



The O'Shaughnessy Society

Cumann Muintir Uí Sheachnasaig

Newsletter Issue No. 45

November 2015

Apologies for the delay in sending this edition of the newsletter! We have been working on several things in anticipation of the Rally in May 2016 (just 6 short months away!), and we hope you are all making plans to join us! Rory O'Shaughnessy has been hard at work planning our schedule, and it looks fantastic! Des O'Shaughnessy and I have also been testing out the use of PayPal as a means to pay for member dues or deposits for the Rally, and we seem to have been successful on that front as well. You'll find details of all things Rally-related below!

Also, many thanks to Ed Shaughnessy, who has submitted one of his own articles as well as some published works he came across in his readings. Read on below for these articles.

New Members

We would like to welcome our new members to the Society!

Jeanne Mason	Blytheville, Arkansas, USA
Marie A. O'Shaughnessy	Austin, Texas, USA
Mark James O'Shaughnessy	Benfleet, Essex, UK
Michael E. O'Shaughnessy	Iselin, New Jersey, USA
Raymond M. Pinglora Jr.	Monroe, New York, USA
Regina Pinglora	Monroe, New York, USA
Thomas J. Shaughnessy	Sunnyvale, California, USA
Sally A. Taylor	Modesto, California, USA

The O'Shaughnessy Society publishes a newsletter twice a year (generally, in November and May). Please send any submissions, corrections, stories, or pictures to:

Sarah Shaughnessy Melton
6363 San Felipe Street, Apt. 366
Houston, Texas, USA 77057

Email: sarahpaige101@hotmail.com or sarah.melton@LW.com

A note from the President of the Society, Ann Staines

Greetings to all members worldwide. As we prepare for the long cold winter herein Ontario, Canada, the exciting plans to attend our Rally next May will warm our hearts throughout the cold months. We eagerly look forward to seeing so many of you return, bringing new family members. As well, we have been hearing of new members coming which is always an exciting time for all as we experience with them the joy of seeing the place of their ancestors.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to be President of this amazing Society; however, my two terms will be finished next year and a new President is needed. Also, Des O'Shaughnessy, our Honorable Treasurer, wishes to step down after many years of faithful service. It is essential that we have the vacancies filled at our AGM, so please consider letting your name stand if nominated. If you are interested, don't wait to be asked – please let it be known to us! It is very important to have dedicated persons to carry on the workings of your Society which has been so successful and has seen steady growth in numbers and efforts to keep in step with changing times. Thank you for seriously considering saying "Yes."

O'Shaughnessy Society Accounts - Year Ended 30 November 2015

Submitted by the Treasurer, Des O'Shaughnessy

A note from the Editor: The Society's current Treasurer, Des O'Shaughnessy, will be retiring from his position, effective in May 2016. We are looking for someone to take his place, so please think about getting involved! If you have any questions regarding the position, you can email Des at dkos@btinternet.com.

Please remember to submit any changes in your information to us so that you continue to receive the newsletter! This includes both physical and email addresses! Contact information for Society leadership is at the end of the newsletter.

<u>Income</u>	
Subscriptions	484.42
Bank Interest	1.49
Grant for the web site*	<u>2,500.00</u>
	€2,985.91

<u>Expenditure</u>	
Clans of Ireland Sub.	65.00
Insurance	407.50
Bank Charges	14.34
Website*	500.00
Surplus	<u>1,999.07</u>
	€2,985.91

*Regarding the website, when the grant of €2,500.00 and the payment for services of €500.00 are taken out of our accounts, the accounts show barely a break-even situation for the year (i.e., income of €485.42). Twenty-six dues were paid down 37% on the previous year.

<u>Capital Account</u>	
Opening Balance	4,501.38
Surplus	<u>1,999.07</u>
Closing Balance	€6,500.45
<i>Represented by:</i>	
Current Account	122.25
Deposit Account	<u>6,378.20</u>
	€6,500.45

Colman O'Shaughnessy: The Last of the "O'Shaughnessys"

Submitted by Edward J. Shaughnessy, Ph.D.

A note from Ed: This modest effort is dedicated to Prof. Brian Tierney of Cornell University. He taught an incredibly engaging graduate course on the "Founding of Medieval Irish Monasteries and Orders" which I took at The Catholic University of America in 1956.

PREFACE. Colman O'Shaughnessy is the last person entitled to carry the title "The O'Shaughnessy." Not as much detail is known of his life although research sources are becoming more available. Colman was a soldier, priest, theologian and bishop. In each of those positions he brought a bit of "panache." It would be one of life's joys to go to the Vatican archives and dig up some undiscovered bits and pieces of his life.

GENEALOGY. Lineally descended from Daithi, Ard-Righ of Erin, the O'Shaghnessys [O'Shaughnessys] were for many centuries possessed of the territory of Cinel-Aodha, in the Diocese of Kilmacduagh, in the south of County Galway. Their principal fortress or castle was situated at Gort-insi-Guaire, now known as Gort. Their patron saint was the seventh century Colman of Kilmacduagh, whose crozier and girdle were preserved and handed down by the clan from generation to generation. The remnants of the crozier and girdle are now in the National Library of Ireland on display. There is a story to how only parts remain.

Dermot O'Shaghnessy, chief of his name, and lord of Cinel-Aodha, in the time of Henry VIII, received his lands anew in a Tudor process of submission to the crown called "surrender and regrant." In effect O'Shaughnessy's lands were no longer his, but crown land held in fiefdom. This will have some bearing on the later efforts of the clan to reclaim ownership. His obeisance obtained him a knighthood from the crown. In the early part of the 16th Century John Burke of Cloghcroke [Cloghroka/Cloghroge] was Sheriff in the County of Clanricarde. William, son of Sir Roger O'Shaghnessy the First, was married to the sister of William Oge Burke of Cloghcroke which shows a connection between the families of Drs. O'Shaghnessy and Burke as far back as the second half of the 16th Century.... [Fortrell Papers, Chapter XVIII Thomas Burke, Bishop. (1759-1776)]

Dermot was succeeded by his son, Sir Roger I, who died in 1569. His son, Sir Dermot I, was the father of Sir Roger II [1583-1650] and father of Sir Dermot II of Gort who died in 1673. Dermot II married Lady Margaret Barry, daughter of Viscount Barrymore and had two sons: Sir Roger of Gort and Cormac [Charles] of Ardmilevan. Charles' death in 1721 is memorialized in a wall plaque in the O'Shaughnessy Chapel at Kilmacduagh.

Sir Roger of Gort was Captain in Lord Clare's Yellow Dragoons despite his youth and ill health. He proceeded with his company from Limerick to take part in the Battle of the Boyne. Arriving within a few miles of the battle scene his illness grew worse and he was forced to return to Gort with the remnants of the Irish Army. He died on July 11, 1690.

ILLEGAL AND CORRUPT. He was attainted on May 11, 1691 despite the fact that he was dead. [See: Gorges Edmund Howard Treatise on the Rules and Practices of the Equity Side of the Exchequer in Ireland 2nd ed.] Within eight [8] years, a decree of formal attainder and forfeiture was brought against him; the family lands were given to the Prendergasts for valiant and faithful service. What was interesting in this grant of the O'Shaughnessy lands to Prendergast was that it was after Roger's death and was carried to the next generation, attainting Roger's son, William. This use of attainder and forfeiture this way was illegal. First, you cannot attain someone who is dead. Second, it can only be for the lifetime of the living person. Attainting William, Roger's son, was also in violation of the law. [See Howard] It served its purpose nonetheless. It screwed the family out of its ancestral lands.

CHEVALIER WILLIAM O'SHAUGHNESSY. William left Ireland forever. He served in the army of France and achieved the rank of Major General. [See Appendix for the list of his duties and battles] There is every reason to believe he was involved in the rescue of the Princess who would wed James III ("The Pretender"). He died at Gravelines, France, aged 70, on January 2, 1744. With him, the senior line of the O'Shaughnessy family expired. [See: History Ireland: Eire] He was among the "wild geese" who fled to France.

COLMAN O'SHAUGHNESSY. However, Cormac [Charles], second son of Roger of Gort, married Eleanor Lynch and together they had six children. The second son was Colman born in 1675 who would challenge the forfeiture during the Penal Law period. This was a bit of daring on his part as Catholics and priests, especially, faced death or imprisonment from the Crown. After a brief stint in the military, he chose to become a Dominican Friar in Louvain. He was ordained and became a Professor of Theology in 1706. He returned to Ireland and practiced his ministry throughout Connaught during this time of the Penal Laws. In 1721 he was assigned to Toombeola Abbey near Ballinahinch about ten miles east of Cliften in Galway. This Abbey was founded according to available records in 1427 by the efforts of two Dominicans who obtained a papal document from Pope Martin V. The abbey was abandoned at the beginning of the reign of Elizabeth I in 1558-59. It was not revitalized until early 1700's. In 1726 Colman O'Shaghnessy was elected Provincial of the Dominicans. Ten years later, on October 5, 1736 he was appointed Bishop of Ossory, Kilkenny, by Papal Brief. This appointment was not without its own confusion and missteps.

Bishop Colman O'Shaughnessy [O'Shaghnessy] was a native of Connaught and a Dominican, and during a great part of his Episcopate lived among his friends in the West or in the religious houses of his Order in that province. As a result of his Pastoral absence dissensions had sprung up, and abuses had begun to prevail. Even in a material way the late Colman's Episcopate had been disastrous, "the mitre and the Crozier, the Episcopal Ring and the Pectoral Cross and some of the other episcopal insignia' had been lost and no trace of them could be found...." Most Rev. Dr. O'Shaghnessy held St. John's in commendam, or as his mensal parish, from the time of resignation by Father Mottley, till his own death, Sept. 2nd 1748. [Vol III, p. 286]

Colman O'Shaughnessy is buried in the Maudlin Street Churchyard, Kilkenny. The name of the cemetery was changed but Colman is still interred there. His headstone is apparently in poor condition and barely readable. There may be some effort underway to restore the headstone. There were squabbles over who should succeed Colman which are brought to light in the Fortrell Papers. These do not directly concern this writing but indicate the jockeying for position, money and influence after his death.

It is unclear why Colman would have preferred Connaught and a Dominican house to a bishop's residence in Kilkenny. Perhaps other records and correspondence will help. We do know that he took up the case of the O'Shaughnessy lands/patrimony shortly after William died in France in 1744. However Colman died in 1748. The legal issues over the land were inherited by Joseph O'Shaughnessy who took the issue all the way to London in 1760 and the case was not decided for ten years! It became one of the longest running pieces of litigation on English history. Another interesting issue is that many of the papers related to this case were kept by Colman in a tower near his episcopal residence in Kilkenny. At a time when Colman was out someone broke into the tower and set fire to all the papers related to the case. It is unclear what might have survived or if any documentation would have made a difference to Lord Chief Justice Mansfield! That kind of criminality may have been so discouraging that Colman left the battle over the land to Joseph.

Note: The O'Shaughnessy Society Newsletter published a two part article on the confiscation of the land a few years ago.

[References available.]

Update on the O'Shaughnessy Clan DNA Family Project Submitted by Maggie O'Shaughnessy

At this time we now have fifteen (15) samples tested and posted on the FamilyTreeDNA website. One of the things I have noted is that the website is not that intuitive – this means that it is not that easy for some people to navigate through the website if they are not familiar with the website's choice of software. I would recommend that individuals start just by looking around all over the website once they have logged in so that they can become familiar with all of the posted pages.

For those of you who have already sent in samples, you can access all of the group results under the tab "Genetic Reports," where you will get a drop-down menu. I find the easiest one to navigate is the "Y-DNA Results Classic."

Of interest to the project are the close DNA results of individual with ties to the O'Shaughnessy Clan, but who have different surnames. It would be great if we could find out the back story of those connections. Keeping in mind the limited genetic pool of historical Ireland, and migrated communities back in time, there were a lot of close marriages back and forth between different families.

We also have some Viking Haplogroup members within our results (I-M253). I have recommended that individuals finding this result check for family origins in Dublin particularly, with the striking Viking history.

I have joined a separate project with my immediate family, as I am a female born of an O'Shaughnessy male – and I do not as yet have a male relative to provide a sample to our project. For female members of the O'Shaughnessy Clan reading this and in my situation, you may be very surprised at the results you can obtain from 23andMe (another DNA site which does female DNA). For example, I have discovered quite a lot of historical O'Shaughnessy family information from submitting a DNA sample to 23andMe (it was quite inexpensive – around 149.00). It was rather a surprise to find out my son-in-law (whom I have adored since laying eyes on him) is actually a fourth cousin of mine. I also discovered by DNA is 90.2% Irish, which was quite a high result given migration. I just knew that I had a longing to return to Ireland encoded in my DNA. When I go to Ireland, I feel like I have "come home," and now I know why.

Are you interested in submitting your DNA to our project? Copy and paste this link into your web browser to be directed to the O'Shaughnessy DNA Group Project homepage.

<https://www.familytreedna.com/group-join.aspx?Group=OShaughnessyDNA&code=J84633>

It is recommended that you order the DNA37 test kit for Male Line Testing. Currently, this test kit is \$169.00 US, but is on sale for \$139.00 US. You are welcome to order a lower-priced test kit and upgrade your kit at a later date.

Questions? Contact Society members Maggie O'Shaughnessy (info@oshaughnessylawpractice.com) or Ann Staines (astaines@sympatico.ca).

Questions for FamilyTreeDNA? They are located in Houston, Texas, USA. Contact them via phone at (713) 868.1438, website www.familytreedna.com, or Facebook www.facebook.com/FamilyTree/DNA.

Some members asked at the last Gathering about the lore of the DNA from King Niall. My son-in-law discovered he belongs to this rare Haplogroup (R1b1b2a1a2f). Members of this cluster are descendants of the semi-mythical Irish King, Niall of the Nine Hostages, or one of his close male relatives. I do not know where the relationship history between us originated and whether an O'Shaughnessy was involved. My historical relationship to King Niall could also come through my material line. My son-in-law's family is from the NW of Ireland. members of this rare Haplogroup are also found in the New York and Boston areas today.

I am thinking perhaps we could try and organize a small powerpoint presentation at the Rally for people who wanted a quick tutorial on understanding their results. Please let us know in advance if you are interested. See you at the Rally in 2016!

*"I Have a Time Machine" by Brenda Shaughnessy
Published in The New Yorker in the July 20, 2015 edition*

This publication was sent to me by Ed Shaughnessy. The New Yorker notes that Brenda Shaughnessy's fourth collection of poems will be published in 2016.

I Have A Time Machine

But unfortunately it can only travel into the future
at a rate of one second per second,

which seems to slow to the physicists and to the grant
committees and even to me.

But I manage to get there, time after time, to the next
moment and to the next.

Thing is, I can't turn it off. I keep zipping ahead –
well, not *zipping* – And if I try

to get out of this time machine, open the latch,
I'll fall into space, unconscious,

then desiccated! And I'm pretty sure I'm afraid of that.
So I stay inside.

There's a window, though. It shows the past.
It's like a television or fish tank

but it's never live, it's always over. The fish swim
in backward circles.

Sometimes it's like a rearview mirror, another chance
to see what I'm leaving behind,

and sometimes like blackout, all that time
wasted sleeping.

Myself age eight, whole head burnt with
embarrassment
at having lost a library book.

Myself lurking in a candled corner expecting
to be found charming.

Me holding a rose though I want to put it down
so I can smoke.

Me exploding at my mother who explodes at me
because the explosion

of some dark star all the way back struck hard
at mother's mother's mother.

I turn away from the window, anticipating a blow.
I thought I'd find myself

an old woman by now, travelling so light in time.
But I haven't gotten far at all.

Strange not to be able to pick up the pace as I'd like;
the past is so horribly fast.

O'Shaughnessy Rally – May 19-22, 2016

Now, on to what you have all been anxiously scrolling for! Below is a tentative schedule of events for the May 2016 Rally. A great schedule has been planned out for us, and we hope you are all making plans to join us.

DEPOSITS. If you plan on attending the Rally, please send a deposit to our Treasurer, Des O'Shaughnessy, by **April 15, 2016**. The deposit amounts are as follows: USA, Canada and Australia (\$50); UK (£40); and Ireland (€50). The balance of your account for the Rally will be paid upon registration at the Lady Gregory Hotel.

There are three ways to send your deposit:

1. **PayPal.** We believe we have successfully set up PayPal to accept funds as payment for both dues and Rally deposits. To pay your deposit via PayPal, just log into your PayPal account and follow these steps:
 - Choose the option to “Send Money to Friends and Family.”
 - Enter Des' email address (dkos@btinternet.com) when asked where you would like to send money.
 - Enter your payment amount. PayPal will apply the current currency conversion and a small fee if you are transferring from outside Ireland. (It is a very small fee; our test transfer of \$10 US only charged us five cents).
 - **IMPORTANT:** In the “Write a note (Optional)” box, PLEASE enter a narrative with your name, location, and reason for payment! Example: “Sarah Shaughnessy, Houston, Texas, USA, sending \$50 as deposit for the Rally 2016.” Otherwise, Des will not know who the money is coming from and will not credit you as having made a payment!
2. **Checks** (via mail). You may also send a check directly to Des at the following address: Des O'Shaughnessy, 6, Whitehall Road, Aghagallon, Craigavon, BT 67 0AE, Northern Ireland.
Note to our New Zealand members – the bank in Gort will no longer accept checks from New Zealand, so please pay via one of the other methods.
3. **Electronic Bank Transfer.** You may transfer funds directly from your banking institution to the AIB Bank in Gort, where the Society account is held. To do this, you will need the following information:
 - Name and address of the receiving bank: AIB Bank, The Square, Gort, Co. Galway, Ireland.
 - National Sorting Code: 93-71-18.
 - IBAN: IE 73 AIBK 9371 1827 0731 80 (BIC: AIBKIE 2D)
 - Account No.: 27073-180 – O'Shaughnessy Society Gort
 - Amount to be sent
 - Narrative including your name and reason for payment (i.e., “Rally Deposit” or “Dues for 2016”).

HOTEL RESERVATIONS. If you plan to stay at the Lady Gregory during the Rally, you will have to contact the hotel directly for reservations as they are currently booked on Thursday night. The hotel has blocked off twenty (20) rooms for our group, and as of the end of November, I know that 7 of the 20 rooms have been booked.

Rates:

- The rate to stay at the Lady Gregory for the four nights of the Rally (checking in Thursday and checking out Monday), the cost is €340 per double room with breakfast.
- If you would like a shorter stay, the nightly rate will be €75 for each of Thursday and Sunday nights, and €95 for each of Friday and Saturday nights.

Contact Information: Barry Kilroy is the manager of the Lady Gregory Hotel. To reach the hotel, please email reception@ladygregoryhotel.ie or info@ladygregory.ie. You may also call the hotel directly at (00353) 91 632333. Please reference the “O’Shaughnessy Gathering” when booking your rooms!

Note: When making reservations via email, you should receive a response back from the hotel containing a confirmation of your booking. It took about one business day for me to receive a confirmation.

Date	Time	Activity	Estimated Cost (per person)
Thursday 19 May 2016	Early evening	Rally registration at the Lady Gregory Hotel	N/A
	6:30 pm	Welcome event and raising of the O’Shaughnessy Flag at the Lady Gregory	N/A
Friday 20 May 2016	8:30 am	Motorcoach transfer from the Lady Gregory to Doolin; ferry to Inishmore (ferry ride is approximately 1 hour, 15 minutes).	Motorcoach: TBD Ferry: €17.50 (roundtrip)
	Midday	Lunch at Ti Joe Whatty’s Bar	TBD (est. €15)
		Scenic tour of the island (via minibus)	€8
	4:00 pm	Visit to St. Colman’s Church and Dun Aengus in Kilmurvey	€3-5
		Ferry back to Doolin; motorcoach transfer to the Lady Gregory	Motorcoach: TBD Ferry: <i>[Included above]</i>
Evening	Entertainment TBD	TBD	
Saturday 21 May 2016	Morning	Annual General Meeting at the Lady Gregory Hotel (tentatively in the WB Yeats Room)	N/A
	Early afternoon	Travel via personal vehicle to the Convent of Mercy and Sr. De Lourdes in Gort (the house was built by the Prendergasts when they received confiscated O’Shaughnessy lands)	TBD

	Evening	<p>Visit Thoor Ballylee (Yeats Tower) for a talk on the 1916 by a local expert</p> <p>Transfer via motorcoach from the Lady Gregory to Dunguaire Castle for a medieval banquet</p>	<p>Admission: €7 Speaker: TBD</p> <p>Motorcoach: TBD Banquet: €50</p>
Sunday 22 May 2016	<p>Morning</p> <p>1:30 pm</p> <p>7:30 pm</p>	<p>Free time for rest or attendance at local church services</p> <p>Travel via personal vehicle to Kilmacduagh for the O'Shaughnessy Clan Remembrance Service, followed by tea and sandwiches at Josie Finnegan's B&B (Noamh Colman B&B).</p> <p>Farewell dinner at the Lady Gregory Hotel</p>	<p>€5</p> <p>€23</p>
<p><i>Currently, the estimated costs for all Rally activities is approximately €130.50. We will update everyone when changes or updates are made to the schedule and the pricing.</i></p>			

Web News



Have you connected with the O'Shaughnessy Society on Facebook? We have two pages – the "O'Shaughnessy Society" and the "O'Shaughnessy Gathering – Gort, County Galway, Ireland."

If you haven't connected with our Facebook pages, just type "O'Shaughnessy Society" and "O'Shaughnessy Gathering" in the search bar in Facebook to find each respective page.

A new website is being developed! On behalf of the Society, Rory O'Shaughnessy applied for a grant through the local Galway County Council; the fund was for Community Diaspora Projects. Through this grant, Rory was able to secure 2500 Euro towards an O'Shaughnessy Society website! Details will be provided when available, as work on the production of the website is currently ongoing.

The current website can be found at www.oshaughnessysociety.org.

Society Leadership

Officers

<i>Position</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
President	Ann Staines	Elmira, Ontario, Canada	astaines@sympatico.ca
First Vice President	Diane O'Shaughnessy	Lexington, Massachusetts, USA	krazyket@comcast.net
Second Vice President	Paul O'Shaughnessy	Lexington, Massachusetts, USA	frommage@comcast.net
Honorary Vice President	Jim O'Shaughnessy	Mequon, Wisconsin, USA	
Treasurer	Des O'Shaughnessy	Lurgan, Northern Ireland	dkos@btinternet.com
Secretary	Julie O'Shaughnessy	Springdale, Pennsylvania, USA	julie_at_church@yahoo.com
Secretary	Carol Andersen	Thousand Oaks, California, USA	carolculverandersen@hotmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Sarah Shaughnessy Melton	Houston, Texas, USA	sarahpaige101@hotmail.com

Counselors

<i>Name</i>	<i>Area represented</i>	<i>Email Address</i>
Bryan O'Shaughnessy	Australia and New Zealand	bjabosh@bigpond.com
Carol Andersen	USA	carolculverandersen@hotmail.com
Michael O'Shaughnessy	Ireland, UK, and other European countries	mossy55@gmail.com
Mary Newton	Canada	maryfnewton@icloud.com

Advisory Board

Brother John Feheney, Cork, Ireland
Megan McKenzie, Mount Gambier, Australia
Tony O'Shaughnessy, Dublin, Ireland