

Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann

Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. I No. 6

www.familyhistory.ie

June : Meitheamh 2006



GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
Heritage Matters
Book Reviews
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Senator Ryan's Bill Gathers Support

Launching the long awaited Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006 in Seanad Éireann on Thursday 11th May, Senator Brendan Ryan said "this matter is a classic example of something that is important but not urgent and can, therefore, be left off political agendas." This is very much the case as securing the continued delivery of heraldic services by the State is wholly dependent on new legislation.

Advice delivered by the Attorney General in 2002 clearly totally undermined the existing legislative provisions for the granting of coats-of-arms by the State. The fundamentally flawed Section 13 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 must now be repealed.

Following the publication of the Bill the Society arranged for information on the Bill to be published in several genealogical and heraldic journals and placed further information on its website. To promote the Bill and to assist interested heraldists around the world with a fuller understanding of the intention and proposals contained in the Bill an open discussion on two popular internet newsgroups was arranged for a

period of ten days following publication. This question and answer format produced some interesting points that may require attention by way of amendment during the various stages of the Bill. Again, to broaden the debate an Op-Ed piece was published in "The Irish Times" newspaper on Monday 22nd May 2006 on the issue of "emeritus arms" as now proposed by the Bill.

The Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006 will reform the provision of heraldic services by the State and it will make these services more accessible to the ordinary citizen of Ireland and the Irish Diaspora. It will create a new and less expensive procedure for obtaining a coat-of-arms for individuals, institutions, clubs and corporate bodies.

Some of the measures contained in the Bill are described as technical and indeed, just good legislative housekeeping for this aspect of our national heritage. Other measures offer the citizens of Ireland a range of new services from the Chief Herald of Ireland and provide for a modern framework for Irish heraldry as befits a republic. This aspect of the Bill

has been warmly welcomed by heraldic experts from around the world. This new Bill has been described as innovative in the manner in which the new "Office of Arms" as proposed by the Bill will operate.

Indeed, the debate on this Bill offers all with a genuine interest in the future development of Irish heraldry and genealogy, a unique opportunity to contribute to the preservation of this heritage. With no politically divisive measures proposed by the Bill, it has been openly welcomed by Senators from all political parties and none. This cross-party approach to the subject clearly demonstrates the concern of Senators for heritage matters and their understanding of the clear objectives of the Bill.

Providing a sound legislative basis for the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland and its services will secure its future for generations to come. Senator Ryan's Bill is intended to provide a modern, prosperous and confident republic with its own heraldic authority, of which, as citizens we can be proud. Evidently this objective is shared by many of his colleagues in the Senate and beyond.

Text On-Line Facilitates an Inclusive Debate***www.oireachtas.ie***

The publication of the Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006 on-line at the Irish Parliamentary website facilitated an international debate on its various provisions. Many members of the Irish Diaspora and others with an interest in Irish genealogy, heraldry and vexillology read the text of the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum on-line. A lively debate ensued on the various newsgroups and the Soci-

ety received many e-mail messages seeking further information. Numbers visiting the Society's own website to view the background to the Bill were also very impressive. Clearly Irish heraldry is held in high esteem internationally as heraldists from all corners of the globe also contacted the Society with words of encouragement—all wishing the very best future for Irish heraldry and wel-

coming the publication of the Bill. Publishers of specialist heraldic journals also availed of the on-line text and this generated further support. With this level of interest, the second stage debate on the Bill in the Senate will certainly be very informative. The text of this Bill is available on-line at the above website. The Society would like to thank all who have expressed their support for the Bill.

Cesca's Diary 1913 –1916

Woodfield Press, the publisher present this book as a resource for historians, art practitioners, sociologists and those with an interest in politics, Irish and women's studies; it will have an appeal for discerning readers as well. **Cesca Trench**, born into a unionist clerical family at the end of the 19th century, takes us into a world with which we are familiar but how different this was from our own self-absorbed existence. She describes a conscientious and thoughtful approach to work and relationships with those around her that was the norm in her world. At the age of 16 she began to learn Irish and this led to an active and enthusiastic involvement in Irish nationalism up to the time of her tragic early death in the post War 1 flu epidemic. Educated in England, she showed talent for drawing and at the age of 23, she went to Paris and worked in some of the most renowned ateliers. She made many friends among the students from the small countries of Europe, sharing their mood for independence for their countries. Much of her artistic activity was influenced by her dedication to Irish Nationalism, ancient Irish history, mythology and folk

tales. She produced a large body of work in her short life, some of which is in the National Gallery. Her diaries are intensely personal and her romance with Dairmiud **Coffey** is outlined in its emotional and intellectual content in the most discreet and appealing fashion. Her account of the Easter Rising highlights the confusion for the ordinary people of Dublin and the savagery of the summary executions which were announced post mortem. In happy contrast are the descriptions of the closeness of family and friends and the imagination and effort that went into their lives and entertainment. The awareness and appreciation with which they savoured Ireland's beauty and variety highlight the contrast that prosperity have brought in the 21st century. **Hilary Pyle** who is the author is to be congratulated for bringing this picture of a not so long ago Ireland to our attention. Her catalogue, bibliography and notation are up to the standard of this outstanding book.

Sighe l'Estrange

Hilary Pyle is an art critic and biographer and she is the Curator of the Yeats Museum in the

National Gallery of Ireland. Previous publications include "*Portraits of Patriots and biographies of the writer James Stephens and Jack B. Yeats*". Hilary is also author of "*The Sligo-Leitrim World of Kate Cullen, 1832-1913*" and "*Red-Headed Rebel: Susan L. Mitchell, Poet and Mystic of the Irish Cultural Renaissance*"

"**Cesca's Diary 1913-1916**" by Hilary Pyle. ISBN 0-9534293-7-7 Price €45 (Pbk) from The Woodfield Press, 17, Jamestown Square, Dublin 8, Ireland. Tel.:+353-1-454 7991; Email: terri.mcdonnell@ireland.com For more information on this publishing house, please visit their website: www.woodfield-press.com

IRISH ROOTS MAGAZINE

Issue No. 58—the Second Quarter of 2006 of the very popular "Irish Roots" magazine has now hit the shelves of all good bookstores. At just €3.50 it remains one of the very best family history publications in Ireland. Irish and overseas readers can subscribe to "Irish Roots" online at www.irishrootsmagazine.com and receive four issues by mail annually. Copies are also available at the Society's Open Meetings.

Special Category for 1926 Census Proposed

Besides dealing with heraldic and other genealogical matters the Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006 has proposed a "special heritage category" for the first Census of Population of the Irish Free State. For many decades we've been able to view the Irish Census Returns taken in 1901 and 1911. These returns are an invaluable source for genealogy and social history. But the most turbulent period in modern Irish history ensued in the years following the latter census. The outbreak of WWI in 1914, the Easter Rising in 1916, the General Election in 1918 leading to the establishment of the First Dáil in 1919. The declaration of independence by the first Dáil on January 21st 1919, a date pecu-

liarily not marked in Ireland, was followed by the Irish War of Independence until a truce was declared in 1921. After difficult negotiations a Treaty with Great Britain was signed in 1921 which established the Irish Free State in 1922. The establishment of the Free State was greeted by division and a bitter Civil War which lasted until 1924. The new Irish Free State held its first census in 1926 at the height of economic depression and emigration. This fifteen year gap in our research material is one of the most important periods of Irish history. This 1926 Census was "closed" for 100 years by the Statistics Act, 1993, in line with all other census returns taken since 1926. At the time the Statis-

tics Bill was passing through Seanad Éireann, the Society had secured an amendment reducing the closure period to 70 years, however, this was reversed to 100 years. After many years campaigning for a reduction in the closure period for all census returns, it was decided to treat the 1926 one separately. Therefore, the Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006, keeping the 100 year rule for census returns, it makes an exception for the 1926 census. It is proposed to afford the 1926 Census a "special heritage category" and reduce its closure period to 80 years for research purposes to bridge this gap in our records covering this very important period in our Nation's history from 1911 to 1926.

Fund Raising Ideas Sought

As with all voluntary non-governmental organisations, the funding of the level of activities of this Society is always a concern. Membership subscriptions alone cannot be expected to cover the entire costs of running an organisation like this Society. To date the Society has depended on the generosity of its Members who periodically make unsolicited donations towards various costs associated with our publications or the Archive. Nobody in Ireland is in any doubt that costs have risen sharply in the past ten years and indeed, unfortunately in exactly the same

period, Irish volunteerism collapsed. This was a double-edged sword for most voluntary bodies. Last year this Society had to alter the publication programme due to spiralling printing and postage costs. This year, the Board of the Society has embarked on a multifaceted fund raising programme to include activities and events of various sizes. Firstly, at the suggestion of **David Paling**, MGSJ, members are encouraged to donate their unused **foreign coinage** to the Society following their summer vacations. This will then be converted in to Euro for the Soci-

ety. Members can donate such coinage at each meeting. Secondly, a biannual **Table Quiz** is being planned for members and their friends. Thirdly, an **Annual Collection** is under consideration by the Board. However, more importantly the Board seeks fund raising ideas and suggestions from our members at home and overseas. If you have an idea please contact the Secretary by e-mail—see page 4. Alternatively, members who wish to participate in this fund raising drive by making a donation please send cheques c/o Hon. Secretary—address on page 4

Eccentric Archbishop Richard Whately of Redesdale

By Bryan Mac Mahon

The following is a précis of a talk given at the May Open Meeting in Dún Laoghaire. Oxford Professor of Political Economy, Richard Whately was appointed as Church of Ireland Archbishop in 1831, and remained in office until 1863. He had a profound influence on the development of the National School system, acting in effect as chairman of the board which administered the system. He also wrote many of the texts which were used in the schools in Ireland, and later adopted for schools in England and elsewhere. His influence was so significant that he has been termed "the head schoolmaster of the Irish people". His best known textbook, an introduction to economics called *Easy Lessons in Money Matters for Young People*, was translated into Japanese, Maori and Armenian. Whately was also known as the founding father of economics in Ireland. If the government had followed the advice of Whately's Commission of Inquiry into Irish Poverty in 1836, there would have been no Poor Law and no workhouses in Ireland. Whately's life was dogged by controversy. Regarded as an uncouth buffoon by Anglo-Irish society, his

eccentricities and gruff manners were notorious. At the dinner table, he had a habit of contorting his legs so much that his foot could often end up in the lap of the unfortunate person sitting beside him – usually another dignitary. He antagonised fellow Protestants by supporting Catholic Emancipation, condemning all forms of proselytising, advocating a government grant for Maynooth seminary and supporting the National Schools. He was seen by many Protestants as the enemy within, yet Catholics came to regard him as a devious proselytiser. Catholic Archbishop Paul Cullen carried out a sustained campaign against Whately, and ultimately all his schemes turned to ashes and his great spirit was broken. Richard Whately lived in Redesdale House, Kilmacud, Co Dublin, for almost thirty years, rejecting the lavish comforts of Archbishop's Palace in St. Stephen's Green. He loved to walk in the secluded gardens of Redesdale, and to experiment with grafting plants. In 1857, Whately entertained the celebrated explorer, Dr. David Livingstone in Redesdale. Both men shared a passionate commitment to ending slavery. He wrote over two million

words in his lifetime and the National Library lists one hundred and thirty publications by him. His work as an academic, an educator and an Archbishop should have earned him a special place in Irish history, but he is largely forgotten. **Editor:-** Bryan Mac Mahon, whose main research interest is in North Kerry history, lives in Kilmacud and is the author of *Eccentric Archbishop: Richard Whately of Redesdale*, published by Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society, c/o 92 Stillorgan Wood, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

OPEN MEETING SPEAKERS

Séamus Moriarty, MGSI, the Convenor of the Evening Open Meetings has arranged for the following Guest Speakers:-

Tuesday 13th June 2006

Dr. Máire Kennedy, *Dublin City Archives*

Tuesday 7th July 2006

Mr. Gregory O'Connor, *National Archives*

All welcome. Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education (see page 4) at 20.00hrs. €3.00pp

Irish Genealogical Project & the PAC

The Public Accounts Committee of Dáil Éireann finally heard the submission by the Comptroller & Auditor General, **Mr. John Purcell**, on the operation of the Irish Genealogical Project. Meeting on the 25th May 2006, the P.A.C. was presented with some very stark assessments of the possible future, if any, for this national indexing project. The project aimed to capture information contained in parish registers from all over Ireland in an electronic format to assist and promote "roots tourism". Addressing the PAC, **Mr. Philip Furlong**, Secretary General, Dept. of Arts, Sport & Tourism, said "my Department has recognised that genealogical records are an important historical and socio-

political resource for the people of Ireland. In addition to the funding it puts into the Irish Genealogical Project, it has also allocated funding for the digitisation of the 1901 and 1911 census. The computerisation of civil records with future on-line access is well advanced by the Dept. of Health and Children. I understand that the following civil records are now held on electronic format: birth records from 1864 to date, death records from 1924 to date, and marriage records from 1920 to date. I also understand that the remaining civil records data, viz. death records from 1864 to 1923 and marriage records from 1845 to 1919, will eventually be accessible on computer. However, there

are many gaps in the early civil records, which is why computerisation of church records has focused on the period up to 1900. If the computerisation of church records is not completed, there will be a major gap in accessible genealogical data, notwithstanding the substantial financial inputs made." But Mr. Furlong also confirmed that the much promised business plan "is suspended until we deal with the disputed issues" as the on-going dispute between the various stakeholders has virtually paralysed the Project for years. "Perhaps, the Department should have done more in the years leading up to this report to ensure that there was co-operation", he said. So no "Plan B" then?

New Members are Always Welcome

Membership of this Society is open to all persons with an interest in genealogy, heraldry, vexillology or social history whether based in Ireland or overseas. The Society strongly advocates the "Principle of Public Ownership & Right of Access" to our heritage in all its varied forms. Therefore, members are always encouraged to contribute to the heritage resources of future generations by recording their own family history, story and lore for deposit in the Genealogical Society's Archives or publication in the Society's biannual journal.

As members of the Society we appreciate the importance of our heritage not only to people in Ireland, north and south, but also to Ireland's vast Diaspora. We have links with similar organisations overseas and we exchange journals with over sixty societies. Our activities are many and varied—full details on the website. For many, membership of this Society, means playing an active and vital role in the study and promotion of Irish heritage.

Membership Packages. **Ireland:-** Offering

ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, biannual Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. This also includes an optional second Membership Card for a household member, including voting rights, for an all inclusive cost of just €30.00 per annum. **Overseas:-** Offering the same at €40.00 per annum. Join OR renew membership on line on the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie/shop

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

is published by the

Genealogical Society of Ireland

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www.familyhistory.ie/shop**DIARY DATES***Tuesday June 13th & July 11th 2006***Evening Open Meeting***Dún Laoghaire College of Further
Education**Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs**Wednesday June 28th & July 26th 2006***Morning Open Meeting***Port View Hotel, Marine Rd., Dún
Laoghaire**10.30hrs—12.30hrs**Contribution €3.00 p.p.**(Coffee/Tea included at Morning
Meetings)*

QUERIES

NICK BRADY, MGS, 154 Miranda Street, Stratford, Taranaki, New Zealand. E-mail: brad59@xnet.co.nz Wrote:- I am researching Gerald **O'Reilly** who came to New Zealand from Co. Meath he is recorded as coming from Navan. In his will he recorded a parish which I have been unable to find. His writing was not that good so it has been difficult to decipher. Recently I came across a place called Rashesore in Co. Meath. Is this place is near Navan? His writing made it look like Rusheore but I now believe to be Rashesore. Confirmation much appreciated

LGC (BILL) MOYLE, 44 St George Ave., Vincentia, NSW 2540 Australia. E-mail: moylebill@bigpond.com Wrote:- Robert Kerr **Murray** and Rose Emily **Fitzsimmons**, my wife's great grandparents, were married at Tenterfield NSW on Christmas Day 1880. Robert was born in 1843 (marriage certificate) or 1850 (death certificate). Both give birthplace as Dundalk, Co Louth no parents' names. Rose b. Dublin in 1856. Any help appreciated and I am happy to share information.

KAREN & DAVID KISS, 'Westridge', 12 Tomlinson Drive, Finchampstead, Wokingham, RG40 3NZ Berkshire, UK. E-mail: karen.kiss@zen.co.uk Wrote:- Hoping to reconnect with the family of Patrick Joseph **Kennedy** & Elizabeth (Betty) **O'Connor**, daughter of Ellen (Nellie) née Connor/O'Connor in Dublin, Ireland. They lived between 1946 and 1951 at Ontario Terrace, Rathmines, Co Dublin and afterwards c. 1950 at Shanid Road, Harolds Cross, Co Dublin. Their children of were as follows: Jeanette Maria; Brian Patrick; Joseph Sean; June Mary; Josephine and Jacqueline Kennedy. Any help please.

ROBYN HARDIE, 60 Chelmsford Street Newtown NSW Australia 2042I, E-mail:- darn-hard@ozemail.com.au Wrote: I am seeking the origins of two related Newman families my g-g-grandfather John **Newman** son of Patrick & his relative Edward, both living in Tipperary, near to Thurles, as farmers in first half of 19th century until the families migrated to Australia between 1840 and 1851. Any help please.

JACOB L. BATEMAN III 3870 Strathmore Drive Montgomery, Alabama 36116-4614, USA. E-mail:- LeBateman@ATT.Net Wrote:- My great-grandfather was Charles **Brown** b. 23 April 1869 Pittsburgh Pa. He married Eva Jeanette **Koebert** in 1888. Their first child was Charles T. Brown b. & d. in 1889. The 1930 census states his father was born in Ireland in 1869. Since he named his eldest son Charles T. is it possible that my father's grandfather named his first born son after his father. I am looking for Charles Brown's father. A cousin said they hailed from Co. Cork. All born between 1889 until 1908. Any information please.

NOTA BENE:- Queries are only published at the discretion of the editor and where a mailing address and e-mail address are provided.

RETURNING THE VISIT

FGS Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

The traffic in Irish genealogical research has been a one way street for as long as most of us can remember. American, Canadian and Australian visitors have arrived here anxious to find their Irish roots. Now, there is a golden opportunity for some of us to return the visit.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference 30 August to 2 September 2006 will be held in BOSTON. Imagine being in a place where 2000 like minded people have a choice of over 400 lectures, workshops and skills sessions and an exhibition hall of vendors of every genealogical source imaginable. That is an FGS conference!

What makes the 2006 conference extra special is the strong track of Irish lectures on offer. These lectures will be given by some of Ireland's top experts from the major repositories, North and South. Likewise, American experts will be offering 8 simultaneous tracks of lectures and workshops.....you are spoiled for choice.

Aside from the programmes, there is also the great fun of meeting other people at conferences, workshops, lunches, the exhibition hall and just "hanging out". FGS conferences give you opportunities to connect with people interested in your research and more importantly,

people who are willing to share theirs. If you have ever considered becoming a professional genealogist, this is the place to start with presentations on professional topics and information on the process of certification of genealogists.

The Irish lectures are posted at: <http://tiara.ie/TIARAFGSPProgram.pdf>

It is worth noting that there is a discount available to those who register by the 1st July. Also, the Sheraton Boston is offering a special conference room rate of \$159. per room so for 2 sharing that comes to about €62 per person per night. (In a city like Boston, this is an unheard of rate!) So, book a flight and come have some fun and meet the American cousins on their home turf. Boston is the premier Irish-American city so I can almost guarantee you will be welcomed as a long lost cousin!

Email me if you have questions.

Eileen M. Ó Dúill, CG, CGL, MAPGI

E-mail: nellie@heirsireland.com

Editor's Note: Eileen is a Certified Genealogist and a Certified Genealogical Lecturer. CG & CGL are service marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists in the United

States used under license after periodic evaluations by the Board for Certification—for more information see the Board's website. <http://www.bcgcertification.org/>. Eileen is also a leading member of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland, APGI and a member of the board of Irish Genealogy Ltd.

The Society will be represented at the FGS Conference by our Cathaoirleach, Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI and Mrs. Roz Stanley, MGS.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

The Society's Archive is based at the restored Martello Tower at Seapoint, County Dublin. "An Daonchartlann" as it is called, is open to members and visitors at various times during the month. As it is entirely staffed by our volunteers, the times of operation may vary. Therefore, the Archivist, **Mr. Séamus O'Reilly, MGS**, advises all intending to visit the Society's Archive to telephone (01) 202 0464 to ascertain opening times. Persons visiting the Martello Tower are advised to use public transport—DART (rail) to Seapoint Station approx. 4 minutes walk.