



# THE IRISH GENEALOGICAL QUARTERLY

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

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## President's Message – IGSW Outreach

Our genealogical society offers so many opportunities for service.

Irish Fest, which ended just days ago, where we co-ordinate and staff the Genealogy Tent in the Cultural Village, is, to me, a key one. From festivalgoers that are contemplating their roots perhaps for the first time to expert family historians that bring in their notes and hard questions, we are meeting the IGSW's Number One objective (paraphrasing it a little): the goal is to stimulate genealogical communication, education, interest, and the exchange of information, especially as it relates to Irish genealogy, to and with individuals. And, did I mention, it's fun.

Our Irish Emigration Library, housed in the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center at 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue in Milwaukee, provides another venue for volunteering. My advice is to come in and use the library (if you haven't yet), see what is there, get some guidance from one of the volunteer staff on your research challenges (to see how advice is given and maybe to overcome a brick wall), you know - get the lay of the land - and then sign up for one of the three-hour Wednesday afternoon or evening slots.

In doing genealogy: Have you found out something interesting about an ancestor? Have you come across a new family history web site or read a new genealogy book? Have you devised a technique that has furthered your research? A positive answer to any of these or similar questions is the basis for an article in the society's periodical, *The Irish Genealogical Quarterly*. For more on how to share in writing what you've learned, one of the Roundtable topics at our October meeting is "How to Write for the Quarterly."

Yet another way to help is to serve as an officer. Several positions are opening up in the next cycle. At the beginning of every year there is an election. Terms run two years and can be repeated one more time. I affirm the value and importance of this form of service, having been recording secretary and now the president. Tell any board member of your interest.

Gary Shea



## Jeremiah Curtin

by Tim Dowling

Jeremiah William Curtin was born in Detroit, Michigan on September 6, 1835 and baptized by Father Bernard O'Cavanagh at the Church of the Most Holy Trinity. He graduated from Harvard College in 1863 after studying many different languages. The following year Curtin moved to St. Petersburg as a language translator, after being appointed Secretary to the United States legation to Russia by President Lincoln.

On July 17, 1872, while on a trip to the states, he married Alma Mary Cardell in Warren, Vermont who was born on March 11, 1847. She was also fluent in other languages and went on to assist her husband in his work as a copyist and photographer.

From 1882 until 1891, Jeremiah Curtin was a member of the Smithsonian working with the Bureau of Ethnology which

was established in 1879 by Congress for the purpose of creating archives of the North American Indians. He became a specialist in their many native languages.

After that, the Curtins went on to travel Europe and Asia, while spending their winters with her younger sister Jennie in Vermont, who was married to Dr. Anson Norton. During their travels, they collected folklore from



many different cultures. Jeremiah translated many of the novels into English, one being 'Quo Vadis?' written by the Polish author, Henryk Sienkiewicz (1846-1916), who in 1905 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature.



Jeremiah Curtin died in Bristol, Vermont on December 14, 1906. It was estimated that he knew between 50 to 70 different languages by then. In his later years Curtin stated, "I was thinking strongly of writing a book entitled 'Who is Immortal.' My answer to my own question will be 'God.'" Mrs. Curtin lived another thirty years, and died in Bristol of arterio sclerosis on April 14, 1938.

*By now, you might be thinking, "That was interesting, but what does Jeremiah Curtin have to do with Irish genealogy or Wisconsin?"*

Jeremiah was the son of Ellen Furlong of County Cork and David Curtin of County Limerick. Ellen emigrated with her parents to Montreal in 1822 and ten years later to Detroit. David's family emigrated to Quebec when he was about 20 years old, eventually finding their way to Detroit where he met and married Ellen. Within a couple years they moved to Milwaukee County becoming pioneers of Wisconsin and homesteading where the village of Greendale is now located.

There were seven younger siblings later born in Wisconsin. Their house built in 1846 was the first stone house in the town of Greendale and is still standing at 8685 West Grange Ave. In 1952, the house was acquired by the Milwaukee Historical Society and in 1972, the Curtin house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Jeremiah's father died of pneumonia on February 16, 1856 and three years later Jeremiah headed to Harvard. You know the rest of the story, except how he met his bride.

In early 1872, Russia's Grand Duke Alexis' made a trip to Milwaukee, which Jeremiah arranged. While on this trip, they visited an orphanage in Madison for children who's fathers were Civil War casualties. That is where Jeremiah met Alma Cardell, who was a teacher at the orphanage. Just a few months later they were married and he returned to St. Petersburg with Alma.

When Russia went to war with Turkey in 1877, they went to London for a year, then returned to the states. Jeremiah worked on an encyclopedia for a publisher in Chicago until he went on to his position with the Smithsonian.

Over the years, the Curtin's acquired a large number books, documents, correspondence and photographs. This collection which even includes their diaries is known as the "Jeremiah Curtin Papers" was donated to the Milwaukee Historical Society. Just recently, in honor of the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the IGSW has made a donation to the society and adopted this collection as a sponsor.



Just a few miles northeast of the Curtin home in Greendale at 3450 S 32nd St is a Milwaukee Public School named Jeremiah Curtin Leadership Academy. It has an enrollment of about 300 students with grades K4-8.

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## NEWS FROM THE WEB

By Mary Kay Kuhfittig

### CATHOLIC PARISHES IN IRELAND MAY BE DOWNSIZED

The *Irish Times* on May 4, 2010 reported that discussions have been held by Catholic authorities about combining some of the present twenty-six parishes. There are now four archbishops and twenty-five bishops in the country.

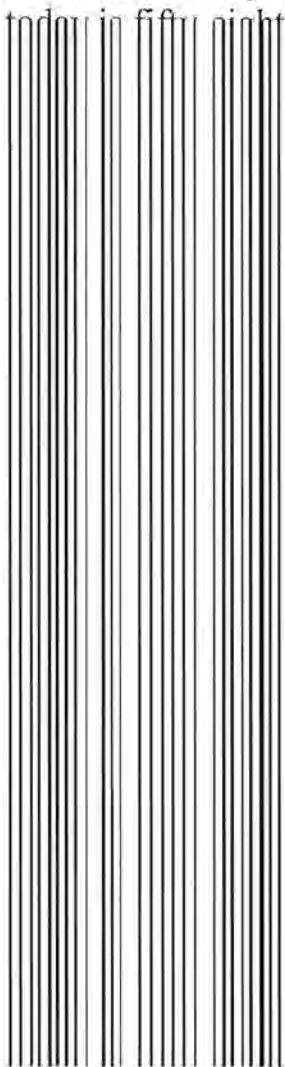
The diocesan structure came about from a synod of 1111, followed by the Synod of Kells in 1152, so perhaps it's time to consider present day needs.

The dioceses which may be merged are:

Armagh and Clogher  
Down and Connor with Dromore  
Derry and Raphoe  
Kilmore with Ardagh and Elphin and Achonry  
Killala, Clonfert and Galway with Tuam  
Killaloe with Limerick and Cashel and Emly  
Kerry and Cork  
Cloyne and Waterford and Lismore  
Ferns, Ossory, Kildare and Leighlin  
Dublin would remain a single diocese.  
Meath might merge with Clonmacnoise

Those in favor of the mergers argue that it would make the Irish Bishops Conference more flexible and efficient, and may become necessary with the ever decreasing numbers of priests.

It's expected that many of today's bishops will be retiring soon, since the average age of twenty-nine of them is sixty-eight, three years over the State retirement age. Four bishops over seventy-five have recently retired, and two more are expected to next year. The youngest Catholic bishop in Ireland



## NEW TUNNEL AT SHANNON AIRPORT

Visitors who arrive at Shannon and rent a car will no longer have to navigate the congested streets of Limerick City. A tunnel crossing from the airport under the river Shannon has just opened, with a capacity of handling 40,000 cars a day. It took four years and 605 million euros to construct the tunnel.

## NEW TERMINAL AT DUBLIN AIRPORT

Dublin Airport has a new nineteen-gate terminal, "T2." It will open this November and will handle all long-haul traffic. US customs and immigration will be cleared in the terminal before flights are boarded.

## IRISH TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

Two main transportation projects are planned for Dublin and surroundings.

The east coast DART system will eventually link up with Dublin inter-city rail service, and will feature an underground system.

Additionally, a Metro-North project will provide partly underground train service from Stephens Green in the center of Dublin to Dublin airport, a distance of eighteen kilometers.

Anyone who has been to Dublin in the last few years, and especially those who were brave enough to drive in the city, will appreciate the need for these projects.

## GOOD NEWS FOR OLDER TRAVELERS

Tourists age sixty-six and over may now obtain free unrestricted train travel in Ireland. Golden Trekker tickets are issued through the Tourism Ireland website. (See [www.discoverireland.com](http://www.discoverireland.com)) This is valid in the Republic, but not in Northern Ireland. At present, it is offered until December 31, 2010. You must call 1-800-SHAMROCK at least forty-eight hours before arrival.

in Ireland. A pass is available for four days. Up to eight passes per person may be obtained. The pass is then presented at any Irish Rail office.

## PRONI CLOSURE

PRONI, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, will close for an eight-month period from September 6, 2010 to April/May 2011, when their new building will be completed. In the meantime a small, self-service microfilm-viewing facility will be maintained at the Creagh Library in Belfast. Ten film readers will be provided and must be reserved in advance. Microfilms, up to twenty, must also be reserved in advance. It sounds as if genealogists should delay their trip to Belfast until after May, 2011.

## KERRY PLACENAMES SURVEY

The *Irish Times* on June 2, 2010 reports that an archive of 8,000 place names in Co. Kerry has been collected over the past ten years and will be placed into fifty-three bound volumes.

This includes buildings, modern shops, housing estates, house ruins, roads, hills, hollows, lakes, etc. Each townland has a map, and each volume gives location and description and the name of the collector, and oral and literary data. The first ten volumes have been completed and will be available at the Kerry Library in Tralee.

An earlier study of Co. Cork placenames has resulted in one hundred and fifteen volumes which are located at the Cork Count Library in Cork City.

## MORE CHURCH RECORDS ONLINE

The Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport has added records to the website [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie). Church of Ireland records of Dublin City, and counties Kerry and Carlow have been added. A subset of the Roman Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Cork & Ross has also been added. In some cases digital images of the original church records are available on the

website. The completion of the Dublin City and South & West Cork Roman Catholic records is anticipated next.

## CERTIFICATE OF IRISH HERITAGE

The Irish government is planning to provide certificates for people of Irish descent who don't qualify for citizenship. The documents will be provided by a third party agency acting under a license from the Department of Foreign Affairs. There will probably be a fee charged for each document issued.

## AUCTION OF IRISH FAMINE LETTERS

Recently in Dublin an assortment of letters from various estates in several Irish counties was offered for individual auction. Fortunately, at the last minute, it was decided to keep them together in the hope that they can be donated to, or purchased by, the State. The auction house agreed to donate the letters after negotiation, with book and manuscript dealer Kennys of Galway acting as intermediary.

The hand-written letters include a number from Kilglass Parish and around Strokestown and other parts of Roscommon to land agents Stewart and Kincaid. They had originally been found in the archives of the Steward and Kincaid law firm in Dublin by a private collector. The Kilglass estates include those of the Marquess of Westmeath and of Daniel Ferrall. Some of the letters provide lists of tenants.

The letters are said to provide pictures of the Famine from tenants as well as landlords.

The auction house has announced that the letters will be kept together and eventually be kept in an archive in Ireland where they will be available for research.

## RARE NEWSPAPERS DONATED TO LIBRARY

A Galway archivist and collector has given one hundred and fifty original *Dublin Evening Mail* newspapers to the Dublin City Library. The papers begin February 5, 1838 and go to December 31, 1855. The papers consist of one sheet, printed front and back, and were published three times a week. The collector has also recently donated thirteen issues from the 1800s of the *Galway Independent* to the National University of Ireland, Galway.

## OLD KERRY BOOK ONLINE

*A Selection of Old Kerry Records, Historical and Genealogical, with Introductory Memoir, Notes and Appendix*, by Mary Agnes Hickson, published in 1872, may be seen at [www.researchireland.com/BLENNERHASSETT.pdf](http://www.researchireland.com/BLENNERHASSETT.pdf)

## IRISH FAMINE IMMIGRATION TO NEW BRUNSWICK

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick (PANB) have a new exhibit and database called "In the Wake of Dark Passage—Irish Famine Migration to New Brunswick, 1845-1852. See it at <http://archives.gnb.ca/Irish/Default.html>

The site includes both exhibits and databases, such as the following:

- St. John's Almshouse Records
- Brenan Funeral Home Records: Traces of Ireland
- Fitzwilliam Estate Immigration Books, 1847-1856
- RS555 Provincial Secretary: Immigration Administration Records
- Immigrant Letters
- Newspapers
- Passenger Lists
- Teachers Petition Database
- Irish Immigrants in the New Brunswick Census of 1851 and 1861.

If your Irish came through Canada and may have been in New Brunswick, this is a site well worth your time.

## WHAT MAY BE FOUND IN AN IRISH BOG

### A Manuscript “More important than The Dead Sea Scrolls”

Recently put on display at Dublin’s National Museum is a 1,200 year-old religious text found by a workman in 2006 operating a mechanical digger on a bog in North Tipperary. It was originally a 60 page text containing all 150 Psalms from the Bible. The psalms were inscribed on vellum, a parchment made from animal skins. The senior conservator said he was “transfixed with fear” at the task of restoring it. About 15 per cent survived. The museum feels it’s a more important discovery than the Dead Sea Scrolls and has changed how scholars view early Irish manuscripts.

### 4000 Year-Old Necklace Rescued

In 1945 a Roscommon farmer, Hubert Lannon, while cutting turf from a bog, discovered a crescent-shaped gold collar and two gold discs from Ireland’s bronze age. The items would have been worn by Ireland’s high kings. Mr. Lannon gave them to a local pharmacist at Strokestown who placed them in a safe. They still lay in that safe in 2009 when the safe was stolen. The pharmacist’s daughter reported the theft, but had forgotten about the gold pieces until later that evening. The National Museum of Ireland got involved and contacted the police who then had to rummage through twenty dumpsters full of rotting rubbish. It was only a matter of hours before the trash would have been collected and hauled to the main dump and the treasure probably lost forever. The necklace, called a “Lunula” is now on display at the National Museum.

You can see the treasure pictured on [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com). Put the word “lunula” in the search box and you will see it in the first row of pictures.

## Butter Long Past Its Sell-By Date

Two men working in a peat bog in County Kildare recently stumbled on a large oak barrel containing about seventy-seven pounds of butter. Archaeologists date the find from the Iron Age, about 3,000 years ago. The lidded barrel was intact except for a split down the side from expansion of the butter over time. The Irish Conservation Department of the National Museum of Ireland is drying the butter out, and will soak it in a wax-like solution to preserve it. So far no word on whether anyone has tasted it.

## From the River Boyne

Two fishermen made a surprising catch in June when they came across a canoe that had apparently been lying in the River Boyne for 5,000 years. It lay near the site of the historic Battle of the Boyne and not far from the megalithic tomb Newgrange. Archeologists have surmised that it may have been used to transport stone to the tomb.

## YOU MAY BE A DESCENDANT OF NIALL OF THE NINE HOSTAGES

Geneticists at Trinity College Dublin have discovered that there may be three million men descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages, an ancient Irish warlord who ruled as the High King at Tara from A.D. 379 to A.D. 405. It was Niall who supposedly brought to Ireland a young slave captured in Wales whom we now know as St. Patrick.

DNA researchers found about one in twelve men in Ireland in general, and one in five in the northwest with DNA of this common ancestor, and they estimate there are two to three million living descendants in the world. Niall gave his name to the O'Neills. Other surnames found to share in his ancestry are O'Connor, Egan, Flynn, Hynes, O'Reilly and Quinn.

A DNA researcher at Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation has discovered that Joseph Smith, Jr., the Mormon Prophet, is a descendant of Niall.

# Where in Ireland is Great Grandfather?

by  
Patrick Tyrrell

The search for my great grandfather, James Tyrrell, began after two of my sister-in-laws made a trip to Norway in 2000 to trace their ancestors. In talking about their trip with my sister, she reminded me of a chart that my father and I have made of the Tyrrell family sometime around 1980. She had a copy of it and would send it to me.

The chart showed that James had eight brothers and sisters, Patrick, Lawrence, Nicholas, Edward, Thomas, Ellen, Mary, and Margaret. The chart also showed the name of their parents as James Tyrrell and Ann Doyle. I knew that Patrick, Lawrence, along with my great grandfather James, had migrated to Shiawassee County, Michigan. I knew nothing about the other brothers and sisters. I also knew that they had a niece, Margaret Tyrrell who never married and that she was living in Ionia, Michigan when she died.

In searching the death records of the three brothers who migrated to Michigan, I was not able to determine much information about their birthplace in Ireland. However, I was able to determine approximate birthdates. Patrick was born in 1826, James was born in 1829 and Lawrence was born in 1849.

Patrick's obituary stated that he was born in County Wicklow and that he was survived by two sisters, Margaret O'Connor and Mary Rooney. Eventually I was able to find their death records. Again there was no information about their birthplace in Ireland. Their birthdates: Margaret was born in 1835 and Mary was born in 1844.

The real break came from the obituary from the niece, Margaret Tyrrell. The obituary stated that she was born near Dublin on August 9, 1872 and that her parents were Edward Tyrrell and Bridget Kelly. When I put all three names in the search function at familysearch.org, I came up with a birth date of August 16, 1872 and a location of Coolkenna and Hacketstown.

In the library catalog at familysearch.org, I discovered that the church records for Hacketstown had been microfilmed. I ordered the microfilm from the local Family History Center and awaited its arrival.

As I scanned through the microfilm, I wondered what I would discover. After about 45 minutes of looking I jumped up as I found the name Jacobus (James) Tyrrell, son of Jacobus Tyrrell and Anna Doyle with a baptism date of May 31, 1829. Much to my surprise, also on May 31, 1829 was a baptismal record for a Joannes (John) Tyrrell. Later I found a record for a Thomas Tyrrell on February 4, 1832, an Edward Tyrrell on February 9, 1839, and Lawrence on August 26, 1849. Finally I discovered a record for a Nicholas Tyrrell marrying Anastasia Kavanagh on October 18, 1880. These records also indicated the townland of Rathshanmore.

Now that I had discovered where my great grandfather came from in Ireland, I wanted to visit that area of Ireland. I had no idea if any of the Tyrrells were still in that area of Ireland or not. But I had to find out.

Finally in late February 2005, my wife and I were headed to Ireland. We were going to be in Ireland for only 7 days. We were planning on spending three days in Dublin and then another three days in County Wicklow. As this was our first time in Ireland, we spent the first two days doing the tourist thing. The third day was spent doing research.

We began the day at the National Library of Ireland. After locking up our coats and bags, we went up to the genealogical office. There we met with a gentleman who listened to what information we already had and then suggested that we look at the Tithe Applotment books at the library and then go over to the National Archives to look at the 1901 and 1911 census.

Since we already knew the parish of Hacketstown and the townland of Rathshanmore, the gentleman was able to get me the correct microfilm number. After picking out a microfilm reader, we filled out the reader's card, turned it in to the desk and waited for the microfilm to arrive at my reader. Soon we found the page for Rathshanmore and discovered that Patt Tyrrell was living in Rathshanmore in 1832. While we don't have any real proof, we believe that Patt Tyrrell is the father of the James Tyrrell who was married to Anna Doyle. We made arrangements to have a copy of the record made. It wouldn't be available that day, but they would mail a copy to me for 4 Euros.

Leaving the library, we walked over to the National Archives, a walk of about 15 minutes. When we arrived at the archives, we had to fill out a form to get us a reader's card. We locked up our coats and bags. Arriving upstairs, we met with a lady in the genealogical office. She was very helpful in getting us the correct microfilms for the 1901 and 1911 census. Since we already knew the townland, she was able to direct us to the exact location on the microfilm. She said that she would meet with us after we had viewed the microfilms.

On the 1901 microfilm, we discovered Nicholas Tyrrell age 69, wife Statia age 50, and children, James age 19 and Thomas age 17. In 1911, Nicholas was now 64 and Anastasia was now 64. Both Boys were single and still living at home. James was now 28 and Thomas was now 26. With both of the boys single, we didn't have much hope that there would be any Tyrrell still in Rathshanmore.

After sharing what we found on the microfilm with the lady in the genealogical office at the archives, she said that we should go to the Valuation Office to check out the cancelled land records to see who is living on the land and that we should go to the General Records Office to check out the index for births, marriages, and deaths.

It took us about 20 minutes to walk from the national archives to the valuation office. At the desk, we told them we were looking for the cancelled land records for Rathshanmore. We went into a room sat down and two books were brought out for us to look at. The

books are arranged in reverse order. That is the oldest records are at the back and the newer records are in the front. There are records for several townlands from the same parish in each book. A new set of records seems to be created about every 10 years. When records are updated, they are updated with different colored pens.

The records for Rathshanmore began around 1850, there did not appear to be an exact date. We were able to find the name James Tyrrell, my great grandfather, in the records for Rathshanmore West. It showed that he had a house, office, and land on an area of 4 acres, 2 roods, 20 p. In 1877 James' name was crossed out, and Anne name was written. Perhaps we now have a date that my gg grandfather passed away. In 1886, Anne's name is replaced with Michael. However, at this point, the name Michael doesn't make sense. In 1894, Michael's name is crossed out and replaced with Nicholas. Nicholas is a son of James Tyrrell and Anne Doyle. In 1909, Nicholas' name is replaced with his son's name, Thomas. There is also a notation that the land now has been purchased and that Thomas is no longer a tenant of Earl Fitzwilliams. The records indicated that there were Tyrrells in Rathshanmore as recently as 1984.

By this time it was late in the afternoon when we arrived at the General Records Office to look for the civil birth, marriage, and death records. At the GRO, you have the choice of spending 1.9 Euros to do a 5 year search for a single type of record or 15.24 Euros to do a general search over a six hour period. Because of the time, I decided to do a single search. The alphabetical indexes are yearly with each year divided into 4 quarters. Once you find a name and a district, you are able to get a volume and page in the original register. For 1.9 Euros, you can get a copy of the full information contained in the original register entry. The best records for genealogical purposes are the birth record as it contains the names of both parents. Marriage records will contain the name of both fathers and the place of marriage. Death records in Ireland are not very useful for genealogical purposes.

After finding much useful information in Dublin, we were excited to visit Hacketstown to continue my search for the Tyrrell family. As we entered Hacketstown, we saw a church on the left side of the road. We stopped and asked where the parish priest might be found. Arriving at his house, we were welcomed inside and informed that we were looking for information about my great grandfather, James Tyrrell. He informed us that there were Tyrrell living nearby. He shared with me the dates of the Tyrrells that I already had from the microfilm and he gave more names and dates of baptisms and marriages. He told us that the Tyrrells lived in Rathshanmore about 3 miles east of Hacketstown.

As we drove out to Rathshanmore, we were wondering who the Tyrrell were that lived in the same area as my great grandfather. We stopped the car in the driveway of the farmhouse. We called out and soon a man and woman came out from the barn. We asked if they were the Tyrrells and when they indicate they were, we introduced ourselves also as Tyrrells and that we thought that we were related. We went inside the house to talk. The man's name was James Tyrrell, whose father was also James Tyrrell and grandson of Nicholas Tyrrell. We quickly figured out that he was a second cousin,

once removed. In talking with James, we discovered that he has a brother, Edward, living with him. Their uncle Thomas had three boys, Nick, Thomas, and Pat. All of them had passed. James indicated that his parents and several of his cousins were buried in a cemetery in Knockananna. Neither James nor Edward seemed aware that their grandfather had any brothers or sisters. They were very surprised to discover that five of them had migrated to the United States.

They also indicated that we should try to meet a John Murphy as he was the local resident historian and perhaps he could give us more information. We stayed with James and Edward for about 2 hours. After leaving their house, we drove to Knockananna to find the cemetery where some of the Tyrrells are buried.

After leaving Knockananna, we drove to John Murphy's house. We introduce ourselves and he invited us inside. He knew the Tyrrells, but did not know any more than what James and Edward told us. He said that he played football (soccer) with two of their cousins back in the late 1940's and thought that he had a photograph of the Knockananna football team of 1948. When he brought out the pictures, our jaws dropped as in the upper left hand corner was a picture of Pat Tyrrell, another grandson of Nicholas. This Pat Tyrrell had a striking resemblance to my father.

On the flight back to Milwaukee, I considered myself very lucky to have been able to find some relatives who still live in Ireland. Since I had done lots of research before my trip to Ireland, I am sure that my success was a lot easier.

### **IGSW SNOWBIRDS**

Those IGSW members who head south for the winter are reminded that the United States Postal Service will not forward the IGSW Quarterly to your winter address as it is sent bulk rate. The United States Postal Service charges the IGSW 50 cents and destroys the IGSW Quarterly.

To prevent this from happening, IGSW members must contact Bob Towne so that he can update the mailing labels that are used for the IGSW Quarterly.

Members can e-mail Bob at: [r-towne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:r-towne@sbcglobal.net)  
subject: Winter address change

or write to Bob at:

Bob Towne  
5461 S. 25<sup>th</sup> St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53221-3715

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS OF THE IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY

Terrence M. Punch, *Erin's Sons: Irish Arrivals in Atlantic Canada to 1863*, vol. IV, (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2010) CAN 17 PUN

Thanks to Michele Patin for the following donations:

Christopher Ryan, ed., *Aspects of Irish Genealogy 3, A Selection of Papers from the Third Genealogical Congress* (Dublin: Irish Genealogical Congress Committee, 1999) IRE 22 RYA

Raymond Refaüssé, *Church of Ireland Records* (Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 2000) IRE 11 REF

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THE IRISH EMIGRATION LIBRARY  
located at the IRISH CULTURAL and  
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2133 West Wisconsin Avenue  
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Sponsored by the IRISH GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY of WISCONSIN

We have a staff of eighteen volunteers that are at the Library at different times to help those interested in tracing their Irish roots. The Irish Emigration is free and open to the public every Wednesday from 2-8 p.m. Donations are gratefully appreciated.

According to recent studies, genealogy is now America's No. 2 pastime, following gardening. Isn't now the time you combine the two pastimes and either begin or continue your interest in IRISH ROOTS. See you at the Library. For more information, please call the library director Jane Maher at (414) 258-9690.

## UPDATE TO THE DUFFY'S CUT STORY

The June issue of the *Quarterly* contained an article about the finding of a mass burial site of all fifty-seven Irish railroad workers who died six weeks after being hired to build a railway line thirty miles west of Philadelphia. It had been thought that the men died of cholera, but after two skulls were unearthed showing trauma, investigators began thinking murder.

In July it was reported that two more skulls have been found, also evidencing blunt trauma. One victim appears to have a bullet hole in his skull. The project directors suspect mass murder related to intense anti-Irish prejudice by persons unknown or that cholera had broken out among the men and they were killed to avoid spread of the deadly disease.

The bones found indicate that the men were muscular in spite of poor diets, and the teeth show no cavities.

More on the story may be found at <http://tinyurl.com/34o3j2f>>

# Redesign of IGSW Website

By Tim Dowling



In case you haven't noticed, the IGSW website has recently undergone some major design changes. Earlier this year, we moved to a new address, so save it to your "Bookmarks" or "Favorites", depending on the browser that you use. Better yet, make it your "Home Page".

<http://www.IGSWonline.com>

Certain items on our new website are only available to our paid members. So, the first thing you should do is register in the "Community" by clicking on the right menu item. Select "register", then choose a "username", enter your "Email" address (only our paid members will be able to see your email address), select and verify a "password", and copy the "Visual verification". Then check the "I Agree" check box and click on the "Register" button at the bottom of the page.

An "activation email" will be sent to the address that you entered. Open the email and click on the activation link. When you login, you can select stay logged in. Do not use this feature unless you are on your personal laptop or home computer.

You are now registered, but you still do not have full access. Now go back to the main IGSW page. You can always get there by clicking on the IGSW logo in the upper right corner of the page. Hold your mouse over the "About" menu item, and click on "Board of Directors". You can send a private message to anyone on the board, by clicking on their name. Enter a message to Tim Dowling, with your membership information from your mailing label and ask to be upgraded to "Paid Member", then click the "Send" button. You should be upgraded within 24 hours.

There is a "Profile" button near the top of the "Community" page, where you can personalize your profile, and even upload a photo of yourself. At the bottom of the "Community" page is a "Members" list, if you want to contact another member. Remember only "Paid Members" can see this list. Take some time and get familiar with the community. Click on the "General Discussion" page in the "Members Only" section and click on "New Topic". Enter a "Subject" and then in the message body, introduce yourself, finally click the "Post" button.

Notice the “User Info” box, in the upper left. This shows you if you have any personal messages. You can also click on “unread messages” or “new replies to your posts”. There is also a lot of information about how to do things if you click on the “Help” button.

One item that is no longer on our website, is the “Irish Surnames” page. This is for your privacy. You can now post your Surname queries in the “Community” under the appropriate topic.

Future IGSW meetings and events can be found by selecting the “Events” menu item from the main page. You can click on the locations for maps if you need directions. We also post some important items in the sidebar on the right of all pages. If you have comments or questions about a particular meeting or event, just go to the Community page (you can get there quickly by selecting “Past Events” under the “Events” menu item), click on the appropriate event “Subject” and then click the “Reply” button. There is also a “Calendar” button near the top of the “Community” pages. You can always quickly find a meeting or event from there. If there is something of significance that you feel should be added to the “Calendar”, then just send a message to any of the board members, and they should be happy to add it for you.

In the “Research” menu item, we have a large collection of “Resources” for our members to use while doing research. They are grouped by “Getting Started”, “Books & Pubs”, “Cemeteries”, “Wisconsin Resources”, “U.S. Resources” and “Ireland Resources”.

Another new feature you can find, is “Member Websites” located in the “Research” menu item. If you want your website listed, then send a message to Tim Dowling with the website information. You can also list your website in your member profile.

At the bottom of each page is a Google search. This sometimes does not show up if you have “InPrivate Filtering” set in Internet Explorer under your “Safety” button. If you want to find something on our website, type in your search words (use quotes for an exact search), and click the “Search” button. You can then click on the item you want or click the “X” to the right of the “Search” button to clear the results.

Custom Search

Search ✕

One of the biggest membership benefits is our Irish Genealogical Quarterly. We now have all of our past issues available online! You can find these by selecting “Quarterly” under the “Publications” menu item. If you know the specific issue that you want, then click on it. It will take you to the “Community” page where it has a list of the Table of Contents. Below that is a link to the PDF that you can click to download. You can also access these directly from the “Community”.

If you are not sure which issue you want, just enter the words to search for on the Quarterly page and click “Search”. It will search only the Table of Contents and not the articles.

Please visit the website often and feel free to post messages in the community. We hope to introduce more new features in the future. If you have suggestions, feedback or news, then please share it with us in the community.

## IRISH FEST 2010

*Submitted by Kris Mooney*

August 2010 was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Irish Fest, making a wonderful annual event even better. In addition to special guests and programs, there were displays throughout the grounds featuring memorable moments from earlier festivals. Despite a powerful and drenching rain Friday night, festival attendance for the weekend was 118,577, a 3% increase over last year.

This year the spotlight was on North Ireland, and there were many performers and participants from Ulster counties. Bishop John McAreavey of Dromore, County Down, presided at the Sunday Mass for Peace and Justice. He and his aide visited our IGSW tent during setup Thursday, and they appeared to be enjoying their Milwaukee visit very much.

The IGSW genealogy tent was extremely fortunate to have John McCabe, a noted Ulster genealogist from County Antrim North Ireland, working with us throughout the festival. Initially we were excited to hear that he was bringing access to Ulster birth, marriage and death records, and we did print off many ancestral records for tent visitors. But John McCabe's real value proved to be his remarkable knowledge about Ulster history and its impact on families. He could describe evolution of place names, and clan and family movement over time, and the implications of such changes for today's genealogists. He truly is an expert in atypical sources for Irish records – and what Irish genealogist couldn't use more sources? He spent hours enthusiastically sharing his knowledge with both volunteers and visitors, and these consultations were a rare and special opportunity. We all enjoyed his company and learned a great deal.

The Genealogy tent was again a very busy place, with some uptick in genealogy interest likely due to the popularity of Ancestry's recent television series *Who Do You Think You Are?* As always, many beginners were simply curious about their surname, and staffers helped

them identify likely ancestral counties and parishes. Introductory materials on charting a family tree and on searching the Web were very popular, and book sales were quite brisk relative to recent years. This year our tent was selected as a children's "passport stop" and little ones were treated with a hat, a stamp in their "passport", and a children's family tree page.

IGSW's Emigration Library staffed four computer stations and LDS Family History Centers staffed another four, providing non-stop consultations for tent visitors. Again this year Ancestry sponsored IGSW's computers and provided access to Ancestry's database. Consultation questions ran the gamut from simple to impossible. Some visitors were absolutely thrilled to see a simple early census showing their grandparents as children. Others posed more gnarly and unyielding brick walls. And some visitors had outrageously lucky finds: a Chicago visitor found his ancestral County *and* townland entered on his policeman great grandfather's World War 1 draft registration. Finding the Irish homestead doesn't get much easier than that!

The Genealogy tent also featured a return of the "Faces of Ireland" photography exhibit designed by Pat Gehy. Visitors appeared to enjoy the many photographs of Irish immigrants with Wisconsin connections. There were also tables staffed by the Second Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and the National Soldiers Home. A DNA display staffed by IGSW's Barbara Zabors was again a very popular stop, and Barbara is putting increased display space on her wish list for next year.

By any measure the IGSW Genealogy Tent was a grand success this year. The curious, the fledgling researchers and the seasoned genealogy veterans all came away with increased knowledge and ideas for future research. We look forward to follow-up visits to both our library and our new website (IGSWonline.com). And we extend a very warm welcome to all 56 new members who joined IGSW during the Fest. We look forward to getting to know you at our programs and on line.

## A Review of the June, July and August IGSW Programs

We did a lot in the preceding months since the last Irish Genealogical Quarterly was mailed. I'll try to summarize the last three meetings.

In June, we had a program on dating family photographs. It was wonderfully presented by Valerie Davis. Ms Davis is a textile historian and also has multiple other degrees of higher learning. She is now employed at the Milwaukee Public Museum where her principle project is cataloguing their collection of pictures.

Ms Davis is also a genealogist and an oral historian. Because of all of her knowledge, the evening was a delight. She not only told us what to look for in an antique picture, but she showed us with the many slides contained in her program.

In addition to her presentation, she had previously collected family photographs from some of the members of the audience and proceeded to try to help the owner discover things in the pictures that would be clues to the identity of the person or persons. I'm sure you can just imagine how the time flew by.

Thank you so much to Valerie Davis for the very entertaining and informative program.

In July, we had another visit to the Milwaukee County Historical Society. If you were with us last year, you saw the John Dillinger sets from the movie which was filmed partly in Milwaukee. The sets are gone now and the renovation is almost entirely completed. The ceiling tiles have all been removed and the refurbished and repainted ceiling is breathtaking. The colors are magnificent. They have to be seen to be believed.

The work areas are almost finished and the collections of books and memorabilia are being completed. You really should take a trip to downtown Milwaukee to enjoy the beauty of the facility as well as the historical information available at your fingertips. You won't be sorry.

Finally, in August, we had another field trip. This time we went to Erin, Wisconsin. The members of the Erin Historical Society treated us to a wonderful evening. It started with the presentation of some of the items representing Erin that had been collected and created by their members and housed in their new "home". The Erin Historical Society is relatively new as organizations go, but they have worked very hard and were marvelous hosts. I would love to give credit where credit is due but I don't want to forget anyone so if you would like to meet some wonderful people, take a drive out Highway 83 and visit.

After our introduction, we went over to St Patrick's Church. It is a beautiful old church, built in the shape of a cross. It is no longer a functioning parish but the community would like to have it added to the list of historical buildings. After spending time in the church and hearing about the community that used to exist around the parish, I can understand why they are working so hard to this end.

At last, whether there were swarms of mosquitoes or not, we went over to the cemetery. It holds pioneers from the early 1800s as well as veterans from every war since the Civil War. It is very well maintained and the people of Erin are trying to repair some of the ancient tombstones. I'm sure that there are few family members still around to maintain some of the older grave markers which make the community efforts even more appreciated.

A wonderful quarter such as this couldn't have been celebrated any better than we celebrated at the Tally Ho Tavern. Many of the people from Erin joined us to have a sandwich and hoist a Guinness or two before we headed back to Milwaukee.

In behalf of the IGSW Board, I would like to thank everyone who helped with these programs. They were truly wonderful. Please join us for the next three. I'm sure you won't be disappointed.

By Sue Dolinar



# Upcoming Programs

**Monday, September 13, 2010 - 7PM**

**(Please note the change in date and location)**

**ICHC - 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue**

This meeting will be a presentation by Mary McAndrews on The Irish in Milwaukee. Her talk will be divided into three parts. The first will be about Historical Milwaukee, Inc. the organization. The second part will be about the wonderful Irish library on the second floor of the ICHC. And the third part will be about the Irish people in Milwaukee who know the city, and the people in the city who know the Irish. And then, Mary McAndrews, who know both. I'm sure she will have your rapt attention.

**Monday, October 4, 2010 – 7PM**

**ICHC – 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue**

This meeting is one of the favorites of the general membership. We will have a Round Table discussion about several different topics. This time we will be changing the discussions about halfway through the evening. This will permit you to enjoy the help and inspiration provided by two different groups. Some of the tables will be "how to find information in the newspaper", "finding information in books at the ICHC", "discussing findagrave.com", and getting help when you "hit the wall".

**Monday, November 1, 2010 – 7PM**

**ICHC – 2133 West Wisconsin Avenue**

This will be our yearly Holiday Party (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years). Bring something to pass, buy a drink, talk, laugh and enjoy the entertainment. Join us as we end our year. There will be more information on the party next month. Don't forget to mark your calendar!

**All programs are free and open to the public**

Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin · P.O. Box 13766 · Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766 · [www.isgwonline.com](http://www.isgwonline.com)



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