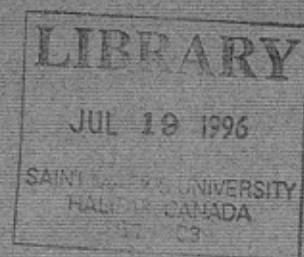
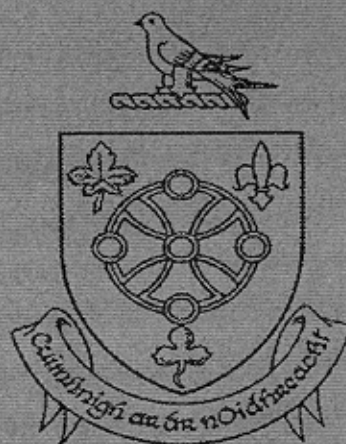


# AN NASC

D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies  
Saint Mary's University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia



In this issue:

News from the Chair  
Irish Summer Schools  
The Moores of Moore Hall  
Irish Genealogical Sources

Volume 9, Summer 1996

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Cyril Byrne

Secretary/Layout:  
Christine McGann

AN NASC was established as a link between the Chair of Irish Studies and those who are involved or interested in promoting Irish studies and heritage in Canada and abroad. It also seeks to develop an awareness of the shared culture of Ireland, Gaelic Scotland and those of Irish and Gaelic descent in Canada.

AN NASC is provided free of charge. However, we welcome financial contributions which will allow us to extend the activities of the Chair of Irish Studies. A tax receipt will be issued for all contributions over \$10.00.

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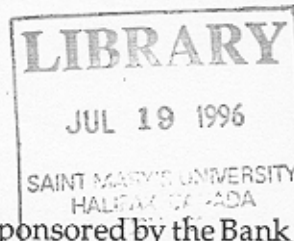
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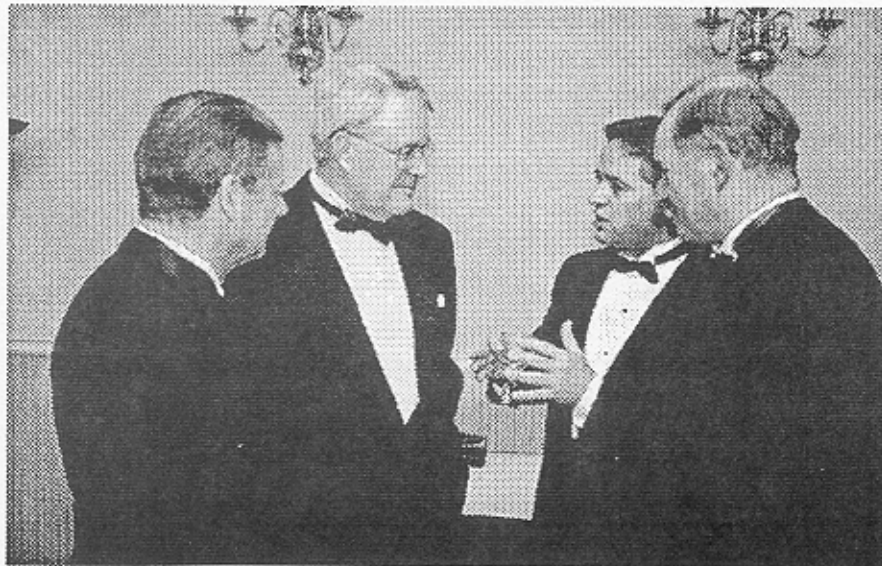
## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

### Fundraising



In November 1995, the Chair hosted its sixth fundraising dinner. Sponsored by the Bank of Montreal, the dinner honoured Brian Tobin, Minister of Fisheries (and now Premier of Newfoundland), as Irishman of the Year in Canada. Distinguished guests included Dr. John Savage, Premier of Nova Scotia, Paul Dempsey, Irish Ambassador to Canada, Mary Clancy, M. P. for Halifax, and Margaret Fallona, London, Ontario. During the dinner, the Bank of Montreal announced a donation of \$30,000.00 over three years to the Chair.

As part of the ongoing fundraising campaign, the Chair recently organized a lottery. Corporate sponsors, Brian Moore Tours, Air Nova and Aer Lingus, generously donated the prize: two return flights to Ireland, car hire and bed and breakfast for one week. Congratulations to Michael Roughneen, Bedford, Nova Scotia, who was the winner.



*At the recent Irish Studies Fund Raising Dinner, left to right are Dr. Kenneth L. Ozmon, President of Saint Mary's University, Dr. John Savage, Premier of Nova Scotia, Brian Tobin, Minister of Fisheries, and Dr. Cyril Byrne, Coordinator of Irish Studies.*

### Academic offerings 1995-1996

Irish Studies had its largest number of offerings since the inception of the Chair. The following courses were taught: An Introduction to Modern Irish (IRS 201.1); Modern Irish Language (IRS 202.2); Intermediate Irish I (IRS 325.1); Intermediate Irish II (IRS 326.2); Medieval Celtic Britain (IRS 389.2); the Geography of Ireland (IRS 391.1); Ireland, 1600-1985 (IRS 395.0); Irish Studies Seminar (IRS 400.0); Irish Poetry (IRS 443.1 & 443.2); and Irish Politics (IRS 390.2).

Presenters in the Irish Seminar course from within Saint Mary's were Pádraig Ó Siadhail, Cyril Byrne, Margaret Harry, Ken Snyder, Michael Vance, Guy Chauvin, and Donald Wylie. Guest speakers were Mary Schaefer (Atlantic School of Theology), Peter Latta (Shubenacadie Canal Commission); John Phyne (St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish); Colleen Hanrahan, alumnus of Saint Mary's, M. A. in Irish Literature from University College Dublin and Ph. D. candidate in Irish Studies at U.C.D.; Kelly Curran, a Saint Mary's alumnus and M.A. candidate in Irish Studies at University College Galway; and Peter Murphy, M.A. candidate in Atlantic Canada Studies at Saint Mary's.

### Research and Publications

Pádraig Ó Siadhail published an article, "Katherine Hughes, Irish Political Activist," in *Edmonton. The Life of a City* (Edmonton: NeWest, 1995, 78-87), a volume of interdisciplinary essays, edited by Bob Hesketh and Frances Swyripa, commemorating the bicentenary of the city. An extract from his 1994 novel *Éagnairc* was included in the anthology, *Sláinte. Deich mbliana de Chló Iar-Chonnachta*, edited by Micheál Ó Conghaile (Indreabhán: Cló Iar-Chonnachta, 1995, 408-419). He was a contributor to the recently published *The Oxford Companion to Irish Literature* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1996), edited by Robert Welch. In addition, the manuscript of his novel, *Peaca an tSinsir*, won a new annual Irish literary award, Gradam Litríochta Chló Iar-Chonnachta, for 1996. The novel will be published in the Fall of 1996.

### The Charitable Irish Society of Halifax Bursary

Marnie Hay, a former Irish Studies student, is the first recipient of this scholarship, generously sponsored by the Charitable Irish Society. The Bursary will allow Marnie to undertake graduate work in Irish Studies at an Irish university.

### Conferences, Lectures and Community-related Activities

Pádraig Ó Siadhail attended "Ireland: Island of Diversity," the joint conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies and the Canadian Association for Irish Studies at Queen's University of Belfast in June 1995. He read a paper "Katherine Hughes and the Self-Determination for Ireland League of Canada and Newfoundland" at the Irish Cultural Symposium in Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, in August 1995 and a paper on "The Great Famine and the Irish Folklore Tradition" to a gathering of An Cumann/ The Irish Association of Nova Scotia in October 1995.

Cyril Byrne represented the Chair at the 10th International Congress of Celtic Studies in Edinburgh in July 1995. In December he attended the 2nd Australian Celtic Studies Conference in Sydney, Australia, where he read a paper on the subject "The Irish Language in the Settlement of Newfoundland." Dr. Byrne was also the keynote speaker for Irish week in Newfoundland in March 1996. His topic was "Connections - Newfoundland and Ireland from the beginnings to the 20th Century." The Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, was in attendance for part of this

week of lectures and celebrations in Newfoundland.

In March 1996 Cyril Byrne also gave to An Cumann a presentation of the poetry of Seamus Heaney to honour the poet's having been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Dr. Graham Walker, Department of Politics, Queen's University of Belfast, was a guest of the Chair and the Department of History at Saint Mary's in March 1996 when he lectured on "Scotland and Ulster. Political Interactions since the late 19th Century."

### Graduate Research with an Irish Connection in Atlantic Canada Studies

Peter T. McGuigan, working under the supervision of Pádraig Ó Siadhail, completed his M.A. thesis in Atlantic Canada Studies, entitled "Cardinal James McGuigan: Tormented Prince of the Church." Peter Murphy is continuing work on his M.A. thesis editing records from 1840s for the Saint John, New Brunswick, orphanage. Jonathan Dembling has commenced research for his M.A. thesis entitled "Gaelic Learners: their impact on the Nova Scotian Gaelic Community."

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HALIFAX, CANADA

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**IRISH STUDIES COURSES 1996-1997****Courses taught in the first semester:****(IRS 201.1) An Introduction to Modern Irish**

Mon. &amp; Wed. 2:30pm-3:45pm

Instructor: P. Ó Siadhail

*This course will introduce students to Modern Irish, with emphasis on the spoken and written forms.***(IRS 325.1) Intermediate Irish I**

Tues. &amp; Thurs. 5:30pm-6:45pm

Instructor: P. Ó Siadhail

*A continuation of elementary Irish, with emphasis placed on students attaining a firm grasp of spoken Irish. In addition, students will continue their study of the history and development of the Irish language.***(HIS 395.0)/(IRS 395.0) Ireland, 1600-1985: From the Plantations to the "Troubles"**

Mon. &amp; Wed. 2:30pm-3:45pm

(Full Year)

Instructor: M. Vance

*This course will concentrate on Ireland's transition from a colony, for English and Scottish settlers, to an independent state in the European community. Emphasis will be placed on the cultural and political legacy of the 17th century plantations, as well as the consequences of Irish nationalism for Britain and its empire. The development of the "Ulster Question" will be examined in the last section of the course.***(IRS 430.1) Irish Folklore**

Tues. &amp; Thurs. 2:30pm-3:45pm

Instructor: P. Ó Siadhail

*A comprehensive study of folklore in Ireland. All aspects of folklore will be examined, with special emphasis on the storytelling, song, and folk drama traditions.***(Egl 442.1)/(IRS 442.1) Irish Drama**

Tues. &amp; Thurs. 5:30pm-6:45pm

Instructor: C. Byrne

*Irish dramatists from Farquhar and Sheridan to Shaw, O'Casey and Beckett will be studied from the point of view both of their contribution to theatre in the English-speaking world and of their special Anglo-Irish or native Irish cultural background.***(POL 457.0)/(IRS 457.0) Politics and Government in Ireland**

Tues &amp; Thurs 11:30pm-12:45pm

(Full Year)

Instructor: G. Chauvin

*A survey of Irish history will lead to more detailed consideration of British administration in Ireland, and of government in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.*

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**Courses taught in the second semester:**
**(IRS 202.2) Modern Irish Language**

Mon. &amp; Wed. 2:30pm-3:45pm

Instructor: P. Ó Siadhail

*This course will develop the student's ability to speak, write and read Modern Irish.***(IRS 326.2) Intermediate Irish II**

Tues. &amp; Thurs. 5:30pm-6:45pm

Instructor: P. Ó Siadhail

*Building upon the skills acquired while studying elementary Irish and Intermediate Irish I, students will concentrate on refining their command of the Irish language. A variety of aural sources and written texts will be used.***(HIS 395.0)/(IRS 395.0) Ireland, 1600-1985: From the Plantations to the "Troubles"**

Mon. &amp; Wed. 2:30pm-3:45 pm

(Full Year)

Instructor: M. Vance

*This course will concentrate on Ireland's transition from a colony, for English and Scottish settlers, to an independent state in the European community. Emphasis will be placed on the cultural and political legacy of the 17th century plantations, as well as the consequences of Irish nationalism for Britain and its empire. The development of the "Ulster Question" will be examined in the last section of the course.***(Egl 441.2)/(IRS 441.2) The Irish Short Story**

Tues. &amp; Thurs. 5:30pm-6:45pm

Instructor: C. Byrne

*This course will examine the short story as a major form in the fiction (in English) of Ireland, tracing its development from the Irish folktale to the sophisticated modern stories of internationally read practitioners such as Joyce, O'Connor, O'Faolain and Lavin.***(IRS 455.2) Gaelic Literature in Translation, 1600-1800**

Tues &amp; Thurs 2:30pm-3:45pm

Instructor: P. Ó Siadhail

*Beginning with an overview of the state of and tensions within Gaelic Ireland, this course will examine the range and preoccupations of Gaelic literature during that period, 1600-1800. Emphasis will be placed on the aisling, the political poetry of the 17th century, and on satirical and comic writings, both prose and poetry, including Brian Merriman's *Cúirt an Mheon-Oíche* (*The Midnight Court*) and the anonymous *Pairlement Chloinne Tomáis*.***(POL 457.0)/(IRS 457.0) Politics and Government in Ireland (Full Year)**

Tues &amp; Thurs 11:30pm-12:45pm

Instructor: G. Chauvin

*A survey of Irish history will lead to more detailed consideration of British administration in Ireland, and of government in the Republic of Ireland and in Northern Ireland.*

## Irish Summer Schools

Ron Beed

*One of the major areas of growth in Ireland over the last decade has been in cultural tourism, whereby visitors come to sample aspects of Ireland's rich cultural inheritance. The best example of organized cultural tourism is the phenomenon known as the 'Summer school.' Ireland now boasts an extraordinary number of annual summer schools, the best known being the Merriman School (which has the distinction of hosting a Winter School in addition) convening this year in Ennistymon, in Co. Clare, and the Yeats School in Sligo (both in August). These gatherings, and others of a similar ilk (for example: Goldsmith School, Longford, May-June; John Boyle O'Reilly School, Drogheda, June; Jonathan Swift Seminar, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, July; George Bernard Shaw School, Dublin, July; Patrick McGill Summer School in Glenties, Donegal, August; Dáil na Mumhan in Ring, Co. Waterford, August, etc., etc.) have brought together an eclectic mixture of the academic and the popular, of celebration of individual historical and literary figures or events and discussion of contemporary Ireland in a successful blend that attracts both Irish and foreign visitors. In this article, Ron Beed, a student in Irish Studies at Saint Mary's University, describes three summer schools he visited in Ireland: Oideas Gael and An Chrannóg, two Irish language programmes in Donegal, and the Synge Summer School in County Wicklow.*

### OIDEAS GAEL

Every year Oideas Gael, the Irish language school of the Ulster Cultural Institute (Foras Cultúir Uladh) at Gleann Cholm Cille, Co. Donegal, attracts students from Ireland, the rest of Europe, North America and Asia. In the summer of 1994 I was fortunate to combine an Irish vacation with a two-week course at Oideas Gael.

My prior knowledge of Irish was close to nothing. I was also a retired business man who had not seen a classroom for a long time and I was quite anxious about these courses. However, I was unduly apprehensive as Oideas Gael instructors are experienced and proficient in teaching absolute beginners as well as advanced



students. By the end of my session at the school I felt quite comfortable about the experience. I felt so confident in my new found ability in Irish until I actually ordered a cup of tea in a small restaurant and I was told by a kind waitress that she did not speak German! This reference to the German language was quite understandable. Many German and Swiss nationals attend Oideas Gael courses because Irish music and Ireland in general are very well known in Europe. Despite my little set-back in communication, I still consider that my two week course of study was a wonderful learning experience and a terrific vacation.

While Oideas Gael has been offering courses for adults in Irish language since 1984, it has recently expanded its syllabus to include other aspects of Irish culture: archaeology, hill walking, tapestry weaving, marine painting and traditional Irish dancing. These new components are offered in a bilingual form. The school is located in the Gaeltacht area on the western seaboard in an area where Irish is shared with English as the means of daily communication. It is housed in the Ulster Folklore Centre, a bright, well equipped building that also houses a bookstore and

restaurant that is used for the nightly sessions in Irish dancing, music, song and poetry. The school is located next to the town of Cashel. This small village of 500 people, two churches, convenience and retail stores and three pubs, was a most congenial town for the students especially when traditional Irish musicians gave performances.

The teaching of Irish remains the core of the school's programme. Oideas Gael offers courses in Irish at three levels to accommodate the absolute beginner or the well advanced student with opportunity to move from level to level depending on one's facility in the language. The course of instruction runs for an eight day period beginning at 9:30 A.M. each day and continuing until 4:00 P.M. with meal breaks built into the day. The classes vary in size from 15 to 30 students each and while they operate quite informally and in a relaxed way, the daily agenda is demanding and success in attaining any reasonable level of proficiency in Irish requires a considerable mental effort on the part of the students. At the absolute beginners level ("Bunrang") the learning is a mixture of sight, sound and association: the teacher uses Irish, which the student

must associate with pictures of the objects, or with actions of the teacher until some sense of the meaning of the words is attained. English is never used in the classroom. Students in "Bunrang" do not practice the writing of Irish, for obvious reasons, and the written word is used very sparingly by the teacher. I understand, however, that in the intermediate ("Meánrang") and advanced classes (the "Ardrang") the students do learn Irish grammar and practice their writing skills, and improve their facility in speaking the language by using it as often as possible in these classes and in social occasions that are held after hours in the school and in the town.

The teachers at Oideas Gael are all professional educators who work in the regular school system during the year. They are a select and dedicated group with years of experience in teaching Irish to children and to adults. Chosen by Oideas Gael for their skills and especially for their patience and wonderful sense of humour they bring to the classroom, these teachers account in large part for the success of the programme and in ensuring that the sessions are positive learning experiences for students.

## Oideas Gael

Summer Courses for Adults  
in Irish Language and Culture  
in Donegal, Ireland

Please Contact:  
Oideas Gael  
Gleann Cholm Cille  
Co. Dhún na nGall  
Ireland

Telephone: 353-73-30248

Fax: 073-30248

E-Mail: [oidsgael@iol.ie](mailto:oidsgael@iol.ie)

OideasGael books accommodation for students on request from a selection which includes shared lodgings in traditional cottages and hostels and especially Bed and Breakfast homes where Irish is spoken. We decided to try the last. Our hosts, the Gillespies, were an Irish speaking family who operate a very comfortable 'B & B' from their home in the centre of town well within easy walking distance to Oideas Gael.

The obvious success of Oideas Gael may be attributed to their well designed approach to teaching Irish by professional

educators in an institution that is in the centre of community life in a small Irish village in the mountains of Ireland where Irish can still be heard. My stay in Gleann Cholm Cille was interesting and informative and it was such a great place for a vacation that we have returned to this little town to visit new friends.

### **AN CHRANNÓG**

The Irish language school and cultural centre, "An Chrannóg" has been in operation for three years in Gaath Dobhair, Co. Donegal, 50 miles north of the Oideas Gael centre at Gleann Cholm Cille. While both schools share the common goal of making accessible to students the Irish language, An Chrannóg is able to take advantage of the fact that it is located squarely in an area of the Gaeltacht where Irish is the preferred medium. This was a bonus for those of us who attended An Chrannóg last summer in that we were able to reinforce our classroom learning by attendance at many events in the community conducted in the Irish language.

An Chrannóg is a small and well equipped school which shares classroom

and office space in a community centre. Until recently, the School had not advertised very much outside Ireland, although a few students had come from North America, especially from New York. Instead it has concentrated in improving and upgrading the language skills of Irish school teachers, especially those from Northern Ireland, and other interested students from other parts of Ireland. The school operates all year round and it designs its curriculum to respond to the specific needs and abilities of its student body. The strength of the school lies in the teachers who, as in the case of those at Gleann Cholm Cille, are all professional educators on leave of absence from the Irish school system. They are as enthusiastic, hard working, personable and patient as their Oideas Gael counterparts. The quality of the teaching staff is always an important factor to consider in the assessment of any course: as learning Irish is a challenging task, the skill of the teachers is central to the learning experience. I am happy to report that An Chrannóg did extremely well in this regard!

The week-long course that I attended in July 1995 was only one of several offered.

Our class was very small with only six students and the daily classes were held in three or four hour sessions each morning, where Irish was spoken and English resorted to only when absolutely necessary. The classes were tightly structured with a full agenda of exercises, vocabulary and games playing. Our teacher came from the elementary school system in Dublin and she designed a course for us which demanded our full attention for the entire seven day period. Because of the close proximity of the School to a fully functioning Irish speaking community of the Gaeltacht, An Chrannóg schedules a daily visit to a local point of interest or event where the Irish language is very much in evidence, as well as evening sessions at the Community Centre in nearby Bunbeg or in other locations where ample opportunity exists for the brave student to practice the new found skills in Irish. For instance, one evening we attended a full concert of song and music entirely in Irish in a community centre at the side of Mount Errigal which was followed by a session in the pub owned and operated by the father of popular musicians, Clannad and Enya.

As regards accommodation, there are many Bed and Breakfasts in the Gaith

Dobhair area. We stayed in 'Teach Campbell,' which is a large hotel just below Bunbeg but within walking distance of An Chrannóg. Teach Campbell was comfortable and our hostess took it upon herself to ensure that we were given one Irish word or phrase each day to learn. The very first one given to us over a full Irish breakfast was the Irish word for echo, 'Macalla', and the last one given just before we left for Canada was the phrase to remember, and the statement 'I remember' — 'Is cuimhin liom.'

## AN CHRANNÓG

Srath na Corcra  
Na Doirí Beaga  
Leitir Ceanainn  
Tír Chonaill

Telephone: (075) 32188  
Fax: (075) 32189  
E-mail: [Eolas@Crannog.iol.ie](mailto:Eolas@Crannog.iol.ie)

### J. M. SYNGE SUMMER SCHOOL

The J. M. Synge Summer School is held every year in the town of Rathdrum, County Wicklow, about 35 miles south of Dublin. Residents of Rathdrum take pride in that two of Ireland's best known historical personalities, the politician and statesman, Charles Stewart Parnell (1846-1891), and the playwright, John Millington Synge (1871-1909), lived nearby. Just outside Rathdrum is Parnell's family home and estate, Avondale, which houses the refurbished wood and brick church that is used by the J.M. Synge Summer School Committee as a theatre and meeting place.

John Millington Synge, author of *The Playboy of the Western World* and director of the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, came from a Wicklow family and spent many summers in the local countryside. He came to know this area and its people very well and from them he drew inspiration for a number of his plays. It is still possible for the student or visitor to experience the beauty and isolation of the glens and the mountains that Synge knew and it is very satisfying to experience some of the places that inspired him. For instance, it is a short and scenic trip from Rathdrum to the crossroads at Ballinaclash which provided the locale for

Synges' comedy, *The Tinker's Wedding* and the tragi-comedy, *The Well of The Saints*. Visitors to this area must exercise their imagination for it is now an asphalt covered roadway at the junction of the three-way road leading into and out of the modern village of Ballinaclash and it bears little resemblance to the original crossroads of the early 1900s. However, the little glen used by Synge as the location for the isolated cabin in his play *The Shadow of The Glen* is not far away from Ballinaclash and it is still as remote and gloomy a place as it was when Synge used it to build his famous story about a poor Irish wife who yearns for a life of freedom and love and who escapes from the cruel realities of her loveless marriage. The story is a fictional one, but like most literary work, it is based very loosely on an actual event in the death of an old reclusive woodsman who lived in this glen long before Synge wrote his play.

For those attending the Synge Summer School this area becomes a natural stage to present seminars on the theme of "Staging Ireland." As this title suggests, the focus of the week's proceedings was not confined to the work of Synge and included discussions on all the major Irish playwrights and poets from W. B. Yeats to

Brian Friel, attendance at plays at the Gate Theatre and at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, and discussions with director Patrick Mason about his staging of Synge's *The Well of the Saints*. This final session was both interesting and informative but, unfortunately, a lot of the material was familiar only to the professional. The syllabus of The Synge School also included tours of the Wicklow area, a fun night of Irish dancing and a truly delightful poetry reading by Seamus Heaney, Ireland's latest Nobel Laureate.

The Synge School caters for academics, theatre buffs and those merely interested in learning more about Ireland. The syllabus is designed to appeal to a wide audience. Our class, between 50 and 60 strong, included students and teachers of Irish literature, drama and theatre from schools and universities in Europe, the U.S.A. and Ireland as well as professional theatre directors and actors from North America and Scotland, and a number of other people who simply have an interest in the theatre and in literature. Despite the eclectic mix of people with varying credentials and interests, we were all made to feel quite at ease throughout week and we were most impressed with the skill and ease in which the presenters commented on their topics. It must also be said that the class was friendly

and feedback was given in the form of thoughtful discussion and requests for elaboration of various points of view.

I enjoyed this interesting experience of the J. M. Synge Summer School and I certainly left the school with more questions about Irish literature than when I started. By any educational standard, this is one measure of its success. The fact that I was able to combine the experience of the J. M. Synge School with a terrific vacation, which included a game of golf on a new course cut out of a mountain side in the Wicklow Valley, was a bonus.

*We invite readers of An Nasc to contribute for publication accounts of and comments about other Summer Schools in Ireland.*

## SYNGE SUMMER SCHOOL

Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, Ireland

**Mrs. Irene Parsons**  
Whaley Lodge, Ballinaclesh  
Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, Ireland.  
Telephone: (353-404) 46131  
Fax: (353-404) 46134  
E-mail: [ngrene@mail.tcd.ie](mailto:ngrene@mail.tcd.ie)

## The Moores of Moore Hall: The Nova Scotia Connection

Kenelm V. Gow

*Although Moore Hall, Ballyglass, Co. Mayo, birth place of Irish writer, George Moore (1852-1933), now lies as a burnt reminder of the bitterness aroused by the Irish Civil War of 1922-1923, it and its owners have had a long connection with important events in Ireland stretching back over several centuries. Halifax resident and descendant of the Moores of Moore Hall, Kenelm V. Gow, recounts the history of the house and its occupants.*

Circumstances in Ireland which led to the Rebellion of 1798 and the dreadful famine of 1845-52 have been discussed and analyzed by many commentators. The part which my mother's family played in some of these events could be said to have started with an English Captain, George Moore, in the army of William III. After the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, he was appointed Vice-Admiral of Connaught, and took up residence in Ashbrook House near Straid in Co. Mayo. This Protestant family became Roman Catholic when his grandson, John, married Jane Lynch Athy of Renville, Co. Galway. The Athys were one of the 'Tribes of Galway,' powerful merchants in medieval times, with large and prosperous trading colonies in Spain, which during the 18th century bore a similar relationship to Catholic Ireland as America was destined

to assume in the 19th century. Their son George, born in 1729, wishing to avoid the Penal Laws, joined one of these houses in Alicante and accumulated a considerable fortune. With this he returned to Ireland in 1790 to build Moore Hall, a large Georgian mansion overlooking Lough Carra a few miles south of Castlebar in Co. Mayo.

John, eldest son of this latter George Moore, was educated at Liège and at the University of Paris. Upon going to Dublin to read for the Bar, he began to keep company with the conspirators of the United Irish Republican movement. When in 1798 the French General Humbert with about 900 French soldiers landed at Killala on the northern coast of Mayo, John went from his law chambers in Dublin to join them. After their victory over the British army at Castlebar, John was appointed

President of the Republic of Connaught. However, a week later the French-Irish army was defeated at Ballinamuck and John was taken prisoner. A year later he died in a prison in Waterford. His grave there was found about 1960 and his remains re-interred in the main square in Castlebar with full military honours. The story of the French invasion and John Moore's role in the Republic of Connaught have been told by Thomas Flanagan in his 1980 best-selling novel *The Year of the French*.

John Moore's younger brother, another George Moore, was a historian. He inherited the Moore Hall estate upon the death of his father in 1799. He married Louisa Browne, one of the Brownes of Westport House in County Mayo. Her grandfather became the 1st Earl of Altamont and his grandson was elevated to the rank of Marquis of Sligo. The Brownes have been in Mayo since Elizabethan times and, about 1624, one was created a Baronet of Nova Scotia and given a large tract of land, not in Nova Scotia, then sold out to other Baronets, but on the northwest tip of Anticosti Island! They were a Roman Catholic family and married into old Irish families. One ancestor was Grace O'Malley, the legendary sea pirate and Queen of

Connaught until her death in 1603. Two of Louisa Browne's uncles, Col. the Hon. Arthur Browne and Lieut. the Hon. Henry Browne, sons of the 1st. Earl, were with Wolfe's army at the capture of Louisburgh and Quebec: Henry with the Louisburgh Grenadiers. The 1st Earl had been brought up a Protestant to avoid the restrictions on Roman Catholics imposed by the Penal Laws.

The eldest son of the historian was George Henry Moore, 1810–1870, who after leaving Christ's College Cambridge about 1830, turned to hunting, racing and breeding thoroughbreds at Moore Hall. When the Great Famine struck in 1845, George Henry turned almost wholly to famine relief work which was occasionally aided by the winnings of his race horses. The most notable was Corranna which he had bought in 1843 after it won the classic Cesarewitch race in England as a three-year-old. In 1848 Moore entered Corranna in the Chester Cup, which he won, yielding £17,000 at odds of 45 to 1. (Corranna is still a legend among the descendants of Moore Hall tenants of the time, many of whom are still farming around Lough Carra.) Moore's share was £10,000 and Lord Waterford's £7,000; this was a small fortune in those



days and most of it was spent on famine relief among their tenantry. Moore joined with his kinsman, the 2nd Marquis of Sligo, and a neighbour Sir Robert Blosse, and chartered a vessel in New Orleans to bring a thousand tons of flour to Westport, Co. Mayo. The flour was distributed at about half price among their tenantry. George Henry had the satisfaction of knowing that not a single one of his tenants, over five thousand men, women and children, died of want during those terrible years.

In the winter of 1846, as the famine worsened, George Henry and his cousin, Lord Sligo, traveled through the country conferring with most of the leading men in Ireland on the urgent necessity of a united effort to save the people from this national calamity. It resulted in an assembly at the Rotunda in Dublin, on 14 January 1847, of 20 members of the peerage, 30 Irish members of the Westminster Parliament and at least 600 gentlemen of name and station. Among many things the conference recommended was the creation of an Irish party for Irish purposes as the English Parliament was ignorant of the miseries of the famine. However, this conference did not result in the hoped for changes.

A by-election, held in March 1846, was

perhaps typical of elections of that era in Ireland: All the great lords of the soil marched their tenants under guards of soldiers to the polling booths to vote for the landlords' party for which George Henry Moore was the candidate. They kept the tenants locked up in barns and coach-houses the night before for fear they might escape or be carried away to the mountains by the Repeal party, which sought the Repeal of the Act of Union of the Irish and English Parliaments in 1801. The scenes along the road were horrific, shillelaghs were brandished and some people were killed. Lord Sligo wrote to George Moore from Westport (Louisburgh, which he mentions, was a village on the Westport House estate which received its name in honour of the family participation in the capture of Louisburgh, Cape Breton):

The Louisburgh men all came in here today. They will be escorted to Castlebar tomorrow. In God's name take better care of them than you did of Lord Dillon's today. The Kilmeena boys are safe and well; they go over in detachments with the rest; the Aghagower boys come next. John's mob captured seven this morning, whom they forced to accompany them to Castlebar; four of them escaped en route and came on here in the evening.

The Repeal candidate complained that Lord Dillon's Swinford voters wanted to vote for him, and that Lord Dillon's agent had them all locked up in a yard; but as this was the ordinary practice he got no redress. Some Louisburgh men, intending to vote for the landlords, were carried off by force to Clare Island in Clew Bay and kept there as prisoners until the contest was over. The Repeal party on this occasion was too strong for the landlords, and George Moore was defeated by 470 to 417.

In the British general election of 1847 George Henry Moore was first returned as M. P. for Mayo. He continued as M. P. for most of his life and, in spite of his earlier opposition to Repeal, came to be regarded as leader of the first Home Rule party by other Irish M. Ps. In 1851 he married Mary Blake, a daughter of the Blakes of Ballinacorney, Roman Catholic landlords with properties in Mayo and Galway. Their eldest son was the Anglo-Irish novelist George Moore who recounted his childhood experiences of life in Moore Hall in his three-volume autobiography, *Hail and Farewell* (1911-1914). Their second son, Maurice (1854-1939), after a military career in the British Army ending as Colonel of the The Connaught Rangers in the Boer War,

showed his father's nationalistic leanings. He raised and trained the Irish Volunteers, established in 1913. Although still a supporter of John Redmond and the Irish Parliamentary Party, Colonel Moore was arrested during the Easter Rising of 1916. He was held as a hostage by the British army and, at times, driven around Dublin on the back of an army lorry, for he being well known in Dublin, the lorry might be safe from attack. Later he headed the appeal for the life of Sir Roger Casement, who had been condemned to death for treason on account of his efforts to supply Irish republicans with weaponry. In 1917, Colonel Moore withdrew his support from Redmond as Sinn Féin came to the fore. After Dáil Éireann drew up a new constitution which called for a Senate, Colonel Moore was asked in 1923 to accept a seat on this body. He served on Seanad Éireann until his death. I knew Colonel Moore from my visits to Ireland in 1930 and 1934.

Colonel Moore's sister, Nina, was my grandmother. She also had strong nationalistic leanings, saying that the ancestor of whom she was most proud was her granduncle, President John Moore of the Republic of Connaught. During the

Irish War of Independence, Irish Volunteers on-the-run from the British were given refuge in her house in Dublin. A man, involved in the burning of the Custom House in Dublin in May 1921, a central event in the War of Independence, was staying with her when that incident took place.

My grandmother married John Kilkelly of Mossfort House in Co. Galway. John Kilkelly was the first Roman Catholic to be appointed a Resident Magistrate, first for Co. Roscommon, subsequently for Co. Clare, Co. Louth and Co. Longford.

Moore Hall, where my mother spent the summers of her childhood, along with many other "big houses," was burned down in 1923 during the Civil War. It still stands today, an empty shell overlooking Lough Carra, and is kept as an historic site by the Government of Ireland.

*Readers may be interested in a new biography of the writer George Moore: A Peculiar Man: a life of George Moore by Tony Gray (Sinclair-Stevenson, 1996).*

**Celtic Languages and Celtic Peoples**  
*Proceedings of the Second North American Congress of Celtic Studies*

Saint Mary's University, Halifax, August 1989

Edited By:  
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## Irish Genealogical Sources

The Irish Studies Program at Saint Mary's University has committed itself, as part of its mandate, to acquiring and making available for consultation copies of materials useful for genealogists, family and local historians with a special interest in Ireland and persons of Irish descent. For this issue of *An Nasc* we are providing readers with a **partial** listing of such materials which are either in the Patrick Power Library at Saint Mary's University or one of the libraries in the region on the Novanet system. A few of the records are available through the Irish Studies Office.

Most of the Public Records of Ireland which would have been of greatest value for genealogical research were destroyed when the Four Courts Building was burnt during the Irish Civil War (1922). These included census records, wills, and a plethora of other similar civil and ecclesiastical documents. Since 1922 valiant attempts have been made to replace, copy or substitute, however inadequately, some of the lost documents.

The list provided here includes some of the most important extant documents which have been used to stand in the place of irretrievably lost materials such as the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century censuses. Sources such as *Griffith's Valuation* have, through the accident of history, become major sources whereas they would have been minor curiosities had the censuses with their listing of individuals survived. In the list provided, documents such as *Griffith's Valuation* have been italicized to indicate their importance.

Because of the interrelationship between the Irish who came first of all to Newfoundland and their siblings and relatives who either at the same time or later ventured further into the Maritimes, a number of important Newfoundland records have been acquired. For example, it may be useful to look at records such as the Basilica Registers of St. John's to see if a person bearing a surname of interest turns up in a marriage record in the Basilica Registers because the earliest records of

marriage in those registers 1794–1830s give the parish of those being married (90% of whom were of Irish birth). This might be a clue as to the place of origin in Ireland of the family in which you are interested. The reason for this is the very sedentary local nature of Irish Society at the time, people of a given surname having lived in the same locality for generations without any recent sense of being related.

Besides the microform of major sources, other records and books which maybe of interest including newspapers and journals have been listed. The best advice about how to use these is to browse through them in a focused way, keeping your eye open for names of persons or places in which you are interested.

One must always keep in mind in any ancestor hunt you may be doing, that it is somewhat of a hit and miss business and in the Irish context, like looking for the needle in the proverbial haystack.

For those who have access to the World Wide Web there are a number of sites where information concerning Irish Genealogy is available:

Genealogical Guide to Ireland  
<http://www.bess.tcd.ie/roots/prototyp/genweb2.htm>

The Genealogy Home Page  
<http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/~saw/genealogy.html>

From time to time we will update the present list as more materials become available. Please remember that this list is very much a provisional one and does not represent the totality of what is available either in the Patrick Power Library or at other Novanet libraries in Nova Scotia.

### Travelling to Ireland?

For information contact

Bord Fáilte / The Irish Tourist Board  
160 Bloor Street, East  
Suite 1150  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4W 1B9  
Telephone: (416) 929-2777  
Fax: (416) 929-6783

<u>AUTHOR</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>LIBRARY</u>	<u>CALL NUMBER</u>
Begley, Donal F.	Irish genealogy : a record finder	SMU	CS 484 I75 1987
Black, J. Anderson.	Your Irish ancestors	UCCB	CS 483 B55
Burke, Bernard, Sir	A genealogical and heraldic history of the landed gentry of Ireland	SMU	CS 481 B8 1904
Clare, Wallace.	A simple guide to Irish genealogy	SMU	CS 483 C55 1937
Clare, Wallace.	A guide to copies & abstracts of Irish wills	DALLAW	KB153 C59 1972
Crosbie, Gert.	Births, deaths, marriages in Newfoundland newspapers 1825-1850	SMU	HA 747 N4 C72 1986
D'Arcy McGee Chair of Irish Studies.	<i>South East Ireland heritage survey. St. Patrick's survey data</i>	SMU/SPCOL	CD 1118.5 S35 S68 1988 v.1-v25
Doyle, Pat.	Co. Carlow tombstone inscriptions	SMU	CS 487 C58 1985 v.2-v.3
Eustace, P. Beryl.	Abstracts of wills	SMU	CS 482 A54 v.1-v.2
Ffolliott, Rosemary.	The Pooles of Mayfield and other Irish families	SMU/SPCOL	CS 498 F46
	<i>Index to biographical notices in the newspapers of Limerick, Ennis, Clonmel and Waterford, 1758-1821</i>	SMU/MFORM	PN 5149 L52 F46 1986
	Biographical notices (primarily relating to counties Cork and Kerry) collected from newspapers, 1756-1827 with a few references, 1749-1755	SMU/MFORM	PN 5149 C62 F46 1986
Fitzpatrick, Benedict.	Ireland and the making of Britain	SMU	DA 930.5 F57 1922

Franco-Irish Symposium on Social and Economic History.	Ireland and France, 17th-20th centuries: towards a comparative study of rural history: proceedings of the First Franco-Irish Symposium on Social and Economic History, Dublin	DALKIL/3-4FLR SMU	HN 425 F7 1977 HN425 F7 1977
Gallwey, Hubert.	The Wall family in Ireland, 1170-1970	SMU	CS 499 W332 1970
Government of Nfld.	<i>Census of Newfoundland, 1921</i>	SMU/MFORM	HA 747 N6 1921 reels A-R
Grehan, Ida	Irish family histories	SMU	CS 498 G73 1993
Grenham, John.	Tracing your Irish ancestors : the complete guide	SMU	CS 483 G74 1993
Guerin, Thomas.	The Gael in New France	MSVU	F1035.16G8
Hayes, Richard F.	Ireland and Irishmen in the French revolution	MSVU	DC158.8.H28
Hayes, Richard.	Irish swordsmen of France	SFX	DC 46.7 H3
Hayes, Richard.	Old Irish links with France: some echoes of exiled Ireland	SFX SFX/SPCOL	DC 41 I7 H3 DC 41 I7 H3
Hayes, Richard.	Manuscript sources for the history of Irish civilisation	DALKIL/SSHREF	Z2041D85 v.1-v.11
Heffernan, Patrick.	The Heffernans and their times: a study in Irish history	SMU	CS 499 H4 1940
Hill, George.	An historical account of the Macdonnells of Antrim : including notices of some other septs, Irish and Scottish	SFX/SPCOL	CS 499 M16 1873
Howard, Mildred	Vital statistics and items from newspapers of Newfoundland, 1831-1872	UCCB	CS 88 N45 H6
Howard, Mildred	Royal gazette and Newfoundland advertiser, 1846-1862	UCCB/BI	CS 88 N45 H65
Ireland. General Valuation and Boundary Survey (Griffith's Valuation)	<i>General valuation of rateable property in Ireland</i>	SMU/SPCOL	HJ 4595 I73 I73 1859 v.1-v.3

Ireland. General Valuation and Boundary Survey	<i>General valuation of rateable property in Ireland [microform]</i>	SMU/MFORM	HJ 4595 I73 I73 1978 v.1-v.2
Ireland National Archives	<i>The Tithe applotment books</i>	SMU / MFORM	CS 496 C56
Irish Manuscripts Commission	Genealogical tracts	SFX/SPCOL	CS 493 I74 1932 v. 1
Irish Manuscripts Commission	Quaker records, Dublin: abstracts of wills	SMU/SPCOL	CS 497 D8 I73 1957
Kenmare, Valentine.	The Kenmare manuscripts	SMU/SPCOL	CS 499 B85 1942
Leahy, David.	County Longford and its people : an index to the 1901 census for County Longford	SMU	CS 497 L68 L44 1990
MacLysaght, Edward.	Irish families: their names, arms, and origins	SFX/REF SMU UCCB	CS 498 M3 CS498 M3 1957 CS 498 M3 1972
	More Irish families Supplement to Irish families	SMU/SFX/REF SMU	CS 498 M32 CS 498 M33
Mason, William Shaw.	A descriptive & architectural sketch of the Grace Mausoleum, in the Queen's County : taken from the statistical account, or parochial survey of Ireland	SMU/SPCOL	DA 990 T8 M4
Monroe, Horace G.	Foulis castle and the Monroes of lower Iveagh	SMU	CS 499 M66 1929
Muintir na Tíre St. Mullin's, (St. Mullins, Carlow) [sic]	St. Michael's [sic] tombstone	SMU	CS 487 S7 1980
Murphy, Sean.	Directory of Irish genealogy 1991, vol. 2	SMU	CS 481 D57 1991
Murphy, William M.	The Yeats family and the Pollexfens of Sligo	SFX/ DALKIL/3-4FLR	CS 499 Y4 CS 499 Y4 1971
Northern Ireland.	Guide to church records:	SMU/OVRSZ	CD 1118.5 A1 N67 1994



O'Brien, Michael A.	Corpus genealogiarum Hiberniae	SMU	CS 480 O2 v.1
O'Byrne, Eileen.	The convert rolls	SMU/SPCOL	CS 484 O28 1981
O'Callaghan, John C.	History of the Irish brigades in the service of France	SMU	DA 914 O25 1969
O'Connor, Michael H.	A guide to tracing your Kerry ancestors	SMU	CS 497 K4 O25 1990
O'Dwyer, Michael F.	The O'Dwyers of Kilnamanagh: the history of an Irish sept	SMU	DA 916.3 O35 O4
O'Hart, John.	Irish pedigrees; or, The origin and stem of the Irish nation	SMU/SPCOL	CS 483 032 1881
Ormonde, Marquises.	Calendar of Ormond deeds	SMU/SPCOL	DA 905 O62 v.1-v6
Orrery, Earls of	Calendar of the Orrery papers	SMU/SPCOL	CS 499 O77 C34 1941
Picard, Jean-Michel.	Ireland and Northern France, AD 600-850	SMU	DA 932 I74 1991
Punch, Terrence M.	Nova Scotia vital statistics from newspapers, 1813-1822	SMU/REF	CS 88 N6 P8
Punch, Terrence M.	Irish Halifax : the immigrant generation, 1815-1859	DALKIL/SPCOL KINGS MSVU SMU	F 1040 I6 P75 F 1040 I6 P75 F 1039.5 H17 P8 FC 2346.9 I6 P86
Punch, Terrence M.	Genealogical research in Nova Scotia	AST/SMU DALKIL/SSHREF SFX/SPCOL MSVU/REF NSCAD/REF	CS 88 N64 P86 CS 88 N6 P8 CS 88 N6 P8 CS88.N7P8 CS 88 N P8
Punch, Terrence M.	Nova Scotia vital statistics from newspapers, 1769-1812	SMU/REF	CS 88 N64 P864 1981

Punch, Terrence M.	In which county? : Nova Scotia surnames from birth registers : 1864 to 1877	SMU/REF	CS 88 N6 P64 1985
Punch, Terrence M.	Some sons of Erin in Nova Scotia	DALKIL/SPCOL MSVU SMU UCCB/BI	F 1040 I6 P77 F1040.I6P86 FC 2350 I6 P86 1980 FC 2350 I6 P86
Ryan, James G.	Irish church records: their history, availability, and use in family and local history research	SMU	CS 496 C56 I75 1992
Ryan, James G.	Irish records : sources for family & local history	SMU	Z 5313 I7 R83 1988
Swords, Liam.	The green cockade : the Irish in the French Revolution, 1789-1815	SMU	DA 948 A2 S96 1989
Vicars, Arthur E. Sir	Index to the prerogative wills of Ireland, 1536-1810	SMU DALLAW	CS 482 I53 1897 KB153 I38
Walsh, J.C.	Lament for John MacWalter Walsh	SFX	CS 499 W35
White, Newport B.	The Red book of Ormond	SMU/SPCOL	CS 499 B9 O7
	1766 Religious Census of Ireland	SMU	
	Belvedere Cemetery Records, St. John's Newfoundland	Irish Studies, SMU	
	R.C. Basilica St. John's, Newfoundland Parish Registers	Irish Studies, SMU	

**KEY:**

SMU = Saint Mary's University, Patrick Power Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 UCCB = University College of Cape Breton Library, Sydney, Nova Scotia  
 DALLAW = Dalhousie University Law Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 DALKIL = Dalhousie University Killiam Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 MSVU = Mount Saint Vincent University Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 SFX = St. Francis Xavier University Library, Antigonish, Nova Scotia  
 NSCAD = Nova Scotia College of Art and Design Library, Halifax, Nova Scotia  
 MFORM = Microform SPCOL = Special Collections SSHREF = Social Science Humanities Reference area

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**JOURNALS AND MAGAZINES**

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|--|---|
| Irish historical studies               | Finn's Leinster journal   |
| Collectanea Hibernica                  | Decies  |
| Eighteenth-Century Ireland             | Journal of family history   |
| History Ireland                        | Journal of the Old Athlone Society  |
| Studia hibernica                       | The Kilkenny magazine   |
| The Hibernian chronicle                | Ulster local studies  |
| Cork Mercantile Chronicle              | Waterford Mirror  |
| Old Kilkenny review                    | Ireland of the welcomes   |
| Heraldry in Canada                     | The Irish ancestor  |
| Gravestone inscriptions. Belfast       | Eire-Ireland; a journal of Irish studies                                    |
| Gravestone inscriptions. County Antrim | The Belfast Newsletter  |
| Gravestone inscriptions. County Down   | The Irish sword : the journal of the<br>Military History Society of Ireland |
| The Month                              |   |
| Dublin University magazine             |   |
| The Dublin penny journal               |   |
| The Leinster journal                   |   |
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Canada B3H 3C3

Telephone: 902 420-5668 / Fax: 902 420-5530 / E-Mail: [jlogan@husky1.stmarys.ca](mailto:jlogan@husky1.stmarys.ca)

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Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

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