



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

Published by the Museum of Newport Irish History
P.O. Box 1378 Newport, RI 02840 (401) 848-0661

VOLUME 18

SUMMER 2006

MUSEUM CELEBRATES TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Greenvale Vineyards in Portsmouth on July 13 was the venue for the Tenth Anniversary Celebration of the Newport Museum of Irish History. About 50 Museum members and friends gathered to enjoy sumptuous Greenvale wines and delicious hors d'oeuvres created by chef Dave Downes. President Arnold thanked those assembled for their support over the past 10 years. He recalled the Museum's initial project, the restoration and dedication of the St. Joseph/Barney Street Cemetery, the ongoing success of the Michael F. Crowley Fall/Winter speaker series, and the tours of Irish Newport, as well as plans for a Museum interpretive site at Fort Adams.



Museum members and friends enjoying the ambiance at Greenvale Vineyards.



2006–07 FALL/WINTER CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES TO START IN NOVEMBER—SAVE THE DATES

The Museum's first lecture of the 2006–2007 Michael F. Crowley Lecture Series will be held Thursday, November 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the La Forge Casino Restaurant. The speaker will be Professor William Matthews, PhD, from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. The lecture will focus on the Irish Civil War that followed the signing of the treaty with Great Britain that ended the British-Irish war in 1921. Members will receive a notice for reservations. Members may

recall Professor Matthews's October 2005 lecture in which he discussed the Irish Rising of 1916, the people involved, and the events that followed.

The second Crowley lecture in the fall/winter series is scheduled for Thursday, November 30, at the La Forge Casino Restaurant. The speaker will be Nancy Lusignan Schultz, author of *Fire & Roses* (Northeastern University Press, 2000), the story of deep-seated bigotry and the burning of the Ursuline Convent in Charlestown (Boston) in 1834.

September 1691 saw the beginning of the siege of Limerick, the culmination of the Jacobite War. The Irish army was led by Patrick Sarsfield, a great general and Irish hero. The English forces were led by General Ginkel. The battle ended October 3rd with the signing of the Treaty of Limerick. Limerick was the final area of Ireland to succumb to English forces during the Jacobite War. Though the Irish were defeated, under the treaty those in the region were allowed the freedom to practice their religion and to retain their properties. The treaty also allowed Sarsfield and 14,000 soldiers to flee to France. The soldiers' flight was later referred to as "The Flight of the Geese". They afterwards fought for the French against the English in a number of battles on the Continent.

Subsequently, the English Parliament refused to ratify the Treaty of Limerick and renounced any leniency for Catholics and their right to retain

property. There also followed the infamous 'Penal Laws' of the 1690s (to contemporaries the Popal Laws), and early 1700s which denigrated the Irish Catholics by disallowing them any governmental positions, confiscating their property, and denying their religious freedom.

NOTE ON IRISH HISTORY

Of related local interest, Museum Historian Patrick Murphy has noted a number of references to the Newport Patrick Sarsfield Association in the late 1800s and early 1900s in the files of the *Newport Daily News*. One notice in the October 17, 1896, *Daily News* reported "The Patrick Sarsfield Association gave its Fourth Annual Ball in Odd Fellows Hall last night when a good sized gathering of dancers was assembled. The floor was under the direction of P.R. Condon, with George Levett as assistant, and Joseph P. Keefe, James Byrnes, Edward McCarthy, M.J. Conheeney, William Flynn, John Fagan, and Michael Lacy as aides. The Elite orchestra furnished music."

Through the generous help of new Museum member Jack McCormick, the Museum's display cases in the Visitor Center at Fort Adams were significantly updated and enhanced in time for the increase in summer visitors. Jack added a number of samples of original materials used in the Fort's construction, including



bricks produced in nearby Barrington and granite from Maine. Jack also added tools to the display, such as those used by the workers during the Fort's construction, which took place between 1824 and 1857.

MUSEUM DISPLAY AT THE FORT ADAMS VISITOR CENTER UPDATED



Above: One of the recently enhanced displays at the Fort Adams Visitor Center; *Left:* a "Barrington brick"

MUSEUM ANNUAL FUND DRIVE TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

The Museum's Board of Directors has announced that an Annual Fund Drive will begin this October. This is the first annual drive in the Museum's 10-year history. In the past, the Museum has relied on fundraisers, grants and dues to provide the monies necessary to fund speaker programs, produce the newsletter, buy office supplies and equipment, etc. However, as we prepare for the next five to ten years and plan for the creation of an interpretive site at Fort Adams, the Museum must raise significant funds. Annual Fund notices will be mailed in early October in advance of the year-end solicitations typically sent by nonprofit organizations. The Museum of Newport Irish History is an IRS-certified 501c(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible and corporate matching gift forms are encouraged. Please look for our appeal in the mail and be as generous as you can.

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WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Museum welcomes recent new members

From Newport:

Shawn Burns

John Burns

Roy H. Callahan

Patricia Curran Presnall

Francis Donal O'Brien & Ellen O'Brien

Cay Whipple

From Jamestown:

Jack McCormack

From Westerly:

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas A. O'Connell

From Warwick:

Jean Wickenden

New Life Members:

David & Julie Arnold—Ashburnham, MA

Carolann D. Brown—Portsmouth, RI

Deanna Casey—Newport, RI

William & Karen Day—Middletown, RI

William & Mary McNally—Middletown, RI

Lorene Sorensen, Esq.—Moscow, ID

F. J. St. Germain, Newport, RI

Lisette St. Germain, PhD—Newport, RI

Carl & Margaret Weiss—Heathsville, VA

WELCOME TO ALL AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Visit the Museum's new website, www.newportirishhistory.com, and bookmark it in your browser for the latest membership information, schedule of events, list of officers, and other information of interest.

MUSEUM DONATION REQUEST

A new or used laptop computer in good condition is needed on which to run Powerpoint presentations and DVDs. If you are able to donate this item please contact Vincent Arnold at (401) 847-2890 or vjarnold@cox.net. A receipt for tax purposes will gladly be provided.

Museum's IRS Form 990 is filed.

Treasurer Bill Nagle has completed the IRS Form 990, the annual financial statement for the Museum for fiscal year April 1, 2005, to March 31, 2006. All IRS-certified, non-profit organizations are required to complete and file this statement, which is available for public review. If you would like to review this financial data, please call Bill Nagle at (401) 846-8499 or President Vince Arnold at (401) 847-2890.

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

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Check Membership: ☐ Individual(\$10/yr) ☐ Family(\$20/Yr) ☐ Life(\$100) ☐ Business(\$35/yr)

Amount enclosed \$ _____ (Donations are tax deductible—a 501(c)3 organization)

Mail to: The Museum of Newport Irish History, P.O. Box 1378, Newport, RI 02840

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