

Horgan

Patrick Henry Horgan was born in Newport on St. Patrick's day in 1846 to Dennis and Bridget Horgan, one of four children. Educated in the public schools in Newport, Patrick Horgan grew up to become one of Newport's most successful businessmen.

At the age of fifteen, Patrick Horgan served in the Civil War as a cabin boy to Captain Marin, an Irishman serving in the United States Navy. Marin obviously influenced Horgan deeply, for he named his five daughters after Capt. Marin's daughters (Horgan and his wife also had three sons). Marin had a deep influence not only on Patrick Horgan, but on others in Newport as well, for Marin street was named after him.

Patrick Horgan's wife, Mary Helen Ryan, was born in Ireland in 1853. They met when she was visiting in Newport enroute to Chicago where she had relatives. After their marriage, the couple lived on Gould Street and later at 239 Broadway.

Horgan's business life began as a grocer, but he was quick to realize the value of real estate in a time of the establishment of the summer colony in Newport. The Pond Avenue area, where he, along with Constant Smith, first built eight small cottages in 1873, became known to the community as Kerry Hill for the large number of Irish Americans who lived there. Throughout his life Horgan continued to acquire property both in Newport as well as in nearby Jamestown.

His interests in Jamestown included the Thorndike Hotel which he owned and managed. A rendezvous of the New York Yacht Club on its annual cruise, the first Thorndike was destroyed by fire. The fire was fought by the United States Navy to no avail. Horgan was in Jamestown the very next day to begin building the second Thorndike hotel.

A skilled administrator, when involved in litigation Horgan always defended himself without legal counsel and never lost a case. In addition he had a well-known penchant for buying corner lots. His election to the city council attests to his reputation as a careful financial manager.

Patrick Horgan died in Newport in 1932 and is buried in St. Columba's Cemetery and his father Dennis Horgan is buried in the Warner Street Cemetery. His wife Mary Ryan Horgan died in 1947 and is buried with her husband.

There are many Horgans of the following generation still living in Newport, and much of their father's land is still in family hands. Like so many other of the families examined here, the Horgan family has been tied together for almost a century through the business activities of the sons of the second generation.