



THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

Published by the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin

Volume Twenty One - Number One

(Márta) March 2012

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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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PUBLICATION: *THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY* is published (4) times a year by the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin as a service to its members and as an educational services to the public through distribution to many libraries. Editor: Jane Maher (414) 258 9690
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We have enjoyed some very fine programs so far this year. Nancy M. Waleszyk's "Is There a Banshee in Your Family?" was entertaining (multi-media), educational, academic (that's a good thing!). Our own Sister Sylvia gave a genealogy-information-packed talk on researching ancestors in religious life.

Our access to the Shorewood Library has been restored. We will find its air conditioning will come in really handy during the heat of summer. We'll continue to use the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. It is *the venue* for our Round Table and holiday entertainment meetings.

Thank you to our outgoing corresponding secretary Sue Dolinar for all of her hard work for IGSW. Over the past two years she brought in many of our speakers, put together the monthly program info sheet, scheduled our meeting places and she has been a thoughtful participant in our Board's lively discussions.

During the December general meeting Michele Patin approached me with an interesting project idea for our organization. She asked me, "What if the IGSW sponsored a travel grant or fellowship, for Irish family history research, open to individuals?"

I shared her question with the Board. We enthusiastically came up with many of our own in the January and February meetings including:

"What are we looking for? A presentation? An article for the Quarterly? How about both?"

"It should be competitive, right? How?"

"What about the prize?"

Now it's my turn to ask: "what do you think?"

Gary Shea

ON ST. PATRICK'S DAY

May there always be work
for your hands to do

May your purse always carry
a shilling or two

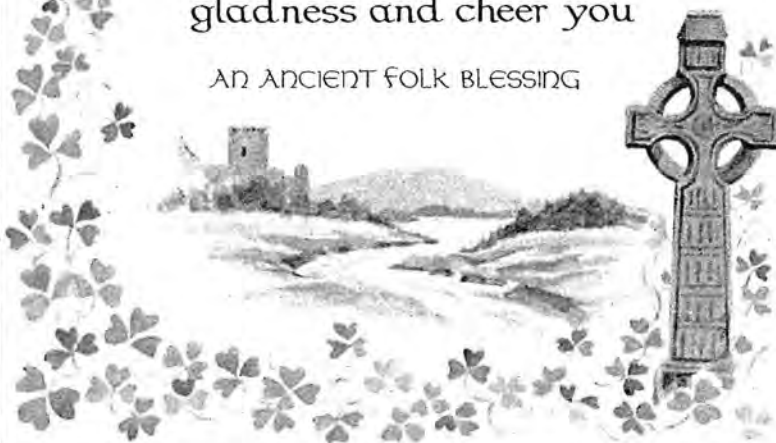
May the sun always play on
your windowpane

May a rainbow chase after
each spot of rain

May the hand of a friend
always be near you

May God fill your heart with
gladness and cheer you

AN ANCIENT FOLK BLESSING





A Dream of 48 Years

by John J. Dowling

As I awaited the departure of my New York bound flight from Lambert St. Louis Field on July 6, 1948, I realized that I was about to fulfill a dream of 48 years. That dream was to return to Cloonageeragh, the home of my father, near Roscommon, Ireland, where I had last visited in my boyhood days and where many of my cousins still reside.

My luggage was bulging with nylons, hershey bars, soap, pipes and alarm clocks as I boarded an east-bound Constellation, the first step on a flight that eventually took me to four countries and back home over a period of 18 days. I was to cross in seven and one-half hours an ocean it took my father 13 days to cross.

My non-stop flight to New York was enjoyable and I arrived at La Guardia Field about 9:45 p.m. This gave me sufficient time to check in at the Hotel Roosevelt, and also an opportunity to see the bright lights of Broadway and 42nd Street. I notified Pan American World Airways of my arrival and confirmed my trans-Atlantic reservation for the following afternoon.

There was little delay the next day in my departure from La Guardia Field. My luggage was checked direct to Shannon, Ireland. It was about 2 p.m. when I took off.

My first scheduled stop was Boston where the plane refueled and picked up additional passengers about 3:15 p.m. A short distance out of Boston, cocktails were served in the plane's cocktail lounge. The next and only stop before the Emerald Isle was Gander, Newfoundland. I landed at this isolated airfield about 8:30 p.m. It was raining slightly and because of the darkness it was difficult to observe much of the surrounding country. From what I could see, there was little habitation.

Again time for refueling and a last-minute check-up, then off for a seven and one-half hour ocean crossing to Shannon. Flying conditions were ideal and there were no signs of air-sickness on the part of the passengers. Flights of this nature are made at extremely high altitudes above the weather, consequently the ocean is not visible during the crossing. The total flying time from St. Louis to Ireland amounted to 15 hours. We landed at Shannon about 11 a.m.

As is typical of the Irish, a warm welcome was given incoming passengers by representatives of Ireland's magnificent Shannon Airport. After alighting from the plane, I was escorted to the customs office where my baggage was examined and my currency appraised. For the benefit of those who might undergo this routine, be frank for the examination is thorough. The customs inspectors insist upon seeing all forms of currency in one's possession. The money is then counted and a report written up. The traveler receives a copy of this report to carry with him. Under the English and Irish laws, a tourist is allowed to bring into Ireland only five pounds (approximately \$25) of English money.

After clearing customs, I lunched at the Shannon Airport. By one o'clock, I left for Limerick by bus. The only way to see Ireland properly is by bus. Railroads are slow and poorly equipped. By bus, one can see all the countryside.

I passed through Limerick, a city of 45,000 people, and continued to Galway where I spent my first night. Galway is the summer resort of Ireland and the weather was ideal when I was there. The Great Southern Hotel in Galway provided comfortable accommodations.

Friday, July 9, was a delightful day, cool and sunshiny. Galway, in my opinion, is one of the most beautiful cities in Ireland. It has a population of about 25,000. My cousins, Agnes and Mary Dowling, daughters of Thomas Dowling of Cloonageeragh, spent the day showing me about the city. What a grand time we had! It was 5:30 p.m. before I left Galway. After a three and one-half hour drive, I reached my hometown, Roscommon.

What a glorious feeling to awaken that Saturday morning in the city of Roscommon and see the familiar buildings and homes that I could remember having seen when I was a boy. The town of Roscommon is a busy community, being the county seat of Roscommon. It has three banks, a large county hospital, and many new homes and business buildings. All of its buildings looked fresh, clean and alive with business.

While in Roscommon, I stopped at the Central Hotel, a very convenient hotel with comfortable rooms and a most attractive dining room and pub. As is customary in Ireland, this particular pub was graced with a good-looking Irish colleen barmaid who was very entertaining and kept the customers lingering long. This hotel is owned and operated by my cousin, D. J. Harlow, who is the grandson of John J. Dowling of Cloonageeragh (he was known as "Johnny Jack" Dowling at the time of my previous visit.)

After an appetizing breakfast of oatmeal, eggs and rasher (bacon) and, of course, Irish tea (no meal would be complete without it), on to Carrabane to visit my cousin, Mrs. John Farrell.

What a reception followed my meeting with Mrs. Farrell, for it was 48 years since I last saw her. There were tear drops and big Irish hugs, not to mention a word about all the kisses. Mrs. Farrell ("Cousin Baby" as I knew her from my boyhood visit) is now a mature woman of 69, not ashamed to tell her age, and a very active person capable of doing all her own housework. The kettle was down and the tea ready when I arrived.

Now began the distribution of gifts from America. I had previously mailed seven bundles of clothing, and when I unpacked my luggage of its cigarettes, candy, nylons, rosaries, soap, alarm clocks, pipes, ties, gloves, belts, a gold watch and chain and "Dowling" brand bottled-in-bond Kentucky bourbon, I was indeed a welcome guest. After the welcoming, "Cousin Baby" showed me around the farm. One of her sons, Johnnie Farrell, aged 40 (still single), manages it for her. What a lovely place it is: All the buildings are in splendid condition, well cared-for — everything spick and span. I returned late that evening to my hotel.

After breakfasting at my hotel Sunday morning, July 11, I drove to Ballagh for Mass. This was the church my father attended and the one he was baptized in. It is still the same old place, with its quaint surroundings and traditions — ladies on the right, men on the left (a seating rule.) My father's family has attended Mass here for over 200 years. I was quite an attraction at 10 o'clock Mass, being the only Yankee in the church, and a big reception was held outside after Mass, where I met numerous of my cousins. The parish priest, not to be outdone by his parishioners, invited me into the priest house where we had a "half-one" (a small glass of Irish whiskey) together. Before I left, he reminded me that a fine school building would be a lasting memorial to my father and that their need for a new building was very great. After my visit with the good pastor, which I thoroughly enjoyed, I proceeded on my way to Cloonageeragh, my father's old homestead.

As I drove up the lane from the Crossroads, passing the homes of the Fallons and the Maddens, and into the driveway of the home where my father spent his childhood, and where I had many happy days with my good aunt and uncle and my cousins upon my last visit here, I recalled many incidents of the past.

Cloonageeragh is now owned by my cousin, Tom Dowling. It comprises 30 acres overlooking the Shannon River and is well-stocked with fine cattle. I spent the day going over my visit of 48 years ago, walking through the fields I knew so well, and making a trip to the bog where I had helped with the turf. This time the turf was all cut when I arrived, thank God, so I had none to cut. I drank of water at the spring where often I had drunk before, and then visited down the lane passing the Gilleran gate, the Logan home, Mattie Dowling's, and into the Feeney home to visit Barbara and Kate, who both looked well for their ages.

The girls were overjoyed to see me. Kate recalled the days she rode the bicycle and the enjoyable time I had on my last visit with her brother, Pat Feeney. Then I continued my walk down the road to Pat "the Buck" Dowling's old home, now owned by the Shields family. The father of the Rev. Daniel Dowling formerly lived here. The Feeney house was formerly the home of Cousin Dennis Dowling's father.

After my long walk I returned to our old home where dinner was served. My cousin's wife, a very fine person and a wonderful cook, raises turkeys, so we had turkey for dinner with all the trimmings. After dinner we sat around the turf fire as the weather was a bit cool outdoors. The fire felt good. For hours we talked over the old days at Cloonageeragh and of the many changes that had taken place. Then my car called for me and drove me to my hotel. But not to bed so early, for I had made many new friends by now at the hotel who would wait for me to return each evening to hold a little party in the pub, with the Yankee being the attraction — and paying the bill — but I loved it.

Though Monday, July 12, was a rainy day, it did not prevent me from visiting Kileah, the home of cousin Mary Margaret Donnellon. On my way I called for "Cousin Baby" to take her with me. Mary Margaret has two sons; she had three, but the one for which I was godfather died. She is the wealthiest of the Dowlings in Roscommon. Her property consists of 400 acres of rich land stocked with more than 600 head of sheep. This was a grand visit long to be remembered. The place had not changed much since I was there before.

On Tuesday I visited Tuam, the lovely home of my Aunt B. Owens, now occupied by her daughter-in-law and three grandchildren. The original house I knew so well had burned down some years ago and a new two-story one has been built near the front gate. I remember spending happy days here at Tuam. Of course I never traveled anywhere without "Cousin Baby"; how could I? She accompanied me on this trip to Tuam. It was 19 years since her last visit to Tuam when she accompanied Katherine and Dorothy under similar circumstances. My good cousins at Tuam did all they could to make my visit a pleasant one.

After leaving Tuam, together with Cousin Baby, I traveled to Strokestown. I remembered having traveled to Strokestown before, only then it was in a donkey cart and I was accompanied by my aunt, who shopped there. We visited "Cousin Baby's" daughter's home and other places of interest before returning to Roscommon. On our return from Strokestown to Roscommon we stopped at Cloonageeragh to bid cousin Tom and his wife goodbye. Then we went down the lane to Roscommon, and "sure no one would think of passing the Crossroads without stopping in." Our cousins, the Rattigans, who now own the Crossroads, were happy to have us and by the time we had a couple of "half-ones" it was late and we had to end our visit and take "Cousin Baby" home. This ended my visit with my cousins. It was not easy to bid them goodbye. When I finally returned to my hotel a farewell party was held and a goodbye said to all.

On Wednesday, July 14, I reached Athlone, one of the most picturesque towns in Ireland located on the River Shannon, in fact, the Shannon flows through the heart of the town. With its lovely churches and buildings, Athlone is a sight long to be remembered. When I visited here before, I remained for two weeks as guest of my cousin, Monsignor Kelly.

It was on Thursday that I reached the capital city of Ireland, and what a wonderful city Dublin really is! Its population is over 500,000 people. Dublin is as active as any modern large American city. I was amazed at the magnificent hospitals here and throughout all Ireland, as a matter of fact, which have been constructed with funds from the Irish Sweepstakes. The people of Dublin are most hospitable. The city's Phoenix Park, an enclosed park of 1,760 acres, is the

largest of its kind in the world. It is a beautiful sight to see with its zoo and gardens. Of course no one would think of visiting Dublin without seeing the Dublin Castles and Guinness' Brewery. Ireland today is prosperous. Her crops are the best she has had in years. The cattle and the sheep, of which they raise many, are knee-deep in grass. Throughout the entire country new homes are being constructed. They have splendid roads and are maintaining them properly. And, most of all, they have plenty to eat; the best roast beef I tasted on my trip was here.

On Friday, July 16, at 10 a.m., I left the home of St. Patrick for London via the Irish Air Lines. I departed from Dublin airport, one of the finest in Europe. "Bye now!"

(Note: Nothing has been mentioned about the Blarney Castle. Having kissed the famous stone on my previous visit, I was warned by my friends that it was not necessary for me to repeat the performance!)



This is Cloonageeragh, a beautiful little thatched roof house where my father spent his childhood and where I spent many happy days as a boy.

Submitted by Tim Dowling:

This article includes only the first half of the author's story and does not include his travels to England and France.

The author John James Dowling, born March 23, 1883 in Missouri, was a 2d cousin of my great grandfather Edward Lamoine Dowling. Both of their fathers were born in County Roscommon. John was first a real estate agent in St. Louis and later a bank president. After this trip to Ireland, he continued to live for another 21 years.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

THE 1940 CENSUS COMMUNITY PROJECT

The 1940 U.S. census will be released April 2, 2012. If you don't know where a person lived, you will have to scroll through 130 million entries! NARA will not be providing an index. The good news is that there is a project to create a free searchable index along with viewing the original census image. Three organizations are combining to do this-----Archives.com, FamilySearch International, and findmypast.com.

DIRECTORY OF FREE GENEALOGY WEBSITES

A new site at <<http://sites.google.com/site/freeancestry4u>> links only to free genealogy sites. It is updated daily. There are many links for Ireland.

UPDATE ON THE DUFFY'S CUT PROJECT

A ten-year effort to recover the bodies of 57 Irish men who labored briefly on the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad in the 1830s has been abandoned. The men died in mysterious circumstances and some think they were murdered. Frank and Bill Watson had discovered the probable location of their mass grave 30 feet below ground level, but now have to give up the project because the property belongs to Amtrak, and they will not give permission for further excavation due to proximity to active railroads.

NEW PBS GENEALOGY PROGRAM

Starting March 25, 2012, PBS television will begin a 10 part program called "Finding Your Roots," hosted by historian Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Check local listings for dates and times.

DID YOU KNOW THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES HAS A YouTube CHANNEL?

The National Archives is making available some of its most popular workshops online through its YouTube channel at <www.youtube.com/user/usnationalarchives>

Topics include the military, immigration and census records.

FREE US CENSUS IMAGES AT ARCHIVE.ORG

The Allen County Library at Ft. Wayne, Indiana has placed its digitised microfilm census rolls on www.archive.org. Go to <www.archive.org/details/allen_county> They are not indexed, so a researcher has to scroll through the images, just as one would scroll through microfilm.

IRISH EMIGRATION DATABASE

A recent source for ship's manifests from Ireland and Liverpool is the Irish Emigration Database at <www.dunbrody.com/database2.php> It covers the years from 1846 to 1886 and ports of arrival New York, Boston, New Orleans and Philadelphia. Searches may be made by first name, surname, gender, age, arrival date and port of entry. Be aware that it is not all inclusive and that the people you are searching for may be found on some other database. A good place to check is <www.stevemorse.org>.

IRISH VICTIMS OF THE INQUISITION, INCLUDING ZORRO!

Historian Dr. Thomas O'Connor of the National University of Ireland Maynooth has discovered documents in Madrid's Spanish Archive which list about five hundred Irish people brought before the Spanish Inquisition between 1478 and 1834. A folio of eighty pages summarizes their Inquisition trials.

The Inquisition was an attempt by Catholic Spain to compel religious conformity by Jews, Muslims, and Protestants.

The majority of the Irish brought before the tribunals were Protestants. Most of them were released with a conditional absolution.

The most famous Irish victim was William Lamport, a Catholic from Wexford. He was arrested in Mexico in 1659 for plotting against the Spanish. He became a folk hero for Mexican Independence, and it's thought he was the inspiration for the character of Zorro. The Spanish had him burned at the stake.

John Martin from Cork was also executed. He was sailing on an expedition that was ambushed by the Spanish navy off the coast of Mexico.

Patrick Sinnott of Waterford was a professor of rhetoric at the University of Santiago de Compostela. Accused of being a warlock he was tried for fortune-telling and his punishment was banishment from the city for two years.

MORE CO. MONAGHAN RECORDS

35,000 more birth, marriage and death records from the Co. Monaghan Family History Centre have been added to the Irish Family History Foundation's online research service. See <www.rootsireland.ie>

IRISH PRISON RECORDS ONLINE

Ireland's National Archives holds prison records from 1790 to 1924. Now the website <www.findmypast.ie> has placed them online, for a fee. You may not think you have an ancestor in trouble with the law, but keep in mind that people were arrested for very minor offenses. There are over 3.5 million names mentioned, including the prisoner, his relatives, and the victims.

CLARE ROOTS SOCIETY

A family history group was formed in County Clare in 2006, and anyone with an interest in Clare may join. Members in Ireland must pay dues, but those living elsewhere are exempt. To join, contact the Secretary at <secretary@clareroots.org> You will be put on their mailing list and informed of their events and projects. You may wish to volunteer for one of their transcription projects. They work in partnership with the Clare Library which has a not-to-be-missed website at <www.clarelibrary.ie>

LOST NORMAN TOWN FOUND NEAR THE CITY OF KILKENNY

Fifteen miles from the city of Kilkenny, a medieval town lost for centuries has been discovered using technology created by the military to find underground bunkers. Called Newtown, the city dates back to the 12th century, but disappeared from the map in the 14th century. Archeologists now have uncovered streets, houses and tombstones. The Heritage Council is overseeing a conservation plan, and it is expected that "the Pompei of Ireland" will become a tourist attraction.

FASCINATING OLD IRISH PICTURES

Historic postcards Over 6,000 photographs, political prints and portraits from days gone by form part of a project launched at the Linen Hall Library in Belfast. To view collection and buy the images, visit www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/postcards.

FREEDOM OF DUBLIN RECORDS

Beginning in the 13th century, Irish towns honored men with the award of "Freedom of the City." This distinction gave them the right to vote, exemption from tolls and some taxes, and the obligation to defend the city.

Records of the freedom of Dublin have survived and are now available up to 1774 through the efforts of John Brenham and the Dublin City Library and Archive. the place to find them is <www.dublinheritage.ie>

UPPER CANADA LAND PETITIONS ONLINE

Library and Archives Canada has added digitized images, 357,831 in all, of the Upper Canada Land Petitions. Present day Ontario comprises what was called Upper Canada in 1791. Early settlers submitted petitions to the Governor to obtain land granted by the Crown. Children of Loyalists also could receive land. The records in this collection cover the years 1783 to 1865. The site is at <www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/upper-canada-land/001097-100.01-e.php>

It may be easier just to google "Upper Canada Land Petitions."

ONTARIO CATHOLIC CHURCH RECORDS

Familysearch.org has added Ontario Roman Catholic records from 1760 to 1923. They include baptisms, marriages, deaths and other records from the province.

WALT DISNEY'S IRISH HERITAGE

<findmypast.ie> has found records that Walt Disney's ancestors rented 33 acres of land in the parish of Rathbeagh in Co. Kilkenny.

Jan Meisels Allen, Vice President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has given permission to have her article reprinted for the IGSW Quarterly.

UPDATE ON UPCOMING SSDI LEGISLATION

Jan Meisels Allen has an update for us about the US House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Social Security. She reported earlier that they held a hearing on Feb 2 where the genealogical community was not invited to testify! A video with the hearing was posted to the Subcommittee's website on February 7: http://waysandmeans.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=133. She suggests that everyone in the genealogy community watch the entire video as the questions and answer session is very telling where everyone is on this issue.

Jan writes:

The written statements of the five invited witnesses may be read at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=276835>

The "Legal Genealogist" posted a summary of the hearing which may be read at: <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/> scroll down to February 3 posting.

As a result of what happened at the hearing it is obvious that the genealogical community is under attack and we have initiated a campaign: "Stop Identity Theft NOW"-which is the real culprit-not genealogists! See below. "Call To Action for IRS To Do Its Job."

History:

The House Ways and Means Committee Social Security Subcommittee held a hearing on the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), the commercial name of the Death Master File (DMF) on February 2nd. The genealogical community was told they were not invited to testify, unfortunately the Committee members and those invited to testify made the genealogy community the scapegoat for identity theft, by focusing on the public access to the SSDI on genealogical websites. One of the witnesses was a grieving father whose deceased child's social security number was stolen and used fraudulently for tax refunds by the identity thieves. He was very concerned that his deceased daughter's Social Security number could be seen on the internet by anyone. The Social Security Administrator spoke on behalf of the Administration and during the question and answer period stated, genealogists do not need the SSDI, they can get their information in other ways, and can wait as they do for the release of US census for "75 years. It was reported that the Administration is very concerned with who has access to the SSDI and the Office of Management and Budget is working on the issue.

The House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Social Security is proposing to completely shut down use of the SSDI by genealogists as well as other industries such as banking and insurance that rely upon its

Jan Meisels Allen, Vice President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has given permission to have her article reprinted for the IGSW Quarterly.

information. Such an attempt is short-sighted and runs counter to the original purpose of the SSDI: to actually combat fraud.

The subcommittee members indicated that this is a bi-partisan issue and both the Democrats and Republicans will be working together to address this in upcoming legislation.

Because of the negativity given the genealogical community at the hearing the genealogical community, through the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) [a joint committee whose voting members are the Federation of Genealogical Societies, IAJGS and the National Genealogy Society with participating members: APG, BCG, ASG, Ancestry.com and ProQuest.] is responding with a campaign to "Stop Identity Theft NOW". The issue is that the SSDI used appropriately is a mechanism to stop identity theft!

Call To Action For IRS To Do Its Job

Each year, fraudulent tax refund claims based upon identity theft from recently deceased infants and adults are filed with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The current target is the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) or Death Master File since this file, as found on numerous genealogy-oriented websites, could possibly be the source of identity thieves acquiring a deceased person's Social Security number.

The IRS could close the door to this form of identity theft if, in fact, it were to use the Death Master File for the purpose for which it was created: to reduce fraud. If returns claiming a tax refund were screened against the Master Death File and matching cases identified for special processing, the thief should receive a rejection notice for the filing.

Please check <http://fgs.org/rpac> frequently for information on what the genealogical community is doing. In addition, IAJGS, FGS, NGS and RPAC will be submitting statements for the record before the February 16 deadline for the record closure. I encourage you to go to the website and become involved and sign the "White House "We the People Petition" now posted at <http://wh.gov/khE> and accepting signatures, has a simple yet effective mission:

Take immediate steps that would curtail the filing of fraudulent tax refund claims based upon identity theft from recently deceased infants and adults.

When on the "We the People" petition website you have to create an account -name, e-mail address, location and create a password. The only information showing on the petition, is first name and first initial of last name and location. The White House requires 25,000 signatures within a month to act! Please have your voice counted!

Jan Meisels Allen, Vice President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has given permission to have her article reprinted for the IGSW Quarterly.

Do not forget this is an issue where "you" need to contact your Congressional representatives so that they hear us- access to public information should not be the casualty in this fight! Only when we help our elected representatives understand that using public records is the way to stop fraud, not closing those records, can we protect all of the interests we all have here.

To see who is on the House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee go to: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/About/Members.htm> and scroll to the subcommittee.

The link by the Members name on the full committee roster connects to the Members home page.

To find out your US House of Representative go to:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

To find out your US Senator go to:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Please share this with your genealogical friends and your genealogical society. If you have any problems with signing the petition, please let me know.

Jan Meisels Allen

IAJGS Vice President

Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

A big thank you to all IGSW members who have renewed their membership for 2012-2013. If you have not renewed your membership this copy of the IGSW Quarterly will be the last one that you will receive. It is still not too late to renew your membership. If the mailing label on this Quarterly shows February 2012, you need to renew your membership.

NOTE: if you sent in your renewal after March 1, 2012, the mailing label on the Quarterly will not have been updated.

When renewing your membership, please include your name, street address, city, state, zip, phone number, and e-mail address.

Individual membership is \$15 and family membership is \$20. Checks should be made out to IGSW and sent to:

IGSW Membership

P.O. Box 13766

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766

Researching Ancestors in Religious Life
Presentation given February 4, 2012
to the Wisconsin Irish Genealogical Society
Sister Sylvia Anne Sheldon O.S.F.

One of the first places to look for the name and community your ancestor entered is the Baptismal Record in the church where they were baptized, which probably is in the town where they were born. After finding the name of your ancestor, look to the far right side, a space indicates: *Record of Marriage, Religious Profession or Sub-Diaconate*. Here, the new name in religion, name of the congregation entered and the date of final vows for women or solemn profession for men; the diocese and date of ordination for a diocesan priest.

The name taken by your ancestor may have been the name of a patron saint, a combination of parents names or those of favorite aunts, uncles, brothers killed in accidents or war. After Vatican II, around 1967, some religious began to resume their baptismal names. So, there may be a listing under both religious and baptismal names. Also, a younger sibling may have followed an older sister/brother into the same congregation. There may be an aunt or cousin in the same community.

If the parish had a Catholic grade school, it was usually taught by a congregation of women. High schools were often sponsored by congregations of women or men. It was not unusual for young women and men to be drawn to these very congregations by the virtues of their teachers. Or, your ancestor may have been drawn to teaching or nursing or the missions, and it was to ministries of these congregations the young person applied.

A good resource in your search would be *The Official Catholic Directory*, also known as the Kennedy Directory. This book is published every year and most parishes will have a copy in the rectory. While they may not be current, as they are pricey, the older they are, the better chance you will find what you are looking for. This book lists every diocese in the United States, in alphabetical order. It lists each state and all the dioceses within the state. Within a diocese are listed all parishes open and closed, diocesan priests, all congregations of women and men, seminaries and novitiates, hospitals and nursing homes, grade schools, high schools, colleges and universities. They list diocesan archives, as well as diocesan newspapers. Each of these facilities will list address, phone numbers, web sights and e-mails. For the given year, there is a list of all diocesan priests alive in the United States, as well as a list of the men who have died in the last year. This book is a great source of information.

Most congregations have a community archivist who will help you in your research. It is important to be as specific as possible when requesting information. The clearer your request is about the information you want, the better chance it will be provided. These archives often have an autobiography of your ancestor. There may be photos taken at profession or jubilee. There may be copies of baptismal certificates and college

diplomas, along with obituaries. And there may be a list of all the places your ancestor was assigned over the years of ministry. Don't forget to ask if your ancestor had siblings or aunt/uncles/cousins in the congregation.

Some congregations have their own cemeteries, while others use the Catholic cemeteries of the city or town. Others bury their members at the mission where they died. The archivist should be able to provide you with the location of your ancestor's final resting place.

You may find there is a classmate in religion of your ancestor who is still alive, who can share a world of information about your ancestor. Or people who were on mission with your ancestor who will have wonderful stories to share.

Histories of the congregation are great sources of information, along with annual publications published by the congregation or institutions sponsored by the congregation.

Over the last 25 years as the membership of congregations diminish, congregations are beginning to merge with one another in the United States. If the one you are seeking has merged, neighboring congregations within the diocese may be a good resource to trace which congregation they merged with, as well as their location. Or, they may even recognize the name of your ancestor, as congregations neighbored with each other and provided services to each other.

Finally, don't be afraid to Google your ancestor's name on the internet, both their baptismal and professed name. You may be surprised what you may find, particularly as new histories are written or other congregational publications are produced.

I hope I have provided some ideas that may help in your search for your ancestors who entered religious life or became diocesan priests within the United States.

Review of the January 9, 2012 Program

Our January meeting found us back at the Shorewood Library for a very interesting meeting and presentation by Dr. Nancy Madden Waleszyk. Nancy is in the Department of English and Celtic Studies at University Wisconsin Milwaukee. She is Senior Lecturer Associate Director of the Center for Celtic Studies.

Have you ever wondered just what is a Banshee and what part does it play in Irish Folk lore? Dr. Waleszyk's presentation "Is There a Banshee in Your Family" was most interesting, informative and well done.

We all checked the list of the chosen families who have been assigned their own Banshee to see if we are among the elite few.



monday, april 2, 2012 at 7 p.m. at the irish cultural & heritage center

IGSW's "Night of the Roundtables" is your chance to share your genealogy quest with other members.

Our roundtables are small group discussions designed to let you get and give advice, share your successes, collaborate with others, and use the resources of the Irish Emigration Library.

Our roundtables are fun and informal — a perfect chance to chat, relax and get to know other members.

special topics for spring 2012:

April 2, 2012 is the release of the 1940 census! This will be a cause for celebration... and will be a topic for animated discussion tonight. Will the 1940 census let you revisit an old problem or help you bust a brick wall? We'll talk about accessing this new census, questions asked on the form, indexing projects, and much more.

A roundtable with Dick Ammann will share a compilation of **online sites for Irish/Celtic genealogy.**

Whether you're a newbie or a seasoned veteran, you'll enjoy discussing what the web offers.

A repeat of last Spring's roundtable, presenting **exercises from Gary Shea's 2011 Osher Institute workshop**, designed to help you jump start to "intermediate" level research — without losing that beginner enthusiasm.

Watch the website **www.igswonline.com** for news about additional roundtables as they develop, or suggest one of your own.

BE THERE... OR BE SQUARE

The Irish Cultural and Heritage Center (IHC) is located at 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. near downtown Milwaukee. Parking is available in two lots south of the alley behind the building (enter via 23rd Street). There is also limited street parking on Wisconsin Avenue. Visit www.ichc.net for more details.



Upcoming Programs

Monday, March 5, 2012 – 7p.m.

Shorewood Library

3920 N Murray Ave-Shorewood, WI 53211 (LL South Meeting Room)

“Irish Emigration Routes”

Pat Geyh will be speaking about the routes used by the Irish Immigrants when they came to the USA.

Tracking your ancestor's stops along the way to their new homes should be easier for you
after Pat's presentation.

Monday, April 2, 2012 – 7p.m.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center

2133 W Wisconsin Ave-Milwaukee, WI 53233

“A Night of the Round Tables”

This is our semiannual meeting to break into small groups or “tables” and share new information,
ideas, discoveries and problems.

There will be 2 tables regarding the new 1940 census information.

Monday, May 7, 2012 – 7p.m.

Shorewood Library

“Field of blood; Field of the Forgotten: The History of the Milwaukee County Potter's Field”

Presented by Michael McBride, MD; a psychiatrist at MCOW and the VA Hospital.

Find out about the burial of the poor in Milwaukee.

Watch *igswonline.com* for further information on our meetings.

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

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

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