



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 12

SUMMER 2004

WAL-MART GRANT AWARDED TO THE MUSEUM

The Newport Wal-Mart store has awarded a grant of \$300 to the Museum to further its mission of bringing Irish history and literature to middle and high school students in Newport County. The award will enable the Museum to donate three sets of books on Irish history, poetry and literature. The Museum has formed a committee to work with the school libraries to develop a suitable list of books that are interesting, historically accurate, and current. It is anticipated that additional funds will be needed to supply all Newport County secondary schools. Anyone interested in helping the Museum reach its goal should call Museum V.P. Skip Carter at 401-683-4137.



Wal-Mart store manager Charlie Rogers presents a check for \$300 to President Vincent Arnold on June 25th. Books to be donated include The Vikings in Ireland, by Morgan Llywelyn; Exploring Irish Music and Dance, by Dianna Boullier; Exploring The Book of Kells, by George Simms, and How the Irish Saved Civilization, by Thomas Cahill.

FALL LECTURE SERIES BEGINS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH.

The Michael F. Crowley Museum lecture series for 2004/5 starts on Wednesday evening, October 13th with a talk by a guest speaker from Dublin. His talk will be on the Cromwellian period in Ireland. Please save the date!

THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS ORDER OF ST. PATRICK

A donation last Spring, by Father George McCarthy, of a beautifully engraved ceremonial sword and scabbard originating from the Knights of St. Patrick prompted the following article which traces the history of the Order and the role of its ornately carved swords in that history.

According to the *Encyclopedia Britannica* the Most Illustrious Order of St. Patrick was a chivalric order established in 1783 as the Irish equivalent to the Order of the Garter in the U.K. The Order was awarded by the King of Great Britain (and independently of Ireland from 1783-1800), and by the King of the United Kingdom from 1800 to 1921, when Ireland became the Free State.

Originally, the Order consisted of only 15 members, increasing to 22 by 1833. The Order had three officers: the Chancellor, the King of Arms and the Usher. The Irish Crown Jewels were the official insignia of the Order, but they were stolen from Dublin Castle in 1907 and never recovered.

In 1922, the new Executive Council of the Irish Free State under William Cosgrave decided not to continue appointing members to the Order, and, as a result, the Order went into abeyance. One member, the Earl of Granard, who served as a member of the President of Ireland's Council of State during the 1940s, campaigned for the reinstatement of the Order, though the Taoiseach, Sean Lemass, would not consider it. It has been rumored that with the upcoming meeting of Queen

Elizabeth II and the President of Ireland in 2004, the Order may again be reinstated.

Members of the Order through the years have included the 5th Earl of Inchiquin, Murrough O'Brien (1783), and Edward Donough O'Brien, 14th Baron Inchiquin. (See further in this newsletter an article on an earlier Earl of Inchiquin). Members of the Most Illustrious Order were called Knights of St. Patrick and a ceremonial sword was presented on installation.



Detail views of the Knights of St. Patrick sword now in the Museum's collection and presumed to date from the late 1800s, are shown above and opposite.



*Above left: detail of fine engraving on scabbard. Above right: sword and scabbard set.
Photos courtesy of member Lou Burns.*

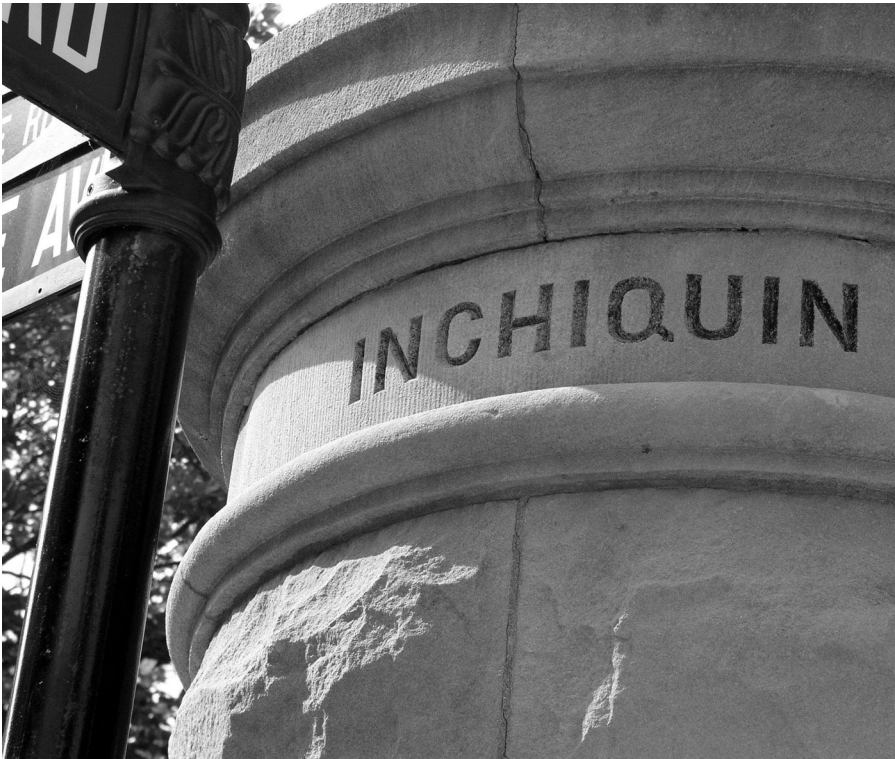
On the next Museum Tour of Irish Newport, the beautiful “Inchiquin” at the end of Bellevue Avenue will be included. “Inchiquin” was built in 1887 for John O’Brien, a direct descendent of Brian Boru, the High King Of Ireland.

Murrough O’Brien, first Earl of Thomond and first Baron Inchiquin, was the third or fourth son of Turlough O’Brien, lineal descendent of Brian (Boromhe) King of

Ireland. Murrough O’Brien died in 1551. The first Earl of Inchiquin and sixth Baron of Inchiquin was also named Murrough O’Brien. The name Inchiquin can be traced to the O’Brien family demesne (domain) in Munster.

The first Earl of Inchiquin (1614-1774) was a Gaelic Protestant royalist. He had returned from service in Spain in 1639 and was named Vice President of Munster in 1640. Initially, the Earl sided with the Parliamentarians after the Irish revolted in 1641, and during the fighting his forces overcame and massacred the Confederate forces, including many who were religious, at the Rock of Cashel in 1647. He had become the master of the south, but Cromwell forced him to retreat. O’Brien reconsidered his support of Parliament, and left Ireland for France and the exiled Stuart court. He served the court in exile in Spain and with an expeditionary force in Portugal. He was made Earl of Inchiquin in 1654, and, in an ironic twist, converted to Catholicism in 1656. In

INCHIQVIN TO BE ADDED TO THE TOUR OF IRISH NEWPORT



The entrance pillars

The Inchiquin estate on Bellevue Avenue, now a condominium

the Cromwellian Act of Settlement, 1652, Inchiquin was excepted (pardoned) by name, and an act passed in 1660 restored all his honors and lands. He died in 1674 and, in his will, left a legacy to the Fransiscans. He was buried in Limerick Cathedral.

The story of the Earl’s fantastic life is found in *The Dictionary of National Biography Volume 14*, Oxford University Press, from which the brief article above is derived. Another source, the *Newport Daily News*, 5 January, 1954, carried an article entitled “. . . Lady Inchiquin To Speak at Art Association”. To quote the article, “. . . Lady Inchiquin . . . married the 16th Baron of Inchiquin . . . The Newport estate bearing the family name, Inchiquin, was built many years ago by a member of the family.” Lady Inchiquin’s talk was entitled “The Romance of Irish Homes and Gardens”.

MUSEUM HOSTS SPECIAL DISPLAY AT NEWPORT WATERFRONT IRISH FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 4-6

Look for our display in the Irish Cultural Tent at this year's Irish Festival, September 4th through 6th. The tent will also house a number of Irish cultural events including plays, talks, and music.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The Museum welcomes recent new members

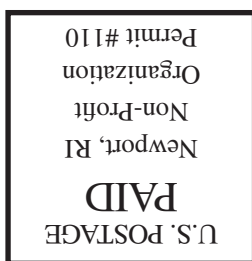
From Naples, Florida:

Life Member Susan James

From Middletown:

Member Aimee Saunders

WELCOME TO ALL AND THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



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

JOIN THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY AND SUPPORT YOUR IRISH HERITAGE

Vincent Arnold, President (401) 847-2890
Robert McKenna, 1st Vice President (401) 846-9296
Elliot Carter, 2nd Vice President (401) 683-4137
Margaret Ahearn, Secretary (401) 842-0993
William Nagle, Treasurer (401) 846-8499

Name(s) _____ Date _____

Address _____

Town/City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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