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It is with heavy hearts that we share that Dr. Finbar O Mahony, Councilmember, former Taoiseach, and long-term administrator of the O Mahony Surname yDNA Project, died 21 May 2022 under the exceptional care of Our Lady’s Hospice, Harold’s Cross, surrounded by his loving family.

His contributions to the Society have been immeasurable, and his steady presence supporting the Society’s Facebook page immense.

Finbar was a ray of light wherever he went, sharing his warm smile and positive outlook on just about everything. Always the educator, he brought the yDNA Project to new heights, exponentially expanding the program before accepting the role of Emeritus Administrator while he continued to support the program’s co-administrators.

Highly accomplished, Finbar held a Doctor of Business Administration degree as well as a Graduate Diploma in Psychology (Dip. Psych.); an educator and lecturer, he was a past board member of the Clans of Ireland and the administrator of multiple Clans’ yDNA Projects, as well as a past president of the Irish Philatelic Society.

As Taoiseach of the Society, Finbar served tirelessly for two years, making significant contributions to updating and expanding the genetic genealogy resources available on our website. Additionally, he embodied our Society’s motto (“Lasair romhainn go buadh” – “The flame ahead to victory”) by taking the rhetorical torch and embracing the options technology offered, thereby ensuring that the Society could continue its unbroken record of successive annual gatherings, even in the midst of a pandemic. That was a true victory for all, and ever-humble Finbar refused to accept any credit for an inspired idea.

Finbar was a devoted and loving husband, devoted father, doting grandfather, and true and faithful friend.

In his Taoiseach letter to O Mahony Society Members in the November, 2020 newsletter, Finbar reminded us “ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.”

The old Irish saying translates as “people live in each other’s shadows.”

We shall aspire to live in your exemplary Irish shadow, Finbar!

You will be well and truly missed. Rest in peace, dear Finbar.
LOGAINMNEacha AGUS STAIR ÁITIúL

Dermot F. O Mahoney
Summary English Translation Follows

Is iad na logainmneacha an lúb larnach sa slabhra a cheanglaionn an pobal lena dtimpeallacht thisciúil. Cabhraíonn siad leis an gcine daonna chun eolas agus aithne a chur ar an tírdreach ar dhá phríomshli dhifriúla: --tré na heiliminti iontu a dhirííonn áird ar gnéithe comónta ar leith ar nós cnoc, sliabh, gleann, suas, abhainn, loch, inis, oiléan agus rudaí eile gné agus tré na hainmneacha a thagraíonn do áiteanna áirithe ar leith ar nós Cnoc Bréanainn agus an Blascaod Mór i gCondae Chiarráí.

Bhí cuid mór de seo tuighthe ag ár sinsir a cheap ainmneacha ar thalamh na hÉireann an chéad lá agus a shaothraigh an "dinnseanchas" mar genre lárnach litríochta. Tá an focal "dinnseanchas" féin comhdhéanta de dinn a chiallaigh áit a bhi suaitheann go fhisiciúil nó go aicreanta, är, cnoc, nó a leithéid, agus de seanchas atá bunaithe ar sean, seanchas, agus a chiallaigh "stair." Mar sin, is é rud is bri le dinseanchas ná an fhóirm litriúchta a dheineadh cúram de na scéalta agus den stair a bhain an t-áit a bheith de chúiteanna suntaacha tabhachtacha. Is amhlaidh a thagann an dinseanchas chun cinn i mbéal na laochra agus ar bárrphointe an tseanchais féin, ní theadar, ach b’fhéidir go bhfuil an t-áit a bhfuil saothar sna logainmneacha sa bhóthar ná a bhfuil saothar don mbaínt a thugann an t-áit a bheith de chúiteanna suntachta i dtaineacha. Chuir Cúchulainn fhein suim i dinseanchasacha. Tá trácht ar logainmneacha i Táin Bo Cuailnge. Léiríonn an cúntas seo, ar Chúchulainn agus é ag lorg oiliúna in dtaobh na logainmneacha, go raibh fonn mor ar an laoch óg eolas a chur ar a thimpeallacht. Tá sé le tabhairt faoi deara chomh maith gur shuim le Cúchulainn an timpeallacht thisciúil agus an timpeallacht shoiirse, tríd aon, is é sin, sliabh agus maigh Nó macheire ar thaobh an t-áit a mháthair, cárn, dún, fearann, ath, áit cháiliúil, áitreabh agus árd daingean ar an taobh eile.

Ba é Captaen Thomas A. Larcom (Royal Engineers) a shocraigh leagnancha Béarla deifnídeacha na n-ainmneacha mar shompla. Cnoc Ban > Knockban, Gaoth Dobhair > Gweedore, Droim Conrach > Drumcondra. Dhein Doughlas de hide iarracht ar gael na logainmneacha in a leacht chiallúil !892 agus a spreag bunú Chonnradh na Gaeilge. Tá curtha go mór ar saothair P. W. Joyce agus a lucht leanúna leis an tuiscint atá ag aon ar an t-áit a mhúineadh agus ar an t-áit a mhícheartach. Is é an sórt a bhunaigh an Rialtas an Coimisiún Logainmneacha i 1946 agus a tosaíodh ar fhoireann lánaímseartha i 1950+/. Rannóg de chuid shuirbhéireachta ordanáis is ea an oifig. Déanann an oifig ríomhaireachta agus próiseálaithe focal ár linn a chur faoi adhastar don saothair seo, thionchar claochluí, iar óiche ar chuimsitheacht agus ar ioontaacht an t-éolais i dtaobh na logainmneacha a bheadh ar fáil.

Maidir le Corca Dhuibhne is beag trácht atá ar a cuid logainmneacha sa tsean stair ná sa tsean litriúchta gaeilge. Mar atá maidir le furmhóir na tire tá cuid mhaith de logainmneacha Chorca Dhuibhne luaite i Stát – Páipéirí aimsir Eilise agus Chromuill. Ní hins na sean – páipéirí stáit sin atá le fáil ar t-eolais is fearr i dtaobh logainmneacha ach i gcaint agus i gcuimhne na ndaoine, go mór-mhóir más Gaelgeóirí iad.

Ba is é Lord Ventry an Tiarna Talmhan don chuid is mó de na bailte seo agus na bailte eile ba é an tEarl of Cork an Tiarna Talmhan. Tá a chuid staire féin ag dul le gach baile. Cuir i gcás Baile na hAbha is é an baile fearann é is síar thuaidh den Pháraóiste agus a thormhór iad Chnoc Bréanainn agus an fharraige. Tá aít ann – Fothair na Manach – is é Béaloideas na háite go bhfuil go mbiodh maigh anois ann agus go raibh Bréanann ar teachium álaim sular ghuí sáor an imrobh mór thar an aigéan. Ó thithiún an tSean-choill, Baile na hAbha. Leiríonn an taighde a dhein scoil Eirc go bhfuil árd mheas fós ag muintir na háite ar logainmneacha agus cabhraíonn sé leo chun stair na háite a thuiscint.

Maidir leis an lá atá inniu ann agus an todhchaí tá sé le tabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil forsaí láidre ag cumadh ainmneacha do na heastát nua tithiochta atá beagnach ar an ngné dhúchais den réimse seo timpéallachta. Ligthear cead a gcinn le togálaithé tithe próhbáideacha maidir le hainmniu eastát agus sáideanna, i lathaí na huaire. Bhíonn a thoradh seo le feiceáil ar fhógraí na nuachtán deannaicheadh saothar leis an réimse seo. Chomh maith leis, bhí an tSean-choill, Baile na hAbha agus Baile Reo, na Grafaidhe, Baile uí Chorráin, Baile na hAbha, Baile an Chnocáin, Baile na bhFionnabhrach, an tSeán choill, an Chlais, Baile Breac, agus Baile an Lochaigh.
Place names are the central link that connects the public at large with their local area and topography. The history of place names goes back to Cúchulainn's time, e.g., Taín Bó Cuailnge – The Cattle Herd of Cuailnge.

It was Captain Thomas A. Larcom (Royal Engineers), while directing the Ordnance Survey in the 1830s, encouraged the field workers to catalogue the place names as comprehensively as possible; he aimed to produce anglicized versions that in their pronunciation would echo the sound of the original Gaelic names as closely as possible. He did a great job and there is now an office, in the Ordnance Survey Office in Dublin dealing full-time with place names.

Corca Dhuibhne – which is part of West Kerry Gaeltacht (Irish speaking region) – has always used the Irish Language version of place names. These names are still extant and used locally. They have names on fields as well as townlands, parishes, and local topography. The local school in the Feothanach (near Brandon Creek) did a research project in 2000 which showed that the locals place great emphasis on the use of place names and this also helps to outline the history of the local area.

The big challenge in modern Ireland is to keep the old tradition of naming places with something that is unique to that area, i.e., townland, hill, mountain, river, stream, harbour, etc. There is a tendency to name new housing estates after foreign places, T.V. names e.g., Hadleigh Downs, Westbury Court, Tiffany Downs, etc., which have no local connection or meaning.

Retyped verbatim from The O Mahony Journal Volume 34, p 14
The Norman Invasion in the 12th century stimulated the Irish defenders to adopt the building methods of the foreigner. The advance of the invader was ear-marked by a series of fortresses which proved impregnable to the reprisal of the Irish. Eventually the chieftains, conscious of their own vulnerability, adopted the Norman custom of erecting massive castles.

In West Cork the Normans built 20 fortresses which in time were followed by the Irish, making a total of 56. The McCarthys, who divided into many families, were the greatest castle builders in the area, erecting a total of 16. The O Mahonys, one of the two senior noble families of Ivagha, ran the McCarthys a close second and were once in possession of as many as 14 castles, including Castle Mahon, Castle Lac, Dunmanus, Dunbeacon, Leamcon, Rosbrin, Dun Locha, Ardintenant, and Ballydevlin.

**DUN LOCHA**

Dun Locha Castle, overlooking Dunlough Bay near Mizen Head, is reputed to be one of the oldest surviving towers. It was built in 1207 by Donagh Na Himrice O’Mahony, who died in 1212. Donagh was noted for his generosity. Described as both scholar and sportsman, he travelled to the Holy Land and elsewhere, and was known as “Donagh of the Pilgrimages.” Dun Locha takes its name from an adjacent lake; it is situated at the end of the promontory known as the Three Castle Head. On this site were built three square towers a short distance from one another, which, being connected by a wall enclosing the lake, may be considered one castle. Many legendary tales are related to this castle and the lake was supposed to be haunted by an enchanted woman; whoever saw her soon died.

Conor Fionn O’Mahony, chief in 1296, the son of Concobar “Cabaice,” gave Dunlough and eight plowlands to his fourth brother, Dermod, and died in 1313. Dermod succeeded to the chieftaincy after the succession of another brother, Finghin Caol, of Leamcon.

In 1655, the castle and 1,868 acres of unforfeited lands belonged to the Earl of Cork, Richard Boyle, and Dermod Coughlan.

**ARDINTENANT**

Near the eastern point of Schull harbour, and about three-quarters of a mile from the western shore of Lough Tranagh (Roaring Water Bay), was built the Castle of Ardintenant in 1310, the principal seat of the Chieftain of Ivagha. Its site was an ancient ráth whose inner rampart was replaced by a wall; it had flanking towers, only one of which now remains. Known as the ‘White Castle,’ it was a square keep with walls six feet thick. The entrance to the staircase
leading to the upper rooms is, from the outside, over the door at the ground level, which opens into a high vaulted basement. Here was born Sir Fineen O Mahony, one of the noted O Mahony scholars. He attended the monastic seat of learning, Scholias Maria, in Schull, from which that town takes its name, and which was founded by the monks of Rosscarbery.

Dermod Runtagh O Mahony resided for several years at Ardintenant. Known by the honourable appellation ‘The Reliable,’ his generosity and hospitality was extolled by the annalists in the language similar to that in which the bards celebrated the munificence of his ancestor Cian in the 11th century.

DUNMANUS CASTLE

Dunmanus Castle commands the approaches to the southern side of Dunmanus Bay. Erected in about 1430 on a solid rock, turtle-shaped, it was reputed to be the largest and best constructed of the Castles of Ivagha. It had six flanking towers, connected by walls, only two square towers now exist, built into each other corner ways. Dunmanus was built by Donogh, second son of Donogh Ruadh, and the carved stone head, which is shown near the top of the west wall, is said to represent his features. The castle has two lifts of arched stone, and there were many rooms.

The site originally belonged to the O'Driscoll sept up to the 11th century, when the O'Mahonys took possession of it. When Sir George Carew was besieging Dunboy Castle in June 1602, a sergeant of the Earl of Thomond, with a party of soldiers, descended on Dunmanus and took away 66 cows and several garrons.

On June 4th, 1602, Sir Owen O'Sullivan and his brothers took the castle by surprise, killing four guards. Owen O'Sullivan of Carriganass Castle, was cousin of Donal O'Sullivan of Dunboy.

In 1636 Daniel McCarthy Reagh held the castle; later it was held by Dermod O'Bulloy and others who sold their interests to Emmanuel Moore, who resold to Sir William Petty.

On a point across the bay opposite of Dunmanus, stood the Castle of Knockeens. It was partly built by Donogh Mor O'Mahony. While under construction, it is said that a stranger saw the men at work on the half-finished structure, and warned them: “Don’t build the castle there; the sea will come in.” The builders consulted the chief, took the stranger’s advice, and afterwards built at Dunmanus.
DUNBEACON CASTLE

Dunbeacon Castle, near Durrus, was another O’Mahony stronghold. Donal, the fourth son of Dermod “Runtach,” built Dunbeacon in about 1460. Conor Fionn gave Dunbeacon to his son, Fineen of Crookhaven, and four plowlands and Fineen’s son, Donal, held it until 1579. It was confiscated about 1584 but its owner survived till 1600. In 1655 Dunbeacon and 1,190 acres of land was held by Dermod McCarthy; and in 1668 it was held by Col. Richard Townshend, who gave his name to Castletownshend. The castle is now in a very ruinous state, only the skeleton of a wall is standing.

LEAMCON

Leamcon, or Black Castle, near Schull, stands on the point of an ‘island’ peninsula. It measures 40 ft. 6 ins by 27 ft 4 ins outside and the interior is 16 ft 6 ins by 27.3 inches [sic]. It measures 50 feet in height. It is a square tower, with walls five feet thick and is still in a good state.

Concobhar, named Cabaice, an obscure title variously rendered “the talker” or “the cape-wearer,” and also “Kittoe,” the left handed, built Leamcon and died in 1473. Leamcon was built for his second son, Finghlin Caol (the Slender) ancestor of the O’Mahony Caol family.

About four feet from the foundation of the wall bears evidence of being attacked by means of the besieging instrument call the “Sow.” In 1427, Dermod O’Mahony, fourth Chief of Ivagha, died and was succeeded by his son Concobhar.

Leamcon was attacked on the 26th of June 1602, by a company of Sir Roger Harvey’s soldiers, and capitulated after a brief and stubborn resistance by the defenders. The English attacked with the ‘Sow’ (besieging instrument), The then owner, Cornelius O’Mahony, and his garrison defended bravely and after capitulation on honourable terms, took a ship to Spain and sailed from Ardea on the 7th of July 1602, accompanied by O’Sullivan Beare of Berehaven.

After the departure of Cornelius, Leamcon was granted to Captain William Hull, but the building was retained for the use of the soldiers, and on the 15th of October 1612, Hull had to ask that he might be recompensed, and that his tenants might not be abused. The O’Mahony were still connected with Leamcon in 1622 for the representatives on Conor leased certain plowlands there to Hull. In 1631 Fineen McCrogher O’Mahony held the Castle and lands, by a settlement of 8th April 1617. Fineen died on the 10th of May 1627 and was succeeded by his son Conagher, who on the 1st of April, 1630 demised Leamcon to Hull. The family fell into trouble in 1641, and Conagher was outlawed. Hull has left a deposition giving a long account
of events. He says that “on Dec. 5th, 1641, he was robbed of goods worth £769 and profits of lands and leases £1,148”. He names [sic] O’Mahony of Kilmoe and Schull.

**ROSBRIN**

Rosbrin Castle was called after Bron, grandfather of Cian, the O Mahony ancestor. It is situated two miles from Ardintenant Castle, Schull, on the same side of the bay, and opposite Horse Island Island [sic], built on a rock over the ocean. In March 1905 a considerable portion of the west wall was thrown down by lightening. Sir Fineen O Mahony had possession of this castle with 9-1/2 plough lands, which he inherited from his parents. He was born and reared at Ardintenant and acquired the reputation of being the most learned scholar of his time. He wrote an Irish Version of “the Travels of Sir John Mandeville” and a copy of it was found by Professor Todd of Trinity College, Dublin, in 1869, in the library at Rennes in Brittany. He transcribed a few pages of it and on his return to Dublin read it to the Royal Irish Academy; induced by Todd’s lecture the Hon. John Abercrombie visited Rennes, translated the manuscript and reviewed it in “the Review Celtique.”

“The Annals of Ulster,” under the year 1496 bear this reference: “Fineen O Mahony died this year a week before Christmas, an intelligent, polished, erudite man, well learned in the history of the world, last and hither from end to end.”

In 1562 Donall, son of Conor O Mahony, the then owner, was tried for felony and executed at Cork, his estate being forfeited. Valueless, as no English tenant would live there, Rosbrin was given to O Mahony Finn, head of the Ivaigha sept, and Cornelius, his son. In 1571 Sir John Perrott gave the castle to McSweeney, a gallowsglas, and in 1576 a pardon was granted to Teige McConor O Mahony for rebellion.

Near Rosbrin is Castle Island, once a stronghold of the O’Mahonys. The castle is of small dimensions but is in a good state of preservation.

**MEHIGAN**

The Western O’Mahonys built Castle Mehigan in 1340 and granted it to Dermod O’Mehigan, a favourite bardic family in Kilmoe, with 300 acres of land. The castle stood 64ft in height in 1700 but fell into ruin. The O’Dalys were the favourite bards of the O’Mahony and were endowed with lands at Muintervara where they established their celebrated bardic school.

**BALLYDEVLIN**

Ballydevlin Castle, near Goleen, was 84 feet high, facing the sea. Built in 1495 on a low headland, it was in excellent preservation in 1844, but was later dismantled, its stones used for road construction.

Conor Fionn III resided there as chieftain in 1575. He married first the daughter of McCarty Reach, and on her death took his second wife the daughter of the Knight of Kerry, Fitzgerald. During 1575 he had also possession of Ardintenant Castle, Schull, and Dun Locha. During that
year the peninsula swarmed with foreign adventures and his revenues from land and sea became limited. Long Island and other possessions, he was forced to mortgage to Richard Roche of Kinsale. Finally, at a meeting in Cork in 1590 of the Western chiefs—O’Donovan, O’Mahony, and others—it was decided upon a policy of surrender and re-grant. The surrender was accepted in 1592 and on March 20th that year Conor died, leaving two infant children, Donall and Donogh.

CASTLE MAHON
Castle Mahon, on which stands the ruins of Castle Bernard, was the principal seat of the O’Mahonys of Carbery. It is more recent than Castle Lac, the latter was built about 1215 and Castle Mahon not later than 1400. Conagher O’Mahony, chieftain, resided here. He joined with his cousin on Ivagha in the Great Desmond Rebellion in Ballyhaura on the 9th of August 1579. The result for him was disastrous. It meant death in 1582 and the forfeiture of vast estates in Bandon. The estates were granted by Queen Elizabeth I on September 30th, 1588, to Phane Becher, son of Alderman Henry Becher, of London, on condition that he “Plant” 91 English Protestant families on his estates, at a yearly rent of £66.13.4.

Colonel Griffith Evans, a Welshman who in 1650 was an officer in Cromwell's army, was present at the expulsion of the O’Mahony from Castle Mahon. He was “struck on the occasion” with the charm of Conagher’s daughter, Brigid, and fell in love with her. He had a large estate in Wales, resigned his commission, and married her. The dispossessed O’Mahony settled on the borders of Co. Kerry and Limerick.

CASTLE LAC
Castle Lac, built in about 1215, was once a square building 64 ft. high and 40 feet long. It was situated 1.5 miles south of Rath Raithleann, near Bandon, and was the residence of the O’Mahony chieftains for several centuries. The site adjoined a small plain once the battlefield on which victory was gained in 1089 of the Danes.

CROOKHAVEN CASTLE
Crookhaven Castle was possessed by Conor Finn O’Mahony of Dun Locha. He was the first O’Mahony Fune and died at the Three Castles in 1513. He granted Crookhaven to his son, Fineen. The castle, which was situated in the centre of the village, overlooking the harbour, was a square building 64 feet high and 40 feet long. It has now completely disappeared. In 1700 it was in a state of good preservation and was turned into a prison by the English.

REFERENCES:
“The O’Mahonys of Kinelmeaky and Ivagha” by Canon John O’Mahony
“West Cork and its Story: by Jeremiah O’Mahony, N.T.
“Gleanings from Irish History” by W.E.T. Butler
Genealogy provides an opportunity to look into a family's past and learn about its members and its history, and possibly, even discover the events that have shaped a family’s past and present.

Since its inception in 1955, the O Mahony Society has been a forum for those interested in discovering their O Mahony (and its spelling variants) family history. Through the O Mahony Journal, the Society has advanced the genealogical study of the clan by publishing scholarly articles on O Mahony ancestors and our shared histories. Since Irish genealogy is notoriously difficult to perform due to the lack of official records, the information in these Journal articles is particularly important to have documented.

Genetic analysis first became commercially available in the year 2000, and has proven invaluable to genealogists, and the Society has moved decisively into this area. There are three types of genetic studies commonly available: (1) DNA analysis of the male or “Y” chromosome, (2) mitochondrial DNA analysis and (3) DNA analysis of the non-sex chromosomes (chromosomes 1-22).

The growth of genetic searches has been a boon to many of the traditional searching techniques, but requires a different understanding of the method and information that is produced.

Autosomal searches are very useful in supporting searches for relatives that are between one and about five generations distant (after more than about five generations the numbers of relatives reported becomes very broad and of uncertain relatability). For many people who are trying to find connections to living aunts, uncles, and cousins, autosomal DNA matches are probably the most useful type of genetic search.

Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) is only passed from mothers to children. Both men and women can take the mtDNA test but the results will only relate to their mother and to the maternal ancestors before her. Because most women change their surnames when they marry it becomes difficult to trace the maternal line. Also, because mtDNA mutates very slowly there is very limited difference from one generation to the next and the mtDNA test results only identify broad geographic distribution and are therefore of minimal use to family genealogists.

yDNA testing traces paternal family lines and tests can only be done by a male. Since 2007, the Society has administered a y-chromosome DNA (yDNA) study focused on tracing the development of the O Mahony sept from its origins to the present. Along the way, some individuals have identified close relatives living in Ireland or abroad, filling some of the personal genealogy gaps mentioned above. The goals of the Society are to establish the branches of the O’Mahoney sept, family branches and locate the geographical homeland of each branch.

As mentioned by Dr. Finbar O Mahony in previous reports, the complexity of yDNA testing has significantly changed over the last 15 years. In the early years of testing, a 12-marker
test was seen as a good start for the beginning genealogist who was interested in genetic genealogy, but later experience in the development of testing suggested that a 12-marker test was of little value for the genealogist other than establishing his “ethnicity”. Today, FTDNA allows for yDNA testing at 37, 111, and 700 levels (each testing level refers to the number of short tandem repeats (STRs) that are evaluated on the Y chromosome). In addition to the STRs, the testing looks for markers (SNPs which are single nucleotide polymorphs) that can identify new mutations that will define a family branch. Together, the STR and the SNP data can help us to discover a family branch.

In summary, the Society’s yDNA Project is continuing, new members are joining and new branches of the O Mahony relationships are being identified. The reasons for pursuing your genetic genealogy in this way are clear and include:

Extending the knowledge of your O Mahony ancestry beyond the limitations of traditional paper trail genealogy.

- Discovering other O Mahonys with whom you share paternal ancestry.
- Determining which branch or sept of the O Mahonys you belong.

Analysis of O Mahony Surname Project

As of this writing, there are 293 members in the project, 203 of whom have submitted yDNA data for analysis. The non-yDNA members are men and women who have limited their test to autosomal DNA data, which at this time, is not included in this analysis.

The Project’s 203 yDNA test results can be divided into various haplogroups. Each haplogroup describes individual branches or closely related groups of branches on a genetic tree. A new haplogroup is an indication of a common ancestor, frequently more than a millennia in the making. In the case of the three South Irish haplogroups: Irish Type II (CTS4466), Irish Type III (L226) and Munster I (L362), the formation event was approximately 1,500 years ago.

One might think there is a common O Mahony ancestor, but to date, no common ancestor has been found in the project. Rather, there is a great diversity in the number of haplogroups among the Y DNA members. Perhaps this is not so unexpected when one looks at the history of the sept. The O Mahony sept has always been known as a welcoming clan so it is easy to believe that there are a number of ways a man or woman could become a clan member and so in the diversity of data we are perhaps seeing vestiges of those multiple entry routes.

While there is a diversity of haplogroups present, some haplogroups are more represented than others. There are three main haplogroups in the project: CTS4466, L226, and L362. These three haplogroups comprise more than 80% of the Project’s Y DNA samples. Of these three, the majority are CTS4466, which is a dominant marker for the Eóganacht Raithlind (a branch of the Eóganachta, the ruling dynasty of Munster in southwest Ireland during the 5th-10th centuries). However, within the Project’s CTS4466 members there are subgroups that indicate inter-relationships within the main haplogroups of the South Irish. Other haplogroups in the Project include men with ancient heritage from the British Isles, Norman influence, and perhaps even Neolithic farmers.

As more men join the Project and more geographical datapoints become available, we may be able to provide homeland locations that coordinate with our yDNA findings and traditional genealogy. This would be a great resource for family genealogists as well as a novel way to document and verify ancient clan history.
Eamon de Valera recalled visiting as a child was the O Mahony farm opposite his maternal grandmother's roadside cottage at Knockmore, Co. Limerick, were he was reared. The O Mahonys, close friends of the Coll family, later emigrated to the United States.

Those neighbours of his childhood were mentioned in a letter de Valera wrote in 1968 to Mrs. Bridie Sheehan who then lived in the farmhouse. Mrs. Sheehan knew Dev for more than 50 years and remembers how “he always called here to see me when he came...every time we met he talked about little details of past times – about the nice home-made bread he liked to eat, about playing hurling in our top field, and about the old stable where, as he told me, 'I had the one day in my life I mitched from school and I went home hungry out of it.'"

His letter is among the mementos collected by the Sheehan family. In it he recalled an invitation to a farewell party for a priest, Father O Mahony. He wrote:

The name of his grandfather, James O Mahony, was often on my grandmother’s lips when I was a child...my grandmother lived in the workman’s house on the farm. The rood of land attached to the house was later incorporated in the half acre of the labourer’s cottage which was given to my grandmother at that time.

The house were the O Mahonys lived was the first I visited as a child and I was told that a hole in the settee bed in the kitchen was made by a piece of candle that had been fired from a shot-gun by Bill O Mahony who was regarded as a ‘wild youth’.

The O Mahonys were succeeded in the farm by the Mortels. On acquiring the farm the Mortels let it for a year to a dairy man called O Donovan.

One evening I saw a bright light at the eastern gable of the house. I ran to my grandmother to tell her to come and look at ’Donovan’s lamp’. It was in fact the moon just rising. Whenever, for years afterwards, my grandmother spoke to me of the moon she called ’Donovan’s Lamp’...’Donovan’s lamp is lit tonight’, she would say.

Our other near neighbours were the O Sullivans, the McEnirys, the Lyons, the McCarthys, and the Fitzgeralds had the Drumacommer Post Office, but I must not let myself go on or I would write the history of the whole parish.

Mainchin Seoighe, the Bruree historian, has a footnote to this O Mahony family. He writes:

All the O Mahonys – the family mentioned by Dev in his letter to Mrs. Sheehan –have long since left the district. They went to the US. One of the family, a Catherine O Mahony came on holiday to Ireland in the late summer of 1974, and spent some time with the Sheehans.

I happened to be at Sheehans one evening during her stay there, and in the course of the evening the phone rang. It was Dev. He spoke first to Mrs. Sheehan, and then to Mis O Mahony. She was thrilled. I was next to the phone, and he spoke about my mother who had recently died. She had been a contemporary of his in the old days in Knockmore.

In his history of Bruree, Mainchin Seoighe, mentions two families of Mahonys in Knockmore in 1827, and one family there in 1851. There are three headstones to O Mahonys families in Tankardstown churchyard, three miles southeast of Bruree – one being to a Michael O mahony of Knockmore who died in 1837. The two other inscriptions are to O Mahony families from Clonbrien and Rathcannon, places near to Knockmore.

[Ed. note: Author known only to time. Copied verbatim from The O Mahony Journal Vol. 6, page 6]
Given the references in the previous article to the Mahonys (never spelled with an ‘O’ in the 19th century records) of Knockmore, Bruree, Co. Limerick, it may be useful to set down what can be gleaned about this family from available records.

Let’s start by identifying the writer’s grandfather, James Mahony, who emigrated to America with his wife and eleven children.

The baptismal register of Rockhill & Bruree parish has a record of ten children born to James Mahony and his wife Mary Burke. They were:

- Thomas, 19 December 1869
- Edmund, 6 September 1876
- William, 23 January 1871
- David Joseph, 21 April 1878
- James, 11 April 1872
- Michael¹, 10 April 1880
- Oliver, 12 April 1873
- Sarah Mary, 22 September 1883
- John, 21 May 1874
- Mathew Joseph, 21 August 1886

Two generations of Mahonys are on record as farmers in Knockmore prior to James. First on record is Michael. He was too early to be mentioned in the church records which date from mid-1825. From his gravestone in Tankardstown cemetery we learn that Michael Mahony was born about 1758. He died on 18th December, 1837, aged 79.

Knockmore is a small townland, just a couple of miles north east of Bruree village. When it was surveyed in 1824 and in 1834 for the purpose of assessing tithes payable to the Established Church, there were just three families there: two Mahonys and the Eamonn de Valera’s maternal ancestors, the Colls. Owen Coll had 47 acres, Richard Mahony 49 acres, and Michael Mahony 128 acres. They were very substantial farmers by the standards of the time.

As might be expected in the light of how old his headstone shows him to have been at the time, Michael was by now a relatively elderly man and had long ago reared his family. Richard, on the other hand, had only begun to rear his family, as had another son, Tomas, who was not mentioned in the Tithe Applotment Book because he was living with his father. There was also a son Michael and very probably a Martin, reflected in a later generation as Mathew, (the two names were curiously interchangeable at that time). Whether other Mahonys in the parish were related it is not possible to determine, as the church registers did not indicate any townland.

Richard and Thomas would appear to have married two McCarthy sisters. Richard married Mary; Thomas married Catherine. By 1852, when the area was again surveyed (Griffith’s Valuation), Richard’s family had gone; his farm now increased to 67 acres, was in the hands of William Lyons. Michael Mahony’s farm had been reduced to 110 acres, and Thomas had succeeded to this. Thomas was James’s father, so let us look more closely at what we can find out about him.

As far as I can ascertain for reasons which would be too tedious to go into in detail here, Thomas Mahony married twice. Being certain of remarriages is never easy, because the record never tells us that a man is remarrying, but in the case of Bruree, matters are further complicated by the fact that the records, beginning in 1825, are missing from 1835-1840.

As I see it, Thomas Mahony married Catherine McCarthy about 1827. They had issue: Michael (1st November 1833), and possible one or two more in that irreplaceable gap. Thomas married secondly Mary Carroll about 1844, and had:

- James, 16 April 1845
- William, 1 February 1850
- Catherine, 27 June 1846
- Catherine ², 30 May 1852
- Thomas, 17 February 1848
- Mary, 7 January 1856

Once son James had completed his family and emigrated, Bruree parish lost all of its Mahony population. The parish registers record the baptisms of sixty three Mahonys in the 1825-1890 period, and it is a sad reflection that not one of them was still there when the census of the population was taken in March 1901. Some, like Thomas’s brother Michael, had simply migrated, of course, but one feels that in most cases it was a case of Bruree’s loss and America’s gain.

NOTES
¹ A marginal note in the baptismal register informs us that Michael married Adelaide Ambrose in St. Patrick’s church, Cincinnati, on 30th April 1912.
² A second ‘Catherine’, baptized in 30th May 1852, indicates that her elder sister Catherine (baptized 27th June 1846) died prior to 1852.

[Ed. note: Copied verbatim from The O Mahony Journal, Volume 14, 1990, pp 8]
On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in October, 1981, as I stood in the Daley Plaza in Chicago watching lovely Irish dancers, their background the famous Picasso sculpture, Bea Brennan McGuire, dedicated Irish genealogist, walked over to me and handed me a copy of the O Mahony Journal, July 1976, opened to page 6.

There to my surprise, was my own name mentioned as a guest at Knockmore, the home of the Mahony family for generations and at that time the home of the Sheahan family. Of course I had, and still have, vivid memories of the visit described so eloquently by the author Mainchin Seoighe in O Mahony Neighbours at Knockmore and the telephone call that evening from President de Valera to the Sheahan family during which we all had an opportunity to talk to the great man.

Mrs. McGuire generously lent me the copy and the next day, on October 21, I heard Peter Tynan O Mahony give a scholarly talk on genealogy to the Irish-American Teacher’s Association of Chicago. At the close of the meeting, I had a chance to speak to him about the remarkable coincidence, and he suggested I write about the events in the lives of the Mahony family after they left Knockmore. That thought has been in the back of my mind these past years and this article is the result of persistent reminders of “unfinished business.”

When my brother, Father James J. Mahoney, S.J., retired in 1968 as director of the Jesuit Retreat House in Barrington, Illinois, Mr. Ted Connelly, a retreatant who knew the President and the story of the Mahony family, asked Mr. de Valera to send a greeting on the occasion of the farewell dinner. It is to this and my brother’s reply I will devote the remaining part of the article.

The beautiful letter of the President was read at the dinner at the Drake Hotel and I heard my Grandfather described as the “kindest of friends and the best of neighbours” and the Mahony home as the first he visited when he came to Ireland. I recalled my own father describing to us how as a boy of twelve he saw the small boy from America coming over the hill on the shoulders of his tall uncle, Patrick Coll.

My brother was deeply affected by the President’s letter and responded in a three-page letter answering the questions about the Mahonys after they left Knockmore. I remember my father telling about a short interval during which my grandfather bought a grocery store in Bruree. But not long afterwards the entire family, grandfather James and grandmother Mary Burke Mahony with nine boys and two girls, departed for New York to live near the cousins in Chicago, the Lyons and the Carrolls. Two boys, Thomas and Oliver, remained in New York with the Mahony relatives.

Readers of this journal will be interested in my brother’s account to the president of the change of spelling of the ancient name: “My father explained that my grandfather’s United States citizenship papers against his protests were made in the name of Mahoney. His family, all born at Knockmore, for business and employment purposes had to refer to my grandfather’s citizenship papers and to avoid confusion spelled the name ‘Mahoney.’”
My grandfather, as my brother wrote to the President, was always a kind and gentle man. “When at 91 in 1935 he was being taken to the Alexian Brothers Hospital he turned wearily and said to my father what may well have been in final words, “Joe, this is a long way from Knockmore.”

My brother told the President of our father’s life—long interest in Irish affairs and the exchange of poetry with Henry Meagher of Knockmore, fellow poet and husband of Elizabeth Coll. Poetry was his life-long interest, balancing detailed work of forty years with the United States Post Office.

I recall as a child our visit with Mr. de Valera on his journey to America after the 1916 Easter Rising and my father’s membership in the Friends of Irish Freedom and the American Association for the Recognition of the Irish Republic. Of course these activities were ardently encouraged by my mother, the former Catherine Emmet, and by his father-in-law John Emmet, a fenian from Cork.

A dedicated Catholic, and a Spanish-American War Veteran of 1898, a member of the Knights of Columbanus and the Catholic War Veterans, father was involved in many parish activities and always helpful to family and friends. As my brother wrote, “I have inspiring memories of a very good father.”

Of the eleven children of Mary Burke and James Mahony there are many descendants to the third generation in the East and in the Middle West. Numerous cousins exchange welcome Christmas messages of good will. The Eastern branch particularly has done dedicated work in genealogy.

My brother John, a Jesuit missionary in India for twenty six years, visited the President on his way home. He is now stationed at St. Ignatius Parish in Chicago.

In all our visits to Ireland we were favoured by the wonderful hospitality of the Sheahans and the Meaghers of Knockmore and the Carrols and the Burkes who all were unfailingly kind to the nostalgic Americans. As my brother James, who died in 1971, wrote to the President, “all to this day share in my daily Mass.”

Mr. de Valera closed his letter with an eloquent wish for my brother:

May he always be with good people whom he will love and who will love him and that he will carry with him pleasant recollections of the district of his forebears - Knockmore and Buree.

My brother in his conclusions referred to these words with his own:

I conclude with returning your precious greetings—and such is my prayer for you and your family in my daily Mass.

[Ed note: Copied verbatim from The O Mahony Journal, Volume 14, 1990, pp 5-7]
EXTRACTS FROM CORK TRADE DIRECTORIES

Commercial and professional directories are a valuable source of genealogical information. The earliest trade directory published in Ireland was for Dublin merchants in 1751. Limerick was the first provincial centre to have its own directory, in 1769. Cork next followed in 1787 when Richard Lucas published a directory for the city and six towns and also listed professional people. A spate of directories covering the main towns in the 32 counties appeared during the 19th Century. The list presented here of Mahonys was extracted from directories contained in the Cork County Library.

1809-1820 – WEST CORK’S DIRECTORY

**CORK CITY**
- Mahony, Dennis woolcomber Blarney Lane
- Mahony, Ellen linen draper Mallow Lane
- Mahony, Jeremiah esquire Patrick Street
- Mahony, Martin & Tim woollen & worsted manf. Gt. Britain Street
- Mahony, Michael rectifier Duncan Street
- Mahony, Michael vintner Grand Parade
- Mahony, Timothy ladies shoemaker Fishamble Lane
- Mahony, Timothy plumber and glazier Bachelor’s quay
- Mahony, William glue boiler Blarney Lane

1824 – Pigot’s Cork Towns Directory

**BANTRY**
- Mahony, James architect Blackrock Road

**CLONAKILTY**
- Mahony, Timothy publican Mill Street

**CONMEL (Co. Tipperary)**
- Mahony, Michael apothecarie (sic) Main Street

**CORK CITY**
- Mahony, Daniel vintner 42 Gt. Britain Street
- Mahony, Daniel vintner 5 St. Finn Barry’s
- Mahony, David corn dealer 29 Market Street
- Mahony, Denis woolcomber Blarney Lane
- Mahony, Eliza corn dealer 73 Gt. Britain St.
- Mahony, Eugene pawnbroker 5 Robert St
- Mahony, Jeremiah captain 7 Lavitt’s Quay
- Mahony, Jeremiah merchant 24 Coal Quay
- Mahony, John cork cutter 1 Cockpit Lane
- Mahony, Kean silversmith Drawbridge St.
- Mahony, Martin woollen manufacturer 43 Clarence St.
- Mahony, Michael gentry 18 Sullivan’s Quay
- Mahony, Michael cooper 33 Douglas St.
- Mahony, Michael vintner 38 Grand Parade
- Mahony, Michael grocer 72 Grand Parade
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Occupation</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Timothy</td>
<td>shoemaker</td>
<td>39 Fishamble Lane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Timothy</td>
<td>paper stainer</td>
<td>6 Paul St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Timothy</td>
<td>woollen manufacturer</td>
<td>Walter Lane, Blackpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DUNGARVAN (Co. Waterford)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, John</td>
<td>cooper</td>
<td>Main St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ENIS (sic) (Co. Clare)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, James</td>
<td>hatter</td>
<td>Mill St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>KINSALE (Co. Cork)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, D.</td>
<td>linen draper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Ellen</td>
<td>linen draper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Martin</td>
<td>baker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Robert</td>
<td>publican</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MALLOW</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Florence</td>
<td>gentleman</td>
<td>Sandfield lodge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, John</td>
<td>gentleman</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Cain</td>
<td>hatter</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Michael</td>
<td>grocer &amp; tallow chandler</td>
<td>Main Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MIDLETON</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Margaret</td>
<td>tobacconist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MILLSTREET</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, James</td>
<td>academy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Jeremiah</td>
<td>baker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, William</td>
<td>publican</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>MITCHELSTOWN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, John</td>
<td>gentleman</td>
<td>Kilbeheny</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, James</td>
<td>apothecary</td>
<td>George Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, James</td>
<td>linen draper</td>
<td>George Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SKIBBEREEN</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Mahony, James</td>
<td>attorney</td>
<td>North St.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TALLOW (Co. Waterford)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>O Mahony, John</td>
<td>grocer</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1841 -- Finny’s Cork Almanac</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>CORK CITY</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, Kean</td>
<td>magistrate</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, F.</td>
<td>crane clerk</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mahony, John</td>
<td>warden, Mansion House ward</td>
<td>Gt. George’s St.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**GRENAGH (Co. Cork)**
Mahony, Michael guardian Glowncown

**INNISCARRA (Co. Cork)**
Mahony, James warden, Inniscarra ward

**TALLOW (Co. Waterford)**
O Mahony, William branch manager National Bank

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1842-43 – Jackson’s County and City of Cork Directory

**COACHFORD**
Mahony, Denis R.C. curate Ahabullogue

**CORK CITY**
- Mahony, Mrs. 44 Grattan Hill
- Mahony, Mrs. Pawnbroker 4 Robert St.
- Mahony, Alexander R.C. curate 50 Douglas St.
- Mahony, Miss B. boardinghouse keeper 12 Cook St.
- Mahony, Cornelius & Co. drapers 1 Patrick St.
- Mahony, Cornelius shoemaker 66 Barrack St.
- Mahony, Daniel Montenotte
- Mahony, Denis vintner 103 Gt. Britain St.
- Mahony, Denis trimming warehouse 33 Main St.
- Mahony, Denis vintner 107 Barrackton
- Mahony, Edward D. wool store 54 North Main St.
- Mahony, Ellen bonnet maker 56 Grand Parade
- Mahony, F. dressmaker 31 Market St.
- Mahony, Gerard builder 10 Nile St.
- Mahony, James grocer 1 Perry St.
- Mahony, James housepainter 44 Grattan Hill
- Mahony, James tailor 28 Mannix St.
- Mahony, John builder 14 Brunswick St.
- Mahony, John butter merchant 114 Bandon Road
- Mahony, John master tailor 1 Camden Place
- Mahony, John vintner 24 Fishamble Lane
- Mahony, Martin & Brothers wool manufacturers 10 Grattan Hall
- Mahony, Mary flour vendor 23 Sullivan’s Quay
- Mahony, Michael builder 4 Nile St.
- Mahony, Michael E. home & land agent 11 Dunbar St.
- Mahony, Patrick jeweller 3 Rochford’s Lane
- Mahony, Thomas accountant 36 South Main St.
- Mahony, Timothy gingle keeper 106 Old George’s St.
- Mahony, Timothy grocer 10 Tuckey St.
- Mahony, Timothy tailor
- Mahony, William master tailor

---

23
### ENNISKEANE (Co. Cork)
- O Mahony, John: Cappean House
- O Mahony, Timothy: R.C. parish priest
- O Mahony, Mrs.: Ballyvolane House

**1843 – Nash’s Cork Almanac**

### CORK CITY
- Mahony, Alexander: R.C. curate
- Mahony, James: professor of drawing
- Mahony, Michael E.: elective guardian
- Mahony, Mrs.: Pawnbroker

### CORK COUNTY (Magistrate)
- Mahony, Keane: magistrate

### INNISCARRA (Electoral Division)
- Mahony, Michael: elective guardian

### TALLOW (Co. Waterford)
- O Mahony, William: branch manager

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### 1863 – Laing’s Cord Mercantile Directory

### CORK CITY
- Mahony, Miss
- Mahony, Andrew: shoemaker
- Mahony, Cornelius: shoemaker
- Mahony, Mrs. Cors.: Salt, lime merchant
- Mahony, Cornelius: accountant
- Mahony, Daniel: stonemcutter
- Mahony, Daniel & Son: butter merchants
  (D.M. & Son): tailor
- Mahony, Daniel: spirit dealer
- Mahony, Denis: trimming shop
  (D.M. & Son): butter merchant
- Mahony, Denis McC: (Bellmont):
- Mahony, E.R.: builder
- Mahony, Gerald: victualler
- Mahony, Henry: provisions dealer
- Mahony, H.
- Mahony, James
- Mahony, J.
- Mahony, James
- Mahony, Jeremiah
- Mahony, John F.

- 48 Gt. George’s St.
- 9 Richmond Hill
- 70 Barrack St.
- 10 White St.
- Res: 18 Black Rock Rd.
- 111 Evergreen Rd.
- 9 Black Rock Rd.
- 20 Dominick St.
- 5 Rock Grove Terrace
- 37 Nicholas St.
- 2 Lavitt’s Quay
- 38 North Main St.
- 16 Tivoli Gardens
- 3 Camden Quay
- 25 Middle Glanmire Rd.
- 17 Dyke Parade
- 31 Grand Parade Market
- Res: 7 Nicholas W. Lane
- 22 George’s Quay
- 129 Barrack St.
- 71 Grand Parade
- 32 Stephen St.
- 13 Sunday’s Well Rd.
- Nelson’s Place
Mahony, John F. spirit dealer 25 Nile St.
Mahony, John journeyman printer 30 Bachelor’s Quay
Mahony, John shoemaker 131 Barrack St.
Mahony, John basket maker 6 Brunswick St.
Mahony, John saddler 14 Kyle St.
Mahony, John teacher 9 Hardwick St.
Mahony, John tobacconist 2 Parliament St.
Mahony, K. 42 Grattan’s Hill
Mahony, Miss Margaret T. 3 Camden Quay
Mahony, Martin & Bros. carver 43 Duncan St.
Mahony, M. tailor 4 Silverspring Lane
Mahony, Martin tailor 170 Lower Glanmire Rd.
Mahony, M. 24 St. Patrick’s Hill
Mahony, Mary 3 Gt. Britain St.
Mahony, Matthew journeyman cabinetmaker 22 Black Rock Rd.
Mahony, Michael E. harbour commissioner 8 Rockcliffe Terrace
Mahony, Michael foreman carpenter 12 Black Rock Rd.
Mahony, M. commission agent 5 Sunday’s Well Avenue
Mahony, M. clerk 35 Gt. Britain St.
Mahony, Michael 22 Black Rock Rd.
Mahony, Patrick skin dealer 8 Rockcliffe Terrace
Mahony, Richard 12 Black Rock Rd.
Mahony, Thomas accountant 5 Sunday’s Well Avenue
Mahony, Timothy R.C. curate 35 Gt. Britain St.
Mahony, Timothy R.C. curate 38 Clarence St.
Mahony, (M.M. & Bros.) carver 134 Sunday’s Well Rd.
Mahony, (M.M. & Bros.), J.P. 53 Douglas St.
Mahony, William R.C. curate 10 Pope’s Quay
Mahony, William V. Ardsallagh 29 Lower Glanmire Rd.
Mahony, William 21 Summer Hill St.
O Mahony, Denis journeyman printer 5 Drawbridge St.
O Mahony, John journeyman shipwright 40 York St. W.
O Mahony, John spirit dealer 81 South Main St.
O Mahony, John tobacconist, chandler 24 Church St.
O Mahony, John butter merchant 53 Douglas St.
O Mahony, John R.C. curate

BLARNEY (Co. Cork)
Mahony, Nicholas Cord Union elective guardian

COACHFORD (Co. Cork)
O Mahony, D., V. Rev. R.C. parish priest Ahabullogue

GLANWORTH (Co. Cork)
O Mahony, Michael R.C. curate

KANTURK (Co. Cork)
O Mahony, J. R.C. curate

> (GQRWH&RSLLGYHUEDWLPURP7KH20DKRQ\RXUQD9ROXPHSS@)
Irish citizenship
THROUGH BIRTH OR DESCENT

by William F. Badzmierowski, M.ED.,CSW (aka Bill O’Badz)
O Mahony Society Council - Newsletter Editor

As a member of the Irish diaspora, I will always remember July 22nd, 2016 as one of the proudest and happiest days of my life.

The Irish diaspora (Irish: Diaspóra na nGael) refers to Irish people and their descendants who live outside the island of Ireland.

Emigration from the island of Ireland has been recorded since the Early Middle Ages, but it can be quantified only from around 1700. Since then, between 9 and 10 million people born on the Island of Ireland have emigrated. That is more than the population of Ireland itself, which at its historical peak on the eve of The Great Hunger was 8.5 million. Many went to Great Britain, especially to Liverpool. Those who could afford it went further, including almost 5 million to the United States and Canada.

After 1765, emigration from Ireland was relentless. By 1890, 40% of Irish-born people were living abroad. By the 21st century, an estimated 80 million people worldwide claimed some Irish descent, which includes more than 36 million Americans claiming Irish as their primary ethnicity.

Ireland is a relatively small island on the eastern fringe of the Atlantic Ocean. By comparison, it is approximately the size of the US state of Indiana. Despite its size, Ireland has exerted an incredibly powerful influence on the entire world. In the US alone, about 10 percent of the US population warmly embrace our Irish heritage with pride and distinction. Worldwide affinity for all things Irish often gives the impression that EVERYONE wants to BE IRISH!

What is truly amazing is the fact that so many of our ancestors left the island of Ireland because of dire poverty, starvation, and related disease. Despite the difficulties of their lives in Ireland, they brought a great love of and yearning for their homeland with them to the world.

Members of the O Mahony Society (OMS) often join this unique organization in an effort to further explore and celebrate our Irish roots. Sometimes we are looking for genealogical or family information or a more formal connection to the O Mahony Clan.

My own involvement with OMS has been part of a lifelong journey that began as a deep and profound friendship with my maternal grandmother, Bridget Theresa O’Mahoney Gifford. Bridget was born in 1887 in Carrigtwohill, County Cork. Like thousands before her, she emigrated to Boston in 1905.

Her emigration automatically made me, all of my siblings, my mother, and all of her siblings proud members of the Irish diaspora - and it took things much further!

Because my grandmother was born on the island of Ireland, my mother (Rita Janet Gifford Badzmierowski) automatically became an Irish citizen on the day of her birth.

It was through my mother’s Irish citizenship that I was granted Irish Citizenship by descent on July 16, 2016. My brother (OMS member Robert Badzmierowski) was also granted Irish citizenship on December 7, 2020.

While my mother’s Irish citizenship was automatic, my brother and I were required to submit an application for citizenship to the Irish government. We were granted citizenship by descent.
The process all worked quite logically under Irish nationality law:

• Bridget was an Irish citizen since she was born on the Island of Ireland.
• My mother was also (automatically) an Irish citizen despite the fact that she was born in Boston - because her mother (Bridget) was born on the Island of Ireland.
• It is through my mother’s Irish Citizenship that my brother and I were eligible to apply for Irish Citizenship by descent.

Although the process is far from simple, it is fairly straightforward. Please understand that I am not an attorney (nor do I play an attorney on television!). The information I provide references my experience with Irish citizenship by descent rather than legal advice. The information also does not speak to all possible circumstances and situations that make an individual eligible for Irish citizenship by birth or descent.

I also caution that you will need to check with your current country of citizenship to determine if it is legal there to hold two citizenships. Since I was born in the United States, I am also a United States citizen. Dual Citizenship is allowed with the United States.

**ELIGIBILITY**

If you or one of your parents were born on the island of Ireland before 2005, you are an Irish citizen. You can apply for an Irish passport without making an application for citizenship.

If you or your parent were born on the island of Ireland on or after 1 January 2005, your right to Irish citizenship depends on:

• Your parents’ citizenship at the time of the birth;
• The residency history of one of the parents before the birth.

If one of your grandparents was born on the island of Ireland, you can apply for Irish citizenship by descent. In these cases, you can become an Irish citizen through Foreign Birth Registration. This is done by application.

If one of your parents is an Irish citizen who was not born on the island of Ireland and you were not born on the island of Ireland, you are eligible for Irish citizenship by descent if - at the time of your birth - your parent was already an Irish citizen. You can apply for Irish citizenship through the Foreign Birth Register.

Once a person is entered onto the Foreign Births Register they are an Irish citizen and entitled to apply for an Irish passport.

**DOCUMENTATION**

Here are the documents you will need to submit to the Irish government to apply for Irish citizenship by birth or descent in order to be listed in the Birth Register (all need to be originals or certified copies). Please note that the list below assumes you are applying for Irish citizenship by descent based on the fact that one of your Irish grandparents was born on the Island of Ireland:

• Your Irish grandparent’s birth certificate clearly indicating that (s)he was born on the island of Ireland.
• Your Irish grandparent’s marriage certificate if (s)he was married.
• If deceased, your Irish grandparent’s death certificate
• Your Irish parent’s birth certificate.
• Your Irish parent’s marriage certificate if (s)he was married.
• If deceased, your Irish parent’s death certificate.
• Your birth certificate.
• Your marriage certificate if you are married.
• A photocopy of current state-issued ID document (e.g., passport, driver’s license, national identity card).
• 2 separate original proofs of current address (e.g., bank statements, utility bills, etc.)
• 4 colour photographs (2 of which to be witnessed by an appropriate person - information about who is approved to sign is listed in the application form)

You will submit your application online first. You then need to print a copy of your Irish Citizenship Application and send with hard copies of all other documentation noted above. You will mail in hard copy to the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin, Ireland.

Before you send your printed application form to the relevant office, you must have it witnessed by an appropriate person who is personally known to you but is not a relative. The same witness should witness the form and two of the photographs and use their official stamp on the form. They should also certify a photocopy of the applicant's state-issued identity document as a true copy of the original.

The following website provides more information about Irish citizenship through Birth or Descent: http://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving_country/irish_citizenship/irish_citizenship_through_birth_or_descent.html

This next website outlines in detail all of the official documents you need in order to apply for Irish Citizenship through Birth or Descent: https://www.dfa.ie/passports-citizenship/citizenship/born-abroad/registering-a-foreign-birth/

**THE BENEFITS OF IRISH CITIZENSHIP**

There are many benefits to holding Irish citizenship! For me, my Irish citizenship honors and celebrates my Irish mother and grandmother and offers me so many other benefits!

These include:
• Enjoy fundamental rights as set out in the Irish Constitution.
• It grants me the right to hold an Irish passport.
• My Irish passport allows me to travel abroad and entitles me to certain diplomatic support services from Irish embassies if I get into difficulty abroad.
• The Irish Republic is part of the European Union (EU). This in itself offers unique benefits.
• An Irish passport is one of the best in the world for freedom of movement. As an Irish citizen, I am entitled to live, work, and study in any one of 32 countries. This includes:
  - 27 EU countries (including Ireland).
  - European Economic Area (EEA) countries: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland.
  - The United Kingdom (UK): Ireland’s Common Travel Area agreement with the UK pre-dates the EU and applies after the Brexit implementation period.
  - Travel without a visa to a total of 170 countries.

**QUESTIONS AND EXCEPTIONS**

There are a few exceptions to the process of citizenship by birth or descent. It is best to consult the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs with any questions about the above process or information about exceptions. You can find information about contacting them on their website at: https://www.dfa.ie/about-us/contact-us/contact-foreign-birth-registration-citizenship/
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