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Table of Contents

President's Message.....	Gary Shea
Conchobhar O'Canann and Murchadh MacSuibhne A Case Study in Existence, Tradition, and Identity.....	Thomas Gildea Cannon
Irish Loan Fund Records.....	Mary Kay Kuhfittig
News From The Web.....	Mary Kay Kuhfittig
Program Reports:	
March 7, 2011 James Joyce.....	John Angelos
April 4, 2011 IGSW Roundtables.....	Michele Patin
Skeletons in the Closet.....	Dennis Higgins
May 2, 2011 Evoking Archaeological Inspiration from An Irish Adolescence.....	Kevin Cullen
Press Release from Irish Times Training	
Genealogy and the North West.....	Brian Mitchell
Milwaukee Irish Fest August 18-21, 2011.....	Jane Maher
FAMILYSEARCH.ORG Changes Its Website Dramatically.....	Patricia Keeney Geyh
Upcoming Programs.....	Sue Doliner

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President's Message - *Carpe diem*

April, May, June. These are special months when we enjoy family time. The Spring holidays, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and weddings all come to mind. As we rejuvenate from being indoors, cooped up researching, strategizing how to find the parents of Mary Ann McNally, reading Civil War regimental histories, etc., I want to remind us to do some living with our families, take pictures (be sure to label them) and as the expression goes, seize the day. It's my view that genealogists are both caretakers and creators of legacies.

I had the pleasure of teaching a Beginners' Genealogy Workshop in February and March for the UWM Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. This was the very first time I've taught a course (I have given lectures and one-time presentations). It was fun. I strived to make it a real workshop with in-class exercises and yes, that's right, homework.

Of all the places to come up with an idea for one of the workshop exercises, one took hold of me while I was in the dentist's chair. I even tested it out on the doctor when I had an opportunity to speak.

Honed for the class: "Parallel your life with that of an ancestor. Pick one that you know enough about to be able to compare yourself to, consider: married or not; age when married; children, how many, age when born; in the news?; occupation; travel; military service; and any other events, adventures, experiences you choose."

Dr. Smaglick lovingly recalled his grandfather - a builder of homes in Milwaukee from the 1930s to the 1950s - "he retired to Florida and passed away when I was six or seven. He had many grandchildren. Once he took me fishing, just me, and he made a point of teaching me a lesson: put out as many lines as you can and you will catch some fish. Another time we were traveling north away from Milwaukee. He pulled over and we got out of the car to have a good look at the construction of I-43."

Gary Shea

Conchobhar Ó Canann and Murchadh Mac Suibhne

A Case Study in Existence, Tradition, and Identity

By
Thomas Gildea Cannon

Existence

Some twenty years ago, Tony McCarthy perceptively observed that the family histories of John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Ronald Wilson Reagan were probably the most intensively researched of any Irish Americans.¹ In neither case, however, were academic scholars or professional genealogists able to reach back before 1800.² This largely undocumented state of affairs, even for presidential families,³ reflects the political and economic serfdom of Catholics in Ireland prior to their emancipation by Daniel O'Connell in 1829. Before that date, the infamous Penal Law code had methodically rendered Irish Catholics (more than eighty percent of the total population) invisible by stripping them of their civil rights and debarring them from meaningful participation in the country's economic life. As the oft-quoted judgment (c.1759) of Lord Chancellor John Bowes and Chief Justice Christopher Robinson held: "The law does not suppose any such person to exist as an Irish Roman Catholic."⁴

¹ Tony McCarthy, *The Irish Roots Guide* (Dublin: Lilliput Press, 1991) 101. See, for example, Gary Boyd Roberts, *Ancestors of American Presidents* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 3d ed. 1995); Hugh Brogan and Charles Mosley, *American Presidential Families* (New York: Macmillan Publishing Co. 1993); David Williamson, *Debrett's Presidents of the United States of America* (Topsfield, MA: Salem House Publishers, 1989).

² The Genealogical Office (Dublin) traced Kennedy's ancestry back only to his great-grandfather, Patrick Kennedy of Dunganstown, Co. Wexford. A photograph of the official pedigree is published in Ryan Tubridy, *JFK in Ireland: Four Days That Changed A President* (Cork: The Collins Press, 2010) 4-5. Kennedy family records posit this Patrick (1823-1858) as the son of Patrick Kennedy and Mary Johanna (maiden name unknown). Edward L. Galvin, "The Kennedys of Massachusetts" in *The Irish in New England* (Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1985) 25. On the other hand, Edward MacLysaght asserted that the emigrating Patrick was born in 1829, the son of James Kennedy and Mary Handrick. See *More Irish Families* (Blackrock: Irish Academic Press, rev. ed. 1982) 222.

³ President Reagan's ancestry has been traced back to his great-grandfather, Michael Re(a)gan, who is said to have been born in 1829 in Ballyporeen, Co. Tipperary. Curt J. Gronner, *The Family of Ronald W. Reagan* (Baltimore: Clearfield Co. 2d ed. 2004). See, however, questions raised by John Grenham, "Irish Roots" in *Irish Times* (January 31, 2011); R. Andrew Pierce, "Notes on the Irish Ancestry of Ronald W. Reagan" at www.wargs.com/articles/reagan.html; and Michael F. Pollock, "The Genealogy of Ronald Wilson Reagan" in *Heritage Quest Magazine* no. 34 (May/June 1991).

A case in point is provided by the family of Denis Cannon (1789-1867) of Rosbeg, Co. Donegal. Denis and his wife, Susanna Sweeney (1785-1877), are not named in any Irish records prior to their arrival in America about the year 1832.⁵ The first documentary confirmation of their existence occurs in the sacramental register of St. Paul Catholic Church in Dungannon, Ohio, in 1835.⁶ Denis' brother, James Cannon, follows the same pattern: no reference in any Irish records; his family is first attested in the gravestone inscriptions of two of his children and two of his grandchildren in St. John's Catholic Cemetery in nearby Summitville, Ohio, all dating from 1853.⁷ Ditto for Denis and James' nephew, Dennis Cannon (1818-1877), son of John Cannon, who first appears in the historical record in the sacramental register of St. Paul Catholic Church in Dungannon in 1854.⁸

Tradition

Most Irish genealogists hit the same stonewall raised by the absence of documentation for the Catholic peasant class before the early nineteenth century. There is, however, one source of information that, in some cases, may be able to push identification of a family's earliest ancestor back another generation. That source is a family's naming tradition. This paper will focus on possible identification of the common ancestor of the three Cannon brothers (Denis, James, and John) noted above.

The Irish have long been fascinated by the importance of names.⁹ This is made clear in the celebrated medieval text *Cóir Anmann*, "Fitness of Names," which provides etymologies of personal names and epithets found in early Irish literary and

⁴ Quoted in Denys Scully, *A Statement of the Penal Laws Which Aggrieve the Catholics of Ireland* (Dublin: H. Fitzpatrick, 1812) 334.

⁵ This writer has exhaustively examined such potential sources as rent rolls in the Conyngham estate papers (National Library of Ireland), electoral rolls, religious census (1766), spinning wheel trust lists (1796), muster rolls (1799), church records, and local cemetery inscriptions. These and other historical sources are identified in Helen Meehan and Godfrey Duffy, *Tracing Your Donegal Ancestors* (Glengary: Flyleaf Press, 2d ed. 2008). In addition, this writer commissioned searches by the Genealogical Office (Dublin) in 1977 and the Ulster Historical Foundation (Belfast) in 1987, both of which failed to turn up a single reference to the Cannons of Rosbeg any earlier than the tithe applotment books of Inishkeel parish (1833-34).

⁶ T.G. Cannon, "Seven Generations of a Pioneer Wisconsin Family" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 3, no. 1 (1994) 3-22.

⁷ Joyce Glassnap Krieser, "The James Cannon and Mary Lyons Story" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 9, no. 4 (2000) 3-32.

⁸ T.G. Cannon, "The Cannons of Ballycannon, County Donegal: A Tentative Reconstruction" in *Irish Genealogical Quarterly* 7, no. 2 (1998) 3-22.

⁹ This feature is by no means unique to early Irish society. The ancient Hebrews saw the act of naming as a sacred task entrusted by God to Adam. Book of Genesis 2:19-21.

historical sources.¹⁰ A modern Irish scholar comments on the significance of name selection:¹¹

[N]ames and identities are powerfully interlocked, at not only the individual and family levels, but also in the wider regional and national arenas of action and belief. In short, names are more than neutral markers in the landscape – they are made and held by people so as to order their world and create a symbolic universe.

Irish scholars have long been aware that Gaelic and Anglo-Norman communities in medieval Ireland differed pointedly in their name-selection patterns. Gaelic families tended to choose given names from a corpus of some 12,000 traditional personal names, while Anglo-Normans drew upon the large European reservoir of Christian saints' names.¹² Similarly, the Vikings tended to select distinctively Scandinavian names for their Irish-born children.¹³

Choice of given names tended to repeat within particular Irish families. This is reflected in the distinction between *ainm chine*, "a name in the family tradition," and *ainm chúile le cine*, "a name that departs from the family tradition."¹⁴ By the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, selection of names within a particular family was reinforced by another custom: "It was virtually universal in every class and creed in Ireland for the firstborn son to be given the Christian name of his paternal grandfather."¹⁵ Former Chief Herald Dónal F. Begley confirms that, "the tradition [was] strictly adhered to in many parts of Ireland."¹⁶

¹⁰ Sharon Arbuthnot, ed. *Cóir Anmann: A Late Middle Irish Treatise on Personal Names*, 2 vols. (London: Irish Texts Society, 2005-07).

¹¹ William J. Smyth, "Excavating, mapping, and interrogating ancestral terrains: towards a cultural geography of first names and second names in Ireland" in *Surveying Ireland's Past: Multidisciplinary Essays in Honour of Annegret Simms*, ed. Howard B. Clarke et al. (Dublin: Geography Publications, 2004) 244.

¹² *Id.* at 245-60.

¹³ Brian Ó Cuív, "Personal names as an indicator of relations between native Irish and settlers in the Viking period" in *Settlement and Society in Medieval Ireland: Studies presented to F.X. Martin o.s.a.*, ed. John Bradley (Kilkenny: Boethius Press, 1988) 79-88.

¹⁴ Brian Ó Cuív, "Aspects of Irish Personal Names" in *Celtica* xviii (1986) 172-75.

¹⁵ Rosemary ffolliott, "Irish Naming Practices Before the Famine" in *The Irish Ancestor* xviii, no. 1 (1986) 1. See also Margaret Dickson Falley, *Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research: A guide to the genealogical records, methods, and sources in Ireland*, 2 vols. (Evanston, IL: 1962) i 4. Detailed study of a parish register in North Kerry for the years 1900-50 corroborates the tradition: "The first-born male child was named after his father's father; that is, he received the first [name] of his paternal grandfather." Richard Breen, "Naming Practices in Western Ireland" in *Man* (N.S.) 17, no. 4 (1982) 703.

¹⁶ Dónal F. Begley, *The Ancestor Trail in Ireland: A Companion Guide* (Dublin: Heraldic Artists, 1982) 10.

This popular naming pattern was consciously employed in the family of Denis Cannon of Rosbeg. It can be seen by the following four-generation table:

Cornelius Cannon (1898-1970)	firstborn son of
Dennis Murphy Cannon (1851-1932)	firstborn son of
Cornelius Cannon (1815-1890)	firstborn son of
Denis Cannon (1789-1867)	earliest documented ancestor.

The table strongly implies that the first Denis Cannon was almost certainly the son of a putative Cornelius Cannon (born *circa* 1760) whose name is not preserved in any surviving document.

The evidence further suggests that our proposed Cornelius was similarly remembered in the family of Denis Cannon's brother, John, who occupied the neighboring townlands of Eden/Middleton and Lackagh (Ballyerin subdivision) according to the Inishkeel parish tithe applotment book and Griffith's Valuation. Surely it is significant that John Cannon named his firstborn son Cornelius. The latter had a son named John, so the convention continued for at least three or four generations there;¹⁷ another Cornelius Cannon (1859-1902) in this same branch named his firstborn son John (1895-1964) as well. The probability, then, is that the father of Denis, James, and John was named Cornelius Cannon or Conchobhar Ó Canann as he would have been known in this Irish-speaking district of West Donegal. We might even dub him Conchobhar *an Sinear*, "Cornelius the ancestor."¹⁸

The traditional Irish naming pattern extended beyond the firstborn son and paternal grandfather. Begley defined its full scope as "the time-honoured Irish custom of naming the eldest son after his paternal grandfather and the second son after his maternal grandfather. The eldest and second daughters were similarly named after the paternal and maternal grandmothers."¹⁹ Rosemary ffolliott agrees: "The normal pattern was for the second son to receive the name of his maternal grandfather While it was most usual for the eldest girl to be given the name of her paternal grandmother, many eldest daughters received that of their maternal grandmothers."²⁰

¹⁷ The latter John's birth-year and birth-position in the family are not recorded, but it is likely he was firstborn.

¹⁸ Cornelius is the common latinized form of the Irish Conchobhar. The name is often anglicized today as Conor. Donnchadh Ó Corráin and Fidelma Maguire, *Irish Personal Names* (Dublin: Lilliput Press, 2d ed. 1992) 57.

¹⁹ Dónal F. Begley, ed. *Handbook on Irish Genealogy: How to Trace Your Ancestors and Relations* (Dublin: Heraldic Artists Ltd. 6th rev. ed. 1984) 13. The naming convention is stated in various ways. "An immigrant, more often than not, named his eldest son in honor of his father and another son for his [other] grandfather, while the two elder daughters were frequently given the names of their grandmothers." Falley, *Irish and Scotch-Irish* 4. Furthermore, "the father named the first-born after his father or mother, and the mother the second-born after her father or mother. Then they alternated until both sets of parental names were used up." Begley, *Ancestor Trail in Ireland* 10.

In our case study, the second son of Denis Cannon and Susanna Sweeney was named Morgan (1837-1905). Morgan (*Murchadh*), although numerous throughout Ireland, has been described as “a very rare name” in Donegal.²¹ For example, the index to the Annals of the Four Masters shows that it does not appear in Donegal’s most prominent native families: MacLoughlin, O’Boyle, O’Canannan, O’Doherty, O’Donnell, or O’Gallagher.²² Ditto for the index to the extensive O’Donnell pedigrees preserved in the Ó Cléirigh Book of Genealogies.²³ In fact, the personal name Morgan/Murchadh seems virtually confined to a single Donegal family, the MacSweeneys. The index to that family’s traditional history, *Craobhsgaoileadh Chlainne Suibhne*, identifies fifteen separate bearers of the name.²⁴

This writer reviewed the given names of nearly 1,100 tithepayers (1833-34) and more than 2,200 householders in Griffith’s Valuation (1857) of Inishkeel parish, Co. Donegal. Of all those tallied, only a single individual bore the personal name being examined here, *i.e.* Morgan Sweeney (Murchadh Mac Suibhne), a tithepayer in Sandfield, a neighboring townland of Rosbeg. This Morgan was almost surely the father (born *circa* 1760) or brother (born *circa* 1790) of Susanna Sweeney Cannon.²⁵ Therefore, just as she named her elder son Cornelius after his paternal grandfather, it is quite apparent that Susanna conferred her second son with his virtually unique personal name in honor of his maternal grandfather, the otherwise unattested Morgan Sweeney of Sandfield. Morgan Cannon’s given name thus corroborates an additional component of the Irish custom with regard to the naming of children.

That employment of the traditional naming pattern here was not just a coincidence involving familiar names can be amply demonstrated by looking at the next generation of Cannons, including the distaff side. Cornelius Cannon (1815-1890) in the above table married Anastasia Murphy (1830-1909) of Borris, Co. Carlow. Her parents

²⁰ Ffolliott, “Irish Naming Practices” 1.

²¹ J.C. Ward, “Irish Personal Names I. – County Donegal” in *Iris Leabhar na Gaedhilge* 9, no. 104 (1899) 320. Ward was only able to identify a solitary holder of the name in the entire county, an individual who had died some forty years previously.

²² John O’Donovan, ed. *Annála Ríoghachta Éireann: The Annals of the Kingdom of Ireland by the Four Masters* (Dublin: Hodges, Smith and Co. 1854), vol. 7 (index volume). The Four Masters do mention one Murchadh Ó Maíl Doraid (*d.* 1085), but, by the nineteenth century, his family had died out in Donegal.

²³ Paul Walsh, ed. “Ó Domhnaill Genealogies” in *Beatha Aodha Ruaidh Uí Dhomhnaill*, 2 vols. (Dublin: Irish Texts Society, 1948-57) ii 409-20.

²⁴ Paul Walsh, ed. *Leabhar Chlainne Suibhne: An Account of the MacSweeney Families in Ireland, With Pedigrees* (Dublin: Dollard Press, 1920) 132-33. Five of the name appear in the index to AFM.

²⁵ Note also the enumeration of “Susanna Swiney” in house 6-c in Rosbeg townland in Griffith’s Primary Valuation of Inishkeel parish in 1857. If this individual were the widowed mother of Susanna Sweeney Cannon, she would have been referred to as “Mrs. Susanna Swiney.” Therefore, the Susanna tallied here in Griffith’s was probably an unmarried aunt, niece, or first cousin of Susanna Sweeney Cannon. Susanna, it should be mentioned, most likely represents an anglicized form of the Irish *Siobhán*. Ó Corráin and Maguire, *Irish Personal Names* 165.

were Thomas Murphy (1799-1849) and Catherine Doyle (1803-1888). Cornelius and Anastasia named their elder children in the following sequence:

Dennis, the firstborn son, after his paternal grandfather (Denis Cannon)
Thomas, the second son, after his maternal grandfather (Thomas Murphy)
Catherine, the firstborn daughter, after her maternal grandmother
(Catherine Doyle Murphy)
Susan, the second daughter, after her paternal grandmother (Susanna
Sweeney Cannon).

The pattern is by no means random. Rather, it demonstrates full application of the customary naming system routinely found throughout Ireland and unambiguously employed in this pioneer Irish American family.

Identity

In the absence of historical records, the given names of the common paternal ancestors of the Cannons and Sweeneys of Rosbeg and Wisconsin cannot technically be documented. Nonetheless, on the basis of the naming convention then prevalent in Ireland and purposefully practiced in this particular family, they can now likely be identified as Cornelius Cannon of Rosbeg and Morgan Sweeney of Sandfield – each bearing “a name in the family tradition” (*ainm chine*). This unmistakable conclusion carries with it a potent significance all its own, one best captured by Professor Pádraig Ó Riain’s evocative dictum: “To be named is to exist.”²⁶

²⁶ Pádraig Ó Riain, “To be named is to exist: The instructive case of Achadh Bolg (Aghabulloge)” in *Cork History & Society: Interdisciplinary Essays on the History of an Irish County*, ed. Patrick O’Flanagan and Cornelius G. Buttner (Dublin: Geography Publications, 1993) 45. Professor Ó Riain’s paper deals with the parallel field of placenames, but his dictum applies with equal force to personal names.

IRISH LOAN FUND RECORDS

By Mary Kay Kuhfittig

An often overlooked source for the Irish genealogist is the Irish Reproductive Loan Fund, a credit plan to help the Irish poor, at least those considered as "industrious." Originally begun in a small way in the 1720s, it reached its peak after 1822, when severe famine struck the South and West of Ireland.

Inspired by author Jonathan Swift's effort in the early 1700s to give small loans to the Dublin poor, loan funds were set up from London and lent at low interest to impoverished people—agricultural laborers, small-scale farmers and tradesmen. About 20% of the recipients were women. Severe famine occurring in Western Ireland in 1822 inspired a collection of over 300,000 pounds for poor relief. A surplus of 55,000 pounds remained, which a London committee used as the start of the Reproductive Loan Fund, intended for ten of the poorest counties in the West of Ireland. A typical loan was 3 pounds. The intention was to aid the tradesman or farmer to purchase some asset to improve his income, from which he could then repay the low-interest loan, thus the term "reproductive."

The records do not cover all of Ireland; only the poorer western counties were served.

There exist loan ledgers, repayment books and defaulters' books. The records show address and occupation, and may include additional detail on health, family circumstance, deaths and emigration. Hundreds of thousands of loans were made, with records covering a span from 1822 to 1848.

The surviving local records are:

CLARE: County Account book and Minutes

CORK: Baltimore, Castletown, Castle Townsend, Cloyne, Creagh, Kilmoe
And Crookhaven, Schull

GALWAY: Ahascragh, Ballygar, Castle Hackett, Clifden, Kilconickny,
Outerard, Galway Town

LIMERICK: a single Association covered the entire county

MAYO: Ballina or carramore, Ballindine, Ballinrobe, Castlebar, Claremorris, Kilmore, Swineford

ROSCOMMON: Aughnasurn, Ballinlough, Ballymoe, Clonfinlough, Elphin, Mosshill, Rockvilee, Tybohan

SLIGO: Templehouse

TIPPERARY: Tipperary Town

241 volumes of the registers are held at the Public Record Office (PRO) at Kew in W. London. Their web site is: <<http://www.pro.gov.uk/>>

Some of these surviving registers have been digitised and are available free online. Unfortunately they are not indexed. They may be seen at:

<www.movinghere.org.uk>

On the "moving here" site click on "Search Our Catalogue." Next, put the name of the local association in the search window, and click on "catalogue of digitised records."

A table of files for that locality will appear, and files may be clicked and downloaded. Individual pages appear in a column on the left, but the main page will scroll down through the entire file. You will probably have to use the magnifier icon.

A sample entry for Co. Cork, Townland of Baltimore reads:

Jeremiah McCarthy 19 Dec 1846 He resided in the townland on this date. He was then a fisherman and was drowned Spring 1850.

The next page is a copy from the townland of Castletown in Co. Cork . Note that it can be enlarged for viewing on the computer.

Head Constable on Constable in charge making the Report.

Station of *Washington* Dated this *17th* day of *June* 1853.
Signed *Edw^d McKim Constable*

We are a ^{little} fuller from, the ¹⁰ ¹¹ ¹² ¹³ ¹⁴ ¹⁵ ¹⁶ ¹⁷ ¹⁸ ¹⁹ ²⁰ ²¹ ²² ²³ ²⁴ ²⁵ ²⁶ ²⁷ ²⁸ ²⁹ ³⁰ ³¹ ³² ³³ ³⁴ ³⁵ ³⁶ ³⁷ ³⁸ ³⁹ ⁴⁰ ⁴¹ ⁴² ⁴³ ⁴⁴ ⁴⁵ ⁴⁶ ⁴⁷ ⁴⁸ ⁴⁹ ⁵⁰ ⁵¹ ⁵² ⁵³ ⁵⁴ ⁵⁵ ⁵⁶ ⁵⁷ ⁵⁸ ⁵⁹ ⁶⁰ ⁶¹ ⁶² ⁶³ ⁶⁴ ⁶⁵ ⁶⁶ ⁶⁷ ⁶⁸ ⁶⁹ ⁷⁰ ⁷¹ ⁷² ⁷³ ⁷⁴ ⁷⁵ ⁷⁶ ⁷⁷ ⁷⁸ ⁷⁹ ⁸⁰ ⁸¹ ⁸² ⁸³ ⁸⁴ ⁸⁵ ⁸⁶ ⁸⁷ ⁸⁸ ⁸⁹ ⁹⁰ ⁹¹ ⁹² ⁹³ ⁹⁴ ⁹⁵ ⁹⁶ ⁹⁷ ⁹⁸ ⁹⁹ ¹⁰⁰ ¹⁰¹ ¹⁰² ¹⁰³ ¹⁰⁴ ¹⁰⁵ ¹⁰⁶ ¹⁰⁷ ¹⁰⁸ ¹⁰⁹ ¹¹⁰ ¹¹¹ ¹¹² ¹¹³ ¹¹⁴ ¹¹⁵ ¹¹⁶ ¹¹⁷ ¹¹⁸ ¹¹⁹ ¹²⁰ ¹²¹ ¹²² ¹²³ ¹²⁴ ¹²⁵ ¹²⁶ ¹²⁷ ¹²⁸ ¹²⁹ ¹³⁰ ¹³¹ ¹³² ¹³³ ¹³⁴ ¹³⁵ ¹³⁶ ¹³⁷ ¹³⁸ ¹³⁹ ¹⁴⁰ ¹⁴¹ ¹⁴² ¹⁴³ ¹⁴⁴ ¹⁴⁵ ¹⁴⁶ ¹⁴⁷ ¹⁴⁸ ¹⁴⁹ ¹⁵⁰ ¹⁵¹ ¹⁵² ¹⁵³ ¹⁵⁴ ¹⁵⁵ ¹⁵⁶ ¹⁵⁷ ¹⁵⁸ ¹⁵⁹ ¹⁶⁰ ¹⁶¹ ¹⁶² ¹⁶³ ¹⁶⁴ ¹⁶⁵ ¹⁶⁶ ¹⁶⁷ ¹⁶⁸ ¹⁶⁹ ¹⁷⁰ ¹⁷¹ ¹⁷² ¹⁷³ ¹⁷⁴ ¹⁷⁵ ¹⁷⁶ ¹⁷⁷ ¹⁷⁸ ¹⁷⁹ ¹⁸⁰ ¹⁸¹ ¹⁸² ¹⁸³ ¹⁸⁴ ¹⁸⁵ ¹⁸⁶ ¹⁸⁷ ¹⁸⁸ ¹⁸⁹ ¹⁹⁰ ¹⁹¹ ¹⁹² ¹⁹³ ¹⁹⁴ ¹⁹⁵ ¹⁹⁶ ¹⁹⁷ ¹⁹⁸ ¹⁹⁹ ²⁰⁰ ²⁰¹ ²⁰² ²⁰³ ²⁰⁴ ²⁰⁵ ²⁰⁶ ²⁰⁷ ²⁰⁸ ²⁰⁹ ²¹⁰ ²¹¹ ²¹² ²¹³ ²¹⁴ ²¹⁵ ²¹⁶ ²¹⁷ ²¹⁸ ²¹⁹ ²²⁰ ²²¹ ²²² ²²³ ²²⁴ ²²⁵ ²²⁶ ²²⁷ ²²⁸ ²²⁹ ²³⁰ ²³¹ ²³² ²³³ ²³⁴ ²³⁵ ²³⁶ ²³⁷ ²³⁸ ²³⁹ ²⁴⁰ ²⁴¹ ²⁴² ²⁴³ ²⁴⁴ ²⁴⁵ ²⁴⁶ ²⁴⁷ ²⁴⁸ ²⁴⁹ ²⁵⁰ ²⁵¹ ²⁵² ²⁵³ ²⁵⁴ ²⁵⁵ ²⁵⁶ ²⁵⁷ ²⁵⁸ ²⁵⁹ ²⁶⁰ ²⁶¹ ²⁶² ²⁶³ ²⁶⁴ ²⁶⁵ ²⁶⁶ ²⁶⁷ ²⁶⁸ ²⁶⁹ ²⁷⁰ ²⁷¹ ²⁷² ²⁷³ ²⁷⁴ ²⁷⁵ ²⁷⁶ ²⁷⁷ ²⁷⁸ ²⁷⁹ ²⁸⁰ ²⁸¹ ²⁸² ²⁸³ ²⁸⁴ ²⁸⁵ ²⁸⁶ ²⁸⁷ ²⁸⁸ ²⁸⁹ ²⁹⁰ ²⁹¹ ²⁹² ²⁹³ ²⁹⁴ ²⁹⁵ ²⁹⁶ ²⁹⁷ ²⁹⁸ ²⁹⁹ ³⁰⁰ ³⁰¹ ³⁰² ³⁰³ ³⁰⁴ ³⁰⁵ ³⁰⁶ ³⁰⁷ ³⁰⁸ ³⁰⁹ ³¹⁰ ³¹¹ ³¹² ³¹³ ³¹⁴ ³¹⁵ ³¹⁶ ³¹⁷ ³¹⁸ ³¹⁹ ³²⁰ ³²¹ ³²² ³²³ ³²⁴ ³²⁵ ³²⁶ ³²⁷ ³²⁸ ³²⁹ ³³⁰ ³³¹ ³³² ³³³ ³³⁴ ³³⁵ ³³⁶ ³³⁷ ³³⁸ ³³⁹ ³⁴⁰ ³⁴¹ ³⁴² ³⁴³ ³⁴⁴ ³⁴⁵ ³⁴⁶ ³⁴⁷ ³⁴⁸ ³⁴⁹ ³⁵⁰ ³⁵¹ ³⁵² ³⁵³ ³⁵⁴ ³⁵⁵ ³⁵⁶ ³⁵⁷ ³⁵⁸ ³⁵⁹ ³⁶⁰ ³⁶¹ ³⁶² ³⁶³ ³⁶⁴ ³⁶⁵ ³⁶⁶ ³⁶⁷ ³⁶⁸ ³⁶⁹ ³⁷⁰ ³⁷¹ ³⁷² ³⁷³ ³⁷⁴ ³⁷⁵ ³⁷⁶ ³⁷⁷ ³⁷⁸ ³⁷⁹ ³⁸⁰ ³⁸¹ ³⁸² ³⁸³ ³⁸⁴ ³⁸⁵ ³⁸⁶ ³⁸⁷ ³⁸⁸ ³⁸⁹ ³⁹⁰ ³⁹¹ ³⁹² ³⁹³ ³⁹⁴ ³⁹⁵ ³⁹⁶ ³⁹⁷ ³⁹⁸ ³⁹⁹ ⁴⁰⁰ ⁴⁰¹ ⁴⁰² ⁴⁰³ ⁴⁰⁴ ⁴⁰⁵ ⁴⁰⁶ ⁴⁰⁷ ⁴⁰⁸ ⁴⁰⁹ ⁴¹⁰ ⁴¹¹ ⁴¹² ⁴¹³ ⁴¹⁴ ⁴¹⁵ ⁴¹⁶ ⁴¹⁷ ⁴¹⁸ ⁴¹⁹ ⁴²⁰ ⁴²¹ ⁴²² ⁴²³ ⁴²⁴ ⁴²⁵ ⁴²⁶ ⁴²⁷ ⁴²⁸ ⁴²⁹ ⁴³⁰ ⁴³¹ ⁴³² ⁴³³ ⁴³⁴ ⁴³⁵ ⁴³⁶ ⁴³⁷ ⁴³⁸ ⁴³⁹ ⁴⁴⁰ ⁴⁴¹ ⁴⁴² ⁴⁴³ ⁴⁴⁴ ⁴⁴⁵ ⁴⁴⁶ ⁴⁴⁷ ⁴⁴⁸ ⁴⁴⁹ ⁴⁵⁰ ⁴⁵¹ ⁴⁵² ⁴⁵³ ⁴⁵⁴ ⁴⁵⁵ ⁴⁵⁶ ⁴⁵⁷ ⁴⁵⁸ ⁴⁵⁹ ⁴⁶⁰ ⁴⁶¹ ⁴⁶² ⁴⁶³ ⁴⁶⁴ ⁴⁶⁵ ⁴⁶⁶ ⁴⁶⁷ ⁴⁶⁸ ⁴⁶⁹ ⁴⁷⁰ ⁴⁷¹ ⁴⁷² <

21 Dec 1896	Norman Huntington
21 Dec 1896	Thurley Huntington
21 Dec 1896	Michael Kelly (Newman)
21 Dec 1896	Michael Kelly (Newman)
21 Dec 1896	Verley Huntington
25 Dec 1896	Thurley Kelly or 25 Dec 1896 11 Jan 1897
25 Dec 1896	Henry Stanley
25 Dec 1896	Maude M. Coakley
25 Dec 1896	Patrick Thompson
25 Dec 1896	John Sullivan

1853 to 1939 Towland Castle town

Cor. Cork

NEWS FROM THE WEB

by Mary Kay Kuhfittig

NEW GENEALOGY SEARCH ENGINE

www.movavo.com is a new site, claiming to be the world's largest free genealogy search engine. It goes through hundreds of thousands of genealogy sites, excluding anything non-genealogical. Something genealogy-related that is found many pages deep on Google may pop up on Mocavo's first page. You may search for names, places, or anything that might be associated with your ancestor. It's suggested that names be put in quotes. Right now Mocavo is centered on North America, but Irish material is being added. You can suggest websites to add. Give it a try. You will probably encounter genealogy sites that you never knew about.

ILLINOIS ANCESTRY?

The Illinois State Genealogical Society (ISGS) has a new website at <http://www.ilgensoc.org>. They have redesigned the site to provide links to records throughout Illinois and to individual genealogical home pages with an Illinois connection. Their current newsletter issue as well as those going back to 2008 are free to the general public. Also available free are an events list including other Illinois genealogical societies, highlights of various ISGS projects, databases on Illinois ancestors, and a list of Illinois research resources. Those who are members will have access to even more.

IRISH AMERICAN MUSEUM

A group of Irish Americans has been working for two years on plans for an Irish American Museum in Washington, D.C. It will open in a temporary space, with a designated building to be built later. The website where you can learn more is: www.irishamericanmuseumdc.org

CANADIAN ANCESTRY?

Progenealogists is a professional research company based in Utah. They have worked with the various "Who Do You Think You Are" programs. They provide websites with dozens and dozens of links to useful genealogy research sites.

Progenealogists.com has a new site for Canadian genealogy at: www.progenealogists.com/canada>

Don't forget to check their Canadian Sleuth page, which has many, many links. That page may be accessed from the home site, or directly at: www.progenealogists.com/canada/sleuth.htm
Keep in mind they have a U.S. and an Irish genealogy sleuth page, also.

NEW IRISH ARCHIVES RESOURCE

The Heritage Council of Ireland has provided a new portal called the *Irish Archives Resource*. Located at www.iar.ie, the site provides a way to locate archives in Ireland. Access is free. A search engine points to specific collections, with detailed listing of what's in each collection. There are instructions on how to access a collection online, if available, or physically at a public location in Ireland. Many major city and county archives have contributed to the website.

MYSTERIOUS RETURN OF MISSING CHALICE

Sometime in the 1930s the silver communion chalice and patten of St. Martin's Church in Culmullen, County Meath disappeared. Now, some eighty or so years later, it has come back. Oliver Walsh, the husband of the church's sacristan, has the task of locking the church in the evening and opening for Mass in the morning. He was surprised to see something in a brown package on the

doorstop one morning. Inside, wrapped in bubble wrap, was the missing silver!

NEW AND FREE WEBSITE ON IRISH EMIGRATION

A new site called "DIPPAM: Documenting Ireland—Parliament, People and Migration" provides the following three sources:

1. EPPI, the Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland 1800-1922
2. The Irish Emigration Database, which has emigrant's letters, newspaper accounts and other emigration-related material covering the 18th to early 20 centuries.
3. VMR, Voices of Migration and return, a collection of 90 interviews with 20th century Ulster migrants.

The address is: <http://www.dippam.ac.uk>

BELFAST BURIAL RECORDS

The Belfast City Council has over 300,00 burial records online. The records begin from 1869 and include all religions. Cemeteries include:

- Belfast City Cemetery—records from 1869 (including the Jewish, Public and Glenalina extension sections)
- Roselawn Cemetery—records from 1905
- Dundonald Cemetery—records from 1905

Find the records at: <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords/index.asp>

The website will give directions for contacting cemeteries not yet listed.

JOYCE FAMILY TREE

① James Joyce's Letter: 7 MAY 1933

James Joyce — ANN McCANN
(Great grand father) — (Great grandmother)

James Joyce = Ellen O'Connell
(1827-1865) — (Grandmother)
(Grandfather)

JOHN Stanislaus Joyce = Mary Jane (May) MURRAY
(Father) — (Mother)
James Augustine Joyce

② Richard Ellmann's Joyce's biographer

GEORGE Joyce = ?
James Joyce = ?
(c. 1801)

JOHN O'Connell = ELLEN McCANN
ALICIA Charles William

James Augustine Joyce = Ellen O'Connell
(1827-1865)

JOHN Stanislaus Joyce = Mary Jane (May) MURRAY
(Father) — (Mother)
(1849-1931) James Augustine Joyce (1859-1903)

JOHN Stanislaus Joyce = Mary Jane MURRAY

James Stanislaus Charles George

POPPY Eileen, MAY, EVA, FLORIE, BABY

(MAY Joyce went through a total of 15 pregnancies between 1881 and 1893, and suffered the death of 5 children dying in birth or early in infancy before her death of cancer in 1903 at age 44)

James Joyce = Nora BARNACLE
(1882-1941) — (1884-1951)

GEORGIO
(1905-1976)

LUCIA
(1907-1982)

GEORGE Joyce = HELEN KASTON FLEISCHMAN

STEPHEN James Joyce
(b. 1932 -)

At the March 7th Meeting, our speaker was John Angelos a retired teacher who lectures at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute. The above was the hand out for his excellent presentation on "The Life and Times of James Joyce"

IGSW Roundtables April 4, 2011

Cherchez La Femme

Roundtable — Moderated by Michele Patin

"Cherchez la femme!" — "*Look for the woman,*" in the words of Alexandre Dumas, to solve the case. While detective fiction relies on mysterious women to provide the key motivation for crimes and disappearances, family history detectives also know how important — and elusive — women can be. Our female ancestors are difficult to find for two familiar reasons: First, in most traditional western societies, women change their names upon marriage; second, until recent times, women had secondary legal standing and appeared infrequently in legal proceedings, property documents, and vital records. But there are ways to find women, and as more sources become searchable on the Internet and in electronic form, looking for the woman is becoming easier.

At this April Roundtable, we shared some ideas for finding our female ancestors and relations:

Fossilized Family Names: In some families, a maternal ancestor's maiden name will be preserved as a *middle name* of her male descendants. Although this pattern is found mainly in more well-to-do families, and is less common among Irish Catholics, do not rule out the possibility, for you could find important clues. Roundtable participant Jane Maher offered her husband's name, the late Dr. William Power Maher, as an example. Another example: I personally found an instance in a Scots-Irish farm family in Pennsylvania in the early 1800s where a male child bore the name of a maternal uncle as first name and the mother's maiden name as middle name, which was a double gift to posterity.

Set in Stone: Tombstones are an excellent source of maiden and spousal names. Several people gave examples where the maiden name of a deceased woman was recorded on a gravestone — *and nowhere else*. Do middle initials on a woman's grave monument also hint at her maiden name? This often seems to be the case, and our roundtable participants discussed this phenomenon, offering examples from experience. Another factor to consider is mortality combined with mobility in early America: in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century when entire families were moving west across the continent, mortality was high and many times a married couple knew they would end up buried apart. *A "left behind" spouse may have a tombstone which states "wife of..." or "husband of..." as an important clue.* Also look for the woman buried in a family plot whose stone bears a different surname: *is she a married daughter?*

Neighborhood Watch: Your ancestral female may be hiding in plain sight "down the block" or "across the street" from a known male ancestor. When viewing census pages, *scan a few pages before and after a family you know.* Siblings who emigrated together or as a chain often settled in the same neighborhood.

Census Records: Beginning in 1850, the census enumerated the full names of all individuals in a household. *To search for a woman's relations, look for extra people with surnames different from the head of household, as these persons can be siblings, nieces, nephews, parents of the wife.* (Bear in mind that they could also be live-in servants, hired farm hands, etc.) In the 1850 through 1880 census, adults were asked *if they had married within the year.* One especially valuable census is that for 1900: it asked for the number of years married. Another question asked that year was the total number of children born of the mother, and the number of those children living. A boon for tracking mothers and marriages! The 1910 census was more specific, asking for the number of years in the *"present"* marriage. *These data can be a clue to remarriage when combined with stated ages and surnames of children present in the household.*

The Gold Nugget: And don't forget state censuses which sometimes have amazing additional details. One roundtable participant pointed out that the state census for Iowa in 1925 is pure gold: special tabbed pages behind the main enumeration recorded the *names, ages and birth state of the parents of each person enumerated, including mother's maiden names, and the place of marriage for the parents.* If only we all had ancestors in Iowa in 1925!

Surviving Spouse Documents: Several roundtable participants offered great examples of military documents generated for the benefit of a surviving spouse which can reveal *as much about the woman as as her deceased husband*. Examples include Revolutionary War and Civil War pension records which often contain several pages of personal history and name wives and orphaned children.

The Caregiver: Then, as now, our female ancestors often became caregivers for their aged parents. A census search for *the name of a woman's parent* using "Father-in-law" or "Mother-in-law" as keyword may reveal the household — and the married name — of the caregiver daughter. The relationship to head of household was recorded beginning with the 1880 Federal census.

The Godmother: In Roman Catholic church records in Ireland, women were often recorded as baptismal sponsors *under their maiden name* — even after they were married. Thus, a married woman might appear under two different identities: one for civil records, and one for sacramental records. The same woman who appears in a civil birth record as a "witness to the birth" under her married name could turn up in the baptismal register for the same child as a sponsor under her maiden name. Food for thought! There was much discussion on this point at our roundtable and how practices varies from place to place. Baptismal sponsors, when recorded, are always a good clue to family relations, in Ireland and the U.S.

Vive la Différence!: We stated at the outset that women are hard to trace because they changed their names — but as we saw, this is not always true in Catholic church records in Ireland. It is also not the practice in families of French descent since 1789. For example, *in French Canada women retained their maiden names throughout life*, and appear in church and government documents with their birth surnames. Or, in Spain, the practice is to have two surnames, *the second derived from the mother*.

Women's Roles: Prior to the Twentieth century, women generated few documents in their own name because not many worked outside the home, owned property — or even had the right to vote. But there is a place where women's names were more numerous than men's: the Society Pages! Nineteenth Century American newspapers are especially chatty, chock full of *social events, weddings, debuts, even visitations by relations from out-of-town*. Many middle class women appear, not just the well-to-do. Also look for church and benevolent society records such as *women's sodalities, charities and auxiliaries*. Women often held leadership roles in social and church organizations and were surprisingly well documented.

Best Sources: Roundtable participants agreed that the best sources for finding a woman and her maiden name are the vital records kept in most places in the US since the late 1800s. These include: 1) marriage registers, certificates and licenses (look also at names of witnesses for clues); 2) birth records and 3) death records (which may have maiden name if the informant had good, personal knowledge — in fact, a daughter is often the informant on a parent's death certificate, and is also the person most likely to have accurate information; and if she was herself married, she will give her own married name.)

Search Strategies: As search engines become more sophisticated, it has become easier to find females in online sources. For instance, at Familysearch.org, searching an LDS collection with a woman's maiden name will turn up *any records relevant to her various roles* as mother, as bride, etc. — if, that is, her maiden name was recorded in the original. Or, at Ancestry.com, searching for a woman *by only her first name* actually yields results that may lead to her married name — provided you constrain the search with enough other details (birth year, birthplace, residence) so you don't get thousands of possible matches.

Less-Used Sources: There are many good sources that are not widely indexed or available in digitized form which include the married names of females. Most notable are *newspaper obituaries*, which often name siblings, in-laws and more distant relations; and *wills*, which will name a married female heiress under her married name or may even use her husband as a proxy for her own legacy. Such sources are often only available in paper or microfilm form, though, and are harder to access. Time for a field trip!

**This April roundtable was fruitful and hopefully we all walked away with a new lead.
We hope these ideas now give *you* a fresh start as you "Cherchez la femme!"**

Night of the RoundTables

Skeletons in the Closet

I had the pleasure of hosting one of the roundtables on April 4th. Our topic was loosely titled "Skeletons in the Closet". What does one do when, in the course of genealogical research, one stumbles upon information, apparently fact, that could cause unease or embarrassment to some member(s) of the family. We had seven people at the table and each one had a somewhat different approach to the topic. Some felt somewhat light hearted about it, figuring we're all grownups around here. We'll learn to live with it. Others said it really depended on what type of information it was. With an assurance of confidentiality, a number of us shared certain stories that, though they may have made us somewhat uncomfortable, gave a good idea of the degrees of discomfort that could come from this. Another point that was brought up was, is there anybody still alive who is familiar with the "questionable" characters? If so, most agreed that there has to be consideration paid to those still living and their feelings. After they are gone and it just becomes more genealogical information, maybe then it can be passed on.

A number of other things were discussed. But as stated earlier, everyone seemed to agree that we would probably all deal with it in our own ways, given what seemed appropriate to the situation. But it felt kind of good to know that just about everyone did have a little something in the background that they at one time had to deal with. Otherwise, genealogy would just be TOO MUCH FUN!! Although sometimes it is just this kind of stuff that makes it, if not more fun, certainly more interesting.

Dennis Higgins

On May 2nd our speaker was Kevin Cullen from Galway, Ireland. He gave an interesting account of his family life both in Ireland and America in addition to his lecture "Evoking Archaeological Inspiration from an Irish Adolescence"

Kevin Cullen is an underwater archaeologist for Discovery World

Press Release + Press Release + Press Release + Press Release + Press Release



**IRISH TIMES
TRAINING**

A step ahead

**41 million Americans believe they are of Irish descent.
Are you?**

Announcing the World's first Irish Ancestry E-Learning Programme!

President Barack Obama will be in Ireland on May 23, and will visit the homeland of his ancestors at Moneygall, Co Offaly. Among the president's Irish ancestors in the 18th century were politically active and ambitious Dubliners, including the city's most successful wigmaker! His great-great-great grandfather Falmouth Kearney emigrated to New York from Moneygall in 1850.

Researching family history is a fascinating and rewarding experience, a puzzle everyone loves to solve. What secrets lie in your family history?

Irish Times Training has launched a revolutionary genealogy learning programme, a first on the world market. Budding family historians can learn all they need to know with 'Tracing your Irish Ancestors', a new web-based learning package from John Grenham, leading Irish genealogist.

The programme comprises **11 modules, free subscriptions** to the Irish Times Irish Ancestors site and to FindMyPast.ie, along with a 24 hour pass to The Irish Times Digital Archive, and a personal email **consultation with a genealogist**.

This course combines a detailed analysis of all the relevant sources with hands-on online research training to enable you to uncover fascinating facts about your ancestry. Flexible, affordable and fun, the

programme is suitable for Irish natives and our considerable diaspora around the globe.

Press Release + Press Release + Press Release + Press Release + Press Release

Paying someone else to carry out this type of research can be costly. Now people can learn at their leisure, in the comfort of their own home.

This new training programme is easily navigable and uses straightforward language. John Grenham, an expert with 25 years in the field, delivers the information in a stimulating, refreshing way. The programme is easy to access for all age groups and abilities. There's a technical support team, downloadable guides and a forum where users can get talking to other family researchers.

Users can create a family tree which the coming generations will appreciate and value. Topics include Surnames, Place Names, Census Records, Church Records, Property Records, Irish wills, the Irish abroad, Registry of Deeds, records of the Irish in Britain, the US and Canada and Australasia, online occupational records, Irish newspapers and directories. It couldn't be easier to teach yourself Irish genealogy!

John Grenham has run the Irish Times Ancestors website for 13 years and writes the *Irish Roots* column in the Irish Times.
irishroots@irishtimes.com.

What Irish ancestral discoveries lie in wait for you? Queries can be sent to gencourses@irishtimes.com, you can phone us on 00353 1 4727111 or get more information on www.irishtimestraining.com

Genealogy and the North West

- From the port of Londonderry (also known as Derry) the ancestors of statesmen such as James Knox Polk (11th US President, 1845-1849), James Buchanan (15th US President, 1857-1861), Ulysses S Grant (18th US President, 1869-1877) and Woodrow Wilson (28th US President, 1913-1921); of heroes such as Davy Crockett who died defending the Alamo in 1836; and of successful businessmen such as John Paul Getty and Thomas Mellon began their journey to the New World. From the early 1700s to the onset of the Second World War in 1939, when the last transatlantic steamer sailed from the port, Derry was one of the principal emigration ports in Ireland.
- **Ulysses Simpson Grant**, triumphant Civil War General and President of the USA from 1869 to 1877 embarked on a world tour, which lasted over 2 years; departing May 1877 and not returning to the US until December 1879. Arriving in Derry on Monday 6 January 1879 Ulysses S Grant, at a civic reception at the Corporation Hall in the Diamond, was conferred with the Freedom of the City. The address to General Grant is recorded in copperplate writing in the Londonderry Town Council Minute Book No. 8.
- **John Steinbeck**, Nobel prize-winning author visited Derry in August 1952 (just prior to publication of *East of Eden*), in search of his roots. John Steinbeck knew exactly where his roots lay - his grandfather was one Samuel Hamilton of Mulkeeragh, near Ballykelly, County Derry who emigrated in 1847, at the height of the Famine, to New York. Samuel Hamilton, who settled in the Salinas Valley, California, was to become a central character in *East of Eden*. Full details of Steinbeck's eventful trip, including photographs, to North West Ireland were recorded in his article "I Go Back To Ireland" which was published in *Collier's Magazine* of 31 January 1953.
- It is said that 250,000 Scotch-Irish (i.e. descendants of 17th century Scottish Presbyterian settlers in the Province of Ulster) emigrated to North America in 18th century. At its peak in the early 1770s, 36% of Scotch-Irish emigrated through Derry. At this time, i.e. in the age of sailing ships, Derry served as the emigration port for Counties Derry, Donegal and Tyrone.
- In the period 1851 to 1920, 4,338,199 people emigrated from Ireland; of which 407,781 were from North West Ireland (i.e. Derry, 116,265; Donegal, 141,432; and Tyrone, 150,084). In other words, 9.4% of Irish emigrants in this period (of highest emigration) originated in North West Ireland. In this period, i.e. in the age of transatlantic steamers, Derry served as the emigration port for the northern half of Ireland (Cobh served the southern half).
- It is, therefore, reasonable to assume that some 30% of 18th century emigrants and 10% of 19th century emigrants to USA originated in North West Ireland. It is, therefore, quite plausible that in the United States today some 6 million Americans have 18th century 'Scotch-Irish' origins from North West Ireland and a further 2 million Americans have 19th and early-20th century 'Irish' origins in Counties Derry, Donegal and Tyrone.

- Through the 19th century and early 20th century, some 80% of Irish emigrants headed for the US, with 10% destined for the cities of a rapidly growing industrial Britain and the bulk of remainder for Canada, Australia and New Zealand.
- The three most common surnames in Derry City today – namely, Doherty, McLaughlin and Gallagher – have their origins in County Donegal. As Derry developed an industrial base through the 19th century in shirt making, shipbuilding and distilling it attracted much of its workforce from County Donegal and, in particular, from the Inishowen peninsula. Hence, **the majority of Derry city's population today can trace their roots to that great migration of people from Donegal, who made their way to Derry, during the 19th century, for much of the same reasons as drove others across the Atlantic and to Britain.**
- In tracing your roots in Ireland the most important piece of information to be gleaned from either family folklore or record sources is any information as to the place of origin of your ancestors. A driving force among most people tracing their roots is to identify an ancestral home – to stand on land where the family house would have stood. In Ireland this, in effect, means identifying the **townland** in which your ancestor lived.
- From a family historian's perspective, the most effective way to view Ireland is as a country that is subdivided into **counties**, which in turn are subdivided into **parishes**, and which in turn are subdivided into **townlands**. There are:

32 counties	2,428 civil parishes	60,462 townlands
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- Surnames are very much connected to place in Ireland and therefore are an integral part of Irish identity and family history. Even today, Irish surnames are still dominant and numerous in the very localities where their names originated, e.g. McCloskey in Dungiven, County Derry and McLaughlin in Inishowen, County Donegal.
- You will find in the context of Irish historical records there are many spelling variations of the same name. Anglicisation of Gaelic names resulted in numerous spelling variations of the same name and, in some cases, the adoption of inappropriate surnames. Thus in conducting research you should be aware of the possibility of different spellings of the same surname. For example, variant spellings of Doherty, to name but a few, include Daugherty, Docherty, Dogherty, Dougherty, O Dochartaigh, O'Dogherty and O'Doherty!
- Over the last three decades a network of county-based genealogy centres in Ireland have been computerising birth, marriage and death entries from civil registers and baptismal, marriage and burial details from church registers. Since 2008 this database which is 'the largest family records database in Ireland' and, which today contains 18 million records extracted from record collections in 27 of Ireland's 32 counties (including Derry and Donegal), has been accessible worldwide, via internet, at www.rootsireland.ie. The public can now search, for free, the indexes to this database, and then purchase, on a pay-per-view basis, any selected record.

- There are currently 304,237 registered users of the databases held on www.rootsireland.ie. You can either search across all counties or search a particular county. The search facility on this website is very flexible in that, for example, if you are searching for the baptism/birth of a child you can narrow the search down by year, range of years, father's first name and by parish of baptism/district of birth. Furthermore, with the Advanced Search option you can also filter birth searches to include mother's name, and marriage searches to include name of spouse and names of parents.

Brian Mitchell
Derry Genealogy Centre
3 May 2011

MILWAUKEE IRISH FEST **August 18-21, 2011**

Genealogist can look forward to another outstanding year for the Genealogy Pavilion in the Cultural Village at Irish Fest.

We will welcome Brian Mitchell from Derry, North Ireland, a very well known expert in the field of Genealogy who is coming with the Donegal Derry show case.

Volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints will be available with their vast source of information.

Our volunteers will have access all three days to Ancestry.com as well as information on surnames and place names in Ireland. Children as well as their parents can start their Family Trees.

The 2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry and Soldiers Home Volunteers are planning a special exhibit to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Civil War.

The latest information for DNA in genealogy will be available as well as the latest books and information at the Irish Genealogical Society of Wisconsin and the Irish Emigration Library tables. We welcome all levels from the beginner to the advanced genealogist. Be sure to see our tack board exhibits. You may find an ancestor in the "Faces of Ireland Exhibit"

FAMILYSEARCH.ORG CHANGES ITS WEBSITE DRAMATICALLY

BY PATRICIA KEENEY GEYH

Each year, following the month of February which I always spend in Salt Lake City, I write an article describing changes I found in the Family History Library--their services, their classes, whatever. This year I will discuss something that many of you may have already discovered on your computer---the new format of FamilySearch.org. which among other things, changes the methods for accessing catalog information. For all intents it is a totally different website.

Looking at these changes, I remember when I first came to Salt Lake to do genealogical research. Back then the library was housed in the LDS Office Building and the catalog was on 3 x 5 cards, like the catalog in almost any library at that time. It was a nuisance, of course, to have to wait for another genealogist to go through the cards in the same file drawer at which I wanted to look, but that was a problem in all libraries and I didn't give it a second thought.

Then they put the catalog on microfiche and I was horrified. I thought the genealogical world had come to an end. How could I possibly find what I wanted on these fiche. What on earth were they thinking?

After I bought a second-hand microfiche reader and copies of the microfiche that applied to areas in which I was interested, I adjusted and became quite satisfied with those fiche. Then they put the information on computers!

Well, I nearly went into hysterics! Remember, this was before everyone had a computer and the internet was a silly idea of a few geeks (that word did not exist then). Now I look back on those days and smile.

With these current changes I have once again been irked. I stub around and can't find what I want, knowing full well it is in there somewhere. But I remember the past and know that soon I will have mastered this new web site. Also this new site has a much greater variety of information available to us than any of its forerunners. The programmers at the library will correct the obvious problems as they have always done in the past. I am trying very hard to be philosophical. **And anyway, it is easy to go back to the old website. Just click on, "Go to the previous site".**

So let's talk about a few of the interesting features of this new website. Enter familysearch.org as you always do and you will find yourself on the home page which is amazingly different than the home page of a few months ago.

At the top of this home page is a pale yellow strip and on that strip is the FAMILYSEARCH logo and the words *Learn, FamilySearch Centers, Indexing and Blogs.*

Learn

Click on **Learn** and you will find that you have access to well over 58 thousand articles on various articles related to genealogy. With this huge number of articles it is prudent to click further until you get to the country in which you are interested and go on from there. For example, if you click on the United States you can find articles on general research in the U.S., but also you can click further and locate the information about a specific state. You can spend many hours just sitting back, relaxing and reading about the area of genealogy in which you are interested.

Family Search Centers

If you decide to click on **Family Search Centers** you will be able to locate any and all of the **Family Search Centers** throughout the world.

Indexing

As we all know, when records are correctly indexed they are much easier to use. The Family Search website has been indexing records for many years, but recently millions more records are being indexed by volunteers throughout the world. Click on the word **Indexing** and you too can join this army of genealogists.

Blog

Have fun exploring the **Blog**. This is another area in which you can spend hour upon hour.

Sign In

Way to the right are the words **sign in**. Click on **sign in** and then I suggest that you click on **Learn more about Familysearch account**, and consider signing up for a free FamilySearch Account. Some records are available only if you have such an account. All the details are there once you click on **sign in** so you are aware of the entire situation before you decide whether or not to acquire a FamilySearch Account. There is no charge.

Let's then go on to the material printed on a white background and labeled **Discover Your Family**. Beneath this title are the words *Records and Trees* and *Library Catalog*.

Records

Records are already in dark print so let's deal with this first. These are records that are available on-line. Some are digitized copies of original records and others are indexes or extracts of records.

If you scroll down just a bit you will see a place to enter the name of a person of interest to you as well as the place in which this person might be found. See what pops up.

Play around a little bit. I put in the surname *Keeney* (my maiden name) and the place as *Wisconsin*. I got a list of Keeney's in Wisconsin, but to the best of my knowledge, none of mine. So I went back and added the first name *Gardner*, my father's name, and got a different group of Keeney's, including my dad. It also said that the record for Dad was a census. Clicking on the name I got a summary of the information on that census. **Important!!** If there had been a little camera icon attached to the title of the record it would indicate that a digital copy of the record is available. If there is no digitized image of the record (i.e. no camera) there is complete source information including the FHL film number and page from which the information was derived.

There's a lot more in the **Records** selection. Keep scrolling down from the form on which you look for a specific person. You will find a list of locations in which to search. They are:

- Africa
- Asia and Middle East
- Caribbean and Central and South America
- Europe
- Pacific Islands
- USA, Canada and Mexico
- All record collections

You can click on **All record Collections** and then come up with a list of all the collections from all over the world--a huge number. It would seem more reasonable to click on a more specific area of interest to you. Let's click on **USA, Canada and Mexico**. At this point we can work with a list of all collections in all three of those countries or we can narrow it down to one of the three. To the left **USA, Canada and Mexico** is highlighted and beneath you can click on one of these countries instead of looking at the records of all three. Let's click on **USA**.

Here is a list, largely by alphabetical order, of state records. I clicked on **Texas death records** and since I know no one from Texas to enter I put in the surname *Ames*. It seemed like a good name. There were quite a few people listed with that surname. I clicked on one of them and was informed I could not access that record until I entered the FamilySearch Account information. When I did that, I immediately got the death record information and the digital copy of the record. I was able to research any name on that list as long as my computer was on during this session. **Please note that this is just one example of the value of registering with familysearch.** Not all states' death records require this registration, but this set of records does because of contracts between the Family History Library and the state of Texas.

Scrolling down among the list of states I also found a few specialty lists, such as Civil War Pension records. Clicking on that I entered George Keeney of Pennsylvania. What I then found was a summary of the pension record of George Keeney and the fact that to see the original image I would have to go to www.footnote.com. Footnote has been working with the National Archives to digitize many of the federal records stored at the Archives. In the past, pension records have been available only to those who go to the Archives in Washington D.C. Now they are being entered on the Footnote website. Click on the website and find out what records are available and the cost for a day, a month or a year--also a free trial period.

However, most of the records listed under **Records** are simple to access. I clicked on Illinois, Cook County birth certificates 1878-1922. This set of records had a camera icon attached, so the original documents should be found. I entered the surname Condon, and the place as Chicago. I clicked on search and the the list of Condon's came up. I clicked on Henry Condon and the original birth record was there for me to see. This is the way it is with most of these records. Those identified with a camera icon supply the copy of the original document. Those without the camera have a summary of the record and information as to how to find the original.

Every record that does not link you to an original image will refer you to the original source: a film number, the volume and page number of the original record or the certificate number of the original record

Unless records/indexes/ summaries are digitized they will not be listed on **Records**. It will be necessary to go to the catalog of the Family History Library to find records that are available there, both in the library and in the Family History Centers throughout the world.

To quickly get to the home page click on the FAMILYSEARCH icon which is on the left side of the pale yellow strip at the top of the page.

Trees

Next click on **Trees**. Here you are given access to pedigrees turned in to the library over the years, many of which are listed in Ancestral File with which we are familiar on the old website. Once again you will find a form to fill out indicating the name of the person for whom you are searching. I entered the name Donald MacLean and indicated that he died in 1813 and his wife was Sarah Barry. The information that popped up was not related to "my" Donald MacLean. I then entered only his name--hundreds of Donald MacLeans appeared and as I scrolled down I found Donald MacLean married to Sarah Barry. In other words you need to play around with the information you enter and perhaps you will then find the information you are seeking. It is important to note that you will not find the name of the person who contributed the information since they no longer enter this information. They do give you the AFN (Ancestral File Number). They

do not enter documentation either. This is only a process by which you may get some clues, but all information must be verified.

I entered the name Joshua Keeney. Up he popped with the names of his wife, his parents and a lot of other accurate information. Then I clicked on his name, which was highlighted in blue, and more information was presented. His parents' names were highlighted in blue and clicking on them I got information about that family and their parents whose names were then highlighted in blue. I could therefore click back as far as those records went.

There is a lot more detailed information about **Trees** and how to use it available to you once you have clicked into the program.

Catalog

Let's click once more on the FAMILYSEARCH logo in the pale yellow strip at the top of the page and this time we'll click on **Catalog**. Here we are looking at the catalog for the Family History Library.

To the left we are asked to indicate which area in the catalog we are interested in searching. The following options are given. In the list below I am also including a bit of information about each option. Most of these are similar to those offered in the old website.

Place-names : Look for a record by the name of the place (locality) where an ancestor lived

Last names: Find family histories (and more) by a particular family name

Titles: Find a record by its title

Author Information: To find the works of an author by his/her name (individual or corporate)

Subjects: To discover works based on the topics they cover

Call Numbers: See catalog entries by finding the book, compact disc , or pedigree call number

Film Numbers: See catalog details by finding the Library's microfilm or microfiche number

Keywords (beta): Get a record using any words or phrases in significant parts of its catalog entry.

The option I most always use is *Place-names*. I am interested in the records available from a specific place in which I think my ancestor was located. So let's click on *Place-Names* on the drop-down menu.

Let's enter *Riviere Ouelle*. The complete information about Riviere Ouelle is automatically entered i.e. *Quebec, Kamouraska, Riviere-Ouelle*. Let's click on that and several entries appear. Now click on the first for *Registres paroisseaux Notre-Dame-de-*

Liesse. Whoops! What's this? Printed in red it says, "Quebec Catholic Parish Registers are available online, click here." So we'll click and now we are back in **records**. There is no need to crank through reels of film. It's all on line. If you search for a film number in **catalog** and that film is already online there should be a notification in red that accesses that on-line.

So now we are back in the **catalog** and looking for information about my New England family. This time I want to see if there are records from the town of Washington in Connecticut. Yes there are-*Connecticut, Litchfield, Washington*. I click on that and find that there are town records available from 1742 -1855. Clicking on that I find the film number for this set of records. There is nothing here in red, so I assume that this film is not digitized and available in **records**. Nonetheless I checked and confirmed this.

This, then, is the process for using the **catalog**. It's not too much different than in the old website.

books

If we click on *books* it is noted that all the books that are currently on line are from the Brigham Young University Library. This is a huge collection which we will not discuss here. Does somebody out there want to write an article discussing access to this remarkable collection?

There are several things more I wish to emphasize. First, be very much aware that there is staff to help you when you are at home and can't figure out what to do next. You can contact them on-line and by phone. The means to do so is on most pages of the website. I contacted them several times as I wrote this article and was helped quickly and pleasantly. What's more they didn't make me feel particularly foolish, even with my more stupid mistakes.

The next thing to note is the word *feedback* appearing in a little rectangle on many pages. When you particularly like or particularly dislike a certain presentation, let them know. Remember, these people did not enter all of this information on this site for the explicit purpose of confusing us. So therefore if something does confuse us, we should let them know. If only one person brings up one problem they will try to help that individual. They will probably not make any changes because of one problem perceived by one person. If twenty people, however, gripe about something, it may well be seen as an issue that must be addressed.

In this article have I covered everything to be found on the Family History Library website? Absolutely not! There is a mind-boggling amount of information available there. So sit back, explore, and enjoy. Happy clicking!



Upcoming Programs

Monday, July 11, 2011 – 6p.m.

Field trip

St Mary's Cemetery

9520 W Forest Home Ave. in Hales Corners, next to the Catholic Church.

The location is very obvious when you are at the site.

Maps will be available at the next two meetings or you can get them at www.mapquest.com.

Please bring a camera and/or some writing paper.

We will be working with findagrave.com to post pictures and information on the internet.

Monday, August 1, 2011 – 7p.m.

We were trying to arrange a speaker from Irish Fest but he isn't arriving until after our meeting.

Please watch the website at www.igswonline.com for any updates.

Monday, September 12, 2011 – 7p.m.

ICHC - 2133 W Wisconsin Ave, Milwaukee, WI

"Returning the body of Byron Kilbourn to Wisconsin from Florida"

The presentation will be given by Frank Matusinec who was there when the casket was exhumed in Jacksonville on November 21, 1998.

There are some changes in the times that the Shorewood Public Library will be open. This may affect when our meetings will take place. It may also affect where we will be meeting.

Watch igswonline.com for further information as to time and place.

IGSW Programs are free and open to the public.

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

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
11 A.M. CDT, June 01, 2011

This Place Matters Challenge!

Milwaukee, WI June 01, 2011: The National Trust for Historic Preservation supported by Fireman's Fund Insurance Company and National Trust Insurance Services, LLC is proud to offer a contest for 100 Historic Buildings to compete in a community challenge to win the following prize money of \$ 25,000.00 for first, \$10,000.00 for second and \$5,000.00 for third.

The 124 year old historic Irish Cultural & Heritage Center of Wisconsin has been chosen to be 1 of the 100 in the challenge. We are proud to be the only historic building chosen to represent the state of Wisconsin.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! GO TO www.PreservationNation.org/communitychallenge and vote.

Starting June 1st thru June 30, 2011 you can vote just once for our venue. The results will be posted on July 1, 2011.

Please tell **EVERYONE** you know using Facebook, E-mail, and Twitter to vote for the ICHC.

-End-



IGSW

*Irish Genealogical Society
of Wisconsin*

P.O. Box 13766

Wauwatosa, WI 53213-0766

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