



# Clann Chaombánach

## E-Newsletter #37

Winter 2011  
ISSN 1393 – 1733



Standard Bearer - Clare Regiment

### Caombánach Families

The first to use our name was Domnall Caomhánach, a 12<sup>th</sup> Century King of Leinster. More than 55,000 families world-wide identify with one of over 200 different interpretations of our Irish name Caomhánach, including, but not limited to, the few following examples:

|                  |                    |                  |                  |                 |                |                  |
|------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------|
| <i>Cavanagh</i>  | <i>Kavanagh</i>    | <i>Cavanaugh</i> | <i>Kavanaugh</i> | <i>Cavenagh</i> | <i>Kavner</i>  | <i>Chabiness</i> |
| <i>Gabernach</i> | <i>Cavenna</i>     | <i>Cavnar</i>    | <i>Kavanaw</i>   | <i>Chavinas</i> | <i>Cavinah</i> | <i>Cavanacht</i> |
| <i>Cavana</i>    | <i>Kabna</i>       | <i>Chabana</i>   | <i>Cavanna</i>   | <i>Kavenagh</i> | <i>Cavanah</i> | <i>Kavina</i>    |
| <i>Kabina</i>    | <i>Caomhanaigh</i> | <i>Chabinaw</i>  | <i>Cavagnaic</i> | <i>Cavanogh</i> | <i>Cavino</i>  | <i>Cavinaw</i>   |

No matter how you spell your name today, we are all descendents of the great Caomhánach family.

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## From the Editor

Our Annual Journal will continue to be published in paper hardcopy and mailed to our members and to various record repositories around the world.

However, postage and printing costs have reached such levels that we have been forced to acknowledge that we cannot continue production of several hardcopy publications. Therefore, by decision of the Executive Committee of Clann Chaomhánach, our Newsletters will be published electronically in the future, and this is the first Newsletter of this new series.

Since we will continue with sequential numbering of our newsletters, this first electronic newsletter ("E-Newsletter"), is the next in the newsletter number sequence, # 37.

Our lead article by Cathal Cavanagh of Luxembourg provides an overview of Caomhánach Wild Geese. Celia Kavanagh Boylan and Cathal provide insights into the lives of our ancestors in articles about an unwilling chimney sweep, three children in search of family, and particulars about evictions.

Once again, Gathering time is drawing near, and the 2012 Clann Gathering will again use a common venue for activities and accommodations. Gathering information and forms for registration and accommodations are included for your convenience.

*James J. Kavanagh*



Front Cover: Standard Bearer of the Clare Regiment, by Seán Ó Brógáin, presented here by courtesy of Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin (as published in *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad* 2009)

Submit articles, requests or suggestions for publication, comments and critiques to:

Clann Chaomhánach Publications

c/o James J. Kavanagh  
12175 Hickory West  
Utica, Michigan 48315  
U.S.A.



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### Is your address current?

Please ensure that you advise us of changes to your address. If the Annual is returned because it cannot be delivered as addressed, we will attempt to contact you for an update. This is why we ask for an email address and a phone number on your membership application. Please help us save postage and time, and keep your address information current.

### When is your Membership Renewal Due?

The mailing label on your Annual will resemble that shown below. Your membership number is in the upper left corner. The "e-m" means that Fergus has an email address on file for you. The date in the upper right-hand corner (Year/Month) gives the date, according to our records, when you last paid membership fees. Your membership fee is due one year after this date.

0999      e-m      2010/11

Charles Cavanagh  
Carrigduff, Co. Carlow  
Ireland





## Fleet Marriages in 17th/18th Century London

While checking records for Caomhánachs living in or near London, we encountered several entries among the records for Fleet Marriages. A Fleet Marriage is perhaps the best-known example of an irregular or clandestine marriage. Participants were not necessarily prisoners, and this begs the question, why would anyone want to marry in a prison?

The Marriage Duty Act of 1695 had put a stop to irregular marriages at parish churches by penalizing clergymen who married couples without banns or license. A marriage was also considered irregular (or clandestine) if it took place away from the home parishes of the spouses without dispensation, or at an improper time, usually with an element of secrecy. With the Fleet marriages however, because of a legal quirk, action could not proceed against clergymen in Fleet Prison, or against those who were living within the neighboring environs of Fleet Prison, in order to escape prosecution for debt. Both rich and poor couples made the decision to marry in or in the vicinity of Fleet Prison for a variety of reasons. It cost very little in comparison to a church wedding. Neither banns nor licenses were required, and the couple did not have to live in London. They had the ability to marry in secret, and they could marry with or without consent of their parents (if required). There would be ample witnesses as the marriage was performed in the street. Because of the way that these were recorded, Fleet marriages could be backdated to legitimize children for the purpose of inheritance. It is said that over half of all London weddings in the 1740's took place in the environs of the Fleet Prison.

This came to an end after March 25, 1754, when the Marriage Act of 1753 was enforced. This legislation required that all marriages should have banns read in their places of residence or where the licenses were obtained, that marriages should be performed in a church, and that consent from parents was required for minors wishing to marry. The Act also enforced punishment of transportation on any clergyman performing such a marriage, and the threat of annulment on any clandestine marriages performed which did not comply with the Marriage Act of 1753.



Very little information is available from a Fleet marriage record. The records that survived are kept at the National Archives in Kew (RG4-8 record index collection), and have been indexed over the years. However, you should be aware that these transcriptions can contain duplications and errors due to difficulty in reading and transcribing these records. Many can be found on 'Family Search', the LDS website. The following were listed among Fleet marriages (dates are the date of marriage shown as DD/MM/YYYY):

|  |  |
|--|--|
| Garrett Cavenagh 31/08/1701                      | Maurice Cavenagh 11/05/1707                    |
| Sarah Cavanah 21/09/1710                         | Alexander Cavanah 20/01/1711                   |
| Arthur Cavenough m Margaret Thribeutt 29/09/1719 | Arthur Cavenogh m. Mary Wells 16/10/1721       |
| Roger Kavanagh 25/02/1721                        | James Cavenough 16/01/1721                     |
| James Cavanagh m. Diana Wallis 18/10/1730        | Miles Cavanaw m. Christian Wade 08/06/1731     |
| Mary Kavanaugh m. Josiah Kennedy 26/02/1734      | William Cavanock m. Bridget Wall 13/07/1735    |
| Thomas Cavanough 14/09/1736                      | Patrick Cavenough 17/04/1736                   |
| Margery Cavenah 09/03/1739                       | Simon Cavanagh m Elizabeth Mitchell 09/10/1740 |
| William Cavenagh 08/08/1741                      | John Cavanagh 10/07/1743                       |
| Peter Cavenaugh 18/12/1745                       | Hugh Cavenough m Catherine Kennedy 10/09/1745  |
| James Kavanaugh 17/04/1747                       | Nicholas Cavanagh m Anne Slevin 07/09/1747     |
| Patrick Kavanagh 18/8/1748                       | James Cavanagh 13/08/1749                      |
| Peter Cavanagh m Elizabeth Thomas 15/05/1749     | Con Cavanaugh m. Mary West 23/06/1749          |
| Daniel Kavanaugh 01/10/1749                      | Cornelius Cavanaugh 27/05/1749                 |
| William Cavanagh m. Mary Stephens 15/07/1750     | Sarah Kavanagh m Morgan Floyd 16/02/1752       |
| Widow Kathern Cavenah m Simon Nowland 19/03/1753 | Katherine Cavenaugh 25/08/1753                 |
| James Kavanagh 22/01/1753                        |  |

Lott Cavanagh m. Dorothy Rowlands 18/07/1739 - here we know that he was a highwayman hung in the 1740's, and this marriage probably was bigamous.

For further information, see two publications that can be downloaded - at this time for free - at Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>). These provide a fascinating insight into this aspect of English history:

- \* *"The History of the Fleet Marriages"* by John Southerden Burn, London, 1846.
- \* *"The Fleet Registers"*, by John Southerden Burn, London, 1833.

The Victorian depiction of *Fleet Marriages*, shown at the beginning of this article, is from Robert Chambers' *Book of Days*, 1st Edition, as seen at Wikipedia ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:FleetStreetMarriage\\_300dpi.jpg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:FleetStreetMarriage_300dpi.jpg)).



## Payments to Clann Chaomhánach



We have received queries from our membership regarding the best method for payment of membership fees.

The simple answer is to use the web site. The website is straight forward, with step -by -step instructions to make payments using a credit card. The majority of our dues transactions are successfully completed with this system. In our experience, using the web site for payment is safe and reliable: to our knowledge, we have never lost a transaction, nor has anyone been defrauded.

Some members do not wish to use the web site, do not have access to the internet, or do not wish to pay with a credit card. We accept personal cheques (checks) from all countries. Please make these payable to "Clann Chaomhánach". The amount should be made out in the local currency to the value of € 25 (€ 250 for Life Membership) on the date that the cheque (check) is written. It is totally unnecessary, time consuming, and costly, for our overseas members to get a Bankers Cheque, Cashiers Check or Money Order in Euros, because they will normally have to pay an additional fee for the draft, and another fee for money exchange. Our current account with Enniscorthy Bank of Ireland is not charged fees for cheque processing or money conversion of the foreign currency value into Euros. We ensure this "no fee processing" by maintaining a sufficient minimum balance in that account for that purpose. Upon lodgment or deposit with the bank, the value of the cheque/check is converted into Euro at the exchange rate for that day. This amount is then credited to our account.

**Website at: <http://www.kavanaghfamily.com/>**

If the form is needed, please print this page

Note that there are over 200 different spelling interpretations of the Irish name "Caomhánach", including Cavanagh, Kavanagh, Cavanaugh, Kavanaugh, Cavana, Cavanaugh, Cavannah, Kavna, etc. Please list your nearest ancestor with a Caomhánach surname.

Print and mail this completed application form together with your cheque to:

Fergus Kavanagh  
514 Orwell Park Way  
Templeogue,  
Dublin 6w,  
Ireland

For questions regarding currency conversion rates, please check with your bank or visit one of the internet sites specializing in this aspect, for example, <http://www.xe.com/ucc>.

You may also join or renew online through the Clann Chaomhánach website using your credit card, at:

<http://www.kavanaghfamily.com>



# Clann Chaomhánach

Registered with the Clans of Ireland

Web: [HTTP://www.KAVANAGHFAMILY.com](http://www.KAVANAGHFAMILY.com)

New Membership Application

ANNUAL Membership (Euro € 25)

LIFE Membership (Euro € 250)

Membership Renewal

ANNUAL Membership (Euro € 25)

(Please indicate your choice)

Given Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_, made payable to Clann Chaomhánach.

## Joan Kavanagh Slevin 1939 - 2012

With sadness we report the death of a member, Joan Kavanagh Slevin, who passed away on June 7<sup>th</sup> 2012. Born March 1939 in Lancashire, England, she was the third child of Edmund Henry Martin and Cecilia Kavanagh, and the sister of former Clann Chief and newly elected Clann Genealogist, Celia Kavanagh Boylan. Joan was the second wife of the late former International Rugby League player Edward (Ted) Slevin, himself a distinguished member of Clann Chaomhánach, and was a first cousin of the late Bernard F Kavanagh, linguist and author, also a distinguished member of Clann Chaomhánach.



Joan and Ted on their wedding day



Melissa Cavanaugh Mathis, Fergus Kavanagh and Joan Kavanagh Slevin awaiting the inaugural procession

One of the great joys of her life was to be able to attend our Gatherings, where many members will remember meeting her. She attended the gathering in Ferns, Co Wexford in 1995, the mini gathering in Knock, Co Mayo in 1997, the English gathering in Ironbridge, Shropshire, in 1999, and the gathering held at Borris House, Co Carlow in 2004. Two other gatherings had a very special significance for her. She was delighted to join Melissa Cavanaugh Mathis of Midland Texas (daughter of former Clann Chief and Herald Jungle Jim of Belize, both alas no longer with us) and Alice Cavanagh of Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, as ladies in waiting, for the inauguration of her little sister Celia in Ferns in 2002.

Joan leaves behind her brother Denis, and sister Celia, and children, Peter, Elaine, Julie and Caroline, stepson Jeffrey, grandchildren Emily, Matthew, Louise, Craig, Daniel, Amy, Michael, Victoria, Joanne and Hannah, great grandson Jordan and cousins, nieces and nephews, who are missing her and will always remember her with pride. Joan was preceded in death by her eldest brother Edmund (2006) and his wife Barbara (2004).

A really, really special day in Joan's life was when she met her great-grandfather's brother's, great-grandson, (her 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin), Frank Kavanaugh and his wife Dorothy in Dublin. The meeting almost did not happen, as all flights to and from America had been cancelled due to the tragedy of 9/11, but fortunately, they made it on the first flight out of Boston. Pictured sharing this happy occasion in Dublin, in the back row, left to right, the very shy Jimmy from Dublin (hiding behind the question mark), Fergus of Dublin, Frank from Ohio and Melissa from Texas. In the front row are Celia from England, "Jungle Jim" from Belize, Dorothy from Ohio, Joan from England, and "German Jim" from Michigan. She was so happy to see them again at Borris in 2004, and appreciated that Clann Chaomhánach had made this very treasured memory possible for her, as they had been brought together again by their mutual interest in their family history.



This marvelous opportunity started when a posting on Jimmy Kavanagh's website, *Kavanaghfamily.com*, brought a most unexpected answer from Indiana, from Dan Kavanaugh, who recognized his own family from the information request made by Celia Kavanagh Boylan. She was convinced that the family, who had now been separated for 120 years, must have died out as contact had been lost with them in the early part of the last century.



Dan promptly alerted his father Frank, grandson of Patrick Cavanagh, and he responded. This launched a great deal of research behind the scenes to ensure that this was in fact the right family. Notes made by Joan's father, Edmund Henry Cavanagh, and the marriage certificates of both Edward and Martin Cavanagh, proved once and for all that they were in fact brothers. Contact was also made with Patricia Ursic in Florida, granddaughter of Francis Cavanagh, Patrick's brother.

In 1881 Edward Cavanagh and his wife Catherine, accompanied by their sons John (with his wife Bridget), Francis, Edward and Patrick, and Edward senior's unmarried sister Maria, left their Staffordshire home for a whole new life in Youngstown, Ohio. Wednesbury in Staffordshire, where Edward and the boys worked in the Steel industry, had been their home for some 30 years. Youngstown where their new life would begin, also had a steel works.

They left behind a large family, who had emigrated to England from Galway in the troubled famine years. One of the brothers being Martin Cavanagh (the great grandfather of Celia and Joan Cavanagh and their brothers Edmund and Denis Cavanagh) who had settled in Lancashire. The message on the website also brought contact with Ruth Cooper of Exeter, England, and her daughter Tina Garforth (who now lives in the USA). Ruth is the great granddaughter of Joan's granddad's brother John Thomas Cavanagh of Ormskirk, England, the grandfather of Clann members John Francis Cavanagh of Worthington, Joe Cavanagh of Preston and Winifred Fagan of Ormskirk. Ruth had also lost contact with this part of the family in Lancashire where her father John Foster was born.

A Staffordshire-Ohio reunion became possible, when Frank and Dorothy, who had already booked a holiday in Ireland before their relationship came to light, made a slight change to their itinerary. News of this wonderful breakthrough brought James Cavanagh of Michigan, (working in Germany), the Clann Genealogist, and James F Cavanaugh of Belize and his daughter Melissa of Texas, who had also planned a break in Ireland, to this historic and momentous occasion. Fergus Cavanagh, Clann Chairman and Jimmy Cavanagh, Clann Public Relations, were also pleased to join in the celebrations, as all had played their part in the families finding each other.

However, just days before the meeting was due, terrorism struck the world and it seemed very unlikely that it could take place. All the American airports were closed. Severe weather over the North Sea caused ferries to be cancelled between Germany and England. As Celia and Joan packed their bags ready to go to Dublin, there was still no certainty that the reunion would take place. An eleventh hour e-mail confirmed that Boston airport was open, and then their worries were dispelled when a message was left in their room at the Mespil Hotel, saying Frank and Dorothy had arrived.

Once contact was re-established, messages continued to flow back and forth across the Atlantic - after all, they did have 120 years of catch-up. Frank and Dorothy returned to Ireland to the Gathering in 2004, in what became the last meeting, for Joan was preceded in death by her third cousin ...

## Frank E. Kavanaugh, Jr. 1938 - 2012

who died on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2012, at Altercare in Canal Winchester. He was born July 6, 1938, in Youngstown, Ohio, to the late Frank E. and Mary E. (Sabol) Kavanaugh Sr. Frank was a 1956 graduate of Chaney High School in Youngstown, Ohio, and a graduate of Wayne State University, Detroit. He retired in 1995 as a Senior Inspector in the U.S. Marshals Service after serving 21 years, and later, from 2004 to 2011, worked as a Special Investigator for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Together with Dorothy, his wife of 50 years, he was co-owner of the Tiny Printing Company.

Frank is survived by his wife Dorothy; daughter, Karen (Thomas) Peterson; son, Dan (Cathy) Kavanaugh; and grandchildren, Jake, Frank, Kelly, Patrick, Sean, Carla, Justin and Kevin. He was preceded in death by his sister, Elaine Hoelzel.



Frank was very active in the community. As a member of the International Association of Lions Clubs, Frank was awarded a "Lifetime Membership" and a "Melvin Jones Fellowship". He was a member of the Sons of the American Legion; the Saxon Club of Youngstown; the Shamrock Club; the Pickerington Information Gathering Society (aka P.I.G.S.); Pickerington Senior Citizens Center; F.O.P. South Oakland Co. (Michigan) Lodge # 130; Fairfield County (Ohio) Fish and Game Association, and Pickerington Historical Society. He was a life member of the U.S. Marshal's Association, and Clann Chaomhánach.

Frank figured largely in Clann Chaomhánach affairs following the death of "Jungle Jim" in Belize, Central America. Jim's passing left a huge experience gap and Frank pushed his other projects aside, and stepped right into the role of mentor for the new editor. He generously devoted time and resources and established favorable connections with a local printing company. Sadly, the published obituaries for Frank do not due him justice for his warmth and humanity, and his willingness to help. He will be sorely missed.

## Katherine Pauline (Kavanaugh) Heath 1911-2012

made it to 100 years and 11 months of age. She left this life on Friday, January 20, 2012, in Lewistown, Montana. Born February 14, 1911 in Paige, North Dakota, Kate was the eighth child of Joseph James and Ann (Reger) Kavanaugh, and the fourth daughter in a family of 12.

Kate rode in a covered wagon at a young age, when the family moved to Bagley, Minnesota, and eventually settled in Marble, Minnesota, a small town in the Iron Range. Kate's mom opened a boarding house while her dad worked for the railroad.

Kate married David S. Heath on December 20, 1932. She was 21 years old. They had five children, and lived in Solway, Shevlin, then Bagley, in Minnesota. During World War II, they resided in Portland, Oregon. Later they moved to a farm in Bettendorf, Indiana, and then, in 1957, Kate and the family were again out west, in Lewistown, Montana. She ran a boarding house and David worked as a welder.

As I visualize Kate, when I was a youngster, I remember her early in the morning cooking breakfast, stopping and pouring herself a shot of whiskey, downing it and back to cooking. Just one shot a day, never more.

When my dad died of a heart attack while driving, Kate was in the car with my mom. She grabbed the steering wheel and stopped the car, thus avoiding it going over a cliff.

Kate and David enjoyed the outdoors and loved Montana with its wide open spaces. Kate was proud of her rich Irish heritage and history. She liked getting photographs of places that I visited as well. She was the last one of my father's siblings to die. I shall miss her.

(Memorial by Daniel J. Kavanaugh)





# Clann Chaomhánach

## 2012 GATHERING

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Carlton Millrace Hotel, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, Ireland

The 2012 Clann Chaomhánach Gathering will be held at the Carlton Millrace Hotel, Bunclody, Co. Wexford. The Gathering will include tours, lectures, genealogy consultations and lots more which we hope everyone will enjoy. A copy of the Program is included here for your information. Our last Gathering in 2010, was the first time that the Clann used this venue for our Gathering activities and accommodations. This convenience proved so successful that we will continue with venue and accommodations together on this same site.



The Carlton Millrace Hotel is in the center of the town of Bunclody and has 40 double rooms, 20 twin rooms (2 people in each room) and 12 family apartments (3 people in each apartment). The hotel has excellent food and great facilities with new restaurants and activity rooms. Due to the prolonged and widespread financial difficulties, a very attractive rate for 4 days of the Gathering has been negotiated with the hotel at €216 Euro per person sharing, or €276 euro single, including breakfast.

If you plan to stay in the Carlton Millrace, the number of rooms is limited, and you should book early by contacting Catherine Connelly at Reservations, e-mail: [reservations.millrace@carlton.ie](mailto:reservations.millrace@carlton.ie). The subject line of your e-mail should be "Clann Chaomhánach Gathering 2012". This will ensure that you are given the agreed reduced prices for your stay at the Gathering. Otherwise, there are some B&Bs in the area, which are in the range of €40-60 per person per night. Fergus will help look after the accommodation reservations. You can contact him at [FergusL.Kavanagh@eircom.net](mailto:FergusL.Kavanagh@eircom.net).

Bunclody is a small town which lies north-east of Mount Leinster, in the Slaney River Valley. This is Caomhánach country, with Carrickduff the home of Col. Charles Cavanagh, grandson of Donal Spannaigh, and ancestor of a large group of descendants living in the U.S. Carrickduff is situated at one end of the town. Just outside the other end of Bunclody there is Kilmyshal cemetery, the burial place of Eileen Aroon, whose romantic story is the basis of that famous ballad of the same name. Bunclody is an ideal venue with plenty of facilities to ensure a very enjoyable gathering.





# Clann Chaomhánach

## 2012 GATHERING

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Carlton Millrace Hotel, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, Ireland

### REGISTRATION

Again, the fees for this Gathering have also been greatly reduced and are divided into two parts, a booking deposit and the balance of the fee payable on arrival at the gathering venue. If you prefer, the full fee can be paid at time of registration. The four-day activities fee is €180 per member and €110 for a spouse. The non-member Gathering fee is €200. A Registration fee of €50 euro per member and €25 for a spouse (as an initial booking deposit /part payment) should accompany the Registration form. If you have to cancel your registration before the August 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 cut-off date, we will refund 50% of the deposit / activities fees. There will be a Late Registration fee of €25 for registrations posted after July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012.

Although the official activities end Saturday evening, on Sunday morning we will have informal socializing and a review and critique of the Gathering by those who are still there.

The Registration and Accommodation forms for the 2012 Gathering can be found

at our website: [www.kavanaghfamily.com](http://www.kavanaghfamily.com)

by e-mail from: [FergusLKavanagh@eircom.net](mailto:FergusLKavanagh@eircom.net)

or by printing the desired forms on the following pages of this newsletter.

We all look forward to seeing you in September 2012 !

**The Executive Committee**

Clann Chaomhánach



## Programme of Events for the 2012 Clann Chaomhánach Gathering

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September (Executive Committee Meeting Day):

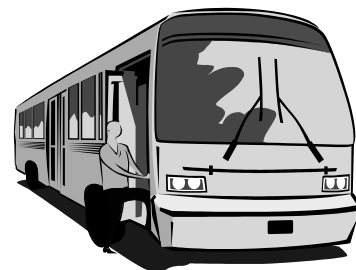
- |          |   |
|----------|---|
| 12:00 pm | Preparation and Setup   |
| 1:00 pm  | Executive Committee Meeting   |
| 6:00 pm  | Gathering Registration Opens  |
| 7:00 pm  | Gathering Reception and<br>Welcome from Chief of the Clann Jimmy Kavanagh |



## Programme of Events for the 2012 Clann Chaomhánach Gathering

Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September (Field Trip Day)

- 9:00am Bus tour leaves Millrace Hotel for a  
Conducted Field Trip to Historic Clan Sites
- 12:30 pm Lunch Stop
- 6:00 pm Approximate Return to Bunclody
- 8:00 pm Relaxed, traditional entertainment evening  
with the group "Celtic Roots"



Friday, 14<sup>th</sup> September (Genealogy Day)

- 9:00 am Historical Background Presentation
- 10:00 to 10:15 am Tea / Coffee break
- 10:15 am Family Septs Presentation
- 12:00 pm Biennial General Meeting
- 1:00 pm Lunch
- 2:00 pm Family Research Issues, including:
- \* What's New?
  - \* DNA – Current Position
- 3:15 pm Genealogy Resources
- 4:30 pm Part 1: Genealogy Consultation Workshop
- 8:00 pm Céilí and Old Time with the group "Celtic Roots"

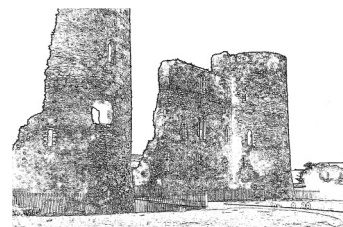




## Programme of Events for the 2012 Clann Chaomhánach Gathering

Saturday, 15<sup>th</sup> September (History, Inauguration and Banquet)

- 9:00 am Coach departs the Carlton Millrace Hotel  
Travel to Ferns, Co Wexford, with stops for:
- \* Wreath laying ceremony at Bunclody Cemetery
  - \* Wreath Laying ceremony at Ferns Cemetery
- 10:00 to 10:15 am Tea / Coffee, Biscuits in Ferns
- 10:15 am Inauguration of Chief Cathal Cavanagh at Ferns Castle
- 11:30 am Tour of Ferns Castle
- 1:00 pm Lunch at the "Courtyard" in Ferns
- 2:00 pm Coach leaves Ferns for the return to Bunclody
- 3:00 pm Part 2: Genealogy Consultation Workshop
- 4:00 pm Tea / Coffee Biscuits
- 7:30 pm Chief's Banquet in the Carlton Millrace Hotel  
Honors Awards



Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> September (Farewell Day)

- Sunday Morning Services:  
Catholic Masses at 9:00 am and 12:00 pm  
Church of Ireland Service at 11:30 am
- 10:00 am Tea / Coffee Biscuits
- 10:15 am Open Panel Discussion on General Issues  
Gathering Critique  
Closing and Farewell







# Clann Chaomhánach

## 2012 GATHERING

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Carlton Millrace Hotel, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, Ireland.

Please print and fill out this Registration Attendance form and mail it together with your cheque (payable to Clann Chaomhánach) to: **Fergus Kavanagh**  
**514 Orwell Park Way,**  
**Templeogue,**  
**Dublin 6w, Ireland.**

## REGISTRATION FORM

Please supply contact details of all those of your group who are attending the Gathering:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_ (Non-members may attend)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

How many persons are in your group? \_\_\_\_\_ How many of them will attend the gathering? \_\_\_\_\_

Please supply Name, Address, e-mail, and Phone # of all those of your group attending the gathering (please use the reverse).

**IMPORTANT:** Will you have your own transport in Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of arrival in Ireland \_\_\_\_\_ Date of departure from Ireland \_\_\_\_\_

| Full Attendance Registration Fees   |   |                  |                  |     |
|---|---|------------------|------------------|-----|
| 2012 Clann Chaomhánach Gathering 12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> September       |   |                  |                  |     |
| Attendee Type   | Full Gathering                                  | No. of Attendees | Fees in Euros    | Fee |
| Member  | 12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012 |                  | € 180 per person |     |
| Member's Spouse   | 12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012 |                  | € 110 per spouse |     |
| Non-Member  | 12 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept. 2012 |                  | € 200 per person |     |
| <b>Total Due</b>  |   |                  |                  |     |
| Day to Day Registration Fees  |   |                  |                  |     |
| Special Attendance fee per person per day for anyone attending on a day to day basis. |   |                  |                  |     |
| Day to Day ( any person )   | No. of Attendees                                | Fees in Euros    | Fee              |     |
| Wed. 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept. Registration / Reception                                  |   | € 20 per person  |                  |     |
| Thurs. 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept. Tour Day / Social Evening                               |   | € 80 per person  |                  |     |
| Fri. 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept. Genealogy / Biennial G.M. / DNA / Céilí                   |   | € 60 per person  |                  |     |
| Sat. 15 <sup>th</sup> Sept. History / Inauguration / Banquet                          |   | € 60 per person  |                  |     |
| Sun. 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept. Open Panel / Farewell Day                                 |   | € 20 per person  |                  |     |
| <b>Total Due</b>  |   |                  |                  |     |

**Fees must be paid in full by 1<sup>st</sup> July 2012. Registrations received after 2nd July, will incur a € 25 late surcharge per person. If you cancel before 12<sup>th</sup> August 2012, we will refund 50% of fee already paid.**

For currency conversion rate see website <http://www.xe.com/ucc/> or check with your local bank.

Cheques should be made payable to Clann Chaomhánach and mailed with this form to above address.

If you need accommodations, Clann Chaomhánach can make your reservations and send you confirmation and payment instructions with further information, upon receipt of the Accommodation Reservation Form. This form is available on the Clann website at <http://www.kavanaghfamily.com>, or you can print copies of this and the next page.



# Clann Chaomhánach

## 2012 GATHERING

12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2012

Carlton Millrace Hotel, Carrigduff, Bunclody, Co. Wexford, Ireland.

Please complete and **mail** this form to: Fergus Kavanagh  
514 Orwell Park Way,  
Templeogue  
Dublin 6W, Ireland.

or, if you prefer, you can **e-mail** this as an attachment to: FergusLKavanagh@eircom.net

## GATHERING ACCOMMODATIONS FORM

(non-members may attend)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Important:** Will you have your own transportation in Ireland? \_\_\_\_\_

Please mark (X) required Accommodation B&B 11th\_\_, 12th\_\_, 13th\_\_, 14th\_\_, 15th\_\_, Sept. 2012

Other dates \_\_\_\_\_

How many people traveling with you will need Gathering Accommodations?

How many bedrooms will you need? \_\_\_\_\_ Double beds \_\_\_\_\_ Single beds \_\_\_\_\_

Special Requirements / Comments : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please check your preference below:

[ ] Carlton Millrace Hotel, 4 nights B&B = € 216 per person sharing @ €54 p.p. sharing per night

[ ] Carlton Millrace Hotel, 4 nights B&B = € 276 per person single @ € 69 p.p. single rate per night

[ ] Carlton Millrace Apartments (1 double & 2 single beds) B&B @ €54 per person sharing per night

[ ] Moderate B&B € 40 - € 45 per person per night

[ ] Quality B&B € 45 - € 60 per person per night

Upon receipt of this Gathering Accommodations form, Clann Chaomhánach will make your reservations and send you confirmation, payment instructions and further information.

Currency conversion rates are available at: <http://www.xe.com/ucc/>

# Caomhánach Wild Geese

Cathal

## Introduction and Background

The term “Wild Geese” (“Na Géanna Fiaine” in Irish) was originally applied to those Jacobite Irish soldiers who sailed with Patrick Sarsfield to France after the Treaty of Limerick in 1691, following the defeat of the forces of James II by the Williamite army. The reasoning behind this term was that the troops who were going abroad would once again return like homing wild geese to help to free Ireland. Alas, this proved to be an illusion, and some lines from a poem epitomize the sad fate of many of these exiles:

*“On far foreign fields from Dunkirk to Belgrade,  
lie the soldiers and chiefs of the Irish Brigade.”*

The term “Wild Geese” was subsequently extended as a broad umbrella term to all those Irish soldiers who fought in the ranks of foreign monarchs, both before and after the Williamite Wars, and indeed to Irish exiles in general, and their descendants who gained fame abroad, whether militarily or otherwise.

The first verifiable Wild Geese episode involving Caomhánachs was when Cahir McArt of Ballyann dispatched a piper with a small contingent of *kerns* (used as skirmishers) to fight with an English army against the French in 1544. A wood engraving of Irish Mercenary Soldiers in 1521 in Antwerp, by the German artist Albrecht Dürer, shows the dress and equipment at that period in history. From the left, an Irish warrior wearing a quilted war coat and armed with a spear converses with a Scottish *gallòglach* (*galloglass*) wearing *chainmail*. The latter carries his *claidheamh mhòr* (great sword), bow, and a variety of arrows. At the center, another galloglass is shown wearing his *feileadh mhòr* (great kilt) and carrying a great sword. He is flanked by two barefooted *kern* who carry pole axes - one is also holding a signaling horn.





From the Norman invasion, the native Irish had been subjected to various legal constraints and indignities. In the aftermath of the 1691 cessation of hostilities, though King William himself was not vindictive and endeavored to be reasonably fair to the Irish, the terms of the Treaty of Limerick were ignored and soon discarded by the British administration.

Before long, Irish Catholics were subjected to a series of severe penal laws and forbidden to: exercise their religion publicly; vote; receive an education; enter a profession; marry a Protestant; hold public office; engage in trade or commerce; enlist in the army or navy; live in a corporate town or within five miles of one; own a horse valued at over £5 (in order to keep horses suitable for military activity out of the majority's hands); purchase land or lease it long term, or own a gun. An English Supreme Court Justice of the time stated,

"The law does not suppose any such person to exist as an Irish Roman Catholic".

Presbyterians, who were chiefly of Scottish origin in Ulster, also suffered discrimination, but not to the extent experienced by Catholics. Nevertheless, partly as a result of this discrimination, they emigrated in vast numbers to the United States, subsequently becoming known there as the "Scotch-Irish".

These very harsh legal restrictions along with the grinding poverty which ensued from them for many, meant that large numbers of Irish were driven to emigrate, mostly to join the ranks of foreign armies in the hope of achieving a better life. Generally speaking, life was very tough for these exiles. Hardship was their lot and many died in combat or from disease on campaign, while many others were disabled. Of those who survived, some were able to invest their savings and thrive in commerce. By way of example, a number of vineyards in France (Chateaux Lynch, Kirwan, Clarke, McCarthy etc.), as well as Hennessy's famous cognac (still in that family's hands) bear witness to the investments of some of the luckier Wild Geese. The Irish soldier exiles were to be found in most armies of that time.

## FRANCE

From the mid-17th century or so, France overtook Spain as the destination for Catholic Irishmen seeking a military career. The principal reason for this was that France was an ascendant power, rapidly expanding its armed forces, whereas Spain was a power in decline. France recruited many foreign soldiers: André Corvisier, the authority on French military archives, estimates that foreigners accounted for around 12% of all French troops in peacetime, and 20% of troops during time of war.

The crucial turning point came during the Williamite War (1688-91), when Louis XIV gave military and financial aid to the Irish Jacobites. In return for the 6000 French troops he sent out, Louis demanded 6000 Irish recruits for use in the Nine Years War against the Dutch. These men, led by Justin McCarthy, Viscount Mountcashel, formed the nucleus of the French Irish Brigade.

Later, when the Irish Jacobites under Patrick Sarsfield surrendered under the Treaty of Limerick, they were allowed to leave Ireland for service in the French Army. Sarsfield's "exodus" included 14,000 soldiers and 10,000 women and children. Initially, these units were not integrated into the French Army, but were assigned to the court in exile of the deposed James II, who Louis deemed to be the legitimate King of England, Ireland and Scotland. They were later incorporated into the Irish Brigade of the French Army.



Grenadier, Clare Regiment

While historian Patrick Clarke de Dromantin regards the estimates by Abbé McGeoghan (450,00 Irishmen dead in the service of France from 1691 to 1792) as being greatly exaggerated, it is clear nonetheless that the number was very large. At one time, the Irish Brigade of France had six complete regiments. Many of the Irish who served France, served with honour. The family of Dillon was particularly prominent among the military families, but there were a number of others such as Lolly Tollendal (Lally from Tulach an Dálaigh), O'Brien (Lord Clare), Butler (Lord Galmoy) and Walsh.

At the Battle of Fontenoy, in May of 1745, the Irish Brigade carried the day for the French, and brought victory from near defeat. When all the French forces about them were ready to capitulate, the Irish Brigade charged the combined English and Dutch forces, and secured a victory, though at a heavy price in casualties. This was followed shortly afterwards by a similar victory at Laffeldt, near Maastricht, which was also very costly in terms of Irish dead.

As mentioned previously, one of the Irish Brigade soldiers to become famous in commerce was Richard Hennessey of County Cork. He later settled in Cognac, France, and founded the Hennessey distillery there.

Later in history it was Patrice MacMahon (subsequently the Duke of Magenta and President of France) who led French troops in a critical action at the Battle of Malakoff, that brought about the fall of Sevastopol in 1855 during the Crimean War.



Patrice de Mac-Mahon, duc de Magenta, President of France, 1873–1879

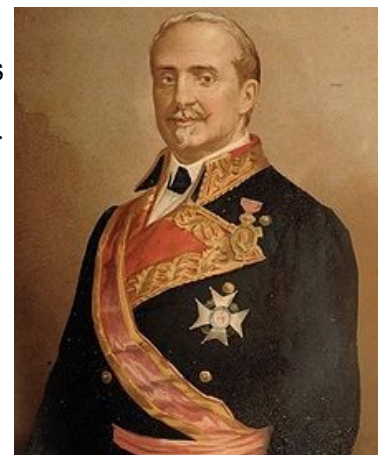
## SPAIN

In 1597, Henry O'Neill, son of the Great Hugh, formed a Tyrone Regiment for Spanish service. Spanish appreciation of the fighting qualities of the Irish soldiers may be gauged from comments by Diego Brochero de Anaya, who wrote to King Philip III of Spain in 1598: *"that every year Your Highness should order to recruit in Ireland some Irish soldiers, who are people tough and strong, and neither cold weather nor bad food could kill them easily as they would with the Spanish, as in their island, which is much colder than this one, they are almost naked, they sleep on the floor and eat oats bread, meat and water, without drinking any wine"*. There were three Irish regiments in the Spanish Army, and the first was established sometime around 1610, and spent 20 years fighting for Spain in Belgium and the Netherlands. O'Connell formed a regiment in 1637.

When the 1641 Confederate rebellion was finally extinguished by the Cromwellian forces, a very large number of Irish Confederate troops left the country to seek service in Spain. This was encouraged by the Cromwellians, in order to rid the country of potential rebels. Some of these later deserted or defected to French service, where the conditions were deemed better. At the time of the Napoleonic Wars, there were still three Irish infantry regiments in the Spanish army: *Irlanda* (raised 1698); *Hibernia* (1709); and *Ultonia* (1709). However in the later years of service by these regiments, usually only the officers were Irish or of Irish descent, with the men coming from Spain or other countries. All three regiments were finally disbanded in 1815.

Church records in Catalonia, Spain, revealed Irish were there in numbers as early as 1655. In 1698, Captain Juan Jordan, an Irishman in the service of Spain, captured Florida. Texas and Louisiana each had a Spanish Governor of Irish heritage: Texas was governed by Hugh O' Connor in 1767, and Louisiana by Alexander O'Reilly in 1769. O'Connor was later the Governor of the Yucatán, and he was the first Commandante Inspector of the Interior Provinces with authority over all Governors from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean. O'Reilly became Governor of Cuba, and still later Commander in Chief of the Spanish Army. King Charles III acknowledged that O'Reilly had saved his life through his personal intervention in Madrid in 1766, when the king was attacked by a mob protesting against economic distress.

Leopoldo O'Donnell y Jorris, 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Tetuan, 1<sup>st</sup> Count of Lucena, 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount of Aliaga, (January 12, 1809 – November 5, 1867), was a Spanish General and statesmen. He was a descendant of Calvagh O'Donnell, King of Tír Connell in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century.



Leopoldo O'Donnell, Duke of Tetuan and Prime Minister of Spain, 1856 and 1860-63

## AUSTRIA, RUSSIA, BAVARIA and POLAND

As in France and Spain, some of those who emigrated to these countries grew to levels of distinction impossible for the Irish to attain in Ireland. Fourteen Irishmen attained the rank of Marshall in the Austrian Army. One of them, Maximilian

O'Donnell, saved the life of Austrian Emperor Franz Josef I during an assassination attempt by a Hungarian nationalist in 1853. Throughout this period, there were substantial numbers of Irish officers and men in the armies of the Austrian Hapsburg empire, many of whom were based in Prague. The most famous of these was Peter Lacy in the Imperial Russian Army, whose son Franz Moritz Graf von Lacy excelled in the Austrian service. General Maximilian Ulysses Graf von Browne, the Austrian commanding officer in the bloody battle of Lobositz in 1756, was also of Irish descent. Recruitment for Austrian service was especially associated with the midlands of Ireland.

In 1634, during the Thirty Years' War, Irish and Scottish officers from Butler's Irish Dragoons assassinated the famous General Albrecht von Wallenstein on the orders of the Emperor, who had reason to believe that he was plotting against him.

The Caomhánach family was well represented in the service of Austria, Russia, Poland and Bavaria. The brilliant career of Major General Charles Baron Cavanagh of Borris is summarized below.



Count Maximilian Karl Lamoral  
O'Donnell von Tyrconnell

## BRITISH EMPIRE

Many Catholic Irishmen were serving in the British Army and Royal Navy well before the legal restrictions against Catholics serving in these forces were formally abolished in 1799. With recruitment driven largely by poverty and economic stress, Irishmen were disproportionately represented in the British army. In 1830, no less than 42% of non-commissioned men in the British army were Irish. There were several Irish units, including the Leinster Regiment; the Royal Munster Fusiliers; the Royal Irish Regiment, and the Connaught Rangers. When the Irish units were disbanded in 1920, they had more decorations for bravery than all the other comparable units in the British Army.

Among the more famous Irish in the military service of England was Sir Arthur Wellesley, better known as the Duke of Wellington, whose family hailed from counties Meath and Kildare. Some of his ancestors in the Pale were rumoured to have participated in the Silken Thomas FitzGerald rebellion (1534-37). In Ireland, one of his ancestral family names, Cowley, is usually an anglicisation of the Gaelic Mac Amhlaoihb sept from Co. Tyrone ("All Ireland Surnames," Seán de Bhulbh, Comhar Chumann Íde Naofa 2002), though it cannot be totally excluded that this was an English toponymic.

Wellington once said in a speech delivered in 1829: *"it is mainly to our Irish Catholics that we owe our proud pre-eminence in our military career...I feel almost ashamed of the honours which have been lavished on me. I feel that the merit was theirs, what was so freely given to me was unjustly denied to them."*

Thomas Henry Kavanagh was one of only five civilians to be awarded a Victoria Cross for his bravery at the Siege of Lucknow during the Indian Mutiny.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Inevitably there were many Irish involved in the American Revolutionary War, including those in the Dillon and Walsh Regiments that were sent there from France. During the American Civil War, it has been conservatively estimated that 150,000 or more Irish-born served in the Union ranks, while up to 20,000 were with the Confederates. Large numbers of Irish continued to join the colours for service during the Indian Wars and Spanish-American War.

There is hardly any need to expand on the part played by politicians, both Irish-born and of Irish descent in the United States. Suffice to say, they include eleven U.S. presidents who were of Irish descent on the paternal side (President Buchanan [Co Donegal], Jackson, Polk, Arthur, McKinley, Wilson, Kennedy, Nixon, Ford, Carter and Reagan) and twelve U. S. presidents of Irish descent on the maternal side (Adams, his son John Quincy, Madison, Johnson (Andrew), Grant, Cleveland, Harrison, Teddy Roosevelt, Lyndon Johnson, Clinton and Barack Obama).

Edward Kavanagh (1795 – 1844) was a member of the Maine House of Representatives from 1826 to 1828, and was



secretary of the State senate in 1830. He was elected as a Jacksonian to the Twenty-second and Twenty-third Congresses, serving March 1835. He was then appointed Chargé d'Affaires to Portugal and served until his resignation in June 1841. He became a member of the Maine Senate in 1842 and served as president of that body, becoming Governor of Maine in March, 1843, and serving until the end of the term in 1844.

## SOME CHAOMHÁNACHS IN THE RANKS OF THE “WILD GEESE”

As mentioned previously, the first verifiable Wild Geese episode involving Caomhánachs was in 1544, when Cahir McArt of Ballyann dispatched a contingent to fight with an English army against the French. Subsequently, towards the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, Dowling McBrian of Tyncurry served with an Irish army of 1,500 under the English Catholic Sir William Stanley against the Spanish. Dowling was one of those who remained with the Anglo-Dutch side when the remainder of the regiment deserted to the Spanish.

Patrick Clarke de Dromantin in his book “Les Réfugiés Jacobites dans la France du XVIIIe Siècle” (see article in the Clann Chaomhánach 2006 Annual) refers to the descendants of Captain Ignatius Cavanagh, one of whom, Nicholas, was a prosperous merchant in Nantes, who also had business interests in Saint Domingue (Haiti). Nicholas obtained French naturalization papers in February 1765. He was a son of Ignatius and Catherine Brown (of Galway). In his request for permission to carry on his business, he made reference to his first cousin, Butler, Lord Galmoy, of the Walsh regiment, and the Nagle ladies, who were in receipt of a pension from the King, with an apartment in the chateau of St.Germain-en-Laye. The Irish merchants in Brittany and the north of France were a tightly knit and prosperous group of families. Clarke also enumerates Caomhánach merchant families in Dunkirk and St.Malo (where there were also Morroghs). This family had an estate in Saint Domingue – modern Haiti – and there is an indication that they may have entered the fur trade with Moscow transactions.

## Service with Austro-Hungary

Several Chaomhánachs were among the hundreds of Irishmen to hold commissions in Hapsburg service from the seventeenth to the twentieth centuries. These included:

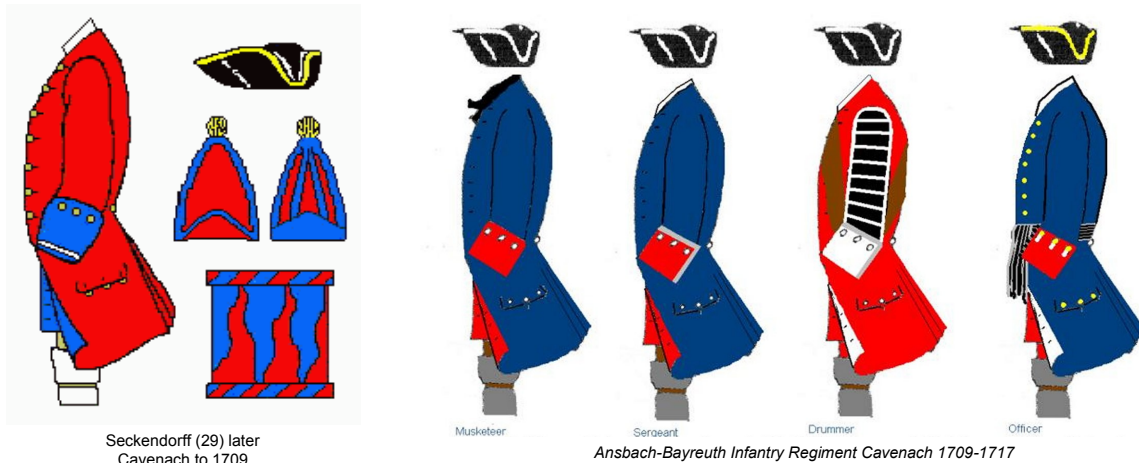
- \* Lt. Gen. Moriz Kavanagh, of Ballybrack, in the mid 1600's.
- \* Emperor Ferdinand III signed a passport for Captain Dionys Kavanagh to permit him to travel home in 1650.
- \* Lt. Gen Gaspar (Glaisne) Count von Chavignac (Kavanagh), raised a cavalry regiment in 1674 in the Electorate of Cologne, which was disbanded in the following year. He was posted as Colonel/proprietor of a dragoon regiment and served under the celebrated Monticuli at the battle of Altenheim and on the Rhine until the Treaty of Nimwegen 1678/9). He married a Clara Kavanagh, of the McMurtough Óg Garryhill family.
- \* Maurice de Kavanagh, son of Dermot of Ferns, had a long and distinguished career. As the Governor of Lorraine, Edward Taafe, Earl of Carlingford, hired Maurice to form a regiment of Leinstermen, “many of the officers being his own kinsmen”. Maurice fought in many battles with the Ansbach regiment, for example, at Cremona, Blenheim (1704), Ramillies (1705), and at Lille, where he was wounded in 1708. Under Prince Eugen of Savoy, the Cavanach regiment fought at Malplaquet in 1709, and it lost heavily in prisoners, when Eugene was surprised at Dinant in 1712 (316 of these prisoners being held at Valenciennes in France). In 1713, he was promoted Major-General and his regiment went into service with the King of Poland from 1713-1717. In 1730 he was promoted Lt. General, and his final command was of 6 000 Imperial troops. He was Chamberlain to the King of Poland, and died at Eger in 1744. His wife was a daughter of General Cormac O'Rourke, Lord of Breffni.
- \* Felix (Phelim) von Kavanagh was born in 1682, and went to France as a child. He was a son of Col. Charles Cavanagh, who was killed in the explosion of HMS Breda, and a grandson of Sir Morgan Cavanagh. He was recruited



Colors of the Cavenach Regiment



at Nancy into the service of Duke Leopold by Maurice de Kavanagh, and then went with "Cavenach Infantry Regiment" of Ansbach-Bayreuth. In 1713, he was commissioned Lt-Col. as an officer in the service of the King of Poland, who was also the Elector of Saxony. Felix's regiment saw service in many of the battles, including Ramillies (1705), Lille (1708), Malplaquet (1709) and Stresow. He was killed in a duel in 1735, when he was sabred by his adversary's second after he had accidentally fired his pistols prematurely and killed his opponent. His descendants altered the name to Gavernack and Gabernack. Felix appears to have been raised Protestant, presumably to retain title on family lands (See article on "Felix" by James J. Kavanagh in the 2002 Caomhánach Annual).



Seckendorff (29) later  
Cavenach to 1709

Musketeer

Serjeant

Drummer

Officer

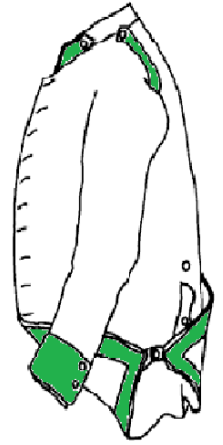
Ansbach-Bayreuth Infantry Regiment Cavenach 1709-1717

Terence Kavanagh was a lieutenant in the Ansbach regiment when it was transferred to Polish service in 1713. He became a Major in 1745, and Lt. Col. in 1750. He resisted the attempts of Frederick the Great of Prussia to defect, after his Saxon troops surrendered at Pirna in 1756. He apparently died from wounds received in battle during the 7 Years War, and his will provoked a long-standing court case, because the brother, to whom he left his considerable estate of ca. 40,000 florins, had predeceased him.

- \* Brian na Stróice, of Drumin, was a very tall man who had served at the battles of the Boyne and Aughrim, as well as in France and Spain. He died in Drumin in 1733 (Láimhdheargs of Ballyleigh). His son Morgan "Prussia" was reputedly the tallest soldier in Europe and served in the Prussian army. Another son became Baron Gniditz in 1768, and married the third of Maurice de Kavanagh's daughters.
- \* Count Moriz Ignaz, proprietor of Cuirassier regiment N° 4 from 1780 to 1801, was the only son of John Baptist, Baron Gniditz of Bohemia. He distinguished himself as a captain during the Seven Years' War, and was promoted Lt. General in 1790. In 1793, he rendered good service under Marshal Wurmer against the French republicans on the Rhine and in Flanders, especially during the attack at Weissenberg River. In 1796, he was serving under the Archduke Charles in the Black Forest against Moreau, and in 1798, he was fighting in the Netherlands. Count Kavanagh was appointed GOC in Hungary, and died unmarried at Buda on 6 April 1801.
- \* James Kavanagh, son of Simon of Inch, entered Imperial service in 1771, became a Baron, and was mortally wounded in Piedmont in 1795, while fighting against the French. His son, Col. Simon Henry, Baron of Ballyann, Chamberlain to the Empress of Austria, was born at Gratz in 1785. He rose to become colonel of the Infantry Regiment Vacquant. He had a very distinguished military career, being wounded in 1805 in Germany, again in 1809 in action at Porzia (against the French forces under Eugene de Beauharnais) and severely again at Fontanafreda. He remained as Military Secretary to the Imperial War Council until his death in 1830. Two of his sons served in the army.
- \* Lt. Gen. Demetrius Freiherr von Kavanagh, son of Maurice of Ballybrack who died in Germany, married a daughter (Felicitas) of Maurice de Kavanagh. He served under the Archduke Charles and Prince Eugene and took part in the battle of Malplaquet. He had become a baron in 1723. He was seriously wounded at Belgrade in 1739 in action against the Turks. On retirement he served as Imperial Chamberlain in Austria. He died in 1751 and his Hauskirchen property went (in the absence of an heir or will) to John Baptiste Kavanagh and ultimately came into the possession of his

grandson, Count Franz Joseph Schafftosh (though Walter Kavanagh of Borris should legally have had a claim to it under Austrian male descendency law).

- \* Lt.Gen. Moriz Ignaz Graf Kavanagh was the Colonel/Proprietor of Cavalry Regiment N° 4, from 1786-1801. He died in 1801 at Budapest.
- \* Colonel Moriz Freiherr von Kavanagh, Commander of Infantry Regiment N°27 from 1771-82 .
- \* Ensign Moriz Freiherr von Kavanagh, the son of an officer - a captain - was in Graz in 1792. He was carried on the muster as an Ensign of Infantry Regiment N° 55 in 1809.
- \* Colonel Jakob Julius Baron Kavanagh von Balyane was born in Vienna in 1812. As the Colonel of Infantry Regiment N° 52, he was killed at Vicenza in 1848.
- \* Colonel Arthur Count Segur Cabanac is mentioned in 1849.



Regiment 4 "Kavanagh"

- \* One very famous Caomhánach in Imperial service, Charles Cavanagh, was of the Borris family. He was born in 1709, the second son of Morgan of Borris (died 1720). Charles entered Austrian service as a youth in 1725, and during an illustrious career saw action in the wars of the Polish and Spanish Succession. From 1732 to 1736 he was in action against the French, Spanish, and their Italian allies. He was wounded in action on numerous occasions, most seriously when he was leading a Grenadier unit during an assault at Piacenza in Italy in 1746. He was promoted to General during the 7 Years War, and was wounded again at the battle of Torgau in 1760. He was promoted Major General and received the Order of Maria Theresa Cross. Major General Charles Baron Cavanagh became Governor of Prague in 1765 and died in 1777. His first wife, Christina Elizabeth, was a daughter of Maurice de Kavanagh of Ferns. His only surviving daughter married Baron Karl von Hildbrand. (See article in the Clann Chaomhánach Annual 2007).
- \* There was a General Kavanagh present during the well noted exchange between Emperor Joseph II and Michael Kelly, an Irish tenor on a European tour in the 1780's. The Emperor, who spoke fluent Gaelic, was surprised that an Irishman could not speak his own language.
- \* Colonel Kavanagh, First Referendary to the Aulic Council of War, wrote to Prince Klemens Wenzel von Metternich in Vienna in June 1829, advising on military matters.

## Service with Spain

- \* Felix Kavanagh, a descendant of Maurice, King of Leinster, was a Captain with the Spanish Navy around 1630.
- \* Capt. Arthur Cavanagh and Sergt. Anthony Cavanagh, are recorded in correspondence from their commanding officer in 1656. He proposed that be sent to Spanish Flanders to assist in the war there, but this offer was not accepted.
- \* Susanne O Magdin, the widow of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Geraldo Kavanagh, on 4 September 1645, requested and was granted permission, for her pension to be paid to Margarita Nindonjo (Ní Dhonncha).
- \* Captain Cruimthinn Kavanagh served under Eoghan Roe O'Neill in the Spanish Netherlands in the 1640's.
- \* Don Francisco Cavanagh was a Lieutenant in the Hibernia Regiment in 1715.
- \* Lieutenant Diego (or James) Cavana, who was born in Kilkenny, was in Spain around 1709.
- \* Cristobal Cavanac and Edmundo Cavanac are listed with the Irlanda Regiment in 1731.
- \* There was a Lt. Col. Don Cesar Cavanna y Purtor listed as first Col. of Military works in 1892.
- \* The extent of the Caomhánach participation with Dónal Óg Cavanagh in Spanish service following the Cromwellian conquest remains to be researched (see Stradling's book "The Spanish Monarchy and Irish Mercenaries: The Wild Geese in Spain 1618-68" on this episode).

- \* Finally, an investigation was held into the alleged “bad management” by James Cavanagh, rector of Alcála College (later subsumed into Salamanca University) following disturbances in 1745. He was subsequently vindicated.

## Service with France

- \* Brian na Stróice of Drumin, as mentioned previously.
- \* Murchadh (Morgan) Cavanagh, son of Col. Charles, was a Cadet in Lord Mountcashel Brigade in 1691, and his brother Ignatius became a Captain in the Irish Brigade.
- \* Morgan Cavanagh, was a Sub-Lieutenant in the Walsh (1785) and Berwick (1790) regiments. His brother Thomas was also a Sub-Lieutenant in the Walsh regiment in 1796, and served in an Austrian Cuirassier Regiment in 1796. Thomas was the heir to the Borris estates, where he died in 1837.
- \* Felix Cavanagh, a priest from Ferns, was provisor for Leinster in the Irish College in Paris and retired in 1718. He corresponded with Major Thomas Cavanagh of the Berwick Regiment, and the latter’s brother, Captain Gerard Cavanagh, of the Nugent Regiment.
- \* Some other references found in records at Aire sur la Lys in northern France, an Irish military quarter, include Harpoole Cavanagh, Quartermaster to the Dillion Regiment around 1720, and the marriage of an Anne Marie Cavanagh to a Daniel Murphy in 1739.
- \* Captain Denis Cavanagh at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century was in Paris.

The records of Les Invalides, the hospice in Paris which housed and cared for disabled veterans, mention the following:

- \* Charles Cavenagh: *aged 66, native of Powerscourt county Wickloe in Ireland, soldier in Kennedy’s company, Irish regiment of Clare (formerly Fitzgerald and Charlemont), where he served 30 years, and previously 6 years in Ireland. His back and thighs were badly affected by rheumatism which, with his weak sight, made him unfit for service; married at Douai; admitted: 22 February 1722. Died 30th August 1731 at Verdun on detachment.*
- \* Etienne Cavanagh, *55 years, of County Wexford, corporal of Sr. Galfort, Dillon’s Regiment under Greder-Alemand, Furstemberg and Hamilton, in which he has served 25 years, confirmed by his certificate. His weak eyesight puts him out of service. Married in Paris. Catholic. Received 11th November 1700; Died 30th August 1721 at Verdun on detachment.*
- \* Owen Cavanagh, known as “St Luke” *aged 70 of County Tyrone, soldier of Sr. Boussu, Thoy’s Regiment, in which he has served 3 and a half years as well as 27 years in the regiments of Lee, Montcassel, Greder-Alemand, Furstemberg, and Hamilton, confirmed by his certificates. His infirmities put him out of service. Married in Ireland . Catholic. Received 5 May 1702. Died 10th May 1709.*
- \* Bernard Cavanagh, *aged 60 years Irish, Scots Gendarmes. He has served 10 years of service which he has been obliged of leave as much for the wounds Received at the Battle of Cassel and elsewhere as for his caducity. He bears a leave paper from Sr. Crolly the same day. Single. Catholic. Received 21st August 1677. Died 10th May 1709.*
- \* Nicholas Cavanagh , *aged 65 years, of Santrie near Dublin , soldier in Murphy’s, Galmoy’s Irish Regiment, in which he has served 23 years, confirmed by his certificate. He is very troubled by his left thigh of a strongly considerable Loupe which along with his weak stomach and his wounds puts him out of service. Catholic. Received 28th May 1716. Died 18th February 1720.*



Galmoy



Dillon



Berwick



Clare



Bulkeley

- \* William Kinselagh, aged 32, native of Arclaw county Westford, trooper in Braughal's troop, Nugent (formerly Sheldon) regiment, where he served 12 years per his certificate. He was very inconvenienced by an ulcer of the palate which hindered his speech and, with his weak sight, made him unfit for service; admitted: 18 June 1716. 17 December 1718, he died.
- \* There were also references to two soldiers who were in a "Cavanagh Company", i.e. John Coghelen of Cork, Duke of Berwick's Regiment, received 1713, and Nicolas Doublidery, aged 32 years, of County Dublin, Dragoon of Sr. Cavanagh, Regiment des Dragons of the King of England.
- \* Jacques (James) Cavanagh of Anneclay (Aughnacloy), 27 years old, died at the famous Battle of Fontenoy (1745) in the ranks of Jean O'Brien's Company.

The records of the parish of St.Germain-en-Laye reference Philip (Phelim ?) Cavanagh, who was married to a Dormer lady, and may have been the man on behalf of whose son James of York sent the Irish College in Lille a request to allow this son's entry to the college. The marriage of Philip's son Denis is recorded in 1698, at which there were two witnesses, his cousin Jean Cavanagh and another Denis Cavanagh.

The burial of a Captain Jean Cavanagh in 1709, is also found in these parish records.

Noted in the ranks of the elite French Cavalry of Lieut-Colonel Coghlan, Fitzjames Regiment, in 1736 were:

- \* Tobie Cavanagh, Fearnagh (Ferns), Leinster, 26 yrs, recruited 1728, 5' 9", red-brown hair, short nose, oval face, good looking, died August 1739 (Tobie was a personal name popular among the Rower Caomhánachs).
- \* Morgan Redmond, Cluniburn, (Clonyburn) Wexford, 30 yrs, recruited 1733, 5' 9", brown hair, large face, pockmarked. Considering that he was from Clonyburn around Bunclody, he would probably have been of the McDavymore Caomhánach sept.

Joseph Cavanagh, a former shoemaker from Lille, is credited with organizing the attack on the Bastille, which had world shaking repercussions, and he was rewarded by being made an Inspector of Police in Paris. The origin of his family is a bit uncertain, for it has been cited as Clare, but this could have been the barony of Clare in Co. Galway.

Mauritius Kavanagh of Taghmon appears in local records in the then French-ruled Luxembourg in 1696, and also in Luxembourg, a Catherine Cavanagh was godmother to a son of a high ranking French civil servant in 1705.

## Caomhánachs in Brittany

Caomhánachs in Brittany became Cavanach and sometimes Quévanoch. An Art Caomhánach in the region actually signed his name in Breton.

Patricia Dagier "Les Réfugiés irlandais au XVIIe siècle en Finistère" (Quimper, 1999) found 6 Caomhánach households in Quimper, Landivisiau, Brest and St Pol de Léon between 1654, and the male names were the familiar clan names of Arthur, Charles, and Daniel.

A son of Charles (François) became a notary (or lawyer) in Landivisiau.

## Service with Poland

Captain James Butler obtained a warrant in 1619 from the King of Poland to recruit a large army, with Donnchadh McKean Kavanagh, Edmond MacMurrough Kavanagh, John O'Phelan, and others from the woods of Lower Leinster. Lt.Col. W.O. Cavenagh remarks that the English were only too glad to quit of 10,000 such, especially "of that ever rebellious race of Kavanaghs".

Major General Maurice de Kavanagh (as mentioned previously) was in Polish service from 1713-1717, employed against



the Swedes under Charles XII. There were 6 other Caomhánach officers in that service: Lt. Col. Felix, Captain Sylvester, Lieutenants Arthur, Terence and Francis, and Ensign Ignatius.

## Service in the American Revolutionary War

Jeremiah Kavanagh of Ballynamonabeg, married a sister of rebel leader, Fr. Michael Murphy, and was one of the Wexford 1798 leaders. He was the grandfather of historian Rev. Patrick Kavanagh. He was a veteran of Washington's army and it is thought that he may have been a commissioned officer.

The following is an extract from a description of the adventures of Patrick Cavanaugh during the Revolutionary war (extracted from Kavanaghfamily website, Source: The Journal of the American Irish Historical Society, Vol. XXI, 1922.):

*Early in the morning of the 19th of April, 1777, General Benjamin Lincoln's headquarters near New Brunswick was surprised by the enemy under Lord Cornwallis, and this incident served to immortalize the modest private soldier, Patrick Cavanaugh. The American army was in an exposed position, only a few miles from the advance posts of the British between New Brunswick and Bound Brook. Cavanaugh was on sentry duty at a post situated in an abandoned farm house beside the Raritan River where a narrow road ran down from Bound Brook. In the dawn of the morning of the 19th of April his keen ear detected the tread of horses on the highway, and mounting to the roof of the farm house he saw what proved to be the advance column of a formidable body of cavalry, organized to attack the American camp on two sides. After firing his piece he immediately set off across country to alert the General. Lincoln and one of his aides barely had time to mount and leave the house before it was surrounded. He led his troops off between the two enveloping columns of the enemy and retreated through a pass in the mountains, but with the loss of all his artillery, about sixty men killed and wounded and many prisoners. Cavanaugh was among those who escaped, and when the roll was called late that evening he received the thanks of his General and was promoted to the rank of sergeant.*

*Sometime afterwards, he was detached from the Eight Regiment to become an express rider for General Nathaniel Greene, for whom he carried many important dispatches to the Governors of Virginia and North Carolina and to the commanding officers of outlying detachments of the army, while Greene was operating in the South in 1780 and 1781. The presence of enemy patrols required the utmost vigilance by a courier. Patrick Cavanaugh was overtaken on one occasion by a party of English cavalymen while on his way to General Daniel Morgan's camp near the town of Ninety-Six, South Carolina. When crossing the Saluda River, then in flood, his horse was shot, and Cavanaugh was captured and brought before the English commander. The dispatch of which he was the bearer was secreted in a small cavity of one of the horse's shoes, but the English soldiers paid no attention to the drowning animal, whose body was carried down stream. The wily Cavanaugh was ordered to be sent to Tarleton's headquarters for further examination.*

*The prisoner was bound, in Indian fashion; but during the night Cavanaugh managed to free himself, killed one of the sentries who attacked him and made his escape on foot. He remained in the service throughout the entire war, after which he settled in Washington County, Pa. His name appears among a number of Revolutionary pensioners residing in Washington County in 1820. He died in 1823, at the age of 83. There were two other soldiers of that name in the Eight Regiment which Patrick Cavanaugh first joined, namely Sergeant Barney Cavanaugh and private John Cavanaugh. Another Patrick Cavanaugh served as a Corporal in the first Regiment of the Pennsylvania Line. It is probable that he was a relative of Patrick of the Eight Regiment, since he also lived in Washington County and died there in the year 1829.*

## Service in the American Civil War

Capt. John Kavanagh, Young Irelander and Fenian, was killed at the bloody Battle of Antietam.

Michael Cavanagh (of Cappoquin, co. Waterford), Young Irelander and Fenian 1822 - 1900, was an officer in the Union Army. He was a journalist and a close friend of both John O'Mahony and Gen T.F. Meagher, whose biography he wrote. Meagher was succeeded in Congress by US-born Democrat James M. Cavanaugh.



Capt John Kavanagh

Major James Cavanagh a Tipperary man, 1837-1901, rose through the ranks of the Union Army and was wounded in battle. He was also a prominent Fenian. In 1893 he was promoted to Brigadier General (Brevet) in the National Guard.

An article in the 2009 Caomhánach Annual provides greater details regarding family participation during the Civil War and offers a short selection of the roughly 1,250 Caomhánachs who fought for the Union or Confederate forces.

## Concluding Remarks

The selection of Caomhánachs listed above is an attempt to compile what is, of necessity, an extremely incomplete list of our Wild Geese. Those for whom records are still extant represent of course only a tiny fraction of these. There were countless others who have vanished unrecorded and unsung.

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Illustrations on the cover and on page 17 by Seán Ó Brógáin, presented here by courtesy of Eoghan Ó hAnnracháin (as published in *Irisleabhar Mhá Nuad* 2009)

In January, 1654, an order was issued to the Governors of Carlow, Kilkenny, Clonmel, Wexford, Ross, and Waterford, to “*arrest and deliver to Captain Thomas Morgan, Dudley North, and John Johnson, English merchants, all wanderers, men and women, and such other Irish within their precincts, as should not prove they had such settled course of industry as yielded them a means of their own to maintain them, all prisoners, men and women, to be transported to the West Indies. The Governors were to guard the prisoners to the ports of shipping; but the prisoners were to be provided for and maintained by the said contractors, and none to be discharged except by order under the hand and seal of the governor ordering the arrest.*” (*Chronicles of the County Wexford*, compiled by George Griffiths, Enniscorthy, 1890).

*English Army Lists and Commission Registers, 1661-1714*, edited by Charles Dalton, Volume II 1685-1689, by Eyre & Spottiswoode, London, 1894:

- \* Commissions, 1688, page 176: Jno. Cavenagh, Ensign in Col. Cornwall's Regiment of Foot, under Edward Cornwall, dated 29 Sept 1688, Ref: W.O. Bk. 1258. Out of the regiment in 1689.
- \* Commissions, 1686, page 80: Tho. Kavenagh, Brigdr. and eld. Lt. of Our 3rd Tp. of H. Gds. Regiment commanded by John, Lord Churchill, under John, Lord Churchill, signed at Windsor, dated 28 June 1686, Out of the regiment before Nov. 1687.

July 20 1687: Whitehall Treasury Chambers. Treasury reference to Charles Toll, Charles Twitty, William Lowndes, Tho. Townsend and Hum. Dove, of the petition of Roger Sizer, for payment of money paid by his father to Edmd. Cavenagh, footman to the late King, on his wages [being advanced by the said father] to supply Cavenagh's necessities. Reference Book V, p. 115. [From: 'Entry Book: July 1687, 16-20', Calendar of Treasury Books, Volume 8: 1685-1689 (1923), pp. 1466-1474.]

## Peter the Chimney Sweep

Researched by Celia Kavanagh Boylan

The following article is based on a newspaper report of a court case which has such a resemblance to the tale of *Oliver Twist*, one wonders if Dickens based his character on this horrific crime, which was published October 28th 1802 in many newspapers around Great Britain. One newspaper article, from the *Caledonian Mercury*, October 28th 1802, describes Peter Cavanagh as a well spoken and polite boy between seven and eight years old. He was stood in court to give evidence against his employer's foreman, who was accused of five counts of assaulting and cruelly maltreating the boy, and for detaining the boy without authority.

The child had been born in Devon, sometime around 1795. He had been living with his mother and grandparents in Exeter following the death of his father. When his mother remarried, she moved to live with her new husband who was a blacksmith, in Sloane Street, in the Belgravia area of London. Peter had been taken there to visit his mother. The step father was a strict disciplinarian, and threatened the child, who was terrified and ran away. Within a mile he sat crying on the steps of a church, where he was approached by one of Mrs. Bridges boys and was taken to Swallow Street near Piccadilly Circus. For three weeks he lived at her home and ran errands for them, but at no time would he have agreed to have stayed with them, had he thought that they intended him to be a chimney sweep. He was under the age of eight, which was, in itself, in violation of the Chimney Sweepers Act of 1788 (1).



Boys as young as four years of age had been employed as chimney sweeps and those children were the ones that the act of 1788 was meant to protect. However, because mandatory civil registration within weeks of the birth was not introduced until 1864, the only other proof of age would have been a baptismal certificate. Baptisms may or may not have happened, and sometimes these occurred years after the birth. Thus, in many cases, there may not have been absolute proof that a child was under 8 years of age. This element of doubt made the Act of 1788 too difficult to enforce.

During the 18th and 19th century children were bought from orphanages or picked up from the streets, and indentured into chimney sweeping. It was considered essential that Poor Law guardians attempt to place children, who were in the care of the workhouse, into apprenticeships to alleviate the cost of supporting paupers, and ensure that they were trained to be able to support themselves once the apprenticeship was completed.

In 1834 another act demanded that the minimum age for children employed in chimney sweeping, would be 10 years of age and the indenture should be recorded and made legal in front of magistrates to prove that the child had willingly agreed to a seven year 'apprenticeship' as an indentured servant. The master sweep would be responsible for food and lodgings for a maximum of six apprentices, however, their living conditions were atrocious and many of these children lived in cellars with a bag of soot for a bed, no change of clothes and little or no bathing facilities and no days off. Having completed their apprenticeship they would then be considered a journeyman chimney sweep and could work for a master of their choice.

Another act of 1840 made it illegal for anyone under 21 years of age, to sweep a chimney but the act was ignored and climbing child chimney cleaners were still employed after that date. The boys would climb up the chimney brushing and scraping the internal chimney walls to remove the soot and dangerous tarred surface of the brickwork whilst the master sweep, having pushed them up the chimney, would work from above on the roof sweeping soot downwards onto the child working below. It was common practice for the master sweep to force the young lads higher up the chimney against their will, by lighting small fires in the fireplace, holding lit straw to their feet or poking them with pins and these known methods explain why Putney thought he had done nothing wrong.

Harsh working conditions caused a series of job-related injuries such as badly burned, maimed or deformed limbs and joints, or respiratory and eye ailments. It is not known how many children died when they fell or suffocated while cleaning

chimneys. Many of those who managed to survive into their teens, then succumbed to a condition that was so common that it was known as “chimney sweeps cancer”<sup>(2)</sup>. Scotland was far more humane and demanded that chimneys be swept by the use of brushes and rags pulled up and down by a master sweep from the roof, and the climbing of chimneys by children was illegal and regulated by police there as early as 1803.

Although not enforced, the act of 1788 (An Act for the Better Regulation of Chimney Sweepers and their Apprentices) was passed, but it wasn't until 1875 that the employment of children to climb and sweep chimneys became illegal in England and Wales. The Chimney Sweepers Act passed in 1875, required chimney sweepers to be authorised by the police to carry on their businesses in the district, thus providing the legal means to enforce all previous legislation. George Brewster was the last child to die in a chimney - his employer was convicted of manslaughter after the child became stuck in a chimney where he suffocated to death.

The delay in getting a satisfactory conclusion in all the attempts to change the lives of these children was caused by two major contributory factors.

- \* As most of the boys were orphans or street urchins, and some had even been sold to the master sweeps by their parents, they had no-one to champion their cause, and a blind eye would appear to have been turned by society on the cruelty they endured while performing this work.
- \* There was a general belief by the public that mechanical means to clean chimneys was not as effective, and they strongly opposed the abolition of child sweeps, as they believed it would leave their homes at risk of fire.

One English champion was Jonas Hanway, who wrote two books (1778 and 1785) which alerted the plight of these children to Parliament in a way they could not ignore at that time. He compared the use of child sweeps to slavery, when Parliament was supporting the abolition of slavery in the New World (achieved in 1807) and he could not see how the treatment of these children was any better than the way slaves were treated and he could not see how this could be considered an apprenticeship for a job, as the future would without doubt follow the Scottish example, where mechanical means to clean chimneys were employed. He was also appalled by the conditions the children were forced to endure and campaigned for Sunday School education for the children. Hanway's books brought the subject to the attention of the public and although his support for mechanical means was not shared by master sweep David Porter who supported the use of child sweeps, Porter sent in a petition to Parliament to demand better living conditions for the children in 1792.

In the case of Peter Cavanagh in 1802, he was neither vagrant, indentured servant, nor orphan and as such this must have been a test case at a time when such inhumanity towards children was commonplace, and would perhaps explain why this case caused so much interest from the British press, it could have been used as a political item to bring the plight of these children to public attention,.

Two days before he was rescued from them, William Putney, the foreman working for Mrs Bridges, took young Cavanagh by the ears, hitting him as he pulled him into the room with the large chimney which Putney used to train his boys and where he beat Peter with a stick full of pins (which pricked into his flesh), to force him to climb up the chimney. Not being a successful climber, the child was taken by Putney to the cellar where he was beaten with rods and when taken back upstairs, he was beaten once again by Mrs Bridges herself for his failure to climb the chimney. The child escaped and ran out of the house, but Putney was in hot pursuit and caught up with him, and beat him all the way back to the house with a "cat o nine tails", and on his return to the house, Mrs Bridges beat him yet again with the stick which she kept by her bedside.

A witness, Robert Yates (one of Mrs. Bridges boys), said that he had been sent to buy rods which were later used to beat the boy. He had been present the second time Putney tried to force Peter to climb the chimney, and little Peter had fallen and really hurt himself. Peter was then taken to the cellar, where the neighbours would not hear his cries, and was beaten by Putney. Peter had then been taken to a nearby church, where he was to be trained to climb chimneys, and Yates had been



told to push him up, to get him to climb better. That church had a niche in the corner with three sides, which was similar to the inside of a chimney and Putney used this part of the church wall to train the boys. If they fell, they were in extreme danger as there were spikes at the bottom of the niche and if he had fallen he would have been killed. People passing by pitied the child, who was obviously distressed, giving him money which Putney took from him.



Putney again tried to force little Peter Cavanagh to climb the chimney in Mrs Bridges' house, and again he started dragging him downstairs to the cellar to beat him, but this time, the screams and cries of the child were heard by a Mrs. Allen, who was lodging at the house. She was told that the boy was lazy and disobedient. Peter was told to go to the cellar to get cinders for the fire, and to wait for him there. Peter was too afraid to go, as he had been beaten every time he went to the cellar, and refused to go through the door. Putney hit him and he fell down the stairs. It was then that Mrs. Wilson, who lived next door, heard the commotion and the screams of the child. She immediately entered the house, removed the child to her own home, gave him shelter there, and alerted the authorities.

In his defence, the prisoner claimed Peter was telling lies and he could not believe how the child could say he had beaten him he was merely training the child to work as a sweep. Peter Cavanagh replied that he had the marks on his body to prove what he was saying was true, and that he had been stopped from leaving the house when he wanted to go. Putney claimed Robert Yates was lying too, because he had been refused permission to visit his mother.

Mrs. Wilson said she tried to force her way into the house when she heard the cries of a child, so terrible it was far too much for any human being to listen to. She saw Putney hit the child three times by the cellar door, where the boy collapsed down the stairs. She made her way into the house and took hold of the child, and said she would venture her own life before she would allow them to keep him there. When she got him into her home, she found his clothes were full of vermin, and taking them off to get the child clean, she saw the terrible thick wheals on his skin where he had been beaten. She asked had he eaten, and was told that he would not get any food until he climbed the chimneys. She fed him and he fell asleep while eating his food. Other witnesses corroborated this sequence of events.

Putney denied the charges. He stated Mrs. Bridges had asked him to see if the boy was fit for cleaning chimneys, as otherwise he was to be seized under the Vagabond Act. He claimed he had asked where she had got him from, but she would not say. He continued with his work, in the cellar but the child had been difficult when he was needed to clean a chimney for a customer. When Mrs. Bridges discovered the child had been taken away by Mrs. Wilson, she dismissed Putney and paid him off and told him to get away from the house before the authorities arrived. He refused as he claimed he had done nothing wrong. Putney was found guilty and sentenced to be imprisoned for six months in Clerkenwell.

The article does not elaborate on the fate of Peter Cavanagh, other than at the time of the trial he was working in London delivering newspapers each day, and going to school on Sundays, and was old enough to understand what a sin it would be not to tell the truth in court. It would appear he most likely returned to his mother's new home in Sloane Street, London where no doubt his step father's discipline would be far less a threat than the treatment he had had from Putney. If his wish to return to his grandfather was ever fulfilled, we will probably never know but it would be nice to think the smartly dressed old gentleman turned up to save him just as *Oliver Twist's* grandfather did.

#### Endnotes:

- (1) The illustration, from a series of etchings called the "Cries of the Citeie of London, drawne after the Life," by Marcellus Lauron, printed in *The English Illustrated Magazine*, Volume 10, *The Cries of London* by George Augustus Sala, p. 125, shows a chimney sweep and his "assistant"
- (2) Chimney sweep's cancer, called Soot wart, has the distinction of being the first reported form of occupational cancer, and was initially identified by Percival Pott in 1779. As the name implies, it was initially noticed as prevalent among chimney sweeps. The youngest victim, recorded in 1790, was 8 yrs old. The disease was principally a British



phenomena. In Germany, for example, sweeps wore tight fitting protective clothing, which prevented the soot accumulating on the lower surface of the scrotum, while at one stage in the UK boys were sent up the chimneys naked. (see ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimney\\_sweeps'\\_carcinoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimney_sweeps'_carcinoma) and [http://www.wellerschimneysweeps.com/?page\\_id=384](http://www.wellerschimneysweeps.com/?page_id=384)).

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[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimney\\_sweep](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chimney_sweep)



## Did you know?

**"The "Town of Wexford"** paddle steamer, (was) totally wrecked near Hollyhead, on her voyage from Wexford to Liverpool on 4 January 1852 - no lives were lost. She was the only steamship ever built in the port of Wexford, and was the property of John Edward Redmond, Esq." (*Chronicles of the County Wexford, compiled by George Griffiths, Enniscorthy, 1890*).

**"The "Big Snow"** (refers to) the snow fall and frost which commenced on the eve of Twelfth Day, 1814, (and) was declared by " the oldest inhabitant" to have been the most severe since the "Big Frost" of 1740. The weather previously had been comparatively mild and with little rain. On New Year's Day, 1814, the wind came to the East, with an overcast sky. On the evening of the 5th January (1814) the wind rose and snow fell heavily for 18 hours, covering the country to a depth of three or four feet—and where snow-drifts formed, the depth was from ten to twenty feet. Great difficulty was experienced in recovering sheep from the fields. On the 7th the frost became intense, and the snow fell heavily at intervals, but was remarkably dry and crisp, and the sun shone out brightly as is usual in Canada. This kind of weather continued for three weeks, without any thaw. All out-door work was suspended, and many cattle, particularly sheep perished. The roads were undistinguishable, and several cabins were covered over, and had finally to be abandoned by the inmates. The Slaney was frozen over from Ferry Carrig upwards, and was crossed by men and horses without danger. The whole of the extensive Wexford Harbour only exposed a narrow crooked line of open water in the tideway, and was covered with millions of wild water fowls, very many of them kinds rarely seen here. The same was the case with the Lakes of the county. The Lake of the Lady's Island was even more immensely resorted to by wild fowls, for its peculiar kind of feeding, the water being nearly fresh, and having no tide or natural outlet into the sea. The Lake, three miles in length, was all frozen over to the thickness of 14 inches, except a semicircular space of about quarter of a mile, where the birds were so numerous as to prevent the water from freezing by their perpetual motion, and millions of them died. All the fishes in the lake perished also, and when a passage was cut into the sea in the following March, the bones of the perished wild birds and fishes were as plenty as shells on a cockle bed. There was not the slightest thaw until the 1st of February. Ague prevailed very much in the county during the following season, but other diseases were comparatively rare. Ague, once a common affliction yearly in the southern part of the county, has wonderfully disappeared, not half a dozen cases having been reported to the Poor-Law Guardians by the Dispensary District Medical Officers for the past five-and-twenty years." (*Chronicles of the County Wexford, compiled by George Griffiths, Enniscorthy, 1890*).

## Family Life, Demon Drink, and an Incredible Journey in 1881

Researched by CKB

What was family life like in the nineteenth century in England when you were working class and had moved into a city to find work to make sufficient income to support a family? Was it how Dickens had portrayed it?

The more prosperous of our extended family were members of the professions or officers in the forces, some were already well established businessmen, stonemasons and shop keepers. Those who had come over during the worst of the famine years some time earlier were now settled. Having left a fever and famine ridden country, they fought through adversity. They knew just exactly what it was like to be destitute and unwanted in areas where there was little or no help to be had.

The memory of those terrible years never left them. Within their own communities, they had ways of ensuring that they helped members of their extended families. These continued to arrive from Ireland, where the West Coast counties were still suffering from repeated years of evictions, failed crops, and fever. They frequently made room for these new arrivals as lodgers until they were able to get their own homes. The newcomers from Ireland in the 1880's left a country that 30 years later was still suffering from the throes of famine. If they did not have sponsors in England, it was even more difficult for them than it was for the English born young working class newly-weds. Working together, most couples eventually managed to reach a decent standard of living for their family.

For others, the opportunities just weren't there. This was made so much worse if they were starting out from nothing. For many, the answer was emigration to try somewhere else. Without hope, the frustration could lead to ill temper and unfortunately, for some, comfort from the bottle and a downhill slide to alcohol abuse, or even worse, dependence. Even those who had secured a respectable, peaceful life for their children, may still have had to cope with unfriendly neighbours, as the Kavanaghs of Liverpool found out. Mrs. Mary Kavanagh, of Glenny Street in Toxteth Park, was disturbed by a commotion and went downstairs to defend her daughter and baby grand-daughter. A new neighbour, worse the wear for drink, had pushed his way into their home and attacked them, claiming the daughter had had words with his wife earlier in the day. Mary, aged 60, took the full force of his anger, when he knocked her to the floor and kicked her in the head. She died in hospital. The neighbour, Archibald MacDonald, a Scot in his thirties, served four years hard labour for manslaughter (1).

Although men are often expected to be the ones with a drinking problem it wasn't always the situation. Such was the case of Patrick Cavanagh of Wednesbury in Staffordshire (2). He was imprisoned in 1871 for beating his wife, after she had sold almost everything they had to support her drinking problem. Some years later, his son had the same frustration with his mother, as she was spending his hard earned wages on drink. He followed his dad's example, and ended up in prison in 1885 (3).

Many couples lived in separate lodgings on a temporary basis due to lack of available housing. However, this was also often due to lack of work in the area where they lived, and so the husband would go elsewhere to find a job and a home. He would send money to support them, until such time as accommodations were available and he could ask them to join him. This situation was most frequently encountered in plans to emigrate. On the other hand, when a marriage broke up, divorce was so costly that it was not an option for ordinary people, and certainly no option at all for Roman Catholic couples. The couple would live separately. Either the children would choose which parent they wished to stay with, or the father would support his children by sending money home.

Lawrence Cavanagh married Mary (possibly Coleman), and for a little while they lived in Liverpool, where their first daughter Margaret was born. They moved to Salford, not far from the area of Manchester where Mary had been born and brought up, and where she had worked as a "French polisher" (4). Lawrence was a boot maker, so between the two of them they had skills that should have helped them along the way. Everything seemed fine with this couple, and they had another daughter, Sarah Alice, born in Salford. Something then went really wrong. Lawrence left his wife and daughters to take a job in Glasgow over 200 miles away, and Mary and the girls ended up in the Salford Workhouse, where she gave birth to another little girl Annie. (5).

After spending over two years in the Salford Workhouse, Mary was finally able to take her children to live in a lodging house, and must have had some income from her work to support their living expenses. However, within only a couple of weeks, she was picked up by the law and jailed for two weeks for being drunk and disorderly. The lodging house keeper

was prepared to provide a home for the infant, aged two. However, she would not keep the two older children, something she made quite clear to young Maggie. Without further ado, the heartbroken thirteen year old took charge of the situation. She had no intention of being separated from her sisters, and decided to go in search of their father in Glasgow.

The three children, Maggie 13, Sarah Alice 9 and Annie aged 2, unaccompanied by an adult and walking, set off on their journey - no money, no food, having just what they stood in, and having to carry the two year old most of the way. The dangers they faced then were much as they are over that same route today. They had to pass through some very lonely places, and through difficult neighbourhoods, where young teenagers prowled in territorial gangs of 'scuttlers' (6).

Fortunately, during their eleven day trek, Maggie had the good sense to apply at night to the police in the towns for lodgings, which often included breakfast. At no time did they beg for money or food. At the mercy of the weather, they somehow made it on foot approximately 35 miles along the A6 road from Salford, through Bolton, Chorley and onwards to Preston. It was in Preston that kindness played a hand, when a gentleman stopped them to enquire what they were doing as they looked tired and hungry. The children were polite and explained they were making their way to join their father and asked directions to Scotland. In an effort to help, he paid their rail fair from Preston to Lancaster, some 20 miles further north, and this was the only part of the journey they didn't walk.

The road from Lancaster to Carlisle, as anyone accustomed to the north of England would know, is an area of farmland and wends its way over the hills, where the road is exposed to the weather, even on a fine day, and towns are few and far between. Fortunately, their journey was in June. The A6 can be viewed on Google Maps. Following the road from Kendal, through Shap, to Penrith, it is easy to see just how difficult, lonely and frightening this road would have been for children more accustomed to the city, most especially on the steep gradients while carrying a small child [The M6 Motorway was opened in the 1960s and runs almost parallel to the A6 but bypasses all the towns and villages on the way].

It wasn't until they had been on the road for eleven days that a couple in Noblehill, Annan in Dumfriesshire, Scotland, some 160 miles or so from Salford, asked where they were going. Touched by their story, the couple gave them money and checked with the local clergyman to see if anything could be done to help them to contact their father. Rev. Cooper gave them tea and shelter, and brought their plight to the attention of the superintendent of police, a Mr. Malcolm, who contacted the local magistrate, Baillie Murdoch, who set a detention order on the children and had them housed in the local workhouse for a period not exceeding seven days. During that time, every effort was to be made to find their father. What a luxury even the workhouse must have been for these poor young girls. Food, shelter and a bed for the night with no worry of finding shelter for a whole week.

However to our knowledge, this story does not have a happy ending. On contacting the shoe factory in Renfield Street, Glasgow (7), where the children knew their father worked, the authorities found he had left the area with the intention of working in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, in the opposite direction from Annan. With no forwarding address, the search was not successful, and the father was totally unaware of his daughters' plight.

The newspaper reports end at this point and with no further information, the only conclusion one can presume is that it is highly likely the children would have been returned to their drunken mother in Salford, who by then would have been released from custody. In retrospect all we can do is hope that they did eventually have happier lives. Nevertheless, circumstances beg the question of why they had travelled so far, and for so long, to find their parents, without any intervention from the police, who had been giving them lodgings at night? While the workhouse would seem to be a harsh and uncomfortable place, in their case, it was far better than having no shelter at all.

Endnotes:



- (1) *Liverpool Mercury* (Liverpool, England), Saturday, September 28, 1895, Issue 14896; *Leeds Times* Sept 28th, 1895; *Gloucester Citizen* 25th Sept 1895, and *Nottingham Evening Post* 25th Sept 1895.
- (2) *Birmingham Daily Post* (Birmingham, England), Tuesday, September 12, 1871; Issue 4104
- (3) *Yorkshire Gazette*, Feb 18 1885
- (4) French polishing is a wood finishing technique that results in a very high gloss surface, with a deep colour and chatoyancy. French polishing consists of applying many thin coats of shellac dissolved in alcohol using a rubbing pad lubricated with oil.

- (5) LDS film 1341950 RG11 3977/102/27 1881 Census, Salford Lancashire, *Manchester Evening News* June 24th 1881, *Manchester Times* (Manchester, England), Saturday, June 25, 1881; Issue 1227.
- (6) See [http://www.bbc.co.uk/manchester/content/articles/2008/10/20/201008\\_scuttlers\\_interview\\_feature.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/manchester/content/articles/2008/10/20/201008_scuttlers_interview_feature.shtml). These gangs delighted in extremely violent attacks on unsuspecting strangers in their area, using belts with a heavy brass buckle and brass-toed clogs. Eventually, by the late 1880's, some of these gangs were armed. The young men's clubs which cropped up during the 1890's were a huge success, and almost saw an end to the street gangs by giving them something better to do and enjoy.
- (7) *The Penny Illustrated Paper and Illustrated Times* (London, England), Saturday, July 02, 1881; pg. 14; Issue 1042.



## Bits and Pieces



Distribution of Irish and natives of Irish Parentage - 1910, from *The Old World in the New, The Significance of Past and Present Immigration to the American People*, by Edward Alsworth Ross, The Century Cp, New York, 1914, page 38.

**"When a society or a civilization perishes, one condition can always be found.  
They forgot where they came from."**

Carl Sandburg

**"People will not look forward to posterity who never look backward to their ancestors."**

Edmund Burke

**"If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance."**

attributed to George Bernard Shaw



## Evictions in Lower Moville, Inishowen, in 1828

Researched by Cathal Cavanagh

The statistical information on which this is based is derived from a website entitled *Donegal Genealogy Resources* as hosted by Roots Web, which contains data relating to Civil Bill Ejectments for the years 1827 to 1833, as extracted from the House of Commons Sessional Papers for Donegal (1).

Sir Arthur Chichester, Marques of Donegal, evicted a tenant, Michael Cavanagh of Lower Moville, Inishowen, for "Overholding" in 1828. This term means that even though he was not in a situation of rent arrears, the landlord took actions to terminate his lease. Thirteen other families were also evicted under the same overholding provision from this Chichester estate in 1828, including John Cavanagh from Upper Moville, along with seven others from the nearby Hamilton and Rev. Torrens estates (2).



Use of a battering ram during an eviction (3)

Unfortunately, the precise townland concerned in this eviction in Lower Moville is not specified in the House of Commons report. If the evicted Michael Cavanagh was from Ballymacarthur townland, then he would have been either my great-great-grandfather or great-great-granduncle (a Michael Cavanagh and a James Cavanagh are shown in the Tithe List there in 1825), or a relative if from the adjoining Carrowhugh townland, where a Michael was also listed at that time. Obviously, fully paying ones rent was not adequate legal protection against the whims of landlords in this epoch.

The legal position is explained in "*Landlords and Tenants in mid-Victorian Ireland*", by William Edward Vaughan. Basically, if a landlord wished to eject a tenant for non-payment of rent, then the tenant was served with a process stating the amount of rent and costs due. An ejectment for non-payment could be stopped by the tenant paying his arrears and costs. However, if a landlord wished to get rid of a tenant who was not in arrears, then he had to give six months notice to quit, followed by a process for what was called "overholding". The ejectment for overholding could be stopped only if the landlord gave up the case, or if the tenant vacated the premises. In both cases, the tenant was summoned to appear in court. If rent was in arrears, then the tenant had to show why he had not paid his rent. If rent payments were current, then

the tenant had to demonstrate why he had not given up the holding.

Today, we can only speculate about the underlying reason for the ejection of these families from the Merville area. One possible explanation can be put forward. It is noticeable that a Catherine Chichester of Eleven Ballyboes townland owned almost 600 acres in the area in 1876. Therefore, one might reasonably deduce that the basic reason for the eviction of tenants in 1828, who were not in arrears, was to extend and consolidate an estate for this Catherine's family use prior to the sale of the overall Chichester Estate <sup>(4)</sup>. Indeed a few local holdings were already registered in the Chichester name by 1825.

One can only imagine the continued uncertainty under which the tenants lived at that time, and wonder how these evicted tenants subsequently survived. Presumably, this hardly bothered the consciences of the landlords who ordered such evictions.

The Devon Commission <sup>(5)</sup> was appointed by Sir Robert Peel to research problems with land leases: it was formed by a queen's proclamation issued 20 November 1843. This was a positive step for the government, as it generally convinced the Irish to believe that reform would come soon afterwards. In fact, this was the first time that a British government had taken a step towards reforming the unfair leases. The Devon Commission was headed by Lord Devon, and it reported in 1845, that the population of Ireland had exploded from 6 million people to nearly 8 million people. Similarly, they concluded that the leases were unfair and were favorable to the landowners, who were usually Anglo-Irish. Indeed, the tenants had no forms of protection. They could be, and often were, summarily evicted. The Devon Commission had wide reaching consequences, and though it was too late to prevent the famine, it did galvanize change afterwards.

Insights into the abuses under land lease conditions and terms in pre-Famine Ireland are clearly evident in the Commission's report, as is demonstrated in the following excerpts from testimony by witness # 166, Rev. (later Bishop) Edward Maginn, then a parish priest of Buncrana <sup>(6)</sup>.

Q. Is the tenure immediately under the proprietors or under middlemen ?

R. We have very few middlemen

Q. What is the state of tenants under those middlemen where you have them ?

R. Some are in a deplorable state.

Q. Do tenants hold generally at will or under lease ?

R. We have very few leases; they hold generally at will. I would say almost universally, except in the neighbourhood of Buncrana, upon one property.

Q. What effect has this tenure upon the condition of the tenantry ?

R. The effect is that the rents are double, generally augmented by the caprice or avarice of the landlord.

Q. Do you find that the increased value given to the land by the labour of the occupier, has been charged upon him afterwards in the shape of increased rent ?

R. Yes, I think so, or they could by no means meet the increased (rent) demand made upon them.

Q. Does the tenant derive benefit from making improvements ?

R. He is more or less able to meet the demands (made upon him). It facilitates the demands made by way of taxation and rent; but with regard to benefit, I would consider that the tenant with respect to clothing and the comforts of life, derives very little.

Q. Does it not give him a greater amount of return?



Bishop Edward Maginn

- R. Yes a greater amount of return and it makes him more independent. I should speak more correctly if I say that it gave the landlord a greater amount of return.
- Q. Do I understand that the tenant in the first instance brings more land into cultivation in order to meet the demand made upon him, but that his interest in it is diminished, as the landlord increases the rent ?
- R. It does not benefit the tenant. It makes him more independent of the landlord; if he did not pay it, he would be turned out for non-payment of rent.
- Q. Is the tenant right, or sale of goodwill prevalent in the district ?
- R. It has been prevalent but it has been much restricted lately (7).
- Q. Have you known cases of eviction of tenants at will without compensation for their tenant-right ?
- R. Yes, upon one townland (in 1831), 12 persons were served with ejectment process, in order to compel them to pay a sum of money to set up in business a son of the proprietor who had recently married. In one case, a person was turned out of his farm until he had complied, and then he was restored to his farm at the previous rent.
- Q. Has this system continued ?
- R. Yes, 14 families consisting of 76 individuals have been ejected without compensation in one townland within the last 14 years. Some of them had paid as much as from 60 £ to 100 £ for the tenant right; they were not allowed to sell it, and the stones of one person's dwelling thrown down, were afterwards sold to the contractor, who pulled down the cabin, for 4 guineas.
- Q. Is it a frequent practice to serve notices to quit on tenants, for the purpose of recovering the rents ?
- R. Yes and for other purposes ; to keep them in a state of serfdom, in order that the tenants may be more under their control.
- Q. Is there any differences in the management of the estates of different classes; for example, the estates of large or small proprietors, or the estates of absentee and resident proprietors ?
- R. I think there is very little difference.

#### Endnotes:

- (1) See <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~donegal/civilbillejctments.htm>.
- (2) By this period, these two smaller estates may also have been owned by the Chichesters.
- (3) The eviction scene is courtesy of the National Library of Ireland and is in the public domain.
- (4) Information received from Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) indicates that the most spectacular sale at the Encumbered Estates Court, which was designed to facilitate the sale of mortgaged estates in difficulties in the wake of the Famine, was related to the property of the 3rd Marques of Donegal, which had been in financial difficulties since the late 18th century. When he succeeded to the title in 1844, the new Marques inherited debts of £ 400,000, or 14 times the annual rental. He had no choice but to let the Court arrange the sale of the 30,000 acres which remained in 1851. It is perhaps in the shadow of this debt that the above mentioned land was carved out and consolidated to provide income for a relative.
- (5) Evidence taken before the Commissioners appointed to enquire into the occupation of land in Ireland, British House of Commons Sessional Papers, v. XXII, 1845, p.385. This commission was also known as the Devon Commission, and the report it produced fills four volumes of the Sessional Papers for 1845 (XIX, XX, XXI and XXII), containing approximately 4,500 pages. A summary of the penetrating commentary on the Devon Commission Report by Brendan Clifford, of the Aubane Historical Society of Millstreet, Co. Cork, runs broadly as follows. Although it

collected much information, its recommendations pleaded for patience to solve the issues. However, the system of land ownership was based on Cromwellian/Williamite confiscations, which put an alien caste on top of society, with no normal human connection between it and the vast majority of the population. The relationship was a purely mercenary one of exploitation, with no common shared interest. So patience could never solve the problem. Most of the Commission witnesses were landlords or landlords' agents who started from a biased viewpoint. The descendants of those who acquired land by war and confiscation saw nothing wrong with giving themselves the moral authority to decide other peoples' fates, by how hard they worked for them, and by how much they were able to exploit them. This, they considered, was the natural order of things as far as they were concerned. Resentment was considered some kind of perversion rather than being the most natural thing in the world.

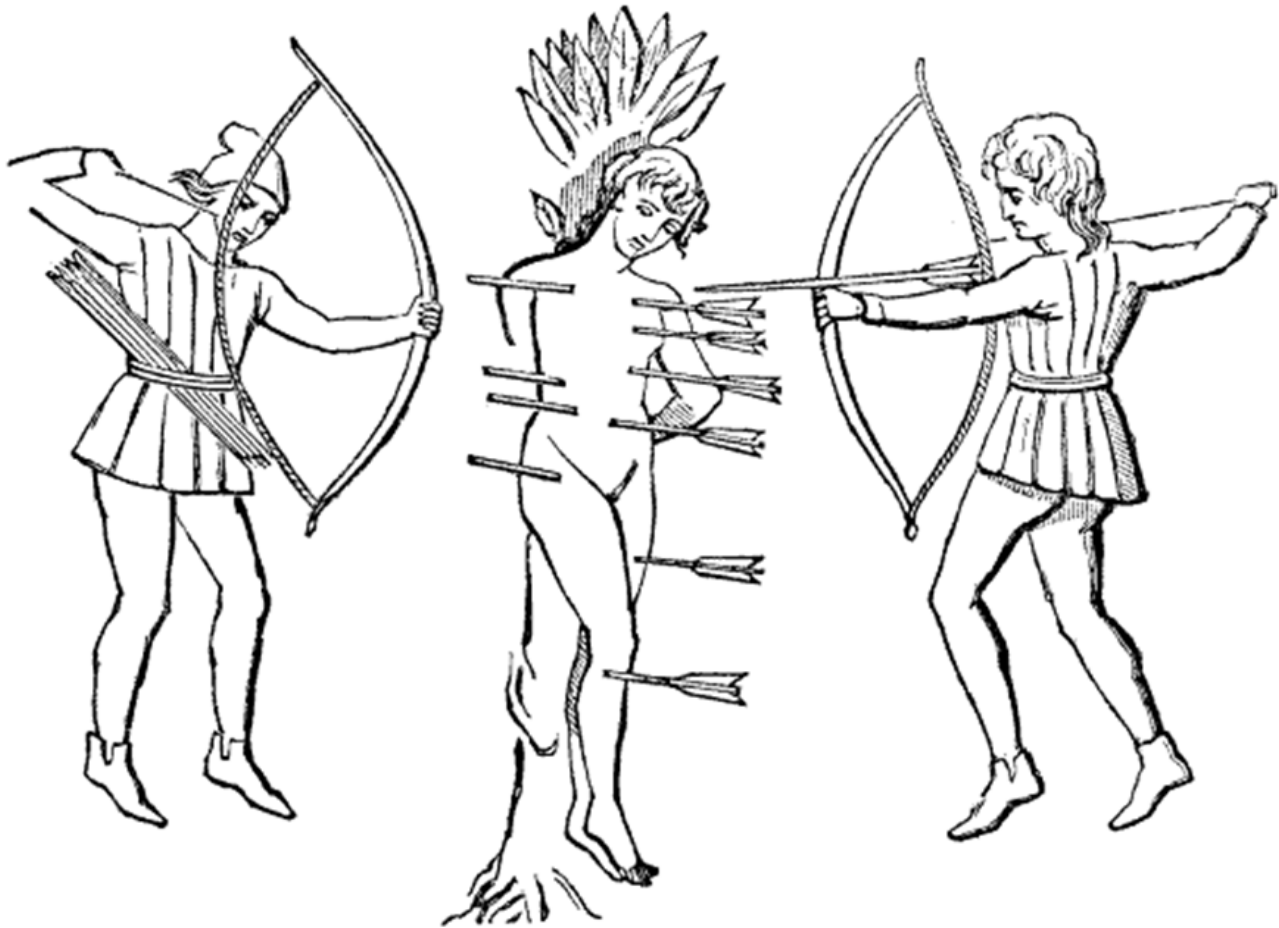
- (6) Edward Maginn was a native of Fintona, Co. Tyrone. Following his earlier education in Monaghan, then in Bunrana, Co. Donegal], he entered the Irish College in Paris in 1818. He was ordained in 1825 at Derry, and was soon appointed curate of Merville, Co. Donegal. He remained there until 1829, when he became parish priest of Fahan (Bunrana). He applied himself to the suppression of agrarian secret societies, while appealing to the Government to protect the peasantry against the abuse of power by the local non-Catholic magistrates. He was firmly in the Nationalist wing of the Catholic Church and was a close ally of Archbishop John McHale of Tuam, who was known as the "Lion of the West". The conduct of government officials during the Irish Famine of 1847-49 inspired him with an abhorrence of English misrule. Bishop Maginn was personally involved in distributing food aid to people during the Famine Years when an estimated 10% of his flock died from starvation and related illnesses. He endeavoured to heal the breach between the Young Irelanders and O'Connell, and when this proved impossible, his sympathies were with the Young Irelanders. One historian, Jane Lyons, has even claimed that he had sent a message to Gavan Duffy expressing his willingness to join in the 1848 Rebellion at the head of his priests. While this may seem unlikely given that he officially advocated peaceful means to achieve repeal objectives, there is some hint in "Derry Columkille" by Rev. William Doherty (Gill, 1899) that the cynical heartlessness of the British authorities "almost drove him to approve of William Smith O'Brien's desperate struggle for freedom" i.e. that sheer frustration at the British authorities might have momentarily driven him to send such a message. Following the collapse of the Young Ireland Rebellion, he assisted Thomas D'Arcy McGee, who had a hefty price on his head, to escape from Inishowen to the United States. D'Arcy McGee, who later became a minister in the Canadian Government, would exercise major influence in the framing of the Canadian constitution. He subsequently wrote a biography of Bishop Maginn, which was published in New York in 1857. Bishop Maginn accepted the "national school" system, and by his protests prevented the withdrawal of the schools from clerical control. He was an advocate of the establishment of a Catholic university, which, however, he did not live to see. On 18 January 1846, he was consecrated coadjutor Bishop to Dr. John McLaughlin of Derry. On 14 January 1849, he was seized with typhus fever that was brought on by his Famine relief activities. He died three days later, aged 45 years, and was buried in Bunrana, Co. Donegal. Maginn's letters on land and the Poor Law administration, together with his evidence before the Devon Commission, contain valuable information on the social condition of Ireland in the first half of the nineteenth century. The picture of Bishop Maginn is from an article in the "Derry Journal" about St. Columb's College.
- (7) The *Ulster Custom* was the name given to the informal rights of Ulster tenants. These included security of tenure so long as the rent was fully paid, and the freedom to sell the right of occupancy to any new tenant who met with the landlord's approval. In practice the Ulster custom was not uniformly honoured in Ulster, and was not confined to the province. Obviously the so-called Ulster Custom was not honoured in many cases. Initially, the custom had no legal force. In 1847, the tenant rights advocate, William Sharman Crawford, attempted to gain legalization for the custom, but failed. Only in 1870, through Gladstone's Act Land Act, was this objective nominally attained.

## Customs

**According to old custom, a piece of candle, a coin and a small quantity of wine or spirits should be placed next to someone who has died. The candle was to give the deceased light, the coin was to pay the fare over the river of death (or to pay the piper), and the liquor was to sustain him or her on their journey.**



## Death of a Hostage



ABBEY, or KNOCKMOY, or ABBEYKNOCKMOY (Barony of Tyaquin), a parish, 7 miles south-east of Tuam, and partly in the barony of Clare, but chiefly in that of Tyaquin, co. Galway, Connaught. ... The establishment is said to have been founded and endowed in 1180, by Cathal O'Connor, monarch of Ireland, in commemoration of a victory obtained by him at its site over Almericus de St. Lawrence. Considerable ruins of the edifice, which still exist, contain some frescoes, which, though rude in design, and faded in colour, possess uncommon interest for the antiquary, as the most authentic memorials anywhere to be found of ancient Irish costumes. These paintings occur on the north side of the chancel... The figures are somewhat larger than life, and are arranged in an upper line of six kings, and a lower line representing a youth naked, tied to a tree, and transfixd with arrows shot by two archers, while the brehon or judge, who had pronounced sentence, sits by with a roll of laws in his hand. ... The lower line of figures represents the death of the young son of Dermod M'Murrough... The youth was delivered to Roderick O'Connor as a hostage for his father's fidelity... The figure of the brehon is now nearly destroyed by the oozing of rain from an opening in the roof. [The Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland, 1844]. This is just one of a number of references to this fresco because of the appearance of a copy of it at the Great Industrial Exhibition at Dublin in 1853 [Official Catalogue, "Relics of Ancient Art" Item 1907, p.144].

As can be expected, there was a great deal of controversy regarding these statements, and little chance that these can be conclusively proved or disproved. What we do know, according to the Annals of the Four Masters, for an entry dated 1170 A.D. "The hostages of Diarmaid Mac Murchadha were put to death by Ruaidhri Ua Conchobhair, King of Ireland, at Ath-Luain, namely, Conchobhar, son of Diarmaid, heir apparent of Leinster, and Diarmaid's grandson, i.e. the son of Domhnall Caomhánach, and the son of his foster-brother, i.e. O'Caellaighe". There is some uncertainty about the given names of these three individuals, because the various Annals either do not name them, or disagree about the names of specific individuals. From a Caomhánach standpoint, Domhnall is the name given in nearly all genealogies for the son of Domhnall Caomhánach. No particulars are known about his age, his wife or the name(s) and age(s) of any child(ren). The most prominent of the three, and therefore the one most likely pictured, would have been Dermot's son.





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## **Interested in becoming an Area Organizer?**

Clann Chaomhánach created the system of Area Organizers as contact persons for our cousins who may be seeking information about our association. Through the years, many people have been helped in their search for ancestors through the efforts of our Area Organizers, who have also been very effective in bringing in new members. If you are interested in becoming an Area Organizer, please contact any of the Organizers listed above or any of the Executive Committee, listed on page 2.



Rock of Dunamase



**"Sin é mo scéal díbh, má tá bréag ann, bíodh, mar ní mise a chúm ná a cheap é"**  
That is my story for ye now; if there is a lie in it, so let there be, for it was not I who composed or dreamed up the story