President’s Message
Susan Steele #1025

I began writing this column while flying home from “Celtic Roots Across America” the 2016 collaborative Celtic Connections Conference. You might think that an airline computer glitch and extra travel time would have me grumbling in my seat. No... I was still smiling while reflecting on my time in Minnesota. The paper evaluations will be tabulated soon. We have already received numerous “word of mouth” assessments and they are overwhelmingly positive.

So what makes a successful conference experience? Many factors were in the mix - informative lectures, great entertainment (musicians and mealtime speakers) and a fun tour of the Twin Cities. But the most important factor was the hardworking conference committee who put it all together!

The committee has been working for two years beginning their task shortly after the completion of the Celtic Connections Conference in 2014. This committee planned every detail: overall theme, website, venue, speakers, menus and entertainment. A list of committee members from both TIARA and IGSI (Irish Genealogical Society International) follows this article. There were also others - not formal committee members - but TIARA and IGSI friends and family who jumped in to move, carry, deliver and offer other help when needed. A special thanks goes to Co-Chairs, Ann Eccles, Mary Wickersham and the IGSI “on the ground” crew who handled a multitude of tasks, finding replacement speakers on short notice, adjusting schedules, overseeing audio visual needs and all the while staying calm and friendly!

Now that I have sung the praises of volunteers, I hope I can persuade you to join their ranks. The Celtic Connections Conference will be coming back to Massachusetts in August of 2018. We will be recruiting folks to join our Planning Committee. There are also many tasks involved in the functioning of our own organization. Our new Volunteer Coordinator (Continued on page 51)
Richard Robert Elliott (1823-1908) was born in Quebec, Canada, son of Robert Thomas Elliott, a Catholic native of Tipperary, Ireland. Richard’s father was an architect, who moved with his family to Rochester, New York in 1827 where he was the architect for St. Patrick’s Cathedral. Robert moved to Detroit in 1834 and died unexpectedly in 1841, while he was the architect of St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Detroit. Richard became the main support for his widowed mother and siblings. He established Eagle and Elliott’s Cloth House (later Elliott’s Cloth House) in Detroit with a “Passage and Exchange Office” in the store. His first prepaid ocean passage ticket was sold in 1841. Elliott’s firm sold 4681 passage tickets from 1841 to 1868. Richard had agents in various cities across Michigan and in Chicago. He was very interested in bringing emigrants into Michigan. Father Shaw and Elliott established “The Irish Emigrant Society of Detroit” in 1847 to help those who had emigrated to escape the famine.

Elliott’s business concerned selling prepaid passage tickets and sending money overseas. The Irish were particularly faithful in sending small sums of money home to help support those of their family left behind or to enable relatives and friends to come to America. The Michigan Central Railroad was being built across Michigan and many of the workers were Irish. They would approach their leader, Thomas Martin, who would write to Richard on their behalf. The letter would state the name of the person who wanted to send the money, the amount to be sent, and the name and contact information of the desired recipient. Often the letter would state the relationship of the person in Ireland to the sender of the money. These are particularly valuable to genealogists who are trying to find the townland of their Irish ancestor. For example:

"Mar 1849, Sec. 47 M.C.R. Road, from Thos. Martin “Patk McAndrews send Catharine his wife Eighty four Dollars to Rathnamagh Cross-molina P. Office County Mayo Ireland”.

Agents around Michigan and others sent similar letters to Elliott to send money home or arrange prepaid passage from Ireland. The priest, Thomas Cullen, of Ann Arbor, was particularly active in bringing Irish people to Dexter and Chelsea, in Washtenaw County, Michigan.

Most of Elliott’s prepaid passage tickets were for transportation to the city of New York or to Canada. In early years the majority were Irish. Passage to Canada was usually cheaper. The emigrants had to make their way to Liverpool, where they would board one of the scheduled packets to New York. A representative of Elliott would try to meet them in New York. Their sponsor was supposed to send money to the New York office to enable them to take passage through the Erie Canal and Great Lakes or on the emigrant train to their destination in Detroit or elsewhere in Michigan. Some ended up under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of Emigration in New York. There might be several letters written to Elliott from the same person. The first asked about the price of the tickets, whether to Canada or to New York, but might be vague concerning the details. The second might give the ages and names of the emigrants and a third might send the money for the tickets.

Elliott was Historiographer of the City of Detroit in 1908, an appointed position. Perhaps Elliott’s interest in history was the reason that he kept the original letters written to him about passage and money orders. These were sewn together in book form chronologically by year, starting in 1848. His entire account entry book of arranged passages from 1851-1869 was transcribed by me in Passage to America 1851-1869: The Records of Richard Elliott, Passenger Agent, Detroit, Michigan, published by the Detroit Society for Genealogical Research (still available from the publisher. It listed the person booking the passage, the names of the passengers and the

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2 MS/Elliott, Richard R., L5 1848-1849, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan.
amount of money paid for ocean and/or inland passage. It also gave the destination of those booked in 1861 and after, as well as the port of departure. It also contains nineteen pages of information with more details as to the shipping companies, agents, destinations, and company procedures. Many of those listed can be found with additional information in the bound letter books. I am also finishing transcribing the 1848-1849 book of individual original letters written to send money orders or to arrange passage.

In 1906 Elliott wrote a letter in which he said, “I beg to present to the Burton Library, the bulky book containing my passage register to and from Europe on one side, beginning, February 18, 1879 and ending March 12, 1891, and my registers for drafts and money orders on Europe beginning Feb 17, 1879 and ending July 30, 1890: transactions not only important but covering considerable pecuniary importance.” I have just finished transcribing this book to my computer. The passage register gave the date, name of the shipping line, the name of the passenger, the address of the passenger, the person paying for the passage, the cost, ship and other notes. The original shipping line sticker was affixed to many of the individual pages. I did not transcribe all of the money orders, choosing only those that mentioned identifying information on the recipient in Ireland.

None of his letter books have been scanned or published with the exception of the account entry book for 1851-1869 previously mentioned. The information contained in them is of primary importance to those genealogists whose ancestors may have come to Michigan or Windsor and Sarnia, Ontario in the period from 1848 to 1891. The majority concerned Irish emigrants or residents, although in later years some of the records designate Dutch, German and Polish coming to Michigan. There are some tickets for outgoing passage from the United States during the 1870s and 1880s as early immigrants had saved enough money to go home to visit. There are indexes for some of the letter books, but keep in mind that they index only the name of the writer of the letter, not the persons mentioned within. Many of the Irish immigrants were semi-literate due to lack of education, so they had others write the letters for them. All of the Irish knew the name of their townland but often lacked the ability to spell it. The person to whom they dictated the letter to be sent to Elliott could not possibly know the thousands of townland names. Therefore, it may take a bit of a search to determine the intended townland name.

It was said that if an Irish Catholic knew anyone in Michigan, he knew the name of Richard Elliott, Passage and Exchange Office, Detroit. We owe him a debt of thanks for donating his fourteen books of letters and passage and money exchange records to the Burton Collection, Detroit Public Library, where they may be found today. They can provide details on the townland, family relationships and passage to America of our Irish ancestors, information that cannot be found anywhere else.

The following volumes are found in the Richard R. Elliott Papers, Manuscript Collection of the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, Detroit, Michigan.

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**Example of Passage Register entry from I 3e:1878-1891**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Detroit</th>
<th>April 26, 1880</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$52</td>
<td>Ocean</td>
<td>No. 18045</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$2</td>
<td>Inland</td>
<td>no express</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$52</td>
<td>Received from Philip Cotter $52 Dollars Offin[?]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>for Passage of James Cotter 18 Maggie Cotter 15</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tell them where to call for inland on arrival from Queenstown to Detroit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Address Mrs Margt Cotter [in pencil] cancel[?] Kilconlea Abbeyfeale P.O. Co Limerick Ireld</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britanic pd [?] 6/5 CBR &amp; B Enclosing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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The purchaser to keep this memorandum of Passage Ticket issued by RRE Ag’t. for Steerage Passage by the National Steamship Company from Liverpool, Queenstown or London to New York Favor of James Cotter 18 Maggie Cotter 2 Ad’lts
L5 1848-1849 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Bound book of letters written to Elliott, dated Jan 1848-Dec 1849. No page numbers or index. Most have been transcribed by me, working index prepared.

L5 1850 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Bound book of letters written to Elliott. Indexed by name of writer of letter. Index and letters very faded. Over 250 readable letters transcribed by me.

L5 1851 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Bound book of letters written to Elliott. Indexed by name of writer of letter. Page numbers have been added, top right hand corner. 386 pages – about 300 pages have been transcribed by me.

L5 1852 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Bound book of letters written to Elliott. Indexed by name of writer of letter. Page numbers have been added, top right hand corner. 331 pages – about 137 pages transcribed by me.

L5 1854 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Bound book of letters written to Elliott. Indexed by name of writer of letter. Page numbers have been added. 550 pages – many Irish homeland addresses, some English, some German. About 86 pages have been transcribed by me.

L5 1854-1855 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Boxed correspondence plus other items. Three folders of letters to Elliott. One contains 204 loose pages. January – June transcribed by me.

L5 1857 MS/Elliott, Richard R.

L5 1858 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Bound book of letters to Elliott. Not indexed. About 2 inches thick. Passage inquiries, requests for foreign drafts. 31 letters from January extracted to date.

L5 1860 MS/Elliott, Richard R.

L5 1862 MS/Elliott, Richard R.

L5 1854-1858 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Taller book, written on tissue thin paper, brown ink. Duplicates of letters written by Richard Elliott or members of his firm. Blurred, difficult to read. 999 numbered pages. 66 pages extracted – most giving the ticket numbers and names of the prepaid passengers.

I 3e: 1878-1891 MS/Elliott, Richard R.
Receipt book, 4 x 10 inches, kept in archival box. Receipts for foreign drafts and receipts for passage ticket sales. All ticket receipts have been transcribed by me and draft receipts which gave additional information have been copied. Working index has been made.

LMS/Elliott, Richard R. I.3p:1851-1869

Mary Lou (Straith) Duncan has been a genealogist for 45 years. As a member of the Guild of One-Name Studies, she has developed a computer database of thousands of references worldwide to individuals with the STRATH or STRAITH surname. She is a past president of the Irish Genealogical Society of Michigan, Detroit Society for Genealogical Research and the Michigan Genealogical Council, as well as having served as Genealogist for the St. Andrew’s Society of. Her publications include two books of cemetery records, and Passage to America. Her primary focus has been on transcribing the records of Richard Elliott, as she feels these would be so helpful to Irish genealogists. In 2001 she was invited to lecture on these records at the 4th Irish Genealogical Congress in Dublin, and has given talks at numerous genealogical society meetings. In 2003 she received the Distinguished Service Award from the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Lucy Mary Kellogg Award from the Michigan Genealogical Council. Her Irish surnames are Duncan and Cook, County Antrim and Kingston and Hayes, County Cork - 1750s forward.
Sampling of Letters to Elliott in the Manuscript Collection, Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library.
Transcribed by Mary Lou (Straith) Duncan.

MS/Elliott, Richard R. L5 1848-1849
Steerage Passengers from Liverpool to New York are $20.00 for all over 10 years and $15 for all under. This includes one pound of Bread every day during the voyage with Fuel and Water for each person and Head and Hospital Money in cash. We also grant Passage Certificates to Liverpool from the following places, viz: From Belfast $1.50; Dublin $1.00; Cork $3.00; Waterford $2.50; Wexford $1.50; Drogheda $1.00; Dundalk $1.00; Londonderry $1.50; Newry $1.00; Sligo $2.00. The past season, over two thousand passengers were detained in Liverpool, with prepaid tickets in their hands, for several months, being unable to pay from £1 to £2 each additional, for bread, fuel, water, hospital and head money, & c., their tickets being refused without this extra and unexpected demand. Persons having tickets from Harnden & Co. have never been refused passage, nor required in Liverpool to pay one cent over the sum agreed for in America. Harnden & Co., during the past five years, have shipped in Liverpool for America, over one hundred thousand passengers; and among this large number, no one has ever complained that Harnden & Co. refused to conform to every contract, either expressed or understood.

MS/Elliott, Richard R. L5 1850
18 Nov 1850 New York John Allen
Michael Partlan & 2 children has just arrived [pr] Columbia - and handed your ticket to send them by canal & Steam Boat to Detroit - the boy himself is poorly clad - and the little children is not at all prepared for such a journey - not a penny in their pockets, nor a bite[?] to put on their bread - to start thru by canal would be useless as there is little or no prospect of them getting through before the lake will close - now what to do with I do not know - they are fit subject for the commissioner of Emigration - but they would send them to the Island - and they would surely die - I have made up my mind to send them by Rail Road - & furnish them with Bread - and they must take their chances - it will cost me 14$ for passage and two for Provision - this amount I charge to you and you must collect it from the parents of these children

MS/Elliott, Richard R. L5 1854
p.100 March 17, 1854 Grand Rapids Ball & McKee
Enclosed herewith please find $90 sent by Martin Doyle of Grattan[?] in this county. He wishes to pay passage from Ireland of his mother Elisabeth Doyle widow of Danl Doyle deceased aged about 70 yrs, his brother Michael Doyle aged 35 yrs, and his brother John Doyle aged 30 yrs. The parties formerly lived at Ballybriinois[?] one mile from Newton Barry, Co Wexford - They now live at the unirstands[?], at InnisCarthy, Co Wexford his mother is in thejaun[?] house Mr Doyle wishes $10 - Sent them in a draft for the expenses to Liverpool and the balance he thinks should be sufficient to bring them to this place. He has a sister named Ellen Doyle about 25 yrs old living with Mrs Conan at Newton Barry, Co Wexford. The draft should he thinks be sent to her care of Mrs Conan If for any reason his mother cannot come, he wishes his said sister Ellen to be brought in her place. At all events let the mother be forwarded through to Grand rapids -

MS/Elliott, Richard R. L5 1857
1 Mar 1857 Marquette Cornelius Flanagan
The bearer Mr. Edward Briting will hand you over the sum of one hundred and eighty dollars being for the express purpose of defraying the expenses of four young men from Ireland names and addresses as follows viz: First Jermie Flanagan aged nineteen years Edmond Flanagan Seventeen John Moloy twenty Thomas Moloy seventeen
Address Mr William Corby
Casshel Post Office County Tipperary
For Thomas Flanagan
Ballytasna Ireland
If anything remains after paying their passage you will please remit it to them per address on back - I almost forgot to tell you that I want you to pay their passage to Detroit
I admit it. I am proudly South-Side Irish. My mom always joked that in order to live in Bridgeport you had to be three things: Irish, a Democrat and a White Sox fan, and if you weren’t all three of those things, you didn’t live in Bridgeport! My two Irish great-great-grandfathers came to Chicago from Albany, New York in 1876 to build the Nativity of Our Lord Church. They were a stone mason and a brick layer and heard about the work in Chicago after the Great Chicago Fire. My family has lived in the neighborhood ever since. I will figuratively ‘stir-the-pot’ by claiming Bridgeport is THE quintessential Irish neighborhood of Chicago. Bridgeport has been the epicenter of Chicago politics for generations. Dozens of police and fire chiefs have come from our neighborhood as well as five mayors, four of whom were of Irish descent.

Bridgeport gets its name from the construction of the Illinois and Michigan Canal in 1836. I&M Canal’s Commissioners began surveying land as early as 1824, but poor management and bankruptcy delayed the canal numerous times before its completion in 1848. Thousands of Irish laborers worked on the canal from Chicago to Peru, Illinois. The canal brought skilled and unskilled Irish laborers to Bridgeport. These workers stayed and put their skills to use building St Bridget’s Church which opened in 1854.

Bridgeport is just one of a handful of Irish neighborhoods that sprang up along the south-side of the Chicago River in the mid-19th Century. Other early Irish neighborhoods include Canaryville, Back of the Yards, and Brighton Park. As Chicago grew, the wealthier, more established Irish began moving further south into Morgan Park, Oak Lawn, and Beverly, home to the infamous South-Side Irish Parade held the weekend before St. Patrick’s Day every year. Not all Irish lived in these neighborhoods. Thousands more spread out into every neighborhood in Chicago. The website Chicago in Maps [www.chicagoinmaps.com](http://www.chicagoinmaps.com) is a great resource for following Chicago’s expansion from the 1830s through the 1990s.

A great place to learn more about Chicago’s Irish neighborhoods is through the Chicago History Museum [http://libguides.chicagohistory.org/research](http://libguides.chicagohistory.org/research) which has a neighborhood file along with dozens of other resources for researching your Irish ancestors from old newspapers to street image files. Priceless information on your Irish ancestors can be found in their Architectural and Building History Collection [http://chicagohistory.org/research/resources/architecture](http://chicagohistory.org/research/resources/architecture) which includes city directories, photo and maps. The collection also contains information about building permits filed within Chicago from 1898-1912. Additional permit information can be searched online through the University of Illinois at Chicago [http://researchguides.uic.edu/microforms/permits](http://researchguides.uic.edu/microforms/permits). The Chicago History Museum is also the repository for thousands of images from the Chicago Daily News photo morgue. The Chicago Daily News was often the newspaper of choice for Chicago’s South-Side Irish. The paper closed its doors in March of 1977 and many Chicago Irish moved their allegiance to the Chicago Sun-Times. Many images from the collection have been digitized and are available through [1883 O. W. Gray and Son Map of Chicago www.chicagoinmaps.com](http://lockzero.org.uic.edu/iv.html).
http://explore.chicagocollections.org. Explore Chicago is comprised of digital collections from Chicagoland universities and research facilities. Thousands of images have been scanned representing major events, ‘movers and shakers’ and influential neighborhoods around Chicago.

The Newberry Library, a world-class facility with outstanding genealogy and history collections, is located on Chicago’s near-north side. The Newberry is not just a leader in genealogical research, but a pioneer in digital access to materials. Portions of their collections like their Chicago and the Midwest Collection are available through their website www.newberry.org/chicago-and-midwest.

They have partnered with Internet Archives https://archive.org/details/newberry to make over five thousand books available from their extensive holdings. They are the creators of Chicago Ancestors www.chicagoancestors.org which contains dozens of tools for tracing your Chicago Irish. Two additional resources you should explore are the Illinois Digital Archive www.idaiillinois.org which has newspapers, letters, yearbooks, photos, postcards and more documenting the history of Chicago and Illinois. Also, the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) Digital Collections: https://collections.carli.illinois.edu includes multiple digital collections embodying Chicago's rich history.

The Chicago Public Library’s Harold Washington Branch has an extensive Chicago History Collection. Thousands of images, books, maps and architectural drawings are available for in-depth research. Digital copies of the Chicago Herald Examiner from 1908-1918 http://digital.chipublib.org are available for free. They have placed some of their more popular images from their Neighborhood Collections www.chipublib.org/archival_subject/neighborhoods online as well. Sadly, a large portion of the library's extensive newspaper collection is only on microfilm. If you are ever in Chicago, it is worth a trip to the microfilm research room to access over 150 years of Chicago newspapers like the Inter Ocean, Chicago Herald American and Chicago Daily News which are not readily available online.

The local Catholic parish was the glue that held the Irish community together. Most kids went to the parish school and families attended mass together on Sundays. Church records are some of the best records available for early Irish families in Chicago. Old St. Patrick’s Church was the first Irish Catholic parish in Chicago. You can find their records online back to 1846. Luckily the LDS Church digitized most of Chicago’s Catholic parish books up to 1915 and has made them available online at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1452409. Several churches in Chicago started as missions to St. Patrick’s, so if you struggle finding your family listed in your parish’s early church records; browse Old St. Pat’s books to see if they are listed. The reason why these church records are so vitally important is because Illinois did not start recording births and deaths until November 1877. From 1877 until 1914 these records were merely requested by the state but not required. ALL of my Chicago Irish are missing from the official county birth records until the 1920s even though it was mandatory to register births beginning in 1914. Luckily EVERY one of them has a baptismal record from a Chicago Catholic parish.

Karins Family Record in author’s personal collection
The Catholic Church oversaw more than just vital statistics. The archdiocese oversaw poor houses like the Little Sisters of the Poor and orphanages and homes like the Catholic Boys Asylum in Bridgeport as well as hundreds of parochial schools. Contact the Chicago archdiocesan archives [http://archives.archchicago.org](http://archives.archchicago.org) for additional records. You can find more information on Chicago’s Catholic churches through sites like [www.chicagoancestors.org](http://www.chicagoancestors.org). Here, Catholic churches are pinned to a Google map platform showing information on the opening and closing of the church, the ethnicity of the parishioners and where the records are now held. The Encyclopedia of Chicago [http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org](http://encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org) also has chapters on Chicago Irish and the aforementioned Catholic parishes, homes and orphanages.

Chicago and Irish are nearly synonymous. Dozens of nationalities call Chicago home, but for whatever reason, the Irish have dominated our collective minds and hearts for generations. Charles Comiskey owner of the Chicago White Sox was the son of well-respected alderman, “Honest” John Comiskey who was born in County Cavan. Mayor Richard A. Daley’s family hailed from County Waterford. Irish-American celebrities like Bill Murray, Chris O’Donnell, and John Cusack all call the Chicagoland area home. From Claire to Tipperary, every county in Ireland is represented in the neighborhoods of Chicago. Ancestry has a database pertinent to your Chicago Irish research called Chicago Irish Families 1875-1925 [http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3524](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3524). This collection is derived from early books, indexes and newspaper resources. Another great avenue for finding your Chicago Irish is through Internet Archives [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org). This is one of my favorite resources for tracking down early Chicago families. Hundreds of books are available, free of copyright, to download and use in your genealogy research. Remember births and deaths weren’t recorded until 1877, so there is nearly 50 years of Chicago history represented in these early histories before vital records registration began.

Television and film sensationalize Chicago’s gangster history. Irish mobsters like Dean O’Banion, Terry “Machine Gun” Drummond, and George “Bugsy” Malone are a few of the more ‘colorful’ Chicago Irish. If you’ve found that your relatives might have run with the likes of Bugsy Malone, there are places to look for those records as well. The Chicago Police Department Homicide Index 1870-1930 [www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/homicide.html](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/homicide.html) or the Cook County Coroner’s Inquest Index 1872-1911 [www.ilsos.gov/jsaairad/cookinquestsrch.jsp](http://www.ilsos.gov/jsaairad/cookinquestsrch.jsp) may offer some clues to your family’s gangster past. Another avenue of research is the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court Archives which is the repository for criminal, family and probate court records. They sampled their criminal court records, only keeping a small percentage of the original case files, and destroying the rest. Luckily many of the dockets are still available to browse on microfilm in the archives offices. A list of their archival holdings can be found here: [www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/?section=RecArchivePage&RecArchivePage=archive_holdings](http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/?section=RecArchivePage&RecArchivePage=archive_holdings). The Clerk of Court is also responsible for wills and probate. Recently Ancestry released a new database All Illinois, Wills and Probate Records 1772-1999 which includes a healthy number of Chicago records [http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9048](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9048). This database is not comprehensive, so if you do not find all of your Chicago ancestors, contact the Cook County Clerk of Court Archives for additional information. This office was also responsible for handling naturalizations. An index to Declarations of Intent can be found at [http://12.218.239.55/NR/default.aspx](http://12.218.239.55/NR/default.aspx).
These records are a treasure trove of information on your Chicago Irish from their Chicago street address to their Irish home town.

Speaking of Cook County records, no discussion of Chicago resources would be complete considering Cook County began in 1831. Nearly all of the records pertaining to the city and county were destroyed during the Great Chicago Fire www.greatchicagofire.org on October 8-9, 1871. Record keeping for Cook County began anew on January 1, 1872. A large number of marriages from the 1930s and 1940s are not represented here. If you cannot find your family listed in this database, submit a written request directly to the Cook County Clerk’s office: www.cookcountyclerk.com/vtalrecords/Pages/default.aspx. In my own personal research, I have found that both sets of my grandparents are missing in the online database, but I was able to purchase copies of each marriage certificate directly through the Clerk’s Office. If you strike out in both of these locations you can also check the Illinois Secretary of State’s databases as well by visiting www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/databases/home.html.

Within the Illinois Statewide Marriage Index 1763-1900 you’ll find the Fink Index which references Cook County marriages that predate the Great Chicago Fire. This information was collected by Sam Fink from Chicago area newspapers in an effort to recreate an index to the Chicago marriages from 1833-1871 that were destroyed in the fire. This index is by no means complete, but it is a nice substitute for the burned records.

There are numerous genealogical, historical and heritage societies in and around Chicago that can assist you in your research as well. The Chicago Genealogical Society www.chicagogenealogy.org has several online indexes including a decent index to surnames recorded in early Chicago newspapers. They also have an index to past issues of their newsletter which can be requested from your home library through Inter Library Loan. One of my favorite groups, no offense to the others, is the South Suburban Genealogical and Historical Society http://ssghs.org/wp in Hazel Crest, Illinois. They have the employment cards for the men who worked for the Pullman Car Works building train cars from 1900-1949. These cards include wages, physical descriptions and often photos of each employee. The historical society also has an extensive research library with dozens of Chicago and Irish genealogy titles.

The Irish-American Heritage Center http://irish-american.org promotes Irish and Irish-American culture and history through cultural events and educational programming. The center has several hard-working, dedicated museum, library and archives staff eager to assist researchers. There are three additional Hibernian groups in the Chicagoland area. The Ancient Order of the Hibernians is one of the oldest ethnic societies in Chicago. They offer support to Irish Immigrants and provide scholarships for Catholic school tuition.
There is a staggering amount of information waiting to be discovered about your Chicago Irish. I must confess, there are many more resources that I could and should include in this article, but in the effort of finishing this article within the decade, some had to be sacrificed. I leave you with my final handful of resources for those who had Irish working on the Illinois and Michigan Canal. While these sites are outside of Chicago, they are still useful in telling your story. I leave you with a slightly altered Irish blessing: May good and faithful records be yours wherever you roam.

Lewis University John Lamb Collection: http://www.lewisu.edu/im-canal/JohnLamb/section_0.pdf
Will County Historical Society http://willcohistory.org

President’s Message (continued)

Julie Rizzello, has consulted with committee chairs and put together a volunteer form that will go out with a call for Membership Renewal in September. Please read the form and choose a way to contribute to your organization.

Fàilte Fridays - The new TIARA office at 84 South Street, Waltham is just minutes away from Brandeis University, the site of our monthly meetings. Beginning this fall, the office will be open from 3:30 - 6:30 on our meeting dates of September 9th, October 14th and December 9th. TIARA members and friends are welcome to stop in, visit with other members and browse the TIARA Library. We are instituting a trial lending library. Items will be lent out on a monthly basis and can be returned to the TIARA office or to a collection box at our meetings. Certain unique, fragile volumes will be excluded from the lending policy but will be available for use at the library. These Fàilte (Welcome in the Irish language) Fridays are another volunteer opportunity. See the volunteer form for a description.

A final word... our landlord at the new TIARA office asked me how many paid staff were on the TIARA payroll. He had seen the hardworking people who helped with our move, had noticed Forester Project folks doing data entry and had observed various meetings. He was very surprised by my answer - no paid staff! So consider joining our unpaid staff who reap so many other benefits including the sense of a job well done, friendship and fun!

Many, Many Thanks to TIARA and IGSI members of the 2016 Celtic Connections Conference Planning Committee!
Co-Chairs: Ann Eccles, Mary Wickersham
And Committee members: Greg Atkinson, Mary Choppa, Pat Deal, Sheila Fitzpatrick, Mike Flynn, Mark Hartnett, Randi Mary Helgesen, Gigi Hickey, Pat Landry, Audrey Leonard, Lois Mackin, Char O’Connell, Kathy Roscoe, Tim Scanlan, Lois Spadgenske, Susan Steele, Kathy Sullivan, Gary Sutherland and Kay Swanson.

Tina Beaird is a genealogy and local history librarian at public library in the Chicagoland area. She is a Governing Board member of the Oswego Heritage Association and the Northern Illinois Historical League and was recently appointed as a Director to the Illinois State Historical Records Advisory Board which oversees grant funding to small museums and libraries, for digitization and historic preservation projects. She volunteers her time with several local historical societies providing digitization and organizational support towards preserving their historic records. Tina is a member of the Genealogical Speaker’s Guild and has been lecturing on topics including genealogical research, archival preservation, and Illinois history since 2003.

www.aooh.org. Ireland Network of Chicago is focused on keeping Chicagoans involved and up-to-date on what is going on within Ireland and the Irish community worldwide http://theirelandnetwork.com. Lastly, the Irish Fellowship Club http://irishfellowshipclub.com has been in existence since 1900 and offers scholarships and grants to students. They work to promote Irish culture and learning throughout the Chicagoland area with a series of programs, golf tournaments and public events.
BOOK REVIEW
Mary Ellen Doona #1629


“Will you find my godmother for me?” Francis “Harty” Hart asked his grandson, Michael Melanson after being unable to locate her grave in Calvary Cemetery in Waltham, Massachusetts. Consulting city directories, censuses and vital records Melanson found Nellie Hart’s grave not in Waltham as family lore held but in Holyhood Cemetery in Brookline. Death certificates of others listed on the gravestone led Melanson to the names of his great-great-grandparents of Drumiskabole, a townland in Sligo. For the next twenty-five years Melanson repeated the process: listening to family stories, asking questions, following the paper trail, visiting sites and comparing data against records. His Journey: An Irish-American Odyssey (2016) recounts his discovery of members of the Hart family as far back as 1792. Among the many names in his tree are: Cunningham, Davey, Davis, Feeney, Hanney, Kilmartin (Gilmartin), Kennedy, Mackey, Mahoney, McCrann, Moriarty, Ryan, Scanlon, Mitchell, and Martin.

TIARA members are familiar with the process and will enjoy mention of TIARA’s Forester Project, TIARA’s research trips and especially of TIARA members. They will be justifiably proud that one of their own has produced such an elegant book that not only details the research process, but does so within a narrative that never lags. Foremost among the many things that commend this book is Melanson’s bringing to life the people behind the statistics and honoring their historical significance. He contextualizes their lives within the histories of Ireland, the Famine, Immigration and the United States to name only some of the scholarly literature he has consulted. If Journey featured this alone, it would have been a rich addition to the social history of the Irish people.

For family historians, seasoned and novice alike, Journey is much more. Experienced researchers will identify with Melanson’s linking his ancestors to the documentary records and Irish traditions; imagining from dry facts and myths who they were when they were flesh and blood; and, what their daily lives must have been like. Like the poor throughout history, the voices of the Harts of Sligo were never part of the historical record. Indeed, they are not truly “heard” until their first generation American, Harty Hart, repeated tales his family had passed down, and that he in turn entrusted to his receptive grandson. Family historians will identify with Melanson’s separating “facts” from fictions, especially when he verifies what seemed to be an embellishment as something that truly happened. One of his Harts did go down with the Titanic.

Not very far into Journey readers will grasp that retrieving family members is not without its horrors. Many of the Harts were doomed from the start as diseases of the crowded poor - typhus, cholera and consumption - to name only the most virulent, claimed young and old alike. Their well-fed and well-sheltered Queen Victoria did nothing to stave off the diseases but dismissed the Irish, her subjects, as a “terrible people”. The Pope was little better than the Crown doing Lord Palmerston’s bidding rather than serving as pastor to the Irish.

Daniel O’Connell had been wise to England’s direct access to Popes. Thanks to his efforts in 1814 Ireland refused to obey Rome’s order to allow England to decide on the appointment of Irish bishops, which would essentially make the English government head of the Catholic Church. The Harts cherished their faith, the one possession after centuries of dispossession. It identified them as the native Irish, for as Sean O’Faolain remarks, Irish Catholic were two words for one.

As extensive as Journey’s bibliography is, it fails to include Hasia Diner’s Erin’s Daughters in America: Irish Immigrant Women in the Nineteenth Century. This is regrettable given that the Hart women worked as domestics on arrival in the United States. No longer determined by an economy of land and sons nor dependent on dowries, they earned their own money. They lived apart from their own people and created their own lives as they worked in upper middle class homes in Newton. They sent some of their earnings to Ireland and paid the fares for others to emigrate. One of
these domestics, Brigie Harte, earned her “fortune” and returned to Ireland where her money and a man’s land made the match. She chose an Irish life for herself but not before paying the fare to America for her sister who would also work as a domestic. In doing so these Hart women contributed to the history of Irish women surpassing other immigrant women socially and economically.

Each reading of the Journey yields new insights about the Harts as well as a new appreciation for the research that found them. If Melanson has retrieved hundreds of his ancestors from oblivion, he has also provided genealogical charts for his readers who are meeting the Hart families for the first time. An index that is cross-referenced further helps in locating individuals of various generations and placing them in Ireland and the United States. The list of sources and extensive bibliography is a handy reference for other researchers as is Melanson’s account of his trip to Ireland with his mother, aunt and cousin. They walked where their ancestors once walked and visited the cemeteries where their predecessors are buried.

On a later trip, Melanson was alone in a cemetery when he came across the gravestone of his great-great-grandmother’s younger brother. Astonished with the discovery, Melanson pointed at the gravestone and looked around for someone to tell. It proved to be a private moment, however, with the trembling Melanson standing alone with his long dead kin as the rain fell on him and them.

Journey: An Irish American Odyssey teaches many lessons: foremost among them is the Irish were not defeated. All they needed was justice, writes Melanson. His journey does justice to his family and in doing so he has preserved still another piece of Irish history.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Thank you to the TIARA members who have made the following donations to the TIARA library:


The Comiskey Family by Robert Comiskey, 2016. The Haggerty Family by Robert Comiskey, 2016. These books are both Self Published Family Histories. Donor: Robert Comiskey

Next Issue

Do you have researched any Ulster ancestors? Discovered their interesting story? Learned about historic events that may have impacted their lives? Found useful online sources? Had exciting finds that were not online? Share your research and submit your Researching Ulster Ancestors article for the next issue of the TIARA newsletter. Other articles of Irish or genealogical interest are always welcome. Please send submissions for the Winter Newsletter to newsletter@tiara.ie or mail to TIARA by Oct 30.
Irish Genealogy Summer School
Pam Holland # 2969

This June I attended the Ancestral Connections 2016 Irish Genealogy Summer School at University College Cork in Cork, Ireland. The 7 days of activities ran from Sunday, 26 June, to Saturday, 2 July. It was a jam packed week of lectures, field trips, music and fun.

The school is run through the UCC’s Adult Education department and is organized by Lorna Moloney, a Professional Genealogist and medieval historian. This year there were over 40 participants from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, U.S.A. UK, Wales and Ireland. Similar to a U.S. genealogical institute, we had lectures each weekday morning and afternoon. There were also field trips to nearby historic towns and attractions and organized nights out of music and “Irish Craic.”

Campus accommodation was available at Victoria Lodge, a short walk from the daily lectures in the modern Western Gateway Building. But our opening Sunday night reception was at the historic Aula Maxima hall. Reminiscent of Hogwart’s Great Hall, the Aula Maxima is where many college exams still take place. However, for us we had a relaxing evening of drinks and snacks followed by a talk on the anniversary of the 1916 Rising and traditional Irish music.

The following day we began our series of lectures. Usually there were three lectures before lunch and three in the afternoon. Topics ranged from an introduction to Irish genealogy and how to find birth, marriages and deaths, to in-depth talks on Irish place names, using the National Archives and Valuation Office, DNA, surnames and military records. Each day we broke for a short lunch in the cafeteria with our class participants and either were on our own for dinner or joined a field trip or organized dinner. Field trips were available to Youghal, Cobh & Fota House, Spike Island, and Béal na Bláth the location where Michael Collins was killed in an ambush during the Civil War in 1922. One evening there was a walking tour of Cork City and another night was Irish music and dancing.

There was no shortage of learning, with additional lectures even added some evenings, but the school is founded on the principal of also getting out and exploring nearby cultural and historical attractions. We finished on Saturday morning with an optional walking tour of Cork’s English Market. Saturday, you also had the chance to attend the Cork Archaeological and Historical Society’s day of lectures on the 1916 Rising but I wasn’t able to fit that in.

Lorna was a great organizer and I would highly recommend you attend next year if you are able. You can find out more at http://www.ucc.ie/en/ace-genealogy/. Tuition ran from around €650 (classes only) to €1,000 (including accommodation). Airfare and meals were additional. Please let TIARA know if you are thinking about going next year as we may be able to work out a discounted rate.
You're the Key to Our Success
Julie Rizzello #3222

Whether you think you're a minnow, a sunfish, or a bass there is room in the pond for you. We at TIARA are trying to gather a pool of volunteers we can dip into for the various things that need to be done to support TIARA's many activities. Big or small it all matters.

Could you write an article for the newsletter? Submit a book review? Clue us in on a new website? Enlighten us with a new research technique?

Conferences provide many opportunities: helping to get ready; staffing a table; acting as host/hostess; passing out handouts; or simply giving someone else a little respite from their duties. Share information about TIARA and listening as people tell you their stories.

Have you seen our new office? Would you like to help out during an open house? Assist people in the library? Participate in the mailing of our quarterly newsletter, membership updates, or correspondence? (Done from the TIARA office and usually takes about 3 hours). Join the group working on data entry of the Forester Insurance records?

What could you do to help out at monthly meetings? Lend a hand with set up/clean up. Bring something to drink or some goodies. Say hello to someone you don't know.

There are things to be done at the monthly meetings. Things you can do from home. At our new office. What about while you’re traveling, any new finds?

Be sure to check out our website for up to date happenings. And don't forget to like TIARA on Face Book!

If there are any ways you think you could help please let us know. We are trying to enlarge our pool and make it a lake. TIARA is an ALL VOLUNTEER organization. Please consider getting involved. Contact: Julie Rizzello at rizzkid@comcast.net

Come on in, the water's fine!

Have the Disappearing Nearys from Rutland Turned Up Again?
Mary Lee Dunn #2509

Tracing Bartley Neary, one of the leaders of the Ballykilcline rent strike, in the U.S. has been difficult. He and his son Michael were listed among the tenants in Kilglass Parish at the end of the Roscommon townland’s rent strike and Crown authorities listed them among the passengers aboard the Channing when it took evictees to New York City in 1848. Bartley and Michael went to Vermont where they joined other Kilglass immigrants in Rutland. Bartley is recorded in the 1850 federal census.

Though author Robert Scally in his book The End of Hidden Ireland had labeled Bartley and a brother as “hotheads” in the Ballykilcline strike, they seemed to lie low in Rutland. It was thought that Bartley must have died early in Rutland since no further records about him were found. A check with Tom Shanley, a descendant of other Nearys from Ballykilcline who settled early in Illinois, established that his years of research have been unable to connect his ancestors with the Nearys in Rutland.

I did find a Rutland birth certificate for Michael’s daughter Elizabeth in the mid-1860s, but then he too seemed to disappear. There was no clue about his wife’s name or signs of other children. I did various census searches and found some Michael Nearys, but none whose information suggested that he was Bartley’s son.

Until now. In the week after Christmas 2015, I received an email from a woman in South Carolina named Nancy Akers. She had read my book Ballykilcline Rising and believes that Michael Neary of Ballykilcline was her ancestor. From the details she provided, he did indeed seem to be the man from Ballykilcline.

Nancy said her Michael Neary, a farm worker, lived in Plainfield, Windham County in eastern Connecticut in the 1870s. His wife was Bridget Boland Neary. (Boland is a surname that is present in Kilglass Parish even today.) The 1870 federal census showed that Michael and Bridget had nine children and –here’s the
mystery – the oldest five children were born in Ireland in the 1850s.

The recorded birthplaces of the oldest Neary children on that census contradict the documented Irish eviction and emigration records indicating that Michael was in the U.S. at that time. That census also stated that his two youngest children were born in Vermont in the 1860s. Elizabeth's Rutland birth record supports that fact.

Did he return to Ireland in the early 1850s, and remain for a few years before returning to Rutland with a young family? Or, had he, and perhaps his father, sold their passages aboard the Channing to others more willing to leave, even if under someone else’s name? Several historians, of the time have suggested that is what happened in some other emigration schemes. That the 1850 census showed them in Rutland though favors the first scenario.

I decided to look at Griffith’s Valuation, which was completed for Roscommon in the 1850s, to see whether any Michael Nearys were listed as heading a household in Kilglass. I found Michael Neary’s name listed twice in the parish: in Legan, very close to Ballykilcline, and in Rattinagh. I also found a Bartley Neary in the townland of Dooslatta where other Nearys lived as well.

Nancy Akers’ investigation concluded there was only one Michael present then and he leased two properties. The property in Legan, leased from James Reilly, is near Lake Acrick, which is visible from the road between Strokestown and Ruskey. The lease in Rattinagh was held jointly by Michael and his father-in-law Edward Boland, according to documents available at Findmypast. It was not uncommon for Kilglass people to hold more than one lease. Akers believes that Bridget’s parents, Edward and Ann Boland, eventually emigrated to Baltimore, a finding based on a census record.

Some months ago I had looked at Petty Sessions records for Kilglass in a database at Findmypast. One court record reported on a farmer named Bartley Neary whose home was in Dooslatta. He was involved in an altercation with a servant woman in his employ in 1865. But there was no suggestion beyond his name that he was the same man who had encouraged the strikers in Ballykilcline. I thought he likely was a cousin, uncle, or nephew of the strike leader, knowing how names repeat in Irish families. But the idea that Michael had returned to Kilglass seems to support a stronger possibility that his father did so as well, that he had not died in Rutland. It is possible too that Bartley may have had other adult children living in Kilglass.

Nancy Akers said that Michael and family evidently left Rutland for Connecticut in the late 1860s, perhaps after the labor strife in the quarries during that decade. They appear in the federal census in 1870 in Plainfield where Michael worked on a farm and his oldest children worked in the Wauregan cotton mill that was established in the 1850s and lasted through World War II.

Michael died in 1872 and is buried in St. James Cemetery in nearby Danielson. I was astonished since that is where my own immigrant great-great grandfather from Kilglass, John Riley, and family are buried. Did he and Michael know each other? Quite possibly, as they were nearly the same age. I have visited that burial ground in Danielson several times and may have passed Michael Neary’s resting place while strolling through the cemetery at a time when the name held no meaning for me. Many other familiar Kilglass-area names are inscribed on the stones around the Nearys and Rileys. Unfortunately for this investigation, Michael’s death record does not identify his parents’ names. We still don’t know the name of his mother, Bartley’s wife.

The Neary family remained in Plainfield until sometime between 1880 and 1885 when at least some of them lived in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1874, Michael’s daughter Mary married Samuel Mulligan, a carpenter born in Belfast, Ireland, who was a Protestant. The Mulligans are listed next door to Bridget’s home in the 1880 census. Between 1874 and 1887, the couple had six children; the oldest was named Mary Jane. But Samuel died of pneumonia in 1888 in Plainfield and Mary eventually moved the Mulligans to Providence too. When she died in 1940, Mary Neary Mulligan had outlived her husband by 52 years.
Michael’s son Bartley, worked at various times as a laborer, “helper,” stone cutter, and stone mason. He frequently boarded with his mother and never married. With family, he, too, made the move to Rhode Island where he died in Cranston on July 2, 1906. His brother, Patrick, not yet 20 years old, had pre-deceased him in 1879 in Plainfield. Bridget had no surviving sons when she died in August 1907 in Providence.

Further research on the Nearys and their descendents is underway. Nancy Akers said that Michael and Bridget’s granddaughter, Mary Jane Mulligan married a man named Francis Cannon who was an engineer and eventually attained the rank of brigadier general in the Army. During World War I, Cannon was the commander of Camp Wetherill in Rhode Island and was charged with protecting the forts in Narragansett Bay. The Cannons’ youngest son, Joseph, born in 1911, graduated from Brown University and then from Tufts Medical School in Boston. He joined the Army Medical Corps and interned at Walter Reed Army Hospital. In 1938, he graduated from the Army Medical School. Joseph became head of the Rhode Island Health Department in 1961, a position he served in for 23 years earning great respect. He also helped establish Brown University’s medical school. He died in 1989 and is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. He married twice and left two sons by his first wife, Mary L. Greenagle, who died in 1977; he then married Mary Ellen McCabe. The state health agency’s home in Providence has been renamed for the late Dr. Cannon.

“[Dr. Cannon] never compromised the professional integrity of his department for politics,” according to his biography written when he was inducted into the Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame. “[His] achievements were bold and innovative. Under his leadership Rhode Island became the first state to conduct a statewide poliomyelitis immunization program in 1963, and in succeeding years he directed statewide immunization programs to eliminate measles and rubella. Rhode Island also became the first state to record statistics on natality, morbidity, and mortality on a census tract basis, giving rise to the state’s reputation as the ‘health data capital of the United States’.” (Source: Rhode Island Heritage Hall of Fame)

Some members of the extended Neary family still live in Rhode Island where a large influx of people from Roscommon arrived during the 1800s.

Mary Lee Dunn, the author of Ballykilcline Rising: From Famine Ireland to Immigrant America, is a founder and current board member of the Ballykilcline Society. She contributed a chapter on how the women of Ballykilcline fared as immigrants to The Famine Irish: Emigration and the Great Hunger, Ciarán Reilly. Editor, History Ireland, 2016

2017 TIARA Irish Research Trip

Making a discovery that adds to the family story is always exciting. Over the years, TIARA members who have participated in the Irish research trips have experienced many “finds”. Two members whose words represent the sentiments of many who have researched with TIARA are quoted below:

Michael from MA (2011):
“Thank you so much for all your hard work (which looked effortless) in organizing an absolutely wonderful trip! I view my two weeks in Ireland as one of the best vacations I have ever taken. The first week’s successes were largely due to the both of you and the detailed information and most welcomed advice you doled out before and during the trip.”

Sharon from CA (2015):
“...What a magnificent and emotional odyssey! We are finally connected to our ancestral homeland, and you played a huge part in making that happen. Thank you forever! It will be quite an undertaking, but now we will begin putting all the pieces of information into their rightful places.”

Once again, TIARA is offering its membership the opportunity to travel to Ireland with other family history buffs for a week (or two) of researching ancestors in Irish repositories. Traveling with like-minded individuals allows
the researcher to share a day’s discoveries - or dead ends - with sympathetic listeners. The members of TIARA who have traveled together in the past can vouch for the shared enthusiasm. TIARA researchers relish every last detail of the hunt for that elusive record. No glazed expressions or polite smiles as a non-researcher looks for a fast escape! Whether relaxing at the hotel, sharing a meal or traveling between repositories, researchers find time to discuss background information and helpful research strategies.

Participants are invited to submit their research to the tour leaders. Leaders will assess the research and offer suggestions for further searching well in advance of the trip to Ireland. Not all Irish records are on line! Tour participants will learn about unique records available in Irish repositories so that their time in Ireland is well-spent.

We will hold pre-trip meeting several months before departure. Researchers receive additional information to aid in planning their trip. They also receive restaurant lists, sightseeing recommendations and general information about Dublin or Belfast. The meeting allows travelers to meet one another before the trip. Conference calls can be arranged to further prepare researchers for visiting the Irish repositories. And there is plenty of email contact!

Once the research has been assessed and the meeting has been held, participants can tailor their week: plot out the route to the various repositories; plan for a day trip to the parish or townland of an ancestor; spend a day seeing Dublin, or visit with Irish family members. Organizing a schedule is part of the fun.

In addition to days scheduled for research, the trip includes a welcome dinner Saturday evening and a day tour on the Sunday before researching begins. These events give everyone time to re-charge after their flights and they are additional opportunities to connect with fellow researchers.

In 2017, the Dublin tour will visit Castletown House (http://www.castletown.ie/) in Co. Kildare and the ruins of 13th century Maynooth Castle. The Belfast tour will spend their Sunday at the Ulster American Folk Park (http://nmni.com/uafp) in Co. Tyrone.

During the 2017 trips, the Dublin researchers have been invited to visit the new Irish Family History Centre (Eneclann) https://irishfamilyhistorycentre.com at the new EPIC Ireland exhibition at the CHG Building in Dublin.

Belfast researchers will have the opportunity visit the North of Ireland Family History Society www.nifhs.org at the society’s research center at Newtownabbey, Belfast

To learn the details of the 2017 TIARA Irish research trips, visit our website: www.tiara.ie and click on “future trips”. For additional information on the research aspect of the trip, email us at: trips@tiara.ie
For further accommodations and travel information, email our BMIT agent, Christy, at: christy.lemaire@bmit.com or call her at 1 800 290 6686, ext. 26043.

Upcoming TIARA Meetings

Friday September 9, 2016 - 7:30 PM
Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3.
Speaker: Pam Holland, “Finding the Stories of Your Ancestors”

Friday October 14, 2016 - 7:30 PM
Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3. Speaker TBA.

Saturday November 12, 2016 Wayside Inn, Sudbury, MA TIARA Annual Banquet,
This is a ticketed event. See insert for details and reservation form.

Friday December 9, 2015 – 7:30PM
Brandeis University, Mendel Center for the Humanities, Rm. G3. Speaker TBA.
Abbey Theater to Bring “The Plough and the Stars” to Cambridge, MA

The Abbey Theatre brings its acclaimed production of The Plough and the Stars to Boston area at the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, MA is the venue for these performances of the famed Abbey Theater. Preview dates are September 25, 27 and 28. Performance dates run from September 30th to October 9th. Tickets can be ordered by phone at 617-547-8300 or online at: https://americanrepertorytheater.org/.

As revolution sweeps Ireland, the residents of a Dublin tenement seek shelter from the violence that sweeps through the city's streets. Sean O'Casey—one of Ireland's most renowned and controversial playwrights—captures a conflict between idealism and ordinary lives. Celebrating nearly a century of the Irish nation state, this production by the National Theatre of Ireland, directed by Olivier Award-winner Sean Holmes, will bring a new perspective to O'Casey's absorbing play. Presented in association with Cusack Projects Limited. The Plough and the Stars is supported by McCann FitzGerald and the Boston Friends of the Abbey Theatre.

Minnehaha Falls & Park in Minneapolis

Photos from CCC 2016 In Minneapolis, Minnesota

Susan Steele & Pat Deal confer during a break.

John Grenham's Closing Talk
Upcoming Conferences, Workshops and Events

New York State Family History Conference
September 15 – 17, 2016
The Holiday Inn and Conference Center Syracuse/Liverpool
http://www.nysfhc.org/index.html

Back to Our Past and Genetic Genealogy Ireland 2016
October 21-23, 2016
Serpentine Hall, RDS Dublin, Ireland
http://www.backtoourpast.ie

NERGC Conference 2017 “Using the Tools of Today and Tomorrow to Understand the Past”
MassMutual Convention Center, Springfield, MA
April 26-29 2017
http://www.nergc.org/2017-conference/