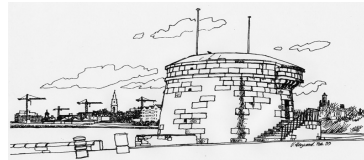


- Volunteerism Dead or Dying in Ireland?
- Relocation of the General Register Office
- Ceremonies to mark the election of the President

Editor: E-mail: GSI.Secretary@familyhistory.ie



# The Celtic Gazette

*The Newsletter of  
the Genealogical  
Society of Ireland  
Volume 10 • Issue 4  
April 2005*



## VOLUNTEERISM DEAD OR DYING IN IRELAND?

*The Celtic Tiger Economy has Changed Irish Attitudes to Volunteering*

As a new Board of Directors has just been elected to run the Society for the coming year, the first item on the work programme for the new Directorate is the on-going issue of volunteers and Members' participation in the day-to-day operation of their Society.

### *What Happened to Volunteerism?*

Like other voluntary and community organisations in Ireland, this Society too has experienced a steady reduction in the numbers of people volunteering their services to the Society on a regular basis. As this phenomenon is not peculiar to heritage, educational or cultural organisations but runs right across the spectrum from political parties to youth clubs and residents' associations, it appears to have become a national malaise of sorts. Numbers attending meetings of all voluntary organisations have fallen in recent years. However, this Society has very surprisingly held its own in this regard when both Monthly Open Meetings are taken together. But there is certainly no room for complacency here either.

### *"Before the "Celtic Tiger"*

The era before Ireland's economy took off to become one of the strongest and fastest growing economies in Europe in the mid 1990s was quite different with a wonderful vibrancy in the level of volunteerism nationally. Unlike many local residents' groups established occasionally to abate a negative and fade thereafter, sports clubs and voluntary societies were expanding in most parts of the country with the exception of the areas of high emigration during the 1980s. Earlier during the visit to Ireland of His Holiness, the late Pope John Paul II in September 1979, the country experienced an energetic sense of communal purpose at local level which was not surpassed until June 2003. All during the year prior to the Pope's visit volunteers, in conjunction State and Catholic Church authorities, planned many aspects of the ceremonies, the provision of services and the logistics of getting to each

venue. One such group was headed by one of this Society's founder members, Joan Merrigan, who designed the vestments to be worn by the 100 plus concelebrants at the Papal Mass in the Phoenix Park on September 29<sup>th</sup> 1979. Ladies, all volunteers, in her local parish gathered together and with the buzzing of scores of sewing machines, they turned out each of these vestments beautifully crafted. Though, these vestments were used in a number of the Papal venues, the level of volunteerism was correspondingly high in Drogheda, Maynooth, Galway, Knock and Limerick. Not for another twenty-four years was this level of volunteerism on a national scale to be surpassed and, once again, the local communities in Ireland did us proud playing hosts to the visiting delegations for the 11<sup>th</sup> International Special Olympics which were held in Dublin in June 2003. It was a great national and international success story – a triumph of volunteer and community action.

### *"Sustainable Volunteerism"*

Whilst, we can look at these two national examples of successful volunteerism and, no doubt, such levels will be achieved again in similar circumstances, how can we sustain volunteerism in Ireland? What measures, if any, can the government take to assist voluntary and community groups to recruit and retain volunteers? It seems that a much wealthier Ireland is becoming all the poorer in spirit with many of us choosing to ignore the pleas of voluntary and community groups the length and breadth of Ireland to get out and get involved. Our doctors tell us about the benefits of volunteerism and its positive effect on the health and wellbeing of hard pressed and over stressed workers. Like other voluntary and community organisations, this Society calls for a vigorous national debate on the issue of sustainable volunteerism in Ireland involving the social partners, government and general public. Failure to address this important issue will most certainly impact greatly on the quality and health of our lives in the future.

## MORE MEMORIALS PUBLISHED

*"Memorial Inscriptions of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Co. Dublin, Ireland – Volume 3"* has just been published by the Society. ISBN 1 898471 42 8 Price €7.50 & €5.00 (Members' Price). **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI, the coordinator of the Society's Cemetery Projects and his team have brought us another fine publication and the third volume in a very popular series. Cemeteries covered in this volume include the Carmelite Monastery, Blackrock (36 inscriptions); Carrickbrennan Cemetery, Monkstown (422 inscriptions); Kill of the Grange Cemetery (75 inscriptions) and Sion Hill Cemetery, Blackrock (66 inscriptions). Copies are available via the Society's website and from the Genealogy Bookshop, 3, Nassau Street, Dublin 2.

## DIARY DATES

### **Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Evening Open Meeting. 20.00hrs  
Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,  
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.  
DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.

Topic: *"Memorial Inscriptions"*  
Speaker: **Open Forum**

### **Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Venue as above  
Topic: *"Genetics & The Genealogist"*  
Speaker: **Dr. Willie Reardon**

### **Weds. April 27<sup>th</sup> & May 25<sup>th</sup> 2005**

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs  
The Port View Hotel  
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire  
Discussion Group on Family History

*Contribution of €3.00 at each meeting  
Coffee/Tea served at Morning Meetings*

## GSi MEMBERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES

The new Membership Packages on offer from the Society provide special e-mail addresses for Members. The e-mail address [yourname@familyhistory.ie](mailto:yourname@familyhistory.ie) is only available to Members for a nominal **€10.00 per annum**. Contact the Hon. Secretary, at E-mail: [GSI.Secretary@familyhistory.ie](mailto:GSI.Secretary@familyhistory.ie) or by writing to the Hon. Secretary at the address below.

Card – MasterCard or VISA via the Website?

## GSi BOARD ELECTED

At the Annual General Meeting held on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2005 the Members of the Society re-elected **Rory Stanley** as Cathaoirleach (Chairperson); **Séamus Moriarty** as Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair), **Michael Merrigan** as Hon. Secretary and **Róisín Lafferty** as Public Relations Officer. In addition to the elected offices above, the Members elected seven people to the Board of Directors whose portfolios are decided at the first Board Meeting following the Annual General Meeting. Therefore, on April 7<sup>th</sup> 2005 the Board allocated the portfolios as follows: Editor of the GSI Journal & Irish Genealogical Sources Series, **Margaret Conroy**; Cemetery Projects Co-ordinator, **Barry O'Connor**; Web Developer & Editor, **Iris O'Connor**; Education Officer, **Maeve Allen**; Sales & Marketing, **Gerry Hayden**; Archivist, **Frieda Carroll**; Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer), **Michael Merrigan**; An Daonchartlann (Building & Equipment), **Liam Mac Alasdair**, however, the position of Membership Officer, formerly held by Annette MacDonnell for a number of years has yet to be allocated to a Board Member. A matter of serious concern to the new Board is the failure, yet again this year, to elect a person to the position of Hon. Treasurer. Rory Stanley has agreed to act in this capacity, once again, until a suitable candidate can be found for this important position. Indeed, Rory would like to hear from any Member based in the metropolitan Dublin area willing to volunteer to undertake the duties of the Society's Hon. Treasurer with, if necessary, guidance and assistance offered for the initial period. Similarly, a Member willing to undertake the duties of the Membership Officer and likewise, guidance and assistance will be available. Rory can be contacted at E-mail: [rorstan@eircom.net](mailto:rorstan@eircom.net)

## JAMES SCANNEL REPORTS

### WRITER'S HOUSE RECEIVES SPECIAL STATUS

Houses No 1 to 6, New Dock Street, in Galway City which consists of a terrace of Victorian buildings overlooking the commercial docks terrace, have been designated a special architectural protection

status. These are the only remaining 19th century buildings on the street. An added incentive to protect these buildings lay in the fact that No 1 was the birthplace of author Padraig Ó Conaire whose statue stands in Eyre Square of the City. Jim Higgins, Heritage Officer for Galway City, said that the buildings were of historical value citing that the original brick walls, architraves, doorways, floors, fireplaces and shutters, were still in place. He went on to point out that 'Padraig's Place' public house had been renovated and its original features retained and that there was no reason that the other buildings in the group could not be allowed to develop and thrive.

### THE WONDERFUL BARN

Kildare County council has received a planning application for the construction of over 470 houses in the vicinity of one of Ireland's most unusual historical landmarks, The Wonderful Barn, in Leixlip, Co. Kildare. The developer plans to build 476 houses on lands where stands a stone grain store dating from 1743 and Barnhall House which dates for the 17th century. The Wonderful Barn is a folly built by Lady Laura Catherine Connolly and famine relief project and was based on the design of an Indian rice store. The 7 storey structure is used as a grain store and is a visible landmark from the nearby M4 motorway and is one of 2 of these types of structures in Ireland according to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. In 2002, Kildare County Council, under a local action plan, decided that part of the site would be dedicated as parkland and that the rest would be used for low to medium density housing. Transfer of the Barn complex including, Barnhall House, the Wonderful Barn, two dovecotes, walled garden and the remaining parkland is being negotiated by Kildare County Council.

### AN TAISE CRITICISES NRA

The National Roads Authority (NRA) has been criticised by An Taisce (Ireland's voluntary National Trust) for deciding to route part of the Dublin – Galway M6 motorway through Aughrim, Co. Galway where more than 9,000 died in the 1691 battle there. This battle site is of Irish and European importance as it is the site of the largest battles fought in Ireland and was decisive failure for the Jacobite forces and paved the way for the victory of King William III. An Taisce has claimed that the route of the motorway would impinge on the territory where the cavalry stood over 300 years ago, a location which decided the outcome of the battle. The NRA has dismissed the claims made by An Taisce stating that a lot of care is taken into the planning of roads and that An Taisce had numerous opportunities down the years to express their concerns.

### MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND JOURNAL – NO 68.

Articles featured in the March 2005 issue of the Journal of the Medal Society of Ireland include the following – Society Notes; Gran's Widows Penny by Fred Heatley; 90th Inf Battalion

Recce Troop Flash by Paul Hogan; Edward Dodd by Liam Dodd; Oh What a Lovely War by James W. Taylor; A Gallant U.S. naval Lieutenant by J. Morton; The Black Squad – an Irish Stoker in the Royal Navy by Marie Meegan; Bill Magrath, M.M. by James Scannell; Roll Of Honour by Liam Dodd; Dedication of the Grave of Sgt. Major Cornelius Coughlan, V.C. by Ken Kingston; Sir William Hickie's Appeal by Liam Dodd; 2nd Lieutenant Frederick Robert Orpwood, Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers by Conor Dodd; Naval Court-martial Queenstown Training by Liam Dodd; Echo of Anglo- Irish War by Liam Dodd. Copies of this journal are available price €3 by post at the same price from Patrick Casey, 1, The Hill, Stillorgan, Dublin 18, Ireland.

### WATERFORD VIKINGS

Mr. Dick Roche T.D., Minister for the Environment, has indicated that he will issue a preservation order on a 1200 year old Viking site in Co. Waterford which will ultimately require the rerouting of the Waterford bypass. An order for the excavation of the site by the National Museum of Ireland is also likely. The site at Woodstown is believed to be one of the most important Viking sites uncovered in Ireland in recent years. It is possible that the site is also pre-Viking dating back to the 5th century. Archaeologists have dated the Viking aspects of this site back to the 9<sup>th</sup> century. So far less than 10% of the site has been excavated but so far over 600 structures have been identified and more than 5000 artefacts collected like Arab coins, silver ingots, beads and parts of weapons. Also discovered were 250 lead weights suggesting a trading post of some significance.

### HISTORY IRELAND

Articles featured in the March / April 2005 issue of History Ireland include the following – Moving history: why we must protect our film heritage by Kasandra O'Connell; An improvised armoured personnel carrier, Dublin, Easter 1916 by Timothy Walls; Life in the Rosses, Co. Donegal in the 1890's by Nellie O Cléirigh; Mollie Gill, 1891 – 1977 : a woman of Ireland by Sinead McCool; Richard Whately: Ireland's strangest archbishop? by Bryan MacMahon; Autobiography of Captain Jack White republished; Grainne Mhaol, pirate queen of Connacht; behind the legend by Theresa Denise Murray; Charlemont on the Grand Tour by Michael Gibbons and Myles Gibbons; Frederick Vodrey's Ceramic Designs for the 1880's exhibitions by Aisling Molloy; 'On the Inside Sitting Alone' – pioneer Irish women doctors by Beulah Bewley; The Curriculum Feature is 'The Collapse of the Soviet Union' by Ron Hill; The Sources Feature is 'Repealing the Repealer : William McComb's caricatures of Daniel O'Connell' by Patrick Maume; In the Interview Feature, Peter Hart is interviewed by Brian Hanley plus the regular features TV Eye, Letters, Museum Eye, Bookworm, Book Reviews etc.

## IRISH BASED MEMBERS

### Renewals Now Overdue

Irish based members living in the Republic of Ireland or in Northern Ireland are reminded that their Annual Membership Subscription fell due on **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005**. Members may upgrade at any time on the payment of the difference between the costs of each. All new Membership Cards issued after January 1<sup>st</sup> 2005 have the Membership Number followed by a letters indicating the type of Membership Package chosen.

#### a. Basic Membership (Ireland)

Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter (not by mail) and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Members' prices. Cost €20.00 per annum.

#### c. Premier Membership (Ireland)

Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, quarterly Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Premier Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. Cost €30.00 per annum.

#### e. Household Membership (Ireland)

Offering ordinary membership of the Society for two persons residing at the same address, two Membership Cards, voting rights for each, use of the Society's Archive, one copy of the monthly newsletter by mail, one copy of quarterly Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Premier Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. Cost €40.00 per annum.

## OVERSEAS MEMBERSHIP

The renewal date for Overseas Members falls due on the anniversary of their joining the Society. This renewal date is contained on the Membership Cards. All new Membership Cards have the Membership Number followed by a letter indicating the type of Membership Package chosen. Overseas Members have the choice of the following:-

#### b. Basic Membership (Overseas)

Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Members' prices. Cost €25.00.

#### d. Premier Membership (Overseas)

Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, quarterly Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Premier Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. Cost €40.00 per annum.

#### f. Household Membership (Overseas)

Offering ordinary membership of the Society for two persons residing at the same address, two Membership Cards, voting rights for each, use of the Society's Archive, one copy of the monthly newsletter by mail, one copy of

quarterly Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Premier Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. Cost €40.00 per annum.

## USD & UKP CURRENCY RATES

The exchange rate for persons paying by check or cash in US dollars **€1.00 = US\$1.35** and similarly for those wish to pay by cheque in British pounds **€1.00 = 0.70p**. The Society will keep these exchange rates under constant review to ensure acceptance of payments in these currencies. These rates apply to all purchases and membership subscriptions transacted in the currencies concerned. Alternatively why not pay by Credit

## RELOCATION OF THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

The General Register Office is to be re-located from Joyce House, 8/11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2 to Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon with effect from the 11th April 2005. From that date, all communications should be addressed to :- General Register Office, Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon, Ireland . or Oifig an Ard Chláraitheoir, Oifigí Rialtais, Bóthar na Chlochair, Ros Comáin. Co. Ros Comáin, Éire Tel: 090 6632900 LoCall: 1890 252076 Fax: 090 6632999 - remember to use the International Code for Ireland 353 when phoning from outside Ireland. It was back in November 1992 when this re-location was announced on the eve of a General Election. Immediately there was much anger and dismay amongst genealogists at home and overseas at what was clearly a political stunt with little or no hard planning. Therefore, following a vigorous campaign that ran over many years and split the Irish genealogical community, the Minister promised that a research facility will remain at Joyce House in Dublin City for genealogists. And this is now the case. In the intervening years a modernisation project was carried out and details of the services now available can be viewed on [www.groireland.ie](http://www.groireland.ie) With this relocation of the GRO the thirteen year "Roscommon Experiment" has finally ended!!!

## NEW ADOPTION REGISTER

**Mr. Brian Lenihan, T.D.**, Minister for Children, on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March launched the first State provided National Adoption Contact Preference Register. The Register has been developed by the Adoption Board as part of its expanding Information and Tracing service. At the launch the Minister highlighted the significant contribution that the main stakeholder groups and adoption service provider groups have made to the successful development of the Register. The purpose of the new Register is to assist adopted people and their natural families who wish to make contact. The Register will also allow people who do not wish to have contact with their natural family to register their decision. The Register gives adopted people and their natural

relatives a choice. The choices available on the Register are:

- Willing to meet;
- Willing to exchange letters/information or to make contact via telephone/e-mail;
- No contact at the moment but willing to share medical information;
- No contact at the moment but willing to share personal information;
- No contact at the moment.

Participation is completely voluntary and the Register is strictly confidential. Only approved Adoption Board staff will have access to the Register. Contact through the Register will only be initiated where both parties register for contact. Adopted people, natural parents and any natural relative of an adopted person can apply to join the Register. You must be 18 years of age or over to join. People who want to join the Register will complete an application form. This is being delivered to every household in the State beginning on the 11<sup>th</sup> April and will be available on the Adoption Board's website at [www.adoptionboard.ie](http://www.adoptionboard.ie) from that date. When a match is made the two parties will be individually contacted confidentially by the Adoption Board. How they wish to proceed will then be discussed with them. Minister Lenihan said that he is particularly pleased that the launch of the Register today is happening at a time of real change in adoption. The Minister recently announced new adoption legislation which will also provide a statutory basis for the new Register. Minister Lenihan has provided additional resources to expand the adoption Information and Tracing service in 2005.

## PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION

The Board at its April meeting has decided to host the ceremony marking the election of **Mr. Tony McCarthy, FGSI**, as President of the Genealogical Society of Ireland in July of this year. This decision was to permit as many Members and friends of the Society to attend this special occasion. A beautifully crafted Presidential Chain of Office has been obtained from **Facet Jewellers** in Dún Laoghaire and details of the ceremony are currently in the planning stages. The Board also has asked the new President to mark this occasion by personally nominating two persons of his own choice from the world of Irish genealogy or heraldry to become Fellows of the Society in recognition of their contribution to the study or promotion of genealogy, heraldry, vexillology or social history. Locations near the Society's new headquarters are being considered in which to host the ceremony and, no doubt, further details will be available next month.

## JOINING THE SOCIETY

The Society always welcomes new Members from Ireland and overseas. If you wish to join the Society please contact the Hon. Secretary [GSI.Secretary@familyhistory.ie](mailto:GSI.Secretary@familyhistory.ie) Membership of the Society is open to all with an interest in genealogy, heraldry or Social History.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### 'Kidnapped – True Stores of Twelve Irish Hostages' by A. J. Davidson

published by **Gill and Macmillan**, Pb. 210 pages with illustrations. When people are taken for ransom, the term applied to this crime is kidnapping but in the introduction to this excellent book, the author points that this really an incorrect term as it originally applied to the abduction of children especially in those societies which high infant mortality in order to augment their numbers and to introduce new bloodlines. It was a real fear in pre-Norman Ireland and one with which most families lived. But by the time of the Middle Ages, the term in English law had expanded to include this crime against adults. Child kidnap persisted well up to the early 20th century with the abduction of the Lindbergh baby being one of the highest profile cases of the 1930's in which the alleged abductor was subsequent caught, convicted and executed. Some crime historians maintain that the wrong person was executed and this view has formed the basis of several books and television documentaries. The crime was relatively unknown in 20th century Ireland until the onset of the Troubles in Northern Ireland where it became a tactic by paramilitaries on all sides and soon spread to the Republic. The 12 cases selected by the author are – The Curran Family and the Littlejohn Brothers; Thomas Niedermayer – A Double Tragedy; Dr. Herrema and the Siege at Monasterevin; Father Hugh Murphy and Killers in the Ranks; Ben Dunne's Kidnap and His Subsequent Fall from Grace; Shergar and Fossett's Ponies; The Kirkpatricks. Richard Hill and a Supergrass Trial; Don Tidy and the Murders at Derrada Woods; Jennifer Guinness – Four Houses and a Hostage; Brian Keenan's 41/2 Years of Captivity; The John O'Grady Kidnap and Mutilation; Deirdre Crowley and the Murder-Suicide by her Father. Each of the above cases is explained clearly and makes fascinating reading. There is also a select bibliography about the stories featured in this excellent book. (*James Scannell*)

'**Tragedy at Tuscar Rock**' by **Mike Reynolds**, published by **Gill and Macmillan**, Pb, 232 pages with illustrations. Fatal Irish civil aviation incidents are very rare and the crash into the Irish Sea of Aer Lingus flight EI 712 from Cork to London has until the publication of this fascinating book, been the subject of much speculation and many fanciful theories. This accident still is the largest single loss of life in Irish aviation history. I remember the day when the news was broadcast on Irish radio that this aircraft had gone missing. The massive search that mounted for it eventually some of the wreckage was recovered near the Tuscar Rock off Co. Wexford. An Irish government report was published two years later in which a number of causes were speculated but no definitive conclusion was made. Over succeeding

years various rumours concerning the loss of this aircraft were put forward, the most popular ones being that it had been shot down by an RAF pilotless drone or by a missile fired on a Welsh range that went out of control. It was held that there was a conspiracy by both the Irish and British governments to hide the truth confirmed by the fact that part of the wreckage had disintegrated when being raised to the surface by the British Royal Navy and that this had happened intentionally to hide the truth. But there were those who were always unhappy about the Irish government report and in 2000, the Irish government decided to lay the matter to rest by having a new study / investigation into the accident carried out by three independent experts, one French and an Australian. Mike Reynolds, author of this book, was their Irish based assistant, who re-interviewed surviving witnesses in addition to performing a variety of other tasks. How he even found parts of the wreckage thirty years later which had been salvaged by farmers who were unaware that it came from an aircraft. This book is based on Reynolds' input to the final report and reveals how all the clues were assembled and how the mystery was unravelled with a dramatic twist. The final report concluded that all the evidence is consistent with some initial damage occurring to the aircraft shortly after take off from Cork and disproves all the allegations / rumours that another aircraft or missile was involved. This book is written clearly and provides the reader with information on the passengers and crew of this flight, the investigators and the trail in collecting the evidence to present the final conclusion. Reynolds is still interested in locating or obtaining information on a number of objects which he lists at the end of the book and provides a mail address where he can be contacted by. (*James Scannell*)

### SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS'

The Society of Genealogists' in London, England, will host its **Annual Family History Show** on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at the Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall & Conference Centre. For further details contact the Society of Genealogists', 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London EC1M 7BA, England or via the website [www.sog.org.uk](http://www.sog.org.uk)

### QUERIES RECEIVED

**CHRISTOPHER JAMES HAWKES**, 73 Barningham Street, Darlington, Co. Durham, DL3 6NT, United Kingdom, E-mail: [member@hawkeschrisj.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:member@hawkeschrisj.wanadoo.co.uk)  
Wrote:- "I am trying to help my best friend with relation to his maternal family by the surnames **WEATHERALL** and **TAYLOR**, it has come to light through copies of the 1871 and later census returns that his Great, Great Grandfather James Weatherall was born in 1851/2 and also his Great, Great, Great Grandfather William Weatherall was born in 1830/1. James was the son of William and

Lettice Weatherall and the family moved to England in fact to Lancashire to be precise in and around the mid 1850's, I have the problem that the census returns state only Ireland and no name of county, place or parish unfortunately! The vast number of websites available is confusing and I literally do not know where to start from what I already know, I would like to seek further assistance, help and guidance to possibly be able to track down at least a part of Ireland whether that be the North or the South and a rough area to possible county! If you could help me by guiding me in the right direction or even better still you could possibly locate them in a source as to where they originated from I would be eternally grateful to you! I look forward to hearing from any of your readers. I have no knowledge of tracing Irish Ancestry and any basic books that you could advise on would also be really helpful in this search, I know it is like looking for a needle in a haystack and I do know that the Irish records were begun differently to those in Great Britain. Any assistance much appreciated **GRACE FLENTHROP**, MGS, 13207 W Keystone Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375, USA. E-mail: [gracieflen@yahoo.com](mailto:gracieflen@yahoo.com) Wrote:- My ancestor John **WILSON** I believe came from Tyrone Ireland to America with his family. His four children known are believed to have been born in Ireland: Matthew is the eldest son - William was born ca 1722 - George was born ca 1729 - Samuel was born ca 1730. I do not know the name of John's wife and have no dates of birth or marriage. Anyone know of these Wilson's? If so, I would appreciate hearing from you. Thank you.

**PAM KELLY**, 55 Newbon Street, Nailsworth, South Australia 5083, Australia.

E-mail: [pam.kelly@bigpond.com](mailto:pam.kelly@bigpond.com) Wrote:- I am endeavouring to do family tree research from Australia and am having difficulty in tracing my great grandfather, Austin **COOPER** born in Dublin in 1854. I have minimal records and only know his father was Captain William Cooper. Are you able to offer any assistance or advise me of where I may be able to locate further details.

**MADAME SIMONE FAUVEAU**, 26, rue des Iris, F 92160 Antony. France. Wrote:- I am a member of Cercle Généalogique de Saône et Loire (Burgundy). We are now preparing the next National Congress of Genealogy in Macon. I am working especially on the biography of Maréchal de **MAC MAHON**, titled the Duke of Magenta by our Emperor Napoleon III. I have already gathered some information. He was born in our Dept of Saône & Loire on June 13, 1808 and died also in France (Loiret) on October 17, 1893. But we know that the origins of his family are to be found in Ireland. The most ancient ancestor we know is a King of Ireland : **O'BRIEN** Brian Boru, died in 1014. But I lack a lot of information to go on. I do not need the genealogy of **Maréchal de Mac-Mahon** up to 1014. Information regarding ancestors prior to his grandfather would be much appreciated.