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

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County Arms, Club Flags & Logos and State Insignia on Merchandise

As all of our Teachtaí Dála (MPs) embark on their long summer break and the annual "silly season" begins, the new Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, **Mr. Séamus Brennan, TD** gets his feet firmly under the ministerial desk. Generally considered to be a good and hard working constituency TD and indeed, with an excellent administrative record, he is considered to have been the ideal candidate for this job. Whilst, wishing Minister Brennan every success in his new ministerial position, he inherits from his predecessors many matters as yet unresolved. Not least amongst such matters is the dubious legal standing of grants of arms made by the Chief Heralds of Ireland from 1943 to 2005. Dogged by an official reluctance to face up to this issue, it finally came to a head with the publication in May 2006 of the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* and its subsequent debate in Seanad Éireann (Senate) in December 2006. Mr. Brennan's immediate predecessor, **Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD**, requested that the Bill be withdrawn for detailed examination by the Board of the National Library under Chairman and Senior Counsel, **Mr. Gerard Danahar, SC**. Seven months on

and the publication of Mr. Danaher's advice, if any, to the Minister on the Bill and the legal position of State's delivery of heraldic services is still awaited. Meanwhile, **Conor Lally** reports in "*The Irish Times*" of July 3rd that the Commissioner of An Garda Síochána (Police) has ordered inquiry into the use of the Garda symbol on merchandise. Questions have arisen as to the ownership of the copyright to the Garda logo (and possibly the Arms of the Garda College at Templemore) and their possible use by a manufacturer of T-shirts, mugs, fridge magnets and baseball caps etc. This was precisely one of the examples used by the promoters of the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* and by its sponsor, **Senator Brendan Ryan**. But this predicament need not be confined to An Garda Síochána, Town, City and County Councils, sports clubs, colleges and other bodies may also see their coats-of-arms exploited in a similar fashion. A great many of these coats-of-arms were obtained prior to May 2005 when the relevant sections of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* were implemented and therefore, the legal status of such grants continues to be in doubt.

Despite paying several thousands of Irish pounds (or Euro) for these grants of arms from the State, incredibly the copyright to the Arms did not transfer to the purchaser. But more fundamentally, the State's legislative power to make such grants between 1943 and 2005 is extremely questionable. Therefore, Town, City and County Councils and other bodies with grants dating from this period may find it difficult, if not impossible, to prevent the commercial exploitation of their Arms on merchandise by others without their consent. Confusion abounds as to where copyright actually subsists in respect of grants made up to May 2005. Whether, it rests with the Chief Herald, the heraldic designer, the heraldic artist or collectively by all three is unclear. In the event of the commercial use of a grant of arms without the consent of the grantee, who or what should be expected to vindicate the rights of the grantee or more correctly, purchaser of this grant? It was these very issues that the Bill sponsored by **Senator Brendan Ryan** sought to address in Seanad Éireann. Maybe, it's time the Town, City and County Councillors of Ireland raised this matter with the new Minister.

A Future for "Irish Roots" Magazine?

"*Irish Roots*" magazine has been published as a quarterly glossy by **Tony McCarthy** of Cork City since 1992. The Spring 1992 cover of "*Irish Roots*" carried a photograph of President Mary Robinson with the caption "*President of 70 Million*" clearly seeking to establish its market. In the intervening years this magazine has carved out a very unique niche for itself as the only such

publication dealing with Irish family history and related subjects. It has a worldwide readership, especially amongst the Irish Diaspora in North America and Australasia. Whilst, providing articles of particular interest to those researching Irish ancestry, the magazine also catered for those with a more general interest in things Irish. Many of its regular contributors have been, and con-

tinued to be, noted experts in various aspects of genealogy and indeed, heraldry. Over the years, "*Irish Roots*" has played an immeasurable role in the promotion of Ireland as a "roots tourism" destination. But sadly, its publisher, Tony McCarthy, has decided to cease publication with Issue no. 64 at the end of this year. This is a serious loss to Irish genealogy. (continued on Page 3)

Placenames Heritage Committees

The main article published in last month's issue generated considerable interest amongst County and City Councillors around the country. Many have expressed their deep frustration with the standards of local authority bilingual signage and the attempts by developers to put inappropriate names on housing estates around our towns and cities. Most of these names proposed by developers have nothing whatsoever to do with the locality, its topography or local history and heritage. Indeed, many are simply pretentious and often preposterous attempts at gentrification with illusions of grandeur bordering on the absurd. Such sales gimmicks are not unlawful, though, such new placenames soon become an embarrassing blot on our landscape. In a country with such a rich placename heritage and indeed, one that more than adequately describes our topography, it seems crass and totally unnecessary to import placenames. One could say that this phenomena says more about the buyer than the seller. When it comes to new housing estates, daft as it may seem, we've "crescents" which are straight, "heights" where there are none, "lawns" without a blade of grass

and "views" that must only exist in the furtive imagination of developers. When it comes to providing the official Irish language version of these new street-names or placenames for use on public signage one could have some sympathy with our local authorities. Without considering the correct translations at the planning stage we're shackled with absurdities which re-translate as "*Height Heights*", "*Big Valley Valley*", "*Marshy Land Lawns*" or "*Big Wood Woods*" and the like. But where the placename is neither new nor imported, there should be no excuse for error nor any need for creative quasi-translations. Initiatives undertaken by Fingal County Council, South Dublin County Council and by a number of City Councillors on Dublin City Council are encouraging examples of care and appreciation of our placename heritage. Local placename policies must be adopted by local authorities to protect and preserve the placename heritage of each county and city in Ireland. Each local authority should establish a Placenames Heritage Committee (PHC) comprised of county officials, public representatives, local historians and others with suitable

expertise to oversee and advise the local authority on proposed new placenames and the correct translations of existing placenames. The PHC should not be another ad hoc advisory committee of the local authority, but a standing committee meeting quarterly or more frequently as required. Once established the PHC should seek to create and maintain a database of all placenames, including the Irish language versions thereof and a brief description of the meaning and local significance of each placename. These placename databases should be made available to the general public on the local authority websites for information, local studies and to encourage local participation in the compilation of the database information. Each PHC could, for example, draw on the expertise of genealogists and local historians to provide information on the various individuals, families and local lore associated with each placename or street-name and have this recorded on the database for future reference and further studies etc. The current network of County Heritage Officers provides an excellent base upon which to develop the Placenames Heritage Committees.

Gazette as an On-Line Publication?

The Board of the Society at its June meeting considered the increasing costs of postage in respect of supplying the monthly newsletter to each member by mail. The Irish postal service, An Post, introduced two increases in the postage rates in the past twelve months and a further increase is reportedly being sought. These increases have also been accompanied, in the same period, by sharp increases in the costs of printing the Gazette. Unfortunately the levels of such costs are totally outside the control of the Board of the Society. Though, inflation has been a contributory factor in the rise in the costs of postage and printing, these increases are not in line with inflation. This phenomena is not

only creating problems here in Ireland as similar organisations in the United Kingdom are also being forced to review their publication policies. Already, an increasing number of societies in Great Britain are withdrawing from Journal Exchange Programmes in an effort to reduce costs. Many have ceased to publish anything in hardcopy, whilst a few have moved to exclusively publishing on the internet or on CD Rom. Notable amongst these organisations is the Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) which has ceased the publication of its journal—"*Family History News & Digest*" and now publishes its bulletin in electronic format. Also, a decision has been taken to close the

FFHS Publications operation and to sell off the existing stock. The GSI Board noting what is happening elsewhere and conscious of the need to cut operating costs here, adopted a resolution (*Res: 07/06/546*) to proactively encourage members to receive the Gazette by e-mail with a view to eliminating the postage and printing costs by the end of this year. The Society's obligations under the *Copyright & Related Rights Acts, 2000 & 2004* would be unaffected by this resolution as hardcopies will still be supplied to the Copyright Libraries. However, a final decision on the matter is not expected until November 2007 when the Board undertakes its annual review of the Membership Packages.

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

James Scannell Reports.....

FIRST WORLD WAR DEAD On Saturday 9 June 2007, the President of Ireland, **H.E. Mrs. Mary McAleese** laid a laurel wreath, and Northern Ireland Minister for Arts and Culture **Mr. Edwin Poots, MLA**, a wreath of poppies, at the cross in the Island of Ireland Peace Park at Wijtschate in Messines, Flanders (Belgium). The ceremony commemorated the 70,000 dead and wounded Irish soldiers during WW1. Tributes to the soldiers from the 16th Irish and 36th Ulster division. President McAleese said "We know they came from different traditions, which had very different ambitions, and yet on these fields their different traditions were put to one side. They were human beings who had a common cause and, through each other, they showed to each other a goodness, graciousness, a kindness, a love, a cherishing of one another. It is a shared memory and we need shared memories. This was the 3rd visit by President McAleese to Messines. Representatives of the British Army and the Irish Army also paid their respects at the ceremony. Present at the ceremony was Ms. Mable **Pearson** from Donegal whose uncle, Andrew Charles **Lockhard**, aged

22, was killed on 7 June 1917 in the attack at Messines while serving in the 36th Ulster Division. Wearing miniature replicas of the medals her uncle was awarded, Ms. Pearson said that one of her most treasured possessions in a collection of 80 letters sent by her uncle from the front. A remarkable feature of these letters is that her uncle only wrote goodbye in 2 letters – his first and last. **Michael Wall**, a relative of Andrew **Kavanagh**, who was killed while serving with the 16th Irish Division, said that Kavanagh was on his way to University College Dublin aged 19 when he enlisted and that his death was a real tragedy for the family as he was the eldest son and that his family had a tough time after that. Prior to the opening of the Island of Ireland Peace Park in 1998, the fate of Irish dead was largely overlooked but now, their memory is being rediscovered and in the words of President McAleese "These stories were ones kept in shoe boxes in attics which was a ridiculous place for them and a tragic and shameful place for them. Now they are out and open and cherished recognised, respected and talked about and loved and admired."

REDISCOVERY On view until 31 August in the Long Room of Trinity College Library, Dublin, is an exhibition "*The Great War Revisited: Ireland and World War 1*" which examines both the historical significance of the war and the tragedies for the thousands of young Irish men who were caught up in this conflict. For the first fifty years after the establishment of Irish independence, the part played by Irishmen in the First World War was largely ignored by the Irish State. In more recent times, this history has been rediscovered by families and historians. The exhibition looks at aspects in terms of recruitment, dissent and loss etc. It includes an impressive collection of recruitment posters for Irish soldiers to the Irish Regiment which was donated to the Library by **Rupert Magill**. Also included are personal letters and accounts from soldiers who fought in the war, propaganda literature as well as anti-conscription literature of the time by **Seán O'Casey**, **Eamon de Valera** amongst others. The role of many Trinity graduates and members of staff who took part in the war is also remembered in the exhibition.

Précis of the June Lecture

On Tuesday June 12th **Seán Ó Dúbhghaill** gave a talk on *Death & Burial Customs in 19th Century Ireland*. Stories abound about the Irish obsession with funerals and death allowing for the survival of strangely peculiar customs, in some cases, right into the 21st century. **Seán** concentrated on those funerary traditions that existed in Ireland up to the complete Romanization (Cullenization!!) of the Irish Catholic Church in the aftermath of the Great Famine (1845-50). Many of these traditions had their origins not in Christian Ireland which had existed since 5th and more so 6th century AD, but in the distant past of a pagan Celtic land. **Seán** brought his listeners through the subject in very

engaging manner with story upon story and scores of sayings and old proverbs. Ladies, for example, were described as "women of high adventure" if out after 11pm and not accompanied by either their brothers or husbands or "if a star falls a soul is going to heaven" or intriguingly "each time a black ass roars a tinker dies" – why a black donkey? **Seán** explained that up to 1830 there were so few RC priests that most people were not "officially" baptized, formally married or even attended at burials. However, soon after Catholic Emancipation in 1829, the Church embarked on a complete reorganization and this finally spelled the end of most of the bizarre funerary customs in Ireland. **Seán** cer-

tainly delivered one of the most amusing lectures ever heard at the GSI Evening Meeting.

"IRISH ROOTS" MAGAZINE

(Continued from Page 1) Appreciating the importance of this publication to Irish family history and "roots tourism" **Tony McCarthy** is trying to locate a publishing house willing to takeover and to continue this publication. Indeed, given the tourism promotion potential of this publication and its particular market, one wonders why it hasn't already been snapped up by market leaders in the tourism industry. Whether publishing "*Irish Roots*" in its current format or as an in-flight/travel/tourism product, anyone interested should urgently contact **Tony McCarthy** on E-mail: editor@irishrootsmagazine.com

Society's Lecture Programme

The coordinator of the Society's Guest Speaker Programme, **Séamus Moriarty, MGSi** has arranged a very interesting programme for the following five months of the year. On Tuesday 10th July **Emer Ní Cheallaigh**, Department of Folklore, University College Dublin, will speak on the School Manuscript Collection of the Dept. of Folklore, UCD. On Tuesday August 14th **Malachy McVeagh**, Ordinance Survey of Ireland will speak on the OSI as an aid to the family history researcher. On Tuesday September 11th **John Heuston**, MGSi, will deliver a

Sligo miscellany. On Tuesday October 8th **Mary Kelleher**, Archivist, Royal Dublin Society will introduce the archives of the RDS as a resource for the genealogist. On Tuesday November 13th **Seán Connolly**, Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association will speak on tracing a family member who fought in World War I and finally, on Tuesday December 11th **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

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

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday July 10th & Aug. 14th 2007

Evening Open Meeting

*Dún Laoghaire College of Further
 Education*

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

Wednesday July 25th & Aug. 22nd 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

Eileen E. Cass, 5, Badger Trail, Coram, NY 11727, USA. E-mail:- a910kitty@hotmail.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on Sylvester **Horgan** (my great grandfather) son of Denis Horgan and Bridget **Burk**. They emigrated to the States in the early 1860s and settled in Rhode Island. They came from the Listowel area of Co. Kerry and I am sure that I have family in that area. Any information greatly appreciated.

Bob Shea, 107, Edward Parkway, Nedrow, NY 13120, USA. E-mail:- rjsheal@aol.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on the family of John **Shea** and Johanna **Costello**—both born & married in Ireland. They had at least three children, Patrick, Anastasia and Margaret, all of whom were in New York State in 1870. Johanna is recorded as a widow living with her son Patrick on the 1870 US Census. Patrick married Bridget **Hogan** (b. USA), Anastasia married James **Fox** (b. IRL) and Margaret married Maurice **Flynn** (b. IRL). Any information regarding their place of origin of John Shea and Johanna Costello would be greatly appreciated.

Betty Mason, 642, Edmonds Avenue, Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania 19026, USA. E-mail:- mason642mom@hotmail.com Wrote:- Seeking info. on John **Carmichael** and family who emigrated from Ireland via Liverpool to New York landing at Castle Garden on Nov. 20th 1846. Looking for place of origin in Ireland, clues indicate possibly Ballymoney, Co. Antrim. Any information or assistance appreciated.

Richard Lorz, 40, Catlin Place, Tonasket, WA 98855, USA E-mail:- rwl@televar.com Wrote:- Searching for information on the siblings of Michael Joseph **Kennedy** and Sara **Cayne (Kane?)** who emigrated to the USA in 1952 with their children and moved to California. Michael was a master butcher by trade. I am also seeking to locate two daughters living in the USA, but I don't have their names. Michael and Sara had one son **Brendan Michael Kennedy** born at Tivoli Nursing Home in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, in 1951 (midwife, Mary **Finning**). Any information on any relatives of this family would be greatly appreciated.

NOTA BENE:- Queries are only published at the discretion of the editor and where a mailing address and e-mail address are provided. The reason that a mailing address should be provided is that people frequently change their e-mail addresses and therefore, queries without mailing addresses limit the possibility of receiving replies.

Seanad Éireann General Election

The Board of the Society at its June 7th meeting held at the Martello Tower, Seapoint, Co. Dublin selected **Michael Merrigan** as the Society's nominee for the Seanad General Election. The selection process was by secret ballot in accordance with Standing Orders. Michael Merrigan will contest the Seanad (Irish Senate) General Election as nominated by the Society as a non-party candidate. The Society's nominee will be placed on the Ballot Paper for the **Cultural & Educational Panel**. There are 5 Panels each originally chosen to represent the vocational sector i.e. Agricultural, Industrial & Commercial, Labour, Administrative and the Cultural & Educational Panel. Besides the nominees of the various Nominating Bodies such as the Society, members of the Oireachtas (Parliament) can nominate persons in proportion to the numbers of seats held by each party in Dáil Éireann. These nominees become the "official" or "preferred" candidates of their respective political parties and receive support accordingly. The electorate for the Seanad General Election is comprised of Teachtaí Dála (MPs), out-going Senators and City & County Councillors. So a total of 1,100 voters will elect 49 Senators from a total of 154 candidates. Voting pacts by political parties and the nomination system itself ensures that these seats are filled by the various political parties. Meanwhile, there are 6 University seats being contested by 35 candidates and

the electorate for these seats is drawn from the graduates of Trinity College Dublin and the National University of Ireland. Much debate has ensued over the years about the need to reform and widen the franchise for the election of the Upper House of the National Parliament, but to date no government has moved to implement any of the reforms suggested in report after report on this issue. This is a shame as Seanad Éireann plays an important role in the development and safeguarding of our democracy. The Seanad scrutinizes proposed legislation, in many cases, more thoroughly than Dáil Éireann with many Senators contributing to the debate. Issues that rarely, if ever, get raised in Dáil Éireann can and do get a hearing in the Seanad. The initiation of heritage legislation in the Seanad since the early 1990s has meant that much of this Society's focus has been on the debates in Seanad Éireann over the years. It was in the Seanad that the **Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006**, which was researched and drafted by Michael Merrigan, was introduced by **Senator Brendan Ryan** in May 2006. This Bill had its Second Stage debated in December 2006 and was withdrawn at the request of the Minister for examination by the Board of the National Library. In nominating Michael Merrigan, the Society hopes to highlight its various legislative campaigns and to focus on the protection of our heritage. The theme of his campaign is "**Giving**

a Voice to the Voluntary & Community Sector in Seanad Éireann" and this theme is fully endorsed by the Society. The issue of volunteerism and active citizenship has been featured regularly in the Society's monthly newsletter. As part of his campaign, Michael Merrigan produced a leaflet outlining his personal priorities and his experience and achievements. A copy has been forwarded to each voter for their consideration and, for information purposes, to each member of the Society. As the Society is not in a position to fund this campaign, Michael Merrigan has sourced funding from individual members, friends and supporters to cover the costs of printing, stationery, postage, texts, e-mails and telephone calls. Given the very limited funds available to this campaign the Society does not expect Michael Merrigan to travel around the various local authority areas in the country to meet local Councillors. The election of non-party candidates other than those elected through the universities is very unusual and the Society is in no doubt about this situation. But this nomination was considered an important opportunity to promote the legislative objectives of the Society and to highlight heritage issues also. Michael Merrigan has published a Web-blog to promote these objectives and others during this campaign. For further information on these various issues please checkout: <http://www.michaelmerrigan.blogspot.com>