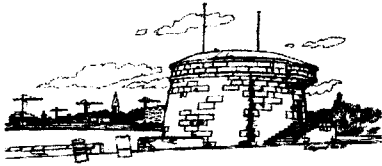


- **Our Victims Must be Heard**
- **Genealogy Courses at UCD**
- **Martello Tower Phase 2 Appeal Launched**

ISSN 1393-3183

Editor: E-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie TEL: +353.1.284 2711



The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of
the Genealogical
Society of Ireland
Volume 8 • Issue 9
September 2003



IRISH TRUTH & RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

Closing the Chapters on Painful and Shameful Aspects of Ireland's Past is Long Overdue

Genealogists and students of genealogy around the world realise and greatly appreciate the depth of our roots in our own country of origin. The connectivity we have with the wider population through the collateral lines of our family history research becomes very real to us.

"Strangers, Kith & Kin"

As we piece together the great family history jigsaw puzzle, linking and exploring our collateral lines on the maternal and paternal sides, strangers soon become our kith and kin, no matter how distant. We gradually kindle an interest in the social and local histories associated with these collateral lines and before long we discover the many tragedies, injustices and calamities endured by some of our distant kith and kin in Ireland over the past century. Shock, anger and disbelief soon spawn an empathy with an insatiable appetite for more information and, above all, redress for our victims of political, social or civil wrongs in Ireland, north and south.

"A Common Legacy"

As one of the quietest marching seasons in living memory in Northern Ireland comes to a peaceful end for another year, our thoughts are increasingly drawn to the victims of this long and cruel conflict. With thousands dead and many more maimed on all sides, talk or claims of justification, honourable causes, ideologies, territory and allegiances all pale into insignificance when the human toll in pain, suffering and grief is the only legacy common to all.

"Diversity is the Norm"

As genealogists, we also come to accept as a normal fact that our ancestry may

reveal several conflicting and deep-rooted allegiances steeped in a wide diversity of religious belief over many generations in the same family. This is especially true in the nine Ulster counties, though, it can and does arise throughout the country. The study of genealogy in Ireland, therefore, inevitably embraces all strands of our wonderfully diverse Irish genealogical heritage linking us all Protestant, Catholic and Dissenter.

"Other Painful Chapters Opened"

Whilst, the tragedy that befell the north of Ireland is known to students of Irish genealogy around the world, other painful chapters in our more recent past are possibly only known to those of us based in Ireland. Details of the hidden injustices and barbaric cruelties that were endured for years by countless women and children were only slowly emerging in the closing decades of the twentieth century. Investigative journalism coupled with the selfless bravery of a growing number of the former inmates of the Magdalene Laundries and the State's orphanages and industrial schools has belatedly forced modern Ireland to confront the horrors endured by many in these institutions.

"Shut Away, Shunned & Forgotten"

The Magdalene Laundries provided a dumping ground or more accurately a prison for unmarried pregnant women and girls in a morally obsessed and self righteous Ireland caught in a post independence religious straightjacket. Ireland's "fallen women" were faced with a confinement of backbreaking menial work designed to destroy their dignity and self worth. Infants born of these women were offered for adoption at home and

abroad, often in circumstances hardly believable in their wanton disregard for the rights of the child and the mother. Revelations regarding the abuse of the civil registration system to facilitate this practice continue to surface many decades later.

"In Death as In Life – Condemned"

Recent discoveries of discrepancies between the deaths recorded by the civil registration system and the burials at one Magdalene Home in Dublin have shocked the nation. On selling the land the Order requested permission to remove the remains of inmates buried on the property, however, reports suggest that many more bodies than those recorded have been exhumed. It seems that these unfortunate daughters and sisters of righteous and uncaring Ireland were in death, as in life condemned. When recording some of the deaths, only the institutional or "given name" of Magdalene this or that, was entered in their records. The ultimate dehumanising and humiliating act of depriving these women of their own personal names is reprehensible.

"Slave Labour in 20th Century Ireland"

Whilst, it could be argued that the Religious Orders that operated these institutions were only responding to the demands of a socially bankrupt society, their own lack of compassion and due care towards these women amounted to an intolerable injustice. "Amen, I say to you, whatever you shall do to the least of these my brethren, you have done unto me" how this wonderful statement from the gospel according to Matthew was ignored by so many running these institutions and for so long, defies belief. Profiteering by

the Orders from the exploitation of the near slave labour conditions in the Magdalene Laundries requires a financial recompense by the Religious Orders for the survivors of this horrific system. Just payment for their work in the laundries or in other operations should be based on the time served and payable at present day minimum wage rates.

"The Most Vulnerable"

Supreme amongst the most horrific civil wrongs committed by the State was the physical, mental and sexual abuse of children in orphanages and industrial schools operated by religious orders on behalf of the State. Vulnerable, innocent and lonely, children were routinely subjected to the most base sexual assaults by some of those in whose care they were placed by the civil authorities. Survivors of this system speak of shattered lives, difficult relationships as adults tormented by memories of a childhood devoid of the most basic of human needs, love, care and security.

"National Apology or Simply Words?"

An Taoiseach, Mr. Bertie Ahern, TD, back in 1999 gave reassuring and heartfelt words of apology on behalf of the Nation to the survivors of this disgraceful episode and promised measures of redress for the victims. Unfortunately these fine words ring hollow this month with the resignation of the chairperson of the commission established to inquire into the thousands of allegations of serious sexual abuse of children by individual members of the religious orders who operated these institutions on behalf of the State. If it emerges, as it seems it will, that Ms. Justice Mary Laffoy was obstructed by an uncooperative Minister and officials at the Department of Education causing her to resign as chairperson of the commission, then Minister Noel Dempsey has no other option but to consider his own position. The Department of Education could hardly be considered as a neutral broker on this issue as it was the organ of the State responsible for the care of these children and the management and funding of these institutions.

"Time for a Just & Dignified Closure"

Like the victims of the conflict in the North, the victims of Ireland's social and civil wrongs too require an honourable, dignified and healing closure. Adequate financial compensation for the victims of politically motivated violence, civil neglect occasioning physical and sexual abuse of children or the social prejudice

and denial of human rights to unmarried pregnant women is fraught with difficulty and may take decades to resolve through tribunals and the courts. Clearly a less adversarial system of remedy is required to address the complexities of these injustices committed, in some cases, many decades ago.

"A Lesson from South Africa"

There are valuable lessons to be learned from South Africa, a country that emerged from nearly a century of strife caused by the denial of civil and human rights to the majority of its people. They sought to bring about healing and reconciliation through the public interface between victim and oppressor at a *"Truth & Reconciliation Commission"*. Victims finally had the chance to tell their story and to face the past directly in a dignified and yet, very symbolic manner. For the victims of the conflict in the North this would be a matter for the British and Irish governments to act jointly in line with the Belfast Agreement. But for the former inmates of the Magdalene Homes and the other institutions, this State must act now.

"National Day of Atonement"

Since it is reported that many, if not the majority, of the former inmates of these homes left Ireland after their release to build new lives overseas, it is important for us as genealogists to seek an honourable and dignified closure for these members of the Irish Diaspora. Hopefully, some day they will be able to forgive Ireland and once again be proud of their heritage, culture and nation and pass on that connectivity to their own children. As a measure of our commitment is it not possible for modern Ireland to grasp the unique symbolism of Good Friday each year as an occasion for the institution of a much needed *National Day of Atonement* for the victims of our political, civil and social wrongs and injustice? A just, dignified and honourable closure to these decades of shame is now required for everybody's sake.

US DOLLAR RATE

The Board of the Society at its September meeting has adopted a new exchange rate for persons paying by check or cash in US dollars €1.00 = US\$1.15. This rate was originally US\$1.20 to the Euro. The Hon. Treasurer of the Society will keep the exchange rate under constant review. This new rate will be applied to all purchases and membership subscriptions. This is necessary to cover the conversion rate and bank charges. Alternatively why not pay by Credit Card – MasterCard or VISA via the Website?

JOINING THE SOCIETY

Just log on to the Website or write to the Membership Officer, **Annette McDonnell**, MGSJ, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland. You may also contact Annette by E-mail via the Secretary GenSocIreland@iol.ie. The Membership Subscription is €15.00 (US\$17.25) which should be forwarded to Annette or, if you wish, you can pay on-line at www.gensocireland.org using your Credit Card MasterCard. Membership of the Society is open to all with an interest in genealogy or heraldry. A laminated Membership Card featuring the Society's heraldic badge *"the Mungovan Badge"* as depicted on the GSI Livery Flag will be forwarded to you by mail.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday September 9th 2003

Evening Open Meeting, 20.00hrs
Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.

DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.

Speaker: Canon John Crawford

Topic: *"Tracing Your Family History in Church of Ireland Records"*

Tuesday October 14th 2003

Venue as above

Speaker: Mary Clark,

Topic: *"Dublin City Archives"*

Weds. Sep. 24th & Oct. 22nd 2003

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs
The Port View Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Discussion Group on Family History

*Contribution of €3.00 at each meeting
Coffee/Tea served at Morning Meetings*

MARTELLO TOWER APPEAL

Members and friends of the Society are invited to help with **Phase 2** of the project which, aims to fully equip the *"Family History Tower"* with the latest technology etc. One way of helping is to become a sponsor. Each sponsor will be named in the *Commemorative Book* to be published for the official ceremonial opening of *"An Daonchartlann"* in 2004 – the two hundredth anniversary of the building of the Tower. Patrons may have either their own name or that of a loved-one entered in this *Commemorative Book* and on a scroll that will be permanent memorial in the Tower. For just €100.00 (US\$115.00) per name, this is a special and worthy manner in which to remember an ancestor, to honour a friend or loved-one or to memorialise your family ties with Ireland. Another way of helping is to send what you can as donations no matter how modest are all very welcome. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the address below with details of the name or names to be entered on the scroll and published in the commemorative book to mark the official opening of *"An Daonchartlann"*.

A NOT SO ANCIENT ORDER, FICTITIOUS TITLES & NOW THE BLAME GAME

The news of the government's decision to withdraw courtesy recognition of Ireland's Gaelic Chiefs has been greeted with a large collective yawn by most genealogists tired of this long running and highly embarrassing affair. Untidy as the end was to this fifty-year old practice of the State recognising the hereditary chiefs, it was inevitable after the expose of Ireland's "bogus chiefs". The most notable of these "bogus chiefs" was "The MacCarthy Mór, Chief of the Name and Head of the Eóghanacht Royal House of Munster, Prince of Desmond and Lord of Kerslawney and Hereditary Head of The Niadh Nask". His fanciful pretensions to royal status involved the creation of an "ancient" Order of Chivalry called The Niadh Nask and the bestowing of titles on his supporters, defunct royalty and minor nobles anywhere. He even became a Colonel of the South Carolina State Guard and counted some former American State Governors like Carroll A Campbell of South Carolina and James E. Folsom of Alabama as members of the First Division of his newly created ancient Order. But the lure of McCarthy's ancient Order was not confined to American politicians, our very own Charles Haughey and Albert Reynolds, two former Taoisigh (Irish Prime Ministers) were members of The Niadh Nask too. Amongst the members of this Order were Albanian and Ethiopian princes of the former royal families of these countries, Orthodox prelates and retired American and Australian Army and Navy officers. Whilst, it is clear that very few, if any, of his supporters realised that there was not one shred of validity in any of his bestowed titles or honours. Some became Lords or Barons of places in Munster and others were enrolled in the Order or ennobled posthumously by Mr. McCarthy. One individual was admitted to this Order back in 1952 just a mere 40 years before Mr. Terence McCarthy was recognised by the Chief Herald as "The MacCarthy Mór" and amazingly some five years before the creator of the Order, McCarthy himself, was born. One hears of absolute monarchs and omnipotent princes but this stretches the imagination too far. Again, stressing that many of his supporters had no idea that this was all based on a claim without genealogical integrity by Mr. McCarthy to be an Irish

Chieftain. Recognition of his claim was withdrawn in 1999 by the current Chief Herald, Brendan O'Donoghue, however, the issue of the other Chiefs remained unchanged until now. It is a pity that it didn't happen earlier as it is a scandal that his claim was not fully investigated before recognition was granted in 1992. Most surprising of the few published reactions to the government's decision to withdraw recognition of the Gaelic Chiefs is contained in the current issue of "Irish Roots" magazine. In an article by Chevalier William F.K. Marmion he attacks the Office of the Chief Herald for "sloppy work and poor scholarship" and the Standing Council of Irish Chiefs for "being much more interested in maintaining its exclusivity" than dealing proactively with this issue. He then brings up the irrelevant and unrelated issue of non-hereditary elected Clan Chiefs and the battle that once raged between the hereditary Chiefs and the Clans of Ireland on "stylings (sic) for chiefs". He points to the Irish Peers Association regulating its own affairs as an example to the Standing Council. The Standing Council, he argues, should police its own ranks to include reconfirming the legitimacy of those previously under investigation by the Office of the Chief Herald. Whatever that means. He then insists that the gaelicised Norman families should have their "captains or chiefs" admitted to the Standing Council or else he declares, "*a Standing Council of Norman-Irish Captains-of-Nation will undoubtedly be formed*". He blames the Chief Herald's recognition of McCarthy for the resulting scam. However, not surprisingly in his article Mr. Marmion fails to refer to his own grandiose ennoblement by McCarthy as the "*Lord of Duhallow*" and his onetime membership of McCarthy's not so very ancient Order as published in "*The Niadh Nask - International Roll of Active Members, 1998.*" But then on reading the last paragraph of his article a glimpse of the true purpose of his writing becomes apparent. "*And the people with the biggest mouths over these recent years (whether they were right or wrong) are now silenced as there is nothing to criticise anymore, given that the government no longer will recognise anybody! The lowering of the noise level will be good for all our eardrums!*" Well, hell hath no fury like that of the rightly scammed and royally disgruntled fictitiously ennobled ones.

GRAPHIC FAMILY TREE SERVICE

**VISUAL ARTIST & GRAPHIC DESIGNER
OFFERS THIS SERVICE AT REASONABLE
AND AFFORDABLE COST**

Artist based in Dún Laoghaire will work with you to produce a beautiful graphic presentation of your Family Tree in full colour, with all your photographs of family members included. All you have to do is complete a standard family tree chart or Birth Brief and send all relevant photographs, clearly identifying the individuals as per the chart. Each person will be framed, and the complete document printed on a textured background, with Crests and any text you may require - you decide the level of information to be included. We will work in close consultation with you at all stages of the project. Costs are based on the number and quality of the images involved. Confidentiality and security guaranteed. We also specialise in Photographic Restoration. CONTACT Frankie Lee at 087.782 0932 or E-mail: frankiezee@eircom.net for more information and quotations.

Cllr. VINCENT MacDOWELL

With great sadness we report the death of a dear friend of the Society, Cllr. Vincent MacDowell, who passed away on Sunday morning August 31st 2003. He was an elected County Councillor on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and a member of the Irish Labour Party. Vincent was an author, publisher and businessman who was born in Newry in 1925, however, spent the last forty or so years of his very eventful life in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. At our Monthly Meeting held on July 9th 2002, Vincent delivered a fascinating account of his life "*on the long road from Hill Street, Newry*" which included internment, injustice and the fight for equality and civil rights in Northern Ireland. He was a delegate to the Forum for Peace and Reconciliation in Dublin Castle and was extremely active in many national and local campaigns on a range of issues from rights, heritage, Irish language, multi-denominational schooling in the Republic to environmental and especially, marine matters along Dublin's Riviera. Vincent was buried in Dean's Grange Cemetery after a funeral service in St. Michael's Church, Dún Laoghaire on Wednesday September 3rd 2003. The Society extends its sincere condolences to his widow Nora, his children, grandchildren and his many friends. RIP.

SOCIETY'S LIVERY FLAG

Order a GSI Livery Flag to fly at your home or business. Measuring (3ft x 5ft) at just €90.00 each including delivery to the Member's home address. As a GSI Member, this Livery Flag would make a handsome statement at your next family gathering. Contact the Hon. Secretary at the address below or by E-mail on GenSocIreland@iol.ie MasterCard or VISA welcome or by cheque made payable to the Society. Allow approx. 28 days for delivery

GENEALOGY COURSES

Enrolment is now in progress for introductory level Adult Education courses in genealogy being given by Sean Murphy MA at University College Dublin at Belfield (night course) and Blackrock (afternoon course). Genealogy: Module 1 runs from Monday 29 September to 8 December 2003, with an option of continuing on to Genealogy: Module 2 which runs from 26 January to 29 March 2004. Topics dealt with in Module 1 include principles of genealogy, placenames and surnames, record repositories, location and use of census, civil, valuation, church and other records, computers and the Internet, and preparation of documented pedigrees. Module 2 deals with more advanced sources, including wills, deeds, memorial inscriptions, estate papers, pre-1700 sources and introduces heraldry and other disciplines allied to genealogy. Students may opt to attend as 'interest' participants only, or alternatively they may enrol as 'credit' students who submit work for assessment and accreditation. Students who complete Modules 1 and 2 and are interested in further study may enrol for more advanced Modules in succeeding years, leading to a College Certificate in Genealogy, the only such qualification available in Ireland. For further information on enrolment, fees, etc, apply to Adult Education Centre, UCD, Belfield, Dublin 4, Telephone (+353.1) 716 1234 or 716 1695, E-mail Adult.Education@ucd.ie or the Website at <http://www.ucd.ie/~adulted>. General queries on the genealogical courses can be e-mailed to seanjmurphy@eircom.net.

QUERIES RECEIVED

JUDY GUEST, 62 Park road, Kerang, Victoria 3579, Australia. E-mail: jguest@cybanet.net.au Wrote:- I am trying to trace the family history of Thomas Kerr born 1799 who married Ann Carson and died in 1891. They had five children John (who was born in Ireland 1833), James, Sam, Minnie and Kate. Any information much appreciated.

SHELEN WALLACE-SCHIANO, 112 Parker Road, Long Valley, New Jersey 07853 USA. E-mail: hert@worldnet.att.net Wrote:- I seeking information on her grandfather Michael Wallace born on November 15, 1864. His father's (my great-grandfather) name is Michael Wallace. His mother's maiden name was Bridget Collins (Cullen) from Ballylongford, Kerry, Ireland. Grandmother's maiden name: Margaret Rita Lavery born on April 16, 1867 daughter of Daniel Lavery and Margaret Mack. My grandparents, Michael Wallace and Margaret Lavery came to America in 1887. Their marriage certificate has two witnesses Mary Lavery and Patrick Flahavan. In my search the Vital Records Index I found a Daniel Lavery and Margaret Moriarty parents of a John Lavery born on April 3, 1869, Honora Lavery born on December 10, 1870 and Ellen Lavery born on December 16, 1872. Is it possible that Mack is

Moriarty? Also, searching the Vital Records Index - found Michael Wallace and Bridget Cullins had Mary born on June 18, 1868, Johanna born on April 12, 1871, also a Johanna Wallace born on June 16, 1876. Is it possible that the first Johanna born in 1871 died and they named the child born in 1876 the same name? I am trying to find out if any of the Wallace's or Lavery's who stayed behind have any links to the above or can direct me to my next step in researching this family. Will appreciate any leads or information.

IRENE GIFFEN COON, 133 Nason Hill Road, Sherborn MA 01770 USA E-mail irenecoon@comcast.net Wrote:- I am looking for information about the ancestors of Simon Giffin (1711-1774) I have the following information dating from: Simon Giffin (born c.1711 in Northern Ireland) died in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada September 9, 1774. Simon Giffin sailed from Belfast arriving in Boston before 1738/39. If you have information that would help me trace farther back than 1711 I would be grateful.

MARJORIE A. SCHILLER, Box 3058, Revelstoke, British Columbia, Canada V0E 2S0. E-mail: schiller@revelstoke.net Wrote:- I had a query posted in the Gazette a short time ago, but never had any replies. I have been trying to locate my grandmother's family. Her name was Hanora Roche - father was John Roche and mother was Angel/Angela McCarthy. I cannot find any information except that they lived on Brogue Market Hill in Cork when my grandmother was born on Dec 31, 1885. I am trying to find the census for that area but Brogue Market Hill is not listed on the 1901 census and is not found on the 1911 census. Has the name been changed from Brogue Market Hill? My mother's was Lily Holmes, 85 Brighton Rd. Aldershot, Hants, England. If anyone knows of her descendants, I would love to hear from them.

INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GENEALOGICAL AND HERALDIC SCIENCES

Held here in Dublin Castle last year the Congress moves to Brugge in Belgium next year and already the organisers have issued a formal call for papers for the 26th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences. Running from the 6th to the 11th of September 2004 its theme will be '*Genealogy and heraldry - a heritage for the future*'. The *Vlaamse Heraldische Raad* is organising the congress in conjunction with other Belgian societies. According to reports organisers are seeking to promote a dialogue between different disciplines focussing on links between heritage and genealogy and heraldry. Persons wishing to present a research paper should contact Mr André Vanderwalle, Stadarchief Brugge, Burg 11A, 8000 Brugge, Belgium or by E-mail: andre.vandewalle@brugge.be

LATEST ISSUE OF THE SOCIETY'S QUARTERLY JOURNAL

Vol. 4 No. 3. Autumn 2003.

Articles in this issue include:- **The Tallest Windmill in Ireland** by Caroline McCall; **The Depositions of 1641** by G.H. O'Reilly; **Shirley Estate (Co. Monaghan) Petition** by Róisín Lafferty; **Irish Manuscripts Commission** by G.H. O'Reilly; **Medieval Surnames in North County Dublin** by Eamonn Dowling; **Origins of My Family** by Peter Manning; **Birthday of Thomas Oriel Foster** by Róisín Lafferty; **'The 1st Royal Irish Rifles in the Great War'** reviewed by Donal Hall; **'Through Streets Broad and Narrow; a History of Dublin Trams'**, reviewed by James Scannell; **Surnames** by Seán MacBrádaigh; **The Battle of Carrickshock** by H.J. Matthews; **The 'Evening Freeman' (Extracts) May 1848** by Gaye Ashford; **More Quirky Entries From 'Irish Marriages from Walker's Hibernian Magazine'**, by Gaye Ashford; **A Legacy from the R.L.C.** by Seán MacBrádaigh; **Newspaper and Journal Listing 1922**; **The Cow Pock Institution**; **Modern Ireland's Electors' Lists** by Seán MacBrádaigh; **Kirwans from Galway in a Well Worn Prayer-book** by Ignatius Fennessy; **The Death of Darby Gormley - 1844** by G.H. O'Reilly

COPIES AVAILABLE via the Society's Website or by mail from the Hon. Secretary. Price €5.00 (members €4.50) with postage IRL & UK €1.50 and others €3.00. (EURO PRICE) **ARTICLES** for future issues of the Society's quarterly journal are always welcome. Please forward items for publication to the new Editor **Margaret Conroy**, MGSJ at E-mail: mmeconroy@eircom.net or to the Hon. Secretary at the address below.

SEPTEMBER GENIE UPDATES

HERITAGE WEEK Tim Carey, Heritage Officer of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has invited the Society to participate in an exhibition to mark Heritage Week 2003. The exhibition will be held in the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire between September 8th and 11th 2003.

DONATIONS The Archivist, Frieda Carroll, FGSJ wishes to thank Anthony Roche for his kind donation of a set of microfilms to the Society's Archive.

HISTORY FROM HEADSTONES The Ulster Historical Foundation will host a conference from September 29th to October 4th 2003 in Belfast. The theme will be "History from Headstones". It will held in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, the Presbyterian Historical Society, the Linen Hall Library, Belfast Central Library and the National Archives, National Library and the Registry of Deeds. Further information: **Kathryn McKelvey**, Administration Officer, U.H.F., 12, College Square East, Belfast, BT1 6DD, Northern Ireland. E-mail: enquiry@uhf.org.uk or Website www.ancestryireland.com