

- Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill
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# The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of  
the Genealogical Society  
of Ireland  
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Welcome  
to the  
World of  
Genealogy

## IRISH GENEALOGY & HERALDRY BILL

*A New Legislative Framework for Genealogy & Heraldry for Ireland?*

Back in February 1997, the present Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, Ms. Síle de Valera, T.D., then Opposition Spokesperson, launched a position paper "Caring for Our Heritage". In this document Fianna Fáil recognised "the enormous interest that the wider Irish family have in tracing their ancestors and establishing a sense of "rootedness" in their native place". And that "it has also become clear however that the structures in place to deal with this interest and with the discipline of Genealogy in general are far from adequate." This position paper was published just one month before the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, was passed by Dáil Éireann. This piece of legislation concerns the governance of the National Library of Ireland, the National Museum of Ireland and the Genealogical Office, including the office of the Chief Herald of Ireland. During the passage of that Bill there was much acrimonious debate on the status and future role of the Chief Herald and the Genealogical Office. Unfortunately, following the passing of the Act in March 1997 little, if any, of its promised potential has been realised. With the change of government later that year, the present Minister Ms. de Valera, T.D., had signalled her intention, on many occasions, to bring forward amendments to the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, but none have been tabled to date. Presumably, these amendments will take account of the statement in "Caring for our Heritage" that "Fianna Fáil are also deeply concerned about the proposed effective abolition of the Office of the Chief Herald as an office of State in its own right". And that "it will be a priority for Fianna Fáil to look at this question again and to re-establish the independence and status of the Chief Herald". The Office was not abolished by the Act, however, some may argue that its independence was curtailed. Indeed, is it not time to stop tinkering at the edges of existing legislation and to repeal Section 13 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, in

order to bring forward an all-embracing Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill? This new Bill could clearly define our genealogical heritage, affirm its public ownership, establish a right of access to this heritage and provide for the establishment of two separate offices – Chief Herald of Ireland and Chief Genealogical Officer to be based at the National Library in Dublin. The Chief Herald's function, powers and modus operandi in the granting of Arms could be provided with a clear legislative framework not unlike the State Herald in the Republic of South Africa. Whilst, the Chief Genealogical Officer's function could concern the protection, promotion, standards, professional accreditation, service, acquisition, licensing, education, policy formulation and public accessibility to our genealogical heritage. He/She could advise the Directors of the various repositories holding genealogical information on the provision of public accessibility to same and maintain a register of such information held in State or private hands. The issue of the recognition of Irish hereditary chieftains could be provided with a clear legislative basis and as such, require scrupulous, independent and scholarly investigation prior to recognition. Such recognition need not be in conflict with the Constitution as the persons concerned may be recognised as the embodiment of the nation's ancient genealogical heritage, not unlike the Japanese recognition of artists. It could be the duty of the Chief Genealogical Officer (CGO) to designate items as constituting a part of our genealogical heritage, issue licenses or prohibit the export of such treasures and acquire such for the Nation. The CGO could also provide through an accreditation process of commercial genealogical agencies, heritage centres and professional researchers, a mechanism for customer protection and the maintenance of the highest professional standards and best practice thus, providing recognition for the best in Irish commercial genealogy. The Bill could also establish two Standing Advisory Committees

(Genealogy and Heraldry) to advise the two Officers and in doing so, provide statutory recognition for both the voluntary and the commercial sectors in Irish genealogy through membership of these committees. With all parties now brushing up their manifestos, as the media attempts to talk up an election, should not the Irish genealogical community campaign for an "Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill" to be introduced in the next Dáil in the interest of all concerned with what's best for Irish genealogy and heraldry?

### DIARY DATES

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2000**

10<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting

Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue,

Dún Laoghaire, 20.00 hrs – 22.00hrs

Bus: 7, 7A, 8, 46A, 75, & 111.

DART Dún Laoghaire Station.

*Speaker:* Dr. Dan Bradley, TCD.

*Topic:* The RIA Genetic Survey of Ireland

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2000**

Evening Open Meeting. Venue: as above

*Speaker:* Peter Cassells

*Topic:* Records of the Valuation Office, Dublin

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> Oct. & 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 2000**

Morning Open Meeting., The Port View Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire. Bus & DART as above. Discussion Group on Family History.

### FEDERATION SUPPORTS

#### GSI ON GRO

The Federation of Family History Societies representing 215 member societies across Great Britain, Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, South Africa and Ireland with a total individual membership of 400,000 has given its full backing to the GSI's "Regional & North/South Proposal on the Records of the General Register Office, Dublin". The Federation's Chairman, Mr. Cliff Debney, in his letter to the Registrar General with a copy to the Minister for Health & Children, Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., outlined the GSI proposal and said if it were implemented by the Irish Government "the load on the staff of the

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Registrar General in Dublin ...will decrease to a much more manageable level". Furthermore, he stressed "It is doubly frustrating for a researcher to find information in your indexes, which have been microfilmed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and are freely available world wide, but then be unable to obtain the actual details quickly while they are in Ireland". At the AGM of the Federation in September Mr. Debney raised the matter on behalf of the GSI and the GSI proposal on the GRO received the overwhelming support of the meeting. The Society is very grateful to Cliff for his considerable assistance in this matter. The full text of the GSI proposal is posted on the Society's website <http://welcome.to/GenealogyIreland>

#### LOCAL SOCIETIES WITH MONTHLY MEETINGS IN IRELAND

**Ballinteer FHS**, Co. Dublin - Info: Chris Ryan, 29, The View, Woodpark, Ballinteer, Dundrum, Dublin 16.

**Blessington FHS**, Wicklow. Info: Maureen Phibbs, Blackrock, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

**Cork Gen. Soc.**, Info: Michael O'Connell, 4 Evergreen Villas, Evergreen Road, Cork.

**Dún Laoghaire Gen. Soc.** - meetings organised by the GSI - see *DIARY DATES*  
**Mourne FHS**. Info: Jennifer Baird, Whitebog, 135, Ballinran Road, Killeel, Co. Down BT34 4TB. N. Ireland.

**North of Ireland FHS** Info. Hon. Sec., NIFHS, c/o Dept. of Education., QUB, University St., Belfast, BT7 1HL, N. Ireland.

**Raheny HS**, Co. Dublin - Info: Christy Kerins, 4, Thorndale Drive, Artane, Dublin 5.

**Wexford FHS**, Co. Wexford - Info: Mr. Hilary Murphy, 24, Parklands, Wexford Town, Co. Wexford.

**Wicklow Co. Gen. Soc.** Info: Declan Byrne, 22, Wesley Lawns, Dublin 16.

#### OUR GENIE UPDATES...

##### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members should note that the A.G.M. of the Society will be held on Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> 2000 at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The annual Membership Fee of Ir£10.00 for Irish based members is normally collected at the AGM - Overseas Members have their membership year based on twelve calendar months from the date of joining/renewal at €15.00 per annum. Credit Card facilities available via the Society's website.

**PROJECT OFFICERS** Members wishing to contribute to the Nuns Register should contact the Registrar, Clare Malone, 90, Parnell Road, Dublin 12, Ireland with details for inclusion. Cemetery Recording - contact Barry O'Connor, tel: 285 4386; Irish Biographical Project - contact Annette McDonnell, e-mail: [mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com)

**DAONCHARTLANN** The Society's plans to restore and refurbish the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin as a permanent base for our growing Archive are taking shape. Close co-operation between Dúchas - The Heritage

Service, the County Council's Conservation, Development and Planning Officers and the Society's Architect, Seán Gaynor, is set to produce a full photographic survey by Gerry Hayden of the Tower, its floors, walls, windows etc. prior to work commencing and at each stage throughout the works. Arrangements for an archaeological survey of the ground floor by Dúchas are in hand. Liam Mac Alasdair, Chair, Development. Commnt. expressed the Society's sincere gratitude for the dedication of all involved with this project.

**NORTHERN IRELAND** The Society's Northern Ireland Representative and Hon. Vice President, Mr. James Davidson, welcomes comments and suggestions from individuals aimed at strengthening cross-border and cross-community contact on matters of genealogy, heritage and local history. James will be organising a further trip north for members based in the Republic and in the new year, a trip south for our northern based members. James Davidson, 4, Priory Close, Lambeg, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

**ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY** At the very successful Heritage Week conference - "Ancestry & Our Ancestors at Work" organised by our PRO Róisín Lafferty, the Librarian of the Royal Irish Academy, Siobhán O'Rafferty, was presented with a full set of the Society's publications. The Society will, in future, dispatch copies of each of its new publications to the RIA for its Library. Besides the copyright libraries in Ireland (National Library & all universities in the Republic) and those in Great Britain (British Library, National Libraries of Scotland and Wales, Oxford & Cambridge universities), the Society dispatches copies of each of its publications, free of charge, to the Library of Queen's University in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

**INCORPORATION** The Society will be incorporated in the month of October as per the resolution at the 1999 Annual General Meeting. Incorporation as a company limited by guarantee is a necessary step in the rapid growth in the activities of the organisation, its assets and membership. The members elected to the 11<sup>th</sup> Executive Committee at the Annual General Meeting this month will become the Directors of the company following incorporation. The Memorandum & Articles of Association will be posted on the Society's website on incorporation and as such, these shall replace the existing Constitution of the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

#### NORTHERN NOTES

Being a descendant of the Pollock milling family of Bessbrook, Co. Armagh, I was deeply concerned to read in "The Irish Times" of Wednesday 20th September 2000 regarding the situation in another milling town of Portlaw, Co. Waterford. The headline read "Historic town being neglected, locals fear" and continued "concern has been expressed that the contribution made by a Co Waterford town to Ireland's economic history is in danger

of being forgotten. There are few signs today that the quiet town of Portlaw was once a major centre of industrial activity. Now with a population of 1,500 and with no major enterprise, it is hard to visualise the town as it was 150 years ago, with nearly 5,000 inhabitants and a cotton mill employing 1,600 men, women and children". The article pointed to local County Councillor, Mr. Paudie Coffey's fight for funding and recognition of this historic town. Understandably, I felt that another piece of Quaker Ireland was in danger of disappearing, but gladly as it happened, it was all about a new book by Tom Hunt on the history and heritage of this cotton milling town and the Malcolmsons of nearby Mayfield House who built the mill in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. But the Malcolmsons, did not stop there, according to the article "they also put in place a sophisticated social structure with an emphasis on healthcare and educational facilities. The town had five schools in the 1830s". I fully agree with Mr. Hunt that this town is a gem of Ireland's industrial and social heritage and I intend over the next few weeks to visit Portlaw, Co. Waterford and Mountmellick, Co. Laois, as part of my own study of these Quaker milling towns. Mr. Hunt, a native of Clonea, Carrickon-Suir, Co. Tipperary, is a schoolteacher now living in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. His book "Portlaw, County Waterford, 1825-76: Portrait of an Industrial Village and its Cotton Factory" is published by The Irish Academic Press at Ir£8.50. To conclude, Northern Notes, for this month, James Davidson has pointed out to me the cross-border commemoration being planned for next year on the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Kinsale. A great turning point, many would say, in Irish history and presumably in the history of these islands. The Federation of Ulster Local Studies, the Federation of Local History Societies, Kinsale Urban District Council and both Heritage departments all will be co-operating in this important year-long event. Hopefully the GSI will become involved too. John Sturgeon, 37, Nettle Hill Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

#### ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Society will celebrate its tenth anniversary on Wednesday October 25<sup>th</sup> this year and the Society would like to mark the event by planting an Irish Oak in the Peoples' Park in Dún Laoghaire. Also, possibly to include the Federation of Family History Societies' specially cultivated "Ancestry Rose" to surround the Irish Oak sapling. The Society's PRO, Róisín Lafferty is in contact with the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council regarding the special arrangements required for this ceremony. Dún Laoghaire Rathdown was considered an appropriate place to mark this anniversary as the Society was founded in the town of Dún Laoghaire and our Archive, will be based in the town. Róisín can be contacted at telephone (353.1) 280 0894.

## QUERIES RECEIVED

**David Wylie**, E-mail: [julius@tech2u.com.au](mailto:julius@tech2u.com.au)  
Wrote: How can I find information about a Heather Mallan, born about 1905 in Ireland, who came to Tamworth in New South Wales Australia and had a child. Any help please.

**Teresa Williams**, E-mail: [richwill@dbscorp.net](mailto:richwill@dbscorp.net)  
Wrote: I am searching for Robert McClaren b. 1788 near Belfast he married Sarah McClenathan. Emigrated to the USA in 1823. Supposedly had two children in Ireland one named Margaret b. about 1823, other unknown. Any help please.

**Rita Johnson** (formerly Rita Francis, born and lived in 47 Windsor Road, Rangoon, Burma), E-mail: [impgems@earthlink.net](mailto:impgems@earthlink.net)  
Wrote: Searching for David Francis. We have traced the Francis family to Secunderabad with the birth of John Lazarus Francis, my grandfather, born July 15, 1864. His father was David Francis, probably a soldier in the "18th R.E." his mother is listed as Sarah Roach. No 18th R.E. regt. found. Sarah Roach was possibly British, Irish or Anglo Indian, and David Francis? It is on record that there was a D. Francis in the town of CHUNAR in Uttar Pradesh, India, a Headmaster of the Church Mission School in 1879 and 1880 and perhaps a few years later. Name and address of today's Church Mission School if this still exists? Also of the Roman Catholic Church in CHUNAR. This town is 40km south of VARANASI (Benares) where the British opened a Trading Post at fort William in 1690. Any info. please, especially, on addresses.

**Jane Slaughter**, E-mail: [jslaughter@cybertrails.com](mailto:jslaughter@cybertrails.com)  
Wrote:- I am looking for information on my Gr-Gr-Grandparents PATRICK and MARY ANN (Campbell) KINLAN born circa 1790's in Ireland. I do not know where in Ireland. The name Kinlan shows up in Counties Louth, Meath and Monaghan and Dublin. They had a daughter, Catherine, born Ireland in 1835. The family then emigrated to Indiana in the USA by 1840 when 2<sup>nd</sup> daughter, Mary Ann was born 1840 in New Albany, Indiana. I have been unable to find any documents, but I believe Patrick's wife, Mary Ann, died between 1870 and 1880 either in Louisville, Kentucky or New Albany, Indiana. They could have had more children. Any info. on KINLAN or CAMPBELL families, please contact me.

**Benjamin A. Royce**, E-mail: [benroyce@yahoo.com](mailto:benroyce@yahoo.com)  
Wrote:- I would like to find out about a particular family of Bullocks that married into the Hutchinsons. I have a brother and sister that married a brother and sister. I have Richard Bullock that married Rachel Hutchinson and Unknown Bullock that married Samuel Hutchinson both in County of Armagh, Ireland. Richard and Unknown Bullock father was William Bullock and mother was Hannah Unknown, they are all born and married in Ireland. Rachel Hutchinson and Samuel Hutchinson father was James Hutchinson and mother was Mary

Johnston, they are all born and married in Ireland. Any info. on the rest please.

**Joan E. Lawler**, E-mail: [joane@core.com](mailto:joane@core.com)  
Wrote: I am looking for any records I can find on a Patrick Coyle. He was born in Ulster, Ireland in 1726. In 1746 as an indentured servant. Came to America on the Ship Delaware and was assigned to a merchant in Philadelphia named William Bronson. Any records his family in Ireland? Any info. please.  
**Robert Notigan**, E-mail: [rnotigan@home.com](mailto:rnotigan@home.com)  
Wrote:- Looking for detail on my great grandmother, Mary Emmeline Evans from Killarney, Co. Kerry, born circa 1860. Moved to Maryland, USA. Any info. please.

**Wanda Overhiser**, E-mail: [randex@earthlink.net](mailto:randex@earthlink.net)  
Wrote: Looking for these relatives. Thomas Jemison B. 1716 and Jane Erwin B. 1718, both born in Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. Would there be a passenger list for the Ship William and Mary that would have sailed from Ireland about 1743? Hope you can help me.

**Lyle & Reba McMillan**, E-mail: [lylereba@uswest.net](mailto:lylereba@uswest.net)  
Wrote: Researched an ancestor, Adam Logue, born in Co Derry in approximately 1751 to George and Elizabeth Logue. He came to Pennsylvania in the 1750s or 60s with his parents and served in our Revolutionary War. He died in Potter County, PA., April 4, 1836. Any information on Adam's birth, birthplace or information on his parents would be appreciated.

**Darren Spratt**, E-mail: [dspratt@escape.ca](mailto:dspratt@escape.ca)  
Wrote: My great, great grandfather, Andrew Spratt, came to Canada from Co. Antrim, Ireland around 1827. Possibly to work on the Rideau Canal, a strategic waterway route, which was being built between Kingston, and what became known as Bytown (now Ottawa) Ontario, as a strategic defence route. Andrew Spratt received a grant of land in Carleton County, Gloucester township (in what is now the Province of Ontario), and he and his wife, Catherine Ellen Freeman, of Wicklow, Ireland, had a large family of 9 children. Andrew's brother James came to Canada and took up farming close to his brother. Another brother, John, may have also come across. Andrew Spratt, born 1807 & died in 1890, in Canada. His brother James was born in 1804, and died in 1892, in Canada. Andrew's wife, Catherine Ellen, born in 1814 (in Wicklow Co., Ireland) and died in 1859. Seeking relatives still residing in Ireland. Any info. please.

**Cliff Hasenyager**, E-mail: [cliffhas@primenet.com](mailto:cliffhas@primenet.com)  
Wrote: In researching our ancestry we have found USA (PA) immigration ref. index listing our Gt-Gt-Grandfather "William Henry Nash Wood Johnson" as born 1825 or 1826 in Ireland. Please advise as to how best to find his birthplace and ancestry in Ireland. We know he married Isabella Haywood Reynolds in Birmingham England 27 Jan 1850 and "eloped" to the USA soon thereafter. His unique series of 3 surnames - "Nash Wood Johnson," in combination with his given names

William Henry, is very seldom found in US registries. The only document listing them all and indicating his birth country as Ireland is "A List of Persons Applying for Immigration Naturalization at District Courts in Allegheny County Pennsylvania," published in 1978 by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. That index is quoted as follows: "JOHNSON, William Henry Nash Wood (1852) Bn: Ire.; DI: 11 Oct 1852". We also have copy of a "soundex" card showing his final US Naturalization papers issued in Kane County, Illinois in Nov. 1856, there listing the country of departure as Gt. Britain. No date or place of birth listed therein, and the responsible archives at both application locations in the US can't find his files or microfilm entries - only the indexes! We do have documentation showing he married Isabella Haywood Reynolds in Birmingham England on 27 Jan 1850, and assume they sailed for the US that same year.

**Grant South** of Sydney, Australia. E-mail: [sky-view@acay.com.au](mailto:sky-view@acay.com.au)  
Wrote: My great grandfather was John Leake of 19, Whitefriars Street, Dublin, Born: 30/Jun/1869 I would love to hear of any information about John or the Leake family name in Ireland. Many thanks.

**Brian Wilsher**, E-mail: [bwilsher@remsystems.co.nz](mailto:bwilsher@remsystems.co.nz)  
Wrote: My great great grandfather was a Mr William Hunter. He married an Eleanor Boyle in Ballymoney Parish in 1845. Mr Hunter also had a brother Henry (Harry). All three came to New Zealand where Henry and William were killed in the Maori wars. Both went to Hythe Musketry academy before they came. Henry became a Lieutenant and William a Major. Hunters from Ballymoney or Antrim. Any info. please.

**Don Wilt**, E-mail: [edonwilt@aol.com](mailto:edonwilt@aol.com)  
Wrote: Seeking information on John Samuel Barr from Ireland he left College and came here U.S.A. He went to the Revolutionary War and kept a journal while there. Years afterward when his people were applying for a pension they sent this journal as their proof and the authorities at Washington kept it for the War Museum. I now have a photo copy of John Barr's Diary. It makes for very interesting reading. I also have both his Military File and his Pension File for the American Revolutionary War. John enlisted in the Continental army December 1776. I have already E-mailed Trinity College and they replied that there is no record of the Barr surname having ever been enrolled at Trinity. Were there any other colleges in operation prior to 1776 or any info. on Barr family?

**Claire Bartram**, E-mail: [claire@cmjbartram.freemove.co.uk](mailto:claire@cmjbartram.freemove.co.uk)  
Wrote:- Seeking info. on my Great Grandmother, Susan Annabella Harding, dau. Of William Seymour Harding. She was born in County Cork 1837. She married a William Rumley and had a daughter Susan who was born in Dublin (she was my Grand Mother) on 18-10-1872 and the address was 26 Goldsmith Street, North Dublin. Any info. on this family please.

**Anne Johnston**, 1916 Berkshire Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 USA, E-mail [annijnstn@aol.com](mailto:annijnstn@aol.com) Wrote: Seeking Joseph Johnston came to the US from Belfast in 1924. His father's was Robert Johnston, died in 1908, he worked in the Belfast shipyard. His wife's name was Mary Cooke Johnston, dau. Of James and Eliza Cooke. She was born Feb. 18.1863 & died in 1938. We have her certificate of baptism from Christ Church in Belfast on March 4.1863. Her parents were from Springfield. The Person who performed the baptism was Robert Hannay. The certified copy was made October 8.1924 by James R. Brady. Robert and Mary had four other sons, John, Edward, William and Robert and three daughters, Elizabeth, Agnes and Emma. Agnes married a Herman Brenion. I would like to find our relatives in Ireland. Thanks.

**Virginia McManigal Buerman**, E-mail: [buerman@bloomnet.com](mailto:buerman@bloomnet.com) Wrote: Looking for any info. concerning the McManigal family (McMonigal, McMannigehl, McManegle). My great great grandfather James P. McManigal ended up in Ohio, USA. We cannot trace from where in Ireland, but know he came before the famine. He was born 1798 poss. to a James M. McManigal. Had a large family in Ohio, some migrated to Nebraska. Any info. please.

**Robert Riopel**, Roberval, Quebec, Canada. E-mail [riopel@destination.ca](mailto:riopel@destination.ca) Wrote:- I am looking for my Irish ancestors - my great-grandfather was a MCGURRIN from Ireland. The info that I have is Michael McGurrin, son of John McGurrin and Marguerite Mary Kelly, married to Kate Jane Murphy (daughter of James Murphy and Bridget Henley). The couple McGurrin-Murphy were married at St-Alphonse de Rodriguez, Quebec, on July 19,1887. John McGurrin: born in 1823, & Marguerite Mary Kelly: born in 1831, both from Lacken, County Mayo, Ireland. They died in St. Alphonse de Rodriguez, in 1905 and 1896. For Kate Jane Murphy is the same query but I have one generation over: Edward Murphy married to Catherine Duffy (their son James Murphy is the father of Kate Jane). James Handley-Henley (born 1802) married to Catherine Handley-Henley (born 1806) : their daughter Bridget married James Murphy. Seeking parents info. & the Mayo details on John McGurrin and Marguerite Mary Kelly.

**Charles Grady**, E-mail [cathal@zonnet.nl](mailto:cathal@zonnet.nl) Wrote: I am searching for information about how single pregnant girls were helped in giving birth to their children in Dublin around the beginning of the 20th Century. In particular I have a number of births (around the year 1916) at 590 North Circular Rd. (NCR), Dublin. The person given as present at the births was a Frances Moran. Barnardos, Christchurch Square, Dublin, informs me that quite a number of people who came to them and who were looking for their birth parents, gave 590 NCR as their place of birth. Before 1916 the house at 590 NCR was known as 30 Richmond Place. The house is still standing near the corner of Summerhill and NCR and is believed

to be some 200 years old. On the NCR there were a number of Nursing Homes, but in contrast to 590 NCR they were registered as such. Local knowledge is very sparse, but I have been informed that the house was used exclusively for girls from the country. It was run by a midwife called Mrs. Moran who carried out work for 590 NCR and another home at 197 NCR. Other homes in Dublin that I know of were 450 NCR and 103 NCR, also 42 Portland Row and 82 Cabra Road. I am interested in information about Mrs. Moran. In addition I am also interested to know if anyone has done research in this area (e.g. the social aspects, organizational aspects of unforeseen pregnancies, relationships of the homes with hospitals and medical profession for solving first delivery problems). I am interested in the question, how and by whom and for how long this 'private' home at 590 NCR was run. Dr. Charles Grady, Lansinkstraat 38, 7481 JP Haaksbergen, The Netherlands.

**Robert Earl Bonser**, E-mail: [skipreb68@yahoo.com](mailto:skipreb68@yahoo.com) Wrote: All I know about my Great Grandmother, Anna Elizabeth Donahoe, is that she died at the age of 80 on April 27, 1918. She was married on December 31,1865 to my Great Grandfather, Smith Bonser. Smith was a Civil War Soldier and was taken prisoner by the South. He escaped and then joined the Navy. Later, he was a member of the Colorado Militia. They traveled by covered wagon to the Territory of Colorado, probably from the State of Illinois. I know that she was born in Ireland and came to the U.S.A. as a "Tobacco Bride", whatever that means. I do know that they were a loving couple as I have letters that were sent to her from my Great Grandfather. She was highly thought of in the community where they resided according to the obituaries that I have. Any info. on her birthplace or family will be greatly appreciated.

### FAMILY HISTORY MONTH

The National Genealogical Society in the United States, of which this Society is also a member, have succeeded in having the Governors of Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina and Virginia declare this October - "Family History Month". It would be a fine gesture for us in Ireland to emulate the Americans and to declare October "Family History Month". The preamble to the American document reads - *"To understand a nation, one must first understand its history. The history is more than the laws and dates of major events. History lies in the daily life of the people for it's the people who make a nation. To ignore the lives of those who have gone before us is to negate their ideas, dreams and accomplishments. It robs us of the warp in the fabric of our own lives. And, each person's life is a thread woven into the tapestry that is that nation"*. The Americans have appended a Proclamation to the above that reads:- **Whereas**, the Genealogical Society, family

history societies and the individual genealogists promote the study of family history and provide training in genealogical research and **Whereas**, they are working to collect, preserve and disseminate genealogical information on our ancestors through public records as well as the records of old churches, businesses and families and **Whereas**, the history of a community, parish, county and nation can best be told through the lives of its people, and **Whereas**, adults and children should be encouraged to gather family stories, customs and traditions, studying family history as an academic discipline while appreciating the richness of the **Now**, **Therefore**, I, \_\_\_\_\_, by the power vested in me, do hereby proclaim the month of October as **"Family History Month"**. Why not here too??

### THE IRISH IN PARAGUAY

**Alejandra Peña Gill (McGill)**, E-mail: [hechoamano@pla.net.py](mailto:hechoamano@pla.net.py) Wrote: I am an Irish descendant and I would like to hire an expert that can research the roots of my family (McGill) before 1727. I live in Paraguay, South America and I would like to find someone to whom I can communicate by email. We already have our 1727-2000 tree completed. I am looking for:- The name of the ancestor who left Ireland: John Thomas McGill or John McGill or Thomas McGill. Date of birth - unknown We know he came around 1727 from Dublin. He was a Catholic. Parents or ancestors unknown. He married twice. My family descends from his second marriage to a native, grand daughter of the Spanish governor, here, in Asuncion. My grandfather, Juan Bautista Gill (McGill) was a historian and genealogist. He used to say that there were two (or three?) brothers that came from Dublin around 1727. They were being persecuted for being Catholic. They were wealthy, and first, they arrived to Buenos Aires. They worked in trading slaves (today this sounds so awful!). We don't know why, but one of them (John Thomas, or John or Thomas) came to Paraguay. One of his brothers went to Canada, and is the founder of the McGill University. We are a very traditional family in Paraguay, and the McGill family (today called Gill) is full of prominent, politicians, men and women. My grand-grand father was Juan Bautista Gill, President of the Republic (1844-1877). His brother Juan Andres (John Andrew) was the first Minister of Foreign affairs. BEFORE any research I would like to know:- 1) What would be the fee to get the following: Name of parents, brothers, etc of John Thomas (or John or Thomas) McGill who came to Buenos Aires around 1727 (maybe before this year. Maybe 1727 is theyear he moved from Buenos Aires to Asuncion). Date of birth, Date to Buenos Aires Some McGill family origin & history. Re-confirm if he was related to the McGill University (Canada) founder. 2) If payment can be by credit card through internet. I would like to hear from a researcher via E-mail, please. Mail is too slow.. Any help or info. please. Gracias.