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Celtic Conundrum or Simply Revisionism, So Who Were Our Ancestors?

Much has been written in recent years on the nonexistence of a Celtic people or race. We are now being told that the Celts were a creation of 19th century romantic nationalists, novelists and poets based on the earlier classification of a language group by Edward Lhyud. Revisionist historians and others have almost succeeded in airbrushing the term "Celt" from public view, whilst surprisingly having no difficulty whatsoever with the terms "Anglo-Saxon" and "Viking". If the arguments presented by the revisionists regarding the term "Celt" are to be upheld then the same must apply to other terms utilized for the ancient peoples of Europe. The Vikings, for example, who settled Iceland and then later, for a period, Greenland, were of mixed Norse and non-Norse stock. Whilst, new DNA studies in England are questioning the invasion and mass migration story for the displacement of the Romano-British by the Anglo-Saxons in the 5th and 6th centuries AD. The Vikings and the Anglo-Saxons were identified as distinct peoples by religious beliefs, social structure, culture and language. The people that we call the Celts also shared a cultural, linguistic and religious

environment or civilization. Much is already known of this civilization through the works of the classical writers, indigenous sources and archaeology. So where is the problem with the words "Celt" or "Celtic" nowadays? Some have come to view the terms in the context of nationalist movements in Great Britain and Ireland or more usually in sport and culture. Advances in DNA, some revisionists claim, has strengthened the case for dropping the term "Celt". Surprisingly this was based not on the similarities between existing populations but on the findings of a DNA study of "Celtic" burials on mainland Europe. So a person buried with identifiably Celtic grave goods on the upper reaches of the Rhine is a pure "Celt" and because the current populations of Scotland, Wales and Ireland don't share his "Celtic" DNA—they're not Celts. This absurd position cannot be supported by forensic science or anthropology. It's like finding a body buried in a pair of Levi jeans with a Nokia cell-phone in the pocket and deducing that the individual was a Finnish-American and because his DNA doesn't match with the current population of Helsinki—that the

Finns are not real Finns. Grave goods only indicate a socio-religious situation and not necessarily ethnicity. More recent DNA studies have proven that there is a remarkable similarity between the populations of north and west Great Britain, Ireland and northern Spain—the so-called insular Celtic areas and the Basques of northern Spain. Early Irish invasion myths claim that people moved up to Ireland from Spain and indeed, this is in line with modern thinking of the Neolithic settlement of western Europe and the western European isles by sea and bay-hopping. The DNA studies also indicate that the indigenous population of these isles was in place for millennia. Could it be that we'll have to reconsider the origins of Celtic civilization? Could a west to east settlement pattern not have been the case moving inland up the rivers rather than the established east to west movement? We know that Celtic civilization reached its height of sophistication in central Europe where it was embraced by other tribes. However, advances made in DNA challenge us to look again at the origin myths of our ancestors and to consider an Atlantic seaboard origin for the "Celts".



Happy St. Patrick's Day



The Society's President, **Mr. Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI**, the Vice-Presidents, Cathaoirleach, **Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI** and Board of the Society wish all our Members and readers a very Happy St. Patrick's Day. This time of year is especially poignant for genealogists as we appreciate the significance of this day for the Irish Diaspora around the world. Many of us have successfully

traced several branches of our families spread across five continents. Parades, festivals and other events marking our National Holiday are now held from Tokyo and Beijing in the east to Vancouver and San Francisco in the West, from Moscow in the north to Wellington in the south—a truly worldwide festival for the Irish and the friends of Ireland. The oldest St. Patrick's parade in

the world is said to be the one in New York City which dates back to circa 1762. In Dublin the event has become the largest festival in Ireland and continues throughout the week. The parade in Dublin on Saturday March 17th is always the highlight of the St. Patrick's Festival watched by thousands of people lining the streets of the capital. For further information on the Dublin parade see www.rte.ie

Flight of the Earls Commemoration

As featured in the August 2006 issue of this newsletter (Vol. 1 No. 8) - the 400th anniversary of the "Flight of the Earls" will be marked by special ceremonies throughout the isle of Ireland. But the challenge will always be one of "inclusivity" as this anniversary, in particular, has different connotations for each of the traditions in Northern Ireland. On Wednesday, 21st February 2007, An Taoiseach, (Irish Prime Minister) **Mr. Bertie Ahern T.D.**, announced the arrangements for the official commemorative programme in 2007, embracing the anniversaries of the Flight of the Earls, 1607, the foundation of the Irish College, St Anthony's College Louvain in 1607 and the 350th anniversary of the death of Fr Luke Wadding, the noted Franciscan scholar, historian and theologian. Speaking at the launch the Taoiseach said he was pleased to support commemorations "that recall significant events and personalities in the story of Ireland and all its traditions." The Taoiseach referred to "one of the most poignant and romantic episodes in Irish history, when Hugh O'Neill, the Great Earl of Tyrone with families and supporters slipped quietly away from Rathmullan Bay" in 1607. They found refuge and hospitality in St Anthony's College Louvain (Leuven) in present day Belgium which had been founded earlier that year and which is also commemorated in this programme. The Taoiseach also spoke of Waterford born Franciscan Luke Wadding who "linked the Irish tradition of

learning and spirituality to the wider European tradition of scholarship, which did so much to secure the language, history and literary traditions of this country." The Louvain 400 and academic programme will be coordinated by the O Cléirigh Institute in UCD in cooperation with the Franciscan Order. Donegal County Council will coordinate the Donegal community initiatives and some events in Northern Ireland. The commemorative programme will include special exhibitions by national cultural institutions, the National Museum of Ireland, the National Library, the Hunt Museum and the Waterford Treasures Museum. An Post - The Irish Postal Authority, has issued special commemorative stamps featuring Fr Luke Wadding, the Foundation of St. Anthony's College, Louvain and the Flight of the Earls. Academic seminars, workshops and presentations will be held in Louvain, several Irish universities, O Fiach Library in Armagh and in the Irish Colleges in Rome and Paris. A number of Irish Embassies, in Belgium, Netherlands, France, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Switzerland and Austria, will also organise local commemorative events. There will also be commemorative events and exhibitions presented in association with the historic Irish Colleges in Europe (St. Anthony's - Louvain, the Irish College - Paris and St. Isidore's, Rome). Highlights of the programme will include:- "Patrons and Preachers, Irish Franciscan Treasures, 1600 - 1750" will open at

the National Museum of Ireland, Decorative Arts & History, Collins Barracks in October 2007. This exhibition will display a selection of the portable heritage of the Franciscan Order in Ireland dating to the 17th and early 18th century, including altar vessels, reliquaries, church furnishing and sculpture, much of which has never before been on public display. The National Library of Ireland exhibition "Strangers to citizens: the Irish in Europe 1600-1800" opening at the Library in Kildare Street in October 2007 will focus on the Irish Diaspora in Europe in the 17th and 18th centuries. It will contribute to national interest in the period aroused by commemorations of the 400th centenary of the Flight of the Earls and of the foundation of the Irish College in Louvain. There will be searchable databases of Irish scholars and soldiers, as well as digital "turning the page" versions of heraldic manuscripts showing the pedigrees and coats-of-arms of many well-known Irish families. The Louvain 400 Programme opened in the Royal Hospital at Kilmalham in Dublin City on March 1st with a performance of the St. Francis Cantata by Michael McGlynn performed by The RTÉ Concert Orchestra and Cór na nÓg. Further details of the commemorative programmes being arranged with Donegal Co Council and the O Cléirigh Institute at University College Dublin will be announced shortly. Source: Dept. of An Taoiseach, Dublin. Website: www.gov.ie

International Heraldic Colloquium

The XVth International Heraldic Colloquium organised by the International Academy of Heraldry will be held at Xanten in Germany from Monday 3rd to Thursday 6th September 2007. L'Académie Internationale d'Héraldique (International Academy of Heraldry) is a prestigious organisation founded in 1949 in Paris to bring together heraldists from around the world. Membership of this rather exclusive club is by election and indeed, restricted to seventy-five active members at any one time, though, no such restrictions apply to associate members. Most of the foremost heraldic experts in the world are either members or associate members of the Academy. Based in Switzerland, the

Academy organises the International Heraldic Colloquium every two years where papers on many aspects of heraldry are read. This year the theme will be "*Marks of the Authority in Heraldry: Temporal and Religious signs used on Arms*" - shield and other elements, including mottoes. Scripts for each lecture should not be more than ten pages, including the pictures, and delivery will be limited to twenty minutes. Whether any Irish papers will be presented remains to be seen, though, it would certainly be a pity if there weren't any submitted. Notwithstanding the current uncertainty surrounding the whole legal status of Irish heraldry, Ireland should continue to be represented at these

international conferences. Indeed, there is a compelling argument for the convening of an annual one-day heraldic colloquium here in Ireland to broaden the knowledge base of heraldry and vexillology. A scientific committee of the A.I.H. will select the papers to be read on the basis of a summary of ten lines submitted to the Secretary General before the end of April. The registration fee for the Colloquium is €180 (plus the closing dinner at €35) and should be received by the Colloquium organizers by July 1st 2007 - for further details contact **M. Michel Popoff**, Secretary General, A.I.H. 176, Grand'rue, F-30270 Saint-Jean du Gard, France or E-mail: michel.popoff@wanadoo.fr

GSI Speaker Programme

The Society's lecture programme is one of its most important endeavours each year and it has certainly provided a wealth of new and valuable information. Many exciting resources were revealed and thoroughly explained in a manner appropriate to the requirements of a genealogist. The Society's Lecture Programme is planned and arranged by **Séamus Moriarty**, **MGSI**, and here are the details for the next four months. The genealogy and history of a single family - the Gilmartins will be **John Gilmartin's** topic for March 13th—the Annual General

Meeting and for April 10th **Patrick Lynch** will provide a closer look at the lives of Irish veterans of World War 1 (1914-1918) in his lecture "Veterans in a Virgin State - Homes for Heroes and Social Activities". The medical profession will be centre-stage on May 8th with "Tracing Your Family in the Medical Profession" by **Robert Mills**, **RCPI** and then this six month period will end on June 12th with **Seán Ó Dúbhghaill** on the fascinating subject of "Death and Burial Customs in 19th Century Ireland". Subjects are chosen to appeal to a wide

variety of interests and to cover a number of resources, all of which, are extremely important to genealogy. A précis of each of the lectures will be carried in this newsletter.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM of the Society will be held on **Tuesday 13th March 2007** at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The Guest Speaker will be John Gilmartin—see above. New Members always welcome.

James Scannell Reports.....

Dublin City Manager **John Tierney** was the Guest of Honour for the Wednesday 7 February meeting of the **Old Dublin Society** in the Conference Room of the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, at which he formally launched the "**New Index to the Dublin Historical Record**" which covers the first 56 volumes of the Society's journal. The **Dublin Historical Record** from 1938 when it was first published to 2004 which was taken as the cut-off point for the Index. The Index launch was the opening event in the Society's 2007 programme of weekly meetings in the Dublin City Library and Archive and was presided over by the Society's President, **Rev. D.A. Levistone Cooney** who opened the evening with a short address of welcome to the City Manager, guests and members of the Society. **Theo Mortimer**, who has been Hon. Editor of the Dublin Historical Record for the past 9 years, gave a brief outline of the project and what it involved and paid special tribute to the printers of the Index. He was followed by **Dr. Fergus Mulligan** who compiled and collated the material for the In-

dex working from copies of the DHR and utilized the material contained in the previous index compiled in 1977 by **Dr. G. Lennox Barrow**. Dr. Mulligan gave a brief outline how the material he input for the Index. He concluded his address by reminding the audience that the launch of the new Index was taking place on the 140th anniversary of **William Dargan's** death, someone he had a particular interest in and who is featured several times in the Index. In formally launching the new Index, Dublin City Manager John Tierney thanked the Society complimented it on its local history work undertaken down through the years and the Dublin Historical Record which is an invaluable reference source for those engaged in researching the history of Dublin City and County. He looked forward to the first supplement to the new Index which will be available in 5 year's and will be compiled by Dr. Mulligan who has been retained by the Society to undertake this work on an-ongoing basis. It is intended to produce supplements to the new Index at approximately 5 year intervals. Copies of the new 180 page Index will be

available at the price of €30.00 at the Wednesday night meetings of the Society in the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 –144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, or by mail from **James Scannell**, Hon. PRO, Old Dublin Society, 19 Hazelwood, Shankill, Dublin 18, Ireland.

On **Saturday May 12th** from 09.30 hrs to 14.40hrs the Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, will hold a **Local History Group Day** and the draft programme is as follows - Raheny Footprints by **Joan Sharkey**, Raheny Heritage Group; Bray Edwardian Hurricane Charlie by **James Scannell**, Old Bray Society; Miss Sandes' Soldiers' Homes, a Kerry woman's work for soldiers' welfare by **Bryan MacMahon**, Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society; Mount Merrion House and Deerpark in Bygone Days by **Gerald O'Kelly**, Mount Merrion Historical Society; A History of Enniskerry and its Neighbourhood from 1781 to the present by **Brian White**, Bray-Cualann Historical Society; Crossing the Liffey at Dublin - the crossings and bridges of Dublin's Anna Livia by **Gerry Hoey**, Knocklyon History Society.

Précis of February Lecture

On Tuesday February 9th members heard a fascinating lecture by **Ms. Liz D'Arcy, MA** of the Paper-works Studio on the topic "Manuscript and Photo Preservation". Over many years of research genealogists and social historians gather huge amounts of paper, original documents and, of course, photographs. Whilst, scanning these in to the computer may satisfy many, others realise that they are custodians of valuable pieces of history and this carries responsibilities. In her lecture Ms. D'Arcy provided examples of the deterioration and environment threats to documents and photographs. The correct methods of storage and the delicate and sometimes, very difficult,

task of restoration and conservation of documents and photographs. Simple tips on the avoidance of direct sunlight, dampness and damage by insects were given. Ms. D'Arcy also explained the time consuming and careful process of cleaning paintings and gave some fine examples of same—both before and after the process. Members then engaged in a lively question and answer session which was indicative of the great interest shown by members in the preservation of these heritage items. Ms. D'Arcy is a member of the Irish Professional Conservators and Restorers Association and of the Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland. The lecture con-

cluded with members receiving a very informative leaflet on the subject. Ms. Liz D'Arcy, MA may be contacted for professional advice and commission at paperworks@yaho.com

SPONSORSHIP OF THE POSTAGE

The Board of the Society wishes to thank **Mr. David Paling, MGSI**, for his kind and generous sponsorship of the postage costs for this issue of the Society's monthly newsletter. Members or others wishing to sponsor the postage costs for an issue of "*Ireland's Genealogical Gazette*" are invited to contact the Editor on Gazette@familyhistory.ie *Thank You*

Membership of the Genealogical Society

Membership fee renewals are now overdue 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 publica-

tions 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

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

GS I 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 shortly. 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

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www.familyhistory.ie/shop**DIARY DATES***Tuesday March 13th & April 10th 2007***Evening Open Meeting***Dún Laoghaire College of Further
Education**Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs**Wednesday March 28th & April 25th 2007***Morning Open Meeting***Weirs, George's Street, Dún Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs**Contribution €3.00 p.p.**(Coffee/Tea included at Morning
Meetings)***QUERIES**

Dennis Kelly, 29 Winchester Terrace, Tauranga 3110, New Zealand. E-mail:- dennis_k@clear.net.nz Wrote:- Seeking info on my Grandfather, James Charles **Kelly**, born in County Longford, 10th August 1852, & emigrated to New Zealand in 1874 on the ship "*Hindostar*". Who were his parents, did he have brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts? Any info. much appreciated.

Ted Anderson, 40 McCurdy Road, Herne Hill, Vic, 3218, Australia E-mail:- tedanderson@ozemail.com. Wrote:- Seeking info. on my great great grandfater and grandmother William **Anderson** and Letitia née **Dingle**. William was a coachbuilder in Dublin in 1840 when his son, also William emigrated to South Australia. Any assistance with this query much appreciated.

Nicole Winters, PO Box 111, Narellan, NSW, Australia, 2567. E-mail:- spi.australia@bigpond.com Wrote:- Looking for info. on John **Lamph**, born 1799, Armagh, Ireland. Transported to Tasmania, Australia in 1819 on board the convict transport ship "*Castle Forbes*" from Ireland. Any information please.

Kathy Wray, 8 Borelia Crescent, Port Perry, Ontario Canada, L9L 1H4 E-mail:- kwray39@hotmail.com Wrote:- Looking for info on William Henry **Johnston** b. Dec. 1839 Ireland and d. Jan 23 1911 in Ontario Canada. William married Frances E **Downing Dowdall** b. Sept 20 1850 in Ireland. They had 5 children all born in Ireland & went to Canada c. 1881. Children:- Mable Johnston b. April 12 1873 & Edith Maude Lactetia Johnston b. May 22 1874 in Holmpatrick, Dublin, Ireland, John Lancelot Arthur Johnston b. Jun 1876 in Ireland, and twins Fredrick William Sydney Johnston and Olive Ethel Muriel Johnston b. October 22 1879 in Kilkenny, Ireland. Any connections or information on this query much appreciated.

Ken Kinsella, MGSI, 41, Granville Park, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland. E-mail:- kkinsella@iol.ie Wrote:- I am researching casualties of the **Great War, 1914-1918**, for a book and would like to hear from relatives of officers and men who fell in the Great War. The men would have lived in the Dundrum, Sandyford, Kilgobbin, Carrickmines, Foxrock and Cabinteely areas of County Dublin. 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.

Annual Report of the Board

As with previous years the Board delivers its Annual Report from March to March as the Annual General Meeting is held this month. The other annual reports, however, are completed for the calendar year to comply with the Society's obligations under the Companies Acts in Ireland. Once again the Board had a very busy year dealing with the day-to-day running of the Society and, in doing so, it held eleven Board meetings in the period. The August 2006 meeting was cancelled due to a problem with the shaft above the entrance to the Martello Tower at Seapoint. In providing an overview of the activities of the Board, the following categories have been identified. (1) **Open Meetings:-** the Board organised 23 Open Meetings during the year, including 12 lectures delivered at the Evening Meeting. The venue for the Morning Meeting was changed in August 2006 to Weir's of Dún Laoghaire and this has been a great success by all accounts. Also, in March 2006 a Special Open Meeting was held for our visitors from TIARA of Boston, Massachusetts. A Fund Raising Table Quiz was held in November 2006. (2) **Publications:-** the Society published 12 issues of "*Ireland's Genealogical Gazette*" during the period and the readership of the on-line issue has steadily increased to circa 5,000 per month. Problems with printers caused considerable havoc with the publication of the Society's Biannual Journal which published only one part of the annual volume in 2006. This situation was compounded by a very much reduced supply of suitable articles for publication. Thankfully, the latter has been largely rectified and the inflow of articles from members has improved. In March 2006 the Society published "*The Memorial Inscriptions of Grangeogorman Military Cemetery, Dublin, Ireland*" and this volume has received much praise for both its

content and as a valuable contribution to study of military history in these isles. The website was overhauled completely and now attracts even more visitors. Plans are near finalization on the addition of further features. (3) **An Daonchartlann:-** the Board had a difficult year dealing with various unforeseen problems with the Martello Tower at Seapoint. The maintenance of the required environmental conditions was aggravated by the natural deterioration, in places, of the original granite block-work and the new lime mortar pointing. Consultations with the County Council resulted in the prompt commissioning by the County Heritage Officer of a Conservationist Architect's Report which highlighted serious matters that required attention should this building be suitable for its intended use. With the timely assistance of the County Council, a temporary storage facility has been acquired for the Society's Archive. The removal of the archival collections to storage will facilitate further examinations of the building and certain works to be carried out on the problem areas. The archival collections have been catalogued and sorted by the Archivist who is also considering methods by which certain items will be accessible on the Society's website. The collections have continued to grow over the year and this has welcomed by the Board. (4) **National Issues:-** the Board successfully registered the Society as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) just before the 2006 AGM. The *Genealogy and Heraldry Bill, 2006* was introduced in Seanad Éireann by Senator Ryan in May 2006 and published. This was a considerable achievement for the Society and represents a milestone in the development of Irish genealogy and heraldry. The Bill was debated at Second Stage just before Christmas and was withdrawn at the

Minister's request for detailed examination by the Board of the National Library. The Society also made submissions on the National Library's Development Plan and pieces of proposed legislation. To assist in the coordination of national campaigns on issues of mutual interest, the Board adoption a motion on joint actions with CIGO and APGI. The Society is a member of *The Wheel and Integrating Ireland* and is represented on a County Council Strategic Policy Committee. (5) **International Issues:-** the Society was represented at the FGS Conference in Boston in September and liaised with many overseas societies and individuals on developments at home and abroad during the year. The Society commissioned a Coat-of-Arms for the Polish Bar on Parnell Street, Dublin, from George Lucki of the *International Association of Amateur Heraldry* as a gesture of welcome to Ireland's largest minority. (6) **Conclusion:-** though this was a difficult year for the Board, it continues to plan for the future and aims to expand the activities of the Society to meet changing and more challenging conditions.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

The Society's Archive based at the Martello Tower at Seapoint is closed to visitors until further notice to facilitate conservation works. An off-site storage facility has been acquired for the Archive for the duration of these essential works. The Archivist, **Mr. Séamus O'Reilly**, MGSI, and the Board apologise to Members for any inconvenience. Items for deposit in the Society's Archive are still being accepted as usual. Further details will be published as they become available in this newsletter.