



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

Published by the Museum of Newport Irish History
P.O. Box 1378 Newport, RI 02840 (401) 848-0661

VOLUME 20

SPRING 2007

BIENNIAL MEETING - REPORT TO MEMBERSHIP

The Museum's 2006-2007 biennial meeting was held Thursday, April 19 at the Hibernian Hall, Newport, with fifty members in attendance. The membership approved the slate of officers and directors presented by Nominations Chair, Maria Carroll. Also approved was the 2007-08 budget, prepared by Treasurer, Bill Nagle, and a by-law revision that sets the time for biennial (i.e. every other year) meetings, during which elections will take place.

Following the vote, President Vincent Arnold reviewed the Museum's accomplishments over the last two years. These included the establishment of a web site (www.newportirishhistory.com), cataloguing the Museum's library, which now totals approximately 200 books and videos, a successful first Annual Fund Drive, and the receipt of a Rhode Island State grant for the study of Irish domestics who worked in various Newport mansions and homes. Members who have personal or family experiences working as domestics in these local estates were encouraged to contact Museum member and local historian, Joyce Botelho, who is researching this project, to share their memories. She can be reached at (401) 849-5592 or at IrishNewport@verizon.net.

President Arnold also commented on the

Museum's successful fall/winter speakers program, popular newsletter, and annual "Bus Tour of Irish Newport". Mr. Arnold announced that the Board of Directors had recently voted a Life Membership to Viking Tours of Newport, and to Ann-Marie and Karen Oakley for their generosity over the last six years in providing buses for these tours. He also thanked John Booth, Chairman of the Barney Street (St. Joseph) Cemetery, and Bob Finn, for their work felling a large, rotting tree on cemetery grounds. Jim Towey, Mike Slein and Carol Booth were also recognized for their work at the cemetery on April 14, "Cleanup Day".

In announcing the library cataloguing effort, President Arnold thanked member Cheryl McCarthy, and the University of Rhode Island Library Sciences Program for recommending a "superb" graduate student, Russell Franks, for the project. Franks interned with the Museum in the Spring 2007 semester and completed not only the task of cataloguing the books, but also set up a computer program which will allow the library files to be accessed on the Museum's web site in the near future. Members were encouraged to visit the new web site for updates on coming events, newsletter copies, contact information, and other resources.

President Arnold thanked Kevin Buss,

member and husband of Membership Chair, Shannon Buss, for his work in setting up the web site and providing for its ongoing maintenance.

Finally, Mr. Arnold introduced the new officers and board members: Mike Slein, Second Vice President, and Bill Coffey and Rick O'Neill, Directors. Also recognized were all the other officers and directors in attendance. These officers and directors will serve until March 31, 2009:

President:	Vincent Arnold
1st Vice President:	Robert McKenna
2nd Vice President:	Michael Slein
Secretary:	Maria Carroll
Treasurer:	Bill Nagle
Membership:	Shannon Buss
Counsel:	Christopher Behan

Directors: John Booth, Joseph Brady, Elliot "Skip" Carter, Deanna Conheeny Casey, Rita Clarke, Bill Coffey, Thomas Kelly III, Joseph McEnness, Edward McGrath, Patrick Murphy and Rick O'Neill

Following the meeting, members, officers and directors enjoyed a social with wonderfully prepared refreshments by chef Alan Tkchuck and his staff.

Notice: As required by IRS regulations, the Museum has filed the 2006 Form 990, which summarizes the financial status for the fiscal year ended March 31, 2006.

A copy is available for review to anyone requesting it. Please contact Treasurer Nagle at (401) 846-8499.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

During the Biennial Meeting, Membership Chair, Shannon Buss, reported that Museum membership was 241, with nine new members since January. During the meeting the following members were recruited to join the Membership Committee: Bill Coffey, Kevin Carty, Trudy Duval, Kathy Gallagher, Ann Arnold May, and Cheryl McCarthy.

The Museum Board of Directors recently voted to add a new membership category - "Family Life". This membership will cost \$150, and will be implemented for all new family life members and current renewals.

The Museum welcomes the following new members:

From Newport:
Joseph and Marilyn McDonnell
Chad Donnelly
Danny Finn
Michael O'Connor
Dennis Sullivan

From Portsmouth:
David Hunter

From Elsewhere:
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas O'Connell
-Westerly, R.I.
George E. Spooner
- Waldorf, MD - Life Member

UPCOMING EVENTS: SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Steak Fry - The 5th Annual Steak Fry to benefit the Museum will be held on Saturday, August 11th at the Ancient Order of Hibernians Hall, 2 Wellington Avenue, Newport, from 6:00 p.m. - ?. Tickets will be available in June. Call Skip Carter at (401) 682-4137.

NEW ACQUISITIONS FOR THE LIBRARY

The Museum has purchased an 1870 "Beers" map of Newport (published by D.G. Beers & Company). This map, in excellent condition, clearly delineates the Fifth Ward at that time, which ran from the Harbor to First (Easton's) Beach. The map also reflects the sparse development of the area around Thames Street and Narragansett Avenue in 1870 -- the heart of the "Old Fifth Ward". For example, West Narragansett Avenue has not yet been constructed, and very few homes are shown on Thames Street south of Wellington Avenue. In addition, Marchant Street and all of the streets running east to Thames have not been built. In 1870, the next street running off Wellington was called "Bay Street", with a large inlet from the Harbor, now filled in and occupied partially by a small park.

The Museum has also obtained a wonderful, full-page pictorial from the March 12, 1939 issue of the *Boston Sunday Post*, entitled, "Famous Wild Geese Regiments". This is a full-color display of four of the famous "Wild Geese" French regiments, formed by Irish soldiers who had escaped Ireland after the 1691 Uprising, and who became fighters for France. The page shows the soldiers' uniforms and the regimental flags. Included are Regiment de Walsh, founded in 1661, which followed Lafayette to arrive in America in 1776; Regiment de Lally, which fought in Savannah; and Regiment de Dillon, which came to Newport with the French contingents. This beautiful page was donated by Leonard Pannaggio, The "Grist Mill" columnist for the *Newport Daily News*.

Finally, a CD listing Irish immigrants to North America, via New York City has been purchased. The CD lists approximately 60,000 Irish immigrants who arrived between 1735 and 1871, and gives their age, place of origin, occupation, and date of arrival.

REVISED MUSEUM LOGO



The logo of the Museum of Newport Irish History has been enhanced to more strongly communicate that the Museum's focus is on all of Newport County, not just the City of Newport. The existing Celtic cross and Old Stone Mill graphic has been surimposed against a field containing a map of the entire County, which includes Aquidneck Island and Conanicut Island (Jamestown), Tiverton and Little Compton.

Don't forget to visit the Museum's Web site: www.NewportIrishHistory.com. The website has all the latest listings of upcoming events and Museum news, including how to contact officers, copies of the the latest newsletters, and pictures of places of interest.

Please note, the Museum has a new e-mail address for the office: VA4466@netzero.com

THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY
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Shannon Buss, Membership (401) 846-4341

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