

- Expert Committee to Examine "Chiefs Affair"
- New Queries
- News from the World of Irish Genealogy

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# The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of  
the Genealogical Society  
of Ireland  
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## TIME'S UP FOR THE "BOGUS" CHIEFS

*Minister Síle de Valera's Decisive Action Welcomed*

At last the party is over for those few bogus chiefs who received 'courtesy' recognition by the Chief Herald of Ireland during the late 1980s. Whether they jump or await to be pushed remains to be seen. One, "The MacCarthy Mór", has already been de-recognised by the present Chief Herald, Brendan O'Donoghue, with at least two more to follow after their "genealogies" were examined and found to have serious errors and possibly, fabrications. These genealogies were lodged with the Genealogical Office, however, questions remain as to how thoroughly they were examined before 'courtesy' recognition was granted. On December 14<sup>th</sup> the Minister acted decisively to clean up this mess, in response to a Parliamentary Question tabled by Mr. Eamon Gilmore T.D. (Dún Laoghaire) on the need to have an Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill as called for in the October issue of this Newsletter.

### COMMITTEE OF EXPERTS

Ms. Síle de Valera, TD, said that she "intended to establish a committee of experts in the immediate future to carry out a comprehensive review of the procedures introduced in the 1940s whereby 'courtesy' recognition of Chiefs of the Name is granted by the Genealogical Office". The introduction of 'courtesy' recognition was a fudge by the first Chief Herald, Edward McLysaght, to avoid any conflict with Article 40.2.1 of the Irish Constitution – "Titles of nobility shall not be conferred by the State". Whilst, Ms. de Valera confirmed that this 'courtesy' recognition did not require the consent of Government, it certainly afforded an air of authenticity to some of the grandiose

claims of Mr. McCarthy who even conferred his Gaelic knighthoods on two former Taoisigh and sought recognition for his claim to the "throne" of Munster. Clearly for the sake of the reputation of the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland and to distance the authentic Chiefs of the Name from this scandal, this nonsensical ad-hoc situation must be brought to an end. It certainly appears that both the Minister and the present Chief Herald and his staff are determined to do so.

### RECOGNITION & CIVIC HONOURS

Legislative measures could, for example, afford some sort of 'heritage value' recognition to these Chiefs of the Name, establish mechanisms for such recognition and safeguards to avoid future recognition of bogus chiefs. Legislation in the form of an Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill provides the opportunity to define, protect and promote our genealogical heritage, to recognise in legislation an expanded role for the Office of the Chief Herald and possibly, facilitate the introduction of a Civic Honours system in the Republic. Whilst, warmly congratulating Dr. Tony O'Reilly who received, with Irish Government permission, a well deserved knighthood from Britain's Queen Elizabeth in her New Year's Honours List, it highlighted, once again, the need for an Irish honours system. Any Irish system must be consistent with the Irish constitutional bar on the granting of titles of nobility. The establishment of say a "Meritorious Order of the Republic" with a suitable medal and possibly, accompanied by Grant of Arms from the Chief Herald could reward and recognise achievements by persons in the Arts, Sciences, Literature, Industry, Service to the Community and the furtherance of peace and reconciliation etc.

### GENEALOGY & HERALDRY BILL?

In welcoming the Minister's initiative, only time will tell whether there is the will to embrace this opportunity to bring forward an

Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill to tackle the issues comprehensively as laid out in the October issue of this Newsletter. In the meantime, we await the report of the Minister's committee of experts with interest and hope that an end to the bogus Chiefs affair is not long coming.

### DIARY DATES

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2001**

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue,  
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
20.00 hrs – 22.00hrs

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

DART Dún Laoghaire Station.

**Speaker: Mary O'Donnell**

**Topic: "Records of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland"**

**Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2001**

Evening Open Meeting.

Venue & Time: *as above*

**Séamus Moriarty & Philip Lecane**

**Topic: "The Western Front 1914-18"**

**Wednesday Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> & Feb. 28<sup>th</sup> 2001**

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs

The Port View Hotel, Marine Road,  
Dún Laoghaire.

Discussion Group on Family History

### MARSH LIBRARY

The Saturday outings will begin again this year on the 24<sup>th</sup> February with a visit to Marsh's Library. This is the first and oldest public library in Ireland and was it founded by Narcissus Marsh in 1701. Marsh, as Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin (1694-1703), was aware of the need for a library for the ordinary citizen of Dublin at the time. He purchased an old library from Bishop Stillingfleet and had a new library built on that site in the garden of St. Sepulchre close to St. Patrick's

Cathedral. The building was designed by Sir William Robinson whose major work was the Royal Hospital at Kilmainham in Dublin. Many people are unaware of the existence of this treasure housing years of history. It should be interesting especially the fact that it is haunted! **Róisín Lafferty**, PRO, GSI. Tel: (01) 280 0894.

### VIDEOS FOR THE ARCHIVE

New York based Member, John Kerrigan, has donated a video tape of a collection of film tapes taken in 1958 of Donegal Town, Killybegs, St. John's Point, Bruckles, Bundoran, Mount Charles and Barn's Gap and the Meentaghs area of Buncrana. Also, the BBC has donated a copy of a television documentary on the character played by Leonardo di Caprio in the film "Titanic" – the documentary will be shown on BBC TV shortly. The Society assisted in the research with Annette MacDonnell tracking down the real Jack Dawson. The Archivist, **Frieda Carroll**, wishes to thank John Kerrigan and the BBC for these kind and valuable additions to the Society's Archive.

### OUR GENIE UPDATES

**EURO CHANGEOVER** Ireland, along with 11 other members of the European Union, has started its countdown to the changeover to the European Single Currency or "EURO" on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002. It is envisaged that this changeover in Ireland will be complete by the end of February and new notes and coins will have replaced the familiar Punt and Pence. However, Northern Ireland, as part of the UK, will retain the Pound Sterling as its currency for the time being. The Society appointed **Rory Stanley** [rorstan@eircom.net](mailto:rorstan@eircom.net) as its Euro Officer in November 1998 to ensure that our systems could cope with the introduction of Euro cheques and drafts last January, now he is gearing up for the actual changeover in January 2002. Overseas Members outside the Euro Zone will still be able to utilise their own currencies when dealing with the Society, however, all our rates and prices etc. will be set in Euros only from January 2002. There is no need to worry as most banks will be able to provide cheques in Euros and, no doubt for when you visit Ireland in the year 2002, they will have Traveller Cheques in the currency too. More details on the new currency will be forwarded to Overseas Members with this Newsletter

during this year, however, in the meantime please check out the Euro Website <http://www.euro.ie> for info.

### MARTELLO TOWER PROJECT

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has undertaken a comprehensive study on the best way to develop the coastline from Booterstown to Sandycove in south County Dublin. This area is very well described as Dublin's Riviera and it includes the location of the Martello Tower at Seapoint. With the festive season now behind us, **Mr. Seán Gaynor**, the Society's Architect, will lodge an Application for Planning Permission with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to enable the commencement of works to restore this historic building and to refurbish it for our Society's Archive. Members are very fortunate that the Tower's location on the DART line, equidistant from Salthill/Monkstown and Seapoint Stations, is ideal as there are no parking facilities at the Tower. However, Dublin Bus services are a mere 8 minutes walk from the Tower on Monkstown Road. Donations to the Building Fund are still sought and most welcome.

**NUNS REGISTER** Recently we received a bumper pack of information from South Island, New Zealand, on the Sisters of Mercy. Each record was tabulated with all the details required by a genealogist. The Register will be a very valuable resource for genealogists researching their Irish ancestry as details of parents and place of birth is recorded. Volunteers to assist the Registrar are most welcome. Contact:- **Clare Malone**, Registrar, GSI Nuns' Register, 90, Parnell Road, Dublin 12, Ireland. The Registrar wishes to thank all those who have forwarded details of the Nuns in their families for inclusion.

**VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT NOW** Barry O'Connor, Cemetery Project Officer, is seeking volunteers to input the transcriptions of the Memorials Inscriptions of the West Section of Deansgrange Cemetery on to computer discs. Each person would be given the computer disc and circa 300 inscriptions. Contact Barry on Tel: (01) 285 4386.

**NEW PUBLICATION** Published last month as "*Irish Genealogical Sources No. 22 - 1901 Census Index for Blackrock, Urban District Area, County Dublin*" Compiled by Marie Keogh, ISBN 1 898471 76 2. Price Ir£6.00 €7.60 (postage IRL & UK Ir£1.00 : Others Ir£2.00 surface & airmail Ir£4.00). The

first volume covers the Blackrock UDC area and contains the names, addresses, ages and areas of birth for over 4,500 people being the heads of households, visitors and lodgers in the area. Work is progressing on the other volumes to be published this year to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the taking of this Census on March 31<sup>st</sup> 1901. The project covered the Greater Dún Laoghaire area and included what was then the Kingstown, Blackrock, Dalkey and Killiney/Ballybrack Urban District Council areas of south County Dublin from the City boundary southward. Available via the website or from the address below.

**NORTH OF THE BORDER** The Northern Editor of "*The Genie Gazette*" is **John Sturgeon**, 37, Nettle Hill Road, Lisburn, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. John welcomes comments, news and suggestions for northern readers on matters concerning genealogists in Northern Ireland. The GSI Rep. in Northern Ireland is James Davidson see Northern News.

**SHORT BIOGRAPHIES** As reported last month, please keep those biographies rolling in! A big "thank you" to all those who have submitted their ancestors' stories, all of which will be published in forthcoming issues of the quarterly journal of our Society. Don't miss this opportunity to tell the stories of those brave Irish men and women who left these shores to seek a new life overseas. Many of them made a huge impact on their adopted country and community but all instilled in their children a love of the "old country", a love that has survived down the generations. Now it is your chance to make their achievements known in the country of their birth. The biographies must be unpublished and can be as short as you like but no longer than 2000 words and be submitted to the Society for publication by either the author or the family of the author. A reasonable number of references and sources should be supplied if possible. Send the biographies to **Annette McDonnell** by e-mail to [mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com) or by mail to 4, Kippure Avenue, Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland.

**EDUCATION OFFICER** As reported previously, the Society appointed Mr. Seán Kane as its new Education Officer to focus on the need to develop policy in relation to the inclusion of genealogy as a teaching aid into the primary and

secondary schools' curricula in Ireland. The Society has long valued the commitment of the Adult Education Dept. at University College Dublin to the provision of certificate courses in genealogy under the direction of Mr. Seán Murphy, MA, and continues to encourage people to join these courses. Unfortunately, genealogy as an "educational tool" or as a "gateway" to other disciplines is much less understood and appreciated by educators elsewhere in Ireland. Therefore, as part of the Society's ongoing programme to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our genealogical and heraldic heritage, a policy document on the issue will be produced. Members and others wishing to submit ideas for inclusion in this policy document forward same to **Seán Kane**, Education Officer, GSI, 16, Tivoli Terrace East, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

**LAMINATED MEMBERSHIP CARDS** The Membership Officer has already despatched new Membership Cards to most Overseas Members and will shortly be issuing the new Membership Cards to each Irish based member. The Society's new Heraldic Badge, which was granted to the Society by the Chief Herald of Ireland, is depicted on the front of the Membership Cards. Hopefully, when this "Mungovan Badge" is manufactured in enamel, all Members will avail of the opportunity to wear the GSI badge with pride. If you have not received your new Membership Card by the end of January, please contact **Annette McDonnell**, Membership Officer on e-mail: [mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com)

**BATTLE OF KINSALE COMMEMORATION** The country is braced for a nation-wide commemoration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Kinsale in 1601. The GSI Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Séamus Moriarty** and the GSI Vice-President, **James Davidson**, will be the Society's liaison officers for the commemoration. Checkout the various events on the Website:- <http://www.kinsale1601.ie> to view the calendar of events including the Federation of Irish Local History Societies Spring Seminar on March 30<sup>th</sup>- April 1<sup>st</sup> and the re-enactment of the long march of the Ulster Chieftains, Ó Néill and Ó Dómhnaill to Kinsale. The President of Ireland, **H.E. Mary McAleese** will be in Kinsale on September 22<sup>nd</sup> to mark the landing of Don Juan de Aguila and the Spaniards in Kinsale in 1601. Naval

vessels from at least three nations are expected to attend.

### THE GSI ARCHIVE

Visiting Dublin's General Register Office for family history research we collect, over a period, many photocopies of Birth, Marriage and Death entries. Some of these prove useful to our research, however, many others do not. Please just pop them in the mail to Frieda Carroll, the GSI Archivist, 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. A database of these unwanted photocopies and certificates is being compiled by Frieda and her Team. Frieda also is looking for donations of Directories, Local Histories Journals, School Yearbooks, Obits., Old Photographs etc. for the Society's Archive. Have you lodged a copy of your Birth Brief yet? Frieda wishes to thank all that have submitted items for the Archive in December, especially, Tony Daly and Brian Smith. Sources on CD Rom, microfiche/microfilm or copies of publications most welcome.

### ARTIST IN DUBLIN

Have you located the old family home in Ireland? Why not have a painting or line drawing of it to display in your home or office? **Veronica Heywood** a renowned artist and arts educator in Dún Laoghaire undertakes such commissions from family historians around the world - interested? Why drop her a line at 38, Cross Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin or why not call her on Dublin (353.1.) 280 3204 or on E-mail: [heywood69@hotmail.com](mailto:heywood69@hotmail.com)

### QUERIES RECEIVED

**NOTE:** Due to the limited space available for queries, it is regretted, but only queries from Members of the GSI will be accepted for publication. Membership is open to everyone interested in genealogy, social history or heraldry. It has also been requested that mailing addresses should be included to assist those without Internet access. *Editor.*

**Marty (Martha) Blakeney Davis**, E-mail: [MARTYBILLD@worldnet.att.net](mailto:MARTYBILLD@worldnet.att.net) Wrote:- I am interested in e-mailing with someone from Castle Blakeney. Have been researching Blakeney line. Am planning a trip with my brother and sisters and spouses to Ireland this summer.

**Laureen Higgins Nicholson**, E-mail: [LHNTiger@aol.com](mailto:LHNTiger@aol.com) Wrote:- Can you help me find someone who could do some genealogical research on my grandfather's family from Ireland. His name was Lawrence Ambrose Higgins. He, his parents and his siblings emigrated to New Orleans, Louisiana, USA, in the 1870's or 80's. If anyone could

recommend some genealogist to undertake this research on my behalf I would be most grateful. Please e-mail me with name and costs. **Jim Culbert**, 3027 Steven Martin Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031 USA E-mail: [jhculbert@yahoo.com](mailto:jhculbert@yahoo.com) Wrote: My ancestor Moses Culbert, Cuthbert emigrated without family from Ireland in 1828, at the age of 24, arriving in Philadelphia, PA. His naturalisation papers state he was from Letterkenny, County Donegal, however I have never found any Culbert or Cuthbert families in that town. Thus, I am collecting information on any Culbert, Cuthbert, Culbertson, Cuthbertson emigrants from Ireland from any County at any time. I am also looking for any Culbert, Cuthbert, Culbertson, Cuthbertson records in any Irish parish in the hope I find my Moses. Thanks for any assistance.

**Victor Robert Orr** from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, E-mail:- (with Editor) Wrote:- Seeking info. on the Irish descendants of James Whistling Orr, because my great grandfather was called Samuel Robert Orr and my grandfather was called Samuel Derek Orr. They were of Dublin, Ireland. My great grandmother was called Sarah Clark and my grandmother is called Joan Orr. She lives in Aberdeen, Scotland. My Great grandfather came to Brazil in 1918 and my grandfather was born in 1914. He had a sister called Elisabeth Orr. My father is called Bryan Robert Orr. He has a brother called John Derek Orr and a sister called Sheila Orr. John has two sons and two daughters called John Robert Orr, Paul Cristian Orr, Melissa Orr and Deborah Rosaline Orr. I have two brothers called Edward Robert Orr and Philip Robert Orr. I want to know if the Samuel Robert Orr had some brother or cousins and I want to know the name of his father and his grandfather. The big part of the Orr family lives in US.

**Bernard A. Bishop** from Oklahoma City, E-mail: [babpab1@aol.com](mailto:babpab1@aol.com) Wrote:- I am searching for my mother's ancestor John McGinley, born in Dublin, Ireland about 1800, wife unknown; had five boys Patrick, Hugh, Andrew Bernard, Charles & John. Patrick, Andrew & Charles came to America about 1840. Any assistance on this family gratefully appreciated.

**Ted Shakespear**, E-mail: [Ted.s@talk21.com](mailto:Ted.s@talk21.com) Wrote:- I came across the GSI in the Coventry Family History Society Journal. I and many others would be grateful if you could ask your readers if they have come across a Thomas Shakespear (e) who came to Dublin in 1783. He was quite wealthy at this time having sold his land and property in Coventry. Thomas was a widower and would be in his late sixties. Any information would be greatly appreciated.

**Nouvelle Thwaites**, from Australia, E-mail: [ntd209@mail2me.com.au](mailto:ntd209@mail2me.com.au) Wrote:- My Great Great Grandfather Ralph Nash and his brother Henry were tried at Tipperary on 16 August 1829 for manslaughter. (Reference: Shipping log held at the Public Record Office of New South Wales). In a letter dated 31

December 1837 and written to the then General Sir R Bourke K.C.B Governor and Commander in Chief in and over the Territory of New South Wales. It says the brothers were sentenced at Clonmel to be transported for seven years. (Reference: Colonial Secretary's Inward Correspondence held at the Public Record Office of New South Wales) I am very keen to locate and get copies of the trial and sentencing. Any advice most appreciated.

**Clara McCrory Luna**, 3704 Blackberry Lane, Northport, Alabama 35473I, USA Write:- I am interested in when Thomas McCrory- Wife Hannah Crawford left Ireland, what ship and where they departed and where they embarked in America. I would also like to know if they came from Scotland or originated in Antrim Ireland. I have a list of six children, one was a daughter Esther others were sons. Would appreciate any information.

**Nancy Seals**, E-mail:- [nancy.seals@gte.net](mailto:nancy.seals@gte.net) Write:- My ancestor fought at the battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Is there any information on this battle or muster rolls of the many ships. His name was Benjamin Hepenstall, born 1784 in Dunleary (Dún Laoghaire), Co. Dublin. Any info. please

**Jan Fortado**, E-mail:- [janfortado@mediaone.net](mailto:janfortado@mediaone.net) Write:- Seeking info. on the Battle of Kinsale, and actually looking for genealogical info. as I have learned that the Gallaghers of Glanworth, Cork, came from Donegal to fight in that battle in 1601. I have known that the Gallagher name originated in Donegal and wondered how my family came to be in Cork. I am trying to learn more about how they might have come. Any suggestions are welcome.

**Tom Angers**, E-mail: [tomangers@aol.com](mailto:tomangers@aol.com) Write seeking information on the Huguenot family of Aungier, Angier or Angers which settled in Dublin in the mid-17th century. Any connections please.

**Teresa M. Collins**, E-mail: [TMECOLLINS@aol.com](mailto:TMECOLLINS@aol.com) Write:- I am researching my family history and would like to trace Timothy John Hamill, born in Dublin. I don't have a date for his birth but I know that he married a Mary Agnes Behan, possibly in the late 1800's. Any information please.

**David John Tobin**, E-mail: [Scribes58@juno.com](mailto:Scribes58@juno.com) Write seeking information on the Tobin and Sullivan families being my paternal and maternal lines. Any connections please.

**Jeanette Lane**, E-mail:- [jlane@rye.alphalink.com.au](mailto:jlane@rye.alphalink.com.au) Write:- I am searching the family tree of FOGO this was my grandmother's maiden name and I am now searching for information on her mother whose name was Margaret Munce born in Donnaghdee - Ireland born in approx. 1815 - 1818. She married Samuel Flanders Dawson Fogo and had fourteen children. Any help greatly appreciated.

**Richard J. Stewart**, 129, Craigmount Avenue North, Barnton, Edinburgh, EH4 8BS, Scotland. Write:- Seeking information on a

number of houses in the Dún Laoghaire area where my great great grandfather, James Robert Stewart, lived. He was described as a "gentleman & land agent" on his Death Cert. in 1889 and as having lived at "Gorteltragh" or "Gorteltragh". His daughter Emily R. Stewart was present at his death. Other addresses are 2, De Vesci Terrace, Kingstown and "Summerhill", Killiney, Co. Dublin. Any information on the family or the houses please, especially, if there are any prints or illustrations of these buildings in existence.

**Harold Peacock** from Australia, E-mail:- [hazz@gil.com.au](mailto:hazz@gil.com.au) Write:- I believe my g-g-grandmother and her family came from Boyle, Co. Roscommon. Below is her family, most of emigrated to Australia between 1860-1865. Further information on any of them, or indeed any advice greatly appreciated. They were John Heaney, & wife:- Mary McDruy - married in Roscommon circa 1833. Father: Patrick McDruy Mother: Elizabeth Whelan Child 1: Elizabeth Heaney Born: about 1835 in Co. Roscommon, Spouse: Patrick McCrosson Married: 30 Oct 1862 in Church of St Francis, Melbourne; Child 2: Leonard Heaney; Child 3: Mary Heaney; 4: Bridget Heaney: 5: Ann Heaney Born: about 1844 in Boyle, Co. Roscommon, Spouse: Michael Thomas Gleeson married: 01 Sep 1864 in St Francis Church, Melbourne; Child 6: John Heaney; Child 7: Michael Heaney; Child 8: Margaret Heaney born: about 1852 in Co. Roscommon, Spouse: John McNeill married: 10 August 1872 in Ballarat, Victoria and Child 9: Martha Heaney born: about 1854, Spouse: Noble. Any info. much appreciated.

#### OVERDUE MEMBERSHIP FEES

The Membership Officer, **Annette McDonnell**, will be transferring all the membership data to a new program. Members in Ireland are reminded that their annual Membership Fee falls due on November 1<sup>st</sup> each year. Have you paid yet? Overseas Members have their fees calculated on a twelve month calendar basis. Annette may be contacted by E-mail: [mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com) or by mail to 4 Kippure Avenue, Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland.

#### NORTHERN NEWS

Following the very successful trip north last year by GSI Members based in the Republic, I have been in to visit the newly refurbished Linen Hall Library in Belfast which was founded in 1788. It looks great with all the Irish collection available on open shelves for ease of access - previously held in cages. Speaking to John Gray, Librarian, about the possibility of a visit, he showed me around the new performance area which could

accommodate a talk during the visit. Not very far from the Library are the offices of the Federation of Ulster Local Studies and well worth a visit too. I will liaise with Róisín Lafferty, GSI PRO, on the exact arrangements for the trip north. In the meantime, I have been invited to stage an exhibition of bakery in Ireland at the Central Library in Belfast by the Curator of the Irish Studies, Linda Greenwood. Dates to follow. James Davidson, Vice President, GSI, 4, Priory Close, Lambeg, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

#### SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Genealogical Society of Ireland website <http://welcome.to/GenealogyIreland> features articles, downloadable lists, full info. on our publications and you can JOIN the GSI on line using your Credit Card

**FOURTH IRISH GENEALOGICAL CONGRESS** will be returning to Trinity College Dublin between the 17<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2001. Checkout the Congress website: <http://indigo.ie/~irishgc> and more importantly, to book early to attend what will be a most exciting and informative occasion. Irish Genealogical Congress, c/o NAI, Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.

*Don't leave it too late!!!*

#### "GAELIC KNIGHTS"

In the last issue we carried a piece on the fact that former Taoisigh (Prime Ministers), **Charles J. Haughey** and **Albert Reynolds**, T.D. were recipients of "The MacCarthy Mór" "honours" of Gaelic knighthood - *Niadh Nask*. The question was asked whether this was in conflict with Article 40.2.2. of the Irish Constitution - "*No title of nobility or honour may be accepted by any citizen without the prior approval of the Government*" and further, was the approval of the Government sought and was it given? In practice, though, not covered by statute, the State has had no interest in Irish citizens receiving "honours" from non-sovereign entities, however, permission is required when "honours" are conferred by foreign governments. Is it not strange, given the possible embarrassment that could be caused to the State, that "honours" and "titles" from the pretenders to the various defunct thrones of Ireland's European Union partners like Austria, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Portugal are not covered by this prohibition? Maybe, countries within the EU should allow their citizens to accept "honours" from other EU States given the free movement of peoples within the Union and the fact, that many EU citizens may spend their entire working lives in another EU country other than that of their citizenship. Anyway, no matter how we look at the issue, it seems that "knightships" from the ex-pretender to the "throne" of Munster are of no concern to the Government. Isn't that a relief? All our gallant "Gaelic knights" can rest easy now!!!