



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE MUSEUM OF NEWPORT IRISH HISTORY

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HISTORIC FORT ADAMS LABOR DOCUMENT COPY RECEIVED

The Museum is the fortunate recipient of a copy of an original June 1831 labor agreement between an Irish immigrant and the U.S. Army, the builders and supervisors of the construction of Fort Adams. The copy is now on display at the Interpretive Center and it is reproduced on page 2 of this newsletter.

The original document is in the hands of David Cummings of Westport, Massachusetts. Mr. Cummings is the great, great, great, great-grandson of John Quigley, who was born in Kilkenny, Ireland in 1798. Quigley left Ireland at age 29 and arrived in Newport several years later and began work at the Fort in 1831. The labor contract is very specific regarding the day's start and ending times, changing with seasons and daylight hours. The contract states: "The time at this Fort will be regulated by the State-House Clock in Newport; and the 1st Overseer and Master-Mason will both be careful to keep their Watches agreeing with that Clock."¹

John Quigley's marriage to Margaret Duggan, also from Kilkenny, was solemnized at St. Joseph's Church on Barney Street in Newport in 1833. The Quigley's and their two children moved to Fall River in 1843. John died in 1891 at age 93.

¹ "State-House Clock" refers to the clock installed towards the top of the façade of the Colony House, at the head of Washington Square. This building served as the primary state house of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations from its completion in 1739 until 1901, when the new state house in Providence opened. The restoration of this clock and bell tower was a highlight of the July 4, 2012 festivities in Washington Square.

SAVE THE DATE: IRISH EYES BENEFIT 2013 TO FEATURE ROBBIE O'CONNELL

The Museum board invites you to "Save the Date" for our 4th annual "Irish Eyes are Smiling" benefit for the Interpretive Center, on Saturday, May 11, 2013 at Salve Regina University's Ochre Court. We are delighted to have secured a springtime date for this event, previously held in first quarter, and to announce that acclaimed singer/songwriter Robbie O'Connell will headline the evening's musical offerings. Ireland's top music magazine, *Hot Press*, describes Robbie O'Connell as "a national treasure", "... a man blessed with an enviable turn of phrase and a gift for melody bestowed on only the few." Other details will follow in the months ahead and all members will be mailed a printed invitation. We look forward to a memorable evening.

FORT-ADAMS,

Newport Harbour, June 2d, 1831.

THE following Regulations, as to hours of labour, will be hereafter observed at this Work :—

It is requested that all Mechanics or Labourers who may feel unwilling to comply therewith, will give notice to that effect without delay, so that their places may be supplied.

The Bell will ring for Morning Roll-call at 6 o'clock A. M. from the 20th of March to the 20th of September, inclusive; and at Sunrise from the 21st September to the 19th March inclusive.

The Bell for leaving off Morning work will ring at 12 o'clock, (Noon) throughout the Year.

The Bell for Afternoon Roll-call will ring at 1 o'clock P. M. throughout the Year.

The Bell for leaving off Afternoon work will ring at sundown throughout the Year.

The time of labour will be divided into quarters of days as follows :—Between the 20th of March and 20th of September, the first Quarter from 6 to 9 A. M.—the second Quarter from 9 to 12 o'clock—the third Quarter from 1 to 4 P. M.—and the fourth Quarter from 4 P. M. to Sunset.—Between the 21st Sept. and 19th March, the first Quarter from Sunrise to half past 9 A. M.—the second Quarter from half past 9 to 12 o'clock—the third Quarter from 1 to 3 P. M.—and the fourth Quarter from 3 P. M. to Sunset.

Whenever the weather is so unfavorable that the Work cannot proceed with advantage, all Mechanics and Labourers will be called off by the ringing of the Bell. Should this happen before half past 7 o'clock of the 1st quarter—half past 10 o'clock of the 2d quarter—half past 2 o'clock of the 3d quarter—and half past 4 o'clock of the 4th quarter, no time will be allowed on the Rolls for that Quarter—but should the Workmen not be called off till after the times just specified, the full quarter will be allowed.

No Person absent at Roll-call will, in any case, be allowed credit for the Quarter then commencing; nor will any Person, so absent, be credited for the next quarter, unless he shall report himself in person, to the first Overseer, or the Master Mechanic, or the sub-Overseer, under whom he may be at work, in time to commence with the next Quarter.

No Person can be credited for either of the Quarters if he break off work before the expiration thereof—and no person can be credited for the 1st or 3d quarter, if he break off work at the expiration thereof without reporting the same at the time to the sub-Overseer under whose supervision he may be labouring, or to the 1st Overseer, whose duty it will be before crediting the person for such Quarter, to ascertain that the Quarter had fully expired, before he quitted work.

It must be distinctly understood that no excuse can be received for not being present before the calling of the Roll is completed.

All Master-Workmen, and Sub-Overseers, must be present at Roll-call.

Payment, in full, will be made to any person employed at this Work, whenever he may desire it—and at the beginning of every Month all arrears of the preceeding Month will be settled.

Previous to making up the Rolls at the end of each Month, the 1st Overseer will prepare a statement of the time credited to each person, and will read it to the Workmen at one of the Roll-calls, to satisfy them that the time is correctly stated, and to enable them to have mistakes rectified; should any have been committed.

The time at this Fort will be regulated by the State-House Clock in Newport; and the 1st Overseer and Master-Mason will both be careful to keep their Watches agreeing with that Clock.

Whenever the rising or setting of the Sun is obscured, the times of sunrise and sunset will be taken from the Almanack.

As heretofore, the time to be credited to each Man will be kept by the Master-Mechanics and Sub-Overseers, and be by them reported, daily, to the 1st Overseer.

A Copy of these Regulations will be given to every Man employed upon this Work;—his Name, the Date, and the price at which he is hired, being first written in the blanks below, by the 1st Overseer, or the Master-Mason, as the case may be.

Fort Adams, June 20 - 1831. John Quigley - is
hired this day as a Lanner at one $\frac{01}{100}$ Dollars per day.

MICHAEL F. CROWLEY ANNUAL LECTURE SERIES KICKS-OFF WITH TALKS BY DRS. DEIGNAN AND QUINN

More than 100 Museum members and friends attended each of the first two lectures in our 2012-2013 fall-winter series, held at the International Tennis Hall of Fame & Museum special events room. On September 17, Donald D. Deignan, Ph.D., president of the Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial Committee, Inc., gave an informative and moving lecture on the history of the Memorial project, from inception in 1995 through the monument's dedication in November 2007. He concluded with a careful consideration of the Memorial project's future prospects and challenges. The lecture was illustrated by photos and excerpts of the narrative text engraved at the Memorial and audience members suggested an in-person field trip to the site as a follow-up (see related article on page 5).



Dr. Deignan, right, seated with Museum president, Vincent Arnold, during the post-lecture social.

On Monday, October 15, John F. Quinn, Ph.D. was welcomed back for his fifth speaking engagement for the Museum. Prof. Quinn's lecture was titled "The Rise and Fall of Charles Stewart Parnell, Ireland's 'Uncrowned King'." Prof. Quinn presented the fascinating story of Parnell (1846-1891), founder and leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party and a highly influential politician who was well regarded in both American and Ireland. Parnell appeared close to gaining both Home Rule and land reform for Ireland when a personal crisis intervened, cutting short his career. His life was also cut short, at age 45, by a heart attack.

UPCOMING LECTURES

Please "Save the Date" for our next two lectures. On Thursday, January 17, 2013 our guest speaker will be Dr. Kurt C. Schlichting of Fairfield University (CT). Members will recall Dr. Schlichting's presentation in November 2011 about the 1880 Census and what it reveals about patterns of Irish settlement in Newport. The title of Dr. Schlichting's January 17 talk is "Exploring the Historical Record of Irish Immigration: To America and Newport." Details will be forwarded shortly.

Karen A. Holland, Ph.D. of Providence College will speak to our group on Monday, February 25. The title of Dr. Holland's talk is "Hero of the Siege of Londonderry, 1689?." The question mark in the title refers to the intriguing variations in the historic and literary accounts of this particular military engagement with respect to who is the one outstanding individual considered as the hero of the battle.

Please "save the dates" for these two next lectures in our series. We are also planning a March talk with details to be confirmed.



INTERPRETIVE CENTER COMPLETES SECOND SEASON, WELCOMES 1,000TH VISITOR

The Museum's Interpretive Center at 648 Lower Thames Street, which opened to the public after many years of planning and fundraising in June 2011, has completed a second successful season of operation. For the 2012 Season, the Center was open Saturday, May 26 through Sunday, October 28 with operating hours of Thursday through Sunday from 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Our volunteer docents greeted, entertained and educated visitors from as far away as New Zealand and as nearby as across the street. Of the 563 visitors during the 2012 season, approximately 40% were from out-of-state, including 26 from aboard, with Ireland the best-represented foreign country. In September alone, visitors hailed from many U.S. states, including: New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, California and Texas.

A milestone was reached on Sunday, October 7, 2012 when the Center welcomed its 1,000th visitor, Jacinda Russell, a resident of Warwick, R.I. Ms. Russell and those in her party were delighted to learn she was our 1,000th guest at the Center. To mark the occasion, she was given a complimentary 1-year Museum membership, a green polo shirt bearing the embroidered seal of the Interpretive Center, and a matching Celtic seal enameled lapel pin. Ms. Russell graciously posed for the above photograph.

We will announce special hours at the Center during March 2013, Newport Irish Heritage Month. The Center is also available off-season for group and private tours with advance notice. Please contact Museum V.P. and Interpretive Center Manager, Mike Slein, for more information at farmags@cox.net or 401-855-5097. Mike also welcomes your inquires regarding document volunteer opportunities for the 2013 Season.



Photo by Ann Arnold May
Jacinda Russell of Warwick, R.I. was our 1,000th visitor to the Interpretive Center, Oct. 7, 2012.

MUSEUM WEBSITE UPDATE

We are pleased to announce Peter Martin is the new webmaster of the Museum's website, www.NewportIrishHistory.org. While many know Peter as a member of the R.I. House of Representatives (District 75, Newport), in his private capacity as Museum member, he now volunteers his technical skills and talents to our organization. Please visit the site, if you have not recently, and see Peter's updates and enhancements which make our site a better resource for all members. These include the addition of past Museum newsletters, which date back to 1997, and the documenting of all past Crowley Lectures by date, speaker and topic, a work in progress. If you have a question or suggestion for our webmaster, please email Peter at stacyhouse@mindspring.com. We thank outgoing webmaster, Kevin Buss, for his many years of service to the Museum.

NOVEMBER BUS TRIP TO FAMINE MEMORIAL

On Sunday
November
4, twenty-
seven

Museum
members and friends
enjoyed an excursion
by bus to the Rhode
Island Irish Famine
Memorial on the
Providence Riverwalk.
It was a sunny and
crisp afternoon when
our group was met
at the Memorial site



The Narrative Wall with inscriptions and bas reliefs.

Photo by Carolyn Evans-Carberry

by two members of the R.I. Irish Famine Memorial Committee, Inc., Donald D. Deignan, Ph.D. and U.R.I. professor, Scott Molloy, Ph.D.. Drs. Deignan and Molloy have been involved with the Memorial project since its inception, through its dedication in November 2007, and remain passionate advocates for the project. They are also the co-authors of the informative and moving text on the Memorial's narrative wall, pictured above. As mentioned in the article on page 3, Dr. Deignan was our guest speaker at the September 17 Crowley Lecture, the title of which was "The Rhode Island Irish Famine Memorial, Its Past, Present and Future." Many of those present at the November 4 site visit were audience members on September 17 and were eager to see the Memorial in person.

The Museum is grateful to Drs. Deignan and Molloy for the wonderful orientation they provided our group and for answering our numerous questions. We are also grateful to Viking Tours of Newport and the Oakley Family for providing the motor coach. We will consider offering the trip again next spring and

inviting the community at-large to visit this beautiful and inspiring Memorial with us. To learn more about the Memorial please visit www.RIFamineMemorial.com and if you are interested in participating in a bus trip to the Memorial in 2013 please contact Ann at 401-841-5493 or email tpm1@earthlink.net.

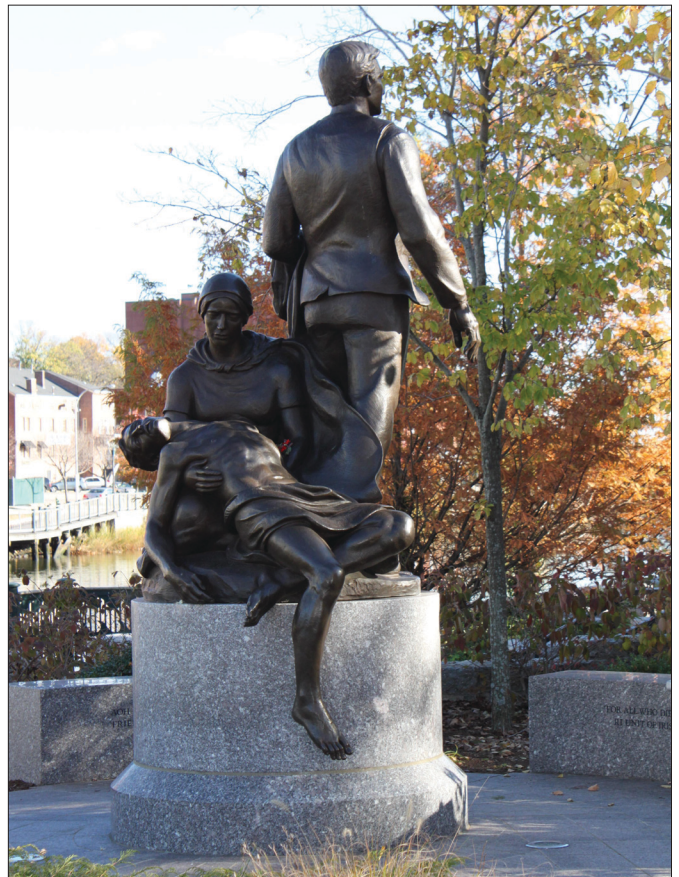


Photo by Carolyn Evans-Carberry

Larger-than-life Irish figures designed and executed by sculptor Robert Shure.

IN MEMORIAM

We were saddened to learn of the sudden passing of former Museum 2nd vice president and board member, William J. Coffey, on November 10, 2012. Bill was a long-time member and we appreciate his years of support of the organization and its Mission and will miss his presence at our lectures and other events. Bill was a strong voice for causes important to our state and region, and we share with you the below editorial from the November 15 edition of the *Providence Journal*:



William J. Coffey

We mourn the loss of our friend William J. Coffey, of Newport, who died Nov. 10 at 71. Bill Coffey was an indefatigable promoter of Rhode Island's ports in particular and improved public infrastructure in general. More broadly, he was a voice for forward-looking public policy in many matters. A maritime lawyer, businessman and professor with decades of experience in transportation, regulatory and other subjects, he was perhaps best known for his push to make Quonset Point/Davisville an important international port that would hugely benefit the economy of southeastern New England. With his immense knowledge of international trade, there was no one better in Rhode Island to make the case. And he did it with this trademark wit, good humor, patience and tolerance.

BARNEY STREET CEMETERY UPDATE

On Thursday August 23 a small but highly efficient team of Museum members gathered in the late afternoon to tidy up the Barney Street Cemetery. Within two hours, the team had beaten the late-summertime weeds and the historic site was beautified. After the work was completed, our hardworking but social group was rewarded with pizza and beer. Many thanks to the following volunteers: Tom O'Malley, Rick O'Neill, Jack McCormack, Rosemary Kavanagh O'Carroll, John Guilfoyle, Mary Guilfoyle, and Ann Arnold.

A late-fall leaf rake-up was held the afternoon of Sunday, December 2. It was a pleasant day for the raking, as the temperature was unseasonably warm (mid-50s). The team raked up a total of 24 bags of leaves and other yard waste. Thanks to the following volunteers: Rosemary Kavanagh O'Carroll, Kerry Murphy, Jack McCormack, Carolyn Evans-Carberry, Janice Gump and Ann Arnold.

New and returning cemetery volunteers are most welcomed. If interested in helping out next spring, please contact Ann at 401-841-5493 or tpm1@earthlink.net.

WE WELCOME THESE RECENT NEW MEMBERS

FROM NEWPORT:

Ann Belleville
Ralph C. & Dawn Craft
Erin Mary Finn
Nancy & Wayne Hays
Linda & John Iverson
Francoise Pomert
Marie-Claire C. Resz
George Brian Sullivan

FROM MIDDLETOWN:

The Michael Behan, Jr. Family
Dominic F. Corrigan
Mr. & Mrs. James F. Cronin
William Curry
Thomas & Mary Kager
Edmund & Francine Roche
Elizabeth Sullivan
Beth Murphy Ward

FROM ELSEWHERE IN RI:

Clare Barrett, Providence
William Buckley, Wakefield
Edward A. Connolly, Pawtucket
David Dillon, Providence
Ed Golden, Narragansett
Phyllis Roach, Cranston
Jacinda Russell, Warwick*
Pam Schweider, Little Compton
Joan Tracey, Charlestown

FROM PORTSMOUTH:

Jean Babcock

FROM ELSEWHERE:

Joseph Anthony Geary,
Lakeland, Florida

*1,000th visitor to our Interpretive Center

FROM JAMESTOWN:

Jennifer Slattery

John Molta, Highlands, NJ

Adrienne Leigh Sharpe,
New Haven, CT

MEMORIAL DONATION RECEIVED

Museum member Rosemary Conley Danforth has made a generous non-restricted donation in memory of her mother, Julie V. (Maney) Conley, who died in January 2010 at age 101. Although Julia moved from Newport at an early age, she spent many summers with relatives and friends in the Fifth Ward and she became a Museum “Life” member at age 100. Rosemary’s donation has been applied to the Museum’s Endowment Fund for the Interpretive Center.

STEAK NIGHT FUNDRAISER A BIG SUCCESS

Our 10th annual “Steak Fry” fundraiser was held Saturday evening, August 11 at Hibernian Hall. Approximately 110 Museum members, Ancient Order of Hibernians and other supports and friends enjoyed a hearty meal of grilled-to-order steak, baked potato, steamed corn, salad and dessert. A small silent auction added to the fun and approximately \$1,900 was raised for the organization, representing a sizable increase over past years. Thanks to all the volunteers at the grill and to board member, Ron Moore, who coordinated this year’s event.

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

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Permit #110

May 11, 2013
"IRISH EYES" BENEFIT
See page 1



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

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Michael Slein, Vice President (401) 847-7201
Maria Carroll, Secretary (401) 846-8865
Deanna Casey, Treasurer (401) 847-7156
Pat Murphy, Historian PtrckFMrphy@verizon.net
Ann Arnold May, Newsletter (401) 841-5493

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Check Membership: ☐ Individual (\$15/yr) ☐ Family (\$25/Yr) ☐ Business (\$50/yr)

☐ Individual Life (\$150) ☐ Family Life (\$200)

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

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