



# The Genie Gazette

Social Newsletter of the Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society

Free

## TRACING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

CEAD MILE FAILTE to the crew of the aircraft carrier JFK and especially, to those of Irish descent or with Irish connections. A visit to Ireland can provide the best opportunity to trace your Irish roots and to get in touch with those long lost relatives in Ireland.

Indeed, Irish visitors to Dun Laoghaire for the AMERICAN WEEK, may well have relatives on board the JFK or back in the States ..... isn't about time you discovered the American branches of your family ?

WHY NOT START TODAY to trace your roots in Ireland ? It's easy and it can be inexpensive when you DO-IT-YOURSELF.

At my inauguration I spoke of the seventy million people worldwide who can claim Irish descent. I also committed my Presidency to cherishing them - even though at the time I was thinking of doing so in a purely symbolic way. Nevertheless the simple emblem of a light in the window, for me, and I hope for them, signifies the inextinguishable nature of our love and remembrance on this island for those who leave it behind."

H.E. Mary Robinson, President of Ireland.  
(address to Irish Parliament Feb. 1995)

### HOW DO I GET STARTED ?

Just come along to the Society's stand located in Dun Laoghaire Shopp-Centre during AMERICAN WEEK and our volunteers will show you the ropes, free of charge, to set you on the road to the discovery of your roots in Ireland. We'll tell you what is available and where from CENSUS RECORDS to PARISH and other sources.

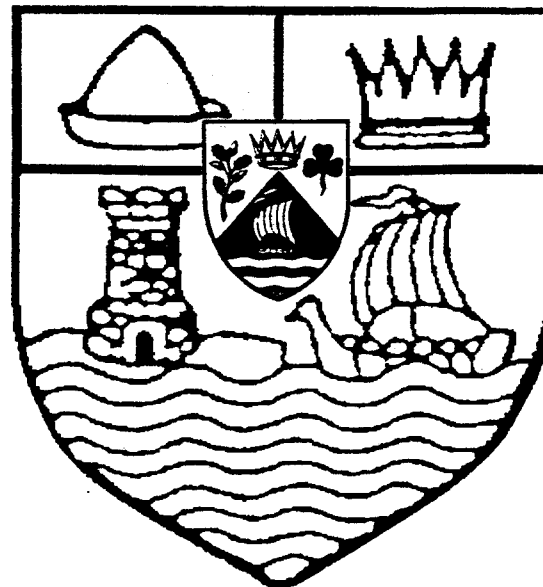
## Internet for Genealogy

Written & published by David Hawgood.

ISBN 0 948151 12 9, 24 pages, price £1 60.

Available at £1.96 including UK postage, £2.16 overseas surface mail from Family Tree Magazine, 61 Great Whyte, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambs PE17 1HL; Phone 01487 814050, fax 01487 711361 Visa and Mastercard accepted; for airmail (about £1 extra) or foreign currencies please enquire

The book is a practical guide showing what genealogists can obtain from the Internet, with examples and addresses. It shows how to send private messages to family and friends, send public messages to appeal for help or give opinions, view World Wide Web pages of information from many organisations and individuals, search for other genealogists with the same surname interests, and search for other information on Internet. Many examples are from the UK & Ireland Genealogical Information Service, GENUKI



WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF GENEALOGY  
IN  
DUN LAOGHAIRE

## The President's Letter.

Friends,

My intention in contributing this article is to show that the study of genealogy may turn up an interesting tale beyond facts of generations, births, deaths, marriages and burials.

Denis O' Conor Don

Further historic links were made between the O'Conors and the North American Continent in the first year of the nineteenth century. In 1801 Charles O'Conor of Mount Allen, son of Charles O'Conor of Bellangare left Ireland for a new life in the State of New York. Charles had been politically active in the affairs of this country and was closely associated with the Catholic Committee established by his father. Although he himself, was not a member of the society of the United Irishmen founded by Wolfe Tone in 1791 - an organisation which drew inspiration from the French Revolution, - he requested Napper Tandy to have his son Thomas admitted as a member. Napper Tandy's reply is on display among the archives at Clonalis.

Although Charles O'Conor sympathised with all the democratic demands made by the United Irishmen, he became disillusioned with the organisation when the struggle broke into open rebellion in 1798. He emigrated to America in 1801 joining his sons Thomas and Denis who had left Ireland before him. Thomas had borrowed heavily and bought 4000 acres in Genesee County in the State of New York. The purchase proved disastrous and Thomas lost whatever capital he brought with him thereafter devoting himself to the publishing of several newspapers including the famous "Shamrock Newspaper". All his papers reported news on Ireland and the Catholic cause.

On his death in 1855 Thomas was succeeded by his son Charles O'Conor of New York whose first recollections were of a wilderness home and pioneer life surrounded by "lurking Indians by day and howling wolves by night and the deep depths of Winter snows" in New York State. Having suffered considerable poverty during his father's ill-conceived farming exploits Charles O'Conor educated himself and was called to the American Bar in 1824. There he became one of New York's most distinguished lawyers and is regarded in modern times as the Father of the New York Appellate Bar.

In later life, Charles was nominated, much against his will, as a nominee for the then divided Democratic Party for Presidency of the United States in 1872. Although Charles did not take any active part in the election campaign, he received tens of thousands of votes but was defeated by General Grant. Charles O'Conor of New York was the first Catholic nominee for the Presidency of the United States. In 1881 he retired to the island of Nantucket where he built a large house and developed a warm affection for the island. Shortly before he died he gave the City Fathers of the old whaling town of Nantucket \$20,000 to clear the island's indebtedness on condition that City Fathers should henceforth balance their budget.

Charles O'Conor's sister Eliza married Christian Sheer Sloane and their grandson John Sloane married Madeline the only daughter of the famous American inventor Thomas Alva Edison (1847-1931). The friendliest relations are still maintained between the O'Conor Don family and their American cousins who have been generous benefactors of Clonalis throughout the years.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF GENEALOGY  
IN  
DUN LAOGHAIRE

## Cumann Geinealais Dhun Laoghaire The Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society

The Society was founded on the 25th October 1990 and is the FIRST society consisting of private individuals dedicated to the study of Irish Family History to be established in Dun Laoghaire.

WE AIM TO:-

- \* Promote the study of Irish Genealogy
- \* Maintain an association of those interested in the origin, history and development of Irish families and surnames at home and abroad
- \* Circulate a regular journal dealing with genealogical and biographical research undertaken by the members of the Society
- \* Promote the collection and conservation of documents, photographs, family trees and material of special interest to the study of Irish genealogy
- \* Maintain membership of the Irish Genealogical Research Society and the international Federation of Family History Societies.
- \* Establish a repository in Dun Laoghaire for material collected and donated by members. This independent repository and library shall be controlled and operated by the Society for the benefit of members and Irish genealogy in general.

Cumann Geinealais Dhun Laoghaire

### FAMILY HISTORY

Morning Meetings

4th Wednesday of Each Month

Port View Hotel

Marine Road

Dun Laoghaire

10.30 AM - 12.30 PM

Evening Meetings

2nd Tuesday of Each Month

An Culturlann

Belgrave Square

Monkstown

Co Dublin

8.00 PM

All Welcome

Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society

DUN LAOGHAIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY is a member of the international Federation of Family History Societies and therefore, enjoys links with over 200 similar societies throughout the world. In addition, the Society publishes a quarterly journal, which is, exchanged with over seventy societies in the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, South Africa and Great Britain. This close contact with researchers overseas provides members with unique avenues of further research. The Society's Archivist, FRIEDA CARROLL, receives many clips from newspapers concerning the Irish abroad, especially, those from this area, though, the Society is interested in receiving information from all over the world on Irish people from every corner of Ireland. The following clipping from the "St. Petersburg Times" of Florida is an example of the info. received.

\* \* \* ST. PETERSBURG TIMES ■ TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1988 7B

## Thomas Stephens, Eisenhower aide

By TERESA BURNEY  
Times Staff Writer

CLEARWATER — Thomas E. Stephens, who served as appointments secretary to President Dwight D. Eisenhower during his two terms in office, died Sunday at Morton Plant Hospital. He was 84.

Mr. Stephens, who was born in Dun Laoghaire, Ireland, moved to Island Estates in Clearwater from New York in 1973.

A lawyer, Mr. Stephens was affiliated with the New York law firm of Lord Day and Lord during the 1930s. He had law degrees from Brooklyn Law School and St. Lawrence College, according to Herb Pankratz, a researcher for the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library in Abilene, Kan.

During World War II Mr. Stephens served in the Army Air Corps from 1942 to 1945.

He became active in the Republican Party during

the 1940s, serving at one time as the party's director of campaign development. From 1950 to 1952 he was secretary of the Republican State Committee for the state of New York, Pankratz said.

His first job in Washington was in 1949 as administrative assistant to Sen. John Foster Dulles, who became secretary of state during Eisenhower's administration, Pankratz said.

During Eisenhower's presidential campaign in 1952, Mr. Stephens served as his special counsel on political matters and his appointments secretary. After Eisenhower was elected, Mr. Stephens continued in his position as appointments secretary for the president during the eight-year administration, Pankratz said.

Survivors include his wife, Mary.

Moss-Feaster Guardian Funeral Home's Fort Harrison Chapel in Clearwater is handling arrangements.

## Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations

### GENEALOGICAL TABLE QUIZ

CIGO would like to get all you family historians together for a social evening with a difference. If you're unfamiliar with the table quiz, here's how it works:

Each table accommodates a team of four people. Questions are read out by the quiz master and each team answers on sheets which are collected and corrected after each round. In this quiz the questions have a genealogical flavour but they won't all be a test of your knowledge of records and repositories. There'll be some off-beat topics such as famous and fictitious families. Mainly it's a chance to meet other genealogists and have some fun, but you might learn something in the process.

Venue: Buswells Hotel, Molesworth St. Dublin 2. Thurs. 25th July 1996  
8.30pm sharp with registration from 7.30pm.

Cost: £12 per table.

Advance booking with Maeve Flannery, 1 Summerhill, Wicklow, tel: 04 0467442.

## WELSH FAMILY HISTORY

A Guide to Research (published by the Association of Family History Societies of Wales in conjunction with the F.F.H.S.) Price Stg£9.95.

Researching Welsh ancestry can be fraught with difficulties for those unaware of, or unfamiliar with, the very different social, cultural, religious and linguistic circumstances which have prevailed in Wales. The poor survival rate for many records, the dominance of a small stock of surnames, unfamiliarity with the Welsh placenames etc., can all conspire to make life difficult for even the most dedicated of researchers. This book is not a 'how to do it' book. The principles of genealogical method: working from the known to the unknown, developing a working hypothesis and proving everything, apply as fully to Wales as to other countries in these islands. These aspects have been covered at length elsewhere and are not repeated here. Instead this book is a compilation of contributions from a wide range of authors. Some of them have direct experience of researching Welsh ancestry, others have a detailed knowledge of the historical background of Wales. An understanding of this wider historical background is essential for serious research and in particular for the development of new strategies for research. Particular attention is given to the place of the Welsh language in this context and a glossary is provided.

### *AN CULTURLANN*

### *COMHALTAS CEOLTOIRI EIREANN*

Whether you want to enjoy a quite drink or listen to the best in Irish Traditional Music An Culturlann is the place to visit.

You are sure of a welcome here in the home of Irish Music.

Like to learn to play an instrument? Why not inquire about our classes.

Belgrave Square, Monkstown Road, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
Buses from Dublin City Centre (Eden Quay) 7, 7A & 8.

Note: CLONALIS HOUSE is the ancestral home of the O'Connor Don family. The present house was built by Charles Owen O'Connor Don in 1878 and designed by the Victorian architect Pepys Cochrell to a style combining Queen Anne and Victorian Italianate characteristics.

This 45 roomed mansion serves the dual purpose of being both a family home and a major repository of the heritage and history of the Gaelic Royal House of O'Connor Don, containing many items associated with the family over the past five hundred years, including a library of over 7000 volumes and manuscripts. The furniture in the house is much older than Clonalis as it had been gathered together from a number of O'Connor houses over the centuries.

The present O'Connor Don, Denis, is the sixty-first hereditary Chieftain descended from Feradach Find Fechnach, High King of Ireland in circa 75 A.D. and was recognised by the Chief Herald of Ireland as such on the death of his cousin, Rev. Charles O'Connor Don S.J. (a Catholic Priest) in 1981. A full listing of the High Kings of Ireland and Kings of Connacht, from whom the present O'Connor Don is descended, was printed in the first issue of the Society's journal.

Published by:

DUN LAOGHAIRE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
14, Rochestown Park,  
Dun Laoghaire,  
Co. Dublin,  
Eire

## Irish Family History

### EVENTS FOR JULY / AUGUST '96

The Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society holds two Open Meetings each month for those interested in Irish Family History and ALL are welcome.

**EVENING MEETINGS - 2nd Tues.**  
An Culturlann, Belgrave Sq.  
Monkstown, Co. Dublin. 8 pm.  
(July 9th and Aug. 13th)

**MORNING MEETINGS - 4th Weds.**  
Port View Hotel, Marine Rd.,  
Dun Laoghaire. 10.30 am.  
(July 24th and Aug. 28th)

In addition, the Wicklow County Genealogical Society also hosts two Open Meetings each month as follows:

**WICKLOW TOWN - 3rd Tuesday.**  
Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town,  
Co. Wicklow 8.30 pm.  
(July 16th and Aug. 20th)

**BRAY TOWN - 1st Wednesday.**  
Strand Hotel, Esplanade,  
Bray, Co. Wicklow. 8.30 pm.  
(July 3rd and Aug. 7th)

Membership of either Society is open to all interested in Irish genealogy. Starter Packs etc. are provided for new members - just come along to an Open Meeting - we'll get you started!

### REGISTERED CHARITY STATUS

The Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society is a registered charity in Ireland and is wholly funded by its members subscriptions and the kind donations received from the general public.

### DEAN'S GRANGE CEMETERY

This cemetery was from 1862 the main burial ground for the area and there are approximately 250,000 persons buried there. The cemetery is closed now (except for those with rights) and the Society decided to undertake a complete survey of the Memorial Inscriptions and gravestones. Members, organised in teams, will record all the details for indexing and the results will be made available to the general public in the National Archives.