

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

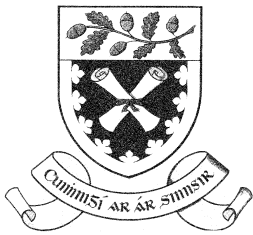
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
Heritage Matters
Book Reviews
Open Meetings
News & Queries

CONTENTS

<i>What Did Your Father do in the War?</i>	2
<i>1905 Flooding of Little Bray,</i>	2
<i>Four Courts Press & the Genealogist</i>	2
<i>Can You Help with These Queries?</i>	3
<i>Eneclann Publish 3 New CD Roms</i>	3
<i>Diary Dates & Queries</i>	4
<i>Killed in Action Gallipoli 1915</i>	4

IS THE ARCHIVE OF THE REGISTRY OF DEEDS ON THE MOVE?

The Registry of Deeds on Dublin's Henrietta Street could now be the next target for the Irish government's decentralization programme. The aim of this programme is to bring government jobs to the regions and thereby boost local economic activity.

Whilst, decentralization of some government services and agencies is universally welcome, other offices and services must be located in the nation's capital. The latter includes the great national institutions like the National Library, National Archives and the other national cultural institutions.

Genealogists and others remember the debacle over the long drawn out decentralization of the General Register Office to Roscommon Town and the long-running campaign for the maintenance of the Search Facility in Dublin City. The lessons learned during that campaign have alerted us all to the possibility that such politically motivated plans for this type of decentralization can be very damaging to the integrity of the archival resources of the nation.

It is possible that to avoid the protracted and sometimes bitter confrontation that was generated during the GRO situation, that the Minister has moved quickly to engage in a meaningful and wide consultation with the various stakeholders. This is surely to be welcomed, but openness must be the hallmark of the process.

Legislation currently before Dáil Éireann—*Registration of Deeds & Title Bill, 2004* seeks to establish a new authority to combine the functions of the Registry of Deeds and the Land Registry to be known as The Property Registration Authority. Clearly structural changes are imminent, however, it's unclear as to how these changes will impact on the users of the Registry of Deeds and possibly, alter the accessibility of records.

Clearly the records of the Registry of Deeds need to be urgently transferred to an electronic format and this opens up many varied possibilities for wider access. But concerns about access to records during such a process must be fully addressed. Ideally, the "historic" records of the Registry of Deeds should be lodged with

the National Archives of Ireland whether in Bishop Street or in a new purpose built facility in the City of Dublin. Any plans to decentralize these records will be vigorously opposed by all stakeholders.

As the records of the Registry of Deeds and of our other national repositories constitute part of our archival heritage, making the protection of such a constitutional imperative has been proposed by *The Twenty-Eighth Amendment of the Constitution Bill, 2006*. This provision, if it were to become part of the Constitution, would certainly be of considerable benefit to the preservation of our cultural heritage in its many forms for future generations.

Whatever the outcome of the current consultative process on the future of the Registry of Deeds will be, it's clear that the various "stakeholders", including this Society and other genealogical and heritage organisations, have genuine concerns regarding the future accessibility and custody of these valuable records. The early publication of Minister's plans for the future of the records of the Registry of Deeds is awaited.

Heraldic Authority Established

President, Ilham Aliyev, of the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan signed a decree establishing a Heraldic Council to prepare and implement state heraldic policy according to reports from the state capital of Baku. Presumably this will include the granting of Arms by the Republic. The governance of the Heraldic Council and State Register of Heraldry will be

approved when the Azerbaijani Cabinet submits legislation to parliament in accordance with the Presidential Decree. Mr. Ramiz Mehdiyev, was appointed the head of the Heraldic Council with Mr. Mahmud Karimov, President, National Academy of Sciences as his deputy. The new Heraldic Council includes the Culture and Tourism Minister, as well as some Azeri public and culture figures

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 14th March 2006 at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education. The AGM will receive reports from the Board and Members will elect a Board for 2006/7. The Guest Speaker will be **Comdt. Victor Laing** of the **Military Archives**, Cathal Brugha Barracks, Dublin.

What Did Your Father do in the War?

On 19th January 2006 I was invited onto the 'Liveline' radio programme on RTÉ1 with Joe Duffy to give my account of what it was like as a child being the son of quite an elderly father. Of course there were lean times, especially if your father is retired from the day you are born. I have nothing but very happy memories of my father. I related that he brought me in contact with people of his generation and even their recollections of previous generations. The first I told the story was when I was about ten years old I was at school and our class was asked to compile a composition on 'What did your father do in the war?' I asked my father who survived the Battle of the Somme with the Royal Field Artillery and I was delighted to have a primary eye-witness account. I went to school and handed up my composition only to get a clip across the ear from the teacher because my composition was about WWI and not WWII as were the compositions of all my other classmates. The second story I told was being with my father when I was seven in 1961 and visiting his old friends and former neighbours in the country. He had been a tailor after the

Great War in the 1920's up to the 1950's in the village of Carrigadrohid, a few miles from Macroom, Co. Cork. One his former customers was a fellow veteran of the Great War, Lieutenant General Sir Adrian Carton De Wiart, VC, (1880-1963), who was living in retirement in Aghinagh House, just a few miles away from Carrigadrohid. Lady (Joan) De Wiart greeted us warmly in the driveway up to the 'Big House'. My father on being invited inside was making his way through the tradesman's entrance and Lady De Wiart called him back saying, "those days are long gone, you are my guest today" and directed him towards the steps leading up to the front door of the 'Big House.' We had 'high tea' made up of triangular sandwiches, fresh scones with butter and jam with silverware and china cups in the drawing room, surrounded by paintings of General De Wiart in uniform with a black patch over his left eye, resembling a pirate, Lady De Wiart as a beautiful London socialite and Sir Winston Churchill, whom I later learned was a life-long friend, in the general's autobiography, 'A Happy Odyssey', published in 1950. I got to meet the general

who had only one arm, one eye and one leg. (I often thought afterwards if I had included in my school composition meeting a real First World War general who had won the Victoria Cross, I would have got two clips across the ear from the teacher). While my father chatted with the general about old times, Lady De Wiart took me outside and showed me all the farm animals and put me up on one of her horses. She also picked some daffodils for me to bring home to my mother and we bade our goodbyes. We walked back the road to Carrigadrohid and went into the pub to wait for the bus back home to Cork City. About an hour after relating my story on the 'Liveline' radio programme I got a phone call from a friend who heard the interview, who told me that Lady De Wiart aged 102 years had only just died on Friday 13th January 2006 and that her funeral service was taking place the very day the 19th January 2006 and almost to the minute I was telling my story about her at 2.30p.m. in Aherla Church, Co. Cork. RIP. *Jim Herlihy, FGSi*

Fuller account is to be published in the Journal.

The 1905 Flooding of Little Bray

At the first Open Meeting of the new year the members heard a fascinating talk by the renowned Local Historian, **James Scannell**. The following is a short précis of his very interesting talk.

Around 10 p.m. on Friday 25 August 1905 the Little Bray area of Bray town was subject to severe flooding due to the continuous rain which fell for 36 hours. Immediately the Royal Irish Constabulary began a massive evacuation of this part of Bray which is prone to flooding aided by the Coastguards, fishermen and townspeople. It was a night when many acts of heroism were performed by

countless individuals and despite the scale of the disaster, there was only one official fatality, **James Plunkett**, who was lost despite the best efforts of **Joseph W. Reigh**, Chairman, Urban District Council, and **John Keenan**. In December, the Royal Humane Society held a public inquiry into the bravery nominations it had received and ultimately the Society's Bronze Medal was awarded to Joseph W. Reigh while others received Testimonials on Parchment while all the members of the Royal Irish Constabulary who took part in rescue operations had commendations inserted into their service records. However John Keenan was overlooked in the awards and although

many felt that justifiably he should have received some recognition for his efforts with Mr. Reigh, this oversight was never remedied. On 25th August 1986, the Little Bray area was again completely devastated by Hurricane Charlie through on this occasion despite extensive property damage there was no recorded loss of life.

Editor: It is intended to publish a précis of talks given at the Evening Meeting each month. The **February** talk will be given by **Mr. Charles Callan** of the Irish Labour History Society on "**Dublin Painters & Religious Affiliation in the Early 20th Century**".

Four Courts Press & the Genealogist

As genealogists and social historians we're in constant search of new published material to enhance our knowledge and understanding of our subject matter. However, despite an array of available publications dealing with local history and specific historical events or topics, many fail to adequately satisfy the appetite of the genealogist for detail. The authors and contributors to such publications often provide much valuable information gleaned from an intimate knowledge of their subject and yet, present such without detailed source references

for further research. In many cases, such fine publications would be greatly improved by the insertion of a genealogical chart, timeline chart and appropriate maps etc. One Dublin City based publishing house—Four Courts Press, has certainly encouraged its authors to provide their readers, especially genealogists, with such material. Indeed, this publishing company has to be congratulated for its attention to pre-1800 Ireland and in particular, to Gaelic Ireland. The latter subject can greatly benefit from the use of genealogical charts as the names and naming

systems could be unfamiliar or confusing to the reader. An examination of the extensive on-line catalogue produced by Four Courts Press will show the wide range of research data of interest and value to our subject. Indeed, many of its publications have been reviewed in this newsletter and others will most certainly follow over the coming months. In the meantime, readers may wish to check out the publications list on www.four-courts-press.ie as a fuller understanding of the times in which our ancestors lived is central to the appreciation of genealogy.

Can You Help with These Queries?

Paul Langley, 28 Poachers Rest, Welton, Lincoln, LN2 3TR, England. E-mail: palangley@tiscali.co.uk Wrote:- Tracing my g-g-grandfather, Samuel **Langley** a mariner. Lived Dublin 9, North Dock Street (1873). Marr. Anne **Fitzpatrick** & had Robert b. 20 May 1873 & Samuel b. 16 June 1875. Robert, my g-grandfather moved to Liverpool & married Anne **Walker** 1898. Both Robert & Samuel were mariners. Any info appreciated.

Rosilea Gabriel, 12 Myosotis Street, Bowral, NSW 2576, Australia. E-mail: gabes@bigpond.net.au Wrote:- Seeking parents of Patrick **Barry**, b. c. 1836 Co. Cork, d. 1873 at sea. Marr. Hanorah **Donovan**, Brisbane, Queensland, 1862 & cert gives policeman, but nothing in police records in Victoria and Queensland. Policeman in Ireland? Clues re. birth & parents in diary (1928) mention his daughter, Julia **Hernon**, & her 2 children, Patrick & Molly (Mary Sheila) & aunt, Jo **Talty**, visiting relatives in Charleville, Co. Cork & mention an Ellie, Maria, David and Jack Barry. Any info. please.

Dr. Claude d'Amours, 2665 Des Berges, Lévis, Canada, G6V 8Y5. E-mail: claudedamours@videotron.ca Wrote:- A maternal ancestor James George **Lee** was an orphan in Canada. Parents Irish immigrants & possibly victims of the plague. At his marriage parents as George **Lee** and Mary **Tobem** of Ireland. Any clues please?

Dorothy (Stansell) Fredette, 1038 N Loara St., Anaheim, California 92801, USA E-mail: dorfredette@adelphia.net Wrote:- My grandmother Dorothy (Dora) Carroll. b. 22. Jan 1884, Booterstown Ireland & baptised 27 Jan sponsors George **Pendergast** & Catherine **Hughs** & parents Michael **Carroll** & Catherine (née **McLoughlin**). Any info appreciated.

Karen FitzMaurice Camp, 5649 Auburn St. Wolcott, NY 14590 USA E-mail: karen_camp2000@yahoo.com Wrote:- My g-grandfather Frederick **FitzMaurice** b. 1841 in Ireland & in 1870 Census of Paterson New Jersey—child Maud 1 yr. & wife Fannie **Hayes** (f: Robert Hayes). Any info. please.

Jack Long, 147, MacArthur Drive, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, Canada S6V 5X2 E-mail: jack.long@sasktel.net Wrote:- Researching James **Long** b. c. 1803 Ireland to West Gwillimbury Township of Simcoe Co., Ontario Canada prior to 1837. Wife Mary b. c. 1824 Ireland. Any info. please.

John Farrell, Kenmore, Marwood, Barnard Castle, Co. Durham, DL12 8QW, England. E-mail: JKKenmore@aol.com Wrote: Seeking date & location of birth of grandfather John Farrell b. 1870 to James **Farrell** & Mary **McArdle**. 1893 he's in Knockatador & marr. Bridget **Maguire** of Tullyunshin in RC Ch. of Larah, Cootehill, Co. Cavan. Had issue:- James 1894 & Mary 1895. Bridget d. c. 1896. In 1897 John marr. Maryanne **Connolly** of Crossduff, Aghnamullen but living at Boughhill. Marr. In St. Livinus' church, Killeevan, Co. Managhan & had issue: Bridget 1900, John 1903 & Maggie 1906 (in Fermanagh). 1907 emigrated to Scotland to Newton in Cambuslang. Son Francis b. 1913. My grandfather John died in 1934. Any info. on this family please.

Eneclann Publish 3 New CD Roms

Once again our friends in Eneclann have made available three invaluable research resources for the genealogist. Published in CD Rom format, the first of the new publications is the much sought after "*Brian J. Cantwell's Memorials of the Dead, the Collected Works*" edited by his son Ian Cantwell. This CD contains the names of 67,297 people from over 500 burial locations in Ireland, mainly in Wicklow and Wexford, but also from south Co. Dublin, west Clare and Co. Kildare. Previously only available in type-script form in selected libraries, these details are now available to all with an interest in the areas covered. Cantwell's transcriptions mainly come from the pre 1880 era, though, there are many

exceptions to this general rule. His aim was to collect information from the period prior to civil registration of deaths in Ireland (1864). The second publication is of immense value to the study of Irish genealogy and it follows on a previous CD Rom of similar value— "*The Irish Ancestor 1969-1986*" which made available the wealth of articles published in that periodical. Now with the publication of "*The Irish Genealogist—Vols. 1-8 1937-1993*" a vast treasure trove of research by members of the London based Irish Genealogical Research Society is now available to genealogists worldwide. Hundreds of well researched articles are now a new resource which many genealogists,

social historians and, in some cases, heraldry enthusiasts, will find extremely useful in their own studies. No doubt other such periodicals which are not readily available will follow. The third publication just released by Eneclann is the very useful resource "*The 1798 Rebellion: Claimants and Surrenders*" compiled by Ian Cantwell and containing over 8000 names. The CD brings together two different groups—those who took part in the Great Rebellion of 1798 and those claiming compensation for damage to their property arising from this terribly bloody conflict. For further information on these and other CD Roms check out www.eneclann.ie or telephone Eneclann on +353.1.671 0338

Membership Subscription Renewals Now Over Due

Membership fee renewals are **now over due**. The Board of the Society at its November 2005 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure under **Res: 05/11/456** the Board adopted the following 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.

The avoidance of any substantial increase in the Membership Fee was achieved by the adoption of **Res: 05/11/455** with the production of a biannual Journal instead of a quarterly Journal with no reduction in content or overall size of

the annual volume. The savings here are entirely on postage costs as the cost of mailing the Journal overseas was becoming greater than the unit cost of the publication. This situation was totally unsustainable.

The Board trusts that this measure aimed at tackling spiralling postage costs will be fully supported by our Members at home and overseas.

Remember you can renew on line on the Society's website—www.familyhistory.ie/shop

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday Feb. 14th & Mar. 14th 2006

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire Senior College

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Feb. 22nd & Mar. 22nd 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

John Dennehy, c/o Department of History, Tyrconnell, University College, Cork, is undertaking a study of the impact on Tipperary of the **First World War** and would appreciate any assistance by way of letters, photographs, reminiscences or info on this topic. Tel: +353.86 865 6156 by E-mail:- jdenehy.ie@gmail.com.

Tracie Joy, 22 Fieldstone Dr., Londonderry, NH 03053, USA. E-mail: Majiklmoon@aol.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on my grandfather Gerard **Farrell** born Feb 3, 1904 Meath Diocese Parish of Drummanly? to Martin Farrell & Ellen **Coughlin**. My grandmother—Mary Jane **Spillane** born July 15, 1908 to a Maurice Spillane & Jane **Sullivan** of Bantry, Co. Cork. Her siblings: Rose, Kathleen (Kay), Agatha (a nun) Evelyn, Margaret (Peggy) and Frankie. Daniel **Sheehan** was listed as a friend/sponsor on passage to America. Any information please.

Brenda Keer, 39, Dover Road, Wanstead Park, London E12 5DZ, England. E-mail:- b.m.keer@btinternet.com Wrote:- Interested in Arthur **Dunn(e)**, 1st Captain of Attorneys Cavalry & Crown Solicitor for Connaught (1794-1814). Died 1814 & was father of Henrietta/Hester who married William **Hunter** 30 Aug 1785 a Deputy Registrar of the Exchequer. Their children: John Arthur (Attorney), William (Lieut. Royal Navy) & James Henry (Lieut. Royal Navy). Have letters from Blessington St., Dublin early 1800s. James Henry Hunter was my great-great-grandfather.

Joy Liddy, 46 Liberty Cres., Moncton, NB E1A 6H3 Canada, E-mail: inj@nbnet.nb.ca Wrote:- My husband's grandmother Rose **Spicer** born on Malahide Road Dublin Dec 21st, 1870/80 & married James Thomas **Liddy** of Dublin & had 3 children: James Samuel, Benjamin, Gwendolyn. She had 3 brothers (Alf, Ben, George,) & at least 2 sisters (Mae and Daisy.) Alf settled in New York & George in Philadelphia. Daisy married Jack **Lonergan**. Mae to England. Any info. please.

Kirsten Johnsrud, 141, West 10th St., New York, 10014, USA. Wrote: Seeking info. on Ellen (**McConnell**) Graham & James **Graham** b. c. 1791, Co. Armagh & married prior to 1814. They went to Canada c. 1823 with at least 2 children, Mary Ann b. 1814 & Samuel b. 1818. Relatives of the above named **Shields** and **Porter** said to have emigrated with them. Any info. please.

Nota Bene:- Queries are published at the editor's discretion and only where a mailing address and e-mail address are provided. In future, due to space, queries will only appear in this panel.

Killed in Action at Gallipoli 1915

Philip Lecane, MGSi is researching with a view to publication the military landing at **V Beach, Gallipoli** on 25th April 1915. The major role in this First World War landing was taken by men of two famous Irish regiments of the British Army the **Royal Dublin Fusiliers** and the **Royal Munster Fusiliers**.

The Allied landings at Gallipoli in Turkey were part of a campaign to open a new front against Germany's ally Turkey and to secure a southern sea supply route to Russia through the Black Sea. This daring and ultimately futile exercise was born of the seemingly endless stalemate of the western front.

The plan offered the possibility of knocking Turkey out of the war, however, those who opposed this Anglo-French plan were resolute in their belief that the entire operation starved other fronts of men and military resources.

Gallipoli is a peninsula jutting out between the Aegean Sea and the straight of the Dardanelles leading up to Constantinople (now Istanbul) which was then the capital city of the Turkish (Ottoman) Empire. Capturing the city would open the way to the Black Sea and Russia.

The main landings were at Cape Helles on the southern tip of the peninsula where V Beach

was situated with other and later landings to the north on the Aegean side at places like Suvla Bay.

The troops for this campaign were drawn from British, Irish, Australian, New Zealand and French regiments. Indeed, the famous ANZAC Corps was to become inextricably linked with the bloodbath of Gallipoli in the hearts and minds of Australians and New Zealanders right down to this day. Many a song, story and film portrays the hopelessness of the situation facing these troops during the dreadful battles fought with such bravery by men of many nations, not least, the Turks defending their homeland.

Vicious and terrible trench warfare ensued until the Gallipoli peninsula was fully abandoned in January 1916 with circa 250,000 Allied troop casualties and possibly an equal or greater number of Turks. Whilst, history as seen by many has judged the Gallipoli campaign to have been a monumental blunder by incompetent Allied commanders, in reality, it should be viewed militarily as a great Turkish victory in a war they eventually lost.

Philip would be very grateful to receive any information on any of the men who landed there, especially, from anyone who had a Royal Dublin Fusilier or Royal Munster Fusilier

relative killed at Gallipoli between 25th and 27th April 1915 (inclusive). Please contact Philip at the address below. Philip will be acknowledging all assistance in his book.

Philip Lecane MGSi, 77, Windsor Drive, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland. E-mail:- rdfa@eircom.net (This is the e-mail address of Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association. Please ask that your message be forwarded to Philip Lecane)

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**, MGSi, 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.