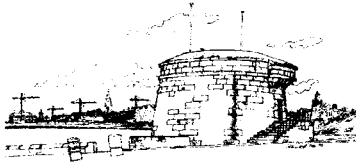


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CITIZENSHIP DEBATE LAUNCHED

Referendum on Rights to Irish Citizenship Announced by the Government

The Irish Government has announced that it intends to hold a referendum on June 11th 2004 on the issue of rights to Irish citizenship. As matters stand, anybody born on the island of Ireland is entitled as a birth-right to Irish citizenship and this right is enshrined in the Irish Constitution. Already the battle-lines are being drawn for what could be a very divisive and heated debate on what is surely to become an emotive issue for some. A number of our overseas members may have dual-citizenship or, indeed, possibly currently considering applying for Irish citizenship to strengthen their ties with the land of their ancestors. Therefore, an interest in the rights to Irish citizenship stretches beyond our emerald isle to the Irish Diaspora around the world.

27th Amendment

The Twenty-seventh Amendment of the Constitution Bill 2004 was published on April 9th with the intention of inserting the following wording in to the Constitution. *Notwithstanding any other provision of this Constitution, a person born in the island of Ireland, which includes its islands and seas, who does not have, at the time of the birth of that person, at least one parent who is an Irish citizen or entitled to be an Irish citizen is not entitled to Irish citizenship or nationality, unless provided for by law. This section shall not apply to persons born before the date of the enactment of this section.*

“Maternity Tourism”

The reason for introducing this amendment is as controversial as the proposed amendment itself. It has been

reported that heavily pregnant eastern European and African women are travelling to Ireland to have their babies delivered in Irish hospitals. These women, it is said, then exit the country after obtaining the birth certificate which entitles their child to an Irish passport. Proponents of this constitutional amendment point to the fact that all other European Union states have some measure of prior association with the country as a requirement before citizenship is granted. On this basis, it is claimed, that this amendment just brings Ireland in to line with her European Union partners.

Belfast Agreement 1998

Under the terms of the Belfast Agreement (Good Friday Agreement) of 1998, the Irish government undertook to enshrine in the Constitution the right to Irish citizenship for all persons born on the island of Ireland. This ensured that, irrespective of the constitutional status of Northern Ireland as part of the United Kingdom, its people could claim as a right membership of the Irish nation and, if they so desired, obtain Irish passports. The government claims that this right for persons born in Northern Ireland is unaffected by the possible adoption of this constitutional amendment. However, it is unclear as how the government can avoid making two classes of persons born in Northern Ireland, giving one the right to Irish citizenship and denying it to the other. This will be especially the case for children born in Northern Ireland to say, Scottish, Welsh or English born parents resident in Northern Ireland. Does this

amendment envisage that all applications for passports from persons born in Northern Ireland, following the adoption of this amendment, must have not only the applicant's Birth Certificate attached, but that of either parent also? This is hardly treating all the children of the Irish nation equally.

“Not Racially Motivated”

The supporters of this measure maintain that it is not racially motivated. It is aimed, they claim, at protecting the health of non-national pregnant women by discouraging them from making a hazardous trip to Ireland to give birth by removing the “lure” of Irish citizenship. However, given that the reason for bringing forward this amendment was to stop this “abuse” of the system by mainly eastern European and African women, it is impossible to avoid the charge of racism no matter how unfounded it may be. This solution to the alleged problem of “maternity tourism” has far reaching and mostly unintended implications for many sections of our now multi-ethnic and multicultural twenty-first century Ireland, north and south.

Ethnic Communities

The various ethnic communities in the Republic may well be the first casualties of this clumsy amendment. Indeed, the long-established Chinese and Italian communities in Ireland will face the prospect of siblings having different rights to Irish citizenship. In future any children born to non-nationals resident here for possibly decades will not be entitled to Irish citizenship like their older brothers and sisters. These children may spend all

their lives in Ireland and have little affinity with the land of their parent's birth, possibly not even speaking the language and probably alien to the religious or social customs of their ancestral homeland. But this amendment will deny them citizenship as the ultimate legal expression of their natural affinity with the land of their birth and where they will grow-up, attended school etc. Does the government envisage a flood of applications for Irish citizenship from resident non-nationals in order to protect the rights of their future children? Is this a sinister form ethnic cleansing by the ballot box if this amendment is carried in June? Our European Union partners may have a view on the serious implications of the adoption of this amendment for their nationals permanently resident in the Republic of Ireland.

"No Association with Ireland"

It is argued that the non-nationals travelling to Ireland to give birth have no affinity or association with the country. Other countries in the European Union, it is reported, have association or affinity with the nation as a prerequisite for obtaining citizenship. However, it is open for members of the Irish Diaspora to apply for Irish citizenship simply by having a grandparent born on the island of Ireland. The applicant may never have been in Ireland nor have any desire to visit the country. He/she may have no other affinity or association with Ireland save ancestral or racial ties through one grandparent who may have left Ireland as an infant over a hundred years ago. This type of applicant for an Irish Passport may use it for business travel to sensitive parts of the world where a "neutral passport" is preferable. For other applicants an Irish Passport may be just a novelty or indeed, used to obtain work in the other parts of the European Union without ever thinking of visiting Ireland. Whilst, not advocating any alteration in the present system for obtaining Irish Passports by members of the Irish Diaspora, an in-depth examination of the concept of "association and affinity" with Ireland in this context is urgently required in view of the many thousands of non-nationals permanently resident in Ireland now. The failure to fully appreciate the difficulties posed by this amendment and to make adequate provision for the protection of existing rights for non-national residents of the State gives rise to the accusation that the whole issue is ideologically motivated.

Indeed, we have all seen how disastrous such motivation has been in the past when constitutional amendments were based on ideological or theological arguments. Is history about to repeat itself?

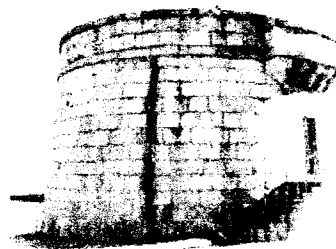
Amendments to Civil Registration?

The Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) has just enacted the Civil Registration Act, 2004, however, it is hard to see the Minister's intentions in respect of this constitutional amendment being fully realised without amending Civil Registration legislation. A new category of Birth Certificate may be required indicating that the child is not entitled to Irish citizenship or indeed, a separate register for such births may be required. However, the prospect of an Irish government establishing a "non-nationals birth register" must be repugnant to all as nothing more than the crude racial segregation and designation at birth. This measure, if envisaged by the Minister, could itself be open to constitutional challenge and ultimately damage the image and reputation of Ireland internationally.

"Legislative Response Required"

Given the many serious implications, unintentional or otherwise, posed by this amendment for sections of our community, the Minister would be well advised to drop his plans for this proposed constitutional amendment and to seek a sensible legislative remedy for "maternity tourism". Indeed, if the health and wellbeing of the non-national women arriving here very late in their pregnancies to give birth is truly the primary concern of the Minister surely a legislative response is preferable to a constitutional amendment. The tightening of immigration controls with heavy financial penalties for carriers (shipping companies and airlines) permitting such women to travel to Ireland without proper medical assistance of a required standard or without evidence of permanent residency in Ireland should be the basis for a legislative approach to this issue. Clearly, a constitutional amendment is wholly inappropriate in these circumstances for a number of reasons and therefore it should be avoided. Rushing legislation through the Oireachtas to enable this referendum to take place on the same day as the European Parliament and Local Government Elections on June 11th is unwise as such haste will deliver nothing but bad legislation inadequately teased out and considered by legislators and the general public alike.

AN DAONCHARTLANN



Our appeal for funds for the refurbishment of the Tower is gathering momentum with a good response from the piece in *"Irish Roots"* magazine courtesy of Mr. Tony MacCarthy, Editor. The Board is very grateful to Tony for this support. Members and friends of the Society are invited to help with this Phase 2 of the project. 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 this year - the two hundredth anniversary of the building of the Martello 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\$125.00) 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"* later this year - provisionally set for Wednesday September 15th 2004.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday April 13th 2004

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: Mr. Brian McAvoy
Topic: *"DNA & Genealogical Research"*

Tuesday May 11th 2004

Venue as above
Members' Night
Speaker: Mr. Seán Murphy, MA
Topic: *"Erin's Fake Chiefs"*

Weds. April 28th & May 26th

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*

SKEEALYN VANNIN STORIES OF MANN

The Society's monthly newsletter has carried various reports over the years on our sister organisations in other countries and this month we focus on the **Isle of Man**. This island has many cultural ties with the other Celtic countries of Scotland (Alba), Wales (Cymru), Cornwall (Kernow), Brittany (Breizh) and, of course, Ireland (Éire). The name of the island is derived from the Celtic Sea God called **Manannán Mac Lír** in Gaelic and **Manawydan ap Llyr** in Welsh. In the Manx language, which is a branch of the Gaelic language group, the island is known as **Ellan Vannin** or **Oileán Mhanann** in Irish and **Eilean Mhannin** in Scottish Gaelic.



Situated in the middle of the Irish Sea almost equidistant from Great Britain and Ireland, the island is a self governing British Crown Dependency which is not part of the United Kingdom nor of the European Union. The head of state of the island is Britain's Queen Elizabeth II who is styled "Lord of Mann". The island claims to have the oldest parliament in the world, a point disputed by Icelanders, called the Tynwald which still promulgates its laws in both Manx Gaelic and English on July 5th each year. The word "Tynwald" derives from two Norse words "thing" meaning assembly and "völlr" meaning field or plain. But in fact, the present democratically accountable system of governance in the island only dates from 1866. Historically the island was a troubled place much fought over and invaded, however, stability came with the gift of the island by England's King Henry IV to Sir John Stanley in 1405. Stanley's descendants rarely visited their island possession, but by all accounts they appointed responsible governors. The Stanleys who were to become the Earls of Derby were to hold on to the island for the next three hundred years until 1736 when the tenth Earl of Derby died without an heir and the island passed to his relative, the Duke of Atholl. The third Duke of Atholl sold his island lordship to the British Crown in 1765 under the Revesting Act of that year. The remaining rights were sold to the British Crown in 1828 by the fourth Duke of Atholl. This Revesting Act, 1765 was called "Yn Chialg Vooar" (*The Great Deception* – "An Cealg Mhór" in Irish) by the Manx and

was the cause of much hardship, poverty and large scale emigration during the first half of the nineteenth century. But this period also witnessed the growth of tourism as English holiday-makers began to arrive from Liverpool on the steamer services inaugurated in 1829. The population grew from 40,081 in 1821 to 52,387 in 1851 and to 54,572 in 1901 of which, 4,419 were recorded as Manx speakers. The island's economy is heavily based on tourism and the provision of financial services not unlike an off-shore Switzerland. Its population was 76,535 in 2001 - roughly half being Manx born and the rest largely British. The capital is **Douglas** (Doolish) and its main towns are **Peel** (Purt ny Hinshey), **Ramsey** (Rhumsaa), **Port Erin** (Purt Chiarn) and **Port St. Mary** (Purt le Moirrey). Linguists maintain that the Manx language (Gailck) is closer to Scottish Gaelic than to Irish, however, to the ear Irish speakers find Manx easier to understand than Scottish Gaelic (Gàidhlig). But when it comes to the written word this is reversed as Irish and Scottish Gaelic speakers have little difficulty in reading each others language because of the common Gaelic orthography employed by both languages. In contrast, the Manx language owes its somewhat strange orthography to **Bishop John Phillips**, a Welshman, who was made Bishop of Sodor and Mann in 1605 and who translated the Book of Common Prayer into Manx in 1611. Despite the sterling efforts of **Dr. Brian Stowell** (Brian Mac Stoyll) in the 1970s to have the Manx language revival movement adopt a more distinctively Gaelic orthography for the language to open it up to speakers of Irish and Scottish Gaelic, Phillip's system prevailed. The best example of this phenomenon is provided by the text of the first few lines of *The Lord's Prayer* in Manx and Scottish Gaelic. **Manx**: "*Pa'djer y Chiarn*" – *Ayer ain t'ayns niau, casherick dy row dt'ennym. Dy jig dty reeriaght. Dt'aigney dy row jeant er y thallop myr te anys niau.* **Scottish**: "*Urnuighe an Tighearna*" – *Ar nAthair ata air Neamh gu ma beanmicht' t-ainm, gu tigeadh do Rioghacht, go deanthar do thoill air Tallamh mar ata i air Neamh.* Speakers of Irish (Gaeilge) will have no difficulty in reading and understanding the Scottish Gaelic but may only understand Manx when spoken. Indeed, a very lively conversation ensued between An Taoiseach (Irish Prime Minister) **Eamon de Valera, TD** and the last native speaker of Manx, **Ned Maddrell**, a fisherman-crofter of the village of Cregneash during a visit by de Valera to the Isle of Man in 1947 on board the Irish naval vessel **L.E. Macha**. This encounter between these two men speaking in Manx and Irish was a fateful milestone in the history of the Manx language as de Valera offered the services of the Irish Folklore Commission's newly acquired fully-equipped recording van to the Isle of Man to record the last native speakers of Manx Gaelic. The Folklore Commission's **Dr. Caoimhín Ó Danachair** left Dublin on April 22nd 1948 on a cattle-boat for Douglas.

According to his account of his arrival in the Isle of Man his dark green van was covered in cattle effluent and had to be hosed down from a distance by his Manx hosts. **Dr. Ó Danachair** travelled around the island in the company of students of the Manx language recording the native speakers, **Harry Boyde, Annie Kneale, John Kneen, Sage and John Kinvig, Tommy Leece, Eleanor Karran, John Tom Kaighin** and, of course, **Ned Maddrell** himself. For genealogists and social historians these recordings of stories, life events and folk traditions are of immense importance as they are our window on a chapter of human history that came to an end with the death of the last native speaker of Manx, Ned Maddrell, on December 27th 1974 at 98 years of age. It is said that at his funeral in Rushen Parish church that not a word of Manx was uttered or sung. In Ó Danachair's recordings Ned tells of his life as a fisherman going each year with the Manx fishing fleet to Kinsale, Co. Cork, Balbriggan and Skerries, Co. Dublin and Clogherhead, Co. Louth. He mentions that in his fishing days he met many Scottish and Irish fishermen that understood his Manx. The complete collection the Manx language archive recordings made by the Irish Folklore Commission in 1948 has been digitally remastered and published on five CDs with full transcriptions and translations in Manx and English. This gem of a publication was launched recently by the Folklore Department of University College Dublin and Manx National Heritage (Eiraght Ashoonagh Vannin) – "*Skeelalyn Vannin – Stories of Mann*" ISBN 0-901106-47X – Price €54.00 – hardcover 232 pages with photographs of those recorded. Copies available from the Campus Bookshop at UCD or **Manx National Heritage**, Kingswood Grove, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM1 3LY – website www.gov.im/mnh/ The **Isle of Man Family History Society** has exchanged journals with this Society for a number of years now and it provides a wealth of information for those with Manx ancestry. Their journal "*Fraueyn as Banglaneyn*" ISSN 1351-556X (Roots and Branches) publishes source material and articles on social history. Many of the Manx surnames display their distinctive Gaelic elements in their current "English" forms, for example, Qualtrough, Corrin, Kennaugh, Clague, Quinney, Kelly, Clennell, Quayle, Corlett, Colquitt, Gelling, Looney, Taggart, Quilleash, Lowey, Quaggan, Leece, Lewin, Clucas, Maddrell, Moore, Corkhill, Sayer, Quine, Quillin, Quillam, Crookhall, Crowe, Cormode, Keggan, Kaneen and Crebbin. The C, K and Q initial letters, for example, usually indicate the contraction of the final sound of the word "Mac" into the second element of the surname which is a phenomenon known in Ireland and Scotland also. Some Manx surnames are present in the fishing ports of eastern Ireland. For further information on the society contact: **Priscilla Lewthwaite**, Pear Tree Cottage, Lhergy Cripperty, Union Mills, IM4 4NF, Isle of Man.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE

Irish based Members living in either the Republic or Northern Ireland are reminded that their Annual Membership Fee fell due on January 1st 2004. The Annual Membership Fee for Irish based Members (ROI & NI) is just **€20.00**. For overseas Members the Fee due on the anniversary date of joining is now **€25.00**.

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: frankielee@eircom.net for more information.

USD & UKP CURRENCY RATES

The exchange rate for persons paying by check or cash in US dollars **€1.00 = US\$1.25** and similarly for those wish to pay in British pounds **€1.00 = 0.70p**. These rates apply to all purchases and membership subscriptions transacted in the currencies concerned. Alternatively why not pay by Credit Card - MasterCard or VISA via the Website?

APRIL GENIE UPDATES

FAMILY HISTORY SHOW The annual family history fair organised by the **Society of Genealogists'** in London will be held at the Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall & Conference Centre, Greycourt Street, Westminster, London, on May 1st & 2nd 2004. A full programme of the events and exhibits is available from the Society of Genealogists, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA, England or by E-mail: events@sog.org.uk or on the website www.sog.org.uk Tickets cost £6.00 per day or £4.00 per day if purchased before April 23rd. This annual fair is now the premier showcase for genealogy in Great Britain and attracts thousands of visitors each year to the lectures, talks and, of course, the exhibits themselves.

KERRY SLATE **James Scannell** reports that Kerry Slate is set to be shipped to London for House of Commons Floor. In the 19th century, purple-black slate from the quarry on County Kerry's Valentia Island was used by Europe's leading architects and builders, with Kerry slate being used in a number on London

buildings including the Houses of Parliament, the National Gallery, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Opera House in Paris. Kerry slate was used to floor the corridors of the British House of Commons and now with wear and tear this slate will be used again to restore the floors to their former glory replacing the current patchwork of different types of slate used over the years to repair these famous floors.

BORU HOUSE An appeal has been launched, reports **James Scannell**, to save the 124 year-old Boru House, a Victorian building on Limerick's Mulgrave Street which formerly was the home of **Kate O'Brien**, one of Ireland's best-known female authors who died aged 77 in 1974. The building which is not on Limerick City Council's protected structure list is currently for sale with a price tag of €1M+ and there are concerns that the a new purchaser might demolish the building as part of a redevelopment scheme. It has been suggested that the building should be turned into a museum about the writer with exhibits of her life and time but funding will have to come from the private sector as Limerick City Council currently lacks the finances to acquire this property and convert into a museum.

GSIBOARD At the April meeting of the Board of the Society, members co-opted **Gaye Ashford** and **Caroline McCall** to membership of the Board. Gaye was appointed Editor of the Irish Genealogical Sources Series and Caroline was appointed to the position of Hon. Treasurer of the Society. We wish them both every success in their new positions on the Board.

ENECLANN Our friends in Eneclann have launched yet another CD-ROM in their Irish Records Index series. "**The 1831 Tithe Defaulters**" is compiled and edited by **Stephen McCormac** and was official launched by **The Rev. Canon C.A. Empey** at The Crypt, Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin on Tuesday Mach 2nd 2004. As no. 4 in this series this CD-ROM brings 30,000 names with addresses and occupations for 232 parishes. The counties covered are Carlow, Kerry, Kilkenny, Limerick, Louth, Meath, Offaly (King's Co.), Tipperary, Waterford and Wexford. The persons recorded here refused or were in default of their obligation to pay an annual tithe (religious tax) to the established Protestant church in Ireland during what was to be known as the Tithe War 1831-1838. The tithe amounted to 10% of the agricultural produce generated for the holding. There was great resentment amongst Roman Catholics against the obligation to pay this tax to support another church. Copies available via the Eneclann website: www.eneclann.ie or by mail from Eneclann, Unit 1 b, Trinity Enterprise Centre, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. Retail Price €38.90 plus p+p - ISBN 0-9537557-7-0

HERALDRY The Society would like to congratulate **Micheál Ó Comáin** of the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland on being awarded a publication grant by the Heritage Council. Micheál in association with Irish

Academic Press will publish "**Heraldry in Ireland**" later this year. This important and long overdue publication received a grant of €5,000 this year. His last publication on the subject is long out-of-print and besides "**Armas - Sraochéachaint ar Araltas na hÉireann**" by **Nicholas Williams** published by Coiscéim in 2001, very little has been published on the subject. Williams's publication is in the Irish language and covers the history and development of heraldry in Ireland with a very useful glossary of heraldic terms. However, Ireland badly needs an authoritative work in the English language on heraldry, including corporate, civic, ecclesiastic and personal arms as used in modern Ireland.

GSIBOARD

The Spring 2004 issue of the Society's quarterly journal - **Vol. 5 No. 1** is now available. Articles in this 64 page issue include: **Adam Smyth (1875-1918)** - Post Office Sorter on Royal Mail Steamer "Leinster". From Dublin to Devon in Search of a Maritime Past. **Quirky Entries** from The Cork Mercantile Chronicle. The Death of **Thomas Bewley** in an 1889 Dublin Industrial Gas Accident. A Note on **Cornelius Fennessy, O.S.A.** **James Terry's Legacy** (Terry was Athlone Pursuivant at the time of James II's defeat and exile to France). The Gentleman Soldier (families mentioned **Dillon, Suffield, Cramer, Tandy, D'Arcy, D'Estere** and **Guinness** - amongst others). **James Gunning** - A Dalkey Man in Her Majesty's Navy. **Royal Hibernian Military School Extant Records**. The Anglo-Norman Origins & Genealogy of the **De La Launde Family**. Price €5.00 (members €4.50) Copies available via the Society's Website www.gensocireland.org Checkout the Society's website for other publications by the Society.

JOINING THE SOCIETY

The Society always welcomes new Members from Ireland and overseas. If you wish to join contact the Membership Officer, **Mrs. Annette McDonnell, MGSI**, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland. You may also contact Annette by E-mail via the Hon. Secretary GenSocIreland@iol.ie 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**" will be forwarded to you by mail. Overseas Members and those Irish Members living outside Co. Dublin receive the monthly newsletter "**The Genie Gazette**" by mail each month.

GSILIVERY FLAG

Order a GSI Livery Flag. Measuring (3ft x 5ft) at just €90.00 each including delivery. Made by the Dublin flag makers **Timothy O'Regan**, as a GSI Member, this Livery Flag would be great at your next family gathering. Contact the Hon. Secretary at the address below.