



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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"WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING" MUSEUM BENEFIT HELD AT OCHRE COURT

"When Irish Eyes are Smiling", a cocktail party featuring Irish comedy and music, was held Saturday evening, February 27 at Salve Regina University's Ochre Court in Newport. The event included silent and live auctions and benefitted the Museum's Interpretive Site Fund. The Interpretive Site will become the permanent location for the Museum office and its collections of artifacts, photos, genealogical resources and reference books, now housed in temporary quarters in the Eisenhower House at Fort Adams. Approximately 165 attendees enjoyed a cocktail reception, a variety of food stations and passed hor d'oeuvres, desserts, cordials, and entertainment. The Irish-themed entertainment featured harpist Mary King, traditional Irish music by The Southcoast Rovers, and the improvisational comedy group, "Little Bits of Humor" from Newport's Firehouse Theater. A silent auction was available throughout the evening, and a live auction of select items, conducted by Museum Board members Mike Slein and Shannon Buss, completed the evening's entertainment. As this newsletter goes to print, final proceeds are being determined. A wonderful time was enjoyed by all! Special thanks to committee members Deanna Casey and Shannon Buss for conceiving of and organizing what we hope will become an annual event.



Deanna Casey, Shannon Buss and Maria Carroll



Attendees view Silent Auctions items.

If you were unable to attend the event, a donation in any amount in support of the Interpretive Site Fund would be appreciated. Your tax-deductible donation may be made via check payable to "MNIH" ("Interpretive Site Fund" in the notation section), or by visiting the Museum website (www.NewportIrishHistory.org) and clicking on the "Donate" button. During the "Review your Payment" step, type in "Interpretive Site Fund" in the "Special Instructions to Merchant" click-on option. Thank you for your support.

IRISH HERITAGE MONTH 2010: MUSEUM-SPONSORED EVENTS

The Museum kicked-off Irish Heritage month with a Michael F. Crowley lecture on Wednesday, March 3rd at 6:00 p.m. at the LaForge Casino Restaurant. Our speaker was Denny Lynch, historian and photographer from Baltimore, Maryland, who presented a slide-illustrated lecture examining the many ties that have existed between his state and Ireland. He also discussed the role a Baltimorean had in the founding of Newport's St. Mary's Church.

On Saturday, March 6th at 10:00 a.m. the Museum's annual trolley tour of "Irish Newport" departed Hibernian Hall, 2 Wellington Avenue with a full compliment of passengers. Pre-tour coffee and doughnuts was provided by the AOH. A free-will offering was taken.

On Saturday, March 20th the Museum and the R.I. State Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will co-sponsor a concert by Irish soprano Emma-Kate Tobia. "An Irish Dream" will be held at Ochre Court, Salve Regina University at 8:00 p.m. Miss Tobia will be accompanied by violinist Gregory Harrington and pianist Isabelle O'Connell. Tickets are \$20.00 and proceeds benefit the Museum and the RI State Board of the AOH. To purchase tickets call 401-847-9122. Tickets may also be purchased online at NewportIrishHistory.org. Click on "Events".



Emma-Kate Tobia

Finally, on Tuesday, March 23, the Museum and Cluny School will co-sponsor a repeat of Joyce Botelho's sold-out Michael F. Crowley Lecture, presented to the membership on November 17, 2009. Ms. Botelho's lecture, entitled "Nora Mulloy's Newport", will be held at 6:00p.m. at Cluny School, 65 Brenton Road, Newport. Doors will open at 5:30p.m. for a wine and cheese reception. The lecture is free for Museum members and members of the Cluny School community. All others, \$10 requested, which will be applied to Museum membership. Reservation are required: Call Ann at 401-841-5493 or e-mail tpm1@earthlink.net.

A full schedule of Irish Heritage Month Activities may be found in the printed calendars available around town, and on line, courtesy of the Newport Ancient Order of Hibernians at www.AOHNewport.org.

BARNEY STREET CEMETERY UPDATE

A fall cleanup at the Barney Street Cemetery took place on Sunday, December 6, 2009. Cemetery volunteers Jack McCormack and Ann Arnold May were joined by James and Christopher Mackenzie, area residents and students at Bishop Hendricken High School in Warwick. The volunteers filled 21 yard waste bags plus 3 garbage pails with leaves, leaving the cemetery tidy and ready for winter. Volunteers are sought for the upcoming spring cleanup, which has not yet been scheduled, but typically takes place in late April or early May. If interested please contact Ann at 401-841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net.

EARLY 1800s IRISH IN THE NEWPORT AREA AS RECORDED BY THE CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE

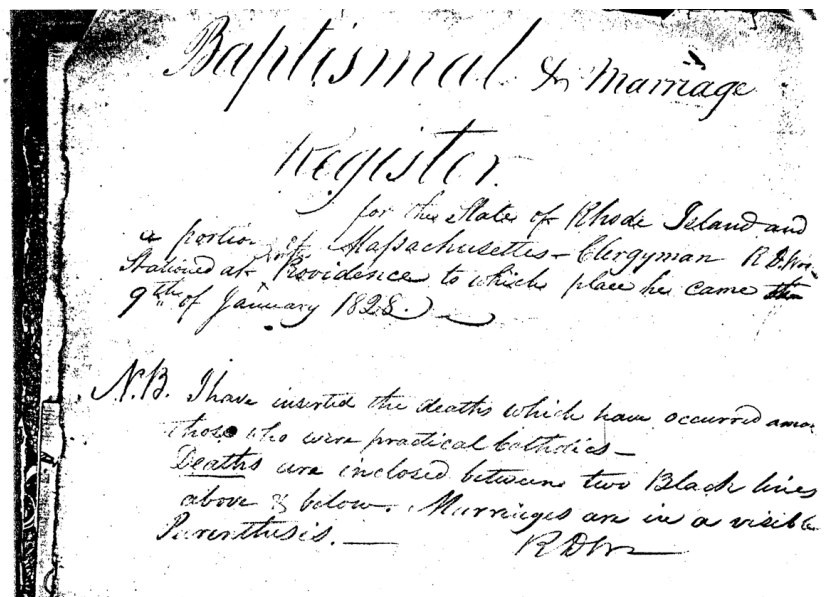
The Museum has obtained a copy of the baptismal and marriage register kept by the Diocese of Boston priest who served Catholic residents in the Newport area in 1828-1830, many of whom were Irish. Father Woodley was based in Providence and also served nearby areas of Massachusetts and Connecticut. There was not, as of yet, a "Diocese of Providence", and R.I. Catholics were under the Diocese of Boston.

Reproduced below is a photo of the heading on page 1 of Fr. Woodley's register, and beneath it are reproduced several of his entries, showing Irish immigrants residing in Newport, in Portsmouth at the coal mines, and at Fort Adams. A copy of the full manuscript is available for examination in the Museum's library.

Baptismal & Marriage Register

For the state of Rhode Island and a portion of Massachusetts - Clergyman R. Woodley stationed at Providence to which place he came the 9th of January 1828.

I have inserted the deaths that have occurred among those who were practical Catholics - Deaths are enclosed between two Black lines above and below. Marriages are in a visible parenthesis.
RW



1828

Newport Feb. 21, 1828	Baptized Catherine - about 2 months Parents: Dennis and Mary Delaney Sponsors: James McGrath and Catharine Laughlin	Feb. 25 Coal Mines	Baptized Martin - 6 months old Parents: Patrick and Mary Delaney Sponsors: James Fogarty and Julia Whalin
	Baptized Thomas - 9 months Parents: Patrick and Elizabeth Hogan. Sponsors: Michael Kegan and Catharine Hickey	Nov. 9 R.I. Coal Mines	Married James Fogarty to Miss Julia Whalin Witness: Simon Coogan and Mrs. Mary Delaney

1829

R.I. Coal Mines March 10th	Baptized Patrick - 3 weeks old Parents: Simon and Eliz Coogan Sponsors: Matthew and Sarah Delaney	Ft. Adams April 3	Baptized Catharine - Born 24 th March Parents: James and Ann Tobin Sponsors: Pat Shanahan and Mary Meder
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A LOOK AT SOME EARLY IRISH RECORDS IN THE MUSEUM LIBRARY

The 1774 Colonial Census

The Museum subscribes to several journals that are excellent sources of genealogical and other information of historical interest. “Rhode Island Roots”, the Journal of the Rhode Island Genealogical Society and “The Septs”, which is the journal of the Irish Genealogical Society International, are both fine sources of information and research for Irish genealogy. In recent issues of “Roots” several authors have studied and transcribed original census records to help us better understand the population of Newport County in 1774.

The 1774 Census reflected 17 Irish surnames. These surnames are referenced in Edward MacLysaght’s *Irish Families* (Cahill and Co. Limited, Dublin, 1972) which is considered the “bible” of Irish names and origins. At this time, the city of Newport had 17 different Irish surnames. There were 17 Irish names listed as “heads of families”, with some 223 individuals. At the time, the city of Newport had a population of 9,209 residents (including about one-fifth slaves), so that the Irish were a relatively small proportion, comprising only about 3% of the non-enslaved population. Irish names included: Larkin, Higgins, Collins, Murphy, Martin, Hart, and 11 others. Larkin was the very first Irish surname recorded in Newport records, in 1665.

The 1790 Federal Census

It is interesting to compare data from the first U.S. Federal Census, conducted in 1790, with the aforementioned 1774 Rhode Island (Colonial) census of Newport. The 1790 Census shows the population of Newport, which was greatly damaged by the British occupation in the 1780s, at 6,818. The Irish population had grown to about 4% of the total, with some 37 “heads of families” in 1790. Many new Irish surnames appear and just two of these 1774 names are repeated, a John Murphy and a Lemuel Martin.

MUSEUM'S OLDEST MEMBER DIES AT 101

The Museum's oldest member, Julia V. (Maney) Conley, died on January 28, 2010 at the age of 101. She was born in Newport on February 10, 1908, and was the wife of the late Thomas E. Conley. After her retirement Mrs. Conley spent two decades researching the history of the Conley family, among others and, in 1990, published *The Conley Family in America*, for which she was honored by the Providence Public Library in 1991. On her 100th birthday Mrs. Conley was given a Life Membership by her daughter and Museum member, Rosemary Conley Danforth.



Photo of Julia Conley courtesy of Rosemary Danforth

7TH ANNUAL CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES NEWS

The Fall/Winter 2009-2010 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series kicked off with a talk by Holy Cross College Associate Professor of History, Edward T. O'Donnell, Ph.D., on Thursday, October 22. Professor O'Donnell's talk was entitled "Compassion & Corruption: The Political Machine and the Irish American Experience." Following the standing-room only presentation, Professor O'Donnell signed copies of his book, *1001 Things Everyone Should Know About Irish History* (Random House/Broadway Books, 2002). Joyce Bothelo's above-mentioned lecture, "Norma Mulloy's Newport", followed on November 17. Via a fascinating photo-illustrated lecture, Ms.Bothelo's presented the the story of an immigrant to Newport from County Roscommon who, like many single, Irish women of the time, found employment in domestic service.



Barbara Kathe & President Vince Arnold

On January 28, Salve Regina University Professor Emerita, Barbara Kathe, Ph.D., spoke about two giants of 20th century literature: W.B. Yeats and Séamus Heaney. Professor Kathe's lecture included reading from the works of these two Irish-born poets, both of whom were recipients of the Nobel Prize in Literature. She also played a fascinating historical tape of Yeats (d. 1939) reading from his own work.

WE WELCOME THESE RECENT NEW MEMBERS

(recorded since August 2009)

FROM NEWPORT:

Patricia M. Archer
Batten Beth
Joanne Bellagamba
Amy and David Burnes
Mary F. Callahan
Margaret E. Chasse
Martin & Elizabeth Cohen
Larry Gadsby*
Sister Mary Mercy McAuliffe
Sister Marialyn Riley
Teresa Roney
Anne & John Twoomy
BMCM Edward J.Walsh
*deceased

FROM MIDDLETOWN:

Margaret Cassels
Patricia Combies, RSM
Kathleen Devaney
John and Trudy Duval
Joan M. Gilleran

FROM PORTSMOUTH:

J. Lorraine Babcock
Debbie Demming
Janice Gump
Cecile Howard
Jim and Laurel Kenney
Paul and Shirley Lally
Marie L. Maguire

FROM ELSEWHERE IN RI:

Michael and Denise Cannon,
Warwick
Jim Dacey, Coventry
John Devaney, Narragansett
Judith Eckardt, Coventry
Mary Carol & Edward Fitzgerald,
Barrington
Sarah Littlefield, Wakefield
Sheila Zompa, Warwick

FROM MASSACHUSETTS:

Kathleen Halpin, Seekonk
Edward A. Johnson, Taunton
Christina O'Sullivan, Braintree
Patrick J. Sullivan, Sr., Taunton
Charles J. Tenney, Sandwich

FROM ELSEWHERE:

Eleanor Beggins,
Garden City, NY
Angie Devinn,
Glen Oaks, NY
Mary Ellen Gough,
Mechanicsburg, PA
Edward McEaney,
Miller Place, NY
Mary McEaney
Floral Park, NY
Maryellen Sullivan
South Rutherford, NJ

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