

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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

## CONTENTS

<i>Irish Policing History</i>	2
<i>2006 Publications</i>	2
<i>Irish Jewish Community</i>	2
<i>Irish Period Drama</i>	3
<i>Wicklow's 400th</i>	3
<i>Diary Dates &amp; Queries</i>	4
<i>Concordat with Rome?</i>	4

## IS "ANCESTRY TOURISM" IN IRELAND NOW A THING OF THE PAST?

Once the real hope of many for a vibrant and sustainable tourism industry in Ireland, the phenomena known as "Ancestry Tourism" is now under severe pressure.

Changing trends in tourism globally are impacting greatly on Ireland in the aftermath of 9/11 and the introduction of cheap flights and city breaks in the European market. Whilst, the numbers visiting the country are up year on year, the market has shifted towards short city breaks concentrated on Dublin and the major cities. This change has resulted in the shortening of the traditional tourist season in most rural areas of Ireland. This loss of revenue and jobs to local areas has been highlighted by calls for action from the regional tourism bodies, businesses and the local politicians.

But what can be realistically done to alter this fundamental shift in our tourism market? Given that this shift was well flagged as far back as 1998, was the industry ignoring the situation or just simply, incapable of meeting the inevitable challenges?

The rush during the 1980s and 1990s to localize tourism marketing and promotion and to develop local branding was, in many ways, a failure to realize the global nature of the market place. This was most notable in areas close to Dublin City failing to "piggy-back" on the city's success in favour of local branding, marketing and promotion. The belated development of an "All-Ireland" marketing strategy may have very little impact on the city and short break trend in tourism.

Identification with place and people was central to the whole concept of "ancestry tourism" and, as such, investment and marketing was directed at the Irish Diaspora, mainly in the United States and Canada. But in the wake of 9/11 this market is in serious decline. However, 9/11 is but one factor in this decline, the other is the failure to meet this serious challenge with some fundamental changes at home.

"Ancestry Tourism" resources developed in the 1980s and now under the auspices of the IGP - Irish Genealogy Limited need to be fully incorporated into a national tourism marketing

strategy aimed at the Irish Diaspora. Offering the services of these Heritage Centres as part of a package to develop and sustain an identification with a particular place or county, and through such, ultimately create a desire to visit Ireland. However, unless such a service is delivered free of charge, possibly via the Internet, whereby introductions can be made to local service providers etc., "ancestry tourism" in Ireland is doomed.

As part of any sustainable strategy to provide such services in the promotion of "ancestry tourism" it may be necessary to bring the Heritage Centres under the control of the Public Library Service in each county. This will ensure an integrated approach to the planning and development of such strategies at county and "All-Ireland" levels.

Stakeholders, including the State, agencies and City, Town and County Councils, regional tourism bodies and the industry generally must develop an integrated approach to "ancestry tourism" development and promotion otherwise, "ancestry tourism" is a set to become inevitably a thing of the past in Ireland.

## New Title for the Society's Newsletter

When the Society's monthly newsletter "*The Genie Gazette*" completed its tenth volume in December 2005, the opportunity arose to update the format of the newsletter. Though, the original design had stood the test of time over the years, providing the Society with a platform, upon which, to advance its

aims and objectives in Ireland and overseas. Our readership has continued to grow and especially, on the Internet. The decision to alter the format and adopt a new title was made in consultation with the members at the December 2005 meeting in Dún Laoghaire. The new title was suggested by **Mr. Pádraig**

**Ingolsby, MGSi**, and met with the unanimous approval of the members present. The new format is also intended to be more accessible and attractive to both members and non-members alike. The opinions of our readers and any suggestions or comments are always welcome. Please note contact details on page 4.

# Another Fine History of Policing in Ireland

Recently appointed Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, **Garda Jim Herlihy, FGSI** of Ballincollig, Co. Cork, has completed yet another excellent book in his series of histories of policing in Ireland—"Royal Irish Constabulary Officers—A Biographical Dictionary and Genealogical Guide 1816-1922" which is published by what is arguably the premier academic publisher in Ireland **Four Courts Press** of Dublin. The book runs to 368 pages and contains details of all 1,700 RIC officers in the force from 1816 to its disbandment in 1922 following the establishment of the Irish Free State. This very fine publication has 273 illustrations which provide a vivid insight in to the life of this police force which operated in Ireland before independence. Though, much has been written about the political circumstance in which this force operated, it is sometimes forgotten that most of its members were ordinary Irishmen, Catholic, Protestant and Dissenter, doing routine policing duties in the service of the community not unlike their successors in this part of the island, An Garda Síochána, do today.

Therefore, it's entirely fitting that this policing heritage brought to the public in print by Garda Herlihy is understood and appreciated by members of the two police forces on the island of Ireland, An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), as, in many respects, a joint heritage to be cherished by both. The core of this book is to be found in its huge list, which mentions every (Royal) Irish Constabulary officer and Peace Preservation Force officer. This List covering, 1,700 officers, expands the officer genealogical content, each is identified by name only in the huge The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Complete Alphabetical List of 85,028 Officers and Men, 1816-1922 which Garda Herlihy published in 1999 to augment his earlier after The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Short History and Genealogical Guide which appeared in 1997. In addition the other appendices identify every officer and their roles who served at the RIC Headquarters in the Phoenix Park Depot, from 1842 to 1922 and its sub depots. In a separate appendix the constabulary divisions and districts to which RIC officers were allocated

are identified. An officer's Roll of Honour is also provided. The extensive research work undertaken by Garda Herlihy provides the reader with an incredible array of facts, figures, biographical detail and, more importantly, for genealogists he provides a unique resource for researching ancestors who were members of this force. The biographies offer fascinating details—many tantalisingly crying out for further investigation and no doubt, provide the basis of further works of both non-fiction and fiction. Garda Jim Herlihy, FGSI is the nation's foremost expert on the history of policing in Ireland and his works provide a resource for students of many aspects of Irish history from the early 19th century to the first quarter of the 20th. His previous titles include:- The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Short History & Genealogical Guide (1997); The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Complete Alphabetical List of Officers and Men, 1816-1922 (1999); The Dublin Metropolitan Police—A Short History and Genealogical Guide (2000); The Dublin Metropolitan Police—A Complete Alphabetical List of Officers and Men, 1836-1925 (2001).

## Society Publications in 2006

The change in the Membership Packages this month will see the Society publish its Journal on a biannual basis instead of quarterly as before. The Journal Editor, **Margaret Conroy, MGSI** has indicated that the contents of the two annual issues will be equal to or greater than the previous quarterly issues. The reasons for the change have been set forth in the Society's newsletters last year. Unfortunately, due to problems associated with the loss of our usual printer, the Autumn and Winter issues of 2005 will be

dispatched together later this month. Margaret is always seeking articles, family histories and biographies for publication in the Society's Journal and can be contacted by E-mail:- [mmeconroy@eircom.net](mailto:mmeconroy@eircom.net) or by mail at the address on page 4. Meanwhile, **Barry O'Connor, FGSI** and his team will shortly produce another fine collection of memorial inscriptions in print. This new volume will cover the Military Cemetery at Grangegorman in Dublin City which contains the remains of soldiers serving in the British Army in Ireland and overseas.

This volume is due out before the Annual General Meeting in March 2006. The Society is also exploring the possibility of publishing the Index to the 1901 and 1911 Census for Kingstown and environs (now Greater Dún Laoghaire area) on CD Rom. Also, possibly making further items readily searchable on the Society's website. Web Editor, **Iris O'Connor, MGSI**, is currently examining data for possible uploading. It is envisaged that this may include data from the Society's card index collection supplied by members.

## Researching the Irish Jewish Community

The Board's appointment of the Society's Vice-President, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, to the College of Fellows of the Society in recognition of his work on researching the Jewish community in Ireland was very warmly applauded by all the Members of the Society. But in many ways this was but an internal Genealogical Society matter that possibly failed to convey to others the enormity of the tasks undertaken by Stuart in his quest to have

the records of the Irish Jewish community located and copied. To date such records amount to nearly nine bound volumes comprising burial, census, births, school, college, immigration, marriage and other records of immense genealogical and historical value. Stuart has travelled the length and breadth of Ireland seeking out the sometimes long forgotten Jewish presence on the island. He has amassed such records of his community that place

his work, in international terms, as almost unique. Stuart has brought together the life events of an entire community in Ireland spanning over two hundred years. This monumental contribution to both Irish and Jewish heritage studies has been a labour of love for Stuart over many years. The bound volumes containing this invaluable research have been deposited with the national repositories in Dublin. Stuart's quest continues, a fine example to us all.

# Dearth of Irish Period Drama on Film

As genealogists and social historians we readily appreciate the need to fully understand the life and times of our ancestors here in Ireland. We seek out and read the available histories, especially, the local histories, in order to give narrative to our dates and names in our family trees. This enables our family story to be more easily accessible to other family members and, especially, future generations.

However, those not currently involved in family history or local history research rely on totally different sources to provide their information on our past. Mostly this takes the form of historical novels and increasingly, feature films and historical documentaries. Indeed, the film industry in most countries has provided a wealth of period drama featuring major historical or legendary figures and important national events. Many of the persons and events

covered were vitally important in the creation of the sense of nationhood of the peoples and countries concerned. This is particularly evident in the United States and, to no lesser extent, in Great Britain and France.

Feature length films on various monarchs of England, for example, provided the English public with a conceptual understanding of the life and times of their own forebears who may lived during the reigns of each monarch. Indeed, films made for serialization on television networks have also captured the public's interest in many aspects of the history of England, most recently, another film on Elizabeth I.

As always, in films featuring the Tudors, Ireland is but a sideshow warranting several references to war and those unruly natives. Until the last decades of the 20th

century, Scotland too was treated in this fashion. Then films such as "*Rob Roy*" and the famous "*Braveheart*" turned the tide and provided Scots with period drama on aspects of their own history from their perspective.

With the notable exception of the 1960s Disney film "*The Fighting Prince of Donegal*". Ireland has little or no period drama on film dealing with the centuries prior to the 19th and yet, much material does exist for would-be filmmakers. Well researched and well written historical novels provide a wealth of opportunities, amongst which are, Seán Ó Faoláin's "*The Great O'Neill*" and others dealing with the Tudor period. This period is very important as it was this era that shaped the political and cultural map of the Ireland of today. Hopefully, it will not be too long before Ireland too has its perspective told.

# The Last County—Wicklow's 400th Anniversary

This year County Wicklow will mark the 400th anniversary of the creation of the county in 1606 with the usual round of events ranging from the popular to the scholarly aimed at attracting tourism and business to the county. Whilst, many are asking legitimate questions as to the value of such "anniversary tourism" and whether, in the wider context, a deeper appreciation of the heritage of County Wicklow is gained by the residents of the county from attending such events. Nevertheless, these events do provide real

and substantial opportunities for historians and genealogists to focus on the particular anniversary and hopefully, to provide well researched and accessible data for others. Paradoxically, in marking this anniversary with "celebrations" we are at risk of missing its actual significance which was the defeat of the Gaelic order followed by dispossession and plantation in the early 17th century. Indeed, the native Irish did not readily identify with the country's "county structure" until the advent of the Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884 and

the organisation of Gaelic football and hurling tournaments based on the county system. The establishment of County Councils in Ireland in 1898 reinforced the now popular association with the county structure. As most of the counties were originally carved out of the territories of defeated Clans/Septs, maybe Wicklow's 400th provides an opportunity to examine the relevance of the county in 21st century Ireland and to ask whether structural change to local government in Ireland is now necessary and inevitable.

# Membership Subscription Renewals Now Due

Membership fee renewals are now 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie/shop)

**IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE**

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**DIARY DATES**

*Tuesday Jan. 10th & Feb. 14th 2006*

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

*Wednesday Jan. 25th & Feb. 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**

**Stephen Page**, 137, Johnston Street, Collingwood, Australia, 3066— E-mail: [srpage522000@yahoo.com.au](mailto:srpage522000@yahoo.com.au) Wrote:- I am trying to trace the parents of John **Page**, born circa 1806 and died 1880 in Avoca, Co. Wicklow. He may have had a brother William who was a printer in William Street South, Dublin city as mentioned in Castlemacadam Parish records & Dublin City Directories 1834-37. Though there were Pages in Carnew and Dundalk, I am concentrating on those in Dublin City where John Page was married 1827 to Frances **Lindley** (1813-1876) at St. Peter's Church. My great-great grandfather Thomas Page, son of the above John Page, arrived in Australia in 1865 with his wife Elizabeth **Oliver**. Any information on the Page family in Counties Wicklow and Dublin much appreciated.

**Jeff Cox**, 1328 Bavarian Way, Williamstown, New Jersey 08094, USA E-mail: [jeffreyl.cox@ps.ge.com](mailto:jeffreyl.cox@ps.ge.com) Wrote:- I am looking for information on the Forrest family from Gartan. Samuel **Forrest** (1780-1856) and his wife Barbara (1782/1854) are both buried in Gartan Graveyard. They had at least one son, William G. (b. August 1st, 1810) he died in Wilmington, Delaware. William emigrated to the United States on June 1, 1832. It looks as though there is another son buried with Samuel and Barbara, but we are not positive. I also have a James **Clarke** (b~1810) who married Margaret (b~1810) both from Donegal. They had a son William (b~1835). William states on his Pennsylvania citizenship papers that he arrived in port of Philadelphia in June 1852 and that he was a native of Donegal county, Ireland. John **McElwee** signed for him. William married Sarah McElwee (b~1830). Her father was William McElwee from Donegal. Any information much appreciated.

**Loring Hutchinson**, 8816 County Rd 864, Princeton, Texas 75407, USA E-mail: [loringh@earthlink.net](mailto:loringh@earthlink.net) Wrote:- I am trying to establish starting information on Michael **Donovan** and wife, Ellen **Fitzpatrick** who came to America (or Canada) prior to 1842. Their son, John F. Donovan was born in 1842 in Boston, Mass. From John F. Donovan's marriage certificate, I got his parents names and place of birth. Michael Donovan and Ellen Fitzpatrick were my great-great-grandparents. Any information on either family very much appreciated.

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

# Ireland to have Concordat with the Vatican?

On December 13th 2005 in Dáil Éireann, An Taoiseach, **Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD**, in answer to Opposition questions on Church / State relations in Ireland suggested that Ireland may follow other European countries by, as he put it, "attend concordats" with the Roman Catholic Church. Whilst, this very important statement itself was unclear, it was more surprising that the Opposition Deputies seemed not to have appreciated the import of what the Taoiseach had told the Dáil.

Given that a "concordat" is generally taken to mean an agreement between a civil authority and the Papacy in Rome and indeed, that such agreements have the force of an international treaty, the apparent silence of Deputies and others on this matter is simply astounding.

Since the context of the Taoiseach's remark was the provision of services by the Catholic Church in Ireland, including education and health care, that these services provided in the State could be governed by an "international treaty" between the State and the Vatican seems at odds with the secular nature of the State. No doubt this proposal will receive a thorough examination by constitutional lawyers and, indeed, such a concordat may even be the subject of a court challenge and possibly, face strong reservations by other churches.

Whether or not, such a concordat between this State and the Vatican State could contravene Article 44 of the Constitution and have the effect of reinstating through an "international treaty" what the People of Ireland removed by the Fifth Amendment in 1973, is a matter for others to consider. But should a concordat be in order and find general acceptance, legally and politically, then other matters should be included in any agreement between Rome and the State.

Genealogists in Ireland and visitors to Ireland in search of their "roots" are all too aware of the difficulties surrounding access to certain Parish Registers in a number of Irish Dioceses. Indeed, in many cases agreements reached between diocesan authorities and the operators of the Heritage Centres under the auspices of the Irish Genealogical Project and others have sometimes compounded and complicated the public accessibility situation. Some agreements seek to create a situation of "copyright" which is totally unsustainable under the Copyright Acts.

As the information contained in these Parish Registers held by the Catholic Church in Ireland represents the oldest recorded genealogical heritage of the vast majority of people of Ireland, it is not unreasonable for the State to seek assurances on the public

accessibility to this heritage in any concordat with Rome. This should include provision for the secure custody of the registers by the Church and the periodic transfer of the data and information to an electronic format for deposit in the National Library of Ireland.

A concordat, if deemed necessary and desirable, must address a number of issues, including the Nation's genealogical and ecclesiastical art and architectural heritage.

## 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.