Catholics in Newport
Handwritten History
### OFFICERS

**President**  
Dennis F. McCoy

**Treasurer**  
Dickson G. Boenning

**First Vice President**  
Bartlett S. Dunbar

**Second Vice President**  
Thomas P. I. Goddard

**Secretary**  
Dorienne Farzan

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

James Farrar  
Beatriz Ford  
Sarah Gewirz  
Jessica Hagen-Hill  
George G. Herrick  
Victoria Johnson  
Pamela Kelley  
Roger H. King  
Elizabeth Leatherman  
David P. Leys, Sr.  
Matthew H. Leys  
Nancy Parker Wilson  
Harrison M. Wright

**Honorary Director**  
Anne F. Hamilton

**Presidents Emeriti**  
Richard I. Burnham  
Kenneth H. Lyons  
John J. Salesses

### STAFF

**Executive Director**  
Ruth S. Taylor

**Administrative & Membership Manager**  
Lorraine M. Byrne

**Reference Librarian & Genealogist**  
Bertram Lippincott III

**Processing Archivist**  
Stacie Parillo

**Director of Education**  
Ingrid Peters

**Collections Assistant**  
Jennifer Robinson

**Public Affairs Associate**  
Elizabeth Sulock

**Director of Retail Operations**  
Kathleen Vanderveer

**Editor, Newport History**  
James L. Yarnall, Ph.D.

**Bookkeeping**  
DeVine & Assoc.

### PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

John B. Hattendorf, D.Phil., co-chair  
George G. Herrick, co-chair  
Jane Carey  
Evelyn Cherpak, Ph.D.  
Theodore L. Gatchel  
Sue Maden  
James L. Yarnall, Ph.D., editor  
Dennis F. McCoy, ex-officio  
Ruth S. Taylor, ex-officio

Cover photo: Patrick Charles Keely’s original design for St. Mary’s Roman Catholic Church (see page 18).

Membership in the Newport Historical Society is renewed annually. Those interested in becoming members are cordially invited to contact the Society or visit the website at www.newporthistory.org.

*Newport History* is published twice yearly by the Newport Historical Society Museum and Library with assistance of a grant from the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, Donald Carcieri, Governor, and support from the Hugh D. Auchincloss III Fund at the Rhode Island Foundation. Articles appearing in *Newport History* are abstracted in *Historical Abstracts* and/or *America: History and Life* published by the American Biographical Center. *Newport History* solicits original articles on any aspect of Newport County history.

The ideas, language and sentiments expressed herein are attributable solely to individual authors and are not endorsed by the Newport Historical Society. Likewise advertisement in *Newport History* by outside vendors or services does not imply endorsement by the NHS.

Copyright©2011 by the Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840; (401) 846-0813. USPS 384380. All rights reserved. Printed by RPI Printing Company, Fall River, MA. Periodical postage will be paid at Newport, RI. ISSN 0028-8918. Postmaster: send address changes to Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840

Printed on recycled paper.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Editor’s Note ...................................................... V

“Where Religious Freedom Runs in the Streams”:
Catholic Expansion in Newport, 1780-1855 ...................... 1
   John F. Quinn

Handwritten History, 1765-1867:
Correspondence of Great Americans from the
Collections of the Newport Historical Society ................. 31
   Sarah Vickery

Detail of a letter by Thomas Jefferson, August 10, 1787 (see page 51).
NEWPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

It is the mission of the Newport Historical Society to ensure that the story of Newport’s significant place in American history continues to be told. Please join us!

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

In addition to supporting the Newport Historical Society members receive:

- Free admission to Historical Society sites including the Research Library and the Museum of Newport History at the Brick Market;
- Reduced rates for tours, programs and events;
- Subscription to Historical Society publications;
- 20% discount on purchases at Museum Store;
- Members Only shopping days;
- 10% discount on image and document reproduction;
- Recognition in publications and Annual Report.

For more information: 401-846-0813 or www.NewportHistory.org

Complete and mail with payment to:
The Newport Historical Society, 82 Touro Street, Newport, RI 02840

O 1854 SOCIETY $1,000  O  PATRON $500  O  SPONSOR $250
O HOUSEHOLD/FAMILY $125  O  ISLANDER HOUSEHOLD $100
  Aquidneck Island & Jamestown residents
O HISTORY GUILD $125  O  INDIVIDUAL $50
O SCHOLAR $35 with current faculty/student ID  O  LIBRARY/MUSEUM $35 Institutions

OMr. OMrs. OMs. _________________________________

Company/Organization _________________________________

Street ____________________________________________

City ___________________________ State ________ Zip __________

Phone __________________________ Email _______________________

Payment  Check #________
or OVisa OMC OAmEx ________________________________

Exp.Date ____________ 3-digit Security Code ____________

NHS membership is tax-deductible up to the dollar value of goods and services of membership benefits taken.
The Newport Historical Society has maintained a Library and Museum of Newport and Rhode Island history since its incorporation in 1854. For over 150 years, the Society has grown in its membership, and in the extent and diversity of its collections, representing a wealth of information for researchers.

Society activities include lectures, exhibits, guided and self-guided walking tours, educational outreach programs and special events such as the annual Newport Antiques Show.

The Wanton-Lyman-Hazard House at 17 Broadway is one of Newport’s oldest surviving residences, built circa 1697. A fully restored example of early Colonial architecture, the house is furnished with period decorative arts and furniture. Tours are offered seasonally.

The Great Friends Meeting House at Farewell and Marlborough Streets was built in 1699. Rhode Island’s oldest surviving house of worship is an exceptionally fine example of early architecture. During the early 1700s it was one of the largest and most recognizable buildings in town, a symbol of the political, cultural, and economic dominance of Newport’s Quakers. Tours are offered seasonally.

The Seventh Day Baptist Meeting House was constructed in 1730 on Barney Street and can now be seen as part of the Historical Society’s headquarters building. Extensively restored in 2008-09, it is the oldest surviving Seventh Day Baptist meeting house in America. It is believed to have been designed by Richard Munday, and boasts complex moldings, raised bolection paneling, and hand carved balusters on the staircase leading to the wineglass pulpit. Tours are offered seasonally.

The Colony House on Washington Square, designed by Richard Munday, was built in 1739, and quickly became the cultural and political center of Colonial Rhode Island. It has been the scene of important events, including landmark trials, a reading of the Declaration of Independence from the balcony, the state’s Election Day festivities, and a reception for the visiting George Washington hosted by French General Rochambeau. Tours are offered seasonally.

The 1762 Brick Market at 127 Thames Street was designed in the Palladian style by Peter Harrison, considered to be the first American architect. Now the Museum & Shop at Brick Market, it is the place to start for Newport’s unique and exciting story, told through exhibits from the collections of the Newport Historical Society.

For information on tours, programs, exhibits and properties please call 401-846-0813 or visit www.newporthistory.org.

Hours: The Historical Society is open to the public Monday through Friday, 9:30a.m. to 4:30p.m. Appointments are required to access the library and collections. Call 401-846-0813 or email info@newporthistorical.org.
The 21st Century Fund represents the highest level of support for the Newport Historical Society. These individuals and organizations are helping to create an active and vital 21st century for Newport history.

### The Parade

**Cumulative Giving in the 21st Century of $50,000 and More.**
- Mr. and Mrs. A. Leslie Ballard
- Mrs. Helen D. Buchanan
- Mr. and Mrs. Richard I. Burnham
- Mr. and Mrs. S. Matthews V. Hamilton, Jr.
- Nancy Hay (by bequest)
- Mr. and Mrs. E. MacGregor Strauss
- Alletta Morris McBean Charitable Trust
- Champlain Foundations
- Prince Charitable Trusts
- Providence Journal Foundation
- Rhode Island Foundation
- RI Historic Preservation & Heritage Commission
- William Vareika Fine Arts, Ltd.
- van Beuren Charitable Foundation

### The Point

**Annual Giving of $10,000 or Above.**
- David B. Ford
- Edward W. Kane and Martha J. Wallace

### The Battery

**Annual Giving of $5,000 to $9,999.**
- Dayton T. Carr
- Ronald Lee Fleming
- Mrs. George E. Ford
- Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gewirz
- Mr. and Mrs. William Leatherman
- Mr. and Mrs. Alexander von Auersperg
- Preserve Rhode Island
- Roger Potter Fund, The Rhode Island Foundation

### Cliff Walk

**Annual Giving of $1,000 to $4,999**
- Capt. and Mrs. Richard G. Alexander
- Carla D. Anderson
- Hugh D. Auchincloss III
- Barbara Lloyd Baker
- Dr. Holly Bannister and
  - Mr. Douglas L. Newhouse
- Mr. and Mrs. Philip M. Bilden
- Mr. and Mrs. Dickson G. Boenning
- Nicholas Brown and Angela Fischer
- Elizabeth Prince de Ramel
- Bart Dunbar and Lisa Lewis
- Thomas and Lisa Goddard
- Mr. and Mrs. George G. Herrick
- Pamela and Brendan Kelley
- Mr. and Mrs. Roger H. King, Jr.
- Mr. and Mrs. James Klau
- Mr. Richard C. Loeb
- Robert and Heidi Manice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R. Adm. and Mrs. Dennis McCoy</td>
<td>$10,000 or Above</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Juliette C. McLennan</td>
<td>$5,000 to $9,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pauline C. Metcalf</td>
<td>$1,000 to $4,999</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles J. Moore</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloria Nagy and Richard Saul Wurman</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Claiborne Pell</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James and Alice Ross</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jay and Suzette Schochet</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter and Sharon Siegl</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Adams Taylor</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daphne S. Thornton</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane M. Timken</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Harold B. Werner (by bequest)</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane B. Wilsey</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. and Mrs. Harrison M. Wright</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BankNewport</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastline Trust Company</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Devine &amp; Associates LLC</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NewportFed</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State of Rhode Island</td>
<td>$50,000 and More</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Newport Historical Society

Museum & Shop
at Brick Market

127 Thames St. on Washington Square

TOURS • EXHIBITS • SHOPPING
Open Daily at 10 a.m.
401-841-8770

Since 1854
Newport History Starts Here.

www.NewportHistory.org

http://digitalcommons.salve.edu/newporthistory/vol80/iss264/5
**HOLD FAST**

**The Story of Newport & the Sea**

From the collections of the Newport Historical Society, an exhibit of maps, logbooks, photographs and artifacts telling the story of Newport’s enduring economic, military and recreational connections to the sea.

**NEWPORT CONVENTION AND VISITOR’S BUREAU**

23 America’s Cup Ave.
Newport, RI
Open Daily 9am – 5pm

---

**THE NEWPORT ANTIQUES SHOW**

Celebrating Five Years
AUGUST 12 – 14, 2011
St. George’s School
372 Purgatory Rd, Middletown, RI

Presenting Sponsor
WILLIAM VAREIKA FINE ARTS LTD
THE NEWPORT GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART

Preview Party Sponsor
BROWN BROTHERS HARRIMAN

To Benefit The Newport Historical Society and The Boys & Girls Clubs of Newport County
NewportAntiquesShow.com 401.846.2669

Published by Digital Commons @ Salve Regina, 2011