

O'MAHONY NEWSLETTER

The O'Mahony Society



Muintir Mhathúna

May/June 2011

Issue 41

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2011 Gathering Rossmore Castle, Durrus, June 17-19th

The 2011 Gathering will be held the weekend of June 17th, 18th and 19th, in Bantry. Due to unforeseen circumstances, it has been necessary to change headquarters for the 2011 Gathering to Bantry from Schull as previously planned. We apologize for these changes, which unfortunately were beyond our control.

On Sunday, the rally will take place at Rossmore Castle, near Durrus in the Muintervara peninsula. The last O Mahony Gathering attended by Eoin "The Pope" O Mahony was held at Rossmore Castle in 1969. The 1992 Gathering was also held at Rossmore.

HEADQUARTERS:

The base of operations will be at the Maritime Hotel in Bantry. The Maritime Hotel offers 4 star hotel accommodation with panoramic views of Bantry Bay. The hotel features over 100 designer bedrooms, many offering sea views and balconies, while others overlook mature woods. Information, pictures, and reservation



Rossmore Castle, Durrus, Co. Cork
Photo by Joachim S. Müller (http://www.flickr.com/photos/joachim_s_mueller/)



The Maritime Hotel, Bantry

information can be accessed via:
www.themaritime.ie or telephone (027) 54700

Bed and breakfast accommodations and self-catering holiday homes are also plentiful in the area. These can be accessed online or at Bantry Tourism Association, New Street, Bantry, Co. Cork. Ireland.
bantryta@westcork.com or telephone (027) 50229

The program of events stands as previously announced (see page 3). Events will take place at the Maritime Hotel in Bantry and at Rossmore Castle near Durrus, approximately 10 miles from Bantry.

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NEWS FROM NORA

CARTLANNAI (ARCHIVIST) OF MUINTIR MHATHÚNA AND
EDITOR OF THE OMAHONY SOCIETY JOURNAL



The Irish outlook looks somewhat positive after dreadful winter months of bad weather and a worse economy. Here is my latest information in Irish Family History.

The 1926 Census of Ireland:

For some years the Council for Irish Genealogical Organisation (CIGO - www.cigo.ie) has campaigned for access to the 1926 census. As you know, those of 1901 and 1911 are online at www.census.nationalarchive.ie – with the warning that there are several errors in the transcription. And, although one is invited to correct errors online, the harsh reality is that there is no budget for corrections.

As 1921 was the period of “The Troubles”, no census taking was possible. Thus the next census was done in 1926, and legally should not be available until 2026. However, as both the 1901 and 1911 were released several years before their centuries had expired, the hope was that this concession could also apply to that of 1926. Note to US members; aren't you lucky your ruling is 70 years, not 100?

It seems that the 1926 census was mentioned in the Fine Gael General Election Manifesto (available at <http://goo.gl/fvgU6>). This referred to the potential for Roots Tourism, and thus a probably early release of this census. When this will happen, I do not know, nor when it will be online.

The actual quotation: **Genealogy Tourism: Fine Gael will examine the feasibility of releasing the 1926 census to stimulate genealogy tourism. We will also explore philanthropic opportunities for the development of a national archives and genealogy quarter, providing easy access to archives and tapping into an area of cultural tourism which is of huge interest to the vast Irish diaspora.**

The concept of Genealogy Tourism is now important in the UK. Scotland held a year-long Homecoming Festival, and in the coming week Dr. Nick Barrett, the expert from BBC's *Who Do You Think You Are?* programme, will be the keynote speaker at a conference in England aimed at promoting family tree tourism. Dr. Barrett credits the Irish with this concept: “*Ancestral tourism is absolutely huge It started with Ireland reaching out to the Atlantic market and bringing people back in the country to trace their relatives from the 1800s. This was then taken to Scotland and it really showed heritage could be used as a tourism enticement.*”

Certificate of Irishness

There was a very interesting report in *The Irish Times* of

Monday, June 21, 2010. Paul Cullen announced that a “Certificate of Irishness” would shortly be available. The out-going government planned to introduce a certificate of Irish heritage for the Irish Diaspora - 70 million plus – who do not qualify for citizenship. Genealogical proof showing the links between the applicant and an Irish-born parent or grand-parent, is required for citizenship.

This is one of the initiatives proposed at Global Irish Economic Forum at Farnleigh last year. The procedure is that certificates will be issued by a third party agency acting under licence from the Department of Foreign Affairs, which is considering charging a fee for each document issued.

The report stated: *Some speakers at last year's forum were critical of the disconnection between Ireland and members of the diaspora, particularly those unable to qualify for citizenship by virtue of having a parent or grandparent born in Ireland. The forum also highlighted the role the emigrant network could play in helping Ireland improve its economic fortunes.*

www.askaboutireland.ie

This a wonderful web site developed by the libraries of Ireland. Not only, as I have written before, can one access – for free – the Griffith's Valuation of Ireland, but now one can download from its collection of Digital Books. Not all counties are yet represented in this listing, but as the work is ongoing, this is a website to continue to monitor. For example, below are the titles available under the heading Geography of Ireland:

- Coyne & Bartlett: The Scenery and Antiquities of Ireland
- Cole: Memoirs of a Geological Survey of Ireland
- Grierson: A Natural History of Ireland
- Joyce: Irish Names of Places
- Lewis: A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland
- Luckombe: A Tour through Ireland
- Otway: A Tour of Connaught
- Scale: Hibernian Atlas
- Taylor & Skinner: Map of the Roads of Ireland Surveyed 1777
- Trotter: Walks through Ireland
- Twiss: A Tour in Ireland

One important aspect of the Valuation information is the access to the actual 6 inch townland maps, showing all the

(Continued on page 9)

TAOISEACH'S MESSAGE

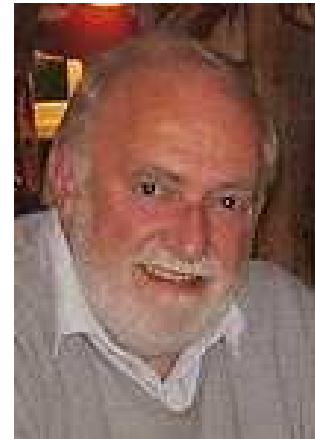
Warmest greetings to all members, family and friends of Muintir Mathúna. I look forward to seeing many of you in June at our annual Gathering of the clan.

As you will see in this Newsletter, we have had to rearrange our headquarters from the Harbour View hotel in Schull to the Maritime Hotel in Bantry. We were sorry to hear that the Harbour View has closed. The management and staff there have been very hospitable to us over the years and we hope that things improve for them in the future.

However, the Maritime is a beautiful newly built hotel and comes highly recommended. I am sure that we will very much enjoy the hospitality there too. I send my personal thanks to our Council members in Ireland who very quickly made the new arrangements on our behalf, so that we were able to inform members of the change as quickly as possible.

The rally is to be held as planned at Rossmore Castle, a short distance from Bantry. We can also look forward to seeing and hearing the talented young Irish singers and musicians who entertained us so well at the Gathering and the Banquet last year.

Like Ireland itself, the O Mahony society is to have a new Taoiseach. I will be handing over to Tánaiste Jean Dinwidie at Rossmore. Jean has served us in many ways over the years. She has been Council member, Runai and



Tánaiste but still finds time to produce the Newsletter which you are reading now. She will be an excellent and knowledgeable Taoiseach.

I wish her and the members all the very best for the future.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all those in Ireland and beyond who have provided so much help, support and guidance to me and to Mary over the last three years.

We both look forward to seeing you again in June.

With very best wishes



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:

Unless otherwise stated, all events will take place at the Maritime Hotel.

Friday, June 17th (evening)

There will be an informal welcome and get-together

Saturday, June 18th

10AM Genealogy/yDNA Session

2:30PM Visit to Bantry House and Gardens

Meet at the hotel at approximately 2PM. Bantry House is one of the finest historic houses in Ireland and commands a spectacular view overlooking Bantry Bay. The house is still owned and lived in by Egerton Shelswell-White, a direct descendant of the Earl of Bantry.

5PM Council Meeting

7PM AGM

Buffet meal immediately following AGM

Cost announced at AGM

Sunday, June 19th

1:30PM Picnic and Gathering at Rossmore Castle



3PM Gathering Ceremony and Speakers

Inauguration of new Taoiseach, speakers, interviews, entertainment provided by young Irish musicians.

7:30 for 8PM Farewell banquet

Banquet will be followed by entertainment provided by young Irish musicians. Cost announced at AGM

Monday, June 20th

Visit to Glengarriff and boat trip to Garnish (Illnacullin Island) to visit their beautiful gardens. Times to be arranged. This is an optional activity, weather permitting.

Any queries please contact Runai Mary O'Mahony:

email: pommom@omahony273.freeserve.co.uk

phone: (0044) (0) 1368 850273



Rossmore Castle

The 2011 Gathering will take place on the grounds of Rossmore Castle, near Durrus in the Muintervara peninsula. Information on the castle's origins is sparse, and what does exist is sometimes contradictory. Pages 4 and 5 of this Newsletter contain some excerpts on Rossmore castle itself, as well as some explanations of why the castle's origins have been a matter of debate.

Excerpted from *The Castles and Fortified Houses of West Cork* by Michael J. Carroll

Ros Mór Large Headland
Townland: Rossmore
Parish: Durrus Dubh Ros Black Grove

The remains of this castle are so fragmentary that its original design is difficult to pinpoint. The north wall stands to three storeys, but others have crumbled away. There are indications of a ground-floor entrance, spiral stairway and gun loops. Its situation overlooking the once thriving harbour of Dunmanus Bay would have lent this early castle some weight.

Rossmore castle stands on a little headland close to Durrus Court (not to be confused with Lord Bandon's summer house of the same name), which was itself erected by the MacCarthy Muclaghs. It was this clan that took over the ownership of Rossmore from the O Mahonys at an early stage in its history. At nearby Culnalong, just to add to the confusion, was another stronghold of the MacCarthy Muclaghs which has at times been mistaken for Rossmore. Off the shore is Mannin's Island, the site of an early, walled fortification.



Rossmore Castle (above and below)

Photo by Joachim S. Müller (http://www.flickr.com/photos/joachim_s_mueller)



Excerpted from *West Cork and Its Story* by Jeremiah O Mahony

I have not given an exhaustive list of the Irish and Norman castles, and in some cases the origin of those castles I have mentioned is obscure, some assigning their erection to different families from those I have given. Thus it will be seen I have given the same castle as being owned by different families.

This is consistent with fact, as many castles were built by Normans and afterwards occupied by Irish, and vice versa, so that a certain amount of confusion arises in a few instances. Then again some castles were destroyed during the course of conflict and were later rebuilt by the victors. Hence in many cases castles may have changed hands more than once, and so we have contradictory claims as to their origin and ownership.



Rossmore Castle

Photo by Mike Searle (<http://www.geograph.org.uk/article/Castles-Ireland/2>)

Rosmore Castle

Excerpted from *The Castles of County Cork* by James N. Healy

Ros Mór: The Big Inlet

Rosmore Castle was built at Friendly Cove on the mainland of Sheep's Head (Muintear na Bheara) just opposite and between the two Mannion islands, off shore. There are substantial remains. According to elderly men to whom I spoke in Kilcrohane [visit: 21 April 1981] it is an O'Mahony castle, and has the appearance of being built in either the 15th or 16th century. The MacCarthy castle, or fortified residence, of Cúl-na-Long which was probably erected near the end of the 16th century, is nearby. The MacCarthy Reaghs were of course, overlords of the O Mahonys, so proximity would not necessarily be a problem. Little or nothing is known of its history, but one assumes that it was lost to the family with the other MacCarthy property in the 17th century.

It is only about a mile from Durrus Village, and can clearly be seen at the edge of the sea, near its little cove.



Rosmore Castle
Photo by Joachim S. Müller (http://www.flickr.com/photos/joachim_s_mueller)

Another definition of MacCarthyism.

Adapted from Autumn 2003 Newsletter Issue 30 article by Eileen McConnell

The previous article extracted material on the O Mahony castles from a book entitled *The Castles of County Cork* by James N. Healy. The article states, "The MacCarthy Reaghs were of course, overlords of the O'Mahonys." Unfortunately, Healy accepted and reprinted an erroneous oversimplification of the complicated story of the O Mahony vs. MacCarthy in County Cork.

Careful historians have worked to correct the error which was probably picked up from a 16th century false claim by Owen MacCarthy Reagh at the close of the Desmond Rebellion (circa 1588). At the time in Cork, Barry Ogue ruled in Kinalea, O Mahony in Kinelmeaky, and Mac-

Carthy in Carbery. During this turbulent uprising of the Irish lords, Owen MacCarthy Reagh supported the English Crown, while Barry Ogue and the O Mahony supplied horse and kerne to the Geraldine rebels. Documents produced at the settlement of the Desmond Rebellion, granting pardons, rewarding soldiers and supporters of the King, and punishing the defeated rebels, show that Owen MacCarthy Reagh sought his reward by use of the sole argument that "Kinelmeaky was part of Carbery" and he was "Lord of Carbery," and consequently should be the overlord of that barony. However, since he could not prove that the O Mahony had ever paid him tribute nor provide any witnesses to that effect, he failed to present to the Crown an adequate argument. Even though MacCarthy appealed the decision again the following year, Kinelmeaky was confiscated by the Crown and granted, not to MacCarthy but to two undertakers, Phane Beecher and Hugh Worth. Needless to say, the O Mahony did not, nor have they ever, acquiesced peacefully to the settlement.

The renowned historian of the O Mahony clan, Canon John O Mahony, in his work, *The O Mahonys of Kinelmeaky and Ivagha*, quotes extensively from a Justice in the case: "Kinelmeaky is and hath been since Henry II, a barony by itself, never parcel of Carbery...whether the O Mahowne of Kinelmeaky be tenant at will to the Carthy of Carbery, that is a matter never heard of before, but a feigned plea...to delude the Commissioners. But the contrary is well known, that the O Mahowne is as ancient in Kinelmeaky...chosen...according to the custom and right of the Sept, and never heard of to be either appointed or displaced by any Carthy."

James N. Healy's error concerning the MacCarthy claim to being overlords of the O Mahony is a truly regrettable error in an otherwise commendable book. We hope this layman's explanation of a very complicated story clarifies a matter so important to our kinsmen.



Road sign in Durrus

REPORT on the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, JUNE 20TH 2010

Submitted by Mary O'Mahony, Runai

ATTENDANCE (alphabetical)

Linda McConnell Baker *Council member*
 Jean McConnell Dinwiddie *Tánaiste and newsletter editor*
 Mary Haislip
 Nora Hickey *Carlannai*
 Priscilla Mahoney
 Donald Mahoney *USA Bursar*
 Bill Maney
 Shirley Maney
 Dermot O'Mahoney *Cisteoir*
 Canice O'Mahony
 Deirdre O'Mahony
 Dianne O'Mahony

Emer O'Mahony
 Eilish O'Mahony
 Finbar O'Mahony
 John F. O'Mahony *Council member*
 Madeleine O'Mahony
 Mary O'Mahony *Runai*
 Peter O'Mahony *Taoiseach*
 Tony O'Mahony
 Diarmuid Ó Mathúna *Council member*

Apologies from:

James Castellan *Webmaster*
 Greg Mahony *Australian Representative*
 Pat O'Mahony Sully

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting, June 20th, 2009, were accepted as written.

Financial reports

Cisteoir Dermot F. O'Mahoney presented his report on the income of the society. USA Bursar Donald Mahoney also circulated a statement of USA accounts. Profit for 2009 - 10 = €796. This compared to a loss in the previous year of €222. The increase in subscription charges recently introduced contributed to the profit for the year.

Election of Office Bearers and Council Members

The main office bearers were willing to remain in office.

Taoiseach : Peter O'Mahony
 Tánaiste : Jean Dinwiddie
 Cisteoir : Dermot O'Mahoney
 Carlannai: Nora Hickey
 Runai: Mary O'Mahony

Council members were willing to continue as follows:

Linda Baker, James Castellan, Greg Mahony, Donald Mahoney, Paul Mahoney, Donal O'Mahony, John F. O'Mahony, Tony O'Mahony, Diarmuid o Mathúna and Mary Siggins.

Dr Finbar O Mahony, Dublin, was proposed as a very suitable candidate to fill a vacancy that had arisen on the council. Finbar was unanimously appointed. He has a special and enthusiastic interest in the y/DNA project and is also our representative on *The Clans of Ireland*.

Constitution

The draft constitution circulated in the May/June 2010 Newsletter was approved as the finalised document.

Gatherings

a) Frequency

Peter reminded the meeting that a proposal to hold the Gathering in alternate years had been submitted for consideration last year. This proposal was discussed at length at the council meeting which had immediately preceded the AGM. Many excellent points had been argued both for and against; however in the end the majority of council members supported an annual Gathering. The AGM agreed that we will continue to host Gatherings on an annual basis.

b) Future Locations

The 2010 Gathering is again being held at Ardintenant Castle in Schull. We are indebted to the Caverley family for allowing us to hold the Gathering at Ardintenant Castle for three consecutive years. It was agreed that we will look at alternative venues for future Gatherings. The O Mahony sites at Dunmanus, Rosbrin, and Leamcon were suggested as possible venues and John F. O'Mahony will investigate the possibilities of each of these. Peter thanked John for agreeing to do this on our behalf.

It was agreed to continue to base the weekend at the Harbour View Hotel in Schull, as the management and staff have served us well for the past three years.

y/DNA Project

Peter reported that Jim Castellan (yDNA project coordinator and webmaster) had provided council members with an up-to-date report on developments in the y/DNA project. At the time of writing there were 52 participants with 51 reported. The project requires many more participants for an overall picture but in the short term the really exciting developments are always in the family matches and other discoveries. Peter expressed his appreciation to Jim for his commitment and enthusiasm to this and other projects within the Society.

The O'Mahony Journal

Editor Nora Hickey presented the 2010 journal (No. 33) to the AGM. Peter acknowledged the consistently high standard and professionalism of Nora's work.

Arrangements for current weekend

Peter outlined the arrangements as follows: A buffet meal will immediately following the AGM. The Gathering will take place at Ardintenant on Sunday. The picnic will precede the formal programme which will commence at three o'clock. John F. O'Mahony will once again signpost the road to the rally and set up the flags, podium and sound system. Speakers will be Dr Finbar O'Mahony, Julia Cotter, and Nora Hickey will present for John Lewis, who is unwell. Music at the Gathering will be provided by young O Mahony musicians supervised by Margaret Collins.

(Continued on page 11)

IN FOND MEMORY

Muintir Mhathúna loses two beloved members



Jim Mahoney

James Jerome Mahoney (Jim from Melbourne)

Jim served as Taoiseach of the Society from 1996 to 1999. His many contributions to Muintir Mhathúna include: re-instituting the USA O Mahony Get-Togethers, computerizing the Index of Mahonys in the 1901 Census of Ireland, maintaining a database of USA members, and creating a website that put the O Mahony Society on the Internet.

We send our condolences to Joanie and Jim's entire family.



Above: Dermot O Mahoney, right, passes the baton of the Taoiseach to Jim of Melbourne, left, in 1996.



Above: UK Representative John-Paul O'Mahoney (facing camera) at 2003 Gathering

John Paul O'Mahoney

John Paul was an active, long-time, and much loved member of Muintir Mhathúna. John Paul served as the UK Representative for many years.

We send our condolences to Dora, John Paul's wife of 62 years, and to his family.



Above: John Paul O'Mahoney



The West Cork Chamber Music Festival, which this year runs from 24th June to 2nd July, will be welcoming world class ensembles and a host of top international soloists for nine days of music-making in the picturesque setting of Bantry. The quartets that join the RTÉ Vanbrugh Quartet are the Auryn Quartet from Austria, Quatuor Diotima from France, the Pacifica Quartet from the United States and Norway's Barokksolistene.

Violinist Nicola Benedetti, who made her Bantry debut in 2010, returns again and will close the Festival with the per-

formance of Schumann's Piano Quartet in F Major. In what promises to be a very lively festival, coffee concerts in St. Brendan's Church will feature music by Telemann, Bach, Vivaldi, Dvorák, Schubert and many more.

The Festival welcomes Australian composer Brett Dean as the 2011 Composer in Residence. Well known broadcaster and musician Evelyn Grant will conduct a morning talk with one of the musicians performing that day. The Festival is supported by the Arts Council and Fáilte Ireland.

www.westcorkmusic.ie, +353 (0) 275 2788.

MAHONEY: VARIANT SPELLINGS IN USA CENSUS RECORD INDEXES

From Winter 2003 Newsletter (issue 29)

Contributed by Eileen Mahoney McConnell

Abstracted from Accelerated Indexing Systems (AIS) indexes of all U.S. census indexes through 1850.

Computer indexes are subject to an error rate of at least 15%. It may be that the census enumerator did not understand the accents of our ancestors, and simply re-

corded a phonetic rendition of what he heard. The enumerations are all handwritten, and the indexer may have misread certain letters, for example, a "u" for an "n" in the indexes. Mahoneys were in every State of the Union by 1850.

Mahana	Mahenny	Mahorny	Mehenoy
Mahanaey	Maheny	Mahoun	Mehoney
Mahanah	Mahona	Mahuna	Mehony
Mahanahen	Mahonah	Mahunia	Mehorny
Mahanan	Mahonay	Mahunna	Mohanna
Mahanas	Mahone	Mahunny	Mohannah
Mahanay	Mahonee	Mahuny	Mohanny
Mahane	Mahoney	Mahurne	Mohanue
Mahanee	Mahonrey	Mahurney	Mohany
Mahaney	Mahony	Mehanay	Mohoney
Mahanna	Mahooney	Mehanny	Mohoneya
Mahannah	Mahoony	Mehany	Mohony
Mahenna	Mahornay	Mehenny	
Mahenney	Mahorney	Meheno	



Mahoney's Atlantic Bar & Grill

Located in the heart of downtown Orleans, Cape Cod, Massachusetts, Mahoney's Atlantic is a fashionable and upscale dining spot with its lively bar and cozy dining room. Situated in a 19th century building that once served as a dry goods and penny candy store, the restaurant's ambiance exudes history and charm. With all the chic of a Boston club, Mahoney's serves sophisticated New England cuisine in a relaxed, comfortable atmosphere.

Chef Ted Mahoney has developed an extensive, eclectic menu to suit the tastes of discerning diners, with an emphasis on fresh, local seafood. Mahoney's has been the recipient of multiple awards, including NECN's *Gold Plate*, Cape Cod Life's *Best Bar*, and Cape Cod's Reader's Choice Award *Best Place for Dinner*.



28 Main Street
Orleans
Phone: (508)255-5505
Fax (508)240-3014
Proprietors: Ed & Ann Mahoney
Chef: Ted Mahoney



MANY THANKS TO JIM CASTELLAN



The Society sends its thanks and appreciation to Jim Castellan. Jim has worked tirelessly over the years in many roles. For personal reasons, Jim has recently had to scale down his many activities for the society.

At various times, among other contributions, he's maintained the US membership list, acted as US Bursar, served as webmaster, scanned all the past Journals so they could be available digitally, and has been the primary driver behind the yDNA Surname Project. We have been privileged over the years to benefit from his vision for streamlining and improving aspects of our organization. He has been a steadfast worker for us and has given a great deal of his own precious time on our behalf.

Happily he is continuing to play a part especially with the y/DNA project and will be continuing with his Journal Distribution Committee work.

We thank him for everything he has achieved to date and look forward to many more years of his input and enthusiasm.

NEWS FROM NORA (CONT'D)

(Continued from page 2)

buildings and fields. These are the original maps, but for the Griffith's Valuation, the on site engineers marked the various holdings, and linked them with the numbers in the first column. It is possible to print out all the details easily, and these facilities are much improved since I first found this site. However, the only way – at the moment – that I can print the maps is to use the Print Screen button. If anyone can suggest a better system, I will be delighted to hear from them.

Ireland Ordnance Survey Maps

Between 1829 and 1842 Ordnance Survey Ireland completed the first ever large-scale survey of an entire country. Acclaimed for their accuracy, these maps are regarded by cartographers as amongst the finest ever produced. See <http://www.osi.ie>. As the national mapping archive service for Ireland, OSi has captured this and later mapping data in a digitised format. Through this website you can view and download this data or place an order for delivery by post.

The new archive currently comprises the following series of maps:

- 6 inch mapping series (1:10,560) colour 1837-1842
- 6 inch mapping series (1:10,560) greyscale 1837-1842
- 25 inch mapping series (1:2,500) greyscale 1888-1913

The above historic maps, originally surveyed on a county basis, are now termed the Ordnance Survey Ireland's digital image archive. With an easy-to-use browser you can search by county or townland. You can

also pan across the entire archive and zoom in to view sections in greater detail. All A4 size historic products purchased from the online shop are delivered via PDF electronic download only. For larger A0 size historic products, we deliver by post only.

Certain mountain and moorland areas were mapped to a 6 inch scale only. These particular areas will appear as gaps when viewing the 25 inch map series online.

There is another set of Ireland's OS maps, and these are located at the Ordnance Survey office in Southampton, Hampshire, England. This office has licensed a company to merchandise the Irish Townland Maps, Pasthomes.com. Information online includes: *"Surveyed between 1829 and 1843, our Irish Townland Maps are packed with detail and are of superb quality and craftsmanship."*

The maps that form the Past Homes collection are the First Edition 6-inch scale Ordnance Survey maps of Ireland, surveyed between 1829 and 1843 - also known as the "Townland maps". Those involved in Irish genealogy regard them as the most important maps ever produced as they were the first maps to accurately show the boundaries and names of all the townlands, parishes, and baronies in Ireland. Past Homes is unique in that it covers both the north and the south of Ireland. They are also available on CDs and there is a new annual subscription for browsing.

The difference between these townland maps and those on the askaboutireland site, is that the latter indicates the Occupiers of the different fields and houses. This web site is worth watching.

How is the DNA project going and what else is happening on the DNA front?

Contributed by Finbar O Mahony



First things first : Since the last issue James Castellán asked me to become administrator of the O Mahony Society yDNA project. My first duty is to thank Jim warmly for the work that he has put into the DNA project since the O Mahony Society accepted responsibility for it in 2007. Up to that date it had been a family based project and in some ways it still bears the legacy of those days. Paul continues as co-administrator, so, continuity of service will be maintained.

Sincere thanks to those participants who have upgraded their tests and a warm welcome to those new members who have joined since our last report on www.omahonysociety.org.

The South Irish Type II: The O Mathúna or O Mahonys, are descendants of an Eóganacht group referred to in genetic genealogy as South Irish Type II. In our project we now have 50 members who belong to three clusters stemming from a shared Eóganacht ancestry. Some of those 50 members have submitted their DNA to further testing and as I completed writing this article the classification given for my results has been changed to: R1b1a2a1a1b4*. That is the rate at which change is occurring in the field. Only the label has been changed, not the classification or the results. Thankfully, this is now given in shorthand as R-L21. This is the group to which I belong on the FTDNA database.

We have one member with the haplotype E1b1b1. This is not typical of the O Mahony profile. Similarly we have one member who differs on 4 markers from the i2b1a which is the Isles/Sc haplotype.

To quote from the O Donoghue yDNA website:
Checking the O'Mahoney's surname project, which is the other family in the Eoghanacht Raithlind, there are several individuals who are also Irish Type III. Their original territory was in West Cork as well, and it's possible that it was from their tribe that the Ruis Airgit originated. At this point, we are listing our cluster as possible Ruis Airgit.

We also have two members with a very close match who are members of the WAMH, the Western Atlantic Modal haplotype.

I think it is fair to say that we have genetic diversity in the O Mahony Society so far.

Last year I became a member of the FTDNA R-L21 study group, since I belong to that type of DNA and recently contributed to the *Walk the Y* research project of the O Donoghue of the Glens. The O Donoghues, who are our genetic cousins, generally belong to the same R1b1b2 group as the O Mahonys. This year I volunteered for the *Walk the Y* and have submitted my own sample to even more

intensive analysis to establish whether the O Mahony Eóganacht could possibly show a distinctive marker. There is a risk that I will get additional information but we will get no unique marker for the group. However, if we do not test we will never know. The O Sullivans have already engaged in similar testing. The maxim is still: search and research, always with the open mind.

A further collaborative effort is now taking place between members of these various Eóganacht groupings (O Donoghue, O Sullivan, O Mahony to begin with) to try to identify a distinct or unique genetic marker that will help differentiate them one from the other and from other R1b1b2 groups.

Those of you in the O Mahony yDNA project who have received a list of more than 2000 "matches" at the 12 marker level, will appreciate why we are trying to isolate a distinct marker for the South Irish. How many of the 2000 or so matches that some participants receive had the name O Mahony? Few. That is why we must not become overjoyed when we get a 12/12 marker match. It is a start, but it is only the barest start and it points to the wide distribution of this type of DNA in Western Europe. That is also why we have increased the requirement to have a 37 marker level test before the results for are shown on the Tree Diagram and the Cladogram.

So, now to our matches. A genetic distance of 0 between two or more members in the project on a 67 marker test gives us good reason to pursue further research for a genealogical relationship based on the genetic findings.

There is a more useful way of looking at the groupings within the participants in the project. This method involves looking at the genetic distance between the numbers that each participant receives from FTDNA and the numbers that other members are given as feedback also. We have three main such groupings:

Comparison Base No.1

115485 Dr. Finbar O Mahony 67 markers

Kit	Name	Markers	Genetic Distance
165440	Tho. Jas. Mahoney	67	0
181470	Joh Francis O'Mahony	37	0
181945	Mic. O'Mahony	37	0
190925	Raph. Francis Mahoney	67	0
193092	Kevin Jas Mahoney	12*	0
194511	Stephen Pat. Mahoney	67	0
36683	Robt W. O'Reilly	67	0
88090	Gregory Wm. Mahoney	67	0
N70882	Dennis Jos Mahoney	12*	0

*Note, this apparent proximity could disappear if more markers are tested and a different number appears in the "string" at 25, 37 or 67 markers.

(Continued on page 11)

How is the DNA project going ? (cont'd)

Contributed by Finbar O Mahony



(Continued from page 10)

Applying the same approach we may also analyze genetic distance between individuals who share sub-groups worthy of further investigation:

Comparison base No. 2

134052 Paul Daniel Mahoney

Kit	Name	Markers	Genetic Distance
134048	Wm Joh Mahoney	37	0
134049	Joh Coyle Mahoney	37	0
134129	Shawn Benj Mahoney	37	0
89269	Joh Philip Mahoney	37	0

Comparison Base No. 3

156885 Mr. Terence Brian O'Mahony

Kit	Name	Markers	Genetic Distance
12109	Chas Francis Lloyd	67	0
162588	Tho. Jos. Mahoney	37	0
45180	Dennis Mic. O'Mahony	67	0

Comparison Base No. 4

84564 Robert Cornelius Mahaney

Kit	Name	Markers	Genetic Distance
108698	Diarmuid Ó Mathúna	37	0
117777	Jas Patrick Mahoney	67	0
123804	Harold Wesley Mahany	67	0
135269	Joe Mahoney	37	0
177431	Paul Timothy O'Mahony	67	0

Comparison Base No. 4 (cont'd)

Kit	Name	Markers	Genetic Distance
181462	John O'Mahony	37	0
68777	Scott Jas Mahoney	67	0
96190	Daniel Jas Mahoney	25	0
96288	Joh Edward Mahoney	67	0

There is a genetic difference of 0 between each of the individuals in the subgroups above, but a genetic distance of 1, 2, or 3 between each of the groups from the first of those groups listed. In other words, the members of each cluster shown above are closely related genetically to each member within their group but progressively more distant from each succeeding groups. The degree of genetic "closeness" achieved so far does not suggest that we can put one another on our family tree, but there are encouraging signs that as the project is growing we have a chance of linking family groups. We certainly are getting closer to seeing distinct groups emerging.

So, when we say that there is slow progress is being made, that is true, but progress is being made and will continue to be made as more men join the project. The next step is to try to trace each grouping to an approximate geographic location in genealogical time.

We need to tidy up a few details. Having multiple samples from the same family i.e., siblings or cousins, skews the results and this subject along with some more "housekeeping" will be addressed in the next newsletter.



REPORT on the 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

Dianne O'Mahony, Bandon, will collect subscriptions at all events. The banquet will take place at 7.30PM. Linda Baker and Mary Haislip will collect banquet numbers and payment. There will also be a raffle. Music at the banquet will be provided by the young O'Sullivans, supervised by Catherine O'Sullivan. The boat trip to Cape Clear Island will be repeated this year, weather permitting, for those members still in the area on Monday.

AOB

Jean Dinwiddie indicated that she is happy to continue to edit and publish the newsletter. Peter thanked her for agreeing to continue as newsletter editor.

Peter also expressed thanks on behalf of Council members and the wider society to Mary Haislip, Maeve Perno, Jean Dinwiddie and Linda Baker who had presented a gift of a new sound system in memory of their mother, Eileen Mahoney McConnell, former Taoiseach and devoted supporter of the O Mahony Society. Thanks were again due to

John F. who had sourced and purchased the system on behalf of Eileen's daughters.

Attention is also due to the tireless work that both Nora and John F. have done and continue to do for the Society. With the support of Council members Peter proposed that Nora and John be made honorary life members of Muintir Mathúna. The proposal was enthusiastically seconded and applauded within the meeting.

Nora intimated that the book *An Argument Defending the Right of the Kingdom of Ireland* by Conor O'Mahony (1594-1656), was to be launched in Kanturk in August. There is an article about the author and the translated work by John Minehane on Page 19 of the current O'Mahony Journal.

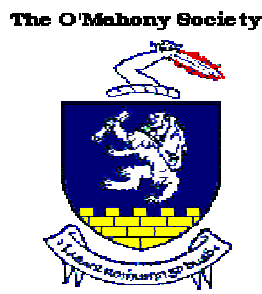
Dates for next Gathering

The dates were confirmed as weekend 17th, 18th and 19th June 2011.

COAT OF ARMS



FAMILY



SOCIETY

O MAHONY JOURNALS AVAILABLE ON CD

Muintir Mhathúna (The O Mahony Society) is proud to announce that a copyrighted CD version of *all* of the Journals (from inception to 2010) is now available. The disc will be updated annually. There are plans to take it from its current table of contents format to one that is linked for simplified browsing. While there are still limited single hard copies of many past Journals available, this CD version is comprehensive and an invaluable resource.

The availability of this digital version of past Journals is thanks to the hard work of Jim Castellan. Vision and te-

nacity must always be appreciated. Jim has both: he saw a digital version of back issues of the Journal as a huge asset to our membership and other kinfolk, and he had the determination to make it all happen.

Current pricing for single back issues as available is \$5 (USD) for members, \$10 for non-members. The CD is \$100 (USD) for members, \$150 for non-members.

For further information, please contact Linda McConnell Baker (lbaker8@cox.net)

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