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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
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News & Queries

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Mistranslation and Official Neglect Endangers Our Placename Heritage

Whatever the final makeup of our new government is likely to be after the May 24th General Election, the new Heritage Minister has a formidable task ahead to reestablish public confidence in the State's heritage policies. Following the last General Election in 2002 the government effectively dismantled the arts and heritage department by splitting its functions between the Ministers for Sport & Tourism and the Environment & Local Government. The State's heritage service, *Dúchas*, was abolished and subtle attempts at sidelining the voluntary National Trust for Ireland, An Taisce, increased. It has been asserted by some that this "downgrading" of heritage was driven by powerful interests in the construction industry in Ireland. Over the years it became abundantly clear that the vulnerability of various aspects of our national and natural heritage was increasingly evident. High profile cases like the route of the proposed M3 motorway through the archaeologically sensitive landscape around the ancient Hill of Tara are given much media attention, whilst damage to other aspects of our heritage goes virtually unnoticed. Central to the heritage and

interpretation of our national landscape are its placenames. The names given to both the natural and the built environment provide a living history of our people spanning nearly three millennia. Therefore, our placenames are of vital importance to the genealogist and historian. In linguistic terms the overwhelming majority of the placenames on the island of Ireland are Irish (Gaelic) but usually rendered in an Anglicized form. Other origins for our placenames are more recent, Norse introduced during the 8th and 9th centuries, English from the late 12th century onwards and finally, the names of the big houses and estates, many with a continental flavour, introduced by Anglo-Irish landlords in the 18th and 19th centuries. Indeed, many of our urban streetnames from the same period commemorate various members of the British royalty, nobility and sometimes, imperial victories overseas. All these placenames, whatever their origin, constitute an important and yet, fragile aspect of our heritage. In the 20th century and especially, following independence in 1922, placenames on official signage included a rendering in the Irish language. Whilst, this was the new State asserting its

national identity, now it is a requirement in law to provide such signage in the two official languages, Irish and English, or in Irish alone in the various Gael-tachtaí (Irish speaking districts). The responsibility for the erection of such signage rests with the local authorities and, in some cases, with the National Roads Authority. But the provision of a high standard of bilingual signage has never been a priority with little concern shown for grammar, spelling, consistency of nomenclature, correct translation, regional variations or even local history. This has very frequently allowed for the Irish versions of streetnames to be completely different on signs at either end of the same street. This deplorable and embarrassing situation is further complicated by nonsensical quasi-translations and fanciful creations by those designing or ordering such signage. Clearly any concern for the accuracy of bilingual placename and street-name signage has been abandoned by the local authorities. So is a unique placename heritage which has been handed down through generations, though disguised by Anglicization over the past few centuries, set to be lost or rendered meaningless?

Constitution and Presidency Seachtó Bliain ag Fás

Seventy years ago on July 1st 1937 the People of Ireland enacted *Bunreacht na hÉireann* (Constitution of Ireland) which continues to serve the nation. Far from being solely a legal framework for our Republic, as citizens we clearly feel a real and deep sense of ownership of "our" Constitution. Though, enacted only 70 years ago the Irish Constitution is one of the oldest in continuous use

in the world today. Spanning the lifetime of this Constitution is the office of the President of Ireland (*Uachtarán na hÉireann*). Ireland has undergone an enormous transformation socially, economically and culturally since 1937. The evolving pace of these changes in Irish society has been wonderfully portrayed in a series of television programmes on the presidency. "*Uachtaráin*" produced by Dearg

Films for TG4 deals with the lives and times of the eight citizens to have held the highest Office of State between 1938 and the present. Produced in Irish with subtitles in English, this television series is undoubtedly a very important contribution to our understanding of this period. Hopefully, this series will be produced on DVD, but in the meantime, it can be viewed on www.tg4.ie

Précis of the May Lecture

"Tracing Your Ancestors in the Medical Profession" was the title of the very interesting talk delivered on Tuesday May 8th by **Robert Mills** of the **Royal College of Physicians in Ireland**. Mr. Mills is the Archivist of the College which was established by royal charters of 1667 and 1692 as a licensing body for physicians. Robert explained that an unbroken record of the affairs of the College since 1692 is contained in the Minute Books which have all been indexed. Registers of Fellows and Members of the College are also complete since 1692 and some record and account books survive from the late 17th century. Committee proceedings books survive from 1828; copy outgoing correspondence and incoming correspondence survive from the early 19th century. A large collection of records has survived relating to the administration of the library from the late 18th century including Library Committee minute books, registers of borrowers and donations etc. There are several manuscript catalogues of the Library, the earliest dating from 1800. There is also a unique collection of biographical records of Irish doctors assembled by Dr. T.C.P.

Kirkpatrick (1869-1954) during an extraordinary lifetime's study of medical history. These records comprise biographical information, gathered in the form of news cuttings, obituary notices, directory entries, etc. on some 10,000 Irish medical practitioners dating from the earliest times up to the middle of the 20th century. These are indexed by surname. Another famous Dublin institution, Sir Patrick Dun's Hospital was founded by the College and opened in 1815. It was one of Dublin's most important teaching hospitals until its closure in 1986. The complete records of the hospital are now preserved in the College, including Minute Books of the Board of Governors, managing committee and medical staff; records of the building of the hospital; registrars report books; registers of patients and operations; annual reports; scrapbooks of news cuttings and an almost complete run of photographs of medical staff and victorious rugby teams from the 1880's to the 1960's. St. Ultan's Hospital was founded in 1919 by Dr. Kathleen Lynn and Madeline Ffrench Mullen. It was the first hospital in Dublin to be devoted exclusively to the

treatment of infants and, in particular, was a pioneer in the struggle against tuberculosis. When the hospital closed in 1983, its records were deposited in the College. The collection includes all the Minute Books of the Board of Governors, Medical Committee and House Committee; Annual Reports; BCG Committee Reports, numerous photograph and press cutting albums, and various artefacts from the hospital. Finally, Robert provided information on the Westmoreland Lock Hospital founded in 1792. This institution was located on Townsend Street in the heart of Dublin city until its closure in the mid 1950's. It was the successor to an earlier hospital and carried on the same function, the treatment of venereal disease. Not surprisingly, most of the 20th century records of this hospital are lost, almost certainly destroyed at its closure. But the College holds a very comprehensive collection of the earlier records, from 1792 until the end of the 19th century. This includes minute books, general registers of patients, reports and accounts, giving a very good insight into the administration of this hospital in the 19th century.

In Honour & Memory *Memorials of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown*

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has published a wonderful collection of photographs of the various memorials and wall plaques erected throughout the county. The publication is the work of the County Heritage Officer, **Mr. Tim Carey**, with financial assistance for the printing received from The Heritage Council. Besides having photographs of the memorials themselves, Tim has provided brief biographies on the subjects and in many cases, included photographs of the individuals and their former residences. Amongst those included in the publication are patriots, writers, artists, astronomers, sporting personalities, engineers and "one of the greatest lyric tenors

of all time". But this publication is not, yet another, tribute to the great and powerful of society. It includes the ordinary folk of the area like the Lifeboat crews and the hobblers who lost their lives in Dublin Bay. Many of the plaques included are the familiar blue ones erected by Dublin Tourism, but the book also includes the more personal tributes to family and friends and members of the community. These range from small tablets in front of trees planted in honour of each person to the small metal plaques placed on park benches dedicated in memory of individuals from all walks of life. Some of the plaques included are actually inside buildings such as the one to the memory of

the Dublin Post Office staff that lost their lives on the *RMS Leinster* on October 10th 1918. The earliest individual commemorated in this format in the locality is the Irish High King Laoghaire who reigned in the 5th century AD and, from whom, the Town of Dún Laoghaire gets its name. However, the oldest person commemorated has to be Queen Victoria marking her visit to Ireland in April 1900. This 82 page publication is in full colour and it's available free of charge from the *Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin*. Overseas orders please check with Tim Carey on e-mail: tcarey@dlrcoco.ie as postage costs may apply.

NLI Board Report Awaited

As reported in the January 2007 issue of this newsletter, the Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, **Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD**, undertook to place the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* before the Board of the National Library of Ireland. The Minister was speaking during the Second Stage debate on the Bill in Seanad Éireann on Tuesday December 12th 2006. The Bill was withdrawn by its sponsor **Senator Brendan Ryan** on receipt of assurances that it will be examined in detail by the Board with recommendations to the Minister on the appro-

priate measures required to remedy the current unsatisfactory legislative position of Irish heraldry. However, six months later it's unclear whether the Board has completed its deliberations and furnished the Minister with a report on its recommendations. The new Minister with responsibility for the National Library will be confronted with the same problem. Questions will continue from home and overseas regarding the status of grants of arms made prior to May 2005 when Sections 12 and 13 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 were

implemented by Minister O'Donoghue. The issue is not going to simply disappear and the longer it remains unresolved the more embarrassing it is for the Irish heraldic authority. Heraldic experts from around the world eagerly await the production of this report by the NLI Board. Undoubtedly, the matter will be raised in the Seanad (Senate) when it returns after the Seanad Elections in July. Irrespective of whether the Board chooses a minimalist or a radical approach to the problem, most agree that the status quo is certainly no longer an option.

James Scannell Reports....

DUBLIN PROJECTS John Grenham has returned to the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, to work on the Electoral Rolls project and so far has verified and input a further 900,000 records into the database which now comprises 3.4M records spanning the years 1937–1957. The updated database can be accessed in the Reading Room. John has also prepared a database listing members of the Dublin Methodist Society in 1788 containing 1060 records giving the first name and surname of each member, address - under street and house number, further information description (i.e. person who led prayer group and occupation). The database can be searched under the headings of Surname; Street and Class Leader. The database was compiled from a Word Document prepared by Rev. Dudley A. Levestone Cooney, current President of the Old Dublin Society, who transcribed it from the original document written back in 1788 by the Rev. Charles Boone.

HERITAGE FUNDING Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for Environment, Heritage &

Local Government, has allocated some €20M for the conservation and/or protection of Ireland's heritage this year. The money provided will help save a number of historic buildings through a conservation grants scheme administered by local authorities which will receive the best of part of €6M. The Minister believes that local authorities are best placed to identify lesser buildings of significant heritage value such as thatched cottages, shops and pub fronts, churches, rectories, gate lodges and community halls. Additional funding is also being provided so that local authorities can appoint a Conservation Officer and to draw down a grant towards the cost of employment of such. The Minister also announced the creation of new "Walled Town Fund" which in 2007 will be €2M and will be administered by the Heritage Council of Ireland. This will enable work to be carried out in a number of Ireland's walled towns such as Athenry, Co. Galway and Fethard, Co. Tipperary. This year's funding package will provide for projects at some of the State's premier heritage sites including Dublin's Phoenix Park, the

Pearse Museum at St. Enda's and Rathfarnham Castle in Co. Dublin and the Heywood Gardens in Ballynackill, Co. Laois.

NEW VISITOR CENTRES Heritage Grants of €750,000 each are going towards the provision of a visitor centre at the 13th century Nenagh Castle in north Tipperary and a new visitor facility at Durrow Abbey, Co. Laois, which was founded in the 6th century by St. Columba.

HERITAGE PROPERTIES The 2007 heritage funding programme will also provide continued support for projects at a number of important heritage properties which are held in trust or in private ownership including Westport House in Co. Mayo, Headford House in Co. Meath and Russborough House in Co. Wicklow. Smaller sums will go towards heritage projects jointly sponsored by local authorities in Nobber, Co. Meath; Granard, Co. Longford; St. Selskar's Abbey in Wexford Town; St. Mary's Cathedral in Limerick and St. Carthage's in Lismore, Co. Waterford.

GSI Speaker Programme

On Tuesday June 12th, **Seán Ó Dúbhghaill** will speak on the topic "*Death & Burial Customs in 19th Century Ireland*". The coordinator of the Society's Speaker Programme, **Séamus Moriarty**, MGSi has also arranged a very interesting programme for the following six 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 McBride**, 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 miscel-

lany. 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 1 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

SEANAD ÉIREANN

Official notice has been received from the Returning Officer for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) that the Society has the right, under the Seanad Electoral (Panel Members) Acts 1947 and 1954, to nominate one person as a candidate in the Seanad Election on the Cultural and Educational Panel. The closing date for the receipt of the nomination is noon of June 15th 2007. The Board of Directors of the Society shall consider the matter on June 7th and select a nominee in accordance with its Standing Order No. 13 from amongst those who sought the Society's nomination. The Board shall decide by a ballot using the normal proportional representation system. The Seanad Election will be held between July 9th and 11.00hrs on July 23rd 2007. *Hon. Secretary*

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 on line on the Society's website—www.familyhistory.ie/shop

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday June 12th & July 10th 2007

Evening Open Meeting

*Dún Laoghaire College of Further
Education
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs*

Wednesday June 27th & July 25th 2007

Morning Open Meeting

*Weir's, Lower George's Street, Dún
Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs*

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

*(Coffee/Tea included at Morning
Meetings)*

QUERIES

Tabatha M. Taylor, 417, Hill St., York, PA 17403 USA E-mail: knitgirl77@msn.com Wrote: Searching for information on Joseph **Ryan**, Wife Margaret (Maggie) **Owen** (Owens), and their children Joseph and Mary. They last lived in Skerries and emigrated in 1914. I am also in search of another possible relative by the name of Lizzie Owen (Owens). Lizzie was a sponsor at a baptism in 1901 and I know nothing else of her. Immigration records in the United States indicated Joseph may have died before his wife and children emigrated. Any help appreciated.

William Wright, 1513 Raymond, Bay City MI 48706 USA E-mail: nofakejake@aol.com Wrote:- John **Mullen Wright** was listed as being born February 6, 1776 in Dublin Ireland. By 1790 he was in Cincinnati Ohio USA where he remained until his death at Mt. Healthy Ohio on February 27 1853. He married Anna Maria **Hossell** (spelling?) about 1800. While I have found their tomb stone and their children. Family stories suggest he came through Washington DC or perhaps Virginia. I have not been able to confirm it. I have found other John Wright men but none connect.

Brenda Keer, 39, Dover Road, London E12 5DZ, England Email: b.m.keer@btopenworld.com Wrote:- Seeking **Hunter/Dunn(e)** connections in Dublin, 1700-1900. Arthur Dunn(e) Attorney Exchequer, died 1814. Daughter Henrietta/Hester married William Hunter, Deputy Registrar of the Exchequer, St Mary, Dublin. Known sons: John Arthur Hunter, attorney; William Hunter, Royal Naval Lieutenant and James Henry Hunter, Royal Navy Lieutenant. Any info. please.

James Alfred Hilford, 20, Slosman Drive, Asheville, North Carolina, U.S.A. E-mail: jimceltina@aol.com Wrote:- I have found references to 23 Hilfords in Ireland including Dublin (1676), Galway (1838) and Armagh (1832) but have not been able to tie any of them together. Some emigrated to Australia, Scotland and the United States. Any information on my **Hilford** family greatly appreciated.

Susan Tolusso, 2252 Quinton St., Ottawa, ON Canada K1H 6V3 E-mail stolusso@sympatico.ca Wrote:- I'm looking for the Irish origins of my g-g-g grandfather James **Reed**, a Free Presbyterian born in Ireland in about 1818 and came to Canada West (now Ontario, eventually settling on a farm in York County) on or before 1843, met and married Susannah **McBean** and had several children, including William J. Reed. On the other side of my mom's family, I'm looking for James **Gilchrist**, born in Ireland in 1825 and emigrated to Ontario, also near Weston Village or what is now Etobicoke, as a market gardener in 1895. He and wife Annie **Graham** had at least three children, including my great grandma Martha Reed, nee Gilchrist. 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.

Irishman Came to U.S. to Pursue his Dream Worked as Miner, Owned PJ's Irish House, Sold Real Estate

By Larry Finley, Staff Reporter, Chicago Sun Times

CHICAGO—May 3rd 2007

"P.J." Gaughan's journey from Ireland to Chicago started in 1957 with a voyage to Canada and an unplanned trip to the goldfields of Yellowknife, in its Northwest Territories. A star on the Gaelic football fields at 17, he travelled from a little farm in County Mayo, to Canada, to his own tavern in Chicago, to a large farm in Minnesota, and then back to the city. Mr. Gaughan, 73, of Bartlett, died Tuesday at St. Alexius Medical Center in Hoffman Estates, following extensive surgery for stomach cancer. During the 1960s, he owned and operated PJ's Irish House, at Chicago and Cicero. Mr. Gaughan and 12 brothers and sisters spent their early years on a farm near the village of Shraigh, in Belmullett Parish, County Mayo, according to his brother, Paul Gaughan. "We were born on a 15-acre farm with our own three or four cows and some calves to make our own butter," his brother said. "And we grew a lot of good potatoes. We would take the seaweeds from the shores and put them on the 2 1/2 acres that fed our family." P.J. Gaughan was a natural on the stony local football fields in the early 1950s, his brother said. "He was a fantastic Gaelic football player when he was a boy," Paul Gaughan said. "He was outstanding." P.J. Gaughan eventually played for a team in the All-Ireland finals. He worked and played foot-

ball in Dublin, Ireland, and then in London. Both brothers worked in construction and had heard promises of a good building jobs in Canada's big cities. The two and a friend made a storm-tossed trip to Canada's east coast in a converted German freighter, only to be told there were no jobs there. The ground there in April was still frozen down to 5 feet, so there were no construction jobs, Paul Gaughan said. Head west for Edmonton, they were told. Eventually they landed jobs in a mine in Yellowknife working eight-hour shifts, six days a week, followed by a lot of soccer, boredom and insects. "There were about 1,200 people in Yellowknife at that time," Paul Gaughan said. "We went to the Yellowknife Hotel. And if you drank beer at all you would come out without much money because everything was so expensive. It all had to be shipped in. There wasn't much entertainment."

Lost money in drought

Paul Gaughan left the mines after about nine months. But his brother stayed on until about 1960 when he had saved enough to come to Chicago, said P.J. Gaughan's son, John. "He was a real miner," the son said. "He was the guy who drilled the holes, put in the dynamite and blasted it. He made a bunch of money up there and moved down to Chicago. Eventually he

became a citizen of the United States and was married" on Sept. 7, 1963. Mr. Gaughan's wife, the former Jo Ann Staff, died in December 2005. In the 1970s, he "got tired of city life and moved up to a farm in Browerville, Minn.," his son said. "He didn't do well in Minnesota. There was a drought. He lost money and came back to Chicago." Mr. Gaughan then tried a number of jobs, including selling real estate and working as a security guard. "His goal then was to put me through school," his son said. "It was very important to get me educated. And he did." John Gaughan graduated from Northern Illinois University in 2000 as an electrical engineer. Survivors include three other brothers, Seán, Gusty and Joseph; and three sisters, Una, Martina and Alice.

Visitation will be from 3 to 8 p.m. today and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Friday at Gibbons Funeral Home, 134 S. York Rd., Elmhurst. A mass will be at 10 a.m. Friday at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, in Elmhurst. Burial will be in St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, Palatine.

The publication of the above obituary is by kind permission of the author on behalf of the Chicago Sun Times News Group. American obituaries are a wonderful source of information for the genealogist and social historian. Editor.