



## *Cumann Muintir Uí Sheachnasaig* The O'SHAUGHNESSY SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER ISSUE NO. 38 - Dec 2011

*Christmas greetings / 'Nollaig Shona Duit' to all members of our Society and O'Shaughnessys of all spellings throughout the world*

In this issue we are pleased to bring you full details on the May 2012 O'Shaughnessy Society Rally, prepared by our very capable Rally Coordinator, Rory O'Shaughnessy. The program is filled with exciting events, and promises to be one of the best gatherings ever. Now all we need is YOU. Start rounding up your relatives and make plans to join us in 2012. As a descendant of this important Irish Clan, you should not miss experiencing this return to your roots and homeland. We hope to see many new faces as well as all our regulars at this, our first Rally to be held in May. Previously we met in September, and often experienced cool and wet weather. May, it is hoped, will be warmer and we will see beautiful spring flowers. We look forward to renewing acquaintances and meeting many new faces. You need not be a member of the Society to attend.

### **New Members:**

We extend a most heartfelt welcome to the following new members. We hope you will find your association to be an enjoyable and rewarding experience. We look forward to meeting you in person perhaps at a future Rally in Ireland.

**Jane O'Shaughnessy, Highlands Ranch, Colorado, US**  
**Christine C. Shanesy Young, Homewood, Illinois, US**  
**Elizabeth Smart, Crystal Brook, St. Australia.**  
**Patrick Shaughnessy, Ottawa ON, Canada**

### **O'Shaughnessy DNA**

We are still hoping for a volunteer to take on the project of members having their DNA done. This would prove invaluable in the coming years as we try to sort out our family lines. If interested, please contact me. Thank you in advance.....*Ann Staines, Editor*

**New Web Site:** Long time member/poet/writer **Peter O'Shaughnessy** informs us he has set up a web site: [peteroshaughnessy.info](http://peteroshaughnessy.info). It includes lots about Guaire, also of interest would be a section on IRISH LORE.

A sporting snippet from **Des:** The first Irishman to play for Manchester United was Thomas O'Shaughnessy in 1890. How about that!



## O'Shaughnessy Rally Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> May 2012

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> May:**

Arrive early and relax, enjoy what the South Galway Region has on offer, Golf outing can be arranged to nearby Gort Golf Club, go horse riding, head on a shopping trip to Galway City or just relax at the Lady Gregory Hotel Leisure Club and Spa.



**6pm-** Burren Walk, meeting at the Burren National Park car park at Keelhilla , a 1 hour walk to St. Colman's Hermitage enjoy the beautiful scenery, discover the magical wildflowers with a few O'Shaughnessy Legends thrown in. Bring wet gear and sturdy footwear.

### **Friday 11<sup>th</sup>:**

**11am -** Official welcoming and registration at Coole Park Tea Rooms, Coole Park, Gort, Co. Galway

**1pm-** Lunch at Coole (At your own expense)

**2.30pm-** Visit to Kiltartan Gregory Museum, Unveiling of Plaque in memory of Tom Hannon, long time friend and founder of O'Shaughnessy Society.

**4.30pm-** O'Shaughnessy Society AGM, Lady Gregory Hotel, Gort

**6-8.30pm-** Relax and dinner (at your own expense)

**8.30pm-** Genealogy Session - Guest Speaker

**9.30pm-** Entertainment, music and stories.



**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May:**

**10am-** Full day Bus tour of South- East Galway, Slieve Aughtys, Loughrea Cathedral, Portumna Castle, Battle of Aughrim Centre.



PORTUMNA CASTLE



**8.30pm-** Bus from Lady Gregory Hotel to Dunguaire Castle, Kinvarra for Medieval Banquet and entertainment.

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May:**

**9am and 11am-** Mass times at St. Colman's Church, Gort

**12pm-** Visit by car and tour of Kilmacduagh Monastic Site, Round Tower and O'Shaughnessy Chapel, lay wreath on Tom Hannon's Grave.



**1.30pm-** Refreshments at Josie Finnegan's , Kilmacduagh

**3pm-** Visit O'Shaughnessy Castle at Fiddaun. (Bring wet gear and sturdy footwear, half mile walk across farmland to castle)

**5pm-** Return to Lady Gregory Hotel, for *Farewell Dinner*.

O'Shaughnessy Rally 2012  
Booking

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>**

Kiltartan Museum	€ 3 per head	
Entertainment	€9 per head	
Insurance	<u>€4 per head</u>	
	€16 per head	€16

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>**

Bus tour, entrance		
Fees, etc	€ 21per head	
Insurance	<u>€4 per head</u>	
	€25	€25

**Medieval Banquet Dungaure** €48

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>**

Kilmacduagh, Josie		
Finnegan's tea etc	€5	
Fiddaun	€2	
Insurance	<u>€4</u>	
	€11	€11

**Farewell Dinner Lady Gregory** €33

**Total All Events** €133

Every effort has been made to keep costs to a minimum while still providing an informative and enjoyable few days. You may wish to attend the full programme or certain parts and the costs are laid out accordingly. We would ask you to book your place early before March 1<sup>st</sup> To book please send a deposit of €50, Can \$68, US \$67, Aus \$65, NZ \$86, Stg £43, to Rory O'Shaughnessy, Rally Coordinator Ballylara, Ardahan, Co. Galway, Ireland, Telephone +00353874065646, Email [rory\\_oshughnessy@eircom.net](mailto:rory_oshughnessy@eircom.net)

**Check us out**



**O'Shaughnessy Society Gathering 2012**

## Getting to Gort

### By Air:

**Shannon Airport**- International Airport by and far the most convenient airport to Gort, half hour drive on motorway, also connected with a regular bus service.

**Galway Airport**- Small regional airport one hour drive from Gort, no direct bus service.

**Ireland West Airport, Knock**- Small International Airport approx 1hr 45min drive from Gort, bus service to Galway City connecting bus or train on to Gort.

**Dublin Airport**- International Airport, 3hr drive to Gort mostly on tolled motorway, good bus service to Galway City where connecting Bus or Train can be got to Gort. Also possible to get bus and Luas (tram) to Heuston Station to travel by train changing at Athenry for Gort.

### By Road

The new M18 motorway connects Gort to Limerick with a travel time less than 1 hr, coming from Galway city take the N18 signposted Limerick and takes approx 1hr also. Travelling from Dublin take the M4/M6 signposted the West/Galway turnoff for Loughrea and N66 for Gort. If travelling by car check out <http://www2.aaireland.ie> .

### By Bus

Gort has a good bus service from Galway, Limerick and Shannon Airport, Check out Bus Eireann (National Bus Service ) <http://www.buseireann.ie/> and City Link (Private Company) <http://www.citylink.ie/>

### By train

Gort is situated on the West Rail Corridor with regular services to Limerick and Galway, it is also possible to travel to Dublin by rail changing at Athenry. Over 66's may be able to avail of free rail travel wit Golden Trekkers scheme , check out <http://www.irishrail.ie>



## Accommodation:

### Hotels:

Lady Gregory Hotel,  
Ennis Road, Gort, Co. Galway, telephone: +353 91 632333,  
<http://www.ladygregoryhotel.com>

Sullivan Royal Hotel,  
The Square, Gort, Co. Galway, telephone +353 91 631257  
<http://www.irelandmidwest.com/sullivans/>

Merriman Hotel,  
Kinvara, Co. Galway, telephone +353 91 638222  
<http://www.merrimanhotel.com>

### B & B's:

Josephine Finnegan's B&B  
Kilmacduagh, Gort, Co. Galway, telephone +353 91 631849  
Email: [kilmacduagh1@hotmail.com](mailto:kilmacduagh1@hotmail.com)

Woodlands B&B  
Killomoran, Gort, Co. Galway, telephone +353 91 637372  
Email: [woodlandsbb@eircom.net](mailto:woodlandsbb@eircom.net)

Corker House B&B  
Corker, Gort, Co. Galway, telephone +35391 631369

### **Self Catering:**

O'Neill Holiday Homes,  
Caher Cré, Cregclare, Ardrahan, Co. Galway,  
Telephone: +353 91 635557      Email: [info@oneill-holiday-homes.com](mailto:info@oneill-holiday-homes.com)  
Website: <http://www.oneill-holiday-homes.com>



## **Family History**

*We thank one of our members, Janet Judge for the following article about her ancestor John W. Shaughnessy. She includes several good genealogical sources to check out in the pursuit of our family information.*

### **John W. SHAUGHNESSY**

For the 150 year anniversary of the start of the United States Civil War, I would like to recount the small part my family played in it. I would also like to report the on-going campaign of St Agnes Historical Cemetery in the Albany, New York area to recognize and preserve the final resting place for the Civil War Veterans, the majority being the Irish trying to escape the "great famine." Also notable is the US civil war was the bloodiest war in US history with the largest amount of casualties exceeding the amounts of Americans who died in World War I, II, Korean, and Vietnam Conflict combined.

My great, great grandfather, John W. Shaughnessy came to this country at approximately 1853 with his older sister Ellen. John and Ellen were from Limerick County, Ireland. Their parents were Maurice and Margret Welsh. However there is no evidence that the parents ever came to the US. John and Ellen settled in the West Troy, now Watervliet-Cohoes area. A New York 1855 census reported that John and his sister boarded with Margret Powers (also from Ireland). John's occupation at that time was a coal tender and his sister was listed as a weaver. John's age at that time was 15 years old and Ellen was 18. Eventually in 1857 John obtained a job at the "r. & e. p." mill in West Troy. John eventually married in the fall of 1860, to Catherine McDermott at St Bernard's Church, Cohoes, NY. Catherine was the daughter of Thomas and Catherine McDermott all of which were from County Sligo, Ireland. John and Catherine's marriage was short lived, with Catherine dying eight days after the birth of their son, Maurice Henry Shaughnessy on May 8, 1861. Catherine McDermott Shaughnessy was buried in the Calvary Cemetery, in Cohoes, NY.

In 1861, war was declared between the south and the north. The long-term practice of owning slaves finally came to a head with the southern states succeeding from the northern states where abolitionist movement was strong. Many Irishmen were enlisted right from the NYC and Boston piers. Also Irishmen who had immigrated to large port cities of the southern states were encouraged

by Janet Judge

to enlist for the Confederate cause. Many of the Irishmen hoped that their display of patriotism would also put an end to the anti-Irish, anti-Catholic discrimination that was prevalent in the US at that time. Large bounties were also offered to persuade the Irish immigrants to fight in a war that they knew little or nothing about. Unfortunately the Irish experienced segregation in the US military generally limited to only serving in their own regiments with their own Irish commanding officers. However, partially due to this segregation they were able to maintain their ethnic identity and continue with their own customs. One of the most eagerly anticipated traditions the Irish troops looked forward to was the celebration of St Patrick's Day. The Irish regiments planned activities which included racing horses and mules, trying to climb a greased pole, foot and sack races, Irish jig dancing contests, and catching a shaved and soaped pig. Also the celebration called for a post race banquet with hams, roasted ox, and cooked turkeys as well as whiskey and rum. In the morning a Catholic mass was conducted. In the evening poems were read and Irish ballads were sung.

John Shaughnessy whose name was spelled "Shaunacy" on his NYS Military Volunteer Record, enlisted on August 11, 1862 in Albany, NY for the 7th Regiment Heavy Artillery, Company I. The 7th Heavy Artillery was also called the "Albany County Regiment" or "Seymour Guard." The 7th Regiment left New York on August 1862. John and Catherine Shaughnessy's child, Maurice now fifteen months old was left in the care of Catherine's parents, Thomas and Catherine McDermott, who lived on Main Street in Cohoes, NY. John, as the other men who enlisted into the NYS 7th Regiment, was to serve a military term of three years and undoubtedly received a bounty. The 7th Regiment Artillery was to complete garrison duty in the defensive of Washington, DC, north of the Potomac starting in August 1862 until May 1864. The 7th Regiment Artillery was ordered to join the Army of the Potomac in the field on May 15, 1864.

The 7th Regiment marched until they reached Spottsylvania where their first combat duty commenced. The Regiment again marched to the Mattaponi River and skirmished with "rebels" until they were driven from the railroad. The Cold Harbor battle occurred in June 1864, with almost 300 soldiers wounded and killed. However the 7th Regiment was able to capture two cannons. The soldiers continued their march to Richmond, Virginia. On October 30, 1864 Private John Shaughnessy was promoted to the rank of sergeant. The NY 7th Regiment Heavy Artillery participated in combat duty until February 1865. On February 22, 1865 the 7th Regiment was ordered to Fort McHenry at Baltimore, Maryland for garrison duty to protect that city. On June 16, 1865 John was discharged with a detachment from Baltimore, Maryland.

In our family we have a story that John was walking in a field in Virginia after a battle and saw a Confederate soldier who was dead with his Colt revolver pistol lying beside him. John picked up the gun and always carried it on his person even after his honorable discharge from the NY 7th Regiment. In later years John gave the revolver to his son, Maurice as a token from the civil war. This gun has been passed through our family ever since. Also John wrote to Maurice and his former in-laws frequently during the war and from his future residence in Canada. However, time has taken a toll on his letters and they almost disintegrated and are unreadable.

Following his discharge from the military John Shaughnessy returned to Cohoes, NY but did not stay long. He went to the mill town of Almonte, Ontario, Canada to resume his employment in the woolen mills. We have often wondered why did he go far from his home and his son, and have speculated that he may have had family from Ireland there. While John was there, he met and married a woman, Janet Mansion, who was called Jesse. Janet (or Jesse) Mansion had emigrated from Scotland to Canada about 1847. Her uncle Alexander Hunter owned a mill in Hunterville, Ontario. John was soon working in Hunter's mill. John and Jesse had several children of their own starting in 1870 with George J. John W., James J., Elizabeth, Helen C., Laura, and Edward J. All the children with the exception of Laura and Edward

were all born in Ontario, Canada.

In 1881 John and with his second wife and children returned to Cohoes, NY and lived on Bridge Street on Adams Island. John was employed at the Star Woolen Mills as a "boss" carder. While in Cohoes John's youngest children were born. They were Helen (called Nellie and possibly named after John's sister) and Edward. Maurice was now 20 years old when his father returned to Cohoes, New York. In 1888 Maurice married a woman named Anna Fredericks, who was a descendent of the German Palatines who had fled Germany then Holland in 1660s. Maurice would later have five children who were named Florence, Grace, Irving, Mabel, and Hazel, with his wife Anna Fredericks. Maurice, his wife, and children also settled in Adams Island, Cohoes living right around the corner on First Street from where John and Jesse Shaughnessy lived on Bridge Street. My grandfather Irving V. Shaughnessy grew up with John's youngest son, Edward J. Shaughnessy and they remained very close all their lives. Edward and my grandfather, Irving, enlisted in the army together to serve in World War I. Edward was also the best man for my grandfather's wedding to my grandmother, Florence Hebert. Unfortunately John Shaughnessy passed away in October 22, 1905 in an accident after taking a mill superintendent's job in Allegheny, Pennsylvania. His remains were returned to upstate NY and he was honored by his fellow veterans in the Grand Old Army (GAR) organization. John was buried at St Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY with what is believed to be his cousins from Ireland with the surnames of Welsh and Cahill. There was never a grave marker raised in John's memory.

John's son Maurice Shaughnessy died in 1918 after he served in World War I from the flu epidemic and the effects of the mustard gas used in the war. Maurice had given his First Street home to his daughter, Grace after he had remodeled another house for his wife Anna Fredericks Shaughnessy and his youngest daughter, Hazel. This remodeled home was located right next door to where Jesse (John's widow) Mansion Shaughnessy and her daughters, Laura and Helen lived on Bridge Street. The two Shaughnessy families lived next door to each other until the 1940s on Adam's Island in Cohoes, NY. The Shaughnessy children engaged



mainly in the mill business in Cohoes, NY like their father and grandfather.

I became involved with the Adopt a Civil War Veteran program in St Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY after I met the St. Agnes Cemetery historian, Kelly Grimaldi when I joined the Troy Irish Genealogical Society. It is her and the cemetery's mission to preserve the memory of every soldier who served in Civil War which held the United States together as one nation to honor their patriotism. The Irish who came to the US during the famine was the largest ethnic group that served in the US military during the Civil War and they served with honor and distinction. St Agnes Historical Cemetery is the largest and one of the oldest Catholic cemeteries in the Albany, New York area and has over five hundred civil war soldiers buried there. Many of the Irish who immigrated to Albany, Troy, Watervliet, Cohoes, Green Island, and surrounding areas are buried, along with their descendants, at St. Agnes. St Agnes Historical Cemetery was formally established in 1867. The US government even after one hundred and fifty years after the beginning of the Civil War will still provides a grave marker for its' Civil War veterans. Kelly Grimaldi was instrumental in contacting the US Veterans' Division to obtain a grave marker for my great, great, grandfather John Shaughnessy. And over one hundred years after his death, John was able to be honored by his adoptive country for his service. To obtain more information on the Adopt a Civil War Veteran program and/or find the names of other Civil War Veterans buried in St Agnes Cemetery in Menands, NY access the website:

[http://www.rcdacemeteries.org/adopt\\_a\\_civil\\_war\\_veteran.html](http://www.rcdacemeteries.org/adopt_a_civil_war_veteran.html)

The **Troy Irish Genealogical Society** was founded by a group of Irish descendants from Troy (New York) and surrounding area who in 2003 met at the Irish Mist Restaurant in South Troy. The Troy Irish Genealogical Society's mission is to make available on-line the records of the Irish and non-Irish surnames of Albany and Rensselaer counties to genealogy researchers. Some of the records and indexes that are available on-line include the Rensselaer County Marriage Index, St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands, NY interment records, and St. Mary Cemetery, Troy, NY. To join the Troy Irish Genealogical Society costs a nominal fee of \$10.00. You can find them at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/nytigs/>.

The New York State Archives maintained by the State Library has an on-line Civil War Soldier Database. The information provided by the archives includes the names and military units of men who served in the NYS Volunteer, the US Sharpshooter units, and the state's three regiments of US Colored Troops who served during the Civil War. Also given is a request form to obtain the enlistment documentation of these soldiers for a fee of \$3.00 per soldier. To obtain more information and to access the on-line database go to

[http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res\\_topics\\_mi\\_civilwar\\_dbintro.shtml](http://www.archives.nysed.gov/a/research/res_topics_mi_civilwar_dbintro.shtml)

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**Society Officers:**

President – Jim O'Shaughnessy US  
Honorary Vice President – Megan McKenzie, Australia  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Julie O'Shaughnessy, US  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President -- Diane O'Shaughnessy, US  
Secretary – Paul O'Shaughnessy, US  
Treasurer – Des O'Shaughnessy, N Ireland  
Newsletter Editor – Ann Staines, Canada

**Counselors:**

Australia – Bryan O'Shaughnessy

Canada – Mary Newton  
USA – Bill Shansey  
Ireland – Michael O'Shaughnessy  
New Zealand – Bryan O'Shaughnessy  
UK & Europe – Des O'Shaughnessy

**Advisory Board**

Paul O'Shaughnessy  
Brother John Feheny  
Tony O'Shaughnessy

**The O'Shaughnessy Society**

**Membership Application 2012**

Subscriptions rates are as follows:

Ireland Euro €15.00      Britain and Northern Ireland STG£13      USA US\$20,  
Canada Cdn\$25      Australia A\$30      New Zealand NZ\$35      other European Union Euro €15

**FROM:** Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred Title (Please Tick): Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Prof. or specify \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate if this is a new membership application or a renewal:      \*New \_\_\_\_      Renewal \_\_\_\_

**Method of payment from Overseas**

A cheque drawn on your own bank in your local currency for the amount mentioned above will suffice, no need to buy a bank draft or money order.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Would you be prepared to become involved in the administration of the Society?     Yes     No

If this is an initial application for membership please complete the following request:

<p>*(New members) I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP OF THE O'SHAUGHNESSY SOCIETY AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THE SOCIETY'S CONSTITUTION AND RULES</p> <p>Signed: _____ Date: _____</p>
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Note: If you are a new member or have renewed as of September 2010 this will suffice for 2011.

Please mail **NEW** applications for membership together with initial subscription to Paul O'Shaughnessy, Hon. Secretary O'Shaughnessy Society, 61 Ivan Street, Lexington MA, 02420-1422, USA  
E-mail [frommage@comcast.net](mailto:frommage@comcast.net)

Existing members please mail annual subscription to Desmond O'Shaughnessy, Hon. Treasurer, 6 Whitehall Road, Aghagallon, LURGAN, NORTHERN IRELAND, BT67 0AE.  
E-mail: [dkos@btinternet.com](mailto:dkos@btinternet.com)

**FAMILY HISTORY INFORMATION**

We are interested in knowing the genealogy of your O'Shaughnessys. Please send us the names of your earliest ancestors, date and location of immigration, name of county and townland from which they left, if known, and any other information which may be of help in linking our clan members. This can be sent to:

Ann Staines, 50 Porchlight Dr., Elmira, ON, Canada  
E-mail: [astaines@sympatico.ca](mailto:astaines@sympatico.ca)