

Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann

## Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
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## "The Flight of the Earls Crash Landed in Galway, didn't they?"

In the January 2006 issue of this newsletter, we looked at the dearth of Irish period drama feature films and stressed the importance of this medium as a source of the popular understanding of history, historical events and people. Recently when mentioning the anniversary of the "Flight of the Earls" it met with the alarming response "Ah, yeah they crash-landed in a field in Galway, didn't they?". Mixing up the 1919 Transatlantic Flight of Alcock and Brown with the 1607 episode would be very amusing if it were not a serious indication of a growing ignorance of our own country's history amongst large sections of the population. But blaming the education system for this situation may be unfair because, unlike other countries, Ireland has produced very little historical drama on film. Whilst, those with an interest in history, like genealogists, obtain their understanding and knowledge of our history in the conventional manner through study and published works, much of the population relies 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 documenta-

ries. 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. Films made for serialization on television networks and feature length films on various monarchs of England, for example, provided the English public with a particular understanding of their own history. But regrettably in most British films dealing with their previous monarchs, Ireland is but a miserable sideshow warranting several references to war and those unruly, disloyal and ungrateful natives. Until the last decades of the 20th century, Scotland too was treated in this fashion. Then films such as "Rob Roy" and "Braveheart" turned the tide and provided Scots with period drama on aspects of their own history from their perspective. But fashioning a statue of William Wallace after the actor Mel Gibson may have taken mat-

ters in the dubious art of revisionism to a new level of absurdity. But in Ireland, with the notable exception of the 1960s Disney film "The Fighting Prince of Donegal" we have little or no period drama on film dealing with the centuries prior to the 19th. The reasons for this dearth of Irish historical drama on film may have much to do with the economic and political situation throughout much of the twentieth century. But times have changed, Ireland is now a very prosperous country with many talented scriptwriters, filmmakers and actors. Expertly researched and well written historical novels do exist providing a wealth of ideas and subjects for the filmmaker. As suggested many times before in this newsletter, Seán Ó Faoláin's "The Great O'Neill" and others dealing with the Tudor period provide excellent material. This period is very important as it shaped the political and cultural map of modern Ireland. A play based on this theme is currently touring the country as part of the events marking the 400th Anniversary of the Flight of the Earls in September 1607. Hopefully, an enterprising filmmaker will see the wonderful opportunity in this play for a film.

## Gárda Logo Registered in 2005

Following on last month's main article regarding the use of the Gárda logo by a merchandiser in Dublin, it appears that the Gárda authorities had already registered the logo with the



Patents Office on March 11th 2005 (reg. 231730). This means that the use of the logo is covered

by the Trade Marks Act, 1996. But this still leaves the Arms of the Gárda College at Templemore, Co. Tipperary in the same uncertain copyright situation as all other Grants of Arms from the Chief Herald of Ireland from 1943 to May 2005. So maybe the great hullabaloo over the use of the Gárda logo will encourage the new Minister



for Arts, Sport & Tourism, **Mr. Séamus Brennan, TD** to bring forward amending legislation to deal with the situation. Many readers of the article commented on the spelling of the word Gárda and whether the "fada" over the first "a" is correct. The "fada" has been dropped in recent years but the spelling of the name of the Irish police force "An Gárda Síochána" is as per the 1924 Act.

# Seanad Éireann Seats Finally Filled

With the nomination of eleven Senators by An Taoiseach, **Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD**, the final seats in our Upper House of Parliament have been filled. Many see within the new crop of Senators much to excite as some very able, learned and eloquent personalities with strongly held views have been elected through the Universities, in particular. Whilst, this may provide some lively, entertaining and hopefully, very important debates in the Seanad, these will probably go unreported in the general media. During the recent Seanad Éireann General Election the public's cynicism was well baited and whetted by the media which generally portrayed the Seanad election system as exclusive, undemocratic, out-dated and irrelevant to the ordinary citizen. Clearly advocating the continuance of the current Seanad electoral system is untenable for any true democrat in our Republic. In the election, unfortunately two good friends of this Society and of Irish genealogy and heraldry, **Paschal Mooney (Fianna Fáil)** and **Brendan Ryan (Labour)** lost their seats. As Senators these two men were amongst the most diligent, gifted and proactive members

of the Seanad and undoubtedly, their consistently well researched and cogently delivered contributions to the Seanad debates will be missed by their colleagues and others. The Society's own nominee, Michael Merrigan, received 10,000 first preference senatorial votes in a very tightly run contest in the Cultural & Educational Panel where pacts amongst political parties very effectively squeezed out the non-party candidates. Though, eliminated on the fifth count, an unofficial tally of other candidate's ballot papers indicated that a sizeable number of 2nd, 3rd, 4th and other preference votes favoured the Society's nominee. The election campaign promoted the Society and its position on a number of issues, including legislation. Many other issues such as the protection of our heritage, including placenames, resonated with a sizeable number of County and City Councillors who make up the majority of the Seanad electorate. The doubtful position of any copyright to the coats-of-arms of the County Councils was also taken on board by Councillors as public money was expended on acquiring these Arms from the State. The new

Seanad sees the welcome return of longtime supporters of many issues raised by this Society, including Senators, **Norris, O'Toole, Quinn, McCarthy, Ó Murchú** and **Leyden**. Several of the newly elected Senators have been supporters of the Society itself for many years, including two former Cathaoirligh of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Senators **Eugene Regan (Fine Gael)** and **Larry Butler (Fianna Fáil)**. The election of a considerable number of lawyers to the new Seanad will certainly make for lively learned exchanges across the chamber and indeed, this will facilitate a vigorous in-depth legal scrutiny of proposed legislation. This will make any future debates on the Defamation, Privacy and Civil Unions Bills, should they be reintroduced, very interesting indeed. An Taoiseach nominated a very experienced former Leader of the Seanad, **Senator Donie Cassidy**, to this important position once again. However, it remains to be seen whether any of our parliamentarians will seriously seek to address the thorny issue of reforming Seanad Éireann by, at the very least, adopting the 2004 Seanad Report.

## Family Records Centre, London

The following information was supplied by **Mr. Peter Walker**, Chairman of the **Guild of One-Names Studies**. As many Irish researchers make use of the **Family Records Centre** in London, this news is certainly disheartening. The Guild, along with other representatives of the family history community, was informed at the FRC Users Group meeting on 25th July that the Public Search Room facilities at the FRC, Myddelton Street, London, will close at the beginning of November, some 5 months earlier than previously indicated. No certificate ordering or collection service will be available and the paper indexes will be withdrawn. A limited set of microfiche copies of the indexes will be

available on the 1st floor in the National Archives area. The ONS believes that this, together with sets in various libraries and the online commercial indexes, meets its statutory obligations. The FRC Users' Group was also informed that the General Register Office's Digitisation of Vital Events (DOVE) project is at least a year behind schedule and because of budgetary constraints, the GRO is unlikely to find funding in the near future to create the improved online index search facility known as MAGPIE. This news is very disappointing as the closure of the FRC was supposed to be matched by improvements in the online records. Many visitors to the FRC will have laboured

through the index books at Myddelton Street and its predecessor sites at St Catherine's House and Somerset House and appreciated the immense value of these index books. Though, this should be compensated by the on-line service. The removal of this resource from the FRC will greatly inconvenience Irish researchers visiting London and may, in fact, deter many from making the trip. Making a complaint about this situation is explained on the Society of Genealogists' website [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk) However, this may not be appropriate for non-UK citizens. But sending your complaint to the British Tourist Authority may be an effective way of registering your displeasure on this issue.

## Two Current GSI Proposals

The Society is represented on a number of bodies and organisations, amongst which are, the **Holyhead & Dún Laoghaire Link Organisation** and the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Culture, Community Development & Amenities of **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**. The Link Organisation brings together community groups, sports clubs, businesses and others from the towns of Holyhead (North Wales) and Dún Laoghaire. The SPC, as its name suggests, is a policy formulation committee of the local authority made up of elected

Councillors and Sectoral Representatives. The Society has deeply values its membership of these bodies as they represent opportunities for networking and for the Society to have an input in policy formulation. Recently, proposals were presented by the Society to both bodies for their consideration and hopefully, adoption. The Link was presented with "**The Ring of the Isles**" proposal to develop links with organisations based around the Irish Sea basin and the Isle of Man. This proposal was based on one presented in early 2004 and published in the

Society's newsletter in May 2004. The matter was not pursued at the time because of the suspension of devolved government in Northern Ireland, elections in Wales and the local elections in Ireland. Whilst, the SPC has been presented with a **Draft County Placenames Policy** for its meeting next month in the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire. This policy developed from concerns expressed by many readers following the article on placenames in the June issue of this newsletter. Copies of the two proposals are available on the Society's own website.

## “Celtic Connections”

The launch of the second edition of the Link Newsletter “*Celtic Connections*” at the Anglesey County Show in North Wales, once again, highlights the many links that exist between Ireland and Wales. Not only the ancient links of language and culture, but the many other links that have developed over the centuries, especially our shared maritime heritage. This maritime heritage involves communities along the entire length of the east, southeast and south coasts of Ireland from Carlingford in County Louth to Cork City. These links have seen the creation of strong Irish communities in the cities of Swansea and Cardiff and in the mining towns of south Wales through emigration in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Indeed, today many of the inhabitants of the port towns of Holyhead, Fishguard and Pembroke have Irish ancestral links through the operation of the ferry services between these towns and Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire, Rosslare and Waterford. Today the Irish element in the Welsh population is fully integrated into the social and cultural life of this ancient nation, indeed, the Roman Catholic church’s presence in Wales is

overwhelming based on those of Irish ancestry. Currently many prominent individuals of Irish ancestry proudly represent Wales in sports, politics, education and business. In contrast to the waves of Irish emigration to Wales, the Welsh element of the current Irish population is comparatively small. Though, it should be remembered that a very popular surname in parts of Ireland, Walsh or Welch, indicates an earlier 12th or 13th century Welsh settlement here. But the Irish settlement in Wales had a much earlier element primarily centred on the coastal regions giving us, for example, place-names like the Lleyn Peninsula indicating the presence of the Leinstermen during the 5th and 6th centuries. The southwest was settled by people from the Waterford region from whom one Welsh royal dynasty claims ancestry. The connections between our countries run deep into our shared past and have been rekindled in many different ways over one and a half millennia. As a national heritage organisation, this Society strongly supports initiatives like “*Celtic Connections*”. For further information on this Link see [www.celtic-connections.blogspot.com](http://www.celtic-connections.blogspot.com)

### MORE QUERIES RECEIVED

**Mandy Fahey**, 15, Lochinver Crescent, Hamilton, Scotland, UK E-mail:- [mandy.fahey@btinternet.com](mailto:mandy.fahey@btinternet.com)  
Wrote:- Seeking info on Fahy from Feagh (Feigh), Galway. John **Fahy**, farmer, married Mary **Kiggins**, children- Joseph, John (1911), Patrick, James, Michael, Ann (1914), Eileen (1912), Marie (1904), Kathleen or Catherine. Son John moved to Wales, wife May **Bell**. James, shop/ hotel in Galway. Others—Joe, Bolton, England; Eileen, London, spouse Alex **Orr**; Anne married Sidney **Platt** & Marie married Timothy **Lee** and emigrated to Boston USA. Any help please.

**Tom Rahrig**, 1250, Braddock Road, Cumberland, Maryland 21502, USA. E-mail: [trahrig@atlanticbb.net](mailto:trahrig@atlanticbb.net)  
Wrote:- Seeking info on my g-g-grandfather William **Graney** from the City of Galway ca. 1799.

**Danny Lee Sullivan**, 698, Willington Dr, Spring Creek, Nevada 89815, USA E-mail: [dsullivan@nevadaglassworks.com](mailto:dsullivan@nevadaglassworks.com)  
Wrote:- Seeking info my on g-g-grandparents - Micheal **O'Sullivan**, married to Ellen **Cashin** or **Cachen**. They emigrated to North America, possibly between 1875 and 1877

**NOTA BENE:-** Queries are published at the discretion of the editor and only where a mailing address and e-mail address are provided. (see page 4 for more queries received)

## Précis of the July Lecture

On Tuesday 10th July **Emer Ní Cheallaigh** of the Department of Folklore at University College Dublin gave a fascinating overview of the wealth of information contained in the School Manuscript Collection of the Folklore Department. Covering a range of topics collected by school children from older family members and neighbours on local history, the Great Famine, local customs and Gaelic lore. For the genealogist finding an ancestor or a relative amongst the collectors or the interviewees would be a priceless gem for most. Emer gave examples of the type of information collected and the form in which it is archived and she explained how to research the collections. The type of informa-

tion available in this resource, she explained, would greatly assist the genealogist writing a family history to include information on local occurrences in a particular area. All agreed that the Folklore collections are well worth a visit.

### GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAMME

The coordinator of the Society’s Guest Speaker Programme, **Séamus Moriarty**, MGSi has arranged the following programme. On Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup> **Malachy McVeagh**, Ordinance Survey of Ireland will speak on the OSI as an aid to the family history researcher. On Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup> **John Heuston**, MGSi, will

deliver a Sligo miscellany. On Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> **Mary Kelleher**, Archivist, Royal Dublin Society will introduce the archives of the RDS as a resource for the genealogist. On Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup> **Seán Connolly**, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association will speak on tracing a family member who fought in World War 1 and finally, on Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup> **Steve Butler**, Elder, Church of Latter Day Saints will present an overview of the genealogical records of the Church of Latter Day Saints. Séamus is always on the look out for possible speakers to include in future programmes, should you have any suggestions in this regard please contact Séamus by e-mail at [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

## Membership of the Genealogical Society

The Board in November 2006 conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** and no changes to the existing packages were made for this year. New Members are always welcome. Membership rates are as follows:-

**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 en-

tirely 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. However, the Board will keep this important matter under review.

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 also renew your membership on line on the Society’s website—[www.familyhistory.ie/shop](http://www.familyhistory.ie/shop)

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**www.familyhistory.ie/shop****DIARY DATES***Tuesday Aug. 14th & Sep. 11th 2007***Evening Open Meeting***Dún Laoghaire College of Further  
Education**Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
20.00hrs—22.00hrs**Wednesday Aug. 22nd & Sep. 26th 2007***Morning Open Meeting***Weir's, Lower George's St, Dún Laoghaire  
10.30hrs—12.30hrs**Contribution €3.00 p.p.**(Coffee/Tea included at Morning  
Meetings)***QUERIES**

**Darth Miller**, 2114, Mustang Trail, Frisco, TX, 75034 USA. E-mail:- lynchfamily.ire@aol.com  
Write:- Seeking info on Thonas **Lynch**. *Notes:-* Westmoreland Co. Court, Virginia, Apr. 29, 1713. Nicholas **French** set forth that Thomas Lynch, father of Francis Lynch (deceased), was father of Mary Cisely (sp) & Ellenor (sp) Lynch, sisters of Francis Lynch, all of Ireland. Also, Sept. 1718 - Jasper **Joyes** of Galway, merchant, *and* merchants Martin **Lynch FitzAndrew** & Thomas Lynch FitzAndrew, Richard Joyce FitzWilliam, goldsmith, and James Lynch FitzMarcus, all deposed they knew Thomas Lynch, late of Galway, deceased, a.k.a. black Thomas Lynch. They attested that Thomas Lynch lived for many years near Dunmore in Co. Galway and had two sons Francis Lynch, late of Virginia, merchant, deceased, and Stephen Lynch, who were brothers of the whole blood. Thomas Lynch poss. lived in Westmoreland Co., Virginia in 1705.

**Tex & Linda Dix**, 305, Avalee Dr., Brooks, Georgia 30205, USA E-mail:- texdix@gmail.com  
Write:- Seeking to exchange info on the Dick (Dix) surname in Ireland. James **Dick** born c. 1787 emigrated to US before 1812. James Dick enlisted at Hunters Mill, Green County Georgia in the War of 1812. In 1850 census of Newton County Georgia James states he was born in Ireland. But where in Ireland? Any help is most appreciated.

**Marcia Watson**, 134, Osmaston Rd., Carine 6020, Western Australia, Australia E-mail: mjwatson1@primus.com.au  
Write:- Seeking look-up of St Mark's Parish Register (Dublin), between 1750 and 1800 for the name **Seton** (or **Seaton**), **Marley** or **Cox**? Any help appreciated.

**Peg Edgar**, RR#1, Red Deer, Alberta, Canada T4N 5E1 E-mail: pearceaccounting@telus.net  
Write:- Seeking info on my great great grandfather John **Edgar** (wife Margaret **Harvey**) - their son Samuel Edgar (wife Margaret **McKee**) emigrated to Ontario, Canada in 1860. Any information on John or Samuel would be appreciated.

**Theresa Green**, 35 Churchill Way, Sheffield S35 2PY, England. E-mail: t.green@britglass.co.uk  
Write: Seeking info on my great-great-grandfather, John **Danehy** (spelling may vary), b Dublin c1836. His mother's maiden name Mary **Jackson**. John settled in Penarth, South Wales where his children were born in the 1860s.

**Gail Cooksley**, 33, Loyola Way, Attadale, 6156, Western Australia, Australia. E-mail: bgvook@inet.net.au  
Write: Seeking to locate my great grandfather's family & exact birthplace. John William **Murphy**, b. 22. June 1808. Poss. From Clonmore or Templemore. Amongst first students entering Thurles College in 1837 & entered Maynooth 1839 & ordained 17. May 1845. RC curate to Drum to 1847. Became ill & entered Dundrum asylum. In 1856 good health, travelled to Australia and married in Hobart, Tasmania in 1860. Any info. much appreciated.

*(see page 3 for more queries)*

# Permanency of Web Published Genealogy

Over the past decade or so many genealogists have uploaded their research data and family histories on to websites which they frequently update with information supplied by persons visiting their websites. This growing phenomenon has provided a wonderfully diverse resource for family history, albeit with a serious caveat as to accuracy attached. It has facilitated the exchange of information around the world and the collation of information on branches of families throughout our wide Diaspora. The uploading of photographs, maps and scanned copies of original documents has been of immeasurable assistance to the study of genealogy as this public sharing of information encourages others to take up the genealogical quest. Whilst, the issue of the accuracy or reliability of the information supplied on these websites must always be kept in mind, the fragility of the resource is rarely, if ever, considered. These websites are usually developed and maintained by ordinary individuals and therefore, they may lack the relative permanency of accessibility afforded by other websites maintained by genealogical organisations or educational institutions. Websites frequently just simply disappear for a number of reasons including bill payments to the Internet Service Providers etc. Therefore, irrespective of the caveats attached to the information provided, when these websites close down the information on the research concerned

is no longer accessible and indeed, may never be publicly accessible again. Whilst, some will argue that this is simply a matter for the website owners, others see it as a great loss to genealogy generally. So what can and should be done to prevent the loss of this information? Well, clearly nothing without the cooperation of the website owners or in the case of death, their executors. Ideally the information stored electronically should be copied and deposited in an appropriate archive or library. Copying the website on to CD Rom offers the opportunity of placing copies with relatives or in a suitable repository. But is the question of the permanency of accessibility to this information fully resolved by placing it in a currently available electronic format like CDs? Some will argue that unless we also create a paper copy of our genealogical research technological advances may make accessibility to the electronic format difficult, if not, impossible. Many of us, of a particular age group, have some of our most loved music locked away on vinyl LP records but without the means of playing these records since the introduction of cassette tapes, then CDs and now I-pods and MP3 players. Could not the same dilemma face future generations of genealogists trying to access our electronic records? Therefore, if we wish to preserve our research data for future generations, we must place a hardcopy of our research and a printed

version of our website data in a genealogical archive or in another suitable repository.

## ARTICLES FOR JOURNAL

The Editor of the Society's Journal, **Margaret Conroy, MGSI**, is seeking articles for publication in the biannual journal. Articles may cover any genealogical, heraldic or biographical topics, including lists and sources. Contact Margaret on e-mail: mmeconroy@eircom.net

## AN DAONCHARTLANN

The Society's Archive or "*An Daonchartlann*" based at the restored Martello Tower at Seapoint, County Dublin, is not currently accessible for research. The Board is in consultation with the County Council to identify an alternative site for the Society's archive which would offer greater accessibility and more appropriately meet the Society's archival requirements. Persons wishing to donate items to the Archive are advised by the Archivist, **Mr. Séamus O'Reilly, MGSI**, to bring the items to either of the Society's Open Meetings or to contact him directly by e-mail at jsoreilly@eircom.net to make alternative arrangements. Items may still be sent by post to the Society's mailing address—see above left.