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▶ 5 Attachments, 554 KB



## County Clare...

**All roads lead to**

**Hello everyone,**

**for those in the southern hemisphere, welcome to Spring... for those in the north, welcome to Autumn or Fall...**

**The most important reminder for this month is that the initial CRS conference is but a**

few weeks away... hence the timely notice from Clara ...below...

We wish you all every success for this conference and those of us who are unable to attend this time look forward to hearing all about it.

To refresh your memory on just what the program is, please visit here...

<http://clareroots.org/index.php/2011-06-29-19-06-17/meetings-a-lectures>

\* Attached is John Grenham's column from today's Irish Times.

John is one of our speakers at our conference which takes place in just over three weeks.

October 1<sup>st</sup>, Temple Gate, Ennis.

## IRISH ROOTS JOHN GRENHAM

Kerry Local Authorities have just made available online a collection of 164 burial registers from the graveyards they administer throughout the county.

Caveats first: this is not a complete collection of all burial or graveyard records for Co Kerry. For one thing it omits all church-owned cemeteries.

And it is not even a complete collection of all the local authority records, as a significant number of registers are missing or were not kept systematically. Furthermore, the dates covered are very late for pure genealogical research – the earliest registers appear to date from 1898, when the present local government system came into being, but a

large majority only start after the 1950s. Very unusually for Irish records online, many of the registers come right up to the 2000s.

Even with these limitations, this is an excellent resource, particularly for someone attempting to come forward in time and re-connect with living relatives, a task that is always much more difficult than researching backwards – people can only leave evidence of their past, not their future.

In addition, the site is superbly designed, with high-quality colour scans of all the registers linked to database transcripts of personal and place names. It is possible to zero in on particular families or browse the registers page by page. A Google map, at the wonderfully-

named [atomik.kerrycoco.ie](http://atomik.kerrycoco.ie), identifies the precise location of each graveyard with records online. And the information in the later registers is very detailed indeed, supplying name, address, age, religion, occupation, cause of death, dates of death and burial, and even, in some cases, next of kin. The records have all the blessed messiness of reality. Among the recorded causes of death are "Jondus", "Ill health" and "Suddenly".

The site is [kerrylaburials.ie](http://kerrylaburials.ie) and for anyone with Kerry connections, it is essential.

[irishroots@irishtimes.com](mailto:irishroots@irishtimes.com)  
[irishtimes.com/ancestor](http://irishtimes.com/ancestor)

\* From John M. Dooley..... I think you will find these articles interesting...thanks, John.

Here's an update on our plans to honor the Irish who immigrated to the Quad Cities. Attached is a link to an article in the Quad City Times on delivery of stone from Donegal

[http://qctimes.com/news/local/stones-arrive-for-irish-memorial/article\\_0a4b914c-d5d8-11e0-8634-001cc4c03286.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/stones-arrive-for-irish-memorial/article_0a4b914c-d5d8-11e0-8634-001cc4c03286.html)

and a link to the St Patrick Society of the Quad Cities with details and photos of the memorial.

<http://www.stpatsqc.com/IrishMemorial.htm>

\* From Michael Green's newsletter... <http://www.ireland-information.com/aug11.htm>

for those of you who enjoy a wee drop of amber... what a story...

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**SEAMUS MACGEE'S IRISH AMBER**  
by Jimmy McGhee

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**Foreword:**

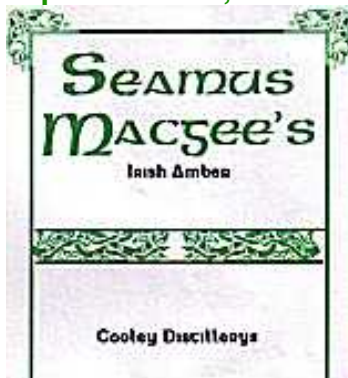
I wrote a story and designed a bottle to win a bottle of whiskey from John Teeling at Cooley Distillery. The premise was that he had found 2500 cases of a premium single malt Irish whiskey when they reopened the distillery, and needed a name and a bottle designed for it. The prize was a bottle of whiskey from the first cask opened from the Director's private stock. I won bottle number 169 which I still have unopened.

Attached are the story, the bottle and a scene I made to depict how we make whiskey in Ireland. I did the scene because when I asked all of the pubs in San Francisco why they did not carry Cooley whiskey they all told me that it was not known to be Irish. I thought John Teeling might take it to heart and use it in an advertisement.

Jimmy McGhee

**SEAMUS MACGEE'S IRISH AMBER**

My entry to name the newly found Irish and to describe the bottle will require a wee tale that has to date not been known apart from my family. You see long ago my great great grandfather came to America from Ireland by way of Scotland, all that he possessed was just one case of the most exquisite Irish Whiskey that had ever wet a whistle, this Irish was hungrily hoarded by my great great grandfather. To be sure it was the finest that had ever been tasted, all who tried it said so. That being said the family was still always dumbfounded by the way he would caress the elegant bottles as though they had a life all of their own, as though they were magical. We surely thought that they were because great great grandfather made those twelve lovely bottles last the remainder of his life, no one had knowledge of where they had come from or how he had come to have them in his possession, and all of his life he had kept it a secret, never a hint, or a word until the time came for him to pass on.





When my great great grandfather knew that his time on this earth was drawing to a close he gathered the family together and was at last going to explain the presence of the exquisite Irish Amber as he had called it. So then here is the story as it was passed down to me. We have never told the story outside of the family for surely everyone would think us mad. However I have come to believe that someone who is Irish truly Irish would find this tale quite plausible, so here it goes. It happened like this....

You see when my great great grandfather was a young man he was prone to partaking of one measure too many. Now not to think ill of him God rest his soul for I am sure he was not alone in his devotion to the Irish. Any way one night as he was staggering home he happened upon a Leprechaun who noticed his state and thought to torment him for the rest of his days by offering my great great grandfather a measure of what was the finest Irish Amber there was, for you see it belonged to the King of the Leprechaun's. So the measure was offered and taken and it was so lovely that my great great grandfather actually sobered up with the appreciation of it, personally I believe that what sobered him was the scheming of how he was going to acquire more of the Irish for it was truly amazing. You see the thing was there were 2500 cases of the King of the Leprechaun's Irish Amber and as the story goes each case had a Leprechaun to guard it, now in each case there were 12 lovely bottles of the clearest crystal they were rounder more than taller and had a longer neck to get a better purchase whilst pouring, and as the King got very angry if he received a short measure each bottle had a stopper that also held exactly one perfect measure. Oh! and the bottles also had rings cut into them so the King of the Leprechaun's could tell if anyone had been at any of his bottles, you see that way he could easily see if the level in any of the bottles of his prized Irish Amber had ever dropped, for you see no one but the King was allowed to have a taste of his whiskey.

*Making Whiskey in Ireland*



As the Leprechaun told the rest of the tale of how the King of the Leprechaun's had hidden the Irish right out in the open in a huge granite distillery aging warehouse in the Cooley Mountains my great great grandfather hatched his scheme and put it to work, he picked and picked and taunted the Leprechaun for having to guard the King's Irish and not being able to have any for himself finally the leprechaun was so mad that he told my great great grandfather of a way to trap each Leprechaun in a solid block of the Irish Amber, in that way all of the Irish could be theirs alone. Now my great great grandfather was not about to share with the Leprechaun so he tricked him and trapped him also, and that is why each bottle of Irish has a small solid block of Irish Amber with a Leprechaun attached to it, it is also why you never see a Leprechaun.

Now my great great grandfather thought that he had all of the Kings Irish to himself, but he had not thought about how he was going to get the Irish out of the warehouse, so he thought that he would break into the warehouse and take it, only he was discovered and barely escaped with his life. He got one case of the King of the Leprechaun's Irish so he made for America and that is that.

Sadly my great great grandfather passed on before he was able to tell how it was that the Leprechaun's were trapped in the solid blocks of Irish Amber so I guess we will never know.

So there you have it, when I heard of the 2500 cases that you had discovered I felt compelled to finally let the truth be told and that is why I think that it should be called Seamus Macgee's Irish Amber in recognition of my great great grandfather who, by the way, was Seamus Macgee.

\* With thanks to Geraldine Clarke from Y-IRL list...

Thought you all would be interested in this article from the Irish Times about Jackie Clarke (no relation!!) and the amount of history that he collected.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/weekend/2011/0820/1224302739229.html>

Also [www.clarkecollection.ie](http://www.clarkecollection.ie)

\* With thanks to Christina Hunt of IGP... <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/>

We have just added 160 photos and text from St. Flannan's Cathedral Graveyard (Church of Ireland), Killaloe. Also St. Flannan's Memorials.

These were photographed and transcribed by Yvonne Russell, who is also working on Mount Jerome in Dublin.

To view go to: <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/> Click on CLARE and then Headstones.

also courtesy of Christina... free Irish books available online:  
<http://freeirishgenebooks.blogspot.com/>

There have been a whole lot of extra records added to IGP archives... please revisit regularly. I haven't the space to add the lot here this time, so have just included Clare, but you can go look for yourselves at the link at the beginning of this paragraph.

HELP NEEDED... Christina and her team need your help if anyone is available just now please...

" I have 2 more sets of Clare cemetery photos coming in and only one headstone transcriber. I need a couple more to get these online quickly.

If you feel this is something you would like to do, let me know off list. (It helps to

have good vision and good typing skills.) [chrisnina@gmail.com](mailto:chrisnina@gmail.com) Thanks! "

\* From my own blog..... <http://thatmomentintime-crissouli.blogspot.com/>

History Wall... Irish to Australia...

then wander through the older posts as listed at the bottom of the page and you will find a selection of Co Clare Family Notices transcribed from Trove, parts 1 & 2 so far...

Look through the links on the left hand side for some great Irish sites, then below that are some very interesting blogs, some of which I have mentioned before.

\* **REMAINS OF NED KELLY DISCOVERED**

The remains of Irish-Australian folk hero Ned Kelly have been unearthed from their Melbourne mass grave, 130 years after his death. Kelly was hanged for killing three policemen in 1880 and was regarded as a vital symbol of resistance to British rule in nineteenth century Australia.



Ned Kelly  
(1855-1880)

He was famous for wearing home-made body armour. DNA tests carried out on the bones were compared to DNA from his living relatives to confirm the discovery.

It has since been said that his remains were found buried in an axe box. There is a very large number of descendants still in Australia.

\* From the Irish Culture and Customs newsletter... various snippets from the counties.... <http://www.irishcultureandcustoms.com/01News/Home.html>

**Biddy Early's house is up for sale**

The cottage owned by nineteenth century herbalist Biddy Early, the Wise Woman of Clare, at Dromore Hill near Feakle has been put on the market by its present owner, Billy Loughnane. However he is anxious that whoever buys it will respect the heritage aspect of the property, which is now derelict. The hope is that it will be restored as a tourist attraction as it already has a steady stream of visitors every year. The asking price for the cottage is €75,000 and Mayor of Clare Pat Hayes has also expressed the hope that it will become a greater draw for tourists.

**Kerry: From milk to lager for Dingle creamery**

The Dingle Creamery opened in 1889 and produced milk until the 1970s, but now it is producing another kind of liquid. The plant has been taken over by the Dingle Brewing

Company and its first product, Crean's, was introduced at the Beerfest in Annascaul, the home of Arctic explorer Tom Crean. The lager was the work of consultant brewer Tim O'Rourke and is already available in five pubs in the town, according to Jerry O'Sullivan who is originally from Kildare. By next month he expects the brew to be sold in twenty pubs, including some in Kildare and Ranelagh in Dublin.

#### **Kildare: Newbridge man in kayak adventure**

Declan Breen from Newbridge, a member of the Defence Forces who is now confined to a wheelchair following an accident, has undertaken the crossing between Ireland and Scotland in a kayak. Declan was joined by two other kayakers, also affected by spinal injuries, and they left from Groomstown in Co. Down on Monday morning for the forty-kilometre journey to Portpatrick in Scotland. The trio are raising funds for the support services provided by Spinal Injuries Ireland.

#### **Kilkenny: Amanda catches rare visitor on film**

Local photographer Amanda Burke was in the right place at the right time last week to capture an image of a rare visitor to the city. Amanda was crossing John's Bridge in Kilkenny city where a crowd of people had gathered to watch an otter playing in the River Nore. Amanda was lucky to have her camera with her and she jumped over the wall and ran down to the railings along the bank. There she focused on bubbles in the water until the otter resurfaced, when she was able to get a perfect picture.

#### **Clare: Rare catch by New Quay fisherman**

On display in Martina Sweeney's seafood shop in New Quay is a rare blue lobster caught by her husband Gerry off the Clare coast recently. Only one in three million lobsters is born with the genetic defect that gives them their blue colour, which also makes them easy prey and it is very rare to catch one. The unusual catch has its own special display tank in the seafood shop and Gerry and Maura have no intention of either selling it or putting it into the pot with the other lobsters.

#### **Cork: Development Association has plans for Doneraile**

The members of the Doneraile Development Association, under the chairmanship of Willie Hallihan, have drawn up plans which will include the addition of restaurants and cafes to Doneraile Court. It is also envisaged that some of the historic gardens should be opened to the public, with the restoration of a five-acre garden which dates back to the seventeenth century. The association will work in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, which at present owns Doneraile Court, and is hoping that visitor numbers will rise from the present 100,000 annual visitors to 300,000.

#### **Derry: Derry celebrates Walled Towns Day**

As one of the Walled Towns of Ireland Derry will this weekend be celebrating Irish Walled Towns Day. The events will be centred on the city's walls and the refurbished Guildhall Square and will include a festival Seafood Market on Saturday while the Walled City Market will take place on Sunday. Local musicians will perform for the crowds and there will also be free tours of the Guildhall. On the Foyle the traditional Foyle punt will feature, while falconry displays, arts and crafts workshops and a climbing wall will also provide entertainment.

#### **Dublin: Pub launches amnesty scheme**

A pub in Stoneybatter has launched an amnesty in an attempt to retrieve a number of items stolen from the premises over the past months. Mulligan's gastropub prides itself on its quirky menus, cutlery and other items, but some, including Scrabble-piece table signs, are so original and attractive that diners have been pocketing them. Now Seaneen Sullivan

has placed a box at the end of the bar where items can be returned, and he has made sure that it is out of sight of security cameras.

#### **Fermanagh: Bull goes walkabout on Sligo Road**

Local residents of the Sligo Road in Enniskillen were left somewhat bemused as they spent an hour watching the antics of a bull which had escaped from its owner's trailer. Ray Bell noticed the animal leaving the trailer and heading straight for the house opposite his, where it trampled the garden before pausing briefly at the front door. It was eventually chased for a mile to the Derrylin Road, near the entrance to Tracey Concrete, before being recaptured and returned to the trailer.

#### **Galway: Jenny will follow the trail of the monks**

Jenny Beale, who founded Brigit's Garden in Rosscahill outside Galway, is setting out this weekend on a six hundred mile cycle which will link her present home with her childhood home in West Sussex. In undertaking the sixteen-day journey Jenny will be raising funds both for Brigit's Garden and for the Chichester Harbour Trust in West Sussex. A group of monks led by Dicul set out from Lough Corrib in the seventh century and founded the only known early Irish monastery on the south coast of England, at Old Bosham.

#### **Louth: Local gardens location for film**

Listoke Gardens in Drogheda, owned by Patrick and Patricia Barrow, is expecting more than three hundred cast and crew members to arrive for the filming of the €50m budget "Asterix and Obelix: God Save Britannia". The film, featuring French actor Gerard Depardieu, is the fourth in the series and the makers want the six-acre Edwardian garden to resemble the Queen of England's garden in Roman times. To this end Patrick and Patricia have been asked to leave the lawns and hedges untended until filming is complete.

#### **Mayo: 'Quiet Man' star to visit Cong**

Maureen O'Hara, who played the part of Mary Kate Danaher in the 1950 film 'The Quiet Man', is coming to Cong at the end of the month for the inaugural Quiet Man Festival. Cong is the village which provided the location for the John Ford film and Ms O'Hara will be hosted by Ashford Castle while she is guest of honour at the festival. Also said to be attending is a daughter of her co-star John Wayne, and the Saturday of the weekend festival has been designated Thornton Family Day. John Wayne's character was named Seán Thornton and all members of the Thornton clan are encouraged to visit Cong on the day.

#### **Clare: Sixmilebridge mart to reopen this week**

A group of farmers and other local people have raised €300,000 to enable the reopening of Sixmilebridge mart, which was closed by owners Golden Vale Marts at the end of 2009. A group of six hundred farmers have become shareholders in the mart, which is based on a four and a half acre site, and the first sale is due to take place on August 27. Manager of the new facility is Seán Ryan of Co.

Galway, who previously managed Athenry Mart, and sales will be held on Saturdays to suit the number of part-time farmers in the area.

#### **Cork: 'Missing' plane had been sold**

A couple living in Australia were told that a Soviet biplane on their land in the Mealagh Valley, which they had been intending to turn into a holiday home, had been stolen. It transpired, however, that the same Antonov An-2 aircraft had taken part in two parades,

winning first prize in the Bandon Festival fancy dress parade. The plane had been bought in good faith by scrap dealer Andrew Wilson, who sold it on to Robert Bennett, who runs an agri-machinery business. The owners, Les and Deirdre Carter, were delighted it had been found and plan to return to their west Cork home in the near future.

#### Westmeath: From weekly column to book for Gearoid

For twenty-one years Gearoid O'Brien has been writing a weekly column in the Westmeath Independent on aspects of the town's heritage and history. And now the History Press has published a collection of Gearoid's work in 'Athlone Miscellany' which was launched by the newspaper's editor, Tadhg Carey, at the Aidan Heavey Public Library during the week. This is his sixteenth publication, having produced booklets on John McCormack and on Archbishop Michael J. Curley from Athlone who became Archbishop of Baltimore-Washington.

\* For those interested in transcriptions rather than full copies of certificates, Marilyn Rowan has reintroduced her Thrifty Thursday offer for September... She also offers overseas certificates, etc.

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#### THRIFTY THURSDAYS ARE BACK FOR SEPTEMBER!

**\$16 FULL NSW TRANSCRIPTIONS** from 5pm Wed to 5pm Thurs AEST for each Thursday in September 2011(1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th)

[transcriptions.com.au](http://transcriptions.com.au)

\* From the QLD State Library...

Discover early Moreton Bay records with the State Library of Queensland's latest index – "Letters received relating to Moreton Bay and Queensland 1822-1860" -

<http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/3163>

Family and local historians will be excited by the launch of the Brisbane City Council Heritage Database. The database encompasses Brisbane's heritage buildings as well as other places of significance. <http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/3152>

Discover more about Queensland's vibrant and colourful history by following the John Oxley Library blog. The blog is constantly being updated with interesting stories of our state's past (and present) whilst showcasing the wonderful, historical collections of the State Library of Queensland. While you're there, feel free to leave a comment on your favourite notice.

<http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/3159>

Did your British ancestors work a trade such as blacksmith, baker, weaver or shoemaker? Then it is probable that he/she initially started their working career as someone's apprentice. Ancestry has just released "Register of Duties Paid for Apprentices' Indentures, 1710-1811" which may prove useful to your family history research.

<http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/3160>

The Pine Rivers Heritage Museum presents "An Early Pastoral History of Moreton Bay" on 14 September. The guest speaker is local historian Leith Barter, who will talk about the early settlers and landowners of the region. <http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/3121>

Queensland naturalisations Index 1851-1904 - <http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/1335>

The sad tale of Thomas Beynon - stories from the records-  
<http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/2677>

Do you have London ancestors? - try London Lives -  
<http://www.slq.nnub.net/notice/show/1192>

\* If you were looking for extra copies of Alan Counihans Fieldnames Research Handbook. Copies can be downloaded at

<http://www.townlands.net/a-field-name-research-handbook/>

After all this, I think it's time for a smile... a new twist on an old tale....

Two women were sitting next to each other at a bar.

After a while, one looks at the other and says, 'I can't help but think, from listening to you, that you're from Ireland.'

The other woman responds proudly, 'Yes, I sure am!'

The first one says, 'So am I! And where about in Ireland are ya from?'

The other woman answers, 'I'm from Dublin, I am.'

The first one responds, 'So, am I!! And what street did you live on in Dublin?'

The other woman says, 'A lovely little area.. It was in the west end. I lived on Warbury Street in the old central part of town.'

The first one says, 'Faith, and it's a small world. So did I! So did I! And what school did ya go to?'

The other woman answers, 'Well now, I went to Holy Heart of Mary, of course.'

The first one gets really excited and says, 'And so did I! Tell me, what year did you graduate?'

The other woman answers, 'Well, now, let's see. I graduated in 1964.'

The first woman exclaims, 'The Good Lord must be smiling down upon us! I can hardly believe our good luck at winding up in the same pub tonight! Can you believe it? I graduated from Holy Heart of Mary in 1964 me self!'

About this time, Michael walks into the bar, sits down, and orders a beer.

Brian, the bartender, walks over to Michael shaking his head and mutters, 'It's going to be a long night tonight.'

Michael asks, 'Why do you say that, Brian?'

Brian answers, 'The Murphy twins are drunk again'

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Apologies for the change in margins... I simply don't have the time just now to retype and reset...

Thank you everyone...

Chris Goopy (Australia) and Kate Welch (USA)  
Diaspora Coordinators  
Clare Roots Society

<http://clareroots.org/>