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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
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Volunteerism & Active Citizenship

Are Most Irish People Too Busy to Care?

The National Taskforce on Active Citizenship established in April 2006 has invited individuals, community groups and organisations to have their say on what it means to be an active citizen in today's Ireland. The Taskforce is seeking written submissions on www.activecitizen.ie and the deadline is 29th September 2006. The crisis in Irish volunteerism was highlighted many times by this Society's newsletter over the past six years. In May 2000 (vol. 5 no. 5) it questioned whether volunteerism was a thing of the past or just what the doctor ordered? The article pointed out that charities, voluntary and community organisations were finding it increasing difficult to attract volunteers. It seemed that Irish people were all too busy to take any time out to volunteer and yet, it's this time out and the community interaction afforded by volunteerism that, according to the medical profession, "is just what the Doctor ordered". But not surprisingly just two years later in May 2002 (vol. 7 no. 5) when the Society's newsletter headlined with "volunteers an endangered species" and questioned whether volunteerism had a future in the post Celtic Tiger Ireland, the

political parties in Ireland had not yet appreciated the problem. None of the manifestos for the General Election in May 2002 mentioned volunteerism let alone its imminent collapse. Despite the warnings from the sector and the very evident reduction in volunteerism, the political establishment here remained unconcerned about the problem following the 2002 election. With the International Year of the Volunteer barely past us in 2002, little official attention was paid to the concerns of the sector. Volunteerism was under valued or simply taken for granted by the political parties and according to the 2002 issue, without a national debate leading to the formulation of policies on the promotion and sustainability of volunteerism in Ireland, we would have only ourselves to blame for the consequences. The situation had deteriorated to the extent that the April 2005 newsletter (vol. 10 no. 4) headlined with "volunteerism dead or dying in Ireland – the Celtic Tiger economy has changed Irish attitudes to volunteering" – but again, the warnings by the voluntary sector bodies went unheeded by government in the misguided belief that the phenomenal levels of volunteerism in

Ireland during the Special Olympics in June 2003 were sustainable. The April 2005 article asked what measures, if any, could the government have taken to assist voluntary and community groups to recruit and retain volunteers? The newsletter also called for a vigorous national debate on the issue of sustainable volunteerism in Ireland involving the social partners, government and general public. The failure to address this important issue, the 2005 article maintained, will most certainly impact greatly on our health and the quality of our lives in the future. In April 2006 the government very belatedly decided to establish a National Taskforce to assess the situation and to produce a report. The July 2006 newsletter discussed the need to engage potential volunteers in a manner that accepted the sedentary nature of many of our lifestyles today by seeking a cyber age solution. But whatever the outcome of the Taskforce's consultation will be in 2007, it could prove to be too little and too late. It may well be that the Irish people are just simply too busy to care about volunteering and that the danger of forever losing the culture of volunteerism in Ireland is a real possibility.

Gonfalons, Banners, Tabards & Pipes

By all reports the 27th International Congress on Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences held in St. Andrews was a great success with a high attendance and much public participation. The ancient Scottish university town of St. Andrews in Fife pulled out all the stops for this occasion starting with a ceremonial parade through the Town. Billed as the greatest gathering of heralds since the

middle ages, the representatives of the heraldic authorities were led through the Town by a pipe band. New impressive gonfalons which were specially commissioned for the event were carried aloft at the head of the parade. The Chief Herald of Ireland was represented by **Mr. Mícheál Ó Comáin**, Herald of Arms, who wore the beautiful tabard of the Office which was a gift from the Her-

aldry Society of Scotland. Tabards were traditionally worn by heralds which bore the Arms of their authority. The new Irish tabard features the Arms of Ireland and hopefully it will be used publicly in Ireland for special occasions. The lectures were, according to reports, of high quality and very well attended. The 28th Congress will be held in Québec City, Canada, from June 23rd to 28th 2008.

Précis of August Lecture

At the August evening meeting **Caroline McCall, MGS**, of the Probate Office of the High Court, gave a talk on Probate records for family history, covering wills, affidavits, and other testamentary records which form part of the Probate process. Topics covered included the validity of wills, the probate process, and how and where applications for probate may be made. Special attention was paid to documents which people may not usually consider, such as Revenue Affidavits; Bonds; and other miscellaneous affidavits, which are an underused source of genealogical and social history. The topic of Grants, both Primary and Secondary were covered and their relevance for family history research. Wills are held for a period of twenty years in the Probate Office or District Registry, and after that they are deposited with the National Archives in Bishop Street. Once proven, all documents lodged as part of the probate application become a matter of public record, and it is possible to obtain copies for a small fee. Advice was given on how to search for probate records, why Probate is sometimes granted many years after a person died, and the

necessity for Probate for the transfer of land. It was announced that the Probate database is to become available to the general public within the next two years. The history of Probate from the 12th Century right up to the 19th Century was outlined. Some interesting samples of 18th Century wills and inventories from the National Archives and the Probate Office, including wills of women prior to the 1882 Married Women's Property Act, inventories from the 17th Century, and soldiers' wills from WWI were shown. There were also samples of wills of Irish emigrants proven here – including that of an 18th Century Jamaican Planter. Sources for medieval and Tudor wills were considered, as well as the history of the Probate Office prior to 1858, when testamentary jurisdiction lay with the Established Protestant Church. The transfer of Church records to the Public Records Office in the middle of the 19th Century meant their virtual destruction in the fire in the Public Records Office in 1922. The topic of surviving pre-1857 Abstracts, Transcripts and Inland Revenue Registers was discussed, including Vicar's Index to Prerogative Wills,

1536-1810; the Indexes to Dublin Grant Books and Wills, 1270-1800 and 1800-1858 and the Genealogical abstracts of Sir William Betham. Among post-1858 sources, the printed annual Calendars were noted as a good source of information, even though the original wills were destroyed. Things to bear in mind for this period are the consolidated index covering 1858-1877; and that up to 1917 the Calendars cover the whole of Ireland, but since 1918 they cover only the twenty-six counties. Indexes covering the six counties of Northern Ireland since 1918 are in PRONI. The subject of Intestacy was briefly discussed, though this is such a broad area it would take another evening to cover. If people find that they need to extract a Grant of Probate or Administration, a low cost, personal applications service is available from the Probate Office. Further information is available on the Courts Service website: www.courts.ie

Editor:- Caroline McCall, MGS delivered this lecture at the American FGS Conference in Boston. The Cathaoirleach, **Rory Stanley, FGS** also spoke and represented the Society.

Course, Survey & Report

COURSES IN GENEALOGY

Enrolment has now commenced for the UCD Adult Education courses in genealogy, which will be held at the Belfield and Blackrock campuses. Module 1 will commence in the last week of September, and is particularly suited for beginners, dealing with the principles of and basic sources for genealogical research. While 'interest' students are welcome, those who wish to acquire NUI Certificate and Diploma qualifications will submit written work for evaluation and go on to pursue more advanced modules. Contact **Mr. Seán Murphy, MA** at sjbmurphy@eircom.net with general queries about the course, and for enrolment particulars contact

UCD Adult Education Centre at (01) 716 7123, or visit its website at: www.ucd.ie/aldulted

ON-LINE SURVEY

Readers are invited to participate in the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology 2006 On-Line Survey of Genealogy Tourists and Researchers to Ireland. The survey asks questions about where you are from, your holiday preferences and some information connected with genealogical research. It will take approximately 5 minutes to complete the questionnaire. Your survey responses will be strictly confidential and data from this research will be reported only in the aggregate. However if you have any questions or wish to add any comment contact

Jon Towler at E-mail: jontowler@eircom.net
The text of the survey is available <http://gmitweb.gmit.ie:8080/genealogy> our members are readers are encouraged to assist Jon Towler with this important research project.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS REPORT

The Department of Justice, Equality & Law Reform has released the report it commissioned on the archive and future of the Registry of Deeds in Dublin. Central to this report is the management of the invaluable archival collection. A new location and a document scanning project are proposed. This would protect the originals and greatly improve access to the scanned documents. See:- www.justice.ie

Membership of the Society

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, Member-

ship 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

James Scannell Reports.....

CENTENERY OF FERRY SERVICE

2006 marks the centenary of the inauguration of the Rosslare / Fishguard ferry service. Towards the end of the 19th century, Waterford City in the southeast of Ireland was connected with New Milford in the Milford Haven estuary. The Victorian engineer Marc Brunel envisaged a port on the Welsh west coast which could hand the transatlantic liner trade and would require a rail connection with London. The Fishguard and Rosslare Railways and Harbour Company, which was owned jointly by the Great Western Railway Company in Great Britain and the Irish Great Southern and Western Railway, planned to construct a railway from Waterford to Rosslare in Co. Wexford in Ireland but on the Welsh side of the Irish Sea linking New Milford to the railway network posed major engineering difficulties so the port of Fishguard was selected an alternative. It had the advantages of having deep water, was sheltered and offered a shorter crossing time to Ireland. Work began in 1899 on the development of Fishguard which was completed by 1906. That year the inaugural Fishguard to Rosslare service was

launched with the first west bound sailing by the *Saint David* carrying 231 passengers. Since then the service has operated until two of its three vessels were requisitioned by the British government in 1939 and the third, *St. Patrick*, was bombed by the Germans and sank with the loss of thirty lives on June 13th 1941 which resulted in the service being suspended until after the War. The ferry service has established very strong connections between the two ports and especially since the crewing of the vessels on this route was drawn from both sides of the Irish Sea many family connections have developed since 1906.

MUNITIONS FOUND ON LUSITANIA

It was reported that in July a licensed dive on the wreck of the RMS Lusitania sunk off the Old Head of Kinsale by a German submarine on 7 May 1915 with the loss of 1198 passengers and crew, discovered upwards of 15000 rounds .303 ammunition in the bow section - the ship's manifest recorded a consignment of 2.4M rounds of .303 ammunition. The expedition using 6 divers and 17 support crew was super-

vised by the Department of the Environment as the wreck site has been protected by an Irish Government since 1995 to prevent it being plundered and searched for the paintings that Sir Hugh Lane had on board in lead containers in the hold. It is expected that a full dive report will be published in due course.

ANNIVERSARY OF SIGNAL TOWERS

Fear of a French invasion led to the construction between 1804 and 1806 of 80 fortified signal towers around the Irish coast to act as an early warning system. A system of semaphore signals was used which were visible from one tower to another. Signal stations which were not fortified sent signals by flags. Following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815, the towers were abandoned but were returned to use in the World Wars as look-out posts. On August 4th bonfires were lit at Bunmahon, Ardmore and Browntown Head in Co. Waterford followed on 20 August by the lighting of fires at all the signal tower sites around the country to mark the 200th anniversary of the building of these towers around our coastline.

Arms for Polish Bar in Dublin

With the great influx in to Ireland of tens of thousands of migrant workers from the new member states of the European Union the Irish workforce is changing rapidly. The largest element in this migration of well educated and mostly skilled workforce comes from Poland. There is hardly a bar, restaurant or shop in the Dublin region that hasn't Polish staff members. Certain Catholic churches have now services in Polish and the Polish Embassy has announced that it is setting up a Polish School in Dublin. Polish shops and bakeries serve this vibrant community with traditional foodstuffs. Dublin's evening newspaper "*Evening Herald*" now publishes a Polish section each week and, of

course, we have the weekly "*Polska Gazetta*". So not surprisingly a Polish social and cultural scene has emerged, including the popular **Bar Zagloba** in the City Centre. To mark the occasion of the opening of Dublin's first Polish Bar the Society presented Bar Zagloba with a coat-of-arms designed by **George Lucki** (Canada) and drawn by **Andrew Tully** (South Africa) of the **International Association of Amateur Heraldry**. The Arms depict the wonderful and complex personality of **Henryk Sienkiewicz's** famous character Lord Onufry Zagloba. Clearly George Lucki had some fun in heraldically portraying this colourful gentleman in a typical Polish style. Bar Zagloba is also the home base

for many Polish soccer teams and it is an important venue in the Polish social life of Dublin. As coats-of-arms feature highly as symbols in team sports, these new Zagloba Arms hopefully will grace many a successful Dublin Polish team. Zabloba has been described as a hard drinking, tall tale spinning blackguard of indeterminate age and origin, he was a man who certainly enjoyed the company of anyone who would treat him to fine beverages but also loved his homeland and when necessary would risk his own life to protect those he loved and honour his word given to a friend. The Arms are proudly displayed in **Bar Zagloba** on Parnell Street—the first Polish Arms for Dublin!!

Society Lecture Programme

Séamus Moriarty, MGSI, Leas-Chathaoirleach of the Society and Convener of the Evening Meetings has arranged a full programme of lectures for the remainder of the year. On Tuesday September 12th the former Director of the National Library and former Chief Herald of Ireland, **Brendan O'Donoghue** will speak on the topic of "**The Leahy family of Engineers 1780 to 1888**". Brendan has done considerable research on the lives and times of Irish engineers. This type of study of a family occupation or business provides a framework

for one's own research and opens up resource possibilities. On Tuesday October 10th we are delighted to have **Dr. Síobhán FitzPatrick**, Librarian at the Royal Irish Academy in Dublin. This lecture will explore the Royal Irish Academy as a resource for family history by explaining what is available in this wonderful archive and how to access these resources. On Tuesday November 14th **Patrick-Wyse Jackson** of the Dept. of Geology, Trinity College Dublin, will speak on "**Sir Richard Griffith (1784-1878) public servant, valuator and geologist**". This

will give us a chance to learn more on the man behind Griffith's Valuation Survey. Finally, on the last Evening Meeting of 2006, we are very pleased to have **Eileen Ó Duíll, MAPGI**, professional genealogist, who will speak on the topic "**The Four Courts Fire of 1922**"- an opportunity to understand what was lost and what survived. Séamus is currently planning the Lecture Programme for the first quarter of 2007 and beyond. Should you have any suggestions on the Lecture Programme please forward these to Séamus via the Editor at GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday Sep. 12th & Oct. 10th 2006

Evening Open Meeting

*Dún Laoghaire College of Further
Education*

*Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs*

Wednesday Sep. 27th & Oct. 25th 2006

Morning Open Meeting

*Weir's, Lwr. George's Street, Dún
Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs*

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

*(Coffee/Tea included at Morning
Meetings)*

QUERIES

RHONDDA MOL, 85 Brembel Street, Kitchener, Ontario, N2B 3T7, Canada E-mail: 1vnnin-thepast@rogers.com Wrote: Seeking info. Re. **WINN/WYNN/WYNNE**. William Winn, born 1800, Dublin, Ireland and his wife Mary (surname is unknown). They married c. 1820-1825, before emigrating to Lancashire, England. Children in Lancashire from 1827-1842, incld. William, John, Elizabeth, Thomas, James and Charlotte. Any information greatly appreciated.

ALLEN BLAKELEY, 8 Winsford Grove, Bolton, Lancs BL3 4QD, England E-mail: ap.blakeley@ntlworld.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on Timothy **O'Callaghan**, b. c. 1820 in Malloy, Co. Cork & Ellen (AKA Margaret) **Joyce**, b. c. 1820 in Limerick. They married c. 1844 (Limerick -?) & had daughters Mary Ann b. c. 1845 in Limerick & Elizabeth, b. c. 1847 in Cork. Also seeking info. on William **Harris**, b. c. 1834 in Dublin & his father Joseph. William was described as a coach builder and Joseph as "a clerk in office". In October 1857 William m. Hannah **Collister** in the Isle of Man. Residence on the certificate, Dublin. William remained in the I.O.M. before settling in England. His eldest son, William Edward Harris became the first chairman of the Ritz Hotel in London and of a number of hotels in England and the USA. in the 1890s until his death in 1923, he had a number of properties, including one in Drogheda. Any information or help in tracing the property in Drogheda would also be greatly appreciated.

EDWARD P. KEIGHRON, 2579 So Live Oak Drive, Moncks Corner, South Carolina 29461, USA E-mail:- commstal6@aol.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on the **Keighron** Family, Last known to be in Sligo. Grandfather Edward J moved from Sligo to Buffalo NY in early 1930's. Interested in finding family. Possibly related to the **Finnigan** family. Any info. please.

PEGGY LYONS ERNST, 480 Hibernia Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238, USA. E-mail:- eryanda@fuse.net Wrote:- Trying to locate any information on John & Joanna (**Scanlon**) **Lyons** from early 1800's in Cashel, Co. Tipperary, or any of their 9 children, William, John, Patrick, Thomas, Margaret, Pat, Judith, Michael. Any help on this family most appreciated.

GLORIA BLIGH TEHAN, 38 Woodland street, Ashgrove, Brisbane Queensland Australia Q4060. E-mail:- gloriablightehan@hotmail.com Wrote:- seeking the marriage of Philippe **LeGeyt** to Eliza (born in Ireland). Their 1st child Eliza b.c. 1811, & m. in 1835 to the son of Sir Maurice Charles Philip **O'Connell** of Riverston Ireland. He is listed in the O'Connell Tracts. Philippe b. St. Hellier, Isle of Jersey 1779, he served in the 63rd foot West Suffolk Regiment as Lieutenant Colonel 1795-1842 & briefly in Ireland 1803-1810 & 1822-1825. I am the granddaughter 4 times removed from Vice Admiral William Bligh. Any information on these or related families most appreciated.

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

Belfast Agreement & Heraldic Parity of Esteem New British-Irish Protocol Required?

The publication of the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* in May by Senator Brendan Ryan has brought the whole issue of heraldic jurisdiction in to focus. In these islands there are three separate heraldic authorities, Lord Lyon in Scotland, the Chief Herald of Ireland and the College of Arms in London. The latter has jurisdiction for England and Wales, and from 1943, for Northern Ireland. The College of Arms also has heraldic jurisdiction in British overseas possessions and all of the Dominions of the Commonwealth with the exception of Canada since 1988. Though, the Lord Lyon has made grants of Arms to persons of Scottish ancestry living outside Scotland, most experts agree that the College of Arms in London has the sole heraldic jurisdiction for the issuance of Coats-of-Arms to persons of British ancestry living outside the United Kingdom. However, Canadians have their own authority since 1988 and the Republic of South Africa has its own since 1962. In Ireland the situation is far less clear, notwithstanding the fact that the State has delivered heraldic services since 1943, there is no proper legislative basis for such. In 1943 the ancient records and "treasures" of the office of the Ulster King of Arms—the last British Crown Office in Dublin, were transferred to the Irish government. The British transferred the title of the office and, as they assumed, its heraldic functions to the College of Arms. The

British were horrified when the Irish government gave permission for the newly created Genealogical Office to grant and confirm Arms for Irish citizens and members of the Irish Diaspora. The indignation of the heralds in London was eased somewhat when Ireland became a republic in 1949 and more so, with the passing of the *Republic of Ireland Act, 1949* by Westminster recognising the republic and removing the twenty-six counties from the King's dominions in British law. Not surprisingly, the Irish viewed the situation differently and in accordance with the 1937 Constitution, the Chief Herald of Ireland considered his jurisdiction to be the island of Ireland, including Northern Ireland. Grants were made to individuals on both sides of the border since 1943, including many senior clergymen, both Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland (Anglican). Members of the Irish Diaspora with their roots in what is now Northern Ireland also were recipients of Grants of Arms from Dublin. Whilst this London/Dublin "dispute" over the heraldic jurisdiction of Northern Ireland could have continued unabated for years, the signing of the Belfast Agreements in 1998 and the subsequent constitutional referenda make this position no longer tenable for either side. The British-Irish Agreements of 1998 assured "parity of esteem" between the communities in Northern Ireland recognising both national identities and alle-

giances of the population. The problem arises for Northern Irish grantees of Arms from Dublin, to use them in Northern Ireland, they must apply for a new grant from London, the design of which, could only be "informed" by the Irish grant. London will not simply re-register Irish grants for persons domiciled in Northern Ireland. Surely as persons in Northern Ireland may opt for an Irish or British passport or both without hindrance and with the agreement of both governments, a solution to this heraldic jurisdiction is readily available. However, a British-Irish Heraldic Protocol may have to await the proper legal establishment of the Irish heraldic authority in legislation in the Republic.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

The Society's Archive is based at the restored Martello Tower at Seapoint, County Dublin is closed until further notice for essential annual maintenance. The Archivist, **Mr. Séamus O'Reilly, MGSi**, regrets any inconvenience caused to members and visitors. However, necessary work to a shaft area at the entrance requires the closure of the building. As this building is a protected structure a Conservation Architect has been contracted to provide a survey and to advise the County Council and the Society. Further information next month.