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President's Message – Looking Back on 2010

As usual time just seems to fly by. With 2010 fast coming to a close I find myself reflecting and thinking that it has been a good year for the IGSW. Personally I have enjoyed volunteering at the library and Irish Fest and including my family - my son Chris now nineteen has been with me in the Genealogy Tent since 2002 - my wife Yolanda has accompanied me to and hopefully enjoyed the October and November meetings.

People are what make up our organization and keep it going strong. When Immediate Past President Russ Prust took an irresistible post at Northern Arizona University in Yuma, resigning his IGSW board position, his predecessor Joan Condon stepped in and has graciously filled in for him. Another past president, Tom Cannon helped us retain our non-profit status and led the discussion about writing for the quarterly at the last Round Tables meeting. First president Jane Maher rates her own category of user on our web site: Founder. Our treasurer Dan Tromp and director-at-large Linda Levenhagen, both thoughtful and capable, complete their terms of office in February. Dawn Crowley (for treasurer) and Jack Domencich (director-at-large) will be on the ballot come January. Kris Mooney, our enthusiastic and decisive vice-president is running for a second term.

We've been in the newspapers, helped the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center stay solvent, had field trips to St. Patrick's Church in Erin and the Milwaukee County Historical Society, grown our membership by 56 (thanks to a special deal offered only at the Irish Fest Genealogy Tent), and been entertained by Cuil A'Lin (see Tim Dowling's youtube video of them through our new and improved web site *igswonline.com*).

I'm sure by a long shot I haven't covered everything or everybody. I ask that you reflect on your IGSW experiences. And I wish you Happy Holidays.

Gary Shea

SACRED TEXTS, SECULAR RECORDS, AND FAMILY HISTORY

[*Editorial Note: Genealogists naturally tend to focus on writing family history. This article, however, will examine historiography, i.e. the process of writing history, which itself can add an interesting dimension to the telling of our family stories.*]

The medieval Irish reverence for recording genealogy presents itself most artistically in the celebrated Book of Kells, a Latin gospel codex that was written and illuminated *circa* 800 A.D., probably by monks from Donegal, in the scriptorium of the island monastery on Iona.¹ At folios 29r-31r and 200r-202r, an anonymous scribe(s) lavished elaborate detail and brilliant color in setting out the competing pedigrees of Jesus as recounted in the Gospel of Matthew (1:1-17) and the Gospel of Luke (3:23-38).² By the later Middle Ages, many of the larger Irish monasteries had become “treasure-houses of art and nurseries of Latin learning and of Gaelic civilization.”³ Among other items, the bibliotheca they produced included genealogies of kings, clerics, warriors, and scholars. This lore was carefully transcribed into such highly-prized vellum manuscripts as *Lebor Glinde Dá Locha* (now Rawlinson MS. B.502), perhaps compiled in the monastery at Killeslin, Co. Laois, but reflecting concerns of the religious community at Glendalough, Co. Wicklow, and *Lebor na Níachongbála* (now known as the Book of Leinster), which was compiled by the abbot of Terryglass, on the River Shannon in Co. Tipperary, but was later kept in the monastery at Oughaval, Co. Laois.⁴ Among the royal

¹ *The Book of Kells: Reproductions from the Manuscript in Trinity College, Dublin*, ed. François Henry (London: Thames and Hudson, 1974) 218-21. The date and provenance are also discussed by several contributors in Felicity O'Mahony, ed. *The Book of Kells: Proceedings of a Conference at Trinity College Dublin* (Aldershot, UK: Scolar Press, 1994). Donnchadh Ó Corráin, for example, suggests that the Book of Kells was transcribed and painted in 797 to commemorate the bicentennial of the death of Colum Cille, founder of Iona. See “The historical and cultural background of the Book of Kells” in *Id.* at 2.

² See Jennifer O'Reilly, “Exegesis and the Book of Kells: The Lucan Genealogy” in O'Mahoney, *Book of Kells* 344-97. The background is more fully explored in Marshall D. Johnson, *The Purpose of the Biblical Genealogies With Special Reference to the Setting of the Genealogies of Jesus* (Society for New Testament Studies, 2d ed. 1988); Robert R. Wilson, *Genealogy and History in the Biblical World* (Yale University Press, 1977).

³ Lord Killanin and Michael V. Duignan, *The Shell Guide to Ireland* (London: Ebury Press, 2d ed. 1967) 29.

⁴ The political motivation behind these books is examined in Kenneth Nicholls, “Genealogy” in *The Heritage of Ireland*, ed. Neil Buttimer et al. (Cork: The Collins Press, 2000) 156-61; Donnchadh Ó Corráin, “Creating the Past: The Early Irish Genealogical Tradition” [Carroll Lecture] in *Peritia* 12 (1998) 177-208.

pedigrees preserved in these massive, twelfth-century codices were those of the Ó Canannáin (O'Cannon) kings of Tír Conaill (modern Donegal).⁵

Vellum manuscripts were expensive to compile. The Book of Kells, for example, is estimated to have consumed the hides of approximately 185 calves in its production.⁶ Recording genealogies in such monastic treasures, frequently enshrined in a bejeweled *cumdach* or “book cover,” served a variety of functions in medieval Irish society: (1) it placed the dynasty under the protection of God, the local saint, and the generally powerful family of the monastery’s founding patron; (2) it preserved the sept’s lineage in a form and place that guaranteed permanence; (3) it enhanced the status of the family thus recorded by associating it with a prestige literary product; and (4) it constituted the king’s title deed to rule his subjects by birthright.⁷ The practice of preserving genealogies, often in a distinctive scribal calligraphy, survived for more than a millennium in Ireland – even after the seventeenth-century demise of the Gaelic aristocracy that patronized manuscript production, the consequent replacement of the learned caste by widespread dissemination of printed books (including bibles), and the emergence in the nineteenth century of an Irish Catholic middle class. Indeed, by the latter period, “it was a fairly common custom for families to keep a register of births, marriages, and deaths either in the Family Bible or in a special notebook.”⁸

* * *

In the autumn of 1877, a forty-year-old farmer walked into the United States Post Office in New London, Wisconsin, to pick up his mail.⁹ Among the items held in his name was a compact, tightly-wrapped parcel weighing nearly ten pounds. It bore a hand-stamped postmark from Philadelphia. The farmer had ordered the item some months previously. Returning to his horse and buggy, he drove three miles south through countryside dappled with large stands of pine and butternut trees to his 100-acre farm on the Ledge Hill Road in the town of Hortonville. Brimming with anticipation, the farmer carefully unwrapped the package and took out a handsome, deluxe version of the Holy Bible.¹⁰ The machine-tooled, black-leather covers

⁵ M.A. O’Brien, ed. *Corpus Genealogiarum Hiberniae I* (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies, 1962) 137 [Rawl. 140 b 19-20] and 435 [Bk. Leinster 338 b 1-19]. For the background, see Tomás G. Ó Canann, “Ua Canannáin Genealogies in the Irish Manuscript Tradition” in *Studia Hibernica* 30 (1998-99) 167-229.

⁶ Bernard Meehan, *The Book of Kells: An Illustrated Introduction to the Manuscript in Trinity College, Dublin* (London: Thames and Hudson, 1994) 86. Note also that, according to a scribal colophon (p. 333a) in the Book of Ballymote, that renowned manuscript was sold by Ruaidhrí Mac Donnchadha, with the consent of his family, to Aodh Óg Ó Domhnaill in 1522 for the sum of 140 milch cows. Kathleen Mulchrone, ed. *Catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the Royal Irish Academy* (Dublin: RIA, 1934), fasc. xxvii 3407-08.

⁷ Wendy Davies, “Charter-writing and its uses in early medieval Celtic societies” in *Literacy in Medieval Celtic Societies*, ed. Huw Pryce (Cambridge University Press, 1998) 108; Ó Canann, “Ua Canannáin Genealogies” 167-69, 213.

⁸ Wallace Clare, *A Simple Guide to Irish Genealogy*, rev. ed. Rosemary ffolliott (London: Irish Genealogical Research Society, 1966) 9.

⁹ RFD (Rural Free Delivery) would not begin until 1902. Cities and towns, of course, had long since had home delivery of mail.

(identical in front and back) were embossed with four gold-tipped relief images of Jesus, Mary, the Sacred and Immaculate Hearts, and the papal miter, respectively placed inside the quadrants of a large decorative gilt cross. The sumptuous book was evidence of the farmer's piety and increasing prosperity. He proudly displayed the Bible to his illiterate wife, Mary Jennings (1829-1922), a native of County Mayo, Ireland.¹¹ The farmer pointed with satisfaction to his name (as he then spelled it) embossed in gold lettering across the bottom of the book's front cover: *MORGAN CANAN*.

The expensive purchase involved more than religious devotion and personal pride. The rear of the thick book contained a family record section. Soon after bringing his Bible home, Morgan took out a steel nib pen, dipped it in a bottle of India ink, and carefully recorded the essential facts of his marriage on January 2, 1859, at St. John Nepomucene Catholic Church in Little Chute, Wisconsin. He continued in a fluid, graceful hand to enter names of the couple's eleven children, carefully noting their birthdays as well. Morgan then subscribed the precise date and hour of the deaths of his parents, Denis Cannon (1789-1867) and Susanna Sweeney (1785-1877).¹² These initial entries thus covered three generations and marked a conspicuous milestone in the family's history. In fact, Morgan's Bible contains the first contemporaneous chronicling of Cannon genealogy in many centuries.¹³ It is indisputable that he considered the beautiful book to be a worthy repository within which to preserve vital information that would be handed down among his descendants for generations. After nearly a century and a half, as consciously intended, Morgan Cannon's antique Bible continues to be honored as the family's chief heirloom.

Recording lineage in a family Bible constituted a reverent, almost semi-religious, enterprise in nineteenth-century Irish America.¹⁴ Literacy, though, was an indispensable

¹⁰ Although the title page is now missing, internal evidence from such unique features as layout, pagination, attribution of engravings, and episcopal approbations proves that this particular version is the Douay-Rheims Roman Catholic edition, *The Holy Bible Containing the Entire Canonical Scriptures* (Philadelphia: John E. Potter and Co. 1875). For particulars, see Margaret T. Hills, ed. *The English Bible in America: A Bibliography of Editions of the Bible & New Testament Published in America 1777-1957* (New York: American Bible Society, 1962) 287; and Hugh Pope, *English Versions of the Bible*, rev. ed. by Sebastian Bullough (St. Louis and London: Herder, 1952) 475-76.

¹¹ "Married women retain their maiden name in Irish." Patrick Woulfe, *Sloinnte Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames* (Dublin: M.H. Gill & Son, 1923) 30. Mary was the daughter of James Jennings (c.1800-c.1855) of County Mayo and Nancy Mulroy (c.1805-1880) of Ashbrook townland, Templemore parish, County Mayo. See T.G. Cannon, "Early History of the James Jennings and Nancy Mulroy Family of County Mayo" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 5, no. 3 (1996) 3-19.

¹² Judging by the timing of the recording of the last entry, Morgan may have been prompted to purchase the Bible by the death of his mother in March 1877, conscious that another generation had now passed and that he had succeeded as the head of his own large family.

¹³ The latest surviving genealogy was the twelfth-century pedigree of Donnchad Ó Canannáin (the medieval Irish spelling of the name). Consisting of 21 generations, it is now preserved in Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh's seventeenth-century *Leabhar Mór na nGenealach: The Great Book of Irish Genealogies*, ed. Nollaig Ó Muraíle, 5 vols. (Dublin: De Búrca, 2003-04) i 355 (s. 156.1) and iii 437-39 (ss 1108.2 and 1108.3).

prerequisite to writing history. When Morgan's parents and four elder siblings (Cornelius, Sarah, Ann, and Susan) emigrated from the family home in Rosbeg, County Donegal, they were unable to read or write for one simple reason: all were products of a society oppressed by the infamous Penal Laws that had governed Ireland since 1695. Enacted by the British Parliament, this comprehensive code made it a felony to educate an Irish Catholic at home or abroad, whether in school or in private – thus effectively debarring eighty percent of the Irish population from literacy.¹⁵ Six years after the Cannons left Ireland for America, the last of the Penal Laws was abolished as a result of the brilliant campaign orchestrated by Daniel O'Connell ("The Liberator"). Morgan, the first of his family to be born in America (in 1837), was therefore the first Cannon to obtain an educational opportunity. He attended common schools in rural Ohio and Wisconsin until he acquired the rudiments of reading, writing, and arithmetic. As the first literate Cannon in many generations, Morgan was necessarily the first of his name who could have recorded details of the family lineage. That he did so as soon as he was able to secure a suitable register implies a longstanding, perhaps inherited, interest in family history.

The Donegal that Denis Cannon, Susanna Sweeney, and their elder children emerged from was in fact marked by a "rather extraordinary degree of genealogical consciousness."¹⁶ Indeed, Irish society in the 1830s was said to reflect a vibrant "cult of genealogy."¹⁷ As a result, interest in preserving this crucial aspect of family history was shared by other relatives, most notably Morgan's niece, Ellen Cannon McLaughlin (1862-1930). About the year 1882, Ellen recorded her name and birthdate, and those of her seven siblings, in her Roman Catholic prayer book.¹⁸ And since it has long been recognized that Irish genealogists

¹⁴ For details of the family Bible of another Irish Catholic immigrant family, see Doris Kearns Goodwin, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys: An American Saga* (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1987) 809-10, 816.

¹⁵ The Penal Laws did more than prohibit education; they systematically stripped Irish Catholics of all civil rights. Enactment of this pernicious code led to the famous judgment of Lord Chancellor John Bowes and Chief Justice Christopher Robinson: "The law does not suppose any such person to exist as an Irish Catholic." Quoted in W.E.H. Lecky, *A History of Ireland in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Chicago Press, 1972) 42. See also Thomas Bartlett, *The Fall and Rise of the Irish Nation: The Catholic Question, 1690-1830* (Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1992); Maureen Wall, *Catholic Ireland in the Eighteenth Century: Collected Essays*, ed. Gerard O'Brien (Templeogue: Geography Publications, 1989).

¹⁶ Tomás G. Ó Canann, "Surveying County Donegal" in *Ainm: A Journal of Names Studies* x (2009) 61. Examples of this consciousness are collected in John O'Donovan, *Ordnance Survey Letters Donegal*, ed. Michael Herity (Dublin: Four Masters Press, 2000) 7-9, 26-27, 97-98. The interest in genealogy continues in Donegal. See Helen Meehan and Godfrey Duffy, *Tracing Your Donegal Ancestors* (Glenageary: Flyleaf Press, rev. ed. 2008); Robin Fox, *The Tory Islanders: A People of the Celtic Fringe* (Cambridge University Press, 1978) 31-126; Eileen Kane, "Man and Kin in Donegal: A Study of Kinship Function in a Rural Irish and an Irish-American Community" in *Ethnology* vii, no. 3 (1968) 245-58.

¹⁷ Gillian Doherty, *The Irish Ordnance Survey: History, Culture and Memory* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2004) 157.

¹⁸ The record is undated, but it bears the notation: *Written by Jennie Cannon*. The use of her maiden name here, and the lack of reference to her own wedding, indicates that she subscribed the record prior to 1884 when she married Orrin H. McLaughlin. Ellen's prayer book is now in the custody of Maureen McMahon Ensich of Santa Rosa, California. Father Thomas J. Reardon (1927-2010), pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Mauston, Wisconsin, kindly provided a transcript of the record to this writer in a letter dated February 24, 1991.

“have one aim and one aim only – to find the exact place of origin in Ireland,”¹⁹ Ellen then added an important coda to memorialize the ancestral homes of her parents:²⁰

Anastasia Murphy Cannon born in County Carlo, Parish of Burris, Ireland. Feb. 17 – 1831. Cornelius Cannon born in Co. Donegal, Parish Ross-Peg, Ireland. Feb. 3. Father claimed the year of 1815.

After her marriage in 1884, Ellen obtained a Bible with a similar family record section in which she recorded the births, weddings, and deaths of several generations of the Cornelius Cannon line in much the same fashion that her uncle Morgan had done earlier for his line.

In addition to family bibles and prayer books, there is a third class of sacred texts that preserve genealogical data: sacramental registers. These parish documents contain a mine of information valuable for historians. For example, as every researcher knows, one of the most difficult items of information to retrieve is the maiden name of a married woman – a cultural artifact that is often preserved only in a sacramental register. Thus, the baptismal record of Morgan Cannon, dated March 6, 1837, from St. Paul’s Catholic Church in Dungannon, Ohio, records the maiden name (Sweeney) of Morgan’s mother. As such, it serves to correct family “tradition” later handed down by Morgan’s descendants.²¹ Similarly, the 1856 marriage record of his first cousin, Patrick Cannon (c.1821-1865), at St. Theresa Catholic Church in Theresa, Wisconsin, uniquely preserves the maiden name of Patrick’s mother, Mary Lyons.²² It is noteworthy that, had these events taken place in the Cannons’ ancestral parish of Inishkeel in Co. Donegal, they would not have been recorded in the sacramental register.²³

* * *

America’s centennial in 1876, and the profusion of Civil War memoirs in the late nineteenth century, spawned an explosion of interest in family history. This phenomenon led to

¹⁹ Historian B-Ann Moorhouse quoted in Peter Andrews, “Genealogy: The Search for a Personal Past” in *American Heritage* 33, no. 5 (1982) 16-17.

²⁰ Ellen used a phonetic spelling for Irish placenames. Her father was born in the townland of Rosbeg (officially Rossbeg), civil parish of Inishkeel, County Donegal. This coda is independently confirmed by the obituary of her father’s first cousin, Dennis Cannon of Chilton, Wisconsin, who is described as “a native of the parish of Inniskeel, County Donegal, Ireland.” *Chilton Times* (May 12, 1877).

²¹ The original register is now in custody of the pastor of St. Phillip Neri Catholic Church, PO Box 309, Hanoverton, Ohio 44423-0309. Family historian Lester A. Balliet (1898-1994) repeatedly confused the maiden name of Susanna Sweeney Cannon with the married name of her daughter, Sarah Cannon Trustel (1811-61). Susanna Sweeney Cannon’s maiden name is confirmed in Morgan Cannon’s death record on file with the Waupaca County (Wis.) Register of Deeds office.

²² See parish register of St. Theresa Catholic Church, 102 Church Street, Theresa, Wisconsin 53091. Patrick Cannon, son of James Cannon and Mary Lyons, married Mary Murphy (1838-1915), native of Borris, Co. Carlow, Ireland, and daughter of Thomas Murphy and Catherine Doyle, on January 13, 1856.

²³ Sacramental records for Inishkeel Roman Catholic parish (wherein Rosbeg is located) do not commence until 1866. James G. Ryan, *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History* (Glengary: Flyleaf Press, 1997) 194; Brian Mitchell, *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1988) 31.

publication of numerous compilations of local biographies all over the country. One individual participating in the popular pastime was Dennis Murphy Cannon (1851-1932), elder brother of Ellen Cannon McLaughlin. Dennis' biographical notice, published in 1905, proved particularly valuable in that it provided narrative detail not captured by the laconic entries previously made in family bibles, prayer books, and sacramental registers.²⁴ For example, he reported that his paternal grandfather and namesake had been a linen weaver in Donegal, and that the family had emigrated first to New York, then moved to Pittsburgh, then continued on their westward journey to Columbia[na] County, Ohio, before finally coming out to Wisconsin Territory in 1847.²⁵ Biographical details about his parents and grandparents offered important context to the sparse family records maintained by his uncle and sister. He supplemented this notice by drafting a handwritten genealogical memorandum in 1930 that added a useful series of dates to his earlier narrative.²⁶ Dennis was positioned well to absorb the Cannon family's early history from his father and paternal grandparents; he was close to all of them in both his formative and adult years.²⁷ His memoir shows the value of using secular records in conjunction with religious-based sources.

The combined work of Morgan, Ellen, and Dennis built up a composite picture of the family story in the nineteenth century. All three tradition-bearers (Irish: *seanchaithe*) were children of immigrants; in anthropological terms, they represented the second generation in America. Their efforts to preserve the family lineage, however, were unusual in that they cut against the grain of an old adage: "What the son wishes to forget, the grandson wishes to remember."²⁸ The seminal records made by Morgan, Ellen, and Dennis suggest that they, too, were influenced by the Donegal tradition of genealogy that was so much a part of their parents' cultural outlook before they crossed the ocean to America. Most important, however, is the fact that the three Cannons laid the groundwork for subsequent generations of lineage-bearers to continue the enterprise on a larger and more comprehensive scale. A coordinated effort would prove necessary since Denis Cannon and Susana Sweeney left a vast legacy as ancestors (Irish: *sinsir*) of 30 grandchildren and nearly 100 great-grandchildren.

²⁴ *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Upper Lake Region* (Chicago: J.H. Beers & Co. 1905) 550-51. The Preface to this book contains this remark: "In nearly every instance, the material composing the [biographical] sketches was gathered from those immediately interested, and then submitted in typewritten form for correction and revision." *Id.* at iii.

²⁵ Denis Cannon's family was among the 21,000 Irish-born residents enumerated in the state in the 1850 census. See Grace McDonald, *History of the Irish in Wisconsin in the Nineteenth Century* (Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1954) 8. The Cannons resided in house number 5 in the Town of Theresa, Dodge County.

²⁶ Father Reardon kindly supplied me with a transcript, which was made by his mother, Catherine McLaughlin Reardon (1897-1990). The transcript bears this inscription: *Written by Uncle Den 1930*.

²⁷ Dennis Murphy Cannon was 16 and 26 years of age, respectively, when his Cannon grandparents died, and 39 years old when his father – the last direct link to Rosbeg – died. Dennis grew up on his parents' farm in the town of Caledonia, Waupaca County, just south of New London, and within easy walking distance of his paternal grandparents' farm.

²⁸ Quoted in Marcus L. Hansen, "The Third Generation in America" in *Commentary* (November 1952) 495a.

Beginning in 1948, some of these great-grandchildren started collaborating on a more systematic initiative to record the increasingly far-flung descendants of their emigrating ancestors.²⁹ This informal enterprise stimulated the compiling and sharing of family trees, obituaries, pedigrees of those in religious life, and various bits of family lore.³⁰ It also led to correspondence with two other branches of the Cannon family that had followed the same path of chain migration from Rosbeg to Columbiana County, Ohio, before settling in Wisconsin: descendants of James Cannon (c.1791-c.1877) of Center in Outagamie County (Denis' brother)³¹ and descendants of Dennis Cannon (1818-1877) of Chilton in Calumet County (Denis' nephew).³² As is often the case with distant relations, the three branches of the Cannon family were aware of their wider cousinhood, even if they could not always quite explain the precise connection.³³ Thus, for example, Lester A. Balliet, a great-grandson of Denis Cannon, was in touch with Joyce G. Krieser, a great-granddaughter of James Cannon, in 1953 about the relationship between their respective branches.³⁴ Lucille A. Cannon, a great-granddaughter of Denis Cannon, wrote about the link between the New London Cannons and those in Chilton.³⁵

²⁹ The earliest reference this writer has discovered is a 1948 letter from Mary Murphy Reardon to Lucille A. Cannon. See the latter's "Murphy-Doyle" file, vol. 2. Their common ancestors were Thomas Murphy (1799-1849) and Catherine Doyle (1803-1888), who emigrated from Borris, County Carlow, and settled in the town of Wayne, Washington County, Wisconsin, in 1849. Two of their daughters, Anastasia Murphy (1830-1909) and Mary Murphy (1838-1915), married husbands who were first cousins, Cornelius Cannon (1815-1890), later of New London, and Patrick Cannon (c.1821-1865), later of Center. Murphy family tradition posited that the sisters met the Cannon cousins "from across the marsh" in Theresa, Dodge County, during the early 1850s. Letter of Ruth Hightudis to T.G. Cannon (June 7, 1994).

³⁰ See now the correspondence and family history file compiled by Lucille A. Cannon, which is now in this writer's possession. By the mid-1960s, participants included two priest-brothers, Fathers John and Robert Agnew, as well as Lester Balliet of Appleton, Lucille A. Cannon of Omaha, Dr. Mary Alice Cannon of Milwaukee, Frances Rooney Cooney of Appleton, Joyce G. Krieser of Kansas City, Margaret McCann McGinn, Ethel McNearney O'Keefe of Chicago, Agnes Roche Marchenkuski, Catherine McLaughlin Reardon of Arcadia (WI), Mary Murphy Reardon of Milwaukee, and James L. Sheahan of Reedsville (WI).

³¹ Joyce Glassnap Krieser, "The James Cannon and Mary Lyons Story" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 9, no. 4 (2000) 3-32. Her article represents the mature fruit of nearly half a century of research that began in 1952 and was first shared with cousins in "The Cannons Story" (May 5, 1960).

³² The three Wisconsin branches were linked to Cannons still living in the vicinity of Rosbeg in T.G. Cannon, "The Cannons of Ballycannon: A Tentative Reconstruction" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 7, no. 2 (1998) 3-22, esp. pp 11-13.

³³ The exact link was discovered by this writer in the sworn statement of Eli Danks who testified in court that his wife (Susanna Cannon Danks) was a cousin of Patrick Cannon of Center. *In the Matter of the Estate of Patrick Cannon*, Outagamie County Probate Court, file no. 135 (1867).

³⁴ Balliet wrote: "Some of the Sheahan relations [descendants of James Cannon of Center] are around here and . . . they always said they were cousins of Morgan Cannon, or their grandparents were." Letter to Joyce G. Krieser (July 14, 1953). He later recalled that "Bridget Cannon Sheahan [1864-1933] used to come to many of our Irish funerals." Letter to T.G. Cannon (February 9, 1977).

Lester Balliet (1898-1994) was always regarded as the doyen of Cannon family historians. His father possessed a deep interest in genealogy and was instrumental in helping compile a thousand-page history of the Balliet family.³⁶ As a young man, Lester decided that he would devote himself to documenting the family of his deceased mother, Ellen Cannon Balliet (1859-1903), eldest child of Morgan Cannon and Mary Jennings. He began by copying information from his maternal grandfather's Bible and supplementing it with notes of gravestone inscriptions and a prolific, witty correspondence linking many of the nearly 100 lines of Cannon descendants. Over the course of several decades, Lester compiled a typewritten document entitled *Cannon Family Tree* (c.1950); this was later revised and retitled as *Cannon Family History* (c.1965). The sprawling chart identified more than 400 Cannon-Sweeney descendants. He updated and annotated his *magnum opus* on a regular basis for nearly half a century. The focus of Balliet's work was the descendants of Morgan Cannon (1837-1905), Cornelius Cannon (1815-1890), and their sister Susanna Cannon Danks (1823-1892).³⁷

Lester's second cousin, Lucille A. Cannon (1896-1975), was also an avid correspondent with a profound interest in genealogy. Lucille taught art for many years in Chicago and at Father Flanagan's Boys Town near Omaha, Nebraska. Her main lineage focus was on the Cornelius Cannon family, but she was also devoted to her maternal lines, chiefly those of Murphy and McCole. Lucille organized annual family prayer days in the 1960s and compiled a series of pedigree charts of those numerous relatives in religious life. In 1965, she sent out the following six-generation pedigree (slightly edited here) of this writer's sister, which took our direct Cannon line back nearly two centuries in time:³⁸

Great-great-great-grandparents: Denis Cannon and Susanna Sweeney
 Great-great-grandparents: Morgan Cannon and Mary Jennings
 Great-grandparents: James Cannon and Ella Kenealy
 Grandparents: Raymond Cannon and Mary Alice Carey
 Parents: Robert Cannon and Helen Gildea
 Child: Mary Cannon (Sister Marie Patrice, B.V.M.)

³⁵ In 1960, Lucille wrote Joyce Krieser that Dennis Cannon of Chilton "was a first cousin of our grandfather Cornelius Cannon" of New London.

³⁶ Stephen Clay Balliet, *The Balliet, Balliett, Balliette, Balyeat, Bolyard, and Allied Families* (Baton Rouge, LA, 1968), esp. at pp 578-87. See also *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Fox River Valley Counties of Brown, Outagamie, and Winnebago* (Chicago: J.H. Beers, 1895) 853-54.

³⁷ One of Lester's corresponding cousins was Father Arthur J. Danks (1916-2007), a priest of the diocese of Green Bay. Father Danks shared a superb unpublished history of his family: Eva Beavan, *A Survey of Colonial Danks Families in New England and Their Later Descendants in New York* (unpublished typescript, c.1952).

³⁸ Lucille A. Cannon, "Cannon Relatives in Religious Life" (typescript, 1965). Based on erroneous information received from Lester Balliet (see footnote 21, above), Lucille's version incorrectly substituted "Trussel" for Sweeney. She also left gaps for the maiden names of Mary Cannon's mother (Helen Gildea) and paternal grandmother (Mary Alice Carey).

Lucille also opened up an entirely new aspect of research, *i.e.* the field of surname history. She got in touch with the Columban Fathers, an Irish missionary order whose American headquarters were located in Omaha where Lucille lived. In the early 1960s, a group of Columban priests began an Irish surname project that provided potted single-page historical summaries and full-color coats of arms of families prominent in medieval Ireland. Lucille disseminated material on the O'Cannon (*Ó Canann*) family to her relatives, thus helping establish the long view of history.³⁹

The efforts of Lester Balliet, Lucille Cannon, and other cousins represented a second stage in the historiography of the descendants of Denis Cannon and Susanna Sweeney. Their work created the necessary predicate from which would follow a more professional approach utilizing modern genealogical methods. Successor genealogists in the next generation undertook a systematic scrutiny of census enumerations, parish registers, cemetery inscriptions, land records, tax rolls, deeds, probate records, passenger ship manifests, vital records, newspaper articles, photographs, and other documentary sources in Ireland and in the United States. This effort required a sustained commitment of thousands of hours for poring over hundreds of microfilm rolls, surveying countless country churchyards, examining public documents in innumerable county courthouses, and trolling libraries and records repositories on both sides of the Atlantic. Such a documentary approach allowed a third generation of genealogists to recover the family history in a far more scientific manner than their predecessors had been able to do.⁴⁰

For nearly 135 years, Cannon-Sweeney descendants have been at work carefully recording the family's past. While methods and purposes differ from those of their medieval predecessors, these dedicated lineage-bearers surely constitute the genuine intellectual heirs of the scribes who labored in monastic scriptoria copying traditional pedigrees of the *Ó Canannáin* kings of Tír Conaill into the great vellum codices of the twelfth century.⁴¹

— Thomas Gildea Cannon

³⁹ The brief O'Cannon history is accurate inasmuch as it was derived from Edward MacLysaght's authoritative *Irish Families: Their Names, Arms, and Origins* (Dublin: Hodges Figgis & Co., 1957) 73. The O'Cannons, however, were not an armigerous family. Their faux coat of arms was based on Patrick W. Joyce, *Atlas and Cyclopaedia of Ireland* (New York: Murphy & McCarthy, 1902), plate 36, no. 245. The same arms have been widely reprinted elsewhere. Thus, Lester Balliet reported: "I was in Ireland in 1950, went over for the Holy Year and looked up both families [his Cannon and Jennings maternal grandparents] in Dublin. The Cannons had a coat of arms, were quite a family." Letter to Joyce G. Krieser (July 14, 1953). For the family's medieval background, see T.G. Ó Canann, "Carraig an Dúnáin: Probable Ua Canannáin Inauguration Site" in *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland* 133 (2003) 36-67; *Id.* "Trí Saorthuatha Mhuinntire Chanannáin: A Forgotten Medieval Placename" in *Donegal Annual* 38 (1986) 19-46.

⁴⁰ For an exemplary history based on documentary sources supported by hundreds of footnotes, see Blanche Reardon Childs, *A Reardon Family History* (Evanston, IL, 1991). See also T.G. Cannon, "Seven Generations of a Pioneer Wisconsin Family" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 3, no. 1 (1994) 3-22. JoAnn Wall has done extensive research on the descendants of Brigid Cannon Sheahan of Maple Grove, Wisconsin. More recently, Patricia Cannon Willis created an impressive online photographic archive in "Four Wisconsin Families: Reardon, Cannon, O'Keeffe, McCole" at www.reardoncannon.wordpress.com.

⁴¹ A study of the remarkable continuity of this family in Donegal during the past millennium can be found in Tomás G. Ó Canann, "Aspects of an Early Irish Surname: Ua Canannáin" in *Studia Hibernica* 27 (1993) 113-44.

IGSW Roundtables October 4, 2010

Newspapers as a Resource for Family History

Computer Demo/Roundtable -- Moderated by Michele Patin

Newspapers are a deep well of information of practical interest to genealogists. Newspaper content includes obvious sources of family information such as obituaries and paid death notices, nuptial announcements, legal notices, marriage licenses issued, records of births, etc. They also contain matter which puts flesh on the bones of a family history -- local stories, society pages, anniversaries, school graduations, honors and awards, shipping news, business advertisements, you name it. Small town newspapers are especially chatty, and make for entertaining and rewarding careful reading.

So, how can you tap into this wealth? This IGSW roundtable/demo will showcase a few good sources, and give you an opportunity to share what you know about newspapers and how to find them.

Newsprint being the ephemeral material that it is, most older newspapers have been committed to microfilm, beginning in the 1970s. Digitization is rapidly changing access, as original newspaper pages as well as first generation microfilm facsimiles are being scanned to images which are browsable and even word-searchable through the magic of optical character recognition. The world's "bank" of digital newspaper pages is growing rapidly, and becoming accessible online. As newspapers evolve from print publishers to content owner/managers across a variety of electronic media, archive material becomes both a curatorial burden and potential stream of revenue. So, as you would expect, online access to digitized newspapers is not always free. There is overlap and redundancy in the newspaper material available online, and access can be very confusing as we shall see. Below we will discuss some commercial sources, but also ones that are either free or accessible through public libraries.

Ancestry.com

Ancestry is an important source of newspaper content, available by subscription. Searching is free, though, so you can browse titles and date ranges of the papers available. To view their collection, go to:

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/category.aspx?cat=149>

At right, you can browse the catalog by location. As of October 2010, there were 1,296 titles for the USA. Diving into this, you could look at titles available by state -- 168 titles for Wisconsin -- or search for a specific title. Seeking coverage in Eau Claire? Ancestry has 4 titles, including the *Eau Claire Leader*. Clicking on this title will take you to a search & browse page, and a summary of holdings, which in this case is a fully searchable range of the *Eau Claire Leader*, from 1889-1923. Searching here will give you results that include a brief snippet of information. For full access, you must subscribe at the "World Deluxe" membership level, which starts at \$29.95 for a one-month pass. Current rates are posted at:

<http://www.ancestry.com/subscribe/signup.aspx?>

Newsbank

NewsBank is an important commercial provider of web-based information worldwide. NewsBank's assets are generally made available to libraries and research institutions by subscription; they also have some noteworthy newspaper collections available by subscription for individuals. You can learn about these at:

<http://www.newsbank.com/genealogists/>

According to their website, "NewsBank has digitized tens of millions of obituaries, death notices, family histories, birth and marriage announcements and a wide variety of other primary and secondary sources from the 1600s through the 21st century." Two important NewsBank gateways to information are

"America's GenealogyBank" and "GenealogyBank.com" which serve up millions of pages from historical publications and government documents. NewsBank also offers two historical newspaper collections, the *Chicago Tribune* Historical Archive and the *Dallas Morning News* Historical Archive, covering the 1800s to modern era. One other resource of note is Newsbank's "Americas Obituaries & Death Notices," available through the Milwaukee Public Library. This is not a newspaper collection per se, but rather extracts of obituaries and paid death notices published in hundreds of American newspapers from the decade or two. You can view and search NewsBank's offerings direct to consumers are available by visiting the website:

<http://www.genealogybank.com/gbnk/>

If you review the list of titles available for Historical Newspapers (1690 - 2007), you will be impressed by the scope; but note that for some newspapers, the holdings are not full page inventories but obituary extracts only. Since access is by subscription, as with any commercial site, you are wise to kick the tires before enrolling. NewsBank does offer what they call an "unlimited 30 day trial" Otherwise, membership is monthly (\$19.95) or annual (\$89.95).

Commercial access is great, but what about other free sources? Let's prow! around for some deals!

Access through the Public Library Portals

The Milwaukee Public Library subscribes to several services which include newspaper content. Some of this is available only to patrons at the library -- but some can be used online by City of Milwaukee library cardholders. (For remote access, say from home computer or laptop, you must have a current library card AND be registered with a PIN or Personal Identification Number. Registration takes only a few moments online.) To view the newspaper collections go to:

http://www.mpl.org/file/magsandnews_index.htm

Some of the items shown are simply links to websites of current local and regional publications, many of which include archives going back a decade or more. Note especially the following collections available for remote access with a valid library card which we will discuss further:

- Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Historic Archives
- BadgerLink: Access NewspaperARCHIVE
- 19th Century U.S. Newspapers
- Newspaper Source Plus
- Newsbank's Americas Obituaries & Death Notices (see above)

Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Historic Archives

The Milwaukee Public Library portal will direct you to the search tools for historical archives of *The Milwaukee Journal*, *The Milwaukee Sentinel* and *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* covering 1884-2007 at:

<http://www.jsonline.com/historicarchive/>

But this search is, to be honest, rudimentary. There is another way, which you may or may not have explored, and we'll talk more about browsing and searching the Milwaukee newspapers a bit later.

BadgerLink - Access NewspaperARCHIVE <http://www.badgerlink.net/>

Newspapers are accessible online to persons holding valid library cards in communities across Wisconsin available through Badgerlink. Badgerlink includes an important subscription with newspaper content: Access NewspaperARCHIVE. This is truly a motherlode.

NewspaperArchive.com is a subsidiary of Heritage Microfilm, a leading provider of archival services including historical newspaper content. This digital collection claims to be the largest newspaper database available online, with more than 70 million newspaper pages. "Access Newspaper Archive" through Badgerlink makes this all free. (Note that the service is also available by paid subscription if you can't get library access. Subscriptions start at \$9.99/month for a three-month minimum. For more information, see their website at <http://www.newspaperarchive.com>.)

First, try exploring the collection, using the "Browse Available Newspapers" tab. You'll see that the collection is rather impoverished for Ireland and Canada, a bit better for the UK, but very good for the U.S. Next, try searching. The basic search is not terribly helpful as it is so general. The advanced search tab provides more functionality. You can also browse first and then search. So for example, I see they have the Lowell (Massachusetts) Sun, and if I browse to that title and enter a date range, search results appear. I found it frustrating that many of the results seem not to be relevant, but now matter, because a sidebar now appears on the right, which allow you to refine your results. The fields located there let you search for keywords and constrain to exact dates and locations. A positive hit gives you access to a full-page image of the actual newspaper which you can page through. One drawback is that the entered search term is not highlighted, so some hunting and pecking is needed. You can zoom in and out using the tools at the bottom of the page (these will appear when you mouse down to the bottom; the same toolbox lets you download a PDF or print the page. And -- if you have \$29.95 burning a hole in your pocket -- you can also click on the text at top "Order a Print" to purchase a Full-sized Newspaper Reproduction of the page you found. (Well; that does make a nice gift!)

19th Century U.S. Newspapers

This is a collection of archived newspapers made available to libraries by the Gale Group. A help page, downloadable list of titles and research guide are available in the dock at left. A basic "Keyword search" box lets you enter Boolean search terms found wither within a title, citation or abstract or within an entire article. You can constrain the search by date, by newspaper, by word(s), by place of publication (from a list of available states and publications), and by newspaper section. Some important newspapers are included in this collection, such as the *Milwaukee Journal*, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, *Wisconsin State Journal*, and *St. Paul Pioneer Press*; but for many locales, titles and date ranges are spotty, and it is important to assess the available titles and their relevance before you search.

Newspaper Source Plus and Wisconsin Newspapers Digital Research Site

"Newspaper Source Plus" from EBSCO provides full-text access to 700 newspapers, including some major newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The San Francisco Chronicle*, and some international papers such as *The Daily Mail (UK)*, *The Times of London*, and the *Toronto Star*. However, the covered dates go back only one or two decades or a bit more. The search engine is fairly sophisticated and will even retrieve images such as photos and illustrations. I found it hard to use however, and hope our members will explore this more and report any good findings. "Wisconsin Newspapers Digital Research Site" is a service of the Wisconsin Newspaper Association and offers access to daily and weekly newspapers in Wisconsin; however, the content is limited to the past five years, and excludes the most recent 60 days. This is a useful source, but less important for genealogy.

We turn now to another library source from the grand dame of American libraries, the Library of Congress.

National Endowment for the Arts/Library of Congress "Chronicling America" Project

This is a wonderful program which holds great promise, a collaboration of the Library of Congress along with the National Endowment for the Arts. Visit the project website at;

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/> with more information at: <http://www.neh.gov/projects/ndnp.html>

According to the website, "Chronicling America" is the prototype for the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), "a partnership between the NEH, the Library of Congress (LC), and state projects to provide enhanced access to United States newspapers published between 1836 and 1922. NEH awards support state projects to select and digitize historically significant titles that are aggregated and permanently maintained by the Library of Congress."

At present, the digital archive includes newspapers dating from 1860 to 1922 from Arizona, California, District of Columbia, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Virginia, and Washington. This is expected to grow over the next two decades. According to the website, "The NEH aims to have every state and U.S. territory represented in Chronicling America. One organization within each state or territory will receive an award to collaborate with relevant state partners in this effort."

The project gives the American public free access to a select number of newspapers, using the "VIEW" window on the website -- but also provides a catalog of newspaper publishing in places and periods of interest for research, in the "FIND" window. We will explore this second feature first.

Let's say you are looking for newspapers of the mid 19th century in Buffalo Co., Wisconsin. By navigating through the search fields in the "FIND" window, you will get to an exhaustive list of all the known newspapers ever published there. Yes, all!... Even the *Fountain City Beacon* which commenced in July 25, 1856 and ceased sometime in late 1856! Search results also link to repositories that might hold copies of a given newspaper in physical, microfilm or digital format. Only a tiny fraction of many long-forgotten newspapers are readily accessible, of course, but this powerful tool lets you know where to begin your boots-on-the-ground quest.

Now let's explore the "VIEW" window. This takes you to a search page which enables you to limit queries to an available state, specific title, date, and search terms. Results bring up an image of a page in the newspaper with the found search terms highlighted. You can zoom in and out using the toolbar at top, and download either a JPG2 or PDF facsimile, or view a full text extract based on optical character recognition (OCR). The full text feature is an admirable effort, but raw OCR text is loaded with errors, especially on older newspaper pages with broken, faded type -- so don't expect too much.

The newspapers in "Chronicling America" archive are limited at present, but will certainly grow. Since all of this content is available free of charge (your tax dollars at work!), bookmark it now and revisit often.

Paper of Record

Turning back for a moment now to commercial sources, we offer a cautionary tale. Paper of Record was on its way to being a major digital repository of historical newspapers, available online by membership. The website was a pioneer in the creation of an online, full-text searchable database of newspaper page images, started by Ottawa publisher R.J. (Bob) Huggins in 1999. Have a look at its ambitions:

<http://www.paperofrecord.com/default.asp>

According to the Paper of Record website, *The Toronto Star* "became the first newspaper in the world to have its entire history from 1892 to present, digitized for the world to see and search. This revolutionary process changed forever how large metropolitan newspapers conduct their research and became the genesis for PaperofRecord.com®" The collection grew as content was added. You can see from the titles listed that the collection was especially strong for Canada and Latin America.

<http://www.paperofrecord.com/search.asp>

Go to the list of titles. Click on any one of them to conduct a search. Results are returned as a list of hits with relevant pages, by date of publication. Or, you can click "thumbnail" to see a tiny preview of the pages with hits. To actually view the page, you must sign in. And here is where things get complicated. Right now, access to the Paper of Record archive is limited to institutional members. In fact, most of these newspapers will ultimately live somewhere else altogether. Like any good thing, all this amazing content became attractive for that greatest of gobblers of content, Google. And thereby hangs the tale.

In September of 2008, Google launched its newspaper digitization project, a rather wildly ambitious program to make available all the world's newspapers available in a few clicks of the mouse.

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2008/09/bringing-history-online-one-newspaper.html>

A few short months later, Google quietly acquired the Paper of Record archive, with the goal of folding this valuable content into Google's newspaper digitization project. However, astonished users of PaperofRecord.com saw the online content disappear in the interim. In January of 2009, the archive vanished, to the dismay of many academic researchers, historians and buffs alike. Apparently, the PaperofRecord.com website has since been restored, albeit incompletely, while Google attempts to implement what it bought -- by harmonizing page image formats, cleaning up poor scans, renegotiating terms with copyright holders, etc. -- to make it all freshly accessible via Google at some point in the future.

The Paper of Record case shows how unsettled is the status of archive content on the Internet. What was there a week ago may not be there next week, due to ownership changes, copyright issues and so on.

So now let's turn to Google, the uber-aggregator of content, newspaper and otherwise -- and often free.

Google News Archive Search

In its own words, "Google News archive search provides an easy way to search and explore historical archives. In addition to helping you search, News Archive Search can automatically create timelines which show selected results from relevant time periods." Let's have a look:

<http://news.google.com/archivesearch> with more info at: <http://news.google.com/archivesearch/about.html>

To get to the meat of the search, go straight to the "Advanced archive search" link to the right of the main search button. Advanced archive search lets you can constrain your query to a given date and source -- place or title of publication. You'll also see a place to designate your preference for "price." Remember, Google News content is mostly free -- no subscription, no library or institutional access needed; but some of the content will link you to paid sources, and if you don't want to see these, you can filter results appropriately. Also, along the way, you will encounter some sponsored links. Just close your eyes, searching is still free.

For example, wouldn't it be gratifying to search through old issues of the *Milwaukee Journal*, *The Milwaukee Sentinel* and the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*? Indeed you can right here (in a much more tightly controlled way than you can from the above-mentioned link to the [www.jsonline](http://www.jsonline.com) historic archive.) Enter some search terms, a date, put "Milwaukee" as the source, and away you go! For some recent content of the Milwaukee newspapers, you must pay for access (most notably, obituaries after about 2000, access is only through Legacy.com), but for historic articles, access is generally free.

Your results will be shown on a timeline displaying matches in available issues across the dates you defined, with a list of the matches and their context in brief; click on any match and you will be taken to a digital image of the page with your match highlighted. You can zoom in and out to your heart's content or page forward and back using the toolbar at top. The one thing you can't do is download or print. Dang! You can print a screen view, of course, and that may be all you need.

There is another feature here, a really powerful one, especially when word searches are not as fruitful as you hoped: you can also leaf through pages of an available issue. Next to the toolbar is a link to "Browse this newspaper" which lets you view all available issues. You will find that for the *Milwaukee Journal*, you can browse back to 1884, for the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, back to 1910. Handy indeed.

Unfortunately, Google does not make it easy for you to learn exactly which newspapers and archives it is partnered with, and so the best way to learn if and how much of a newspaper of interest is available in this form on Google is simply to try. I wondered, for example if the *Toronto Star* which had been digitized originally for Paper of Record was available now via Google News Archive Search. It is not. (Although the *Toronto Daily Mail* is.) However, the *Toronto Star* is available somewhere, which leads us to the question:

What about Canadian Newspapers? There are quite a few included in the international holdings of some of the collections noted above. And there some noteworthy additions to discuss.

The Toronto Star's Pages of the Past

This commercial site provides access to 110 years of the *Toronto Star*. As usual, searching is free. Go to:

<http://thestar.pagesofthepast.ca/>

Click on the search link and enter Boolean search terms, a start date and range. You also have the option to limit the search by section of the paper. Results are returned as a list of hits with relevant pages, by date of publication. Or, you can click "thumbnail" to see a tiny preview of the pages with hits. To view the page, you must sign in (surprise!). Subscriptions here are extremely flexible -- from one hour (by the clock, CN\$3.95) to one year (CN\$149.95). However, you have access only to the *Toronto Star*.

ProQuest

ProQuest is another major commercial information provider on the internet, but working almost exclusively through institutional subscriptions. There are several product lines geared for genealogical and historical research -- for example "Heritage Quest" available through the Milwaukee Public Library.

Another ProQuest product line is their collection of historical newspapers, some going back to 1764, and including 15 American, 4 Irish & UK (including *The Irish Times* 1859-2008 and the *Weekly Irish Times* 1876-1958, more about that below), as well as 9 Black newspaper titles:

<http://www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/pq-hist-news.shtml>

Another ProQuest product is "Canada's Heritage from 1844" with its "online digitized full-image version of the complete works of *The Globe and Mail* newspaper since its inception as *The Globe* in 1844:"

http://www.proquest.com/en-US/catalogs/databases/detail/canada_heritage.shtml

This is an important Canadian newspaper of record, with genealogical interest. Also, and confusingly, ProQuest lists the *Toronto Star* in its collection as well -- but see "Pages of the Past" above.

ProQuest is worth a look, but unfortunately they do not market at present to individual consumers. The Milwaukee Public Library subscribes to "Heritage Quest," though not to the newspaper products. If you live elsewhere, however, check with your local library to learn if they subscribe. You could be a winner!

Speaking of elsewhere, what about Irish newspapers? A whole other world! Yes, there are some significant holdings online, and we've come across a few already. Let's delve deeper.

The Irish Times

We saw that ProQuest includes the *Irish Times* as part of their "Historical Newspapers" product line. You can access the same collection through a paid subscription from the modern *Irish Times* website, though:

<http://www.irishtimes.com/search/archive.html>

Enter your Boolean search terms and a date range and explore. Again, the search is free. Results are listed as a snippet view (often only a few words or a headline paired with the date of the issue and page number. To view the full context you must subscribe. A 24-hour pass will set you back 10 euros, or a full year membership for €395. Ouch! So, again, assess your research needs and likely return on investment.

Irish Newspaper Archive

Now we come to the godfather of Irish newspaper content, Irish Newspaper Archive. It claims, justifiably, to be "the world's largest online database of Irish Newspapers" ... with "many of Ireland's leading national, regional and out of print titles... from the 1700s to present." Just a glance at the website shows why:

<http://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>

Irish Newspaper Archive holds microfilm for 30 newspapers and is digitizing them one by one, adding content at a fast pace. Titles with at least partial date range coverage include:

The Irish Independent	Irish Farmers Journal	Sunday Independent	Anglo-Celt
City Tribune	Connacht Sentinel	Connacht Telegraph	Connacht Tribune
Donegal News	Finn's Leinster Journal	Leitrim Observer	Meath Chronicle
Munster Express	Nenagh Guardian	Southern Star	Tuam Herald
Westmeath Examiner	Freemans Journal		

As elsewhere, searching is free. First, click the yellow button, "FREE Archive search." Select a title from the list, and enter a date range and search terms. Results are shown as snippets with a publication context. To view the results, you have to subscribe. To do this, return to the home page, click the blue "Subscribe Today" and you can sign up for access to the entire range of newspapers for as little as 10 euros (24 hours) or as much as €350 for a full year. But don't do it...yet. For at least one newspaper, the same content appears to be available elsewhere ... for free. I stumbled upon the fact that the newspaper I was interested in, *The Southern Star*, offers a back door to this same archive. And the door is unlocked.

<http://www.southernstar.ie/>

Click on the tiny text "Archives Since 1892" at upper right under "Search Our Archives" which navigates you to the place we've just been, with some important differences. First, the search engine filters differently: now only the *Southern Star* appears in the title list. Also a new navigational tab has appeared at left to "browse the archive" -- yes, you can flip through newspapers, by calendar date! The best part is this engine yields results which are free to view -- by facsimile in article clipping form or in page view, with options to save, email or print. For very recent search results, articles are available as text. Heaven!

What about other newspapers? I have not tried all the listed titles, but I am sorry to say I have yet to find another "back door" with free access to the content available by subscription at Irish Newspaper Archives.

Now it's your turn!

Our October roundtable "demo" was a quick tour of newspapers available on the internet. Yet there are more! Do you have a source to add? A search tip? Email IGSW roundtable moderator Michele Patin at Michele@GJD.com and we'll include your tip in a future issue of the *Quarterly*.

NEWS FROM THE WEB

By Mary Kay Kuhfittig

NATIONAL LIBRARY TO DIGITIZE CATHOLIC PARISH RECORDS

The National Library of Ireland, holder of 520 microfilms of Catholic parish records, plans to scan, digitize and have them available online by next year. Some Irish parish records were filmed in the past by the LDS, and may be rented through a local Family History Center. However, not all Catholic bishops allowed records to be released to the Mormons. Additionally, some microfilms at the National Library traditionally could only be viewed with permission from the local bishop.

So far there is no plan to index the records, nor is it known whether there will be a charge to view them online. Researchers should be warned that some of the filmed pages are illegible.

You can check the parish films owned by the National Library at:
<http://www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx>

BEGINNING IRISH GENEALOGY COURSES

Familysearch.org is offering the following five free Irish genealogy courses online:

1. Church Records, 39 minutes
2. Civil Registration, 34 minutes
3. Immigration Part 1: Strategies, 21 minutes
4. Immigration Part 2: Famine/Post Famine Sources, 31 minutes
5. Immigration Part 3: Ulster/Scots Irish Sources, 27 minutes

Access them at <https://learning.beta.familysearch.org/researchcourses>

HISTORY OF THE 1641 REBELLION ONLINE

"The problem with the English conquest of Ireland is that
The Irish cannot forget it and the English can't remember it.

G.K. Chesterton

Years of tension between Irish Catholic gentry and British Protestant settlers in Northern Ireland boiled over in October 1641, the Catholics rising up in an effort to reclaim their lands and former positions. Begun by a small group of Gaelic Irish landowners, the protest spread to native Irishmen in general. It was a bloody battle that didn't last long, with repercussions to this day.

In order to determine who should be punished, the British took 5,000 sworn statements by witnesses to the actions of the rebels. It has been claimed that between 4,000 and 12,000 Protestants in Ulster were massacred; some, however, have charged that these numbers have been inflated for propaganda purposes.

Now anyone can find online eyewitness accounts to the 1641 uprising. Testimonies given in graphic detail run to 19,000 pages and 31 volumes containing 8,000 depositions, with 90,000 people named. Trinity College in Dublin has had possession of the archive since 1741.

Go to <http://1641.tcd.ie> to search the depositions.

PETERBOROUGH, ONTARIO CELEBRATES IRISH IMMIGRATION

Peterborough, a Canadian town 85 miles northeast of Toronto, recently held an anniversary celebration marking 185 years since the start of Irish settlement there. Beginning in 1825, Peterborough received 1,878 Irish, mainly from Cork city, with more to follow in later years. Some descendants of the original settlers attended.

NOTE: The Irish Emigration Library has information on the Peterborough settlers.

NEWS FROM CO. CLARE

The Clare Roots Society (<http://www.clareroots.org>), formed in 2006, undertakes transcription projects which it shares with the Clare County Library. (www.clarelibrary.ie)

Transcriptions they have done include gravestones in Drumcliffe Cemetery, the major burial ground for Ennis, as well as some rural cemeteries. At present they are transcribing stones at Old Ballysheen (Kilfinaghty) Cemetery at Sixmilebridge.

Another current project is transcription of the marriage and baptism indexes for the parishes of Doorra/Barefield and Quin.

Anyone, anywhere, may join as a member and volunteer for transcribing. Non-residents of Ireland are exempt from membership dues.

To join, e-mail: secretary@clareroots.org secretary@clareroots.org

MAJOR VIKING SETTLEMENT FOUND IN COUNTY LOUTH

An ancient Viking settlement dating approximately from 941, has been discovered at Annagassan, Co. Louth. Archeologists believe it is the fortress of Linnduchaill, one of the places that the Vikings overwintered. The location having a water harbor was a rival to Dublin in establishing the most important city, with Dublin the eventual winner, due to its deeper harbor.

The Vikings were defeated by Brian Boru in 1014.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS OF IRELAND

The National Library of Ireland has expanded its collections of old photographs on its website to over 34,000. They may be seen at: www.nli.ie/digital-photographs.aspx

In Memory

Susan Grams

Kelowna, British Columbia, Canada

**Thomas J. Blaha
Charter Member**

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We extend our sincerest sympathy to the families of the deceased and to all members of IOSSW who have lost loved ones this past year. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed Rest in Peace. Amen

NOTICE

NOTICE

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- We are calling your attention to two Genealogical conferences that will take place during 2011 which could be of interest to our members living in the mid-west. One will be in Minneapolis, Minnesota in April and the second in Springfield, Illinois in September.
- Lois Mackin, (loismackin@aol.com) Education Chair of the Minnesota Genealogical Society wants us to know that the Minnesota Genealogical Society and the Irish Genealogical International are planning two events in the Minneapolis area next April featuring David E. Rencher of Family Search
- "On April 29, 2011, we will offer 'An Evening with David Rencher' including lecture, coffee and dessert. On April 30, there will be a conference on Irish, English, Scottish and Welsh genealogy with three more lectures by David Rencher, as well as breakout sessions by upper Midwest presenters including Tom Rice, Alice Eichholz, Jay Fonkert, Lois Mackin and John Schade We will also have vendors and exhibitors"
- Information on the second conference in September sponsored by The Federation of Genealogical Societies follows on the next page.

Pathways to the Heartland A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists

FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference

P.O. Box 200940

Austin, TX 78720-0940

phone: +1 (888) 347-1500

e-mail: 2011conference@fgs.org

website: www.fgs.org

The Federation of Genealogical Societies



Pathways to the Heartland

A Conference for the Nation's Genealogists

with local host The Illinois State Genealogical Society

September 7-10, 2011

Springfield, Illinois



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Illinois State Genealogical Society it is our pleasure to announce the FGS 2011 Conference will be held in Springfield, Illinois, September 7-10, 2011. This special event will mark the 35th Anniversary of FGS and a return to Illinois, the original home of FGS.

Now is the time to get involved with the FGS 2011 conference! Your society's participation will provide new opportunities for further recognition and exposure to potential members, partners, and friends. Here's how to get involved:

Learn, Share, and Explore

- During each conference, FGS devotes an entire day to "Focus on Societies," a series of events designed especially for society leaders, officers, and volunteers. These events cover a variety of elements related to society management in the 21st century including publicity, membership growth, website development, and other topics.
- Conference lectures, workshops, luncheons, and other special events provide an inviting and unparalleled educational experience for anyone interested in family history. **Invite your society leaders, members, and friends to this exciting opportunity.** A complete schedule of the conference's events will be online at www.fgs.org in December 2010. *You can also stay current with news about the conference via the conference news blog at www.fgsconferenceblog.org.*
- Consider joining us in the exhibit hall, either by purchasing a booth or placing materials in "Spotlight on Societies," a series of tables for conference attendees to browse information relating to FGS member societies during the conference. *E-mail exhibits@fgs.org for additional information relating to the exhibit hall.*

Spread the Word

- Placing information relating to the conference in your society's printed and electronic publications is an excellent way to distribute information to your members. The FGS 2011 Conference team has a number of advertisements, articles, and other materials freely available to your society's publications. *You can also sign up for conference e-updates by e-mailing 2011conference@fgs.org.*
- Ensure you add the conference to your society's schedule of upcoming events and place materials and links relating to the conference on your e-mail list, website, blog, and Facebook page. Each FGS member society choosing to publicize the conference will be placed into a drawing for a free registration to the FGS 2012 Conference in Birmingham, AL. *E-mail 2011publicity@fgs.org to obtain materials for your society or receive additional information relating to the drawing.*

Enclosed are a few preliminary brochures regarding the conference. Please distribute these to your society leaders. We are happy to provide you with additional copies for your society and local area - simply contact 2011conference@fgs.org with your name, mailing address, and the number of brochures needed (an additional full registration brochure detailing all conference events will also be available in January 2011).

We look forward to seeing you 7-10 September, 2011 as we uncover "Pathways to the Heartland," in Springfield, Illinois at the FGS/ISGS 2011 Conference!

Wishing you the best,

Patricia Oxley
President, FGS

D. Joshua Taylor
Conference Planning Chair, FGS

Susie Pope
Local Co-Chair, ISGS

David Kent Coy
Local Co-Chair, ISGS

SALT LAKE CITY IN FEBRUARY 2011 COME AND JOIN US

By Pat Geyh

Once again I'm planning to spend all of February in Salt Lake City. Won't you join me? I will be arriving in Salt Lake City on Sunday 30 January 2011 and staying there until Sunday 27 February 2011. As in past years we will have a wonderful time doing research, attending concerts, planning for each day's research--whatever. You are more than welcome any time during the month, for one week--two weeks--whatever.

This a "do it yourself" event. You make your own plane and hotel reservations and join us for whatever activities you wish. Perhaps we can talk over our day's successes and failures and plan for the next day's research. Some stay at the library until 9:00 P.M. instead.

Here's the way it goes:

- 1) Select the week(s) you wish to be there and make your plane reservation. Since the Family History Library is closed on Sundays, I usually travel on Sundays.
- 2) Make your reservation at the hotel. My strong recommendation is the Carlton. This is a small family owned hotel located at 140 E. South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84111. The phone number is 1 800 633 3500. The cost of the room includes transportation to and from the airport; a great breakfast each day---just about anything you want is available; a shuttle to and from the library--3 times in the morning and 2 times back in the evening. Most people walk the four long blocks. There is also an exercise room complete with sauna and exercise equipment. In addition there is wireless internet connection throughout the entire hotel. When you make your reservation say that you are a genealogist with Pat Geyh of the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin. There is a discount for genealogists.
- 3) At least 3 days before you arrive call the hotel and give them the time you will be arriving so that you can have a driver ready to head out to the airport to pick you up when you arrive. As soon as you land call the hotel and they will then send out the van to pick you up.
- 4) If you wish, you can contact me and I can answer any questions you may have. If you have never been to the Family History Library you may want to discuss various things you can do to prepare for the trip. My phone number is 414 541 8820. My e-mail address is pgeyh@wi.rr.com.

The weather in Salt Lake City during February is quite temperate compared to Milwaukee. The snow falls heavily in the mountains surrounding the city and by Wisconsin standards very little in the city. By the middle of February the violets are beginning to bloom and some spring bulbs are showing their heads.



Rejoice in the spirit of Christmas which is Peace,
the miracle of Christmas which is Hope,
and the heart of Christmas which is Love

A Bit of Genealogy Humor New Year's Eve 1852

It is New Year's Eve, 1852 and John Smith sits at his desk by candlelight. He dips his quill pen in ink and begins to write his New Year's resolutions:

- 1. No man is truly well-educated unless he learns to spell his name at least three different ways within the same document. I resolve to give the appearance of being extremely well-educated in the coming year.**
- 2. I resolve to see to it that all of my children will have the same names that my ancestors have used for six generations in a row.**
- 3. My age is no one's business but my own. I hereby resolve to never list the same age or birth year twice on any document.**
- 4. I resolve to have each of my children baptized in a different church – either in a different faith or in a different parish. Every third child will not be baptized at all, or will be baptized by an itinerant minister who keeps no records.**
- 5. I resolve to move to a new town, new county or new state at least once every 10 years – just before those pesky enumerators come around asking silly questions.**
- 6. I will make every attempt to reside in counties and towns where no vital records are maintained or where the courthouse burns down every few years.**
- 7. I resolve to join an obscure religious cult that does not believe in record keeping or in participating in military service.**
- 8. When the tax collector comes to my door, I'll loan him my pen, which has been dipped in rapidly fading blue ink.**
- 9. I resolve that if my beloved wife Mary should die, I will marry another Mary.**
- 10. I resolve no to make a will. Who needs to spend money on a lawyer?**
- 11. I resolve to not clutter up a good farm pasture with headstones that will just get broken or fade with time anyway.**
- 12. I resolve to protect my family and friends privacy by giving false names and places for events.**

13. I resolve to never give the correct accounts of misdeeds in the family. So when Uncle Lem shot that guy and was tried for murder, my kids will be told he stole a cow.
14. I resolve to never trim the family cemetery of brush and tangle weed, to keep out any one doing that silly Genealogical work.
15. I resolve to always alternate my kids' and wife's first and middle names when the census taker comes around, just to give him practice with his spelling.
16. I resolve to come from Ireland where there are no records, or if there are, they can only be examined by visiting the exact village, pleading with the local clergy (who is hostile to anyone not of his belief which of course you are) and/or handing over a fee equal to or exceeding your yearly income for one hour's research which may not fine anything.
17. I resolve that not only shall I NOT die in my country of birth, nor shall my children (yea verily) unto the sixth generation.
18. I resolve that I shall call my children by odd names which the enumerator shall spell incorrectly.
19. I resolve that I shall be absent on the night of the census.
20. I resolve that if unable to be absent on census night I shall endeavor to be enumerated twice.
21. I resolve that when I die my children/wife are instructed to give the wrong details for my death certificate.
22. I resolve that I and most of my family shall die suddenly just before death certifications started to be used, in a parish where easy access to the records ceased the previous year.

IGSW member Kathryn Anderson is sharing this list with our readers. It was sent to her by Julie Cashman, NY-TROY-IRISH-GENSOC

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ONE AND ALL



Upcoming Programs

The Board of Directors of the IGSW has been hard at work setting the schedule of meetings for the upcoming year. Please look at the meetings that have been scheduled and mark your calendars. There will be more information available in the future but in the meantime, you can anticipate an interesting and varied year of programs for your edification and enjoyment.

Monday, January 10, 2011 – 7p.m.

Shorewood Library

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

“Adventures in History: William Butler Yeats and Other Poets of Ireland”

Presented by Jo McReynolds Blochowiak

Monday, February 7, 2011 – 7p.m.

Shorewood Library

“Using Wikis, Blogs and Other Social Media for Research”

Presented by Gary Haas

Monday, March 7, 2011 – 7p.m.

Shorewood Library

“The Life and Times of James Joyce”

Presented by John Angelos

Monday, April 4, 2011 – 7p.m.

Irish Cultural and Heritage Center

(2133 W Wisconsin Ave-Milwaukee, WI 53233)

“A Night of the Round Tables”

Hosted by the Board of Directors of the IGSW and Friends



IGSW

*Irish Genealogical Society
of Wisconsin*

P.O. Box 13766

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766

Non-Profit Organization

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Of your change of address. The Post
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please note the expiration date

