



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

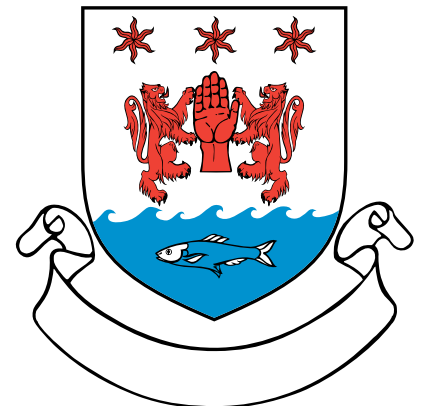
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THE O'NEILL FAMILIES

The surname "O'Neill" is one of the twelve most numerous in Ireland, and is one of the few spelled the same in English. While there are several septs in Ireland, the Ulster septs played the greatest role in Irish history. The first name to bear the surname, which means "champion" in Irish, was Domhnall (c. 943), whose grandfather, Niall, was King of Ireland in 890. He was killed in a battle with the Norse in 919. The O'Neills are the oldest family in Europe with unbroken descent in the male line. Since 1740 the O'Neills of Clanaboy in Ulster have resided in Portugal, where they continue their designation, O'Neill, Chieftain (i.e. head of the O'Neill clan).



O'NEILL

From the 5th Century onward the O'Neills were monarchs of all Ireland, kings of Ulster, earls of Tyrone, statesmen and warriors. In the 14th Century the O'Neills divided. Today's Tyrone O'Neills descended from Niall Ruadh ("The Red"), while the Clanaboy O'Neills of counties Atrim and Down descend from Aodh Dubh ("The Black").

Of the many famous O'Neills, only a few can be mentioned in this brief article. Owen Roe ("the red hair") was a professional soldier who served with the Spanish army and returned to Ireland to join the Confederate States. He defeated the Scots in 1645, and when Cromwell invaded he joined the forces of Ormand, head of the Irish resistance, but unfortunately died, though not in battle. Sir Phelm O'Neill (1612-1653) was a lawyer and soldier who took part in The Insurrection of 1641 as the leader of the northern forces. He was betrayed and executed.

Probably the greatest of the leaders was Hugh O'Neill, grandson of Conn, the 1st Earl of Tyrone. Hugh (1550-1616) was 2nd Earl of Tyrone. He lived for six years in Queen Elizabeth I's court, where she had hoped to sway him to the English ways. Later, back in Ireland, he conspired with the local chieftains against

Elizabeth, and was constantly harassed by her spies. In 1595 his army defeated the English at Yellow Ford, near Armagh. Elizabeth sent an army under Essex, and he was tricked by O'Neill and defeated. Because of this failure, Essex returned to London to be executed by the Queen. Finally, Elizabeth sent a large, well-equipped force, landing in Kinsale in 1601. Hugh led his forces on a long and hazardous winter march to Kinsale, but when they attacked they were defeated. The defeat marked the end of the Gaelic order in Ireland, and in 1607 Hugh led his family and other chiefs to flee, sailing from Lough Swilley. This became known as the "Flight of The Earls", and opened up Ulster to the English "Plantations". A fine pictorial of the "Flight of the Earls" printed by the Irish Times is reproduced on the back cover of this issue.

REFERENCES:

Irish Families, Edward MacLysaght: Crown Publishers NY, 1972 (originally published in 1957)

Irish Family Histories, Ida Grehan: Roberts Rinhart Publishers, 1993

THE FLIGHT OF THE EARLS

EXCERPT FROM: *The Dictionary of National Biography* - Volume XIV,
edited by Sir Leslie Stephen and Sir Sidney Lee, Oxford University Press, pg. 1089-1090.

The story of the flight was written in Irish by Teigue O'Keenan, a member of a family who acted as ollavs, or hereditary bards to Maguire, in 1609. The original, which is incomplete, is preserved in the Franciscan convent removed from Rome to Dublin, and forms the basis of C.P. Meehan's 'Fate and Fortunes of Tyrone and Tyrconnel.' Intending to make for Spain, the fugitives encountered a violent storm, which drove them out of their course, and after three weeks' buffeting about they were glad to make the mouth of the Seine. Proceeding to Rouen, they were on their way to Paris, when, in consequence of the remonstrances of the English ambassador, they were compelled to withdraw into Spanish Netherlands. Passing through Amiens, Arras, Douay, and Brussels, where they were splendidly entertained by Spinola, they reached Louvain on 9 Nov. There they passed the winter, and there Tyrone [Hugh] drew up that extraordinary catalogue of his grievances now preserved in the Record Office, London, which must astonish any one who expects to find in it any adequate explanation of his flight. Debarred from entering Spain, Tyrone accepted the hospitable offer from Paul V to take up his abode in Rome, and on 28 Feb. 1608 he and his companions, now reduced to thirty-two persons left Louvain. They reached Rome at the end of April, and were welcomed by a large concourse of ecclesiastics and others. The pope granted them an audience the following day, and assigned to Tyrone a monthly pension of a hundred crowns, a house (called the Borgo Vecchio) rent free, together with an allowance of bread and wine for ten persons; the king of Spain added four hundred ducats a month.

MUSEUM PARTICIPATES IN URI ARTS AND CULTURE FORUM AND EXHIBIT

The Museum joined with other Irish organizations and individuals for the University of Rhode Island's arts and culture program entitled: "Irish Heritage in Rhode Island: The Women's Story". The program, held at the URI Feinstein Providence Campus, began March 1st with a presentation by guest host Arlene Violet, and featured guest speakers and Irish music, dance, stories and art. An exhibit of photographs, artifacts and objects told the story of Irish emigration to this area, with emphasis on contributions made by women. The exhibit reflected the involvement of numerous R.I. Irish organizations and individuals. URI undergraduate student Karen Cahir is to be congratulated for her fine work developing and constructing this exhibit, which continued through March 28.

The exhibit included the Museum's fine model of St. Joseph Church, which once stood at the corner of Barney and Mount Vernon Streets in Newport. The small wooden structure, built as a school house in 1809, was acquired along with the land on which it stood by Rhode Island's first

Catholic parish, and was dedicated to St. Joseph in 1828. This structure was the first church building used by RI's oldest Catholic parish. Less than 30 years later, the growing parish built the current edifice at Spring Street & Memorial Boulevard, which is of second period Gothic architecture. Construction of the current church began in 1848, and it was



URI program participants admire Museum's model of 1828 St. Joseph Church.

dedicated to "The Holy Name of Mary, Our Lady of the Isle" in 1852. The Museum restored and continues to maintain the cemetery adjacent to the site of the original St. Joseph Church, where many of Newport's earliest Irish Catholic residents were buried. (See related story on page 5)

● ● IN MEMORIAM ● ●

The Museum recently lost two longtime members and supporters, and we wish to honor their service. **Bill Nagle** was Museum Treasurer and an officer for many years. His advise and expertise will be greatly missed. Long-time Board member **Agnes (Rita) Clarke** contributed much to the Museum's Irish historical knowledge. Rita and Bill will be sorely missed.

GREAT, GREAT GRANDDAUGHTER OF FT. ADAMS BUILDER VISITS THE FORT

A descendant of one of the Irish emigrants who helped build Fort Adams, Jeanne Baldwin, along with her husband Dick, was given a special tour of the fort by Ft. Adams Trust representation Rob McCormick, on April 3. Jeanne's great, great grandfather, John O'Farrell, emigrated to America in 1829, specifically to work at the fort. Farrell was one of the hundreds of Irish who came to Newport to work on the Fort's construction. Many of these Fort Adams workers settled permanently in Newport, and today the Irish represent the city's largest ethnic group.



O'Farrell's daughter Bridget was born in Newport in 1834. Afterwards, O'Farrell and his family left Newport and settled in Iowa, due to declining federal funding for the fort's construction. In 1852 Bridget married Patrick Guerin, who was born in Limerick, Ireland. The Guerin family later left Iowa for California, to be involved in mining. The above photo of Bridget and Patrick was taken in Iowa at the time of their marriage, and was donated to the Museum by Bridget's great-granddaughter, Jeanne Baldwin.



Pictured (L-R) Joseph Martinez Jr., Karen Cahir, Dick Baldwin, Jeanne Baldwin and Rob McCormick.

Pictured left with the Baldwins on the tour of Fort Adams, is Karen Cahir, and her son Joseph Martinez Jr. Jeanne Baldwin, who is a Museum Life Member, contributed numerous historical photos to support Karen's work on the URI exhibit discussed on page 3.

RECENT LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

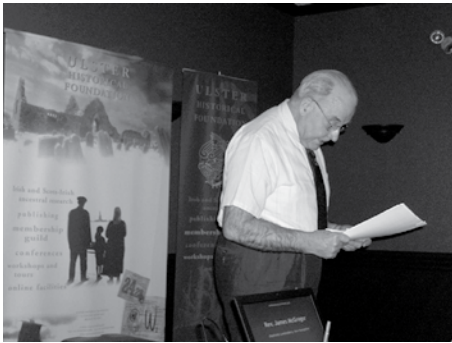
The Museum is grateful to the family of the late Al McAloon for their generous donation of some 40 volumes on Irish history, including *The Journal of the American Historical Society - Volume 1, 1896*, and various other volumes through 1941 which contain articles relating to the history of the Irish in American, *The Old English in Ireland*, Adam Clarke, Cornell University Press, 1966; and *A Hidden Phase of American History*, Michael O'Brien, New York, Dodd Mead, 1919.

Other Recent Acquisitions Include:

Ulster Emigration to Colonial America- 1718-1775, R.J. Dickson; Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast 1996
Ireland and Irish Emigration to the New World From 1915 to the Famine, William Adams, Ph.D; Clearfield (Yale University Press, 1932)
Researching Down Ancestors, Ian Maxwell, Ulster Historical Foundation, 2004
Irish Emigration- 1801-1921, D. Fitzgerald, Dundalcan Press, 1990

6th ANNUAL MICHAEL F. CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES CONCLUDES

The Michael F. Crowley Lecture series for Winter 2007-2008 concluded in March with a most insightful talk by Dr. Brian Trainor of the Ulster Historical Foundation,



Dr. Trainor presents to Museum members and guests in March.

pictured left and below. He discussed Irish emigration from Ulster in the 18th Century. The series began in early November with a talk entitled “The Life and Times of Michael Collins”, given by returning guest

speaker Professor William Matthews of U. Mass., Amherst. On November 29th, famed photographer, Alen MacWeeney presented an illustrated lecture on his new book, *Irish Travelers, Tinkers No More* (2007, New England College Press). MacWeeney shared numerous photos of his 40-year study of the Traveling People of Ireland. In January, Professor Nancy Lusignan Schultz, Ph.D. , a returning guest speaker, gave the talk, “Mass Mailings: The Irish and American Miracles of Prince Alexander Hohenlohe, 1823-24”.

The intriguing topic, from her current book project, focused on the 1824 miraculous cure of Washington socialite Ann Mattingly, through the intercession of a German priest and miracle-worker who was linked to numerous cures in Ireland. The series resumes this fall.



Dr. Brian Trainor chats with Museum member Kathy Gallagher. Member Jack McCormick listens in.

"SPRING CLEANING" AT BARNEY STREET CEMETERY

On Saturday, May 3rd a hardy group of Museum and Hibernian members , under John Booth's direction, worked to make the historic Barney Street Cemetery ready for spring. The Museum appreciates the generous donation of time by "Skip" Carney, Don Oakley, Bob Lehane, Ed Murphy, Pat Shea, Mike Slein and Jim Towey, and extends a very special "thank you" to project leader, John Booth.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Museum's annual Steak Fry fundraiser will be held the evening of Saturday, June 21 at Hibernian Hall in Newport. Please mark your calendar for this popular event! A flyer will follow with all the details.
- Planned for sometime this fall is a repeat of last September's very successful Irish dinner & theater event, hosted by the Museum Membership Committee. Details to follow.
- In October, the popular Michael F. Crowley speaker program will resume for the 2008-09 season. Entering its 7th year, the series is made possible through the generous and ongoing support of the Crowley Family and the La Forge Casino Restaurant. Planning is underway for four or five lectures, and details will be provided as the programs are finalized. Visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org for more information.

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*"The Flight of the Earls" shows route of 1607 flight from Ireland.
Reproduced by The Irish Times to mark event's 400th anniversary. (see story, page 1-2)*