



# THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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## THE BARNEY STREET IRISH CEMETERY: HISTORY & RECENT ACTIVITIES

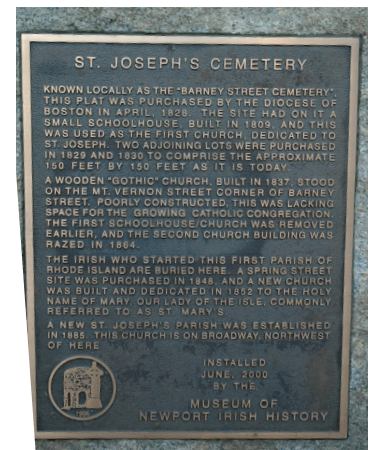
The beautiful and historic St. Joseph/Barney Street Cemetery is located at the corner of Barney and Mount Vernon Streets, a short stroll from Washington Square, and behind the Newport Historical Society headquarters and Touro Synagogue. Established in the 1830s, it was the first Irish cemetery in the State of Rhode Island and is the final resting place of many of Newport's earliest Irish residents. The oldest marked burial is 1830, the most recent is from 1853. At the time the cemetery property was purchased, a simple wooden building, originally constructed as a schoolhouse, stood on the adjacent lot. That building would serve as the house of worship for Rhode Island's first Catholic parish. The number of worshipers grew, fueled by immigration from Ireland, so a larger wooden church was constructed on the site and dedicated to Saint Joseph, in 1837. The parish continued to expand and soon outgrew the 1837 building, so plans were made to construct a larger and more grand permanent replacement church. Irish architect Patrick C. Keely designed a beautiful Gothic Revival church, which stands at the corner of Spring and William Streets. Construction began in 1848, and the church was completed and dedicated to "The Holy Name of Mary, Our Lady of the Isle," in 1852. A new, much larger cemetery was established to support the growing St. Mary's parish on Kingston Avenue, in 1848, rendering the cemetery on Barney Street obsolete.



Photo by: Bonnie Slein

Back Row: John Rok, Ann Arnold May, Pat Cawley, Dan Titus, Jack McCormack, Mike Slein, Ed Webb, Brian O'Keefe  
Kneeling: Ben Titus, Edith Fletcher, Steve Marino

In 1999, The Museum of Newport Irish History assumed responsibility for the upkeep of the Barney Street Cemetery which had become completely overgrown and was in a state of neglect. The Diocese of Providence was pleased to have the Museum restore and care for the first Irish-Catholic cemetery in Rhode Island. Members of the museum restored the gravestones, most of which were buried and broken, graded the land, planted



perennial flowers and trees, installed the granite posts and wrought iron fence that today surround the gravestones. A granite boulder with a bronze plaque telling the history of the site, pictured on page 1, was installed in June, 2000. Today, we are fortunate to have many volunteers who generously donate their time to the periodic cleaning, weeding, pruning and planting required to maintain the beauty and dignity of this historic and sacred place. We are also fortunate to have B.B. Barker Landscape Gardner under contract to handle the mowing of the large corner lot.

On May 3 a large and enthusiastic group of Museum members and neighbors joined together for the annual “spring cleaning” at the cemetery, which was followed by a pizza, beer and wine social. Veteran and first-time volunteers, many of whom are pictured on page 1, included: Barbara Bessette, Carolyn Evans-Carbery, Pat Cawley, Denny and Jane Demers, Dan Titus, Cluny School Grade 7 students Ben Titus and Edith Fletcher, Joan Galvin, Jan Gump, Winkle Kelley, Pete Marnane, Steve Marino, Ann Arnold May, Jack McCormack, Brian O’Keefe, John Rok, Kurt Schlichting, Bonnie and Mike Slein, Brian Sullivan and Ed Webb. Museum member and owner of PDC Landscaping, Patrick Carlisle, once again generously donated the garden mulch the group used to beautify the grounds and deter weeds. The grounds have never looked better, thanks to the help of our dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the cemetery please write [NewportIrishHistory@gmail.com](mailto:NewportIrishHistory@gmail.com) or phone Cemetery lead, Jack McCormack, at 401-835-3243.

Last November, Daniel O’ Donnell of Boy Scout Troop 3 in Newport designed his Eagle Scout Project with the goal of revitalizing and upgrading the cemetery with the help of his fellow Scouts and their parents. An Eagle Project is quite extensive with many months of planning and preparation. The main cleanup event took place on November 18, 2016. The Scouts removed all plants and weeds from the grounds surrounding the iron fence and from the boulder/commemorative plaque garden, disposed of the weeds and placed the perennial plants



Photo courtesy of Boy Scout Troop 3.

on tarps. They tilled and added compost to the soil. The Scouts then divided the day lilies, irises, hosta and ornamental grasses prior to replanting. They also removed invasive weeds entwining the fence, a tedious task, and applied D/2 Biological Solution to clean and remove accumulated dirt and bio-growths, e.g. mold, from the headstones. They cleaned and raked the entire lot. Their collective work contributed to the long-term maintenance and beautification of the site, and made this spring’s cleanup significantly easier than prior years. Thank you to Eagle Scout Dan, his parents and his fellow scouts of Troop 3. You truly made a difference and we are deeply indebted to you!

During the summer of 2016, Scott Lemieux, a dedicated Fort Adams volunteer and friend of the Museum, volunteered his significant expertise and much personal time to travel to Western R.I. in order to obtain the granite slabs used to create a beautiful bench that now graces the cemetery site. Scott trimmed and ground the pieces of granite to ensure a proper fit and, with the assistance of Jack



Left to right: Jack McCormack, Scott Lemieux, Larry Davis



McCormack and Larry “Tractor” Davis, they installed the bench near the corner of the lot on the Mt. Vernon Street side. Soon afterwards, on August 2, the Board of Directors assembled at the cemetery to inspect the trio’s fine work and to pose for the photo, at the top of page 13.

Our profound thanks to all mentioned above and all prior cemetery volunteers whose collective efforts have created a truly special place. All members are encouraged to visit the cemetery this summer and enjoy the serenity and beauty of the new bench and revitalized grounds.

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## THE BARNEY STREET IRISH CEMETERY: STORIES OF EARLY PARISHIONERS

BY STEVE MARINO

**T**he cemetery on the corner of Barney and Sherman Streets in Newport stands in testimony, not only to the church that stood on the site, but also to the Catholic community that was established in Newport during the late 1820s and 30s. Recently, the Museum of Newport Irish History has developed some stories about the lives of those earliest parishioners. One of those stories comes to us from the diary of a granddaughter of one of Newport’s earliest Irish Catholics, John Quigley. Quigley was a laborer at Fort Adams and met another worker at the fort, Patrick Duggan. Duggan convinced John to travel to Boston where Quigley was introduced to Patrick’s sister, Margaret Duggan. Margaret and John were married in the church on Barney Street in January of 1833 and, according to the diary of their granddaughter, one of Margaret’s attendants, Johanna Quirk remembered the little edifice was crowded and the bride was beautiful. Another attendant was Julia Aylward, one of the four daughters of Thomas and Ellen Aylward. The bans of marriage were published in a Protestant church three times to conform to the law. This story suggests a vibrant and organized community of Catholics twenty years before the building of St. Mary’s Church on William Street.

John Ring and Daniel McCarty were also parishioners at St. Joseph’s Church on Barney Street. Both Ring and McCarty were Irish immigrants who lived in Boston in 1826. What binds together the stories of Ring and McCarty is that the two Irishmen each married daughters of George Cox of Newport, Edith and Mary. Neither Edith nor Mary were Catholic and when the two couples were married in 1826, there was no Catholic Church in Newport so the marriages were performed at Trinity Church. However, when St. Joseph’s Church was established in 1828, Edith Cox Ring, at the age of 27, was baptized into the Catholic faith. Also that year, Margaret, the Rings’ first child, was also baptized in the church on Barney Street. Two years later, Elizabeth Ring was born and was baptized at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church on Barney Street.

The story of the other Cox sister, Mary, is tragic. Mary Cox first married Henry Freeborn of Newport sometime before 1821. Henry and Mary Freeborn had three daughters between 1821 and 1826 and then, suddenly, Henry Freeborn died, leaving a young widow with three daughters under the age of six. Enter Daniel McCarty. McCarty married the young widow and took in her three daughters, Elizabeth, Catherine and Ann.

When Bishop Benedict Fenwick came to Newport to consecrate the new St. Joseph’s Church in November of 1828 he administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to eleven adults. Edith Cox Ring and her sister Mary Cox Freeborn McCarty are listed in Fenwick’s journal.

Little is known about the three Freeborn/McCarty daughters, but we know plenty about the children of John Ring and Edith Cox. After Margaret and Elizabeth, the Rings had two sons, George and John Jr. The two daughters both married into the long-established Newport Protestant Gladding family. Both Margaret and Elizabeth were married outside the Catholic Church. Both Margaret and Elizabeth are buried in Island Cemetery in Newport. George Ring never married, but his brother, John Ring, Jr., married another Irish Catholic newcomer to Newport, Jane Brennan. John Ring, Jr. and Mary Brennan had nine children between 1856 and 1879. These children were the ancestors of a multitude of Irish Catholic families whose lives began in the Barney Street Catholic community and still have an enormous impact on the Newport Community today.

#### AUTHOR SOURCES

Records from the Archdiocese of Boston, *The Newport Mercury*, *The Boston Newsletter and City Record*, *The Rhode Island Republican* and various United States Census and Rhode Island Census records.

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*Steve "Enzo" Marino, the author, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Museum of Newport Irish History and an avid student of local Irish History. He is a retired High School teacher who currently serves as a designated Tour Guide at Fort Adams. During the past two years he led a research effort on local Irish families who participated in the construction of Fort Adams during the period 1824-1857. His efforts were instrumental in The Providence Children's Museum constructing of a large, interactive historical exhibit of Fort Adams, which will be on display for the next two years.*

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## MODEL OF ST. MARY'S CHURCH DONATED TO INTERPRETIVE CENTER

In December of last year, Father Kris von Maluski, pastor of St. Mary's and St. Augustin's parishes, donated a scale replica of St Mary, Our Lady of the Isle Church to the Interpretive Center. This beautifully detailed scale model measures approximately thirty inches by thirty inches and is exquisitely detailed and diligently decorated to reflect the beauty of the church during a snowfall. The designer incorporated interior lighting which is truly spectacular when lit.

The model resided in a corner of the third-floor gymnasium of the former St. Mary's School building for some years. Father Kris was concerned that it might sustain damage and desired that it be placed where others could enjoy its beauty.

While the designer/builder of the model is unknown, we do know that the model is at least 60 years old. St. Mary's Pastor Emeritus, Rev. George B. McCarthy, recalls that the model was at the church when he arrived in Newport in 1957. It is possible that the model was constructed as part of the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the church's dedication (1852-1952), but that has not been substantiated.



Photo by Mike Slein

*The donated model.*

We do know that Barbara O'Neill, wife of Board member Rick, and Peg Whitford, also an Irish Museum member, restored it several years ago to its current pristine condition. The restoration was in honor of Fr. McCarthy's retirement, and the model was displayed at his retirement celebration at the Hotel Viking on June 30, 2013. The model, pictured above, may now be viewed at the Interpretive Center. In the near future, it is to be encased in a custom display case. We are indebted to Fr. Kris for his insight and generosity. Please thank him when you see him for this most meaningful addition to the Museum's Interpretive Center.



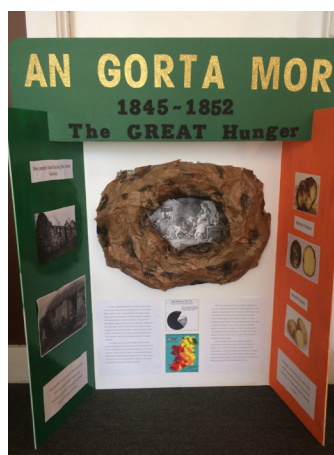
Front: Elsa Eliasson; Olin Martins; Colin McCabe; Stella Garcia; Mia Stevenson; Julia McGinn; John Rangel; Chanelle Butler  
Rear: Alyssa Berry; William Feury; history teacher, Steve Ferris, Cailin Martin; MNIH pres., Mike Slein

## ROGERS STUDENTS “GREAT HUNGER” PROJECTS ON DISPLAY AT INTERPRETIVE CENTER

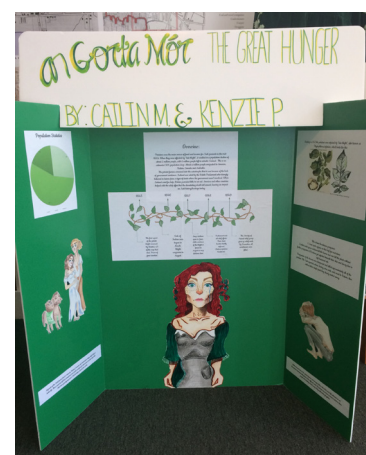
Stephen Ferris, Board Member and veteran history teacher at Rogers High School, visited the Interpretive Center on March 30 with a group of his 9th Grade Honors students whose class projects on the “Great Hunger” (*An Gorta Mór* in Irish) were selected to be displayed at the Center during the upcoming 2017 visitor season which commences Saturday, May 27. This marks the second year that the class projects have been on display at the Center.

During the March 30 visit, many of the students’ parents accompanied them as they were interviewed by staff reporter, Sean Flynn, for a feature article which appeared in the *Newport Daily News* on March 31, at the conclusion of Newport “Irish Heritage Month.” This article may be read by visiting the “Press” page on the Museum’s website, [www.NewportIrishHistory.org](http://www.NewportIrishHistory.org).

Select projects will be displayed each week. Participating and visiting students, many depicted in the above photo, included: Alyssa Berry, Lily Bestoso, Anna Bodycoat, Nate Buchannan, Chanelle Butler, Elsa Eliasson, Will Feury, Stella Garcia, Cailin Martin, Olin Martins, Colin McCabe, Julia McGinn, Dylan McGrath, Shea Millburn, Maeve Newsome, Kenzie Palmer, John Rangel, and Mia Stevenson. Those students who requested membership in the Museum were given gift memberships. We welcome their contribution to Irish History and look forward to seeing our newest members and their parents!



Project of Colin McCabe.



Photos by Mary Ellen Bronson  
Project of Cailin Martin and Kenzie Palmer.



# SPEAKER PROGRAM UPDATE

The 15th Annual Michael F. Crowley lecture Series concluded this spring, following the presentation of five diverse, informative and entertaining lectures. More than 800 individuals attended these five presentations, and it's noteworthy that the lecture series continues to be the primary driver for new memberships. Ann Arnold May is to be commended for this superb collection of topics and compelling presenters. We are also grateful for the input of Board member, Prof. John Quinn, History Dept. Chair of Salve Regina University, and the assistance of a dedicated team of volunteer event support staff, board members and non-board members alike. Ann is already working on this coming year's schedule, the kick-off lecture to be announced in late summer. Dan Titus, Board member and Associate Director of User Support Services, Dept. of Informational Technology, at Salve Regina University, is now videotaping each presentation (with presenter's consent), for the Museum library and members' use. We hope to be able to provide access to these recordings via the Museum's website, "Lectures" page in the very near future.

The oftentimes sold-out lectures also speak to the quality of the social experience, enhanced through the generous in-kind support of Peter Crowley and the La Forge Casino Restaurant. For many years, the restaurant has provided a cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres for the post-lecture reception. The Museum holds the Crowley lectures in the International Tennis Hall of Fame special events room, which is adjacent to their museum and directly above the La Forge, accessible by elevator. Peter's staff graciously welcomes our members for dinner at the La Forge, before and after our lectures, and many a memorable evening has been enjoyed by our members and their friends. Upon the recent announcement of the sale of the restaurant, Peter and the new owners, Matt Jones and Brendan O'Donnell, assured us that the La Forge will continue their support of the lectures series and we hope our members also continue to patronize the restaurant on Crowley Lecture evenings – and others. The collaboration has been a true "win-win" for our membership and the La Forge!

## 2016 – 2017 MICHAEL F. CROWLEY LECTURE SERIES

- September 20, 2016: Margaret Lynch-Brennan, Ph.D.  
"The Irish Bridget: Irish Immigrant Women in Domestic Service in America, 1840-1930"
- October 25, 2016: Steve Marino  
"Fort Adams and the Irish"  
(2 presentations of this talk were given, 4pm and 6pm)
- November 30, 2016: Scott Molloy, Ph.D.  
"George W. Potter and the Providence Journal's 1950 Irish Pilgrimage"
- March 28, 2017: Rebecca L. Abbott, MFA and Christine Kinealy, Ph.D.  
"Ireland's Great Hunger and the Irish Diaspora" (a documentary film)
- April 10, 2017: Kurt Schlichting  
"Manhattan's Irish Immigrant Neighborhoods:  
From the Famine to the Movie Classic - On the Waterfront"

*For a detailed description of each of the above and speaker bio info., please visit the "Lectures" page on [www.NewportIrishHistory.org](http://www.NewportIrishHistory.org) and click on the name of each talk.*

# THE 1916 EASTER RISING

BY DEAN ROBINSON

Irish nationalists from Wolfe Tone to Robert Emmett had long fought for independence from England. Opposition to the Acts of Union led to the founding of the Irish Republican Brotherhood in 1858, whose stated goal was to work for Irish separation from England. When World War I broke out in 1914 the Irish-American *Clan na Gael* proposed to the Supreme Council of the IRB that a rebellion in Ireland should be organized, following the maxim that “England’s danger is Ireland’s opportunity.” The Supreme Council decided in September, 1914 to stage an uprising before the end of the War. A Military Council of the IRB was formed in 1915 and began to meet in secrecy to plan the Rising.

The initial members of the Military Council were Thomas Clarke, Padraig Pearse, Sean MacDiarmada, Joseph Plunkett and Eamonn Ceannt, with James Connolly, head of the Irish Citizens Army, and Thomas MacDonagh added in January, 1916. Pearse, Plunkett, Caennt and MacDonagh were also high ranking members of the Irish Volunteers, a well-trained military organization founded in 1913. In early 1916 the Military Council decided on a date for the Rising – Easter Sunday, April 23, 1916. During Holy Week plans were finalized, a Provisional Government was constituted and the Proclamation of the Irish Republic was drafted. The signatories on the Proclamation were the seven members of the Military Council.

Pearse had arranged on April 8, 1916 for the publication of an order calling for the general mobilization of the Irish Volunteers on Easter Sunday. In addition, Sir Roger Casement obtained an agreement from Germany to provide weapons to be used in the Rising. However, the ship containing the guns and ammunition was sunk by the Germans on Good Friday after being intercepted by the British, and Roger Casement



*Dublin after the 1916 Easter Rising.*

was arrested as he came ashore near Tralee. After hearing this news Eoin MacNeil, head of the Irish Volunteers, issued a countermanding order on Easter Sunday cancelling all actions of the Volunteers planned for that day. This decision not only deprived the Military Council of a significant portion of its manpower in Dublin but also meant that there would be little Volunteer participation in other areas of the country. Despite these setbacks the Military Council met at Liberty Hall on Easter Sunday and decided to go forward with the rebellion the next day.

By noon on April 24, 1916 the Rising had begun. Approximately 1,600 members of the IRB, the Volunteers, the Irish Citizens Army and *Cumann na mBan*<sup>1</sup> occupied the General Post Office and other official buildings in Dublin. The flag of the Irish Republic, which may still be seen today at the National Museum in Dublin, was raised over the GPO. Just after noon that day Padraig Pearse stood on the steps of the General Post Office building and read the Proclamation publicly proclaiming Ireland a republic. Despite the hopes of the rebels

the Irish people did not rise up in support of the rebellion. British reaction was overwhelming as martial law was declared and thousands of troops poured into Dublin by ship and train. The British troops began to shell the areas occupied by the rebels, destroying much of the center of Dublin in the process and inflicting numerous civilian casualties. The fighting was fierce, often hand to hand in the streets. By the end of the week the British had amassed almost 20,000 troops in Dublin, and it became apparent to the leaders of the Rising that their position was hopeless. In order to spare further loss of life the rebels agreed to surrender on April 29, 1916.

Over 400 people were killed and more than 2,000 wounded during the Rising. The majority of the casualties were civilians. The British arrested and imprisoned more than 3,000 people suspected of supporting the rebellion. On May 2, the British began a series of secret courts-martial of the leaders of the Rising. Fourteen of those leaders, including the seven signatories of the Proclamation, were executed by firing squad at *Kilmainham Gaol*<sup>2</sup>. James Connolly was shot after being tied to a chair as he could not stand due to the wounds he received during the fighting. Roger Casement was tried for treason and executed in London in August, 1916. After a public outcry the British commuted

the remaining death sentences, including that of Eamon de Valera, to penal servitude. Martial law continued, however, and there were scattered reports of British atrocities.

The Irish people initially resented the rebels for the death and destruction caused by the Rising. However, the anger of the Irish at the brutality of the executions, the mass arrests and the continuation of martial law helped build support for the rebels and the movement for Irish independence. This led directly to the success of the *Sinn Féin* party, whose goal was to establish a republic, in the 1918 general elections. The elected *Sinn Féin* representatives refused to be seated in London, and instead the first Dáil Government in Dublin was organized<sup>3</sup>. A subsequent declaration of independence triggered the Anglo-Irish war. The Treaty of 1921 ended this War and created an Irish Free State. A fully independent Republic of Ireland, consisting of the 26 counties in the south, was formally proclaimed on April 18, 1949. Thus, even though the Easter Rising is generally considered by historians to be a military failure, a direct historical line can be traced from the Rising to the establishment of the Irish Republic. As the playwright Sean O'Casey noted, the Rising of 1916 "became the Year One in Irish history and Irish life."

#### FOOTNOTES:

<sup>1</sup> *Cumann na mBan*, in English, "The Irishwomen's Council," an Irish republican women's paramilitary organization, formed in Dublin in April, 1914

<sup>2</sup> Gaol in English is "Jail"

<sup>3</sup> Dáil refers to the lower house of Parliament in the Republic of Ireland, composed of 166 members. It was first established in 1919 when Irish republicans proclaimed an Irish state.

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*Dean Robinson, the author of this article, is a member of the Board of Directors of the Museum of Newport Irish History. He is a practicing attorney and appointed judge with law offices in Riverside, Rhode Island. Dean has a passion for Irish history, is an Irish historian for the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH) in Newport, and joined Dr. John Quinn and Dr. Don Deignan for a panel discussion of the Easter Uprising in the final lecture of the 2015-2016 Michael Crowley Lecture Series, which took place on April 12, 2016.*



# A MOST ENJOYABLE BUS TRIP TO SEE DANCING DOYLES

**F**ifty members of the Museum thoroughly enjoyed their bus trip to experience Kevin Doyle's "Roscommon Soles" perform their musical magic at the Odeum Theater in East Greenwich on March 12. The performance granted the audience entrée into the household and life of the Doyle family, who lived in Providence, and whose mother, Margaret, emigrated from Castlerea, County Roscommon in 1935 to Fox Point, where she served as a domestic in Providence East Side homes. Kevin, with the accompanying narration of Mary Lee Partington, welcomed us into his parlor in Fox Point as it looked in the 1950s, when they rolled up the carpets each day and danced their hearts out as a family. Kevin's family - sister Maureen, several cousins, daughter Shannon and friends - all joined him in the show and danced as they have their entire lives. The show is, indeed, one-of-a-kind, an Irish folk music masterpiece for all ages.

Kevin Doyle is a world class performer, who was the proud recipient of a 2014 National Heritage Fellowship in Irish Dance from the National Foundation for the Arts. This is the highest honor bestowed on a traditional folk artist in the United States. His 55 years of dancing have taken him from his parlor in Providence to the White House St. Patrick's Day party, and to Ireland many times as both a featured presenter and teacher of Irish folk dance.

We owe our thanks to Kevin Doyle and to Viking Tours of Newport, who again, graciously provided us with affordable prices that made a most enjoyable outing available to so many of our members. *Slainte* to you both! It is the Museum's desire to offer our members enjoyable social/cultural events each year that relate to our Irish heritage. We welcome suggestions from you, our members. Should you have ideas to share, please contact Board President, Mike Slein at (401) 855-5097 or via email at [farmags@cox.net](mailto:farmags@cox.net)



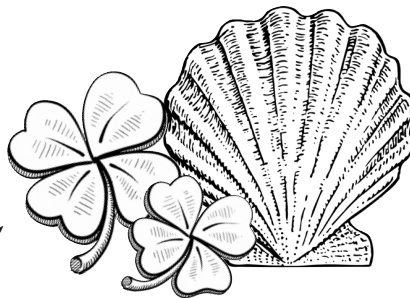
*Shannon Doyle and Kevin Doyle.*

Photo courtesy of the Dancing Doyles

## FRIENDLY REMINDER

**Do we have your email address?** If you use email and do not occasionally receive notices from the Museum, we likely do not have a current e-mail on file for you. Don't miss our on announcements, lecture RSVP reminders and other important information. Please email your name(s) and email address to: Ann Arnold May at [tpm1@earthlink.net](mailto:tpm1@earthlink.net). Questions? Please contact Ann at (401) 841-5493.

# Shamrocks & Seashells



Celebrating **The Museum of Newport Irish History** 20th Anniversary and Honoring our Founders and Visionaries

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**Saturday, August 20, 2016 ~ Easton's Beach Rotunda Ballroom**

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### International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum

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Simon Pearce  
Spring Seasons Inn  
Spring Street Bookstore  
Stella Maris Inn  
SVF Foundation  
Talbots  
Trident Hotel, Kinsale, Ireland  
Brigitte Varone-Hayes  
White House, Kinsale, Ireland

as of 9/12/16



## § MARK YOUR CALENDARS §

- June 10:** 15th Annual Steak Fry Fundraiser. Tickets limited to 100 and going fast.
- August 9:** In partnership with Redwood Library, James MacGuire to speak about his book, "Real Lace Revisited: Inside the Hidden World of America's Irish Aristocracy." More to come.
- Sept. TBD:** First Michael F. Crowley Lecture of the 2017-18 Series, our 16th Annual. More to come.
- Sept. 23:** "Shamrocks & Seashells" ~ 8th Annual Benefit for Interpretive Center. Easton's Beach Rotunda Ballroom. A sell-out last year! Invitations to be mailed to all members.

## WE WELCOME THESE RECENT NEW MEMBERS

The following joined between September 1, 2016 and May 20, 2017:

### FROM NEWPORT:

Matthew Boyle  
Dennis Bristow  
Josephine Carwile-Ridnour & Family  
Bill Corcoran  
Lori & Jack Crimmins  
Mary L. Demers  
Joseph C. & Beth M. Dias  
Carolyn Dupont  
Chuck & Karen Flippo  
Joseph Frederick & Family  
Susan & Raymond Goddard  
Pamela Hale  
Winifred "Winkle" Kelley  
Robert J. McCormack  
Pam McDaid  
Denise A. Meaney  
Mary Clare O'Grady  
Mary H. "Mame" Reynolds  
Mary Jane S. Rodman  
Janice & John Smyth  
Heather & Dave Carson  
Mary Finn  
Dave & Bev Gove  
William & Barbara Hogan  
Noah Manuel & Family  
Kay Martellino  
Michael & Patricia Martin  
Colin McCabe & Family  
RADM Barbara McGann, USN (Ret)  
Shea Milburn & Family  
M. Christie & Ed Smith  
Mary Ellen Sullivan  
Ruth A. Wernquest

### FROM MIDDLETOWN:

Marjorie Brownell  
Frank & Carol Hale  
James & Joan Kirwin  
Elizabeth "Betty" LaPointe  
David Lepore  
Elizabeth & Michael Maroney  
Sharon & Andrew Meehan  
Barbara H. Reed  
Catriona & Roland St. George  
Geraldine Wholey  
Patricia K. Wood

### FROM PORTSMOUTH:

Robert D. & Virginia N. Bledsoe  
Patricia D. Chase  
Lorraine V. McBride  
Pat Blakeley & Richard Oppel  
Timothy & Nancy Ryan  
David Lentz  
Pat Toppa

### FROM JAMESTOWN:

Karen McPoland Williams  
Agnes Torbett

### FROM TIVERTON:

David & Deborah Behan  
Daniel Fitzgerald & Mary Hastings  
Tim Manning

### FROM ELSEWHERE IN RI:

Edward Allsop – N. Kingstown  
Sandra Barber – Cranston  
Ralph Barlow – Narragansett

Peter & Lynn Smith Bartram  
- E. Greenwich

Dale Bianco – Warwick  
Brian Fitzgerald - E. Greenwich  
Richard & Carole Fyans  
– Narragansett

Mary Gormally - E. Greenwich  
Wayne D. Moore – Warwick  
Margaret Muksian – Lincoln  
John & Mary Ellen Peters  
– Narragansett

Marsha A. Pisaturo – Narragansett  
Patricia Sullivan – Cranston  
Robin M. Tagliaferri – Cranston

### FROM ELSEWHERE:

Linda DesRoches - Rotonda West, FL  
Brian & Patricia Hotchkiss  
- Watertown, CT  
Raymond & JoAnn Lynch  
- New Windsor, NY  
Thomas M. Smith, Jr. - Taunton, MA

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE  
SUPPORT OF THE FOLLOWING,  
WHO RECENTLY UPGRADED TO  
"LIFE" STATUS:

Cherry Fletcher Bamberg  
– Marlborough, Mass.  
Stephen & Lynn Marino – Newport  
Sr. Sheila Murphy, SSJ – Middletown  
Rev. Kris von Maluski – Newport  
Sydney O. Williams – Newport



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I now complete my third year - yes, third - I consider myself fortunate to be surrounded by such a fine Board of Directors and such an active, vibrant membership. With your continued support and constructive input, we can continue to grow in the proper direction. I will share with you in more detail some of the highlights discussed briefly at our 2017 Annual Meeting on April 30.

From my perspective, we are a healthy organization, one that continues to grow financially, in the size of its membership (now exceeding 800), and in activities which you, the members, enjoy. During this past year, we strengthened our foundation and administration by adding several new Board Members with high-level, diverse expertise and updated the By-Laws and the Investment Policy Statement, which are both now on the Museum web site for your viewing.

The Treasurer has written policy that provides explicit guidance on diversifying a portion of our Interpretive Center Endowment Fund fixed-income investments into equities over time using "dollar cost averaging" methodology. This is intended to permit conservative growth of our endowment fund, which now totals more than \$23,000 and is increased each year from a portion of the annual benefit (gala) proceeds and from other donations.

Additionally, our increasing cash reserves will permit near-term upgrades to select displays at the Interpretive Center. Last year we raised the Individual annual membership fee from \$15 to \$20, still far below other comparable organizations. This increase had an immediate positive effect on our cash flow and did not result in membership decline. Our very popular Crowley Lecture Series is now self-sustaining, so no longer operates at a loss, as we instituted a modest increase in the per-person lecture fee from \$3 to \$5.

We now have a one-year lease on our Interpretive Center space from the new owners of the building which provides near-term stability as we look for potential ways to expand to accommodate a reading room/library for on-site research and relaxation. Our expansion, however, must be incremental, because our annual Interpretive Center operating budget is dependent on modest rental expense, membership fees, and the annual benefit fundraiser income.

For qualitative improvements, we have purchased a new computer that will permit "play station" capability for our oral history recordings which are ongoing by Board members Donna McCarthy and Steve Marino. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, the new ownership of La Forge Casino Restaurant has offered to maintain the same catering/hospitality support for the Crowley Lecture Series in the year ahead, which is very positive as the series continues to be a staple in our success. And, as nice as the Barney Street Cemetery looks under the leadership of Jack McCormack, we plan to refurbish the fence surrounding the gravestones this year. If you know of a capable metalworker with reasonable rates, please let me know.

The Board will continue to seek out nearby Irish historical and cultural sites and events for future day trips, which have been very popular with so many of you. (See "Roscommon Soles" article on pg. 9) I firmly believe that our success is rooted in a crafted mix of both historical and cultural events, which

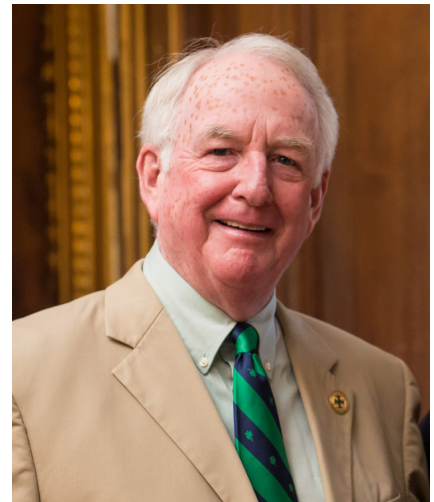


Photo by Jen Carter

Mike Slein, President



support the Museum's Mission, and entertaining social events. The April 30 Annual Meeting was one example. The meeting, held at Ancient Order of Hibernian Hall, combined a short business meeting with light supper and entertainment, provided by local actor and Cork-transplant to Newport, "Irish Mike Healy." As someone remarked to me at the end of the meeting, "We have way too much fun, don't we?!" I think that well encapsulates this mix.

With all the positive news, progress was not as quick in some areas. This newsletter was long overdue and was one important product that languished recently. We have added some excellent Irish historians to the Board which should prove to be very beneficial over the years and we are grateful for their contributions to this issue and future issues. We have committed ourselves to ensuring that this letter arrives to you three or four times each year. It is important! In the meantime, please mine the archives of past newsletters, going back to Fall 1997, available for download on our website.

We always need and welcome volunteers in several areas. You should have received the volunteer solicitation letter recently in the mail. Please join us as a volunteer! Hopefully, you'll find it enjoyable and make some new friends. Again, I encourage your input and feedback. It is vital, because the Museum will succeed only on the strength of your participation and your enjoyment. Give me the positive and give me the negative. I am always available (during waking hours) by e-mail; farmags@cox.net or at 401-855-5097.

Peace, Mike



Photo by: Bonnie Slein

Back Row: Jim Ryan, Dan Titus, Steve Marino, John Quinn  
Middle: Patrick Murphy, Kathy Papp, Donna McCarthy, Mike Slein, Jack McCormack, Peter Martin, Rick O'Neill  
Seated on Bench: Ann Arnold May, Peg Murray, Maeve Sheehan, Deanna Conheeny

## 2017 – 2018 BOARD

### Officers

Michael Slein, President  
Maeve Sheehan, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Jack McCormack, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Deanna Conheeny, Treasurer  
Peg Murray, Secretary  
Ann Arnold May, Membership  
Christopher Behan, Esq., Counsel

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Steve Ferris (*new*)  
Stephen Lepley

Steve Marino  
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Patrick Murphy  
Rick O'Neill  
Kathleen Papp  
Donna McCarthy  
John Quinn  
Dean Robinson (*new*)  
Jim Ryan  
Dan Titus  
Harry Winthrop

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Margaret Ahearn  
Elliott "Skip" Carter

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President, Ancient Order of Hibernians Div. #1, Newport (David Kerins)  
President, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Newport (Carolyn Booth)  
President, Newport Irish Heritage Association (Donal Lehane)

### Honorary Board Members

The Hon. Kathleen Connell  
Mrs. Diana Crowley  
The Hon. David Roderick

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Newport, RI 02840

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Maeve Sheehan, 1st Vice President: (508) 826-0134

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Peg Murray, Secretary: (401) 846-8865

Deanna Conheeny, Treasurer: (401) 847-7156

Pat Murphy, Historian: [PtrckFMrphy@verizon.net](mailto:PtrckFMrphy@verizon.net)

Ann Arnold May, Membership/Communications: (401) 841-5493

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Town/City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Check Membership: ☐ Individual (\$20/yr) ☐ Family (\$30/Yr) ☐ Business (\$50/yr)

☐ Individual Life (\$200/one time) ☐ Family Life (\$300/one time)

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

**Interpretive Center: 648 Lower Thames Street, Newport (Thurs-Sun, Noon-5pm, Mem Day Weekend – Oct)**

(401) 848-0661 (Seasonal) [www.NewportIrishHistory.org](http://www.NewportIrishHistory.org) [NewportIrishHistory@gmail.com](mailto:NewportIrishHistory@gmail.com)