

The Genie Gazette

The Newsletter of
the Genealogical Society
of Ireland
Volume 6 • Issue 3
March 2001

Cuimhnigí ar
Ár Sinnsir
Remember
Our Ancestors

EXPERT GROUP NOT NOW WARRANTED

U-Turn by Minister on "Bogus" Chiefs Enquiry

On October 17th last, Mr. Enda Kenny, T.D. (Mayo) received assurances from Minister de Valera that her department was drawing up terms of reference and considering the possible membership of an expert group to examine the whole issue of the "bogus" chiefs. Indeed, as reported in our January 2001 issue, when Mr. Eamon Gilmore, T.D. (Dún Laoghaire) asked the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands on December 14th 2000 if she has considered the case for the introduction of an Irish Genealogy and Heraldry Bill, and referred to the scandal of the "bogus" chiefs, the Minister, Ms. de Valera, T.D. 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 1940's whereby 'courtesy recognition' of chiefs of the name is granted by the Genealogical Office". The Genie Gazette warmly welcomed the Minister's decisive action and hoped that this would herald the end of the "bogus" chiefs whose actions had brought the whole issue of Gaelic chiefs-of-the-name into ridicule. However, on February 21st 2001, in reply to a parliamentary question tabled by Mr. Jack Wall, T.D. (Kildare), Ms. de Valera said that "the Deputy will be aware from a reply to

a previous parliamentary question of my stated intention to establish a committee of experts". But astonishingly the Minister continued "having considered the matter further however, I have decided that the establishment of such a committee is not warranted at this time, bearing in mind that decisions made in recent times regarding the granting of courtesy recognition are being reviewed by the Director of the National Library, in his capacity of Chief Herald.". The Minister's apparent u-turn on the establishment of this "expert group" concluded in a most curious fashion saying "consideration is being given by the director to ways in which control may be exercised over persons offering recognition, effectively for financial consideration." This last line of her reply to Deputy Wall certainly raises more questions than it answers and, no doubt, actually strengthens the case for a full enquiry into the issue of "bogus" chiefs recognised by the Chief Herald of Ireland during the 1980s and 1990s. Genealogists interested in a genuine recognition of the heritage value of Gaelic chiefs will look to the present Chief Herald, Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue, for decisiveness and transparency in his investigations into the circumstances by which "bogus" chiefs were accorded official recognition by his

predecessors. His determination to put in place mechanisms to prevent a reoccurrence is undoubted, however, confidence in any new procedures will only be forthcoming with the publication of the findings of the "bogus" chiefs enquiry.

GSI CHAPTER OF ONE-NAME STUDIES

The Society, in recognition of the growing interest in one-name studies in Ireland, has decided to establish a Chapter of the GSI devoted to the promotion of Irish One-Name Studies. Emanating from a suggestion by Dr. Lorcán O'Flannery, the Chapter would seek to attract membership amongst the Clans of Ireland movement and Irish based members of the UK based Guild of One-Name Studies. One-Name Studies is a well established feature of genealogy in Great Britain for a number of years, however, it is relatively new amongst genealogists in Ireland. The Clans of Ireland movement has, for many, provided their first introduction to Irish One-Name Studies. However, it is envisaged that the Chapter will have to define Irish One-Name Studies and provide guidelines for such as there are many differences between Irish One-Name Studies and the already well defined English counterpart. Before calling an inaugural meeting of the Chapter of Irish One-Name Studies, it is necessary to establish the true level of involvement by Irish genealogists in Irish One-Name Studies. Therefore, those wishing to join this Chapter of the GSI, whether presently undertaking One-Name Studies or wishing to embark on such, are invited to contact Michael Merrigan on e-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie with details of the surname(s) concerned, name and address etc. It is hoped that a meeting will be arranged in the near future or as soon as the present FMD restrictions are lifted.

DIARY DATES**EVENING MEETINGS****Monday 12th March 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: Paula O'Kelly**Topic: "Dublin People & Places in the
early 20th century"***Monday 9th April 2001**

Evening Open Meeting.

Venue & Time: *as above**Speaker: Muiris Ó Raghail**Topic: "County Library Sources"***Monday 14th May 2001***Speaker: Síobhán O'Rafferty**Topic: "Royal Irish Academy Sources"***MORNING MEETINGS**Wednesday Mar. 28th & Apr. 25th 2001

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs

The Port View Hotel, Marine Road,
Dún Laoghaire.

Discussion Group on Family History

OUR GENIE UPDATES...**SPRING CONFERENCE**

The Society has abandoned plans to organise a Spring conference this year due to the measures taken nationally to prevent the spread of Foot & Mouth Disease to the Republic from either Northern Ireland or Great Britain. Unfortunately, many events throughout the island of Ireland have been cancelled or severely curtailed, most notably, the abandonment of the St. Patrick's Day parades in Dublin and other centres. The Board will review the position as the situation develops, however, it looks likely that the annual conference may be held, as previously, during Heritage Week in September.

COASTAL PLAN

The "Coastal Plan" prepared by the community tourism company, Dublin's Riviera Ltd. has received widespread support in its call for the establishment of a Municipal Museum and Art Gallery in Dún Laoghaire. Amongst the points raised by the plan is the Society's plans for the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin. The full text plan is now available on line at www.dublinsriviera.com/coastalplan

A HUNDRED YEARS ON

This month will be the 100th anniversary of the taking of the earliest complete Census of Ireland. Earlier census returns were either destroyed in the fire at the Public Records Office in 1922 or by pulping during the

First World War. On March 31st 1901 the Census recorded the population of the island of Ireland as 4,458,775 or just slightly over half the number recorded in the first reliable Census of Ireland taken on June 6th 1841. The Society has undertaken to publish the complete index to this Census for what is now the Greater Dún Laoghaire area. Already, Blackrock is published with the volumes for Kingstown, Dalkey etc. coming on-stream later in the year. Sponsorship for the publication of these volumes has been sought without, thus far, any success. George H. O'Reilly, the Editor of the Irish Genealogical Sources series, stresses the great benefit these publications are to the furtherance of Irish genealogical research and, in particular, the immense value of these indexes to the 1901 Census are to genealogy. In doing so, George invites persons to sponsor a publication and possibly, to do so in the name of a loved-one or an ancestor. Interested? Contact George on e-mail: ghore@eircom.net

NORTHERN NOTES

James Davidson, GSI Representative in Northern Ireland invites members and friends to join him and the Federation of Ulster Local Studies at the Priory, Benburb, Co. Tyrone on Saturday 12th May 2001 for a day conference organised as part of the Kinsale 1601-2001 commemoration. Speakers etc. to be finalised. Benburb is on the County Tyrone bank of the River Blackwater about 15 minutes outside the city of Armagh – the ecclesiastic capital of Ireland. For further information contact:- Federation of Ulster Local Studies, 18, May Street, Belfast, BT1 4NL, Northern Ireland. E-mail FULSLTD@aol.com The main events to mark the 400th anniversary of this important battle are being organised by the Kinsale UDC, Kinsale, Co. Cork – Website: www.kinsale2001.com

GSI SPRING JOURNAL

The Spring 2001 issue of the Quarterly Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland is now available - (IRP3.50 + postage). Edited by Brendan Hall jhall@indigo.ie this issue has a total of 64 pages with the following articles:- Edengora School, Co. Meath, Pupils 1865 - 1905 - compiled by Pat Callery from a register donated to the Society by Fr. Seán Cassidy, C.C.. (This is a full alphabetical listing with age, address, father's occupation, former school etc. extracted from one of the School Registers held in the Society's Archive). Tracing Medical Ancestors in

the Archives of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland by Mary O'Doherty, Archivist RCSI. (An overview of the sources available in the Library of the RCSI for those tracing Medical ancestors. - <http://www.rcsi.ie/library>). Notes on the Skellys of Drogheda and Nugents of St. Croix by Gerald Conan Kennedy (Included in this article is the text of the Last Will & Testament of William Skelly of Drogheda - 1833 - surnames: Skelly, Chadwick, McCann, McDermott, Nicholas, Montgomery, Skellon, Smith, Archbold, Shegog, Fogarty, Fairthough, Callaghan, Nugent, Coleman, Lantaigne, Kenny, O'Neil and O'Regan). Book Review by Brendan Hall - "A Desperate Set of Villains" by Barbara Hall of Australia. (Account of the prisoners onboard the "Marquis Cornwallis" that departed Cork for Australia in 1795). The Battle of Vinegar Hill, Index by Sean Kane - From The Battle of Vinegar Hill Australia's Irish Rebellion, 1804, by Lynette Ramsey Silver. (Very useful list as there was no index of names to this work). Making our Peace with History by Michael Merrigan (A commentary on the teaching of history in Ireland and the dearth of Irish period drama films in comparison to those depicting English, Scottish or American history. Also mentioned the Kinsale 1601-2001 <http://www.kinsale2001.com>). The Wild Irish? By G. H. O'Reilly (An interesting account of criminality in 19th century Ireland and a comparison with England & Wales during the same period). A Letter from the Front, December 1915 (Text of a letter from Richard Bird, DSO, to Mr. Franks, Estate Agent of the Coote Estate in Mountrath, Co. Laois. Original in the GSI Archive). The Mutiny of the North Tipperary Militia 1856 by Brendan Hall. (An account of the mutiny in Summerhill Barracks in Nenagh, Co. Tipperary in July 1856 - surnames mentioned include Maude, Scanlon, Burns, Curley, Barron, Hort, Young, Cummins, Carr, Ryan, Laffan, Chatterton, Gibbons, Curley, Touhy, Tracy, Foster, Trumpane, Gleeson, Deveraux, Cole, Cauley, Skelton, Kelly, Bunbury, Nolan, Bennett, Fleming and Maher). Relief of Distress in Ireland 1847 by Annette McDonnell (An account of the relief committee of the Society of Friends at Shinrone, Co. Offaly during the Famine in 1847. A list of 37 recipients of clothes etc.). Memorial of the Tenantry of Cashel, Co. Monaghan, 1848 by Frieda Carroll (A petition

addressed to Mrs. Hamilton Stubbers and S.R. Smyth, her son, by their tenantry and the various replies etc. Original held in the GSI Archives). Burys in and out of Dublin by Carol Sastradipradja and Vic Argyle (An account of the Bury families of Dublin, Cork and Australia). People of the Irish Diaspora compiled by Annette McDonnell (Short biographies of persons of Irish descent from around the world. Annette invites members and friends to submit biographies of persons born in Ireland who emigrated and made a mark in their chosen profession in their adopted land. Contact Annette on mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com to include a biography of one of your ancestors in the next issue of the GSI Journal). Checkout the Society's Website <http://welcome.to/GenealogyIreland> for this and other publications by the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

FOURTH CONGRESS The 4th Irish Genealogical Congress will be held between the 17th and 23rd of September 2001 in Trinity College Dublin. Early booking is advisable. Contact the Irish Genealogical Congress, c/o National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Ireland or via the Website: <http://indigo.ie/~irishgc> for details.

QUERIES RECEIVED

Don Wilt, E-mail: EDONWILT@aol.com
Wrote:- I have found this reference in the Durham Center Museum, Rt. 145, East Durham, NY 12423, Book 2 by Mrs. Rossi: Quote: "Hannah Chavalier married 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." Can you tell me of any colleges that this John Barr could have been attending prior to his coming to the US. Mr. Barr was in the American Revolution from about 1777 to 1782. I sent an e-mail to the Trinity College Alumni, but they could not find any record of John Barr having attended there.

Steve Petherbridge, E-mail: steve@petherbridge.com
Wrote:- Family folklore has it that the Petherbridges came from Brixham with the Brusey family in the early 1800's with tramp steamers and/or trawlers with a "contract to catch herring for the British occupying forces" settling in Kingstown. Rumour has it that we were Pilgrim Brethren or of Protestant Evangelical stock. There were also subsequent marriages here in Dublin between the Brusey and Petherbridge and Murdiffe families. There are definite links with the sea and these were maintained in future generations - my great grandfather was a

harbour master here in Dublin and my grandfather was chief clerk at Dublin Port & Docks board. I have gained quite considerable info from Brixham and for recent generations. However, details from the arrival in Dún Laoghaire - early 1800's to 1900 are sketchy. I came across your superb web site while surfing the web here tonight and was wondering if you offer a search service. Alternatively, any guidelines would be appreciated as I enjoy trawling through records myself. Is there a centre in Dun Laoghaire for marine/mariner records?

Joan E. Lawler, E-mail:- joane@core.com
Wrote:- I have a relative that came to America in 1746. His name was Patrick Coyle and was from Ulster, Ireland. He was born in 1726. Is there anyway I can find out anymore information on him while he was in Ireland? Any help please.

Carol Gentry, E-mail: carol_gentry58@hotmail.com
Wrote:- I am researching the Allen surname. My great grandparents Robert Loughheed Allen and Anna Mary nee Mc Cullagh set up a school at Carrigbrae in the 1920's. It is situated on Vevay and Church Roads, Bray, Co Wicklow. Does anyone remember the school and could anyone tell me if the building is still standing and in use. Thank you for any help.

Megan Flynn Dove, E-mail: megandove3@home.com
Wrote:- I am having a terrible time tracking my Great great grandfather. John Peter Flynn born July 1, 1845 in Dublin Ireland moved to the US between about 1850-1855 married 1869 to Anna Maria Basselgia, Salem, New Jersey (no marriage application exists) death 1918 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (no parents names give on death record) I haven't been able to pinpoint his port of entry. Is there any way to get a birth certificate with his date and not having parents names or Parish?

Jane O'Brien, E-mail: geeshondunree@worldnet.at.net
Wrote:- Looking for relatives from Lucan area. Grandfather was William Reeves married Elizabeth Daly of Monkstown 1894 at St. Patrick's, Monkstown. Don't know if William Reeves was English or not because he was of the Church of Ireland while grandma was Catholic. Appreciate any help given.

John and Maryann Little, 10251 Cleveland Rd., Sidney, B.C. V8L 4X9, Canada. E-mail: littlejm@home.com
Wrote:- Looking for some guidance or ideas on obtaining information on an ancestor and family. What I have is a baptism certificate : John Joseph Harrison, born: Parish of Annaduff, County Leitrim, July 6, 1855. Parents: Henry Harrison and Anne - ?? He emigrated to Canada, date not known. Any assistance appreciated.

Gwen Munday, E-mail: munday@smartchat.net.au
Wrote:- My G.Grandmother's name was Mary Smith. She came to Australia at the age of 25 in 1885. Born 1860. She gave her religion as Church of England but I doubt this. My Mother feels she

was educated in a convent, and her Mother was a Roman Catholic. Her Mother, Catherine Smith followed her to Australia in 1887. I suspect that Catherine's husband William must have died between Mary coming and Catherine's departure. Catherine's maiden name was Dignam and she was born in Neath in 1834. She married William in Dublin in 1855. According to her death certificate 2 other children died. I have a photograph taken in 1879 in Sackville Street by a professional photographer of Mary and Catherine. In my research at the L.D.S. I have found a reference to a William Smith paying rent at 37 Sackville St. Dublin. This is from Griffith's valuation 1848-to 1864. I suspect this could be my family. I also found reference to a William Smith registering as a carpenter in 1859 with St. Joseph's Building Society Kingston. As William was a carpenter I thought this may be him. I am wondering what Roman Catholic Parish Catherine and William may have been married at and as well Mary christened at. Also the burial of William. I understand this research is difficult, but thought it worth at least asking advice.

Ken Parks, E-mail:- kparks@bwsys.net
Wrote:- Seeking info. on James Wherland, wife Louisa Crowe d. 21 Jan 1845. Lived at Warren Place, Cork Ire. Was a Colonel in the 2nd Cork Regiment, British Army. I have information on his family but nothing on him. Will be glad to share information I have on the American families. Also spelt Wherland over here. Have been trying for years to trace down this g.g. grandfathers parents and where they came from. If anyone would like some Minnesota information I can advise them on that. At the present time I am living in Kewanee, Illinois, USA.

Eduardo Molina, E-mail: DARYBREN@webtv.net
Wrote:- Searching for the genealogical roots of Samuel Slatery. This person went to Guatemala, Central America in the last decades of 1800. He married and had children in that area, also he died in this country. All I know is that he came from England or Ireland, his relatives are willing to find more about him, therefore, I would appreciate any suggestions in this case.
Sharelle Kennedy Williams, E-mail: skw@c-gate.net
Wrote:- Hopefully, someone will be able to advise me as to which path to take (that is if there is a path). This is all the information that I have, so if anyone does decide to help me, it will be very much appreciated. William Henry Allen and his twin brother came to America to make their fortunes to buy their family out of serfdom. They had each made a thousand dollars, and was on their way back home when the ship caught fire and burned. They swam to shore, but lost their money. The twin went on back to Ireland, but William Henry would not go back empty handed. He ended up in South Carolina and took a job as overseer on a plantation. The owner of the plantation was a Mr. Price. William Henry Allen married the daughter of

Mr. Price. The trouble was, the daughter was only twelve years of age, and William Henry was around forty. They had to leave South Carolina to keep Mr. Price from killing him. William Henry and Frances Amanda were found on the 1860 census of Clarke Co. AL. They had two sons born there. The first being my great grandfather, John Harrison Allen born 22 Aug 1854. About two years later William Thomas Allen was born, then they were found in Lauderdale Co. Mississippi in the 1870 census. A daughter, Missouri Allen, was born c. 1859/60. My grandmother and her siblings told us that William Henry Allen was one of fifteen (15) boys. The eldest being a single birth followed by seven sets of twins. Shouldn't this be some sort of record?? .

James V. Shanahan, 37, Highland Drive, Wallingford, CT., 06492, USA. Wrote: Seeking information on the Shanahan and Hogan families of Monagay, Newcastle West, Co. Limerick, especially Malachi Shanahan, (1837-1902) son of Daniel; his wife Catherine Hogan (1833-1916) daughter of William and their son, John F. Shanahan (1853-1926). A Cornelius Hogan or Hagan was also related. Any info. please on these persons or descendants in Ireland much appreciated.

Bárbara Birmingham, E-mail: bbirmingham@unimoron.edu.ar Wrote:- Seeking information on her Greatgrandfather John Bermingham who was born in Lusk, Co. Dublin in 1854, his parents were Patrick Bermingham and Mary Ann (or Marianne) Sweetman. John emigrated to Argentina in the 1870s. In 1880 he married Bridgid Dowd, daughter of James Dowd and Mary Heery. Their son, James, married Brigida Carroll, daughter of Dennis Carroll from Lisnagree, Co. Westmeath, and Mary Agnes Murray. Bárbara also requests information on the biography of Sir James Bermingham, from Ballough, whose tomb is inside the Round Tower of Lusk.

Linda Maybury Smith of Woodhurst, Coldharbour Lane, Pyrford, Woking, Surrey GO22 8SL seeks information on her Greatgrandfather, Charles John Maybury (b. 29 Dec. 1842, d. 6 Oct 1900) and his wife Lizzie Jane Williams (b. 15 Jan 1849, d. 2 Feb 1914), they were married on 25 Nov. 1869. They lived in Kenmare, Co. Kerry and owned a tweed mill and or shop.

Carol Hudson, E-mail: hudster2000@yahoo.com Wrote: Seeking info. on Lucas B. Heal, born in Ireland in 1835. Immigrated to America, year unknown. According to the American Civil War Register, he was living in Massac County, Illinois when he enlisted, on October 19, 1861, in the Army, fighting for the North. He mustered out of the Army in Little Rock, Arkansas in October 1865. Two children were born in Illinois - my great-grandmother, Emma in 1868 and a son, William E. in 1873. The next child I have a record of is Alice, born in Arkansas in 1877. So sometime between 1873 and 1877, he moved his family to Washington County, Arkansas. Lucas was listed as a resident in the

Fayetteville, Arkansas City Directory of 1920. Lucas B. Heal died in Dec. 1925, and is buried in the Fayetteville, Arkansas National Veteran's Cemetery. I have no record of any of his family, either in Ireland or America.

LAUNCH OF ENGLISH ORIGINS

Origins.net in conjunction with the UK based Society of Genealogists launched a new service similar to the pay-for-view Scots Origins service. The initial databases are of English records from 1568 to 1850, including, Vicar-General Marriage Licence Allegations Index (1694-1850); Faculty Office Marriage Licence Allegations Index (1701-1850); Bank of England Will Extracts Index (1717-1845); London City Apprenticeship Abstracts (1568-1850); London Consistory Court Depositions Index (1703-13) and Archdeaconry Court of London Wills Index (1700-1807). Other records that will be added over the year will be Boyd's Marriage Index - over 6 million records; Apprentices of Great Britain (1710-74) - over 600,000 records; Boyd's Inhabitants of London (14th-19th centuries) - 60,000 families; Boyd's London Burials - 50,000 names and the Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills (1750-1800) - 333,000 records. Access to English Origins on the Internet is by Credit Card payment of Stg£6.00 per 48 hours continuous use. Hard copies can be ordered on-line at Stg£10.00. A free surname search facility is available to determine any potentially interesting records for a given surname. Checkout the Website: www.englishorigins.com For genealogists in Ireland can this be a sign of things to come here with the review of the GRO - only time will tell.

EXECUTION

Anyone with info on the execution on 28 February 1820 possibly in Swords, Co. Dublin of Laurence Donnelly (age 28), George Kerby (age 23) and James Crawley (age 24) ? Burial entry bears the comment - 'Executed for Crows Castle'. Contact George O'Reilly on Tel. 01.8314475 : E-mail:- ghore@eircom.net

CORRECTION

In the last issue the e-mail address provided for Godfrey Duffy was incorrect. The correct e-mail address for Godfrey is godfr2000@yohoo.com By the way, Godfrey is seeking information on sources for the 1798 Rebellion in Co. Kilkenny. Details of publications etc. sought.

EURO CHANGEOVER

There are only nine months remaining before Ireland sees the introduction of Euro notes and coins on January 1st 2002. 11 other member states of the European Union, excluding the UK, Denmark and Sweden, will do likewise. The GSI will keep our Overseas Members informed with leaflets on the changeover to Euro notes and coins.

ARTIST IN DUBLIN

Have you located your ancestral home in Ireland? Why not commission a line drawing or painting for your home, office or as a gift to a member of the family? Veronica Heywood is a renowned artist and arts educator based in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Veronica undertakes such commissions from genealogists the world over. Why not drop her a line at 38, Cross Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Telephone +353.1.2803204 or e-mail: localartist@ireland.com Examples of Veronica's work are on the Website <http://indigo.ie/~kfinlay/General/heywood.htm> A painting is the ideal gift!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS

Overseas Members will be receiving their new Membership Cards with this issue of The Genie Gazette. The front of the card has the Society's heraldic badge granted by the Chief Herald of Ireland. This "Mungovan Badge" will appear on the GSI publications etc. following receipt of the Letters Patent from the Chief Herald later this month. This will be the formal document granting the Coat-of-Arms and the Heraldic Badge to the Society.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS

Following a number of inquiries about overseas membership renewal dates the position is: Overseas members who have joined the society since 1st January 2000 have their membership year calculated on the basis of twelve calendar months from the date they joined e.g. suppose you joined on 14th March 2000, then your membership fees will fall due on 1st April every year. Overseas members who joined the society before 1st January 2000 will have their membership year calculated from the date of their most recent payment and thereafter membership fees will fall due on that date every year e.g. if your last payment was on 20th August 2000, then your membership fees will fall due on 1st September every year from now on. All overseas members will be notified, in advance, of their renewal dates. Annette McDonnell, Membership Officer