



THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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JOHN H. 'BLACKJACK' SULLIVAN- THE TEAMSTER



This photo, taken about 1900, shows many of "Blackjack" Sullivan's family at the Sullivan's barn on Narragansett Ave. Newport. The group is shown with the teamster's equipment (and farm animals). Identified are: Left, on wagon, Uncle Dan; kneeling, front row, left to right: James Donovan, Hannah (Sullivan) Donovan (James's wife), the baby on Hanna's lap is probably Charles (Neil) Donovan, Mrs. Voight, and Nana Sullivan (Blackjack's mother-in-law). Back row left: Helen Sullivan, daughter of "Blackjack"

Through the generosity of Charlie Donovan of West Narragansett Ave. the Museum is pleased to print this great old picture and the several that follow, depicting the 1890-1900 era and the Sullivan/Donovan family. John H. "Blackjack" Sullivan was born in County Cork in 1843, and he and his wife, Hannah and two children came to Newport in 1865. John set up his teamster business and was successful for many years. He and Hannah had seven other (continued-next pg)

The Sullivan Story- Continued

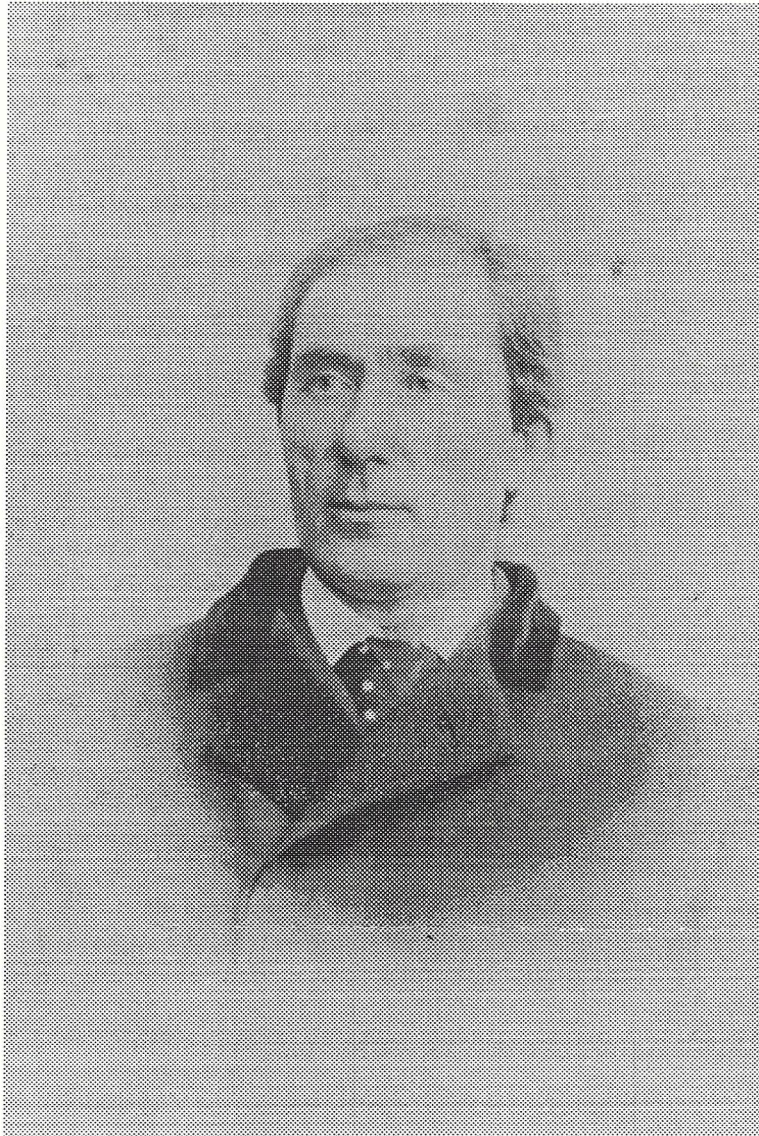
children and there are now hundreds of Sullivan and Donovan relations throughout the area and around the country. Charlie Donovan has done a great deal of research into these families and has also provided the Museum with copies of this work which lists up to seven generations of the families. Below are shown several other pictures of family members taken in the 1890-1900 time period.



Hannah(Sullivan)Donovan is shown fourth from the left(+). She was a cook for Bradford Norman at the Belair estate.



This is James Donovan in a 1896 photo taken in NYC. James was a butler at Oakwood-Spring and Narragansett Ave,



John H. "Blackjack" Sullivan
Shown in this picture taken
about 1870. John looks very
dapper indeed in this shot.
(There were several other
"Blackjack" Sullivans- but
John H.'s teamster work
certainly identifies him)

The Museum is very grateful to Charlie Donovan for donating his wonderful pictures and geneology of his family. He has many great stories to relate about the old days in the Fifth Ward. *We encourage others to assist the Museum with similar pictures and stories-- we are especially interested to find relatives who had served/worked at Ft. Adams. Please call me at 847-2890, or write to: P.O. Box 1378 Newport.*

Update on 19 Sherman Street

As noted in recent editions (July 23rd/24th) of the Providence Journal and the Newport Daily News, the owner of the structure on Sherman Street has decided to dismantle the old building. Jack Dyer had hoped that the report from the 'blue ribbon' committee of local and state experts would have verified conclusively that this was indeed the original Barney Street school-house of Eleazor Trevett, which became St. Joseph's Church, the oldest parish church building in the state.

The Museum also has been working on this structure to determine it's origins, and it is felt that while specific documentation might not exist, the circumstantial evidence is very strong that this is indeed THE structure. (Note : Work by Dr. James Garman-"The Lot Much Too Small--" and architect Richard Long's conclusions)

Currently, architect Long together with Rick Greenwood from the State Historic Preservation and Heritage Commission and Myron Stachiw, architectural historian are working on detailed drawings (by Long) to 'tag' all of the important, historically significant members of the building that should be salvaged. The Museum is hoping to organize an effort to save these significant parts of the building for later restoration.

In addition to these efforts, the Newport Historical Society has offered to assist the Museum in writing a grant proposal to further study the Sherman Street area in an attempt to find additional data or information that could finally solve the 'ancestry' of the early 1800's building.

Membership news- News of Members

The Museum welcomes the following new members:

Tim and Ann May--- Newport

The Cardinal Family-- Portsmouth

Alexandra O'Donnell---Newport

A Member in the News:

John F. Quinn of Salve University, has been at the University of Notre Dame's Keough Institute of Irish Studies. John is the author of "Father Matthew's Crusade: Temperance in 19th Century Ireland and Irish America". John spoke at the Museum's 2000 Annual meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS-NOT TO BE MISSED

*** *The 3rd Annual A.O.H/Museum Steak Night*

Save the date-- Saturday, August 25th

The 3rd Annual Steak Night is sponsored by the AOH with proceeds donated to the Museum. (\$2 of the \$12 ticket donation) Also, as usual, the Museum will benefit from a raffle to be held.

This year we have some *very interesting items to be given away-* for instance, two tickets to a Celtics game, and a weekend 'away'.

We'll also have Irish/and 'other' music.

To reserve for this very popular event-Must be paid in advance :

Call: Bob Watkins @ 849-3530, or 'Skip' Carter @ 683-4137

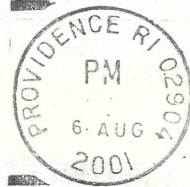
** Irish Music Festival -- On the waterfront-- Labor Day weekend. The Museum will share a booth with the A.O.H., where we will help sell raffle tickets to benefit both the AOH scholarship fund *and the Museum*. The Museum will also participate by presenting several talks on Irish history. We will also have our new video of the Irish in Newport for sale. (Anyone wishing to assist in helping, please call Vince Arnold @ 847-2890.

** THE BATTLE OF KINSALE-- A talk to be given by Dermot Ryan from Kinsale, will be sponsored by the Museum. Dermot will be here in late November, and details of time/place will be announced.

A MEMORIAL

We note in passing the death of Edwin W. Connelly of Jamestown. Ed was one of the Museum's original "Planque" members, and an ardent supporter of the Museum's work and goals. Among his vast accomplishments was the documentation of more than 2,000 historical burial grounds in the State. Ed was the first cemeteries director for the state, and worked for the Ft. Adams restoration for many years.

THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY
P.O. BOX 1378
NEWPORT, RI 02840



Leonard J. Panaggio
44 Old Beach Rd.
Newport
R.I.
02840

02840+3343



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