



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES KICKS OFF WITH TALKS ON DIVERSE IRISH IMMIGRANT EXPERIENCES

The 2008-2009 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series kicked off October 14 with a talk by Scott Molloy, Ph.D., an award-winning professor with the Schmidt Labor Research Center at the University of Rhode Island. In this, his second speaking engagement with the Museum, Dr. Molloy discussed the subject of his newest book, *Joseph Banigan*. Banigan was an Irish Famine refugee who established himself in Rhode Island and became a titan of the rubber industry and



Pictured above on Oct. 14 are (l-r) Salve Professor John Quinn, URI Professor Scott Molloy, and Mr. Charles Byrne.
Photo courtesy of Lou Burns.

president of the U.S. Rubber Company. In his book, *Irish Titan, Irish Toilers: Joseph Banigan and Nineteenth-Century New England Labor* (University Press of New England, July 2008) Dr. Molloy discusses how the new immigrants worked under Joseph Banigan, formed unions and integrated into American society. The book was published following extensive research into this all-but-forgotten individual who had a remarkable impact on the lives of Irish workers in this area, and who donated much of his fortune to philanthropic causes. During the social that followed the lecture, Dr. Molloy signed copies of his book.

Please note: *The Museum has several copies of Dr. Molloy's book available for sale at \$20 each. The book would make a fine Christmas gift. If interested please call 401-847-2890.*

On November 6 Mr. Charles Artaud Byrne gave the Museum's second lecture in this series, which was based on his recently published book, *Ranelagh: The Irish Warlord* (Tate Publishing Company, 2008). A direct descendent of the great O'Byrne family of County Wicklow, Mr. Byrne described how his ancestors struggled to maintain their land holdings and lifestyle through years of English aggression, beginning in the 16th Century.

His family migrated to America in 1818 prior to the Famine with some assets still intact, a relative anomaly for Irish-Catholic immigrants to these shores. Mr. Byrne, a retired Lt. Col. in the Air Force and former Navy War College instructor, is a resident of Newport who now focuses on research and writing. *Ranelagh* is a historical novel which is part one of a three-part series tracing his family saga through the generations. Copies of the book were signed during the post-lecture social, and additional copies may be obtained by contacting the author directly at 401-849-8645 or cabyrne@mac.com.

The next Michael F. Crowley lecture will be held Thursday evening, January 8th, 2009 at the LaForge Casino Restaurant. Dr. John F. Quinn of Salve Regina University's History Department will give a talk entitled "The Rise of Catholicism in Newport, 1880-1950". In 1880 there were few Catholics in Newport, but in the seven decades that followed the Catholic population rose dramatically, driven by immigration from Ireland. Hear about the history of the establishment of Catholicism in the City by the Sea, as numerous parishes, schools, convents, and other church-run institutions were built, resulting in a dominant Catholic presence in Newport by 1950. Please mark your calendars for this talk. A flyer with more information and request for reservations will be mailed shortly.

THE 1691 TREATY OF LIMERICK

The Treaty of Limerick was signed on October 3, 1691 and its terms and aftermath have been debated by scholars since. The signing of the Treaty ended the Jacobite/Williamite War in Ireland, which began in 1689 following the 1688 English revolution against King James II, who was the last Catholic monarch to rule over the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. James had become very unpopular with the English for, among other reasons, his leniency toward Catholics and the birth of a son who would inherit the crown and thus continue a Catholic monarchy. The Irish assumed that the English uprising would provide them the opportunity to at last rid the country of Protestant domination, particularly given that the Irish army had effectively controlled the entire country, except several areas in the north, including Derry.

Following the 1688 revolution, James fled England to France, later arriving in Kinsale, Ireland in March of 1689. In 1690 an English Army led by William of Orange (the "Williamites") invaded Ireland and, on July 1st, attacked an Irish-French army led by James II ("The Jacobites") at the River Boyne, just west of Drogheda. The English forces won the day, and James fled once more to France, leaving the Irish under the leadership of Patrick Sarsfield. While the Irish army had lost the Boyne battle, the majority of their forces were still intact, so the fighting for Ireland continued with their forces retreating across the River Shannon. The English army, comprised of English, Dutch and Germans, was under the command of Dutch Lieutenant General Baron De Ginkel. They succeeded in defeating the Irish in a decisive battle at Aughrim, July 12, 1691. Waterford and Galway soon surrendered to the Williamites with reasonably generous terms, which included retention of property and religious tolerance for the residents.

Under the inspired leadership of Patrick Sarsfield, the Irish forces then gathered in Limerick where they had very solid defenses. Ginkel realized that Limerick was a very strong defensive position, and so began a series of negotiations with the Irish during the summer of 1691, as he was eager to relieve his forces to fight in Holland, which was under siege by France. There were several factions in Limerick, including the army, and many of the Catholic landowners and other gentry who were anxious to retain their properties. After Ginkel's forces crossed the Shannon and came up to the walls of Limerick Sarsfield felt compelled to negotiate. Negotiations on a treaty centered around the Irish Army's request for the soldiers' removal from Ireland, the Catholic landowners' property rights and their right to practice the Catholic faith, as they had under King Charles II, the brother of James II. The bargaining went on for several weeks, culminating with the October 3rd signing of two treaties, one military and one civil.

The military treaty was negotiated directly by General Ginkel and Patrick Sarsfield, as both felt they had the insight and responsibility to do so. The terms were very favorable to the Irish, and included the provision that any member of the disbanded Jacobite army could opt to be transported to France, and that Ginkel would be responsible to provide the transport. In fact, the bulk of the Irish army, about 14,000 soldiers, many accompanied by their wives and children, left for France on some fifty ships, embarking from Cork. Ginkel apparently recognized Sarsfield's military capabilities and stature, and even agreed to Sarsfield's request for French wine, shipping some 300 tons back on the transports. Sarsfield was thus able to continue his military career in France, and his "Wild Geese" soldiers¹ could continue to serve under James II in France's Irish Brigade.

The civil treaty negotiations were of a much different nature, involving the English government, lawyers on each side, and the Irish Parliament. The Civil Articles of Limerick consists of thirteen articles, ranging Article 1, which defined the privileges in the exercise of their religion for Roman Catholics, to Article 6, which disallowed law suits for actions and damages that occurred during the war, to Article 7 which allowed "Noblemen and Gentlemen" to ride with a sword and case of pistols, and to keep a gun in their house for defense, or for "Fowling". Article 2 defined which persons, in which areas/counties were to be covered by the civil articles, and it stated:

All the Inhabitants or Residents of Lymerick, or and other Garrison now in the possession of the Irish, and all Officers and Soldiers, now in Arms, under any Commission of King James, or those Authorized by him to grant the same in the several Counties of Lymerick, Clare, Kerry, Cork and Mayo, or any of them²; and all the Commissioned Officers in their Majesties' Quarters, that belong to the Irish Regiments, ... Shall hold, possess and enjoy all and every their Estates of Free-hold and Inheritance; and all the Rights, Titles and Interests, Privileges and Immunities ... That no person ... Shall have or enjoy benefit of this Article, that shall neglect or refuse to take the Oath of Allegiance made by Act of Parliament in England...

Treaty of Limerick Continued on Page 4

Thus, those covered under Article 2 could maintain their estates, properties and civil privileges by taking an oath of allegiance to the Crown.

The English saw the treaty as being far too lenient on the Irish, while the Irish felt betrayed with the deletion of the phrase which would have granted the civil benefits of the Treaty through most of the South. Litigation allowed under the treaty went on for a number of years, mostly involving land ownership but, as the result of the Jacobite War, the Irish lost yet more of their land, with their share now down to about one-seventh the country. Yet more hardship was to follow for the Irish in the aftermath of the Treaty of Limerick, as the English began to pass the infamous Penal Laws beginning in 1697 which, in effect, negated any allowances apparently given by the Treaty .

FOOTNOTES:

¹ Irish soldiers of fortune went into Europe in organized units as far back as the 13th Century, but the first "Flight of the Wild Geese" took place in 1607, when Hugh O'Neill and Rory O'Donnell, the respective Earls of Tyrone and Tyrconnell, set sail from Loch Swilly in Co. Donegal. They never returned to Ireland. The Wild Geese fought in every major conflict from the days of Louis XIV to the last world war. They founded four navies and were particularly active in the foundation of the United States, Chile, Peru, and Mexico. They were very active in opening up the western states of America, and were particularly active in the Boer War in South Africa. They fought on both sides in the American Civil War and in the French Revolution. Four were among Washington's principal aides, and four others were signors of the Declaration of Independence. Over sixty fell at the Battle of the Little Big Horn, and Chief Sitting Bull wore the medal of one of the Wild Geese around his neck until he died.

Source: The Wild Geese Heritage Museum & Library website, Portumna, Co. Galway. Portumna, Co. Galway

² Here was originally inserted the following clause: "... and all such as are under their protection in the said counties". These words were *not* included in the version of the treaty that reached England, and it was – and still is – the subject of much controversy and speculation, especially as it applies to other articles such as Article 1, which defined the exercise of religion, and administration of the Oath to the king.

REFERENCES FOR THIS ARTICLE:

– *The Treaty of Limerick*, by J.G. Simms, Dublin Historical Association, 1965

Note: Dr. John Gerald Simms (1904-1979) was a distinguished historian and author of numerous publications including *Jacobite Ireland 1685-91* (Routledge & K. Paul, London, 1969).

– *The Course of Irish History*, edited by T.W. Moody & F.X. Martin, The Mercer Press, 1978

– *Modern Ireland 1600-1972*, R.F. Foster, Penguin Books, 1988

– *A History of Ireland*, by Edmund Curtis, Methuen & Co Ltd, London, 1950

RECENT DONATIONS TO MUSEUM LIBRARY

Board member and Museum Historian Patrick Murphy has donated the following items:

- A dual-deck video cassette recorder. Among other uses, this will allow the library to copy video tapes for someone interested in our audio-visual files, such as interviews on local history.
- An HP flat-bed scanner. This is essential for copying important documents and photos.

Thanks You Patrick!!

MEMBERSHIPS REACH A MILESTONE IN 2008

As 2008 comes to a close, the Museum can claim membership of 400 for the first time since its founding in 1996. A warm welcome to the following new members whose support has enabled us to reach this milestone:

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Nollaig Shona agus Athbhlian faoi Mhaise Daoibh

(NO-lihg HO-nuh AH-guhs AH vlee-ihn fwee WAH-shuh HEEV)

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND A

PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL



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VA4466@netzero.com