

Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann

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GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Queries

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Public Ownership & Right of Access

A Fundamental Principle

The "*Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access*" to our heritage, including our genealogical heritage, was adopted by the members of this Society at the 1997 AGM. It has been the fundamental and guiding principle of the Society ever since. All the Society's policies are based on this principle. Indeed, so strongly did our members endorse this fundamental principle in 1997 that they made acceptance of the principle a precondition for the Society's affiliation with other heritage organisations. Indeed, back in 1997/8 some others involved in Irish genealogy refused to endorse this principle on the mistaken belief that it somehow interfered with lawful ownership or copyright. However, over time such fears were seen to be utterly groundless. Although, the Society pioneered the acceptance of this principle, over the years it has become the widely accepted bedrock of good governance and best practice in the management, custody and delivery of heritage services. It is this principle that guides each of the Society's legislative campaigns dealing with access to records, including civil registration records and the 1926 census returns, and the provision

of services by the national repositories, state agencies or others concerned directly or indirectly with heritage matters. Non governmental bodies and private institutions have also warmly embraced the principle by proactively encouraging the public, including genealogists, to avail of the access provided to their archival material. Foremost amongst the latter are the Archives of the RC Archdiocese of Dublin and, of course, the Representative Church Body of the Church of Ireland. The broader the acceptance of this fundamental principle that the people of Ireland own the heritage represented by or contained within the archival collections and therefore, have a right of access to this heritage, the greater that accessibility will become. The various custodians of these archival collections have a duty to the people of Ireland to ensure the security, proper care and management of the collections and many, if not all, take this responsibility very seriously indeed. However, there is no agreed national policy or coordinated approach to the management and care of the archival collections held by private institutions in the State. Indeed, each of the national repositories, depend-

ing on the primary legislation concerned, makes its own provisions and adopts its own policies in respect of its archival collections. A feature contained in the Society's *Genealogy and Heraldry Bill, 2006*, if the Bill had been adopted by the government, would have greatly improved matters. The Bill provided for a National Inventory and for the designation and protection of any records with a "genealogical potential". The Society has not abandoned its endeavours in this respect and may produce further draft legislative measures. The Society has currently two Draft Bills under consideration by Senators for possible publication. One of which, as reported last month, deals with the release of the 1926 census. The Society's Draft Bill would amend Section 35 of the *Statistics Act, 1993* to effectively remove the 1926 census from the scope of the Act. Contrary to suggestions elsewhere, only amending legislation can achieve this objective as there are no powers vested in the Taoiseach by the 1993 Act to allow him overturn the 100 year rule. However, lobbying and petitioning by all concerned must be intensified in order have the 1993 Act amended.

New Irish Armiger Strikes Gold

The largest deposit of gold found in either Ireland or the UK was located in an area around Clontibret, Co. Monaghan, Conroy Diamonds & Gold announced. The company was founded by the former Senator, County Councillor and onetime Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, **Professor Richard Conroy**. Though, the gold is of a low grade, its potential is great

with an estimated 440,000ozs. currently and a further inferred resource of 590,000ozs. As prices reach €560 (\$940) an ounce Prof. Conroy, who received a Grant of Arms from the Chief Herald of Ireland earlier this year, has certainly struck gold. Whether this new armiger's grant makes any reference to his extensive mining interests is not known because the National Library has ceased to

publicise details of grants made by the Chief Herald. This is, no doubt, a fallout from the government's belated acceptance that the State had no powers to grant arms between 1943 and May 2005. The non publication of grants unfortunately reinforces the seriously negative perception amongst our citizens of the exclusivity of Irish heraldry and its inappropriateness in our Republic.

Ireland in the Renaissance

Edited by Thomas Herron & Michael Potterton

"*Ireland in the Renaissance c. 1540-1660*" by Thomas Herron & Michael Potterton, Editors, is published by **Four Courts Press**, (2007) ISBN 978-1-85182-988-0 Price €55.00 hbk 384pp. To say that the renaissance in Ireland is often overlooked for the sake of the prehistoric, medieval and modern studies is certainly an understatement. Very few people even think that Ireland was even touched by any aspects of the "sophistication" of the renaissance. It is also surprising that such a view is not merely confined to the casual reader of history, it was almost a credo of the profession until recently. Herron and Potterton have gathered a remarkable collection of essays covering almost every aspect of life in the period. Thomas Herron's introduction to this volume is an education in itself as to how and why this period of Irish history received little serious attention. Yet, frequently we hear of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, being described as last of the great Gaelic chiefs, but in reality, he was hybrid in identity and perfectly up-to-date in life. Indeed, he could be more accurately described as a "renaissance man". The volume is divided into three insightful sections, **Part I: Voices** deals with the literary and cultural. The first essay by Colm Lennon—"Pedagogy and reform: the influence of Peter White on Irish scholarship in the Renaissance" gives the reader a fascinating glimpse of the development of education and learning in the period, especially in

Kilkenny and Waterford. Willy Maley deals with Sir Henry Sidney's "*Memoir of his Government of Ireland*" (1583). Sidney's contemporaries were Edmund Spenser and Sir John Davies and yet, Sidney's work influenced English policy in Ireland and Wales for three decades. The enigmatic phenomenon of "colonial amnesia" is discussed in an intriguing manner, describing Sydney's memory as "atrocious" and especially where atrocities were concerned. His accounts of the rebellion of Rory Oge O'Moore of Laois certainly is a commentary of contrasts and prejudice. Valerie McGowan-Doyle in her essay deals with the Book of Howth. This compilation drew heavily from other sources to act as an alternative account exonerating the Old English for the failure of the conquest of Ireland. Ireland is portrayed as at the threshold of a new era, its past a history of failure and its future one of success. Vividly a renaissance conceptualisation of life. Jean R. Brink deals with Sir John Davies, lawyer and poet. She quotes the editor of the modern Oxford Clarendon Press "Davies poems will never again be read for edification, nor spontaneously for pleasure". His views on the legal right of parliament in England to make laws for Ireland are quite revealing. Richard A. McCabe's essay deals with the "writing" of the Nine Years War. His discussion on the writings of Mícheál Ó Cléirigh and Gaelic historiography generally clearly display influences of the age from further shores.

Salvador Ryan deals with the Catholic Reformation in Ireland, which was in fact, two pronged—a counter-reformation and a reformation, or housekeeping exercise. In her essay, Clare Carroll deals with Rome and the Irish exiles there and their contribution to the preservation of Irish cultural identity, including linguistically. Though, it must be said that the concentration of Irish learning and Irish speaking students was at Louvain and not at San Isidoro's in Rome. Stephen O'Neill gives us a fascinating insight into the "Irish Wars" as portrayed on the Elizabethan stage. Many of the popular stereotypical prejudices against the Irish may well have their sources in these English plays of the 16th and 17th centuries. **Part II—Artefacts** provides much for the local historian and in relation to funerary monuments, a great deal for the genealogist and heraldry enthusiast. The essays in this section deal mostly with the architectural aspects of the renaissance in Ireland. These chapters are beautifully illustrated and Thomas Herron's own essay on Richard Barlett's colonial art is certainly quite revealing of a world depicted in maps and drawings where exists an allegorical sophistication and playful creativity. **Part III—New Beginnings** has but two essays, the one by Naomi McAreavey is certainly a must for the study of women in 16th and 17th century Ireland. This is a wonderfully informative and beautifully produced volume. Please see: www.fourcourtspress.ie **MM**

GSI Journal Published

As reported in last month's issue, the Society was experiencing some difficulties getting the journal published due to work commitments by the Editor. Vol. 8 for 2007 has just been published and Margaret is now urgently seeking articles for inclusion in the next issue. The contents of this issue of the Society Journal (Vol. 8 2007) just published are as follows: *The Secret Life of a Dublin Draper's Assistant* by Caroline McCall; *Thomas O'Brien - A Forgotten Local Patriot* by James Scannell; *Thomas Griffith, Comic Actor & Freemason* by Bill Griffith; *Open the 1926 Census* by Michael Merrigan; *Three Little Words* by Seán MacBridaigh; *An Account of the Last Voyage*

of the SS Hare - December 1917 by Dermot Hopkins; *A 1906 Case of Alcoholic Poisoning* by James Scannell; *Galway Bi-Lingual Society - Bi-Lingual Education in Ireland and Belgium* by Margaret Conroy; *Fiadhnaise Nua : The Line of James A. Brady* by Seán MacBridaigh; *The Pottertons of Meath - not the typical Anglo Irish Family* by Séamus Moriarty; *Man Almost Buried Alive in Delgany, Co. Wicklow* by James Scannell; *Old Occupations from the Freedom Rolls of the City of Dublin* by Caroline McCall; *Jane Byrne 1843 - 1928. A Nun's Story* by Paula O'Kelly; *Columbans Who Served in Allied Forces During The Great War 1914-1918* by David Sowby; *Columbans Who Served*

in Allied Forces During The Years 1939-1945 by David Sowby; *Some Griffith Folk from Ireland in 1800s* by W S (Bill) Griffith; *The Legal Status of Grants of Arms by Ulster King of Arms 1936-43* by Noel Cox; *The Continuing Saga of Sections 12 and 13 of The National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* by Noel Cox; *Tombstone Inscriptions of the Carmelite Abbey, Loughrea, Co. Galway* by Adrian J. Martyn; *Précis of each of the Monthly Lectures for 2007* by Michael Merrigan; *A New Chalice for Holy Trinity Church, Killiney* by James Scannell; *Society Publications* and finally, *GSI Editor's Notes* by Margaret Conroy. Contact Margaret by e-mail at mmeconroy@eircom.net

New Ideas for Gazette?

At the Morning Open Meeting held on June 25th 2008 in Dún Laoghaire members discussed possible new ideas for regular features to be included in this newsletter. One suggestion sought the reinstatement of the very popular **Members' Interests Lists** which the Society published regularly a few years ago. Indeed, the rapid increase in the use of the Internet and the improved connectivity this afforded members was the reason the Members' Interest List was discontinued. But such lists are still immensely popular with members of other societies that

have kept their lists going over the years. Whether such lists are more appropriate to a Journal or indeed, the Society's website has to be considered. Another suggestion was for the inclusion of a **Book Exchange** facility where members and others could offer to exchange their unwanted volumes for others. Ideally, the books concerned would have to be relevant to the Society's activities i.e. genealogy, heraldry, vexillology, local or military history etc. Maybe a variation on the "Book Exchange" idea by which only volumes sought would be

listed. This type of facility could be more practical and indeed more useful for our members as some out-of-print volumes of local histories, for example, could well enhance research possibilities etc. In any event, neither the Gazette nor the Society itself could be responsible for any transactions between buyer and seller—this would be a matter solely between the members involved. New ideas for features are always welcome as are indeed, short articles, notices of events or research queries. Please forward such to the e-mail address on page 4.

James Scannell Reports....

LIMERICK'S FRANCISCANS

Limerick's Franciscan Order which closed its Limerick City friary and church during July, was one of the three pillars of religious life in that Limerick City honoured with a special civic reception by Limerick County Council in Adare Manor on Monday 16 June. The Franciscan Order, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick Dr. Dónal Murray and former Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick, the Rt. Rev. Michael Mayes, all received the highest accolade that this local authority can award to any individual or group. The main Franciscan friary in Limerick was established in 1267, while the current church and friary which closed in June was opened in 1886 and reconstructed in 1929. The reason for the closure of the much loved friary was the fall off in vocations.

IRISH ARMY & UN MISSIONS

On Tuesday June 26 a special parade was held in Dublin's McKee Barracks, Dublin, to commemorate fifty years service by members of the

Irish Defence Forces on United Nations peace-keeping missions. Ireland's first contribution to these missions was made in 1958 when fifty unarmed Irish officers served for six months in UNOGIL—the United Nations Observer Group in Lebanon as part of a larger six hundred member force. Since 1958, Irish Defence Force personnel have served on seventy four United Nations Missions involving 58,000 individual tours of duty. Locations where Irish personnel have served include Central America, Russia, the former Yugoslavia, Cambodia, Lebanon, Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Namibia, Western Sahara, Liberia and East Timor, Cyprus and the Congo. Conditions for the involvement of the Irish Defence Forces in overseas peace support operations are clearly laid down by the Irish Government which include that the operation must be authorised by the United Nations and be approved by the Irish Government and also by resolution of Dáil Éireann if more than twelve members are involved. Some eighty five members of the Irish Defence Forces have given their lives in the course of service with the United Nations.

GPO EASTER 1916

Pádraig Ó Cuana is currently researching the General Post Office of Easter Week 1916 and would be pleased to hear from readers whose relatives or ancestors were members of the GPO garrison during the Rising. Please contact Pádraig by E-mail padraigocuana@gmail.com.

LOCAL HISTORY COURSES

Applications are now invited for a Certificate in Local History course which will commence in September 2008 in the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, and consists of a hundred hours evening weekly classes concluding in April 2009. Course tutor will be **Dr. Séamas Ó Maitiú**. The course fee is €1100 and completed application forms should be returned before Friday August 30th to the Dublin City Library and Archive.

EDITOR: Apologies for a typo in James Scannell's piece on page 4 of last month's issue—"concentrated" should have read "consecrated"

GSI Lecture Programme

On Tuesday June 10th 2008 **Mr. Pat Lynch** spoke on the Royal British Legion in Ireland and its role and achievements since the return of the Irish soldiers from the First World War. The period immediately after the war was markedly different politically to that which existed when most of these men departed Ireland to fight in the Great War. Easter 1916 had changed the political landscape and Ireland was now on the road to independence, but sadly not without further bloodshed during the War of Independence followed by a bitter Civil War. Pat outlined the political landscape and the difficult task facing the British Legion's relief efforts in these changed circumstances. It is hoped that

the text of this wonderfully delivered lecture will soon be published in the Society's journal.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

The Society's lecture programme is as follows:- **Tuesday July 8th** Cecile Chemin, Archivist, Wicklow County Council, local authority archives as a resource for the genealogist; **Tuesday Aug. 8th** Bernadette Galloghly, Senior Librarian, Dublin City Public Libraries, Pearse St. on the new genealogy resources at Dublin City Libraries; databases of Dublin Parish Registers, City Councillors and Memorial Plaque; **Tuesday Sept. 9th** John Hamrock, MGSI, a

county's resources for family history research: the Roscommon experience; **Tuesday Oct. 14th** Rory McKenna, Martello Towers in Ireland; **Tuesday Nov. 11th** the Society will host a speaker from the Grand Lodge of Ireland. (name to be confirmed) topic:- the Archives of the Society of Freemasons as a genealogical resource. **Tuesday Dec. 9th** Ciara Kerrigan, Assistant Keeper, Department of Manuscripts, National Library of Ireland, Estate Records of the National Library. All meetings are held at the **Dún Laoghaire College for Further Education**, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire at 20.00hrs. Any comments on the Programme to 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 July 8th & Aug. 12th 2008

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

Wednesday July 23rd & Aug. 27th 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)**NEWSLETTER CONTENTS**

January 2008: On-Line Access to 1911 Census Returns An Immediate Success with the Public/ Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2008 / North Dublin Vestry Records / Revised & Republished / "Love Tokens" / Support for County Placenames Policy / Registry of Deeds / James Fintan Lalor / Natural History Museum / Charles Wesley / December Lecture (LDS Records by Steve Butler) / Lecture Programme / Membership Subscriptions Now Due / Tracing Your Family History—by Anthony Adolph / **QUERIES:** McMahon; Connolly; McCready; Rush; Cummings; Sullivan; White; Callaghan; McKnight; Paterson; Anderson.

February 2008: "Clear Blue Water" Between the NLI Board and the "Shambles of the Past" / Irish-Welsh Link Celebrations / Theft of the Irish Crown Jewels / Elections to the Board of the Society / CIGO Award for Pearse Street / Poet Honoured / Charter Donated / January Lecture (Valuation Office, Pádraig Gallagher) / Ireland and Wales in the Middle Ages by Jankulak and Wooding / **QUERIES:** Brennan; Connell; Mullaney; Henighan; Evans; Henderson; Robb; Hislop; Kirwin/Kerwin; O'Grady; Dundas/Dundass; Kerr; Culloden/ Higginson; Beddy; Dyas; Rowan.

March 2008: Houses of the Oireachtas Attacked by "Corporate Logoism" / Memorial Inscriptions on CD Rom / Lordship in Medieval Ireland by Doran and Lyttleton / Annual General Meeting / Statue of Ard Rí Laoghaire / Chris Ryan, RIP / William Partridge's 1916 Medal / Family History Day / February Lecture (Dublin Diocesan Archives, Noelle Dowling) / Glasnevin Cemetery / General Register Office / Annual Report of the GSI Board. (March 2007—March 2008).

April 2008: Taxpayers Expected to Pay Twice for Computerised Records—Why? / Pre-May 2005 Grantees Ignored / South Tipperary 1570-1841 Religion, Land and Rivalry / Ireland's First Jewish Family History Butler / New Board of the Society Elected / Hero or Horse Thief / Cork Bells Ring Out / Paul Henry Stamps / March Lecture (Forensic Genealogy, John Colgan) / Holyhead-Dún Laoghaire Link / Heraldic Theme on New UK Coinage / **QUERIES:** McCormick; Burke; Condran/Condren/Condran (one-name study).

May 2008: "Demoted" to Arts, Sport & Tourism—New Minister at the Helm / A National Scandal in the Making? / Essays on the Early Irish King Tales by Wiley / RMS Leinster Commemorative Stamp / The Irish Historic Town Atlas / Memories Workshops / Medieval Symposium / Holyhead-Dún Laoghaire Link (D. Paling) / April Lecture (Commissioners for Irish Lights, Frank Pelly) / Theo Mortimer, RIP / An Daonchartlann / **QUERIES:** Boyle; Brosnahan; O'Keefe; Bresnahan; Brosnan; Lashley (Trinidad); Baxter; Moore.

June 2008: Special Heritage Status for the 1926 Census Returns? / Sixteen Year Closure End / The Big Houses and Landed Estates of Ireland—A Research Guide / RMS Lusitania Remembered / Scottish Ire at Heraldry on UK Coins / Anthony P. Quinn, RIP / Annual Famine Memorial Day / Preserving the Church / Kilkenny College / Ireland's Oldest Newspaper / May Lecture (Registry of Deeds, Patricia Boyd) / Irish Airman's Remains Recovered / RMS Leinster Stamp / News from the Board / **QUERIES:** Donohue; Long; Russell; Gorman; Owen; Denison; Coulter.

Teachtaí Dála say *NÍL* to Logoism

As reported in the March 2008 issue of this newsletter the Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Houses of Parliament) have been attacked by the dreaded scourge of corporate logoism. The commission that runs the Houses of the Oireachtas came up with a brand new "corporate logo" to replace the beautiful heraldic symbol of our nation the gold harp. At a reported design cost of around €63,000 this must be one of the most blatantly irresponsible and wholly unnecessary purchases made by the State. Michael Brennan, political correspondent of the *"Irish Independent"* reports (July 1st) that the Oireachtas Commission has been forced into an embarrassing climb-down due to the level of protests from Teachtaí Dála (MPs) from all sides of the House. According to the whips from the main opposition parties their members will continue to use the original harp as a lot of them didn't like the new logo and because the embossed version of the gold harp looked more official than the logo, Mr. Brennan reported. Why this sort of nonsense was ever considered by the Oireachtas Commission simply beggars belief—surely the old maxim that "if it ain't broke don't fix it" should have applied especially since it involved the expenditure of taxpayers' money. As suggested in the March issue of this newsletter this is simply "the service provider promoting itself above those it is paid to serve." No doubt, the democ-

atically elected representatives of the people will feel duty bound, especially in these tighter economic circumstances, to ensure that this sort of self promotion by the service provider, the Oireachtas Commission, is no longer tolerated. The primacy of the Oireachtas and of its elected members is more than adequately represented by the National Arms of Ireland—*azure a harp or stringed argent*. No mere "corporate logo" should ever be permitted to supplant our national symbol for whatever purpose. Unfortunately, this deplorable practice of either ditching our national symbol or creating a mere caricature of the harp is not confined to the Oireachtas Commission. Nearly every government department and state agency has indulged in this needless and wasteful expenditure on corporate logoism. What's so wrong with our national symbol that it must be treated in this manner? Who or what is actually being promoted at the public's expense? One would have thought since in our constitutional framework the State serves the people, that the symbol of the sovereignty of the people, the Harp, should like our national flag, hold primacy in all circumstances. Cynics, on the other hand, must be forgiven for suggesting that rampant quangoism and this form of corporate logoism are symptoms of the abdication of ministerial responsibility in favour of governance by proxy neatly disguised in a brand new and hugely expensive

"corporate logo". Whatever the case, it's time now for our Teachtaí Dála and Senators, from all parties and none, to assert the primacy of the people and their position as representatives of the people by insisting on the proper and respectful use of the national symbol. The *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* produced by this Society would have, amongst other worthy objectives, given further protection to the National Arms of Ireland and their use. Unfortunately, the Arms of Ireland were registered in 1945 with a non-statutory body which the government now accepts had no power to grant arms nor indeed, to register arms. Therefore, there are serious questions regarding the legal standing of this registration and indeed, all arms granted by the Chief Heralds of Ireland from 1943 to 2005. Either amendments to the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* or indeed, ancillary legislative measures, are now required to provide a much-needed legitimacy to all grants made prior to May 2005 when the 1997 Act was implemented. This Society has a further Draft Bill being considered by Senators to facilitate the legal registration of Grants of Arms, including those made prior to May 2005. It's intended as a simple administrative measure to provide an open, transparent and effective heraldic registration system for Ireland. In the meantime, it's up to our Teachtaí Dála and Senators to continue to say "*NÍL*" to logoism.