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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
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Taxpayers Expected to Pay Twice for Computerised Records—Why?

The recent launch by the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) of its on-line pay-per-view facility was certainly not without controversy. The government funded Irish Genealogical Project (IGP) computerized the parish records of the various churches and in doing so, provided computer and office procedure training to participants on government training schemes from 1988. The current controversy arose when it was discovered that it costs €10 per record on this on-line service provided by the IFHF. Many genealogists now argue that since the Irish taxpayer paid for the computerization of these records that access should be either free of charge or at a nominal charge. This Society has been seeking radical changes to the operation of the IGP for nearly sixteen years. But instead of radical changes, the government established Irish Genealogy Limited (IGL) in 1993 to coordinate and promote the work of the IGP. The damning *Value for Money Report* produced by the Comptroller & Auditor General in 1996 vindicated this Society's position. At the AGM of this Society in 1997 we adopted the "*Principle of Public Ownership & Right of Access*" to our

genealogical heritage. This "principle" was misunderstood by many in IGL and the IGP who confused it with an attack on copyright at the time. Regarding IGL, Minister Séamus Brennan, TD, in answer to a PQ tabled by Leo Varadkar, TD, on Feb. 13th 2008, said that it was established to provide information on the genealogical and settlement patterns of Ireland and to foster and encourage genealogical research and to further such by promoting and developing a genealogical service. From 2006 IGL was also to act as an advisory body to the Minister's department on a coordinated approach to genealogy. His department had given IGL €1,275,000 between 2003 and 2007. The Minister also outlined the current structure of IGL comprising six public interest representatives, three appointed by his own department and three by Belfast, two representatives from, and appointed by, the Association for Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI), one representative from the Association of Ulster Genealogists and Record Agents (AUGRA) and five representatives from IFHF. He also confirmed that the IFHF representatives have not sat on the Board

since 2005. The Minister also confirmed that he intends to appoint a new Board of IGL later this year consisting of eleven directors—five will be nominees of the statutory bodies and six will be nominated from non-statutory bodies, local government or organisations in the genealogy sector. On April 2nd 2008, Minister Brennan, in answer to a PQ tabled by Olivia Mitchell, TD, confirmed that the IFHF is a private umbrella organisation for the majority of local genealogy centres and that it does not receive any direct subvention from his Department. The Minister said that funding has been channeled through IGL for the local genealogy centres affiliated to the IFHF. This funding, he said, was disbursed on projects relating to computer hardware and software upgrades and improving the network infrastructure in the local genealogy centres and indexing of the data. These projects were targeted at safeguarding the work already completed by the local genealogy centres, according to Minister Brennan. So there you have it, the taxpayers paid for the computerization, continue to pay for IGL and fund the IFHF but without any public ownership of the computerised records. Why?

Pre-May 2005 Grantees Ignored

The Minister's statement to Dáil Éireann on October 25th 2007 finally admitting that the State had "probably no power to grant Arms from 1943 to 2005" has caused considerable embarrassment to hundreds of grantees. All grants of Arms from the Chief Heralds of Ireland issued between 1943 and May 2005 are now in a legal limbo. In May 2005 with the implementation of the *National*

Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, the State effectively created the world's newest heraldic authority. All pre-May 2005 grantees have been advised by the National Library to contact the Minister and not the Chief Herald nor the National Library. The Board of the National Library has effectively abandoned its former clients. Recently the *Gazette* has learned that the Chief Herald of

Ireland is advising any of the pre-May 2005 grantees who contact his office regarding the dubious legality of their grants of Arms, that legislation is being prepared to rectify this situation. However, no such legislation is contained in the Government's legislative programme published last week. Maybe, it is now simply a matter for the Irish Director of Consumer Affairs and/or legal action.

South Tipperary 1570-1841

Religion, Land and Rivalry

"*South Tipperary, 1570-1841, Religion, Land and Rivalry*" by David J. Butler ISBN 978-1-84682-091-5 published by Four Courts Press is a wonderful work of scholarship and a gem for the genealogist and local historian. Starting in the reign of Elizabeth Tudor, this period was the beginning of the Tudor re-conquest of Ireland which was to continue for thirty one years culminating in the disastrous defeat of the Irish forces at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601. Indeed, in the later part of the 16th century the Roman Catholic Church spearheaded its counter-reformation activity by reorganising its structures. Its priests were galvanised by the numerous martyrs created by the vicious ethno-religious policies of the English including Archbishop Dermot O'Hurley of Cashel and Franciscan friars, Patrick O'Healy and Cornelius O'Rourke. Butler's account of this period brings us through to the rebellion of 1641 and the forging of a new unity between the indigenous Gaelic Irish and the "Old English" - the descendants of the Anglo-Normans who remained largely Catholic. The failure of the rebellions in Munster and the subsequent dis-

possession of the natives by plantations of "New English" caused bitter resentment amongst the majority population. Butler details this process in a very thorough manner. The impact of the Cromwellian confiscations, plantations and garrisoning of south Tipperary is presented with, from a genealogical perspective, the names of many individuals, both planter and "Tories" - the Irish who persisted with guerrilla warfare against the English. These included men like James Ryan, James Kennedy, John Shea, Edmund Tobin and old Thomas Shea who were hanged at Clonmel in July 1666. He also describes how the development of the landed estates and the corporate towns sustained the planter elite over nearly two centuries. Butler also deals with the various dissenting Protestant sects and Quakers, though a tiny minority of the overall population, their presence threatened the unity of the "New English" and the authority of their established church. Indeed, as late as 1701, nearly half of the Quaker meetings in Ireland gathered in private homes. House-meetings were established in Tipperary town, nearby Townlands of

Coolbane and Glenbane, as well as in the hinterland of Cashel. His account of the foundation in the early 18th century of the Roman Catholic mass-houses and the development of its parish system is especially useful for the genealogist. The attempts to convert the natives were assisted by the establishment of the charter schools at Clonmel (1748), Cashel (1751) and Newport (1751). He also describes the introduction of Ulster Presbyterians on to lands at Shro-nell by the Damer estate. This was in the wake of the 1741 famine in which 10% of the Irish population perished. The Protestant population of south Tipperary some 2000 in 1834 was formidable making it a leading inland centre of Protestantism outside Ulster. There is much to interest the military historian too. Butler certainly succeeds in his objective to chart the changing relationship between the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities in south Tipperary and thereby, provides a fascinating and detailed history of South Tipperary up to the period just prior to the Great Famine. The appendices and the bibliography are excellent. Further info. www.fourcourtpress.ie

Ireland's First Jewish Family History Butler

This is certainly a first for Ireland, our very own Jewish Family History Butler to assist visitors to these shores tracing their Irish Jewish ancestry. **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, is a Vice President of this Society and the founder of the Irish Jewish Genealogical Society. Stuart aims to provide this service, which includes a free hour long consultation, in conjunction with **The Abrae Court Guest House** in Dublin. This Guest House is very popular with Jewish visitors to Dublin and indeed, Dublin once had a thriving Jewish community until this was severely depleted through emigration. Much of this community, including Stuart's own ancestors, were of eastern European origin, mainly

eastern Poland, Lithuania and Russia. The Dublin Jewish community grew steadily during the latter half of the 19th century and went into sharp decline in the mid 20th century, especially, after the Second World War and the establishment of the State of Israel. With the Jewish population being so small in Ireland, many young people eventually are forced to emigrate to areas with larger and growing Jewish communities in England and elsewhere. This emigration has, over the past century, given rise to a worldwide Jewish community with Irish-Jewish ancestry. Indeed, Stuart has amassed the most comprehensive collection of genealogical material ever compiled on an

entire Jewish community in any country. This invaluable information covers many different sources and from all over Ireland. Beautifully presented and bound in twelve volumes, Stuart has very kindly donated a complete set of these volumes to the Society's Archive. Stuart's extensive knowledge of the sources for Irish Jewish family and social history is unrivaled in Ireland and making this knowledge and experience available to those researching their Irish Jewish roots is a wonderful contribution to the study and promotion of genealogy in general. **Stuart Rosenblatt** may be contacted by telephone on Dublin +353 1 677 3808 or by E-mail on masterc@medianet.ie

New Board of the Society Elected

At the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on March 11th 2008, longtime Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Séamus Moriarity** was elected as the fifth Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of the Society. Séamus takes over from Rory Stanley who stepped down after twelve years of dedicated service at the helm of the Society. Séamus received his Chain of Office from **James Davidson FGSI**, Vice-President of the Society in the presence of **Stuart Rosenblatt PC, FGSI**, also Vice-President of the Society. As is customary, most of those elected at the Annual

General Meeting receive their portfolios at the first meeting of the Board following the AGM. The April Board meeting rationalized and updated the titles of the officer positions. So the new Board is as follows: **Séamus Moriarity, Cathaoirleach**; **Gerry Hayden, Leas-Chathaoirleach**; **Michael Merrigan, General Secretary** (including PR, legislative matters & representation); and Directors, **Denis Ryan, Finance**; **Hilary Byrne, Membership Services**; **Margaret Conroy, Publications**; **Iris O'Connor, Internet Services**; **Barry O'Connor,**

Cemetery Projects; **Gerry Hayden, Sales & Marketing**; **Séamus O'Reilly, Archival Services** and **Pádraic Ingolsby, National Projects**. The new arrangements also allow for certain functions and duties to be delegated to non-Board members. This measure was introduced to lighten the work load of certain Board members and to offer new and exciting opportunities for members to get involved in publishing the journal or dealing with a range of administrative matters under the direction of the various Board members holding those portfolios.

James Scannell Reports..

HERO OR HORSE THIEF

Australian bushranger Ned Kelly can be viewed as a hero or villain depending on one's viewpoint and has been immortalized in Australian folklore for using home made armour in a final shoot out, but omitted to protect his legs which was his undoing. The son of an Irish convict, Kelly entered Australian folklore through his gang's daring bank robberies and escapes from the authorities until the final shoot out with the police in which he was captured and the rest of his gang killed. Kelly was tried for his crimes, found guilty and hung in prison at Melbourne where he remains were buried in a mass grave. Archaeologists now believe that they have discovered his remains in the mass gave of the abandoned prison and are using various forensic techniques to determine which of the thirty-two coffins unearthed contains his remains. Helping scientists in this task is information which says that his head was removed from his body after execution and that he had wrist injury from one of his many gun battles. In Australia debate has raged for years over whether he was a defiant national

hero or just a horse thief. Films usually portray Kelly as hero from as early 1906 silent film, to one in the 1970s starring Mick Jagger in the leading role and a 2003 version starring the late Heath Ledger.

CORK BELLS RING OUT

The bells of St. Fin Barre's Cathedral on Cork city's south side will soon will be ringing out following major refurbishment. The set of bells consisted of a set of eight bells cast by Abel Rudman of Gloucester in 1751 and were installed in the cathedral between 1865 and 1870 by architect William Burgess who won a competition for the design of a cathedral to replace the earlier one built on the site in 1730. During a recent inspection it was discovered that the metal frame holding the bells had decayed so badly that it had to be replaced and it was decided to avail of the opportunity to refurbish the original eight bells which were sent to England for this work to be carried. It was also decided to have a set of five smaller bells cast and these will be installed along with the eight original bells once the new bell frame in the cathedral tower is completed.

PAUL HENRY STAMPS

Artist Paul Henry was born in 1876 in Belfast and studied at the Belfast School of Art before attending the Academie Julian and the Academie Carme in Paris where he studied under James McNeill Whistler in the latter. Between 1910 and 1919 he lived and painted on Achill Island, a location featured prominently in his work during this period. During one of the 2006 episodes of the BBC TV series "The Antique Roadshow" one of his paintings was valued at between Stg£40,000 & Stg£60,000 by one of the resident programme experts and later that year when it was put up for auction, it sold for around Stg£198,000. On April 17th to mark to the 50th anniversary of Henry's death, An Post (Irish Postal Authority) will issue four 55 cent se-tenant strip stamps, with the painting "West of Ireland" featured on the left hand strip and "A Connemara Village" on the right hand strip. Further details on how to obtain these stamps can be obtained from the An Post Philatelic Bureau, General Post Office, Dublin 1, Ireland or simply by logging on to An Post's website - www.irishstamps.ie.

Précis of the March Lecture

The Society held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 11th March 2008, after which, **John Colgan**, delivered a very interesting lecture on "Forensic Genealogy, Origin of Family Names". John brought members through the development of surnames in Ireland and the sources for the study of surnames. Though, some took issue with his assertion that the Irish didn't use surnames until the late 12th century and the coming of the Cambro-Normans. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation he outlined the history of the Colgan surname from earliest times down to the present. He detailed the various branches that he had discovered and the relationship between these branches, including

his own. John certainly researched his Colgan ancestry very thoroughly and in the course of which, he has amassed an enormous amount of ancillary information on the family. Indeed, on Saturday March 22nd 2008 in "The Irish Times" John published the following. **In Memoriam—COLGAN**, to remember, on his birthday, my Liberties-born father, Jack (John P) Colgan (1913-87) and my mother Josie (M. Josephine) McCann (1917-2000); his parents, John Fidelis (1880-1938) and Mary O'Connor (1880-1931); his grandparents, James (1845-1929) and Sarah Walker (c. 1861-1911); his great grandparents, John (b. 1815) and Catherine Brennan (m. 1842), his GGGparents,

Michael (b. 1779) and Anne Jackson (m. 1807), his GGGparents, Laurence and Mary Mooney (m. c. 1762) - John F. Colgan, Leixlip.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 8th Apr. Frank Pelly, Records of the Commissioners for Irish Lights; **Tuesday 15th May.** Patricia Boyd, Registry of Deeds. All meetings are at 20.00hrs at the Dún Laoghaire College for Further Education, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire. Buses no. 7, 46A & 75, DART, Salthill & Monkstown Station. Any suggestions or comments please contact Séamus Moriarty by e-mail at Gazette@familyhistory.ie

Membership of the Genealogical Society

Membership fee renewals fall due in January each year. The Board of the Society at its November 2007 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure and under **Res: 07/11/573** the Board adopted the following equalised Membership Package for 2008:- **Ireland & Overseas:** Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, Annual 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 €40.00 per annum. The modest increase in the Membership Fee, which hadn't changed since 2004, was unavoidable as costs continued to rise sharply. The production of a biannual Journal became prohibitive when printing and postage costs eroded any savings that were to accrue in the change from a quarterly journal. Unlike many other similar organi-

sations faced with the same problem, the Board decided to keep publishing the Society's journal but as an annual publication only. The Membership Fee is now in line with similar organisations in Ireland. However, in many respects our Membership Package, offers considerably better value for money. You can renew your membership online at www.familyhistory.ie/shop or, if you prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Hon. Treasurer, **Mr. Denis Ryan, MGSI**, 6, St. Thomas Mead, Mount Merrion, County Dublin, Ireland.

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www.familyhistory.ie/shop**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday April 8th & May 13th 2008

Evening Open MeetingDún Laoghaire College of Further
EducationCumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday April 23rd & May 28th 2008

Morning Open MeetingWeir's, Lower George's Street, Dún
Laoghaire

10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning
Meetings)

Queries

Dr. Patrick Burke, Department of English, St. Patrick's College, Dublin 9, has embarked on a biographical study of the actor **F.J. McCormick**, whose real name was Peter Judge, reckoned by many to have been the greatest Abbey actor of all time. Remarkably very little of this great artist's work appears to have survived in accessible form. Dr. Burke would be most grateful if any readers who have memorabilia, letters, theatre programmes, audio recordings of any kind, reviews etc, or those who recall McCormick on stage, would contact him. Dr. Burke promises those prepared to lend him material that all originals or copies of originals, will be handled extremely carefully by him and will be returned promptly to owners and will give them acknowledgement in his foreword of his book. (*James Scannell*)

Michael Thompson, Yarncliffe Lodge, Main Road, Nether Padley, Grindleford, Derbyshire S32 2HE, UK E-mail:- condran@one-name.org Wrote:- Seeking any and all references to **Condran, Condren** and **Condron**, especially from 19th century parish records, as part of a One-Name Study (Guild of One-Name Studies Member No: 4760). Further info: <http://www.one-name.org/profiles/condran.html>

Please note that due to an Internet broadband outage on Sunday 6th April during the production of this newsletter many queries received by e-mail could not be retrieved for publication in this issue. Therefore, these queries received will be published in the May issue. *Editor.*

Holyhead-Dún Laoghaire Link

This Society is a longstanding member of the Holyhead-Dún Laoghaire Link a Wales-Ireland networking organisation which aims to bring together the voluntary, community and business sectors in the two port towns and their hinterlands. Established in 1998 by Breasal Ó Caollaí and Holyhead Town Councillor, Jeff Evans, the Link recently celebrated its ten anniversary with a St. Patrick's Day Dinner outside Holyhead. At the dinner the two founders were presented with specially commissioned and beautifully crafted awards each featuring a Hiberno-Norse Cloak Pin mounted on a drill core of Dalkey granite from Dún Laoghaire Harbour mounted on Welsh slate. The two awards were designed and crafted by John McKenna at his studio in Marlay Park, Dublin. The Society congratulates both recipients. At the recent AGM of the Link held in the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Mrs. Lorie Kelly, was elected President of the Link for the coming year. Further info. on the Link is available from the General Secretary, John Paul Durkan, on durkanjp@gmail.com

Heraldic Theme on New UK Coinage

In the past in this newsletter we've looked at coinage and its use by our ancestors. Now we combine coinage with another regular feature of the newsletter, heraldry. The Royal Mint in the United Kingdom has recently unveiled the new designs for the British coinage. The design was chosen after a public competition which was held in 2005 and reportedly, attracted four thousand entries. The winning designer was Matthew Dent, twenty-six years of age and originally from Bangor, North Wales. The designer developed the heraldic theme using the British Royal Arms for the One Pound coin and then splitting the Arms between the six denominations between the penny and the fifty pence piece. The British Royal Arms feature the Arms of England in the 1st and 3rd quarters, the Arms of Scotland in the 2nd and those of Ireland in the 4th quarter. These Arms were adopted in 1801 after the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland. According to the Mint, the British Royal Arms have also been given a "contemporary treatment" and that this is the first time that a single design has been

used across a range of United Kingdom coins. Whilst using a heraldic theme is not unusual in coinage design, indeed, many of our partners in the Euro zone employ heraldic devices on their coinage Mr. Dent's treatment of the heraldic theme is certainly pushing the boundaries. Whatever about the "contemporary treatment" having a bit of the British Royal Arms on each of the coins may not please the traditionalists in the heraldic community. But splitting up the Arms to display each quarter separately on the coins may well have caused considerable unease at Whitehall and indeed, nearer to home too. This may well explain why the harp, for example, is suitably obscured with the bottom of the harp on the fifty pence piece and the top on the one penny coin. Whilst, the Scots get nearly all of the Scottish Arms displayed on the two pence coin, Wales, the designer's homeland, does not feature at all as the principality is not represented in the British Royal Arms. Maybe it's time for the United Kingdom to redesign its Royal Arms to reflect the modern United Kingdom and its devolved legislatures etc

and maybe, as an act of good neighbourliness, remove the Arms of Ireland as they removed the Arms of France in 1801. With the very welcome and vastly improved relationship between Dublin and London, including the possibility of a state visit by the British monarch to Ireland in the not too distant future, the current British Royal Arms are certainly a glaring anomaly and seem a bit irredentist in such circumstances. If heraldic symbolism means anything, the prospect of having the Irish Presidential Standard—*Azure a Harp Or stringed Argent*, flying alongside the current British Royal Standard during such a royal visit will certainly raise some awkward and possibly politically sensitive questions. But the treatment of the heraldic theme by Mr. Dent on the new coinage cleverly avoided this minefield, but may have fuelled other lingering resentments in his homeland of Wales. It is expected that the newly designed coinage will enter circulation in the UK gradually throughout the year. The current UK coinage will remain in circulation and as legal tender throughout the United Kingdom.