

Irish Ancestry Group

A Special Interest Group of
The Genealogical Society of Victoria

Chairman	Des Regan	Tel. 890 5886
Vice-Chairman		
& Minute Secretary}	Liz Murphy	Tel. 417 5956
Treasurer	Bill McDonnell	Tel.(056) 298567
General Secretary	Maureen Meyer	Tel. 663 7033
Newsletter Editor	Barbara McKenzie	Tel. 241 7990
Committee Member	Bill Coffey	Tel. 527 7875

IN LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Beyond all expectations within such a short time, we have increased our membership sevenfold since our Newsletter went out two months ago. With just 33 enthusiasts on the books in September, we now number almost an unbelievable 250 fully paid up members! We thank you for your response and welcome you all most warmly into the Irish Ancestry Group. There has obviously been a demand within the GSV for a special interest group to cater for the needs of those with Irish Roots, now with your help and enthusiasm we hope to be able to go a long way towards answering that need.

With the number of new members joining the Group, coupled with the time and expense involved, we are finding it virtually impossible to cope with the mailing of receipts for subscriptions. We have therefore devised a very Irish way of acknowledging your membership - that little green dot on the front page of your Newsletter is to inform you that you are a financial member of the I.A.G for the year 1988-89.

A full Membership list will be published in the Members Interest Directory in February.

* * * * *

MEMBERS INTEREST DIRECTORY

Would the following members please return their completed MID forms as soon as possible as the deadline is upon us and no late entries can be accepted. If you have mislaid your original form, another can be obtained from the GSV.

P. Alexander	S. Barton	C. Bennett	T. Boyce
E. Chapman	M. Coakley	J. Duncan	G. Fenwick
H. Finn	I. Fullarton	V. Gill	J. Gow
C. Hanrahan	C. Harding	G. Harrison	K. Healy
K. Hodges	L. Hooper	D. Hughes	T. Ireton
E. Langford	V. Leigh	P.L'aoust-Corbett	E. Madden
C. Margetts	S. Miller	D. Moss	K. Myles
L. MacQueen	V. Noonan	B. O'Donnell	P. Pond
A. Sheahan	M. Shortall	M. Sitters	R.L. Smith
I. Sweet	D. Were	C. Whiteman.	

* * * * *

We have three MID forms which have become detached from the original application forms and we do not know to whom they belong. Would the authors of the following please contact Maureen Meyer at 663 7033 and let her know so that they can be included in the MID.

Researching : CLUNE and COX from Clare pre 1839.
HAHER, FARRELL & ROURKE from Offaly in 1800's
O'SULLIVAN & O'CONNOR from Clare 1848 and 1840-52.

* * * * *

BALLARAT CONFERENCE

A full report on the Conference on Irish Origins held at Ballarat on the weekend of 5th and 6th November will appear in the next "Ancestor", so here we offer just an outline of the highlights.

His Excellency, The Irish Ambassador, Mr. James Sharkey started proceedings with a Welcome speech at the Civic Reception on Friday evening, hosted on behalf of the Mayor of Ballarat by Councillor Hancock. We were gratified by the time that Mr. Sharkey spent with us throughout the Conference, sitting through most of Saturday after his Opening Address and attending again on Sunday.

Dr. Portia Robinson in her talk of the convict women referred to them always by name and spoke of them with obvious affection and understanding as her "friends".

Dr. Chris O'Mahony with his encyclopaedic knowledge of the Counties of Limerick and Tipperary, was able to pin-point a surname seemingly within a mile or two of origin!

Mr. Patrick Nolan, a true son of Ireland with his ready wit and infectious enthusiasm, fired us all with the ambition to get to the Kilkenny Conference next year by whatever means!

Mr. Bob O'Brien has played a considerable part in keeping the memory and spirit of Eureka alive; an informative talk from a dedicated historian.

Mr. Trevor McLaughlin, so expert on the subject of the Irish Orphans, a category that appears to have been sadly neglected previously.

Our own authority on things Irish, Mr. Des Regan, introduced the Convict Indexes and discussed the ways and means of locating a specific ancestor listed within.

All of the above helped make the Conference such a resounding success, but without the assistance of the Ballarat branch of the GSV Lois and Gracie Reynolds in particular, it would have been a difficult job indeed, while Ian Willcox did sterling duty at the Registration Desk throughout the two days. Bouquets to others "behind the scenes", Elizabeth Larking who has worked tirelessly and without whose imagination and foresight it would never have left the drawing board; Bruce Fullerton; Maureen Meyer; Linley Hooper and many others - nameless ones - we thank you all. Please do it again!

* * * * *

DIARY

Saturday, 3rd December 1988: Dr. Brian Trainor, Administrator of the Ulster Historical Foundation and former Director of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, will speak on Northern Irish Records. The venue to be The Scots Church Hall, 99 Russell Street, Melbourne, at 2pm.

Please note that for talks by these visiting experts, a fee of \$8 is asked of members of the GSV and \$8 for non-members. They are not free to members of the Group as stated in September Newsletter. *Mea Culpa.*

Sunday, February 12th, 1989 : Meeting of Irish Ancestry Group. The next meeting of the Irish Ancestry Group will take place at the State Library Theatre on Sunday, 12th February 1989 at 2 pm. There will be a talk and a video on "Looking up your Long-lost Irish Relatives in Ireland" which will feature the highlights of the recent visit to Ireland by our Chairman, Des Regan, and his flock from Merrie Melbourne. Because of the cost involved in renting the Theatre, we are obliged to make a small charge of \$2 per person. Please be sure to make a note of this all-important date.

Sunday, 19th March 1989 : for St. Patrick's Day (17th March 1989). We would ask you to try to keep this day free as we are planning on having our Group represented in both the St. Patrick's Day Parade and at the Concert in the Gardens to follow. Naturally we would like to have as many as possible to participate in the festivities. Further discussion will take place at our next meeting and final details given in the February Newsletter.

CHRISTMAS RECESS

Please note that the G.S.V. will close on Saturday, 17th December at 3.30 pm and reopen at 11 am on Wednesday, 4th January 1989. On behalf of the Committee of the Irish Ancestry Group I should like to take this opportunity of wishing all Members a very Happy Christmas and a truly prosperous and productive New Year.

* * * * *

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mr. Patrick Nolan, Director and Organiser of the highly successful 1987 Kilkenny Conference on Irish Origins, is running a similar conference in Ireland next May. It consists of nine full days of lectures, seminars, workshops, field trips and social events, starting from Dublin, travelling down through the various counties of Eire, and finishing back in Dublin.

There is a comprehensive report by John Killian, complete with photograph, in the Spring 1987 "Ancestor" of the previous Conference which is really worth reading again. If you are interested in taking part in the 1989 Conference in Kilkenny, you can obtain full details through the GSV or by writing direct to:

The Director (Mr. P. Nolan)	
Irish Origins Conference,	Tel. Ireland 353 56 22036
College Road,	Fax. " 353 56 65984
Kilkenny,	
Ireland.	

When making an initial enquiry, it is necessary to send a stamped self-addressed envelope, and in the case of overseas correspondence this can cause some difficulty. The GSV has Irish stamps for sale and a call to Maureen Meyer at 663 7033 will put you on the right track as to what postage is necessary for your particular reply. She is prepared to mail stamps out to you provided money is sent in to her in advance, so if you know what postage you need, then calculate a 46p Irish stamp as costing \$1.20 Australian.

On the subject of mailing, when you are asked to send a stamped self-addressed envelope for return of e.g. a newsletter, would you please send a long brown envelope instead of the usual letter size. If you think about it for a moment you will appreciate the necessity for this!

There are a number of Irish books available for sale at the GSV, the prices quoted will be less 10% discount for members unless stated otherwise.

"An Atlas of Irish History" by Ruth Dudley Edwards \$16.50, no disc.
 "How to Trace Your Irish Ancestors", Janet Reakes, \$10.00
 "Irish Ancestor" \$3.00
 "Handbook on Irish Genealogy", Heraldic Artists Ltd. \$13.50
 "Irish Genealogy - A Record Finder", Donal F. Begley, \$23.50
 "In Search of British & Irish Roots", Angus Baxter, \$20.80
 "Irish Surnames Map" \$13.00
 "The Surnames of Ireland", MacLysaght, \$17.50
 "How to Trace your Irish Roots", \$7.95, no disc.
 "Atlas of Ireland", \$13.00
 "A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland" Samuel Lewis, 2 book set, \$129.00, no discount.

Irish Journals on the shelves of the GSV Library :

"Irish Family Links" Irish Genealogical Association
 "Irish Family History" Irish Family History Society
 "Irish Link" Irish Family History Magazine of Aust. & N.Z.
 "The Irish Genealogist" Irish Genealogy Research Society
 "Irish Ancestor" (bound volumes)
 "Northern Irish Roots" N. Irish Family History Society
 "Linen Hall Review" Linen Hall Library .

* * * * *

NEWS

The next Newsletter will be out in February 1989 and the deadline for that issue will be 15th January 1989. If you have any items of interest that you would like to include in that Newsletter, give Barbara McKenzie a call on 241 7990 with your news item before the deadline date. She will be only too happy to hear from you.

Please note that back issues of the Newsletter are available by sending a (large!) s.s.a.e. to Maureen Meyer care of GSV. We will also have copies at the meeting in February for those who would like one.

* * * * *

DR. CHRIS O'MAHONY

On Sunday, 30th October, 70 members and friends of the I.A.G. were treated to an informative talk by Dr. Chris O'Mahony on Irish records, particularly those of Counties Limerick and Tipperary. Dr. O'Mahony is the head of the Mid-West Archives and leads a very expert research team. Limerick and Tipperary are well indexed and given sufficient information, the research team should be able to find you an Irish relative.

When writing, keep your letters short and to the point, do not give all your family's history. If you have parents' names, maiden name and religion, that is all this is really necessary. If no maiden name, give children's names - naming patterns may help to discover mother's name. If no parents at all, try to find a clue peculiar to "your" family from the Australian records. Did any brothers and sisters come out with him? If so, check those children's names for similarity to "your" family's children; look for parent's names on death

certificates. Were there twins in the family? An occupation may be a clue to a certain area of Limerick or Tipperary. Possibly all birth and infant death certificates may have to be purchased with the hope of finding one with more information than just the County name. Do not send any money with initial enquiry, but do enclose a stamped self-addressed envelope to:

Dr. Chris O'Mahony
Mid-West Archives,
The Granary,
Michael Street,
Limerick Ireland.

Telephone: Ireland 061-40777
Fax : " 061-315634

(Maureen Meyer, General Secretary I.A.G.)

* * * * *

WHAT'S IN A NAME? - YET

I have to tell you that your Newsletter is still nameless. We have received only two suggestions thus far, and while the names recommended are good ones, we feel we would like many more to choose from before making any decision.

We have had nothing on a design for a letter-head sent to us, although both the shamrock and the harp have been suggested as a lapel pin. Please put your artistic talents to work and send in some ideas for a name, a letter-head and lapel pin - it would be nice if they complemented each other.

* * * * *

SCRAPBOOK

Gaelic Certificates. If you have any B.D. or M. certificates written in Gaelic, you may have them translated at the Embassy of Ireland for a fee of \$25. Send them to the Embassy Office, Arkana Street, Yarralumla, Canberra A.C.T. Tel: (062) 733022.
(The Ancestral Searcher, (Canberra), Sept. 1988)

Irish Forbears from Limerick. Mrs. Valerie Thompson, PO Box 90, Central Bay NSW 2089, (tel: [02] 969 8717), is researching immigrant families from Limerick, from Foynes, Shanagolden, Mount Trenchard, Loghill and Glin in particular. One Group arrived Sydney on ship "Alquis" 1839, several proceeded to Pt. Phillip on "John Barry". Can you help her? ("Descent")

N.B. These families are known as the "Monteagle Immigrants" as they were originally employed by Lord Monteagle in Limerick, a benevolent employer who encouraged his tenants to emigrate, in many cases paying their fares himself. See Autumn 1987 "Ancestor" for an excellent article on this subject.

Irish Convict Index and Microfilm. This Bicentennial gift by the Irish Government will be available for general use at the G.S.V. in about two weeks time.

Victorian B. D & M. Indexes. Birth Indexes up to 1913 and Deaths up to 1940 will be out in January 1989. They will also be available for sale at a cost of \$175 the set. Enquire at GSV.

I.G.I. The 1987 I.G.I. is now at G.S.V.

* * * * *