



# THE NEWPORT MUSEUM OF IRISH HISTORY

## NMIH

P.O. BOX 1378  
NEWPORT, RI 02840

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### FUND RAISER A GREAT SUCCESS!

**F**EBRUARY 28TH WAS THE DATE OF A VERY SUCCESSFUL FUND RAISER! THE COCKTAIL/FUND-RAISER TURNED OUT TO BE A GALA EVENT, WITH OVER 80 IN ATTENDANCE. WITH A VERY NICE BUFFET OF HORS/DEU' VERS BY THE LaFORGE CREW, AND SOME REALLY WONDERFUL MUSIC BY JAYME HENNESSEY AND TONY GUERTIEREZ, IT COULDN'T HELP BUT BE A GREAT EVENING!

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDED MAYOR DAVID GORDON AND AL KLYBERG, DIRECTOR OF THE RHODE ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

MAYOR GORDAN WISHED OUR NEW MUSEUM ALL THE BEST, AND AL SPOKE ELOQUENTLY ABOUT THE NEEDS FOR SUCH MUSEUMS AS OURS, SO THAT THE YOUNG PEOPLE ESPECIALLY, CAN "PUT A FACE" ON HISTORY AND THE ITEMS, OR DOCUMENTATION THAT IS PRESENTED. OUR SPECIAL THANKS TO AL AND HIS WIFE WHO ACCOMPANIED HIM FROM UPSTATE.

PAUL CROWLEY AND HIS STAFF DID THEIR USUAL WONDERFUL JOB, AND A NICE EVENING WAS HAD BY ALL. OUR GRATEFUL THANKS LaFORGE.

AND NO ONE COULD LEAVE WHILE JAYME AND TONY WERE PERFORMING, AS THEY PLAYED AND SANG SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL IRISH MUSIC ONE COULD IMAGINE.

PRESIDENT VINCE ARNOLD THANKED ALL FOR THE TURNOUT AND THANKED ESPECIALLY THE 18 MEMBERS WHO HAVE BECOME LIFE PLANK MEMBER-

SHIP OWNERS. THE NEW PLAQUES WERE DISPLAYED AND GIVEN TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE. (SEE FURTHER IN THIS NEWSLETTER FOR A COMPLETE LISTING OF OUR LIFE/PLANK OWNERS TO DATE). ANYONE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A PLANK OWNEER, MAY DO SO BY SIGNING UP FOR A LIFE MEMBERSHIP DURING 1997. IF YOU HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP, SIMPLY INCREASE YOUR DUES TO THE LIFE MEMBERSHIP CATAGORY.

A HEARTY THANKS TO ALL WHO EHLPED, JOINED AND ASSISTED IN THIS WONDERFUL NIGHT!!

VINCE ARNOLD  
PRESIDENT

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### MEMBERSHIP

*We* now have 110 members! Quite an accomplishment in just six months since our "kick-off"! In addition, we now have 18 Life Members!

Vincent Arnold  
Martin J. Murphy III  
Robert T. McKenna  
Michael J. Behan  
Kathleen Connell  
Humphrey Donnelly III  
Harry Ray Clancey Jr.  
Ann Claire Clancey  
Patrick G. Kirby  
Joseph Carr  
St. Mary's Church  
James F. Mahoney  
Laforge Restaurant  
Tomas M. O'Floinn  
Moto Photo (Newport)  
John M. Fay  
Joseph McEnnes  
Paul J. McNeil, Jr.

**NEW MEMBERS**

Tomas M. O'Flóinn  
 John M. Fay  
 Joseph McEnness  
 Paul J. McNeil, Jr.  
 Thomas W. Donnelly

Welcome all!

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Speaking of memberships, we ask all of our members to help in recruiting new members, we are the primary source of our funding inspiration, ideas, memorabilia, old photos, etc. Here is an idea! how about giving a family member or friend a gift of a membership for a birthday or holiday?.

**SAVE THE DATE- - - OUR NEXT OPEN MEETING**

Monday, September 8th at 7:00 PM will be our next meeting for all members and interested public. This will be an interesting meeting with a theme of ancient Newport County cemeteries, with of course emphasis on the Barney Steet Cemetery.

Our speaker will be Ed. Conley and the subject will be on the old cemeteries in Newport County. We will have a special display about the Barney St. Cemetery, and at the conclusion of the meeting we will adjourn to view the Barney St. Cemetery. This will allow us time to discuss it's history with the committee members who have worked diligently to uncover so much of it's interesting past.

The Newport Historical Society has generously donated the use of their facilities for this meeting.

SO!! SAVE MONDAY, SPT. 8TH, 7:00 PM for the meeting at the Historical Society. Please make every effort to attend!!!

**ACCESSIONS**

The Museum has been given a number of items recently.

On loan: From Tom Byrnes; An original framed letter from **Eamon DeValera**.

A number of photos and documents of **Thomas Brady** from his daughter, Rita Brady Clarke

**How The Irish Saved Civilization**, by **Thomas Cahill** from **Joe McEnness**.

The audio tape of that book, thanks to **Walter Conley**

**PEACE BY ORDEAL**, by Frank Pakeham, written in 1935 by a witness to the 1921 Irish/English treaty), Thanks to Karen Weathers.

**EAMON DeVALERA** by Tim Pat Coogan. This makes a good companion book to **PEACE BY ORDEAL**.

Eight photos from 1931-1936 of De La Salle graduations and minstrel shows. Also a 1934 BPOE outing. Thanks to Rick O'Neill

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**SPEAKING OF ACCESSIONS**, The Museum would like someone to volunteer to become our **LIBRARIAN**. It is not too early to begin to put our small collection in proper order. If you would like to help us start this collection properly, please call Vince Arnold on 847-2890. Currently we have 10-12 books and a dozen or so papers, so the start up should not be difficult.

**OUR PROJECT-THE BARNEY STREET CEMETERY BY: Martin J. Murphy III, Chair.**

There has been a great deal of activity in the researching and updating of our records on the history of the Barney St. Cemetery. But in order to bring you up to date on the facts thus far, perhaps a short dissertation of the events known thus far.

The land (three lots originally) was purchased in April 1828 by Rt. Rev. Benedict Joseph Fenwick, second Bishop of Boston from Eleazar Trevitt. The land contained a school building. The parcel was purchased for \$1,100 and it became the first permanent Catholic Church in Rhode Island. The land in the rear of the school was used for a cemetery, which records show 24 Irish people are buried.

In 1843, Hartford became a diocese which comprised Connecticut and Rhode Island, thus assuming all rights to the (church) property and land within its domain. The title was vested over to Rt. Rev. William Barber Tyler, first Bishop of Hartford. He lived in Providence and attempted to have the Vatican change the name of the diocese to that of Providence. This did not happen, but he always signed his name with "Bishop of Providence".

In 1872, Rhode Island and Cape Cod became a diocese as the Diocese of Providence, under the Rt. Rev. Thomas F. Hendricken. In 1904, Cape Cod was detached from Providence and became a part of the Diocese of Fall River. It is assumed that at this time all property was turned over to the Diocese of Providence.

Returning to 1847, the Catholic population needed larger facilities and a plot on Warner St. was purchased for the St. Mary Cemetery and land on Spring St. for the building of the Holy Name of Mary, Our Lady of the Isle, by Rev. James Fitton. The new church was completed in 1852.

The building which was built in place of the old school on Barney St. was then vacated and moved to 19 Sherman St. where it still stands, as a private home, drastically changed due to a fire.

Our committee, Tom Mahoney and Skip Carter along with President Arnold (no, not that one) assisted by a committee of archeologists headed by Jim Garman and Paul Russo, along with Donna Callahan, Kirk Van Dyke and Ted Weisenhorn met at the site to perform some probing activities to determine if additional graves existed outside of the marked graves. Thus far, it resulted in the finding of one mound for a tablet misplaced and one stone buried next to the abutting home, about two inches below the ground and in perfect condition. It records the names of the infants buried in this cemetery.

During the probing, a neighbor, Brian Pellitier, who lives and owns property on Barney and Sherman Sts., and sort of takes care of the property (aside from the crew from St. Columba's) knew we were eventually proposing to install a wrought iron fence around that actual grave site. He offered between 8 and 12 granite posts in which to install the wrought iron. A grand gesture which did not take long to accept. Additionally, he has in the past, planted 3 Black Walnut trees on the MT Vernon St. side and a Beech tree on the property line abutting the Smith house.

Whilst probing, another shot in the arm, was the visit by a former president of the Hill Association, who is working on getting a gift of up to \$500.00 from that association. It is assumed that when this is a reality, they will want to know just how we intend to use it.

We expect to continue the probing for a few more times until we are sure that we will not be leaving any remains outside the proposed fencing.

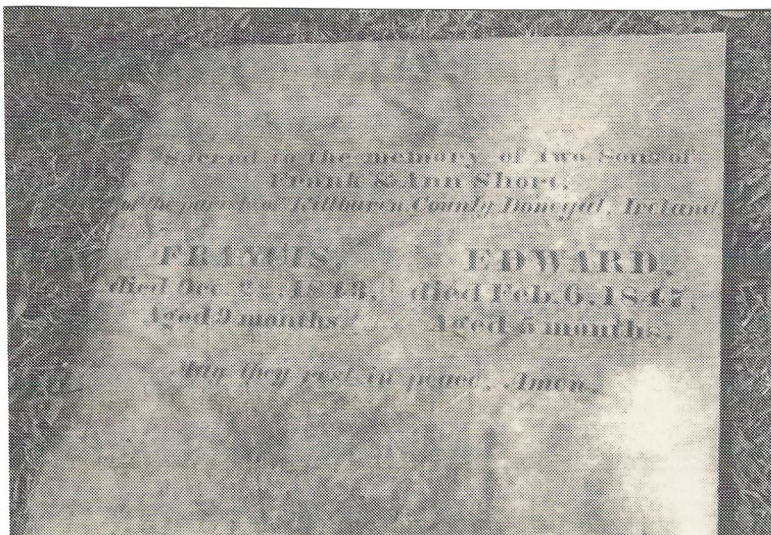
Below and on the opposite page and rear flap, are some photos taken by President Arnold on the day of the probing. They are identified as follows: Below, the stone found near the abutting house, self identified.



Above: L to R; Jim Garman, Donna Callahan and Bert Lippincott (NHS)



Martin Murphy, Jim Garman, Bert Lippincott and D. Callahan





Above: Digging where broken tombstone mount was found

Above: Donna Callahan, Brian Pellitier, Paul Russo and Martin Murphy

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