Museum's proposal reads, in part: "For over 150, years Irish immigrants worked in the fabled Newport mansions as cooks, gardeners, valets, coach drivers. They lived, for the most part, in the nearby Fifth Ward where they nurtured a strong sense of community and contributed significantly to the fabric of the City of Newport."

Representative Crowley presented the check to the assembled Museum Board as the members attended a strategic planning session.

(See a related story on page 2)



Representative Paul Crowley (left) and President Vincent Arnold receiving the check for the Museum.

MUSEUM BOARD MEMBERS HOLD STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSIONS

Nine Museum Board members attended a strategic planning session at the Hibernian Hall on Saturday morning, April first. The purpose of the planning session was to update the Museum's long-range goals. Joyce Botelho facilitated the session, helping participants remain focused on the Museum's mission statement, goals and objectives as they planned for the

Museum's next five to ten years. The team discussed marketing planning, grant proposals, and current strengths and weaknesses, among other topics. A second session was held on May 25, and a final report will be issued early in the summer. Attendees were: Vince Arnold, Joyce Botelho, Maria Carroll, "Skip" Carter, Deanna Casey, Shannon Buss, Joe McEnness, Rick O'Neill, and Bill Nagle.

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSITY

JUNE 3, 1956 – JUNE 3, 2006



CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Rev. George B. McCarthy on the 50th anniversary of his ordination. Father McCarthy, Pastor of historic St. Mary's Church, attended St. Kieran's College Seminary in Kilkenney and was ordained June 3, 1956 at St. Mary's Cathedral, Kilkenney.

Father McCarthy came to the United States in September, 1956 and became Pastor of St. Mary's in 1976. St. Mary's has had only twelve pastors, including its first, Rev. James Fitton, who assumed the post in 1828. With 30 years of service at St. Mary's, Father McCarthy has the longest tenure in the Parish's 178 year history.



NEWPORT'S FIFTH WARD MEMORIALIZED WITH DEDICATION OF "FIFTH WARD SQUARE"

Ceremonies were held on Saturday, March fourth to establish "Fifth Ward Square" in Newport. The area, from the southern end of Thames Street at Carroll Avenue to Old Fort Road, is now officially known as "Fifth Ward Square", with appropriate signage at each intersection.

City Councilwoman Colleen A. McGrath sponsored the resolution creating the Square, and organized the celebration, which included a "Fifth Ward Outing" at the Hibernian Hall. Museum Board members Joyce Botelho and Pat Murphy researched the origins of the Fifth Ward, combing through the many City of Newport directories and other documents, including a *Newport Daily News* article of May 6, 1898, to ascertain the true bound-

aries and evolution of the Fifth Ward. They found that the first City charter of 1784 was in effect for only three years. Under that first charter there were only four wards and the area now known as the Fifth Ward was designated as the First Ward. The first charter was rescinded in 1787 due to a squabble with Nicholas Easton over the use of Easton's Beach. The city charter was finally restored in 1853, and which time the area now considered the Fifth Ward was established. It included the area south of what is now Memorial Boulevard.

Several changes to the Fifth Ward boundaries occurred with the City's changing population over the next 77 years. Boundaries were changed in 1883, 1892, 1920, and finally in 1929. In 1930, Ward Five was eliminated and the City of Newport consisted of four wards.

In fulfillment of its “Irish Books for Newport County Schools” program, the Museum recently delivered sets of books on Irish history and culture to eleven area middle and high schools. The books cover a range of topics, from Irish history, to Irish music and poetry.

The project began in 2000 when several sets of books were purchased and reviewed by Museum members. Two sets of books, one for the middle schools and one for high schools were selected and procured. This past February and March several Museum board members, led by Shannon Buss, contacted the schools in Newport County and arranged to meet with the librarians to present the books.

Book sets were donated to: Tiverton Middle and High Schools; Portsmouth Middle and High Schools; Middletown’s Gaudet Middle School and High School; Newport’s Thompson Middle School and Rogers High School; The Lawn Street School in Jamestown; All Saint’s Academy in Middletown; and Cluny School in Newport. Board member Joe McEnness had previously donated a set of books to St. Philomena School, located in Portsmouth.

LOCAL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM MUSEUM’S “IRISH BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS” PROGRAM



Board member Joe McEnness with Thompson Middle School Librarian Joanne Kane and several students with the Museum-donated books.

THE BOOKS DONATED TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE:

- *Black Potatoes: The Story of the Great Irish Famine 1845–1850*
Susan Bartoletti
Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 2001
- *Brendan the Navigator*
George Otto Simms
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 1998
- *Exploring Irish Music and Dance*
Dianna Boullier
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 1998
- *Exploring The Book of Kells*
George Otto Simms
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 1998
- *Grainne: Sailor Princess of Ireland*
Louise Gherasim
1st Books Library, Bloomington, Indiana, 2002
- *Journey of Hope: The Story of Irish Immigration to America*
Kerby A. Miller and Patricia Mullolland Miller
Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2001
- *Knockabeg: A Famine Tale*
Mary E. Lyons
Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 2001

- *Red Hugh—Prince of Donegal*
Robert J. Reilly
Bethlehem Books, Bathgate, North Dakota, 1997
- *The Long March: The Choctaw’s Gift to Irish Famine Relief*
Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick
Tricycle Press, Berkeley, 1998
- *The Last Wolf of Ireland*
Elona Malterre
Clarion Books, New York, 1990
- *Under the Hawthorn Tree*
Marita Conlon-McKenna
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 2001

BOOKS DONATED TO THE HIGH SCHOOLS ARE:

- *Enchanted Journey: 50 Years of Irish Writing for Children*
edited by Robert Dunbar
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 1997
- *Exploring Irish Music and Dance*
Dianna Boullier
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 1998

- *Far from the Shamrock Shore: The Story of Irish-American Immigration through Song* [Book and CD]
Mick Moloney
The Collins Press, Cork, 2002
- *Feed the Children First Irish Memories of the Great Hunger*
edited by Mary E. Lyons
Atheneum Books, New York, 2002
- *How the Irish Saved Civilization*
Thomas Cahill
Random House, New York, 1995
- *Journey of Hope: The Story of Irish Immigration to America*
Kerby A. and Patricia Mullolland Miller
Chronicle Books, San Francisco, 2001
- *Poetry For Young People*
William Butler Yeats
edited by Jonathan Allison
Sterling Publishing Co., New York, 2002
- *The Vikings in Ireland*
Margon Llywelyn
O’Brien Press, Dublin, 1996

Copies of these books are also available from the Museum’s library for any member who may wish to read and enjoy them. Please leave a phone message on the Museum’s line: (401) 848-0661.

UPCOMING EVENTS — MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Anniversary Celebration at Winery in July

On Thursday, July 13, the Museum will hold a reception and wine tasting at the Greenvale Wineries in Portsmouth to celebrate its Tenth Anniversary. The gala event will take place from 6–8pm and will feature the fine wines of Greenvale. Other beverages will also be served, as well as hors d'oeuvres. Details to follow.

Steak Fry Fundraiser in August

A Steak Fry Fundraiser to benefit the Museum will be held on Saturday, August 26 at the Hibernian Hall in Newport. A special raffle will be held in conjunction with this event. Details to be announced.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Museum welcomes recent new members

From Newport:

F. J. St. Germain
Johana & Larry Kilroy
Christina O'Sullivan
Robert Shaw
Edward Walsh

From Middletown:

Dorothy O'Hanley
Mike & Bonnie Slein

From Portsmouth:

John & Nancy Palmieri

From elsewhere in Rhode Island:

Eric & Sarah Hertfelder—Bristol
Lorraine Hoelle—Warren
Patricia McLaughlin—Providence
Maureen Lapan—North Kingstown

From out-of-state:

William Ahearn—Port Hueneme, CA
Barbara Breen—South Dartmouth, MA
Mary Lou Goslin—Manchester, CT

WELCOME TO ALL AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY
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