



O'MAHOONY

IN

SAVANNAH

The O'Mahony Society



## 2003 USA Get-Together Savannah, Georgia

Date: October 10th -13th, 2003

**PLEASE JOIN US.** Why Savannah? Most importantly, there is an O Mahony connection. Prominent in the history of Savannah is the heroic figure of Mother Mary Vincent Mahoney, foundress of St. Vincent's Academy on Liberty Street. Bishop John England of Charleston, South Carolina, brought her to America in 1832, where she joined his Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. In 1845 she came to Savannah and remained for 13 years, devoting her life to education and the care of the sick and the orphaned. The Academy, located near the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, is still operated by The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. We will visit the convent and Academy, and have a brief ceremony to honor Mother Mahoney.

Charming Savannah has glorious weather in October, with an average temperature of 68° F (20° C). Nearby Hilton Head, South Carolina is famous for its golf, the regional Low Country cuisine is delicious, but most importantly, picturesque Savannah has many Irish connections. There were 9 Irishmen among



Forsyth Park Fountain. This 20-acre park located on Bull Street was laid out by the city in 1851 and named after Georgia Governor John Forsyth.

the group of settlers to whom George Oglethorpe granted land in 1733. By mid-nineteenth century, nearly 70% of foreigners in Savannah were Irish. They came to do the work of building the city, in heavy construction and in unloading the cargo on the city docks that made Savannah a prosperous port. The Irish remain one of the largest and most influential ethnic groups today.

Currently there are 13 active Irish organizations in Savannah. Beginning in 1824, Savannah's St. Patrick's Day parade is now the 2nd largest in the country. In fact, as many New York City policemen and firemen are in Savannah's parade as are in New York City's own. The Irish Festival, held the 2nd weekend of February, kicks off 4 weeks of events, culminating in the parade on St. Patrick's Day.





# WEEKEND SCHEDULE

## Friday

Optional (Dutch) Dinner at Dockside Restaurant – located in the oldest Cotton Exchange Building in Savannah. Meet at 6:15PM in hotel lobby for a 10-minute walk to restaurant, located at 201 W. River St. (River St. by Barnard St. Ramp). Limited metered parking is available on River Street for those who prefer to drive. River Street is one-way, west to east.

## Saturday

Breakfast on your own, try Huey's on River Street for New Orleans' style breakfast

10AM—Noon: Genealogy workshop in the Chippewa room, adjacent to the O Mahony room. If you have not registered for the banquet, there will be a \$10 charge to attend this workshop.

Noon: Optional (Dutch) Lunch at *6-Pence Pub*, on Bull Street at intersection with Liberty Street, kitty-corner to hotel. This pub appeared in the motion picture *Something to Talk About* with Julia Roberts.

2PM: Custom tour of Savannah with accent on Irish contribution, including stop at "The Catholic Cemetery" where we will lay flowers on the grave of Mother Mary Vincent Mahoney. Meet in the hotel lobby at 1:50 PM.

Evening: On your own. Many will go to The Lady & Sons Restaurant, in the historic City Market at 311 W. Congress Street. The restaurant features traditional Southern cooking and the proprietress, Paula Dean, has a national TV show on the Food Channel. Meet in hotel lobby at 6:45PM for the 15 minute walk to the restaurant..

## Sunday

10 AM: Mass at St. John the Baptist Cathedral.

11:15 AM: Tour of St. Vincent's Convent, home of Sr. Mary Vincent Mahoney. Meet outside the convent at 206 E. Liberty Street, adjacent to the Cathedral.

Noon: Optional (Dutch) Champagne Brunch in hotel.

6 PM: Cocktails in the Harborview Room of the DeSoto Hilton.

6:45 PM: Tenth Annual Get-Together Banquet with special Guest Speaker.

Former Taoiseach Jim Mahoney from Melbourne has graciously agreed to act as Master of Ceremonies.

Guest Speaker: James Buttimer, MA

"By Their Deeds You Shall Know Them: The Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in Georgia"

Banquet entertainment: Traditional Irish music (although all O Mahonys should have their party piece prepared).



Everyone is welcome to attend mass at the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist (above), the oldest Catholic church in Georgia.



# BOOK YOUR HOTEL NOW!!!

## Get-Together Headquarters:

The DeSoto-Hilton  
15 East Liberty Street  
(912) 232-9000.



Located in the heart of Savannah's historic district, the Desoto-Hilton is surrounded by magnificently restored homes, historic churches and moss-draped oaks, yet is only 20 minutes from Savannah's International Airport.

Ten rooms have been set aside for the Society at the significantly reduced rate of \$115 per night (plus only \$5 per night for parking). To obtain this rate, **reservations must be made by September 19, 2003.** Call (912) 232-9000.



A view of Savannah, from the banquet room of the DeSoto Hilton. Savannah was the original capital of Georgia, America's 13th Colony.



## **2003 Savannah Get-Together Event Registration**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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Reservations for events are on a first-come, first-served basis; and must be received no later than October 4, 2003. Please indicate below which activities you plan to attend and send this form, along with your check (payable to O Mahony Society) to Jean Dinwiddie, 106 Tulip Drive, Gaithersburg, MD 20877. E-mail: jeandin@aol.com.

- # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, October 11th, Genealogy Workshop (\$10/person if not attending dinner)
- # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, Custom Irish Tour of Savannah (\$25/person);
- # \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, Annual Dinner (\$50/person);
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total**



The O'Mahony Society



## THE O MAHONY CONNECTION: Mother Mary Vincent Mahoney

Prominent in the history of the city of Savannah, Georgia, is the heroic figure of Mother Vincent Mahoney, who was born Elizabeth O Mahony in Cork City, Ireland, about 1805. In 1834 she came to Charleston with Bishop John England and joined the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy, a diocesan institute under his leadership. The England and O Mahony families in Cork knew each other well—John England having ordained Elizabeth's older brother, Alexander, as one of his first Episcopal duties in September 1820. .

Mother Mary Vincent left Charleston in 1845 at the request of Father Jeremiah O'Neill, pastor of St. John the Baptist Catholic church in Savannah, where she became the first Superior of the convent on Liberty Street, on land adjacent to the church, and foundress of St. Vincent's Academy. She held that position for thirteen years, beloved by all with whom she came in contact. It was at that period of her life that she received news of the death of her beloved brother, Rev. Alexander O Mahony, P.P., of St. Michael's, Blackrock, who died of famine fever in 1849. She later held positions of trust in Augusta, in Macon, and in Atlanta where she died at age 68 in 1873. She was an outstanding leader, exhibiting both physical stamina as a nursing nun and extraordinary administrative ability as an educator. She is buried in Savannah, where the O Mahony Society plans to put flowers on her grave on the October 13 weekend.

Jimmy Buttimer, our guest speaker at the banquet, wrote his thesis on "John England's Sisterhood," and is passionate in his support of the large, active Irish community of Savannah.

Contact the planning committee at  
[mahonysavannah2003@yahoo.com](mailto:mahonysavannah2003@yahoo.com)

### To help you plan your trip:

- ⇒ The average temperature in Savannah in October is a high of 79° F (26°C) and a low of 58° F (14°C)
- ⇒ Transportation from the airport to hotel:
  - \* B&B Shuttle \$15 one-way, or \$25 round-trip. Call (912) 964-1411
  - \* Taxi for \$20 + \$5 per extra person one-way
- ⇒ The O Mahony Room at the hotel will be the Desoto Hilton's Monterey Room
- ⇒ The DeSoto Hilton's Concierge is William Bryant.
- ⇒ Maps of Savannah's Historic District, including a schedule of the free CAT shuttle bus, will be provided in a welcome packet
- ⇒ Bring comfortable walking shoes.

