



The Museum of Newport Irish History MNIH

First talk of our 23rd Annual Lecture Series

☞ *Made possible by a generous gift from Virginia Pittsley,* ☞
given in memory of her husband, Bill Pittsley & their son, Jay Pittsley

Dr. Grace and Mr. Bennett: Irish Newport's Gilded Age Leaders

Guest Speaker: Dr. John F. Quinn

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

**Wyndham Newport Hotel
240 Aquidneck Avenue, Middletown, R.I. 02842
and Live-Streamed via Zoom**

Historians of Newport's Gilded Age have tended to focus on the Vanderbilts and the Astors, and the other summer colonists, chronicling their extravagant social lives. However, the Irish, who were the largest population in Newport in this era, have been largely passed over.

This presentation looks at two men of Irish descent who were prominent figures in Newport's Gilded Age: Dr. Philip Grace, the longtime pastor of St. Mary's Church, and James Gordon Bennett, Jr., the flamboyant and unpredictable publisher of the *New York Herald*. Grace and Bennett's paths crossed on several occasions in the Gilded Age.

JOHN F. QUINN is Professor of History at Salve Regina University. He specializes in Irish history and American ethnic and religious history. He is the author of *The Rise of Newport's Catholics: From Colonial Outcasts to Gilded Age Leaders* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2024). This is his eleventh talk for the Museum.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m. Light hors d'oeuvres & Cash Bar available.

\$5 Lecture Fee is payable at door via cash or check to "MNIH." No fee to Zoom.

NOTE: Dr. Quinn's newly published book, *The Rise of Newport's Catholics*, will be available in the soft-cover edition for signature and sale following the talk at a special price of \$25.00 (cover price is \$32.95). Forms of payment accepted: Cash, Check (payable to John F. Quinn), or credit/debit card. To learn more about the book, go to www.UMassPress.com and type "Quinn" in the Search bar.

Reservations Required for In-Person and Zoom Participation

To reserve, visit www.NewportIrishHistory.org, click "Lectures," then the appropriate link to reserve under the Sept. 18 listing (In-person OR Zoom). You will receive an E-confirmation. If you do *not* see this email, check your spam. The talk will be videotaped, and a link will be available on our website's "Lectures" page.

Questions or Assistance with Registration: Contact Ann Arnold at (401) 841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net

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