News from the World of Genealogy & Heraldry

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The Benie Betzette

Warmer Committee Com

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"Camboisi

ar Ár Siddsir"

GENEALOGY IN IRELAND – TIME TO TAKE STOCK

Minister Síle de Valera, TD, Urged to Co-ordinate Policy & Resources

As another long summer recess is just about to commence for our parliamentarians, undoubtedly it will be the last such break before the General Election, observers should take stock of the state of Irish genealogy since 1997 – the year the present government came into office.

Genealogy & Legislation

The previous administration had enacted important legislative measures such as The Heritage Act, 1995 - which, established the Heritage Council in its present form and included genealogy, for the first time, as part of its remit. Also, The National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 - which, covered the National Library and the Genealogical Office and, again for the first time, established a firm legislative basis for the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland.

Rancour and Controversy

However, despite the rancour and controversy surrounding the initial plans for the Genealogical Office. these two pieces of legislation offered a framework for the structured development promotion of genealogy in Ireland. The fullest implementation of the provisions relating to genealogy was to be facilitated by a proposal by the Minister, Michael D. Higgins, T.D. the Seanad in 1996, commission a nation-wide inventory genealogical activity, organisations, resources and services in Ireland.

National Survey

Stemming from this Society's proposal presented to the Minister by Senator Paschal Mooney, this survey was a golden opportunity for Irish genealogy, however, the original objective was muddied, over a year later, in the terms of reference produced by the Heritage Council. Indeed, the Heritage Council's final report on genealogical services in Ireland was so divorced from its original objective that it was totally rejected by Minister de Valera, T.D., and the Directors of the National Library and National Archives. The Heritage Council's proposal for a "Pay-for-View" family research facility in Dublin is now firmly buried, however, the burning issue of a lost opportunity for Irish genealogy is not. No explanation as to how the Heritage Council got its brief so badly wrong was ever released nor indeed, was any apology offered to Minister and the genealogical community for wasting time and tax-payers' money on the production of its "Pay-for-View" proposal.

Heritage Centres

The roller-coaster delivery of service by the Heritage Centres has not recovered from the disastrous findings of the 1996 Value-for-Money Report into the Irish Genealogical Project undertaken by the Comptroller & Auditor General. Despite further monies being allocated by Minister de Valera to Irish Genealogy Limited, the decline

in the level of service, the hours of operation and the absence of any progress on the eventual completion of the project has continued to plague the IGP.

Recruiting Retirees

Reports that the Heritage Centres may have to recruit retirees, as volunteers, to keep open is a worrying development. Indeed, it ignores the real problems facing the IGP and fails to offer any long-term solution such as the incorporation of the Heritage Centres into the Public Library Service in each area. Irish Genealogy Limited - the state funded company promoting commercial genealogy in Ireland is unique amongst such promotional companies. For example, unlike Dublin Tourism Ltd. etc., the beneficiaries of the activities of IGL, are not required to contribute realistically towards the costs of running the company, therefore, little concern is afforded to IGP/IGL cost effectiveness by the stakeholders. Whether any lessons have been learned from the 1996 Report - time will tell.

Roscommon Experiment

With the on-going debacle over the General Register Office in Dublin, including the high-jacking of the "Roscommon Experiment" by the Department of Social, Community & Family Affairs with the resultant sham consultation process, we're no nearer to a solution or to the provision of greater access to the records of the GRO.. The Directors

of the National Library and the National Archives, have advised the Minister that, greater access to all our genealogical resources, including those of the GRO, could be achieved by investment in the improvement of existing services at the National Library and National Archives. This was exactly the point made by this in its "Regional Society North/South Proposal on the Records of the General Register Office, Dublin" published in January last

"Bogus" Chiefs Inquiry

The "bogus" chiefs inquiry has been put on hold awaiting the Attorney General's opinion on a legal morass surrounding the "de-recognition" of Gaelic Chiefs. The establishment of Committee Advisory the Genealogy & Heraldry, as envisaged by the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, proposed in this Society's submission on the Bill, is still on the back burner and therefore, on a number of issues no real movement has been evident over the past four years. This is a far cry from Ms. Síle de Valera's commitment in her February 1997 policy document "Caring for Our Heritage" published she was Opposition Spokesperson. Where's the vision? Where's the co-ordination of policy?

A New Beginning?

The Society, once again, urges the Minister, Ms. Síle de Valera, T.D, to re-engage in the search for the coordination of policy in the provision of genealogical services in Ireland. Firstly, by commissioning a new report from the Heritage Council on the actual position of state, commercial and voluntary involvement in genealogy in Ireland and secondly by establishing a Forum on Genealogy & Heraldry to assess the present situation, invite submissions and make recommendations. Then finally, by establishing an Inter-Departmental Group to examine the merits of introducing an Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill to give effect to the recommendations of the Forum. The Minister's achievement of the above within a fixed timeframe would be beneficial to all concerned with Irish genealogy and heraldry. Minister it's over to you!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

The Board and Members of the Society send our warmest best wishes to our most senior Member, Sr. Bernadette de Lourdes Wisley, O.Carm who celebrated her 94th birthday on July 3rd 2001. Born Kathleen Wisely in Dublin in 1907, Sr. Bernadette has been a member of the Society since 1991 and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Martello Tower project. As an accomplished writer and advocate of the independence and dignified care of our senior citizens, Sr. Bernadette, is a frequent visitor to our shores.

DIARY DATES EVENING MEETINGS Monday 9th July 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: Teresa Moriarty

Topic: "Labour History Society Records"

Monday 13th Aug. 2001

Evening Open Meeting.

Venue & Time: as above

Speaker: Michael Merrigan

Topic: "One Name Studies in Ireland"

Inauguration of GSI Chapter for

One-Name Studies.

MORNING MEETINGS
Wednesday July 25th & Aug. 22td 2001
Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs
The Port View Hotel, Marine Road,
Dún Laoghaire.

Discussion Group on Family History

YOUR JULY GENIE UPDATES...

ARMS OF THE SOCIETY The Chief Herald of Ireland will formally present Letters Patent confirming the Grant of Arms to the Society at a reception to be held in the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire later this month. The Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will host the event to mark the occasion and members will be invited to attend. In the meantime, members should have received their new Membership Cards by now featuring the Society's heraldic badge granted by the Chief Herald of Ireland. This "Mungovan Badge" will appear on the GSI publications etc. following formal receipt of the Letters Patent. It is hoped that Barbara Mungovan Koch MGSI and her father, in whose honour the heraldic badge is named, will be in Dublin on July 23rd for the presentation. Our Autumn Journal will carry the Society's Arms, Banner and Badge on the cover of this special edition published to mark the 4th Irish Genealogical Congress in TCD in September

NOW AT NUMBER 25 Gen. Sources No. 25 "History of the Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin" (ISBN 1 898471 91 6) Price Ir£8.00 €10.16 (postage IRL & UK Ir£1.00 €1.27elsewhere Ir£3.00 €3.80 & Airmail Ir£4.00 €5.08). Edited by G. H. O'Reilly, MA, FRSAI, MGSI. This is the history of a forgotten place and, perhaps, a forgotten group of people. Both the pupils, of whom there were thousands over the years from 1770 to 1922, and the staff, are rarely mentioned as such in the history books. Yet, this school founded by people concerned with the large number of orphans in Dublin, in particular those who were orphaned because of the many wars which took place in the early 18th century. was the first of its kind in either Ireland or Later on other England at that time. schools were established on similar grounds elsewhere in the then "British Isles". Unfortunately, most of the records of the School were destroyed in England during the Second World War. The book includes a history of the School, lists of pupils and staff from the 1901 and 1911 Census Returns, lists of the memorial inscriptions in the adjoining graveyard (opened in 1851), list of deaths from 1851, rules of the establishment, etc.

CEMETERY PROJECT Whilst. thanking all the members who assisted with the transcription of the memorials in the Friends' (Quaker) Graveyard in Blackrock on June 16th, the Society's Cemetery Project Officer, Barry O'Connor FGSI, invites members to register as volunteers to transcribe the memorial inscriptions in various graveyards in Dublin during the Summer. Barry also needs data-input volunteers. Please contact Barry on e-mail btoc@esatclear.ie or the Hon. Secretary (address below). Vol. 5 of the Memorials of Dean's Grange Cemetery (West Section) will be out at the end of the Summer and Vol. 2 of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown is well on the way according to Barry O'Connor -Cemetery Project Officer. Again, congratulations to Barry and his team!!

WOMEN'S STUDIES REVIEW National University of Ireland in Galway has published Vol. 7 of "Women's Studies Review" centring on Oral History and Biography. Amongst the topics covered are: ORAL HISTORY- Experiencing of Supervising Undergraduate Oral History Research by Maura Cronin; Singular Identities; Managing Stigma, Resisting Voices by Anne Byrne; Oral Research in Ballyconneely by Terri Conroy-Baker; 'We Taught & Went Home' - women teachers in Clare 1922-58 by Mary Kierse; and Oral History & Women's Household Work in Ireland 1922-1961 by Caitriona Clear. BIOGRAPHY - Mary Strangeman (1872-1943); Tesesa Deevy (1894-1963) and Lola Montez. WORK-IN-PROGRESS

includes Delia Kerrigan (1895-1963) by Liz Nolan and the ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW is "A Personal Account of Life in Inner City Dublin in the 1940s, 50s and 60s" by Kathleen Gormley. Vol. 7 is priced at Ir£10.00 €12.70 (postage IRLIr£2.00, EUR − Ir£3.00 and Ir£5.00 Worldwide from Women's Studies Centre, NUI, Galway, Éire. E-mail: wsc@nuigalway.ie Vivienne Batt, Co-ordinator.

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/~irishge for details. The Society will have a stand at the conference. Volunteers for the GSI stand contact Róisín Lafferty, PRO, on Tel: 01. 280 0894 to receive further information and times.

MARTELLO TOWER Members please note that recent newspaper reports that the Society has plans to demolish or relocate the bathing shelter abutting the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin are completely unfounded. No such plans ever existed. The Society's plans concern the Tower itself and cover restoration and refurbishment of the Martello Tower to house the Society's Archive.

"WILL YOUR SOCIETY WELL" Making a Will is necessary for all with property, or so the good legal advice goes, however, have you made any provision for your research? "Will Your Society Well" was the plea by the Society, since its foundation, to members and friends encouraging them to make provision for their own genealogical, heraldic, historical books, files and papers in their Will & Last Testament. Donating such items to the Society ensured their preservation for future generations, however, should provision already exist for such items, providing for the Society financially through a small legacy to one or other of our Funds was encouraged. Think of us now - please!!!

NUNS REGISTER Work is continuing on this important project, however, Clare Malone, would welcome assistance from Irish based members, especially in the inputting of the records. Each record is 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. If you have details of a nun in your family please send details to Clare Malone, Registrar, GSI Nuns' Register, 90, Parnell Road, Dublin 12, Ireland.

NORTH OF THE BORDER The N. Ireland Representative of the Genealogical Society of Ireland is our Vice-President, James Davidson, 4, Priory Close, Lambeg,

Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. James welcomes comments, news and suggestions from northern readers on matters concerning genealogy, heraldry or social history in Northern Ireland.

CIVIL REGISTRATION The GSI's submission on the Irish Government's consultation document "Bringing Civil Registration into the 21st Century" is published on the Society's Website as is the earlier "Regional & North/South Proposal on the Records of the General Register Office, Dublin".

SUMMER JOURNAL The Summer 2001 issue of the Society's Quarterly Journal Vol. 2 No. 2. is now available and offers its readers an array of very interesting articles. Simpson's Hospital; the Polley family of Belfast; Driving Offences in Dublin 1916: the Hibernian Magazine of 1783; the Catholic Oath of Allegiance of 1829; the Pile family annals; Deserted Children of Dublin; the Rev. Patrick Henry Kilduff: the Irish in N.E. England; the Irish in the Boer War; Louth emigrants to Canada & USA and much more besides in this 64 page edition. Copies available via the GSI Website, Price Ir£3.50 €4.45 (p+p IRL & UK Ir£1.00 €1.27 - others Ir£3.00 €3.80. Editor: Our Journal Editor, Brendan Hall, is seeking articles for future issues of the journal - e-mail: jbhall@indigo.ie

SHORT BIOGRAPHIES 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. 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 mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com or by mail to 4, Kippure Avenue, Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland.

NEW CURRENCY Ireland sees the introduction of Euro notes and coins on January 1st 2002 along with twelve other member states of the European Union, excluding the UK, Denmark and Sweden. During the month of June explanatory leaflets on the Euro were dispatched to each of our Overseas Members showing the design of the notes and coins, including a breakdown of the timetable for the changeover. A further despatch of leaflets will be undertaken by the Society in September or October. The Society is happy to assist Overseas Members with any queries on the new Euro currency.

QUERIES RECEIVED

BEATRICE BENTHAM Avenue, Denton, Manchester, M34 2BR, England. Wrote:- Here in England, the 1841 census has my Gt. Gt. Grandfather, Francis Redmond, aged 30, living in Manchester but, it also states him living in Liverpool before that as his son John was born there circa 1830/31. It also shows that he had a daughter Elizabeth born in Ireland, perhaps Dublin, about 1829. On the 1841/51/61 census, his occupation is a 'tailor'. Francis & Martha, his wife, poss. Sailed from Dublin and they may have been married there about 1828. My request is, does anyone know of any Tailor or Tailors' Apprentice Records on Unions in the early 1830 or before and, if so, where can they be found? Any info. please.

HOLLARN, E-mail: J. meanie2@hotmail.com Wrote:- I am a college student from the United States. I am taking a history class and as a class project we have been assigned to research our family history. My grandfather, Merl Joseph Hollarn, now deceased, was Irish. Now, the problem is that he really did not leave anything about his family or heritage behind. What we do know is that he was born in 1912, to a Dennis and Nora Hollarn, who were farmers. He was raised in Springfield, Ohio, here in the United States. What I do not know is if he was born here or in Ireland. If there is any assistance you could provide greatly appreciated.

RONALD RANSON. E-mail: ronald.ranson@ntlworld.com Wrote:- I'm looking for some tips. I'm getting nowhere in the search for the birthplace of my great grandfather JAMES JOHN (SEAMUS) RANSON. So I thought I might try writing to any RANSON I can find in Ireland. Is this a feasible project and is there any record of success in using this method? ANNE SPENCE, E-mail:-Aspence@btinternet.com Wrote:- I am researching Shannon and Hillis one I believe was a minister at Christchurch in Dublin and the Shannons came from County Monaghan. Any info. please.

LINDA CORBETT, 24, Coopers Lane, Bramley, Tadley, Hants, RG26 5BY, England. E-mail: loc123@lineone.net Wrote:- I am trying to trace my great-great-great-great-grandfather, James Corbett, who was born in Belfast in 1810. He travelled to England, married and settled in Ashton-Under-Lyne, Lancashire. I would like to trace his birth/baptism and his parents. I have located a James Corbett born in Ballyclaverty, Co. Antrim in 1810 – but I am not sure if it's the correct one. He died in 1886 in his 76th year tallying up with the 1881 census. Any info. please.

BOB JOHNSON, E-mail: bobnan@telusplanet.net Wrote: My great, great grandfather moved to Canada from

Ireland sometime in the mid 1800's. I have some information about him and his wife but nothing on his relatives. His name was George Johnston, born 1818 in Enniskillen. Died 6th of November 1911, Kinloss Twp., Bruce Co. Ontario, Canada and is buried in Ripley, Ontario. He was married to Eliza Irwin, born 10th of April, 1822 in Ireland. Died 18th of June, 1911, Kinloss Twp., Bruce Co. Ontario, Canada and is buried in Ripley, Ontario. They were married in Ireland in 1849. If anyone can pin down the dates and forward me information about the Johnston family, it would be a great help.

IAN ADAMS, E-mail:- irda@barclays.net Wrote:- My wife's ancestors had connections with Kilbogget House, which, later was better known as Watson's Nurseries in Killiney, Co. Dublin. Her grandmother's grandfather was John Benn Lane (1822-1893), who lived in Kilbogget house in his retirement. This house was also let to Lawrence of Arabia's parents for the winter season of 1886/7. Any connections to these families and the house, please?

ANNE TIERNEY. E-mail:annetierney@eircom.net Wrote:- I am tracing my family tree of the name of Leniston and I came across the name of Jane Leniston married to Michael Dalton, daughter Cathrine. Jane Leniston died on the 26th July 1995 Sallynoggin, Co. Dublin and was buried in Deansgrange Cmy.. on the 29th July. Could any of your members have any information on Jane Leniston. My father's from Crumlin Village, but I've traced my Great grand father to Donard Co. Wicklow and then he went to live in the long mile rd Dublin. He was married twice. There was three Leniston families in Donard each saving they were not related. but the name is unusual and not Irish, I think some where down the line we must be I have the three family trees. I'd like to know which one Jane Leniston came from. Anne Tierney (nee Leniston)

JASON COLEMAN, P.O.Box 6279, Beverly Hills, CA 90212-1279, USA, Ejacemail2@yahoo.com Wrote:-Upon referal by Mr. Ken Lennan, could I your members possibly assist me in the following: To locate the family and ancestry of the Donnybrook Fitz-Gerald's circa 1830. John Fitz-Gerald born 13 June 1827 Donnybrook son of Thomas T. Fitz-Gerald and Margaret Moore. Family tradition (rumour? hearsay) has it that they are affiliated with "the Duchess of Dublin" perhaps connected to Garret and Joan Fitz-Gerald of Donnybrook recent politicians or Edmund Fitz Gerald of Leinster, Lord Mayor?? Does anyone know if there is any connection? Family tradition emphasises the 2 word spelling Fitz Gerald. An early Thom's Directory shows Fitz Gerald family at Floraville and Dodder Row there are also some Moore families prominent By 1888. Thom's Directory has no Fitzgeralds under

nobility, gentry, etc. in Donnybrook and none in Floraville, Dodder Row not there and from a very quick skim down individual streets listed in Donnybrook (Pembroke Township) no others apparent. Religious affiliation is a mystery John appears to have been married in a Roman Catholic Cathedral in St. Louis, MO, USA However, later family members appear to be Methodist. One son married a daughter of Quaker heritage. John seems to have emigrated to America approximately 1848, perhaps with a sister. Any info. or suggestions much appreciated.

JAMES STEDMAN, E-mail: stedman@uthscsa.edu Wrote: My great grandparents, Denis Murphy and Bridget Grady, were born and married in Abbeyfeale, Co. Limerick in 1869 and emigrated to the US between then and 1873. Is there any way to locate relatives in Abbeyfeale who are descended from these families. Denis was born about 1848 to Denis Murphy. Bridget was born in 1849 to Patrick Grady. Any info. please.

GORDON WALTER, E-mail: gordonwalter@yahoo.com Wrote:- I am interested in researching one Hiram Cornelius, who came from Ireland (Dublin, I believe) in the early 1800s. Are there any online records? I don't see any simple way to do this. Can you help me out please?

GRAHAM BEARD, 28, Devonshire Rd, Salford, Manchester, M6 8HY, England. Email: gtcbeard@netscapeonline.co.uk Wrote: seeking any info on my great greatgrandfather, Peter Griffin, reportedly of Co. Tipperary. Had 3 children I know of: son, John Peter Griffin (b. approx. 1867; m. Hannah J. Davies 1890, then her sister Bessie in 1910; d. 1922 (Cheltenham); daughter Ellen Griffin (later Edwards lived in Torquay) and second daughter (name NK), a Catholic nun in Bristol. Peter Griffen's wife's name not known. Also, when he/they moved to England has not yet been established. Can anyone help, please.

GENEALOGY & MEDICAL RESEARCH

Among the pioneers of the application of genealogy to genetic research in aid of medical teams around the world, our colleagues in the Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies in England, have taken a further step and no seek the active co-operation of genealogists everywhere. The eminent physician, Dr. Paul R. Billings, Harvard Medical School, USA, remarked in a commentary to the Principal of The Institute more than a decade ago: "As a diagnostic tool, genealogy is and will remain essential to identify, in good time, individuals at risk from disorders that have an hereditary element, no matter how sophisticated molecular and other scientific techniques become." In 1999, Prof. Ian Humphery-Smith, formerly of Sydney

University, Australia, and of the Faculté de Médecine de Brest, Brittany/Breizh, was appointed to the Chair of Pharmaceutical Proteomics in the Netherlands at the University of Utrecht. The Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies launched a programme to assist geneticists working with Prof. Humphery-Smith in their work. Any family historian who has a proven Family Tree of four or more generations on each line and/or longevity for four or five generations is invited to apply to the Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies for participation in the research programme that will ultimately benefit generations to come. It will, according to the Institute, help to obviate the present necessity to experiment on animals in the development of medicines. The database will also provide a means of assisting those whose genealogical research may be blocked by adoption, lack of documentation or the inability to discover the place of origin of the family. It will become an invaluable research tool for historians as well as geneticists, according to Jeremy Palmer, Registrar with the Institute. Persons wishing to participate should, in the first instance, contact the Institute with their full name, address, telephone number etc. and the Institute will then supply each participant with forms and further details. Contact: The Institute of Heraldic & Genealogical Studies. Northgate. Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BA, England. Email: principal@ihgs.ac.uk Please mention "The Genie Gazette when applying for participation in this project.

ARTIST IN DUBLIN

Why not commission a line drawing or painting for your home, office or as a gift to a member of the family? Veronica undertakes such commissions from genealogists the world over. Studio:- 38, Cross Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Telephone +353.1.2803204 e-mail: localartist@ireland.com

ONE-NAME STUDIES a reminder!

The Society has decided to establish a Chapter of the GSI devoted to the promotion of Irish One-Name Studies. The formal launch of this Chapter will be held on the 13th August 2001 – see Diary Dates above. 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. It is envisaged that the Chapter will have to define Irish One-Name Studies and provide guidelines as there are many differences between Irish One-Name Studies and the English counterpart. Those wishing to join this Chapter are invited to contact me email: GenSocIreland@iol.ie with details of the surname(s) concerned.. MICHAEL MERRIGAN, Guild of One-Name Studies Rep. in Ireland Tel. - 353.1.284 2711