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



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Looking to Our Diaspora

New Strategies Required for a Global Irish Community

Back in October 2007, **David McWilliams** writing in the *Irish Independent* said 'Now think about the potential economic impact of the Irish Diaspora. This is one thing we have that so few other countries have. This is our biggest and most unique resource and yet we don't appreciate its value. The key to economic success in the future is to invest in people and brain power rather than property. In the years ahead the countries with the best networks, contacts and brains will win. This is termed "soft power" and the key to soft power is people. In the Diaspora we not only have the people, but we have a ready made global network of talent. It is before our very eyes and yet we don't see it.' Not surprisingly, as this current recession bites hard across the country with business closures and rising unemployment, McWilliams has returned to his Diaspora solution. However, this time it seems that the Irish government is prepared to listen and, at last, recognize the merit in his argument. The Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Mícheál Martin, TD**, announced on September 1st that the '*Global Irish Economic Forum*' will meet for three days later this month seek-

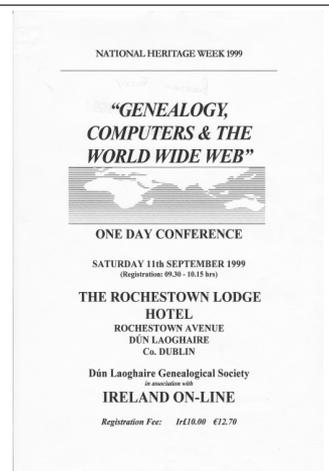
ing economic ideas from the most successful and talented members of the Irish Diaspora. So the upcoming seminar organised by the government will concentrate on the development of sustainable energy resources, 'green' technology and the challenges of climatic change. It is envisaged, according to the Minister, that the Forum will meet every two years thereafter. The narrow focus of this Forum will come as a major disappointment to many, including the hospitality, tourism and heritage sectors. Few doubt the actual potential of 'green' technology to create new sustainable jobs in the future, however, the big question remains—how many and how soon? In the meantime, is there going to be no opportunity for this '*Global Irish Economic Forum*' to look at the existing indigenous sectors above and to examine ways of developing and preparing these businesses for the eventual global recovery? The hospitality, tourism and heritage sectors are generally labour intensive and diverse, however, they are interdependent in many ways. New thinking could transform these sectors by utilizing our heritage assets not as products in themselves but as tools by which to

create an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of Ireland amongst her Diaspora. The only link that most of the Diaspora have with Ireland is an ancestral and often romantic attachment to things Irish. But the joy in establishing an ancestral link to a particular place in Ireland, as we have seen recently with **Mohammad Ali** and Ennis, creates a tangible connection with Ireland and a desire to visit. In the past we have endeavored to sell genealogical information to the Diaspora at often exorbitant prices resulting in a negative image of Ireland. This 1980s strategy developed for the Irish Genealogical Project is no longer sustainable and is now seriously counterproductive. A new strategy is required which utilizes the internet as a means of providing access to all of our genealogical records (including the 1901, 1911 and 1926 census returns) free of charge, through the websites of our national repositories, local authorities and public libraries. This initiative will permit the widest possible access to information on Ireland for the Diaspora and through the ancestral links discovered, create a worldwide community with real and enduring links to Ireland.

Ten Years On

Ten years ago this month the Society held the first genealogical conference in Ireland dedicated entirely to computers and the Internet. Many of the terms that we heard for the first time back in 1999 are now commonplace as are the use of computers and the Internet. But back in 1999, besides the scaremongering about the YK2 'Armageddon' that was to cripple the industrialised world at the stroke of midnight on New Year's Eve 1999, most of us were

only coming to terms with the Internet and its possibilities for genealogy. The poster (right) produced for the conference almost heralds a new dawn of computerised genealogical research. Indeed, speakers at the conference very accurately pictured a future where most, though not all, genealogical research could be conducted from home. Welcome developments at the National Archives on the 1911 census go a long way to making that a reality.



The Making of British Unionism, 1740-1848

A new publication from Four Courts Press deals with the very important, though often overlooked, aspect of British-Irish relations—British unionism. Indeed, many have come to believe that unionism in the Irish context was primarily a home-grown phenomenon cultivated by a nervous Anglo-Irish aristocracy and landlord class in the wake of the Great Rebellion of 1798. Though the clamour for a parliamentary union between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and the Kingdom of Ireland did gather pace following the rebellion which was brutally suppressed, a number of seemingly conflicting objectives unwittingly coalesced in its final achievement with the Act of Union of 1800. In Ireland this surprisingly included the hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church which sought emancipation and recognition which it could not obtain under a Protestant parliament in Dublin. But in Great Britain too a union of these parliaments was advocated for well over a half century before the 1798 Rebellion and it is this aspect of unionism that Douglas Kanter's *'The Making of British Unionism, 1740-1848—Politics, government and the Anglo-Irish constitutional relationship'* (ISBN 978-1-84682-160-8, 360pp, Price €55.00 : Web Price €49.50) explores. Seeing Ireland's turbulent relationship with Great Britain in a wider context and indeed, as one of early empire building involving a 'British Atlantic world' is rarely, if ever, the focus of Irish historians. Kanter's analysis of the shift in favour of a parliamentary union by the British elite in the period prior to the American War of Independence (1776-1783) and during the

period of Irish legislative independence (1783-1800) is a significant contribution to our understanding of the political aspirations underpinning the birth of the 'second' British Empire dating from 1783. Indeed, in the expansion of the 'first' or 'old' empire and especially, in the expansion and consolidation of the 'second' empire, Irish politicians, merchants, settlers, soldiers and sailors were heavily involved during the period of Kanter's study. This makes an understanding of period and of the whole imperial project very important for genealogists and social historians. Kanter's treatment of the 'genesis of British Unionism' is particularly important as it highlights the economic and free trade advantages claimed by its proponents and contrasts such fiscal concerns with the religious and political prejudices of the period. All too often the elites of both kingdoms are presumed to have had a unity of purpose, however, it is clear from Kanter's work that this is far from the truth. The metropolitan perspective of Irish affairs was essentially colonial which identified the provincial elites as predisposed to abuse their power and thus requiring close supervision, but not necessarily intervention. A growing tolerance of Catholicism in England from the 1760s impacted on the union debate. Would toleration in England threaten the Anglo-Irish elite in 'their kingdom' or would union strengthen the Protestant state? An emerging mercantile class in Ireland, both Catholic and Protestant, was attracted to free trade and especially, trading rights with the wider empire which could flow from union. But with the loss of Great Britain's wealthiest colonies

in North America in 1783, the union argument moved from trade to security. Legislative independence for Ireland in 1783 endeavoured to consolidate the Anglo-Irish 'Protestant' state, however, events in France and then the 1798 Rebellion irrevocably altered the political landscape. The Act of Union came into force on January 1st 1801 with all the pomp and circumstance heralding the dawn of a new era. But as Kanter reminds us, the legal status of Irish Catholics was unresolved by the Union—but now it was a 'British' problem and remained so for three decades. It was now a question of whether to alienate Irish Catholics or defend the Protestant constitution. Many like Hume thought the Union resulted in 'distraction, beggary, and a continual drain on our finances' and if unresolved, he advocated separation. The establishment opted to defend the Union in the face of Catholic resentment and a growing Repeal Movement led by Daniel O'Connell. Kanter's coverage of the period demonstrates the intractability of the 'Irish Question' where despite the Union, a quasi-colonial administration in Dublin revealed a continued inclination to resort to repression. By the time of O'Connell's death in 1847 British unionism appeared triumphant. But the catastrophe of the Great Famine ensured that the 'Irish Question' would remain unresolved. In response the British administration, once again, found themselves enmeshed in a problem, for which, they devised basic stratagems that were used to contain Irish nationalism right up to independence in 1922. Kanter provides an important and vital reassessment of this period. *MM*

250th Anniversary of the 'Black Stuff'

Arthur Guinness was born in 1725 near Celbridge, Co. Kildare, and most likely learned the art of brewing from his father Richard Guinness who was land steward to Dr. Arthur Price, Archbishop of Cashel, and had the task of brewing beer for those who worked on the Archbishop's lands. The Archbishop was Arthur's godfather and left him £100 in his will which Arthur used to establish a small brewery close to the Leixlip family home. Then in 1759 he left this operation to his younger brother and moved to Dublin where he acquired the site at St. James's Gate which was four acres in size and came complete with brewing equipment, a stable that could accommodate up to twelve

horses and a loft capable of holding up to 200 tons of hay. With an eye to the future Arthur Guinness secured a lease for 9000 years with a rent of £45 on 31 December 1759 with the Guinness company flourishing thereafter. By 1886 St. James's Gate was the largest brewery in the world and presently some 10M glasses are consumed daily in over 150 countries. The company was a pioneer in staff welfare by paying its workers higher than normal wages and providing them with free meals and free medical care from a company doctor even providing holidays at a time when these were not standard. Arthur Guinness also started a tradition of philanthropy and community in-

volvement that continues to the present time. Arthur Guinness also served as a Governor of the Meath Hospital and also donated 250 guineas to St. Patrick's Cathedral Chapel Schools. The 250th Anniversary of the founding of the St. James's Gate Brewery September 24th has been designated by the company as *'Arthur's Day'* on which there will be global celebrations. *James Scannell*

1911 Census of Ireland

Now searchable on-line at
www.nationalarchives.ie

Website News

As reported last month the Board of Directors agreed to the proposal by the Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozlowski, to totally redesign the Society's website. Indeed, this proposal stems from the many very constructive comments and suggestions received from Members around the world. Whilst, Bartosz aims to simplify certain features to make these more 'user friendly' in both appearance and function, it is the 'extras' that he plans that are most exciting. Most family history or genealogy website around the world



are providing access to specific resources i.e. research articles, graveyard inscriptions or databases. Bartosz aims to provide a range of resources in conjunction with the Director of Archive Services, Séamus O'Reilly. The Society's Archive has a wealth of information, some of which, is not available anywhere else. This includes information on deeds, land records, family papers and research donated by our Members over the years. Bartosz and Séamus are seeking volunteers to assist with the preparation of resources for uploading to the Society's website. In the meantime, discussions are on-going regarding the appointment of a Moderator for the Members' Only Area (MOA). Bartosz Kozlowski can be contacted at b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com

ARCHIVE DONATIONS

The Director of Archive Services, Séamus O'Reilly, would like to acknowledge with thanks the very generous gift of many books and periodicals donated to the Archive by **Aoife Crowley** in mid August 2009. Work is now going ahead to catalogue these books and publications. Aoife's generosity will be appreciated by the members consulting these books in the years. Any member of the Society can contact **Pádraic Ingoldsby** our Director of Projects - 087 2789988 or ingold@gofree.indigo.ie who will arrange to deliver empty boxes and collect them later with material that they wish to place in the Archive for the benefit of our members and indeed, genealogy in general. *Pádraic Ingoldsby*

James Scannell Reports...

VICTIMS TO BE HONOURED

Minister for Children Barry Andrews has indicated that consideration is being given to the establishment of a national memorial will be erected to commemorate the tens of thousands of children who suffered abuse over many decades in church run institutions throughout Ireland. Also under consideration is a National Day of Remembrance for survivors and for those who died in these institutions. These proposals are included in the Government's 99-proposal response to the findings of the Ryan Report. About €500,000 has been set aside for the memorial which is expected to be inscribed with the public state apology to victims read by Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in 1999.

SPORTING DATABASE LAUNCHED

During Heritage Week (September 22nd to September 30th) a project which aims to create a database of all sporting venues built in Ireland over the past one hundred and fifty years was launched. It is funded by the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism, those who log onto www.irishsportingheritage.com will be able to

upload or place information they have on the sporting venues that existed in their own localities through photographs, programmes, building plans or local knowledge. Prior to the establishment of this database there was no national inventory of Ireland's sporting heritage and it is hoped that this new database will go along way to filling gaps in our knowledge of Ireland's sporting history and heritage over the past century and a half.

BANK PLANS OPPOSED

Galway City Council has been warned by the Galway branch of An Taisce (a Voluntary Heritage Trust) that its decision to grant Allied Irish Banks planning permission to redevelop part of Lynch's Castle in Galway City may cause irreparable damage to one of the city's most historic quarters. Galway An Taisce intends to appeal the plan which involves the demolition of later additions to the medieval building at the corner of Abbeygate Street and the construction of a new three-storey building from the castle's north-west wall. The new building will have what has been described as a glazed façade and the planning application includes the removal of

existing buttresses, altering and repairing the castle which is a protected structure. The new concept has been opposed by the Galway City Heritage Officer, Jim Higgins, who has indicated that tourists will never be able to photograph the detail of Lynch's Castle due to the reflection of so much glass from an adjoining building. Lynch's Castle was recorded on the 1651 pictorial map of Galway and is the sole surviving building of its type amongst the mansions owned by the city's fourteen 'tribes' with its carved façade bearing the arms of King Henry VIII. Mr. Higgins has argued that any new structure should not impinge on the castle and that the frontage should be in keeping with the quarter. An appeal was lodged with An Bord Pleanála and a hearing is now awaited.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Archive Awareness Campaign 3 October 2009 Open Day including seminars and tours at the National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8. Booking essential. Tel: (01) 407 2300 or e-mail mail@nationalarchives.ie Further information on the website:- www.nationalarchives.ie

Précis of the August Lecture

On Tuesday August 11th 2009 members were treated to a fascinating talk on 'The Records of Glasnevin Cemetery' by Shane Mac Thomáis who was deputising for Mervyn Colville of the Glasnevin Trust. The Trust covers Dardistown, Glasnevin, Goldenbridge, Newlands Cross and Palmerstown cemeteries in Dublin. Shane brought members through the history of the main cemetery, Glasnevin, which dates from 1828 and though it is considered the main Catholic cemetery for Dublin City, from its foundation by Daniel O'Connell it has operated a non-denominational policy in its allocation of plots. This was a very liberal view for its time. The records of the cemeteries have been computerised and are accessible on a pay-per-view basis at www.glasnevintrust.ie though the index

is searchable free of charge. Shane outlined the type of information that is available and indeed, stressed that the project is continuously being updated and improved. He also gave details on the physical improvements that are currently being made to this historic cemetery, including the repairing of headstones, curbing stones and pathways. Many of Ireland's leaders are buried here and indeed, it could well be described as Ireland's version of Arlington Cemetery—it is simply steeped in history. Tours of this unique graveyard are held daily at 14.30hrs. Shane's very engaging and often humorous delivery had the meeting enthralled with the fascinating story of Glasnevin Cemetery. For further information on the tours see the cemetery's website: www.glasnevin-cemetery.ie

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. September 8—The National Archives as a Resource for Genealogy and Local History by Gregory O'Connor, Archivist; **Tues. October 13**—Research Collections at Dublin City Library and Archive Dr Máire Kennedy; **Tues. November 10**—Researching one family history in Co Wexford by Gaye Conroy, MGSI and **Tues. December 8**—The Bram Stoker family – a typical 19th century Dublin Protestant family. Douglas Appleyard, historian, author and specialist on the author of Dracula Comments or suggestions on the Society lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty, MGSI** by e-mail on 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 2008 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure and under **Res: 08/11/632** the Board adopted the following equalised Membership Package for 2009:- **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. Therefore, despite tighter economic conditions, there was no increase in the Membership Fee this year. Unlike many other similar organisations faced with the problem of rising costs of printing and postage etc., 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. Another new feature introduced was the offer of one year free membership to persons undertaking accredited genealogy courses on the condition that they supply a suitable article for the Society's journal. Also persons under twenty-five years can avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. Membership can be renewed on-line or, if you

prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Director of Finance, **Mr. Denis Ryan, MGSI**, 6, St. Thomas Mead, Mount Merrion, County Dublin, Ireland.

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by **John Grenham**

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JOIN ON-LINE

@

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

Tuesday Sep. 8th & Oct. 13th 2009

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Sep. 23rd & Oct. 28th 2009

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)

Placenames Heritage

As reported in the August issue of this newsletter, there was unanimous support for the *Draft County Placenames Policy* presented by this Society to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council at the December 2007 meeting of the **Strategic Policy Committee on Culture, Community Development & Amenities**. Indeed, members of the SPC were advised that much of the proposals recommendations would be considered for inclusion in the Draft County Development Plan, work on which, was to commence the following year [2008]. However, in relation to the report on page 2 of the August issue where it stated that 'when the Draft County Development Plan went on public display earlier this year it had no reference whatsoever to our placenames heritage' this is incorrect. Indeed, a policy is included in the Draft Development Plan buried in Section 16 under '**Development Management**' - residential developments—general requirements and not included in Section 9 which deals with 'Heritage, Landscape and Biodiversity' and the County Heritage Plan. Section 16.3.7 (iii) **Naming of Residential Estates**: '*Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown placenames are an important part of the County's cultural heritage and reflect local history from ancient times to the present. It is the Council's policy therefore that the naming of streets and residential estates shall reflect the local place names or local people of note, heritage, language or topographical features as appropriate, and shall incorporate old place-names from the locality as much as possible. Bi-lingual and Irish language signs will be mandatory.*' This policy statement only applies to new housing estates and new streets or the renaming of such, it does nothing to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our placenames heritage or to involve the community in such matters. It sees our placenames heritage as a 'development management' issue for Council officials and property developers alone. Though, this policy statement is welcome, it is minimalist in its approach and given the current state of the property development sector in Ireland, it is a policy that will hardly ever be implemented. The Society's Draft Placenames Policy envisaged placing the implementation of such under the direction of the County Heritage Officer and included public consultation on the matter of signage, especially Irish language versions of placenames etc. The text of 16.3.7. (iii) falls far too short of what is required for the preservation of our placenames heritage. The full text of the Draft County Placenames Policy is available on www.docstoc.com/docs/9108186

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The Society's Archive

In the run up to the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of this Society in October 1990, this newsletter will cover various aspects of the development of the organisation since 1990. One of the most significant achievements of the Society was the establishment of its own archive which was one of the main objectives of the founders of the Society. At the time there was no dedicated genealogical archive in Ireland and therefore, many Irish genealogists donated their papers or lodged copies of their research with genealogical organisations headquartered outside the State such as the Irish Genealogical Research Society and the Society of Genealogists' in London. In many ways, as genealogists, we can be thankful that these UK organisations accepted this material as otherwise such could have been lost to future research. However, the founders strongly advocated that Irish genealogical material should be kept within the island of Ireland and therefore, they included the establishment of a repository in the primary aims of the Society. But this very worthy objective would have come to naught were it not for the dedication and generosity of the Society's first Cathaoirleach and co-founder, Frieda Carroll and her husband John. Not only was the Society formally established in their kitchen at 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire on 25 October 1990 by Frieda and her neighbours, Joan Merrigan, Jean Reddin and Michel Merrigan, but their home was to

become the Society's headquarters for the next thirteen years or so. From the outset Frieda undertook the responsibility for the Society's archival collections which started accumulating from day one. Firstly she allocated an upstairs room to the collections, then it grew to occupy a much larger downstairs room before parts of the Society's collections had to be housed in several different locations around Dublin in the homes of Members. In March 1997 the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council allocated the Martello Tower at Seapoint to the Society to house its Archive. Fund raising began in earnest and a two-year restoration project was completed in 2004. The Society's archival collections were housed in the Martello Tower until last year when they were transferred to a more suitable premises at 111, Lower George's St., Dún Laoghaire. Frieda retired as Archivist in May 2005 and was succeeded by Séamus O'Reilly in August 2005. Without doubt, her pioneering contribution to the establishment of this Archive is worthy of the sincere gratitude of all who value Ireland's genealogical heritage. The Archive continues to grow and now as the Society celebrates its nineteenth birthday next month, plans to create an on-line accessibility to the collections are being considered. The drawing above of our first Cathaoirleach Frieda Carroll is by Dún Laoghaire based artist Veronica Heywood and was published on the cover of the Society's Journal in the autumn of 1999.

**JOURNAL ON-LINE**

The Society has produced journals since 1992 and over the years hundreds of articles on various aspects of Irish genealogy and heraldry have been published. However, copies of these journals are now only available in the copy-right libraries, some genealogical libraries around the world and in private collections. Therefore, the Society plans to make this wonderful genealogical resource available to visitors to the Society's website. Each article will be converted into a pdf file and uploaded individually to the website. Some of the issues have wonderful drawings like the one above and others have photographs accompanying articles researched and written by members. This is an important resource that must be made available to a wider readership on-line.