

Norwegian ambassador to visit city for Hannah Parr commemoration

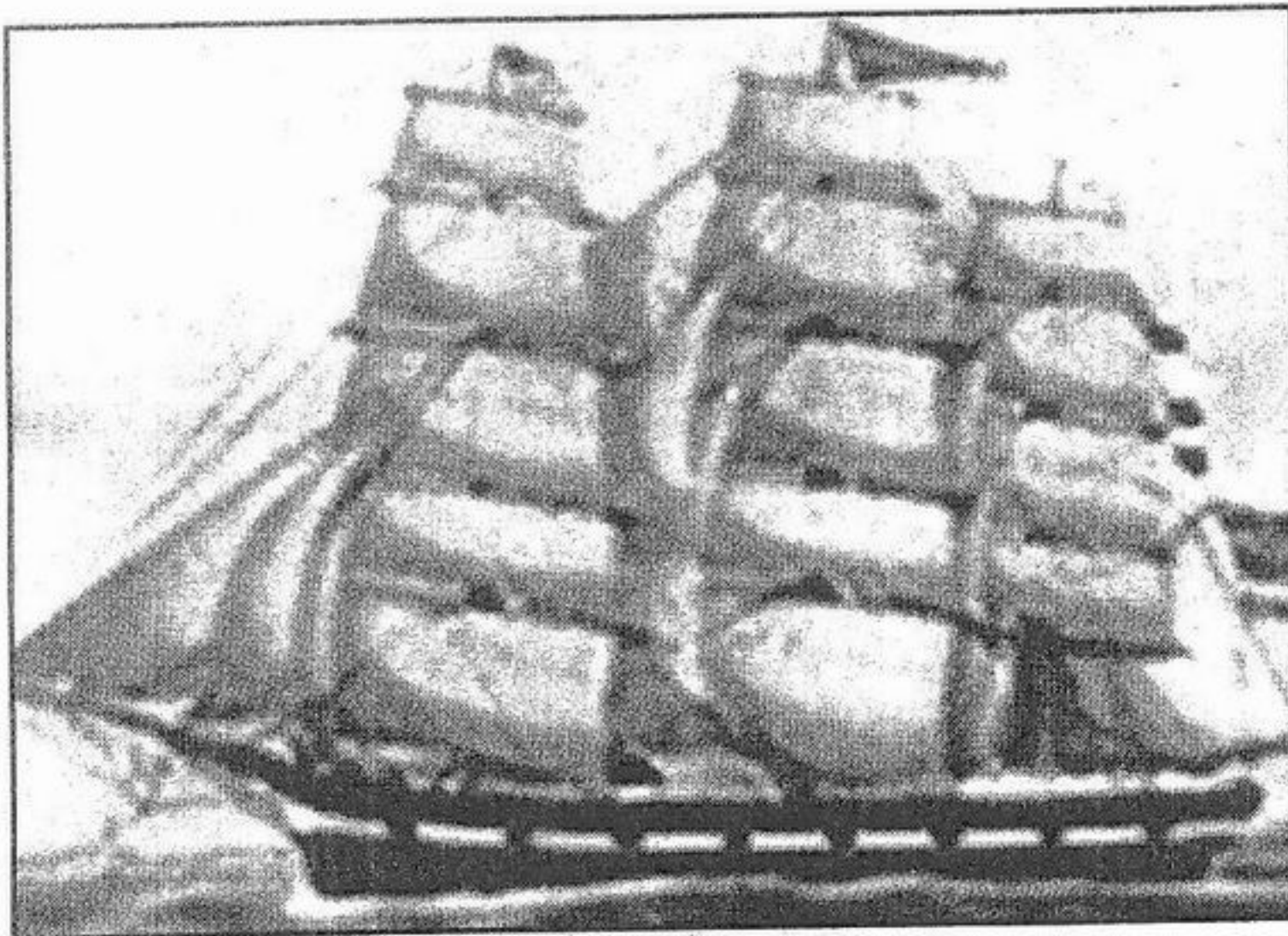
By ANNE SHERIDAN

THE Norwegian Ambassador, Truls Hanevold, will be in Limerick on the May Bank Holiday weekend to commemorate an event in 1868 linking 400 Norwegian citizens and the hospitality of local people.

In May 1868, the Norwegian emigrant ship, Hannah Parr, which was bound for Quebec in Canada, sailed into Limerick, having lost a foremast. Hundreds of passengers were aboard the ship, and found themselves having to depend on the citizens of Limerick for hospitality, while repairs were carried out on the vessel.

On May 2 and 3, the Norwegian Ambassador will commemorate the event by laying a wreath at the Bishop's Palace, King's Island, where four children who died from illness during their stay in Limerick are buried.

The Ambassador will also attend a civic reception on behalf of the Norwegian government and it is hoped that next year Norway will send a



The Hannah Parr, which sailed into Limerick for repair in 1868 with 400 Norwegian passengers bound for Canada. Four children died during the stay. Norwegian Ambassador Truls Hanevold will visit Limerick to commemorate the event in May

tall-ship to Limerick port in commemoration of their links with the city.

According to a report about the incident in the Limerick Chronicle on May 9, 1868: "No accident occurred to crew or passengers, all on board are in excellent health, and as fine a looking lot as one could see." But on June 9 the Hannah Parr set sail for Canada, and

eventually arrived in Grosse-Île, Quebec, on July 27.

"On this morning about eight o'clock this emigrant ship left the dock, and was towed down the river amid the farewell cheers of the crowd of citizens who thronged the pier, that were warmly responded to by the crew and passengers, and which were continued on either side

till the vessel had passed beyond Barrington's Quay," read a report in the Limerick Chronicle.

The passengers also sent this note to the newspaper: "Before we, meanwhile, leave this city and its exceedingly friendly population, it is our wish to express our hearty thanks for all the kindness the ladies and gentlemen of Limerick have shown us.

"With sorry hearts we came as shipwrecked to the coast of Ireland; but we came up the Shannon and saw the beautiful land on both sides, and we then felt that the good God had not yet left us." Local blogger, Bock the Robber, recently sparked online interest in the visit of the Norwegian Ambassador and the history of the Hannah Parr.