



# THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

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### IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF WISCONSIN INC.

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**MEMBERSHIP:** Dues are \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family. Individual or Family membership each receive one subscription (4) issues to *The Irish Genealogical Society Quarterly*. Individual membership has (1) vote in elections and Family membership has (2) votes in elections. The membership year runs from 1 March to 28/29 February.

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## President's Message – Help Wanted

### ***IGSW Corresponding Secretary***

#### **Skills Required:**

For this position specifically: clear writing, a communicator, record keeping

As a Board member: strategic planning, proposing ideas, negotiation, research, decision making

#### **Job Description:**

Founded in 1992, this Section 501 (c) (3) non-profit was established: to stimulate genealogical communication, education, interest, and exchange of information, especially as it relates to Irish genealogy, to and with individuals, libraries and organizations; to provide instruction through publications and programs; to promote genealogical research; to boost interest in Irish heritage and culture; to encourage the collection and preservation of genealogical and historical materials; and to champion ethical standards and practices in the field of genealogy.

The duties of the Corresponding Secretary are to conduct the correspondence of the Society and to maintain a file of its correspondence. The Corresponding Secretary arranges the time and place of general and board meetings, and compiles and publishes program announcements. The time spent accomplishing these tasks is about one to two hours per month.

The IGSW board meets no less than six times per year per the By-Laws of the organization - in a typical year ten times. Generally board meetings are held the hour before the general meeting, on the first Monday of the month, in the same location.

To be a good fit for this position, you should have the following:

- A love of genealogy
- An interest in working with others
- An outgoing personality

You will be serving a two-year term of office with the opportunity of extending your service for an additional two years. As a board member you will be overseeing and leading the Society, working for its growth and well being. If this sounds like something that makes sense for you, please don't hesitate - apply today! Email or call to tell of your interest.

Gary Shea  
gary@garyshea.com

*A Green Family Tree*  
*by June Brus*

As the Aerlingus flight carried me across the Atlantic, I twisted my late mother's Claddagh ring which I had slipped on my finger for good luck, and reflected on the twisted path that led me this far.

The journey began in childhood, as I grew up with my mother's stories of an almost mythological grandfather — Patrick Joseph Green from County Clare, who emigrated to Chicago in the 1880s, spoke with a lilting brogue, and thrilled his "little Brigid" with pockets full of candy. Grandpa Green died when Mom was too young to attend his funeral, and that was the extent of what I knew. Now Mom as well as all my aunts and uncles had passed on, and there was no one left to ask.

I think back to Irish Fest 2010, when I walked past the genealogy tent, convinced that any genealogist would consider it impossible to trace my roots since there was so little to go on. I kept walking, but always with a vague pride inside of my grandfather from County Clare — the most rugged landscape in Ireland with the majestic Cliffs of Moher.

It was not until the September, 2010 Highland Games that I summoned the courage to approach the IGSW display, and the lady behind the table did not laugh after all. Instead, she gave me some brochures, told me about the resources at the Emigration Library, and suggested I visit on a Wednesday afternoon. The very next week I was there, met Jane, and began to unravel the mystery that has changed my life.

Jane advised that we start with the records in this country, so we began by searching the U.S. census returns. That revealed the first surprise — his name was not Patrick at all, but Thomas! My mother had mentioned someone named Thomas "Tide" Green, but she wasn't exactly sure who he was. As the research progressed, we determined that the name of my great grandfather was actually Thomas Tadhg Green and found the family's Chicago address. Noting that he disappeared after the 1920 census, I had some idea of an approximate death date. The office of the Archdiocese in Chicago as well as several Catholic cemeteries I contacted were helpful in our search for his burial site.

Last Halloween found my son Evan and I paying our respects at his graveside in Mt. Olivet Cemetery. We then visited the south side neighborhood where he lived and worked in the stockyards, took photos of the house and the church the family attended. Our mission was accomplished in this country, the next hurdle was to jump across the ocean and figure out from where in Ireland he hailed.

[FamilySearch.org](http://FamilySearch.org) lists his parents as John Green and Margaret Devan from Ireland, so I began combing the Griffith's Valuation for any John Greens in County Clare. At the same time, the mysterious "Patrick Green" was still nagging at me — I didn't think my mother could have made that up, so who was he? Amazingly, I found a Patrick Green who passed away in Chicago and whose parents were John Green and Margaret Doran. Was this just a coincidence, or were Margaret Devan and Margaret Doran one in the same, making Patrick and Thomas brothers?

The night we ordered Thomas Green's death certificate from the State of Illinois website, Evan and I jumped for joy as we read, "Mother's Name: Margaret Doran." The two were brothers! But there was something else there that shocked and puzzled us, "Place of Birth: County Down, Ireland." What was this? Not only was it located on the opposite side of Ireland, it was in Northern Ireland! All my life I'd been dreaming of County Clare — now I had to drag out the map to find this place called Down.

The next time I went to the library, Kris was able to put all this new information together to find the boys' baptism records in Down. I truly think she was as excited as I was to find the townland (Derryneill) and the parish (Drumgooland Lower). I immediately ordered the parish microfilm from the Family History Center in Brookfield, and began searching Griffith's for a John Green in County Down. We bought our plane tickets to Dublin and reserved a car.

In 1862, according to the Griffith's Valuation, there were three different John Greens (John "Mason," John "Rock," and John "Pipe") renting land from Alexander Stewart in a place called Drumnaconagher near where my grandfather was baptized. On closer inspection, this community had to be the nucleus of the Green family, as there was also a Patrick Green, a James Green, a Robert, a Luke, two Hughs, and two Bernards. This would obviously be the place to start.

Our plane landed, and we jumped in the car and edged out into Dublin traffic. After negotiating our first intimidating multi-lane roundabout, we made our way north. Initially, our goal was to use the Griffiths maps to see the land they left behind. But as I became more consumed with this project, I became more and more curious whether we still had any family left there. If so, I wasn't sure how to go about finding them — it seemed too forward to cold-call all the Greens in the phone book, so we decided to try asking at the local libraries.

Our first stop was the library at Ballynahinch, where the librarian sent us right over to the Heritage Center at the library in Downpatrick — an excellent resource for all of County Down. When I timidly walked in and introduced myself as the great granddaughter of John Green and Margaret Doran, and asked if there still might be family left in the area of Drumnaconagher, the two librarians lit up as though the lost sheep had finally found their way home. "There are Greens and Dorans here by the bucketload!"



These two lovely ladies, Briege and Gemma, became our newest friends and guiding angels as they immediately began phoning people we should meet. We pulled out our maps and other papers and they were impressed with the homework we had done (thanks to the IGSW). They get quite a few Americans who wander in, know nothing, and expect results in 5 minutes. We could not have asked for a warmer welcome — there were smiles, tears, hugs all around, as well as plenty of tea. (We have remained



*Briege, Gemma, and me in the Downpatrick Heritage Center*



*One of the many Green headstones*

in touch and they were interested to hear about Brian Mitchell's visit to Irish Fest.) As we parted, they directed us to Tecconought Church to visit the Green family graveyard.

Evan says he never thought he would see someone so happy to be standing in a cemetery in the rain. There they were — the gravestones with the inscriptions — legible, and lovingly cared for. I didn't know whether to laugh or cry, and I think I did both as we found one Green headstone after another. We rang the bell at the parish house and introduced ourselves to the octogenarian priest, who kindly invited us in, listened to our story, and sent us off straight down the road to call on the elderly Mrs. Green.

Armed with freshly baked scones, Griffith's maps, baptism certificates, and files of paperwork, we nervously knocked at the door of her white cottage surrounded by flowers of every description. We knew that if she considered us to be crackpot Americans, this would probably be the end of everything. Mrs. Green came to the door with her walker, and proved to be one of the grandest ladies I ever hope to meet. She invited us in, two strangers from the States, offered us tea, and began phoning dozens of people while we caught up on family history. She related the heartbreaking story of her husband, the oldest man to die in the Troubles, gunned down as he watched a soccer game in the Loughinisland pub at the age of 87. We had known nothing about this history, so there were many questions back and forth as we became acquainted.

She and her friend led us down the narrow, winding country lanes to the family farm, located on precisely the same land the Greens occupied according to the Griffith's

maps in 1862. The Greens are cattle farmers, living in one of the most beautiful places on the face of the earth — gently rolling hills, Heron Lough, with the Mourne Mountains on the horizon. Our cousin Maureen dropped whatever she was doing that day to give us another warm Irish welcome and an extensive tour of the entire place. We climbed the

pasture fences, met the cattle, and saw a fairy tree. I was able to put a few pebbles in my pocket, which now reside in a place of honor in my home.



*Evan and me with Mrs. Green*

We learned of Rev. Hugh Green of Drumnaconagher, who built the chapel in Saintfield in 1806. Father Green was waylaid by Orangemen and received a severe beating from which he never recovered. Billy told us about other neighbors who had moved to the States, but no one remembered the Green boys who left Ireland in the 1880s.

Nonetheless, Evan and I came away from County Down with Maureen's words ringing in our ears, "You may not have much family left in the States, but you have a very large family right here." My fantasy of being able to plant my feet on the ancestral ground, fill my lungs with the air they breathed, feel the same wind and rain on my face — all of it came true. And now my dream is augmented to include the names, faces, and vivid personalities of those who remained. If only my mother could have known.



*Billy McCaugherty with some prized cattle*

Unfortunately, I had booked B&B's throughout the rest of the country for the next two weeks and we had to leave Down much too soon. We are counting the days until we return to continue our friendships with our suddenly very large family across the ocean.

And that is how Patrick Joseph Green became Thomas Tadhg Green and the Cliffs of Moher turned into the Mountains of Mourne. As you see, I started with less than nothing and ended with a miracle I never could have imagined. Unending thanks to Jane, Kris, Pat, and all the other Wednesday afternoon volunteers who assisted in this quest. Every time I went to the library another little piece fell into the puzzle. If there is anyone reading this who has not yet visited the Emigration Library, you will be astounded at the resources available there. Best of luck to everyone else searching for their roots, and may all your searches yield an abundant harvest!



*The spectacular view from Billy's farm, looking out to the Mourne Mountains*

## IN REMEMBRANCE

We extend our sincerest sympathy to all members who have lost loved ones this past year.

A former member of IGSW, Helen K. McGuire, died November 2, 2011. Helen was a member of the original Steering Committee of sixteen whose work resulted in the formation of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin.

The IGSW would appreciate notification of the death of a member or their spouse. Send to Irish Genealogy Society of Wisconsin, Inc PO Box 33766 Wauwatosa WI 53213-0766 Attn: Editor



## **"County Histories" Roundtable October 3, 2011**

### **"The Answers Are in the Back of this Book"** **U.S. County Histories and Other Published Local Histories as Sources** Roundtable Moderated by Michele Patin

When making our first forays in researching our ancestral families in America, we're often advised to consult the published "county history" for the area where our family settled. It's good advice, and many family historians have found critical pieces of information this way. But there are caveats. At this October Roundtable, we'll share some "best practices" for finding and using published local history compilations.

Let's begin with definitions. What do we mean by a U.S. "county history?" Here, we'll use the term broadly, and include histories of counties *per se*, but also town histories, state histories and even commemorative booklets celebrating, for example, the 100th anniversary of a settlement's founding. Also to be included are what are commonly referred to as "mug books" — compilations of prominent men with biographical sketches accompanied by photographic portraits or engravings of the coffee-table variety. In many a home of yesteryear, a copy of the "county history" was placed on the shelf next to the family bible, and its dog-eared pages about granddad were an oft-consulted storehouse of authoritative family history.

A few county histories go back to colonial days or early 1800s in eastern states. But county history writing began in earnest — and was a publishing bonanza — in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Many were an outgrowth of the celebration of first Centennial of the American Revolution. The histories published at this time put strong emphasis on ties to the Revolution, on pioneers and homesteaders, and on the war between the states that was then a dimming memory. The tradition has continued, and with the burgeoning popularity of genealogy, many locales have published updated histories in recent decades.

County histories are often encyclopedic in scope, covering many decades and a majority of the inhabitant families, and touching on events with a surprising level of detail. *It is for this reason that family historians turn to county histories for the critical clues that can become turnkeys to further genealogical research.* For example, the account of an early settler with Irish origins might mention the actual townland and county that was his home; or a sketch of a forebear may include a timeline indicating his birthplace/date, his marriage(s), and those of his wife(ves) and children, across several other counties and states.

Clearly, county histories can be a valuable resource, and a cornerstone for building additional research. So, how should we find them and use them? Let's establish two ground rules to get off on the right foot:

**Rule 1:** Don't ignore county histories as a resource! **Rule 2:** Don't believe what you read in them!

*This seeming logical contradiction is the crux of the problem.* It can look like the "answer" to your genealogical question is sitting in plain sight in the county history book. *But is it the correct answer?*

#### **Show your work... please**

It is by no means impossible that a county history will have specific, accurate information about your ancestral family, their immigration, occupations, family relationships, birth, deaths, marriages, affiliations, etc. But like your high school math quiz, coming up with the answer is only half the problem. As family historian, you must show your work — by confirming what you have read in this secondary source by documenting the details in primary materials such as church and vital records, deeds, probate, etc.

If you do find a biographical sketch of an ancestor in a county history, your eyes will moisten and your chest will puff with pride as you read about their civic accomplishments and devotion to church and family. You may wonder why a statue has not already been erected in their honor... until you realize that most of the sketches are similar shameless self-promotions adorned with glowing boilerplate descriptions.



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Yet behind these polished “fictions” are undoubtedly some “facts.” *The best way to discern which is which is to treat each assertion in the county history as an hypothesis — and prove it true with basic research of your own.* If the county history is right after all, it will point your way and will have saved you time by limiting your search for primary records from among endless possibilities.

Another way to corroborate facts is to cross-check against other county histories. Your book may refer to a family’s migration from another county, or to a wife’s origins, etc. Look at other county histories and accounts of married-in families to see if the information jibes. Such “triangulation” helps establish validity.

### **Finding people: the indexing barrier**

The county histories produced in the 1880s-1910s rarely have useful indexes. Indexing was done by hand then, so these were necessarily rudimentary. The tables of contents, however, can be very detailed, and will help you zero in on the right township or a specific biographical sketch to find your ancestors.

Yet there is so much more in a county history which you will miss without an index. For example, local men who served in the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, and/or Civil War are often listed with their regiments. County histories may mention schools and orphan homes and list early teachers and officials. Pioneer settlers, founding members of area churches, men who served in municipal government or were active in fraternal organizations, all may be listed under pertinent chapter headings. Often there are entire sections on commerce which discuss individual farmers, merchants and industrialists. None of the above occurrences may be indexed — but the names are there, waiting to be discovered.

Sometimes genealogists or local organizations took it upon themselves to create manual indexes of the most-used county histories. A good number of these were done in the 1970-1980s. Some of these secondary indexes were published; others can be consulted as finding aids in libraries and archives.

But county histories have now entered the digital age. Hundreds of these books are being scanned and made searchable using OCR (optical character recognition), so that indexing is irrelevant. *Such electronic copies of county histories can now be searched for a name wherever it occurs.* OCR technology is imperfect however; old typesetting and faded or marked pages when translated into an alphanumeric narrative can result in misspelled words and sometimes gibberish. And searching OCRd text is literal — an occurrence in a list with “Kelly, Michael” will not be found by searching for “Michael Kelly.”

### **Putting the county history in context: the filtering problem**

By reading the foreword or introduction to the county history, you can learn how and when it was compiled, and by whom. This will help identify the biases and abilities of the author(s) and compiler(s). Some county histories are written by authors who were knowledgeable amateur historians who published other works and relied on existing documents for evidence; others were compiled on editors who “scrap-booked” together many sources of uneven quality. To evaluate the validity of the county history as a whole, look for potential biases in the information contained in it. Here are some things to watch for:

*What’s missing?:* A genuinely nagging question for the family historian is “who is included the book... and who is not?” Although many county histories are upwards of 1,000 pages, it would be impossible to include a biographical sketch of everyone one who lived or died in the county. Obviously, the compilation was selective, and it is up to you, as researcher, to discern what that selection process was. Some county histories were funded by “subscription” — you paid in advance to be included. For many of the successful children of immigrants, it was a point of family pride to be sure their story was included in this way. Other histories were compiled by a committee acting in a spirit of civic pride to collect all the known information about the community. Who were the members of that committee, and how well did they know your family?

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*Temporal Biases:* Be cognizant of a focus on persons still living in the county; it's obvious but demands consideration. For example, if your family were early settlers who then removed west, an entire chapter of your family story may be left untold because there was no member of the family left in the county to tell it.

*Hearsay Evidence:* County histories often include narratives that, on reflection, clearly must have been supplied by a member of the family. Who was that informant? Could they have had personal knowledge of the events described? How much time has elapsed? Put what you read in perspective for follow-up. Sketch out purported family relationships and construct a timeline to judge if the evidence is credible.

*Misapprehension:* Your book may contain errors that are not intentional, but simple misunderstandings. For example, nineteenth-century popular misconceptions may confuse medical conditions or causes of death. Place names can be garbled when these are unfamiliar: Irish places suffer, but so might far-away American towns, townships and counties bearing names of Native American, Spanish or French origin.

*Political Biases:* These may be hard to discern, but taking some time to learn the lay of the political landscape in your ancestor's home will help you interpret what you read. For example, many county histories refer to the party affiliations of persons profiled, and for those who lived through the Civil War, "Republican" and "Democrat" were code words for unspoken conflicts, grudges and family divisions.

*Revised and Expanded:* Don't be surprised to learn that some county histories proved popular enough that they were reprinted. And when reprinted, they were often revised and expanded. Anything published is fair game for protestations about inaccuracy or complaints of being "left out." It is worth checking if your county history came out in a second edition; if so, compare — and look for corrections and new material.

### **Where can I get me some of those county histories?**

County histories had become so popular by the turn of the 20th century that the enterprising Thomas Lindsley Bradford compiled *The Bibliographer's Manual of American History: Containing an Account of all State, Territory, Town and County Histories Relating to the United States*, edited and revised by Stanislaus Vincent Henkels and published in two volumes from 1907-1910 (available on Google Books, see discussion below.) Other comprehensive bibliographies can also be found in the non-circulating "Local History Reference Collection" of the Milwaukee Public Library's Central Library Humanities Room:

*A Bibliography of American County Histories* (1985) by P. William Filby (call # 016.973 F479)

*Printed Sources: A Guide to Published Genealogical Records* (1998) by Kory L. Meyerink  
(call # 016.929373 P957)

*Consolidated Bibliography of County Histories in Fifty States* (1961) by Clarence S. Peterson  
(call # 016.973 P48)

Or try *Genealogical & Local History Books in Print*, IGSW Irish Emigration Library (call # BIB 2 SCH).

Original printed volumes of county histories published in the late 19th and early 20th centuries are extremely desirable and valuable. If you wish to acquire one, with luck you might find one at a public auction or estate sale, or online at eBay, Abebooks, etc. Expect to pay \$100... or as much as \$1,000!

You can purchase reprints of popular out-of-copyright county histories at reasonable prices at Higginson Book Company <http://www.higginsonbooks.com/>, or at Heritage Books <http://www.heritagebooks.com/>.

Fortunately, many printed county histories can also be found in the permanent reference collections of public libraries and historical societies. There are also online sources of county histories which may serve you even better. Online sources are available 24/7 from the comfort of home, and have an additional advantage: most are digitized and every-word searchable using OCR technology described above.

## **"County Histories" Roundtable October 3, 2011**

The largest collection of American local histories is in the Library of Congress, which by some accounts holds upwards of 100,000 such titles. You can search their catalog online at <http://catalog.loc.gov/>. And, if you find a title in their catalog with an icon in the far right column for "links available," you can get the book online. If you find, for example, *The history of Dodge county, Wisconsin* (1880), and click on the "Links Available" icon, you see a cataloging record with a URL displayed under "Links". This is a permalink to an electronic copy of the book available on another site (in this example archive.org). Handy!

Another huge source is the Brigham Young University (BYU) "Family History Archive." Their web site says their nearly 20,000 titles "... come from the collections of the FamilySearch Family History Library, the Allen County Public Library, the Houston Public Library – Clayton Library Center for Genealogical Research, the Mid-Continent Public Library – Midwest Genealogy Center, the BYU Harold B. Lee Library, the BYU Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library, and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Church History Library." Access the BYU collection for free online at <http://lib.byu.edu/fhc/index.php>. Do a keyword search by surname, author, title, or "search all"; or an "Advanced Search" with Boolean interface and search limits. You can also opt to "Search full text for additional results" which does exactly what you expect and can result in thousands of hits (read the warning and search tips!). You can browse found county histories or do further searches within the title using the content viewer, or download a PDF.

A wonderful source for those researching Wisconsin roots is the Wisconsin Historical Society (WHS) in Madison. Their website has numerous free finding aids for local histories, but one is of special interest: the "Wisconsin County Histories" link (under the "Research" tab), at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/wch/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wch/). This takes you to a search engine with access to more than 80 Wisconsin county histories (a total of 56,000 pages!) Here you can "Find Books about a County" or "Find Descriptions of a Village, Township, City or Other Community" or "Search the Full Text of All Books for Names, Words or Phrases." If you find a title of interest, you can also browse the entire book online using the content viewer, or you can download the title as a PDF file using the drop-down labeled "document description" in the content viewer.

The Milwaukee Public Library downtown ("Central Library") has a superb permanent collection of county histories in print (look in CountyCat <http://countycat.mclis.org/>). And if you can't find your book at MPL, try searching in the union catalog at <http://www.worldcat.org/> to find a copy within driving distance.

Another repository of county histories is the "Internet Archive" at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) which includes digitized books contributed by dozens of libraries. There are several hundred county histories here, which you can flip through online, download as a PDF or ebook for Kindle, iPad, etc., or view as text and search online.

What about Google Books? Google's stated mission is "to organize the world's information and make it universally accessible and useful," and while there is controversy about the company's efforts to display works by living authors or still under copyright, most laud their efforts to preserve and make accessible rare, out-of-print works. In partnership with libraries and other institutions, Google Books makes available electronic copies of public domain works in image-view, plain-text (OCR) and downloadable PDF formats. And yes, this includes hundreds of county histories! Start your search at <http://books.google.com/>

And then there are the paid resources for county history. Ancestry [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) for example has its "The Family & Local Histories Collection" which, according to their description, "includes more than 75 million names, 20,000 books, and 5.8 million images.... The book pages in our collection are fully indexed and searchable..." Ancestry.com library edition is also available on-site only in city of Milwaukee Libraries.

Heritage Quest also has county histories. Using their "Search Books" function, you can "find information on people and places described in over 28,000 family and local histories." Search "people" or "places" to find occurrences of a given name in the collection; or search "publications" browse and view the books. Heritage Quest is available in city of Milwaukee libraries and by remote access with a valid library card.



## **"County Histories" Roundtable October 3, 2011**

### **Participant Discussion & Contributions**

Our roundtable discussed the foregoing research outline, and our participants shared their personal experiences working with county histories, offering some great pointers along the way. Here are a few:

Maura Bournique shared a good find she once made in a mid-20th Century county history which mentioned a diary written in the 1850s by an ancestral settler — the diary being in the possession of a woman then living in Wauwatosa. So far, she has been unsuccessful in tracking down the named owner or her descendants using old phone books, SSDI, etc. Our roundtable then discussed other ways a researcher might try to re-connect, and retrieve a golden nugget like that one.

Ann Christman told us how her family has inherited an original 19th-century county history handed down from her grandfather — complete with its satin ribbon placemaker showing the section with the Lannon family sketches. She mentioned that in her experience, the county history had a few minor errors, like switched initials, but it also supplied good, new information, such as a previously unknown sister in a list of siblings of an ancestor.

Patrick Tyrrell shared examples of two families he sought in an 1890s Michigan county history: one family was never mentioned at all, while the other family was written up in abundant detail. He cautioned that some county histories required a fee for inclusion and this was sometimes an impediment. There were companies, such as Lewis Publishing Co. of Chicago, who specialized in county histories and occupied a niche market. Patrick also noted that more recent county histories from the last fifty years are worth a look. These sometimes can have more mistakes because handed-down memories have drifted; but on the other hand they also can have interesting, candid and more modern information. He offered an example of accounts of bootlegging during Prohibition (and being sent to Leavenworth!)

Dick Ammann, a new IGSW member who is a former museum archivist, also contributed his insights on county histories at the table. Some of his people were early settlers in Somerset (Bristol Co., Mass.) ca. 1685, and his search for his ancestors also demonstrated that not everyone is included in county and town histories. "Squatters" for example, might be glossed over! Dick recommended gazetteers as helpful geographical companions to have handy when working with county histories, especially in an area you are unfamiliar with. Patrick Tyrrell likewise mentioned county newsletters as a source for individuals and places, since local people know the names best. (The Irish Emigration Library has a large collection of Wisconsin and Midwest newsletters and exchange publications.) Dick Ammann went on to suggest — and participants at the roundtable concurred — that when a history is published locally, it is often of stronger personal interest and greater reliability, even if it might be a little homespun.

Discussion turned to where to find county histories, and we talked about some of the resources listed in the outline above. Dick Ammann also pointed everyone to the new search interface for University of Wisconsin System libraries and digital collections: "UW Forward," now in beta trials. It's like MADCAT, only better! See the demo and give it a whirl searching for your county history — or anything else — at:

<http://forward.library.wisconsin.edu/>

IGSW President Gary Shea joined our table later and shared his experience of looking in a Washington Co., New York county history for a biographical sketch of his people, but didn't find one. Yet he did not come away empty handed, as the county history provided helpful context — and had a large historical section about the newspapers in the locale, including their dates and places of publication. This led him to contemporary newspapers which supplied new information.

Member Dick Schmidt also popped over to our roundtable and shared tales of visits with relatives in Ireland, and the wealth of stories that can be uncovered. For example, a second cousin who is a schoolteacher, had a story of the original "Boycott," from the time of the land war in the 1880s.



## **"County Histories" Roundtable October 3, 2011**

Several people who visited our table expressed an interest in county histories from Ireland — which is a different "animal" altogether! These generally are "parish histories" since those boundaries are most meaningful to communities, and parishes are a manageable size (geographically comparable to our counties in the U.S.)

Published parish histories have proven quite popular in Ireland since with the growth in local studies in the 1970s and 1980s, and many have been compiled by county councils, rural development agencies and local societies. They are harder to find in the U.S., and many have small print runs and/or are already out of print. A good spot to find titles of Irish parish and local histories — along with look-up volunteers — is on the Connors Genealogy website book list pages at:

<http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/books/parishes-A.htm>

<http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/books/parishes-D.htm>

<http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/books/parishes-L.htm>

<http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/books/parishes-R.htm>

(Parish histories, alphabetical by county) and

<http://www.connorsgenealogy.com/books/LocalHistory.html>

The Irish Emigration Library has a significant and growing collection of Irish parish histories like these — do check our shelves.

Roundtable participants also alluded to "A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland," published in 1837 by Samuel Lewis. The work includes sketches of individual counties, towns, parishes and villages compiled in pre-Famine times. A copy of the work is available at the Irish Emigration Library; also a searchable text copy is online at <http://www.libraryireland.com/topog/>. Similarly, the Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland 1830-1840, presents information on locales, compiled county by county. 40 volumes for northern Irish counties (including Northern Ireland and some parts of the Republic) were published in the 1990s. The Irish Emigration Library owns a set.

Neither of these Irish sources are equivalent to our U.S. county histories, and only a small amount of biographical or genealogical detail is included in them. Still, many of the entries do mention large landowners, prominent farmers and merchants, churchmen, even lists of emigrants, etc. Now, that could be a topic for a whole other roundtable some time!



## Census Bureau Miscalculates Irish-Born Milwaukeeans

By Carl Baehr, Copyright 2011

A main concern of the U.S. Census Bureau each time it takes a census is that everyone in the country is enumerated. There is no way of knowing how well the job was done because there is no way to determine how many were not enumerated. But what of the statistics compiled from those who *were* enumerated? Did the Census Bureau do a good job there? No, not for the nativity of Milwaukeeans in 1850 and 1860 and possibly not for the rest of the country for those years either.

According to Census Bureau data there were 2,816 Irish-born Milwaukeeans in 1850<sup>1</sup> and 3,100 in 1860<sup>2</sup>. A search of the Ancestry.com census database for people born in Ireland and living in any of Milwaukee's wards in 1850 and 1860 yields totals of 3,019 and 4,272 respectively. If Ancestry.com's figures are correct, it means that the Census Bureau under-counted Milwaukee citizens born in Ireland by 7.2 percent in 1850 and 37.8 percent in 1860.

The only way to determine which figures were correct, if any, was to take an actual count from the census images. So I did the counting. Because it is so tedious, I did it in 15 to 30 minute sessions, sometimes several a day, over a period of about three weeks.

The results for 1850 show that 3,004 were born in Ireland and that the Ancestry.com figure was 15 too high and the Census Bureau figure was 188 too low. The Ancestry.com errors were primarily due to a page of Third Ward people being counted twice, once in the Third Ward (image 2) and then again in the Fifth Ward (image 62). The actual count shows that the Census Bureau under-counted the Irish-born by 6.7 percent in 1850.

The actual count of Irish-born in 1860, 4,381, shows that the Census Bureau total was 1,281 too low and the Ancestry.com total was 109 too low. The main reason for the low Ancestry.com number is that in the Fourth Ward the enumerator sometimes listed a more specific birthplace than the country of birth. He listed people as born in Dublin, Limerick, etc. These people were not included in Ancestry's total for Ireland. The actual count shows that the Census Bureau under-counted the Irish-born by 41.3 percent in 1860.

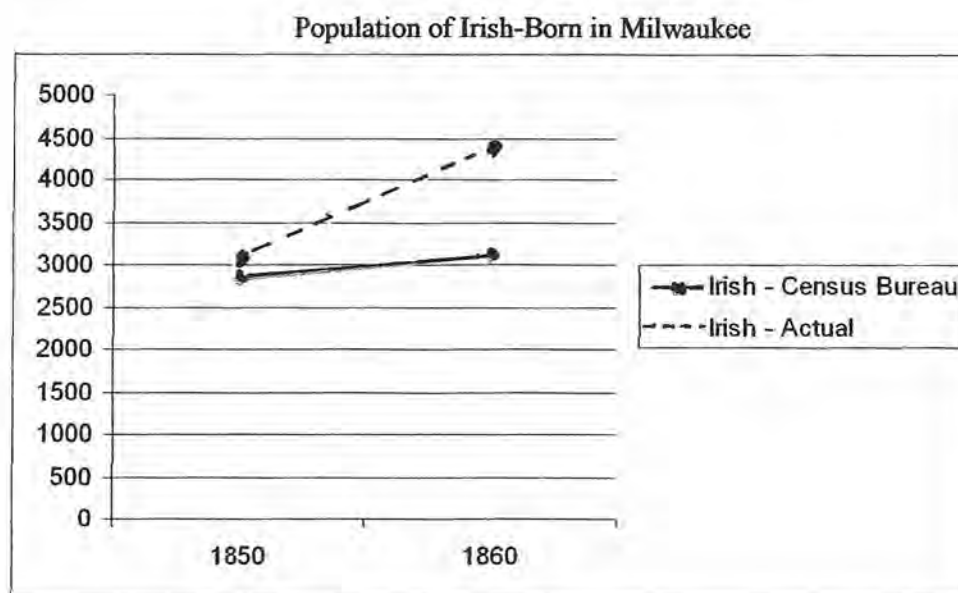
If the Irish-born were under-counted by the Census Bureau, who was over-counted? Since Ancestry.com's data seems to be reasonably accurate, I continued to do searches in their database for other groups in Milwaukee in 1850. The results are listed below and show that all groups were under-counted by the Census Bureau except the Germans, who were over-counted by 23.6 percent.

### 1850 Census of Milwaukee City

Birthplace	Census Bureau	Ancestry .com	Difference
Ireland	2816	3004 (actual)	- 188
Britain	1457	1610	- 153
U.S.A.	7175	7890	- 715
Other	1342	1676	- 334
Germany	7271	5881	+1390

I did similar searches in Ancestry.com's 1860 census database in an effort to determine what group was over-counted by the Census Bureau to compensate for the under-counting of 1,281 Irish. I was unable to complete this task because Ancestry.com did not enter the birthplaces of about 6,000 people in the Sixth and Ninth Wards. The enumerator of these wards left the place of birth blank when it was the same as that above it. To the experienced census researcher it is obvious that the blank was meant as a ditto, but it was not handled that way by Ancestry.com.

The conclusion drawn by historians and others who have used the Census Bureau data was that between 1850 and 1860 Irish immigration to Milwaukee was relatively flat and insignificant. The new figures show a robust growth of Irish in the city during those years, and also indicate that Milwaukee was not as German a city in 1850 as previously thought.



A comparison of the Census Bureau data on Irish-born Milwaukeeans in 1870 and 1880 with figures from Ancestry.com searches for those two censuses show variances of 4 (Census Bureau 3784<sup>3</sup>, Ancestry.com 3788) and 35 (Census Bureau 3659<sup>4</sup>, Ancestry.com 3624) respectively, which are statistically insignificant. So whatever technique the Census Bureau used to 'count' in 1850 and 1860 seems to have been replaced by a better method starting in 1870.

<sup>1</sup> Mortality Statistics of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850. United States. Census Office. 7th census, 1850. A.O.P. Nicholson, 1855. Page 41.

<sup>2</sup> Population of the United States in 1860; compiled from the original returns of the eighth census, under the direction of the secretary of the interior, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1864. Page xxxii.

<sup>3</sup> Ninth Census of the United States. Statistics of Population.: Tables I to VIII Inclusive, United States Government Printing Office, 1872, Page 389.

<sup>4</sup> Compendium of the Tenth Census (June 1, 1880), Part One, Washington, Government Printing Office, 1883, Page 549.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY

Thanks to Michele Patin for a generous donation.

*The Adventures of Michael Dwyer, The Insurgent Chief of 1798*, by John Thomas  
Campion (New York: P.J. Denedy, 1875) IRE 3 CAM

*The Battle of Kinsale*, by Hiram Morgan (Bray, Co. Wicklow: Wordwell, 2004)  
IRE 30 MOR

*A Biographical Dictionary of Tipperary*, by Martin O'Dwyer (Cashel, Tipperary: Folk  
Village, 1999) IRE 3 ODW

*Boom Copper, The Story of the First U.S. Mining Boom*, by Angus Murdock (New York:  
The MacMillan Company, 1943) US MIC 30 MUR

*Civil Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages in Ireland: A Practical Approach* by  
Catherine Blumson (Ulster Historical Foundation) IRE 12 BLU

*The Butte Irish, Class and Ethnicity in an American Mining Town, 1875-1925*, by David  
M. Emmons (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1990) US MON 48 EMM

*Celtic Sacred Landscapes*, by Nigel Pennick (New York: Thames and Hudson, 1996)  
WOR 30 PEN

Seamus Pender, *A Census of Ireland Circa 1659 With Supplementary Material from the  
Poll Money Ordinances 1660-1661*, by Seamus Pender (Baltimore: Clearfield Co.,  
1999) IRE 7 PEN

*Civil Registration of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in Ireland: A Practical Approach*, by  
Catherine Blumson (Ulster Historical Foundation) IRE 12 BLU IRE 12 BLU

*County Wicklow, Arklow Town Family Roots, Exploring Family Origins in Arklow Town*,  
by Noel Farrell (Longford: Noel Farrell, 1998) IRE WIC 25 FAR

*Doing Irish Local History, Pursuit and Practice*, Raymond Gillespie and Myrtle Hill  
(Belfast: The Institute of Irish Studies, The Queen's University of Belfast, 1999)  
IRE 25 GIL

*Emigration from Europe, 1815-1930* Dudley Bains, (Cambridge: Cambridge University  
Press, 1995) WOR 17 BA I

*Emigrants from Ireland to America, 1735-1743*, by Frances McDonnell (Baltimore:  
Genealogical Publishing Co., 1992) WOR 17 MCD



*Erin's Daughters in America, Irish Immigrant Women in the Nineteenth Century*, by  
Hasia R. Diner (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983)  
US 30 DIN

*From Ireland: Land of Pain and Sorrow, A Historical Chronicle of Two Cultures*, by  
Joseph L. Grady (Phoenix: Erin Go Braugh Books, 1984) IRE 2 GRA

*The Glories of Mary in Boston, A Memorial History of the Church of Our Lady of  
Perpetual Help (Mission Church), Roxbury, Mass., 1871-1921*, by the Rev. John F.  
Byrne (Boston: Mission Church Press, 1921) US MAS 10 BYR

*Gods ad Heroes of the Celts, Gods and Heroes of the Celts*, by Marie-Louise Sjoestedt  
(Berkely, CA, Turtle Island Foundation, 1982) WOR 20 SJO

*Going to Ireland, A Genealogical Researcher's Guide*, by Sherry Irvine and Nora M.  
Hickey (Victoria, B.C.: Trafford Publishing, 1997) IRE 25 IRV

*The Golden Vale of Ivowen, Between Slievenamon and Suir*, by Eoghan O'Neill  
(Dublin: Geography Publications) IRE TIP 30 ONE

James S. Donnelly, Jr., *The Great Irish Potato Famine*, by James S. Donnelly (United  
Kingdom: Sutton Publishing Limited, 2001) IRE 30 DON

*he Great O'Neill, A Biography of Hugh O'Neill, Earl of Tyrone, 1550-1616*, By Sean  
O'Faolain (Cork and Dublin: Mercier Press, 1942) IRE 3 FAO

*Hibernia-Irlande-Eire: Images of Ireland, A Bibliography of Old and Rare Books about  
Ireland, American Geographical Society Collection, Golda Meir Library, The University of  
Wisconsin-Milwaukee*, comp. by John Gleeson (Madison: The Board of Regents of  
The University of Wisconsin System, 1983) IRE 2 GLE

*History of the Name O'Neill*, by J.D. Williams (Dublin: Mercier Press, 1978) IRE 45 WIL

*Inventing Irish America, Generation, Class, and Ethnic Identity in a New England City,  
1880-1928*, by Timothy J. Meagher (Notre Dame, Indiana: Notre Dame Press,  
2001) US MAS 30  
MEA

*Irish-English, English-Irish Dictionary* (Niwat Co: Roberts Rinehart Publishers, 1998)  
IRE 18

*Irish Citizenship Handbook, Dual Citizenship for Irish-Americans Documenting a Parent  
or Grandparent born in Ireland*, by Frank Faulkner (Springfield, Mass.: Hungry Hill  
Press, 1996) IRE 55 FAU

- The Irish Story, Telling Tales and Making It Up in Ireland* , by R.F. Foster (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002) IRE 20 FOS
- Journal of the Cork Genealogical Society, No. 2* (Silversprings, Cork: Cork Genealogical Society, 2002) IRE COR 27
- A Landlord's Garden, Derreen Demesne, County Kerry*, by Nigel everett (Bantry, Co. Cork,: Haford Press, 2001) IRE KER 34
- Thomas P. Power, *Land, Politics, and Society in Eighteenth-Century Tipperary*, by Thomas P. Power (ClarendonPress1993) IRE 30 POW
- The Last Lords of Ormond, Cromwellian Plantation, Prelude and Aftermath in the 'Countrie of the Three O'Kennedies'* , by Dermot F. Gleeson (Tyrone, Nenagh, Tipperary: Relay Books, 2001) IRE 30 GLE
- Lovely Is the Lee*, by Robert Gibbings (New York: E.P. Dutton & Company, 1946) IRE 39
- The Mac Carthy Mor and the Count of Clandermont, *An Irish Miscellany, Essays Heraldic, Historical and Anecdotal* (Little Rock, Arkansas: Gryfons, 1998) IRE 30
- Memorial Atlas of Ireland Showing Provinces, Counties, Baronies, Parishes, Etc. In Thirty-Three Double Page Maps, Compiled and Drawn from Reliable Official Data and the Latest Information* (Philadelphia: L.J. Richards & Company, 1901) IRE 39
- Models for Movers, Irish Women's Emigration to America*, by Ide O'Carroll (Dublin: Attic Press, 1990) IRE 17 ICA
- Northside of the Mizen, Tales, Customs and History From the South-West of County Cork in Ireland* , by Patrick McCarthy and Richard Hawkes (Goleen, Co. Cork: Mizen Productions, 2003) IRE COR 20 MCC
- The Origin and History of Irish Names of Places*, 3 volumes , by P.W. Joyce (Baltimore: Clearfield Company, 1995) IRE 44 JO
- The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*, by R.F. Foster (Oxford: Oxford University Press,1989) IRE 30 FOS
- A Practical Guide to the Valuation of Rent in Ireland, With an Appendix Containing Some Extracts from the Instructions Issued to Valuers in 1853, by the Late Sir. R. Griffith, Bart.* , by James Fitzgerald (Dublin: E. Ponsonby, 1881) IRE 34 FIT
- Rural Disorder and Police Reform in Ireland, 1812-36* by Galen Broeker (Great Britain: Routledge and Kegan Paul Ltd., 1970) IRE 30 BRO

*Sources for the History of Landed Estates in Ireland* by Terence A.M. Dooley (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2000) IRE 34 DOO

*Stone Mad for Music, the Sliabh Luachra Story*, by Donal Hickey (Dublin: Marino Books, 1999) IRE COR 58 HIC

*The Stranger in Ireland; or, a Tour in the Southern and Western Parts of that Country, in the Year 1805*, by John Carr (London: Phillips, 1806) IRE 14 CAR

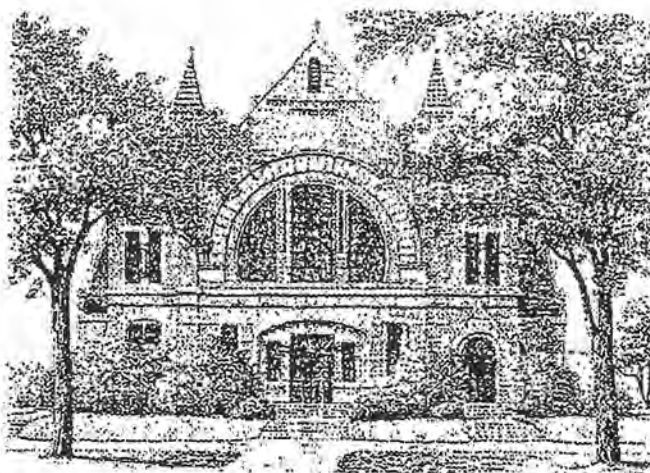
*Tipperary, History and Society*, ed. by William Nolan and Thomas G. McGrath (Templeogue, Dublin: Geography Publications, 1985) IRE TIP 30 NOL

*A Topographical Index of the Parishes and Townlands of Ireland in Sir William Petty's Mss. Barony Maps C. 1655-9*, coll. and ed. by Goblet, (Baltimore: Clearfield Co., 1999) IRE 34 GOB

*Tracing Your Mayo Ancestors*, by Brian Smith (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1997) IRE MAY 25 SMI

*The Uncounted Irish in Canada and the United States*, by Margaret E. Fitzgerald and Joseph A. King (Willowdale, Ontario: P.D. Meany Co., 1990) IRE 17 FIT

*The Year of Liberty, the Great Irish Rebellion of 1798*, by Thomas Pakenham (London: Abacus, 2000) IRE 42 PAK



**THE IRISH CULTURAL AND HERITAGE CENTER**

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Home of  
**THE IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY**

## MORE PICTURES ARE NEEDED FOR IRISH FACES

by Patricia Keeney Geyh

Once again the staff of the Irish Emigration Library is asking for copies of pictures of Irish immigrants to the United States and/or their children. We are anxious to increase the size of our collection of photographs so why not get out those old photograph albums and make copies of pictures to share with us?

For the last several years we have been collecting these pictures, laminating them, and displaying them at Irish Fest in the genealogy tent. They are housed in the Irish Emigration Library located in the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center in Milwaukee.

Each photograph in the collection has been assigned a number and is filed in an appropriately numbered folder. Donors of the pictures, when providing information about the photographs, frequently mention people not appearing on a given picture. For example, they might identify parents or the spouse of an individual, none of whom are pictured. These names are also included in the indexes with an asterisk after the surname to indicate that their image does not actually appear. This index is sorted by the surnames of the Irish associated with each picture and also by the number assigned to the photograph.

Adding to this collection is an on-going process and we are anxious to add many more images. Please send us copies of pictures of your ancestors. The process is simple.

- 1) Send **COPIES** of pictures of Irish immigrants into the United States or pictures of their children. They need not have settled in Wisconsin. Send us copies. **NONE OF THEM WILL BE RETURNED.**
- 2) Identify the names of the people on the picture. If more than one person appears, note their relationship to each other if you know it. If this information is written on the back of the picture, write it in pencil.
- 3) Provide your own name and how you can be reached.
- 4) Send all of this to the Irish Emigration Library, Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233.
- 5) The pictures will be on display at Irish Fest in the genealogy tent this coming season.



## **NEWS FROM THE WEB**

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

### **Free Access to E-Books About Ireland**

[www.askaboutireland.ie](http://www.askaboutireland.ie) , which offers free access to Griffith's Valuation, also provides e-books on Ireland. These may be searched by county or by subject, such as Irish people, folklore, history, life and society, etc. These are older books which provide a great deal of local history and can give greater understanding of what life was like for our ancestors.

As just one important example, Jeremiah King's *County Kerry , Past and Present* gives "a thorough and comprehensive survey of the locality in fascinating detail." This is a highly recommended source for those with Kerry ancestors.

Listing over 500 free Irish e-books is <http://freeirishgenebooks.blogspot.com>  
Categories include history of Ireland, local history, Irish diaspora, Irish family histories, Irish genealogy sources, biography, church records, and many others. The books may be read online or downloaded to a Kindle or iPad.

### **RAOGK Discontinued**

Due to the death of the administrator, RAOGK (Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness) is now offline. It had offered look-up help, picture taking, etc. by volunteers with no charge or just charge for expenses. In the meantime some groups have been started on Facebook. See: [www.facebook.com/groups/raogkinternational/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/raogkinternational/)

### **PROTECTION FOR 300 YEARS OF IRISH ARCHEALOGY THREATENED**

Ireland has a National Monuments Act which lists all archeological sites and requires that planning be done before any work occurs nearby. Now there is a threat that legal protection for sites after 1700 AD will be dropped, meaning that sites may be destroyed, and with no scientific study done beforehand. Sites could include early houses, houses of iconic figures such as Daniel O'Connell, nineteenth century workhouses, mills, holy wells, Mass rocks, etc.

## **PRONI LECTURES ON IRISH LOCAL HISTORY**

PRONI (Public Record Office of Northern Ireland) began a series of lectures in September on Exploring Irish Local History. The lectures have been recorded in short segments and can be seen and heard on [www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ofp7hOMbIE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7ofp7hOMbIE)

## **IRISH HUNGER MEMORIAL IN NEW YORK CITY**

A memorial to Irish immigrants to the U.S. has been created in lower Manhattan, Battery Park City, with landfill taken when constructing the World Trade Center. Approaching the memorial, a grassy area seems to be floating about the ground. You walk around to the back and enter a dark tunnel which emerges onto a reconstruction of an Irish landscape complete with ruined stone cottage which was donated by a Co. Mayo family, and transported stone by stone. Soil, vegetation and rocks were brought from the western coast of Ireland, along with a stone from each Irish county. The memorial may be viewed at: [www.newyorkcitywalk.com/html/images\\_IrishFamin.htm](http://www.newyorkcitywalk.com/html/images_IrishFamin.htm)

## **COOK COUNTY, IL NATURALIZATION PETITIONS**

Cook County, Il has begun putting their Naturalization Petitions online at [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/default.aspx](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR/default.aspx) These give birth date, town and country of origin, and occupation.

## **1940 US CENSUS**

The 1940 census will be released April 2, 2012, and Ancestry.com will make their imaging and indexing free until the end of 2013. Indexing will be an ongoing endeavor during 2012, with smaller states probably done first. Steve Morse is planning to construct a one-step program using enumeration districts so that people can be found before the Ancestry index is completed. His website is [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

## **MORE GENEALOGY BOOKS ONLINE**

ON [www.genealogybooklinks.com](http://www.genealogybooklinks.com) you can search for biographies and family genealogies, or look for books by state or by subject. These link to archive.com which has extensive offerings of scanned books that are out of copyright. The books may be searched by a name or keyword.

## **FREE FORUMS ON FINDMYPAST.IE**

<[www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)> requires a fee to provide Irish records, but also has six different message boards on which only a registration is required. The forum topics include: General Discussion, Using the Records, Tracing Specific Ancestors, Places and Geography in Ireland, Your Finds and Success Stories, and What Does It Mean to Be Irish? Users can keep track of discussions and subscribe to findmypast's newsletter.

## **IRISH PRISON RECORDS ON FINDMYPAST.IE**

A database of 3.5 million Irish prison records were added to <[findmypast.ie](http://findmypast.ie)> in October. Records give name, address, place of birth, occupation, religion, education, age, physical description, name and address of next of kin, crime, sentence, and dates of incarceration.

25% of incarcerations were for drunkenness, 16% for theft, 12% for assault, 8% for vagrancy and 4% for rioting.

Basic free information gives name, status, year of incarceration, year born and prison name. Complete records require payment.

## **COUNTY CARLOW INQUESTS**

A set of over 1500 inquests into deaths in Co. Carlow, held between 1801 and 1871 was recently auctioned and purchased for a price described as "well over" the expected price of between 300-500 euros. The anonymous purchaser learned of the auction when he was in Ireland on matters of protocol and security prior to Queen Elizabeth's visit. He is a descendant of Benjamin D'Israeli, former high sheriff for Carlow in the nineteenth century, and who may have been a nephew of the similarly named British Prime Minister.

The purchaser has made the documents available to historian Michael Purcell who plans to post the information on the Co. Carlow IGP website. The reports give date and cause of death, and age and address of those named. Overall, they give a picture of life in Carlow in the nineteenth century, revealing attitudes, beliefs, and lack of medical knowledge of that time.

Out of 1527 inquests, death by car/horse accidents numbered 212, death from burns, 176, and cases of suspicious circumstances, 165.

## 1842 MAHON ESTATE ROLL TRANSCRIBED

The Ballykilcline Society received access to two rolls of the Mahon estate in Co. Roscommon from 1842. 745 tenants are listed. These tenants probably either died or emigrated a few years later during the Famine years, and would not appear in Griffith's Valuation.

The transcription has been an ongoing process since 2005, and fills 130 pages when printed out. It names individuals in particular townlands, rent owed, arrears in rent, which applies to the majority, and pending action due to arrears. In some cases an ejection is noted.

The Mahon estate covered about 10,000 acres. A later owner, Major Denis Mahon found it deeply in debt, and fixed upon an emigration scheme, evicting 1000 tenants, a third of whom died on the way. Denis Mahon then ejected all his remaining tenants and received retribution when he was shot dead in his carriage, while driving on a country road.

A copy of the transcription has been given to the Strokestown Famine Museum, which is housed in the former home of Denis Mahon. The museum holds extensive 19th century estate records comprising 40,000 documents. Some selected documents from their archive are online at [www.strokestownpark.ie](http://www.strokestownpark.ie)

## BACK ISSUES OF CANADA GAZETTE ONLINE

The *Canadian Gazette*, the official newspaper of Canada's Government, has been published since 1841. All back issues have been digitised and are searchable by keyword at [www.gazette.gc.ca/index-eng.html](http://www.gazette.gc.ca/index-eng.html)

Because it is the newspaper of record for the Government of Canada, it contains many types of records of interest to genealogists. Records include naturalizations, divorce applications, pension applications, military medals awarded, homeowner and landowner lists for larger communities, and employee lists.





# Upcoming Programs

## **Beginning January 9, 2012, we will be going back to the Shorewood Public Library**

3920 N Murray Ave – Shorewood, WI 53211

**January 9, 2012 • 7 P.M.**

"Is There a Banshee in Your Family?"

Come and hear Nancy Madden Waleszyk talk about this fascinating topic.

**February 6, 2012 • 7 P.M.**

"Researching Ancestors in Religious Life"

Sister Sylvia will help you to find some of the women in your family who joined the religious life. This can be a daunting task as they often changed their names and remained distant from their families.

**March 5, 2012 • 7 P.M.**

"Irish Emigration Routes"

Pat Geyh will present a talk on patterns of immigration our Irish ancestors used when coming to America. This could be very helpful in tracking where your family may have stopped before settling down.

**April 2, 2012 • 7 P.M.**

Back to the ICHC • 2133 W Wisconsin Ave

If it's April, it must be the "Night of the Round Tables"

Help us to help each other solve the problems inherent in searching for ancestors.

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Watch *igswonline.com* for further information on upcoming programs.

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin • P.O. Box 13766 • Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766



OUR WISH FOR YOU  
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS  
A BLESSED NEW YEAR  
A WORLD OF PEACE AND JUSTICE  
FOR ALL



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