



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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VOLUME 10

SUMMER 2003

FALL/WINTER LECTURE SERIES BEGINS

BOSTON COLLEGE'S SEAMUS CONNOLLY PRESENTS A PROGRAM ON IRISH MUSIC

SEAMUS CONNOLLY, Director of Irish Studies Music and Dance Programs, Master Fiddler, Director, Gaelic Roots program, and Irish Music Archivist at Boston College will lead off the 2nd Annual Michael E. Crowley Lecture Series on Thursday, October 23rd, at 6 PM at LaForge Casino Restaurant.

Seamus Connolly has made many recordings, including *The Twentieth Anniversary Collection* (Green Linnet Records 1996); *Masters of Folk Violin* (Arhoolie Records 1989); *Celtics Rise Again* (Green Linnet Records 1990). He has also produced recordings, such as *The Keltic Kids*, (Epona Records 1994), and written books and articles including "Musical Heroes" for *Treoir Magazine* 1991, and a new publication, *Irish Music Tune Book*.

Seamus's program will be entitled "An evening of Irish traditional music, different languages and stories."

Don't miss this great program to begin the Museum's new lecture series. Please call Skip Carter at (401) 683-4137 for reservations—a must, as space is limited!



Historic Census Document Records Irish Presence in Newport County in 1774

Through the generosity of the Rhode Island Secretary of State, an 1858 reprint of the *Census of the Inhabitants of the Colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations Taken by Order of the General Assembly, in the year of 1774*, was donated to the Museum. The census contains interesting information about the Irish community in Newport County at that time.

Historically, Newport was one of the largest and most important ports in America in 1774, and was the leading city in Rhode Island at that time. So it is not surprising to note in the census that Newport had 9,208 residents, while Providence had 4,321. Newport County had a total population of 15,352.

The Newport census lists 70 families with a total of 220 Irish (Irish born or of Irish descent), Familiar Irish names that appear are: Burk(Burke), Collins, Casey, Cowley, Kelly, Martin, and Tracy. Also, nine Larkin family members are listed. Larkin is the oldest Irish name mentioned in Newport history, dating from the mid 1600's.

Other Newport County data includes Middletown, population 881 with 26 Irish including Hoar, Dyer(Dwyer), and several Smiths and Browns. Portsmouth's population was 1,512, with 28 Irish

including Kurby(Kirby) and Martin. Jamestown's population was 563, with only five Irish identified. It is interesting to note that Jamestown had 163 blacks listed with eight families having six or more blacks. It must be assumed that the blacks were likely mostly slaves at this time, and were working the farms in that town. Tiverton's population was 1,956, with the Irish names Bowen, Brown and Hart comprising a community of 29 Irish. One of the greatest concentrations of Irish noted in the census was in Little Compton, where, of a total population of 1,232, 106 had Irish surnames. There are two names that account for the comparatively large number of Irish here: Hart with five families totalling 27 members, and Shaw with eight families accounting for 49 members. Regarding the Shaw name, MacLysaght's *Irish Families* states, "Shaw is quite a common name in Ireland, especially in north-east Ulster. . . . The main Shaw family in Ireland is that of Bushy Park, Terenure, Dublin. . . .Mid-seventeenth records . . . show the name was not uncommon then both in Dublin and . . . Ulster. . . ."

Of the total Newport County population of 15,352, only 414 were Irish or of Irish descent, or only about 3%.

NEW MUSEUM LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS

The Twilight Lords

by *Richard Berleth*

1978, reprinted 1994

This is a superb account of the Elizabethan wars of conquest of Ireland in the 1500s up to and including the battle of Kinsale in 1601.

State Papers Concerning the Irish Church in the Time of Queen Elizabeth

by *W. M. Brady, DD.*

Published in London 1868.

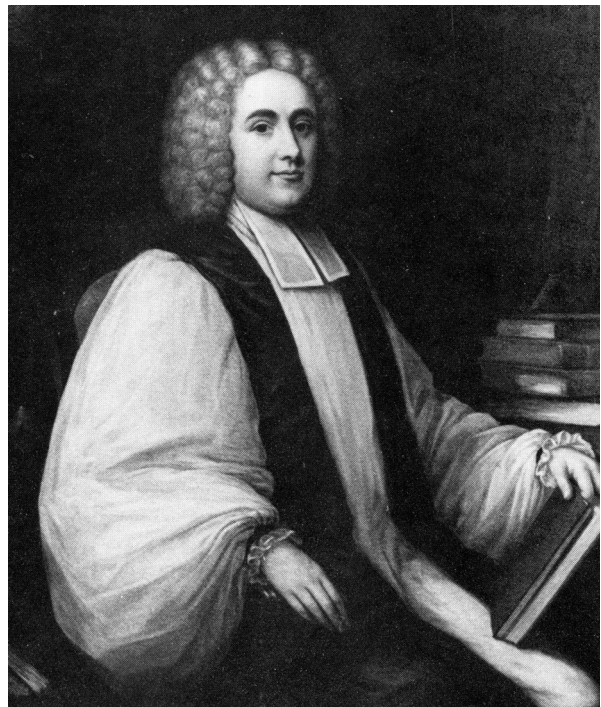
This book is a collection of letters and documents relating to the status of the Church of Ireland (Anglican) during the 1500s. It ties in beautifully with the *The Twilight Lords* mentioned above. Letters and documents released 300 years after the events described, show a chilling pattern of English tactics and legal maneuverings used in attempting to subdue the Irish people. The letters and documents also reveal the terrible physical condition of the Irish Church buildings and the lack of attendance.

Images of Berkeley

by *Houghton, Berman and Lapan*

National Gallery of Ireland

This is a superb pictorial record of Bishop Berkeley's life as recorded in many paintings painted during his lifetime or shortly thereafter. The famous Smibert paintings of Berkeley and his group, currently hanging in Middletown's Whitehall, are beautifully reproduced. Shown is the painter Pratt's copy of a Smibert painting from the collection of Houghton, Lapan and McKenna, that has recently been hung in the Rhode Island State House. (Yes, Bob McKenna is the Museum's Vice President!)



BISHOP BERKLEY, after Smibert.

Oil on canvas. 42 x 52".

Painted by Henry Cheevers Pratt, 1803-1880

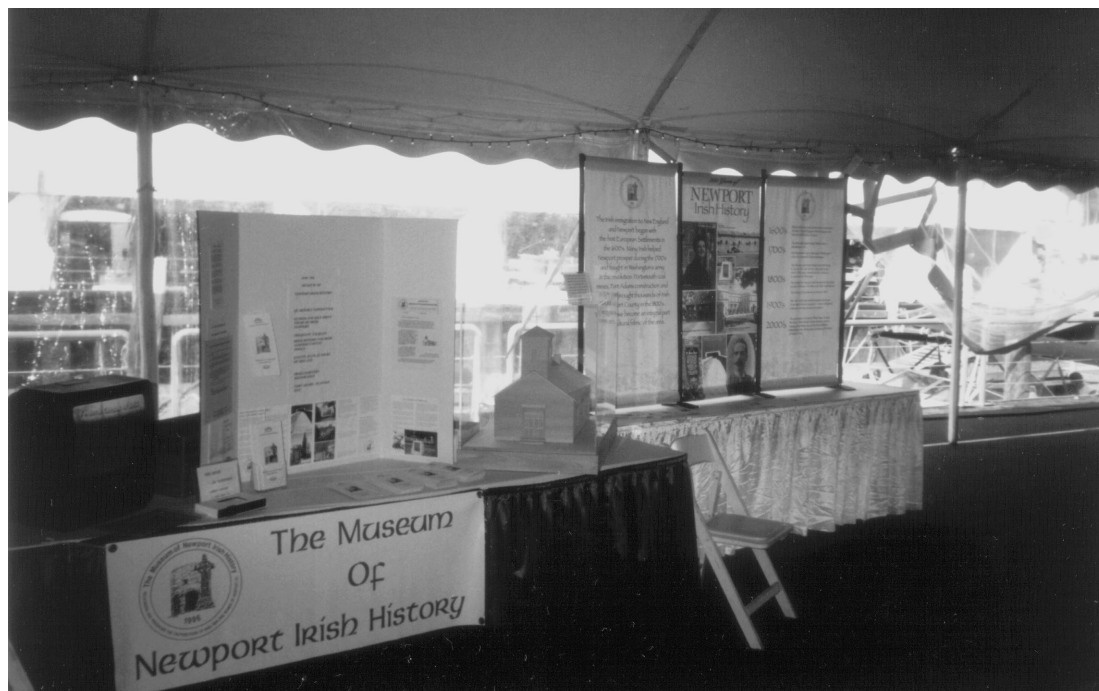
MUSEUM ACTIVITIES — *SUMMER OF 2003*

NEW OFFICE

Through the generosity of the State Historical Preservation and Heritage Commission the Museum now has office space in the Eisenhower House at Ft. Adams State Park. The office will allow for better organization and filing as well as the installation of a computer system. Our new e-mail address is: musirish@earthlink.net. We are also developing a website on which we will be able to post Museum activities as well as a feature on Irish in Newport County. The web site will be on: <http://home.earthlink.net/~musirish.htm>.

MUSEUM HOSTS BOOTH AT NEWPORT IRISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Museum hosted a booth at the Newport Music Festival, courtesy of the Festival organization. The Festival which ran from Friday, August 30th through Monday, September 1st was well attended and many stopped by to view our displays and chat with our volunteers about the Irish in Newport. Many thanks to Pat Murphy, Bob McKenna, Gary Gagne, Bill and Babe Nagle, Martin Murphy III, Tim May and Ned McGrath who helped man the booth through the long weekend.



**OLD COLONY/NEWPORT RAILROAD
MUSEUM TRAIN RIDE
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19TH 3 PM**

Come and join your friends and museum members for great views of Narragansett Bay and the super Fall Foliage.

Enjoy hearty hors d'oeuvres, sodas and mixers—bring your own beverage (BYOB), too! Tasty food to include “wings”, meatballs, chili, finger sandwiches and more.

All for only \$15 each!

Don't miss out on this terrific train ride. Reservations are a must as seating is limited.

Fill out the form below and rush your check by Monday, October 13th.

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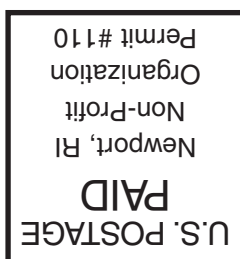
Name(s) _____

Address _____

Amount Enclosed \$ _____ (Make checks payable to: MNIH).

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

For more information call Maria at (401)846-8865.



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Newport, RI 02840

TRIP TO IRELAND FOR TWO — MUSEUM RAFFLE WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Museum's very successful raffle of two tickets to Ireland, including accommodations and a rental car, was concluded at the AOH-sponsored Steak Night Saturday, September 20.

AND THE WINNER IS:

Katherine O'Hallaron! Congratulations!