

Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann

## Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

*(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")*

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**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
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## Bill Withdrawn at Minister's Request for Examination by National Library

Following a two hour debate in Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2006, the Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006 was withdrawn at the request of the Minister and with the consent of Senator Brendan Ryan. During this Second Stage debate Senators from all sides of the House indicated their support for the Bill and praised Senator Brendan Ryan for sponsoring the Bill. The Second Stage debate opened with Senator Ryan outlining the importance and scope of the Bill and the need for a legislative remedy for the fundamental flaws in the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD responded for the Government with what initially seemed to be a total dismissal of the Bill and the arguments for any legislative change. He pointed out to the House that the National Cultural Institutions Bill, 1997 had only been fully implemented in May 2005 and that the new Board of the National Library had also been appointed. Summing up the Minister said "I thank Senator Ryan for his efforts but I have to say that the newly-appointed board of the NLI must be allowed to fulfil its role and functions in matters

related to genealogy and heraldry. I realise the Senator has worked extremely hard on the Bill and has put much effort into it, which should not go without acknowledgement. I note what he has stated about the matter resurfacing again if it is voted down, and he is unquestionably correct in that. Although it is a very specialised area, those concerned with it have a great interest. As a man said, when they have an opinion, they have an opinion. Rather than see the Bill voted down, I would prefer if the Senator agreed, after an informed debate, to withdraw the legislation so the issues raised within the Bill can be considered by the statutory board of the National Library. I will undertake to go to the board with the legislation and ask it to give the issue very careful consideration. It would not be right to second guess a new institution so soon after its establishment. I would like the board to have the opportunity of carefully considering Senator Ryan's Bill. The Senator may be aware that the chairperson of the National Library is Mr. Gerry Danaher, an eminent senior counsel who may have some ideas from his own background with regard to how matters might pro-

ceed. Although I am not accepting the legislation, I acknowledge the work which has gone into it and the motivation for it. I know of Senator Ryan's deep interest and understanding of our culture." Unfortunately during the Minister's earlier remarks he basically confirmed that the pre May 2005 grants were of little interest as he claimed that "the Bill proposes to grant retrospective confirmation to grants of arms made between 1st April 1943 and the present. Not only has the need for such a procedure not been established but even if it had, its constitutionality would need to be fully considered". Interestingly, the Minister's defence of the post May 2005 situation made the need to address the legal situation of grants made between 1943 and 2005 self evident. Hopefully, this new independent Board of the National Library will have an early opportunity to study the Bill in detail and make recommendations on the legislative position of Irish heraldry and the State's delivery of heraldic services. Given the undoubted quality of the legal advice and experience available to the Board, referred to by the Minister, future legislative measures in this area would seem inevitable.

## Constitutionality of State Recognition for Meritorious Individuals Queried

A feature of the Genealogy and Heraldry Bill, 2006 was aimed at providing the State with a facility to recognise and reward excellence, service and achievement by citizens and members of the Irish Diaspora. Ireland is possibly alone in the European Union in not having such a national facility and many Senators warmly welcomed this proposal, most notably, government Senator Paschal Mooney.

But the Minister saw no merit in the proposal saying that "the constitutionality of the proposal to grant emeritus arms to meritorious individuals requires clarification. I am not satisfied that the granting of emeritus arms is an appropriate method of recognising meritorious individuals". So it appears that it was appropriate to make such grants of arms to former American presidents and indeed, to our

own presidents, but not so for ordinary citizens of the Republic who may have contributed greatly to their communities or excelled in a number of fields. Successive Irish governments have unfortunately avoided this issue leaving the recognition of meritorious Irish citizens to foreign governments. The honorary knighthood recently awarded by the UK to Bono being an obvious example!!

## Précis of December Lecture

The following is a short précis of the lecture delivered by **Eileen Ó Dúill, CG, CGL, MAPGI** on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2006 on the topic "30<sup>th</sup> June 1922: Did Everything Blow Up?". Established on 12 August 1867, the Public Record Office was responsible for the collection of records created by public bodies. This collection included documents and court records dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. By 1922, the collection also included: Census of Ireland 1813, 1821, 1831, 1841, 1851; 650 parish registers of the Church of Ireland after disestablishment in 1869; prerogative and diocesan court records including testamentary records and marriage bonds and the Down survey maps. The Public Records Office in 1922 was administered by the Deputy Keeper, Mr. Herbert Woods. His pamphlet "Guide to the Records Deposited in the Public Records Office of Ireland" issued in 1919 provides a comprehensive list of the holdings and just 9 years later the 55<sup>th</sup> Report of the Deputy Keeper of the PRO makes for depressing reading. On the night of 13<sup>th</sup> April 1922, Republican forces, opposed to the Anglo-Irish Treaty took command of the Four

Courts, including the PRO. Between 300 and 400 men manned the garrison and the Four Courts became IRA HQ in Dublin. The PRO was converted into a munitions factory as it was the most isolated building in the complex. On the morning of 30<sup>th</sup> June, Pro-Treaty Forces attacked the IRA garrison. The Record Treasury caught fire but two explosions in the Treasury itself caused its total destruction. Documents which survived the disaster included: 35 rolls of chancery court proceeding dating back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century which were blown out of the building by the blast; statute rolls of the Irish parliament 1536-37; index volumes to court proceedings and parliamentary records; John Lodge's 18<sup>th</sup> century extracts from chancery and other government records; calendars and indexes of wills, grants of administration and marriage licence bonds; some will books used to barricade the windows and some 1851 Census returns for Co. Antrim which had been sent for binding. Collecting substitute material, copies and transcripts of documents as well as purchasing private collections and accepting donations continues to the present day. These in-

clude: contributions from the legal profession including old deeds, rentals, estate records and probate documents and testamentary material; notes and copies made by researchers before 1922; Church of Ireland clergy whose original registers were lost were asked to provide transcripts of any copies which had been retained in local custody; government departments, most notably the Registrar General (20<sup>th</sup> century Census), Valuation Office, Quit Rent Office, Office of Public Works, Irish Land Commission and Department of Education have provided considerable collections; duplicates of some of the destroyed records such as the 17<sup>th</sup> century Book of Survey and Distribution were obtained from the Irish Manuscripts Commission and other sources; co-operation between the governments of Ireland and the UK led to the return of Irish records held there; purchase of private collections and donations from the general public. Appeals by the PROI to the general public to return any documents or fragments found after the explosion was disappointing. In recent years, private donations received by the National Archives have been significant.

## Clergy of Clogher

The idea of updating Canon Leslie's 1929 publication "Clogher Clergy and Parishes" was one for which all genealogists and social historians with an interest in this Church of Ireland diocese will be immensely grateful. The publication by the Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF) and the Diocese of Clogher of the "Clergy of Clogher" is the latest in a series of such publications that previously included the dioceses of Connor, Down and Dromore, Derry and Raphoe, and Dublin and Glendalough. The Diocese of Clogher covers all of the Counties Fermanagh and Monaghan and a small area of south west Co. Tyrone. This diocese is just one of several that cross the border between the

Republic and Northern Ireland. It was first established by the Synod of Rath Breasail in 1111 and its boundaries remain almost unchanged since. This volume brings together valuable information on the bishops, clergy and officers of the diocese with some fascinating biographical detail and a complete collection of portraits of the Bishops of Clogher from Miler Magrath (1570-1605) to the present. Lists of incumbents and curates of each parish is accompanied, in most cases, with a photograph of the parish church. The biographies of both the clergy and the bishops are a treasure trove of information for the genealogist. The list of the bishops goes back to St. Macartan who was a

companion of St. Patrick and indeed, it was the 1500th anniversary of his death in 506 AD that the Diocese celebrated with, amongst other events, the publication of this fine volume. The front cover bears the Arms of the Diocese which were granted by Letters Patent issued by the Chief Herald of Ireland on August 4th 2006. This grant followed an earlier one to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of Clogher made by the Chief Herald on December 5th 2005. The Archivist of the Society, **Séamus O'Reilly, MGSI**, acknowledges with gratitude the kind donation of this volume to the Society's Archives by the Diocese. Copies available from the UHF [www.ancestryireland.com](http://www.ancestryireland.com)

## Consultation and Cooperative Process Approved

The Board of the Society at its December 2006 meeting adopted a resolution to facilitate a possible formal liaison process between the Society and the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) and/or the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI). Although, this Society was a founding member of CIGO in 1994 and previously participated in the GRO Users' Group from 1992, fundamental differences in public policy led this Society to leave CIGO in 1998 in accordance with a decision of the Society's AGM. But significant

cooperation did exist thereafter on an ad-hoc basis and indeed, CIGO strongly supported the Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006. **Res: 06/12/520** reads, "That, given the successful cooperation between the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations, the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland and this Society on the Civil Registration Bill, 2003 in accordance with *Res: 04/02/299* and the sharing of information between same during the public consultation process on the Registry of Deeds in accordance with *Res: 06/02/472*, that the Board agrees to

*the establishment of a formal consultation process providing for cooperative and/or joint actions involving any of these organisations and the Society on matters of mutual concern. However, this arrangement shall not include any discussion on any matter concerned with the possibility of this Society's future membership of the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations without the prior approval of the Board delivered by way of specific resolution".* The Board accordingly appointed the PRO and Hon. Secretary to act as liaison officers.

# Campaign for the Release of 1926 Census

During the Second Stage debate on the Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006, Senator Feighan highlighted an important feature of the Bill. He told Senators that the most clear improvement the Bill would make to accessing State records would be an amendment to the Statistics Act 1993, to open the 1926 census returns to researchers. Currently, the returns for this first census taken under independence are held by the National Archives but are closed under the 100 year rule by the 1993 Act. He allayed the fears of those who may view this as an invasion of privacy by saying that "some might balk at the idea of opening census data before the completion of a hundred-year period since the taking of the census, but neither the Genealogical Society of Ireland nor the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations is suggesting that census returns should routinely be opened early". He correctly put the matter in context by stating that "in this case the argument relies upon the fact that Ireland's earlier 19th century census records were destroyed in the fire which consumed the Irish public records during the civil war in 1922. Contrary to popular belief,

the 1926 census returns do not include anything like the detail required in modern census returns. The information recorded is little different to the minimal amount of detail recorded in the surviving 1901 and 1911 census returns". The 1901 and 1911 census returns for all of Ireland were first opened to researchers, without any public objection as early as 1961 by Ministerial warrant issued under the Public Records (Ireland) Act 1867. This was a mere 50 years after the 1911 census was compiled under British rule, however, the corresponding United Kingdom returns are subject to the 100 rule in that jurisdiction. Interestingly the 1901 census returns for all of Ireland, including Northern Ireland, were opened by the Irish authorities forty years before the 1901 census returns for the island of Great Britain were opened by the British. Across the Atlantic in what many view as a far more litigious society, the United States has public access to the federal census returns up to and including 1930. These are available to researchers around the world via the Internet. These American census returns are an invaluable resource for persons researching Irish

ancestry by retracing the journey of immigrants to the US back through the ports of entry to Ireland. Indeed, the planned introduction by the National Archives of on-line access of the 1901 and 1911 census returns is a wonderful commitment to public access by our National Archives. But a serious gap remains in our publicly accessible records covering a period of momentous change and upheaval in our Nation's history from 1911 through to the next census taken in 1926. Senator Ryan's Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006 proposed creating a special heritage category for this first census of the Irish Free State by permitting access to these returns after a period of eighty years. General access to later returns would be covered by the current 100 year rule in the Statistics Act, 1993. Given the immense value of these 1926 census returns to a number of disciplines, including local, social, labour and cultural history and, of course, genealogy, the introduction of a short legislative measure to amend the 1993 Act would be of national importance. Therefore, the Society will intensify its campaign on the 1926 census during 2007.

## The Society's Lecture Programme for 2007

Over the past year the Society's lecture programme has provided a wealth of new and valuable information to the notice of our Members. Many exciting resources were revealed and thoroughly explained in a manner appropriate to the requirements of a genealogist. In many ways, it is difficult to choose the subject matter for our lecture programme, however, given the interrelationship between social, local and family history a balance of interests has definitely been achieved in this programme. The following is the Society's Lecture Programme planned and arranged by **Séamus Moriarty, MGSI**, for the next six months starting on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January with **Richard**

**McCormick, MGSI** with the topic "*Tracing 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Maritime Ancestors*" and on February 9<sup>th</sup> we will have **Liz D'Arcy**, Paper-works Studio on the topic "*Manuscript and Photo Preservation*". The genealogy and history of a single family – the Gilmartins will be **John Gilmartin's** topic for March 13<sup>th</sup> and for April 10<sup>th</sup> **Patrick Lynch** will provide a closer look at the lives of Irish veterans of World War 1 in his lecture "*Veterans in a Virgin State – Homes for Heroes and Social Activities*". The medical profession will be centre-stage on May 8<sup>th</sup> with "*Tracing Your Family in the Medical Profession*" by **Robert Mills, RCPI** and then this period of six months will end with **Seán Ó**

**Dúbhghail** on the fascinating subject of "*Death and Burial Customs in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland*". The subject matter, once again, appeals to a wide variety of interests and covers a number of resources, all of which, are extremely important to genealogy. A précis of each of the lectures will be carried the following month in this newsletter and hopefully, this will encourage more of our own Members to participate in a future lecture programme. The lectures are particularly helpful in imparting research techniques and methodologies for the collation and presentation of research material. The Board of the Society welcomes comments on this programme from Members.

## Membership Subscription Renewals Now Due

Membership fee renewals are now due this month for the period January 2007—December 2007. The Board of the Society at its November 2006 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure and under **Res: 06/11/514** the Board agreed that the following Membership Packages should remain unchanged. **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. Remember you can save time by renewing your membership on line on the GSI website [www.familyhistory.ie/shop](http://www.familyhistory.ie/shop)

New Members are always very welcome whether from home or overseas.

### GSI BIENNIAL JOURNAL

The Board apologises for the late publication of the Society's biannual journal which should have been despatched in June 2006. We had problems with our regular printer but new printer has been sourced and the first volume was despatched in November 2006 with the second due out this month. The Editor is seeking articles so why not preserve your family's story in print in the pages of the journal? Contact the Editor, **Ms. Margaret Conroy, MGSI** at [editor@familyhistory.ie](mailto:editor@familyhistory.ie)

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**www.familyhistory.ie/shop****DIARY DATES***Tuesday Jan. 9th & Feb. 13th 2007***Evening Open Meeting***Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
20.00hrs—22.00hrs**Wednesday Jan. 24th & Feb. 28th 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**

**Judy Geddes**, 122 Ironwood Pl., Edmonton, AB Canada, T6J 6R4 E-mail: blue.heron@shaw.ca Wrote:- Seeking info on Jessie Ida **Williams**, b. June 1884 Rathdown, Dublin, to David Creighton **Williams** & Irene **Reynolds**. Married David Percy Robinson April 1906 Dublin, and they had a son, William David Edwin **Robinson** Feb. 1907 South Dublin. Any info. appreciated.

**Joy Trengove**, 11, Carnarvon Road, Essendon, Victoria, Australia. E-mail: rayt@netspace.net.au Wrote:- Seeking info. on Ellen **Judge** b. 1831, Ennis, Co. Clare. Father John Judge a carpenter, Mother Helen née **Kennedy**. Married Henry **Treiving** from Plymouth, Devon 1855 at the Hotel London, Maryborough, Victoria. Any information appreciated.

**Heather Harper**, 7112- 95th Ave., Edmonton, AB. Canada T6B 1B2 E-mail: HH\_591@hotmail.com Wrote:- Seeking the birth date of George **Beeho** died in Kilmainham Hosp Nov 1824 a school master sergeant in the army stationed at Kilmainham barracks. He is not listed as a pensioner. Married to Ann Cameron. Were buried etc? Any info. appreciated.

**Gerald P Tierney**, 22262 Massie Rd., Chassell, Michigan-49916 USA E-mail:- GPTIER@aol.com Wrote:- Seeking the names of Timothy **Tierney's** parents and/or siblings. Timothy was convicted on firearms charges March 26 1835, sent to Australia where he died. Wife, Ellen went to Canada 1835-36. Timothy had farm near Nenagh c. 1830. Any info. please.

**Rhondda Mol**, 85 Brembel Street, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, N2B 3T7 E-mail: lvnin-thepast@rogers.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on William **Winn (Wynn, Wynne)** and his wife Mary; both born Dublin c. 1800. Emigrated to Lancashire, England. Any help appreciated.

**Richard Roche-Saunders**, 6 Meadow View, Llanfihangel Talyllyn, Brecon, Powys, Wales, UK E-mail: roche-saunders@tiscali.co.uk Wrote:- Mary **Kyle**, my g-grandmother b. Cork 1851 dau. of John Hartley Kyle poss b. Scotland c. 1820 later moved to Ireland. Any info appreciated.

**Sue Adams**, 22204 Meadowbrook Dr.- Pine Grove, Ca. 95665 U.S.A. E-mail:- okmark@volcano.net Wrote:- Seeking info. on my g/grandfather Joseph **Bradley** b. c. 1840. Emigrated to Washington Co. Arkansas marr. Harriet Jane (Stout) **Holt** 1871. They had children Joseph S. (my grandfather) Artemissia & Daisy. He was a stonemason. Any info. please.

**Richard Pollock**, 42 Edgar, Victoriaville, Quebec, G6P7N5 E-mail:- rpollock@videotron.ca Wrote:- Seeking info on Jeremiah **Pollock** b. c. 1825 who emigrated to Canada & settled in Britonville, Quebec, northwest of Montreal in the Laurentian Mountains. Britonville is also close to Mille Isles where a group of Pollock's also settled. Any info. please.

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

# How Can Coins Help in Genealogy?

From as far back as the mid 8th century A.D. people other than monarchs have put their names on coins. In England, the archbishops Ecgberht of York (d. 766 AD) and Jaenbert of Canterbury (d. 792 AD—elected 2nd Feb 765 and a native Kentish man too!) are early examples of this practice. Later, in Ireland we find Lambert Simnel "The Pretender" (c. 1477 - c. 1534) issuing coins in 1487 in his vain attempt to rest the throne of England from King Henry VII (1485-1509). On May 24 1487 Simnel was crowned at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin as "King Edward VI" of England. Again in 1643 we have the "Ormond Coinage" here in Ireland issued by James Butler, 1st Duke of Ormonde (Oct. 19 1610—July 21 1688). Coming a few years forward in the same century we have the "St. Patrick's Coinage" currently believed to have been minted circa 1667. The latter was exported to England's American colonies by Mark Newby (Newbie). He died in 1683 in New Jersey and his descendants have been successfully traced to modern day England. Whilst up to the era of the "St. Patrick's Coinage" names associated with coins usually had a regal or ecclesiastical association after this period things change dramatically. Although, the coinage of William Wood was issued under Royal Warrant in 1722 it is useful because of the flurry of letters it produced as a result of the "Drapier's Letters" attributed to the

Dean of St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin, Jonathan Swift, who used the pseudonym W. B. Drapier for his letters against Woods coinage. Though of more importance to the genealogist are the Tradesmen's Tokens issued in the late 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. All of these "tokens" were money of necessity in that they alleviated a need for small change that was not made by the Crown authorities in Great Britain or Ireland. Even after the enactment of the Truck Acts (1725, 1831, 1887 and 1896) designed to put an end to the use of tokens for the payment of wages as the system was viewed as being effectively a "debt bondage". In most cases these tokens were only redeemable in the company store and thus, the abuse of the system was widespread. Socially the use of these tokens impacted greatly on the economic mobility of the poorest in society and those in certain of industry like mining etc. Whole communities could be tied to the system especially if they were wholly dependent on a specific economic or industrial activity. Though the laws were in place, from about 1820 to 1870 unofficial farthings (quarter penny) still circulated in the guise of "advertising tokens". These are particularly of interest to social and local historians and, of course, genealogists. The names of the trader or emporium issuing these tokens, their exchange value and the commodity concerned are usually carried on the tokens. This tokens

tell the story of not only the issuer, but of the community in which they were used and in many ways, much of the economic story of the times. To this day discoveries in this area are still being made giving more information for the dedicated social historian and genealogist. In following issues of the Gazette, I will take a closer look at each of the three centuries in which these tokens were issued and hopefully, show how this information can help researchers and especially, genealogists, to piece together an aspect of the economic and commercial life of their subjects. **David Paling, MGSi**

## AN DAONCHARTLANN

The Society's Archive based at the restored Martello Tower at Seapoint, County Dublin, is closed to visitors until further notice to facilitate some further conservation works on this historic building dating from 1804. The Archivist, **Mr. Séamus O'Reilly, MGSi**, and the Board of the Society apologise to Members and others for any inconvenience caused by this temporary closure. Items for deposit in the Society's Archive are still being accepted as usual. Further details on the progress of these essential conservation works will be published as they become available in this newsletter.