



O'SHAUGHNESSY

# The O'Shaughnessy Society

## *Cumann Muintir Uí Sheachnasaig*

November 2017  
Newsletter Issue No. 49

### A Note from the Editor

*By Sarah Shaughnessy Melton*

This looks to be a short newsletter. Hope it finds you all doing well! Don't forget that submissions for the newsletter are always welcome.

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A Note from the Editor
- 2 FamilyTreeDNA Update
- 2 A Note from the Society President, Bill Shansey
- 4 Society Account Summary
- 5 Entries from Early Irish Newspapers
- 7 The Orwell Society
- 7 News Article – Meet the Man Who Gave the Green Light to the Golden Gate Bridge
- 10 Society Membership Application

**WE DESPERATELY NEED A NEW TREASURER!** Our Treasurer, Des O'Shaughnessy, would very much like to retire from his position – in fact, he has been telling us this for some time now. Unfortunately, we have not had anyone volunteer to take over this position. Because the Society's bank account is in Gort, we need the Treasurer to be a resident of Ireland. If you are a resident of Ireland – or know someone who is - and would be willing to serve as Treasurer, please contact us! I'm sure Des would be happy to answer any questions you may have. For now, please send your dues to Des.

**WEBSITE HELP!** We have our website space, but we need volunteers to help us maintain the content on the website. We currently have a few ideas of organization and types of information to put on the website, but we need web-savvy volunteers to get our website off the ground, as well as keep information on the site up-to-date. If you are interested in getting involved, please let us know!

---

#### *Save the Date!*

*The next O'Shaughnessy Rally will be held at the Lady Gregory Hotel  
in Gort, Co. Galway, from May 17-20, 2018!*

We do not have any information about schedules or pricing at this time, but we will provide details as soon as we have them available. Updates will be sent via email as well as posted on our Facebook page.

---

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: sarahpaise101@hotmail.com or sarah.melton@LW.com

## Clan DNA Project (FamilyTreeDNA)

Tim Shaughnessy (Longview, Texas USA) was recently contacted by Paul Duffy via FamilyTreeDNA (FTDNA). Paul is originally from County Galway, and he is the Administrator of the Ireland yDNA Project on FTDNA, which is another project similar to our O'Shaughnessy Clan Project. Paul found Tim as one of his matches at 67 markers, and Paul asked Tim to link his DNA results to this Ireland DNA project.

Paul provided the link: <https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/Ireland-heritage>, which I think will only be helpful if you have a current FTDNA account. If you do have your DNA results on FTDNA, we strongly encourage you to link up to this group as well. Paul indicated that it's a simple matter of looking up the group and hitting "Join Request."

Have you tested your DNA via any other ancestry sites? It is easy to add your DNA to our project if you join FTDNA! We would love to hear your experience in DNA testing, even if not through FTDNA.

## Notes from the Society President

*By Bill Shansey*

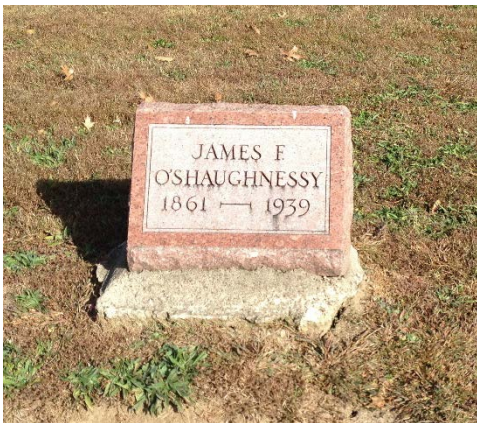
Hello to all bearers of the name, its variations and interested friends! As autumn advances here in Missouri, USA, the leaves are making the hills into a patchwork of reds, oranges, yellows and browns. In my retirement, I have taken to walking up and down the steep landscapes near my farm to gain back my endurance, lose weight and let my body integrate with its new artificial joints. My walks are often rewarded with sightings of white tail deer and bald eagles which are getting to be more numerous here. I have yet to encounter a bear, mountain lion or wolf, but our Conservation Department maintains they are here, although in limited numbers. A young girl unfortunately made the news when she mistakenly shot a bull elk just a few miles north of my farm in this county just the other day! The Department is now trying to figure out its origins.

These walks give me time to contemplate many things, including the heritage which we all share. As I said in a previous letter, my own great-grandfather is a bit of a stonewall, but in my searches I have found some very interesting O'Shaughnessy relatives. Please forgive me if you were already aware of some of these.

I once asked Tony O'Shaughnessy if he knew when O'Shaughnessys first started coming to North America, he advised that I should look into Spanish expeditions as many of us were "hiring out" to other armies. I haven't found any of those but I did encounter a note about one John Shaughnessy who was among twenty others who were "transported" from Galway in 1742! I haven't found anything more about him, but there was a Joseph Shaughnecy (sp.?) listed among the Virginia militia who perished during the harsh winter serving with Washington at Valley Forge. For U.S. geneologists, finding a connection to him would be the Holy Grail of searches! Of course, there was also a Michael Shaughnessy listed among the missing, P.O.W.s or deserters from the British Regiments during the American Revolution as well. If we were here for the Revolution, we were also here for Round II: the War of 1812, though I haven't found any references yet. By the time of the post-famine American Civil War, of course, there were many Irish in the USA and many mentioned in Civil War records, including one I once mistook for my own great-granddad.

Speaking of himself, I found many John Shaughnessy's immigrating into the region where my grandfather was born in time to make them potential great-granddads. One was a five year old boy arriving alone in New York in 1850. There were no other Shaughnessy listings among the other passengers, but there seemed to be a number of unaccompanied children listed. An orphan mission perhaps? If you have ever seen the Martin Scorsese film "Gangs of New York," you can imagine being orphaned and being raised in such an environment.

Of course, some left the tenements of eastern cities and headed west. If you haven't already, find a copy of "An Irish-American Odyssey; The Remarkable Rise of the O'Shaughnessy Brothers" by Colum Kenny. It's available, coincidentally, from the University of Missouri Press here in Columbia, Missouri. Why? Perhaps because they settled on farmland near here along one of the rail lines that cross the state. I was motivated enough by the book to go find their farmland and what is left of the town they founded: Newhall. Not much is there, but their children went on to other areas and professions. I did locate the small cemetery where many of them were returned to be buried. As you can see from the pictures, some used the "O" and some did not. By the way, they immigrated from a Galway townland called "Newhall" about a mile north of The Lady Gregory Hotel.



I became interested in genealogy when I first encountered a museum display while visiting the town of Buffalo, Wyoming. There I saw a photograph of Mike Shonsey, a once notorious "range detective" (some would say "gunman") and the last survivor of the infamous Johnson County Range War. This war took place in 1892, the same year my great-grandfather died or disappeared, and he looked oddly familiar. Those of you who have been to a Gathering may know what I mean. It's that feeling you get when you meet an O'Shaughnessy you have never met before. And his last name had only one letter different than mine. I looked for many years off and on, but could only find a reference that he was of Irish descent and came from Ohio. The narratives of the war mostly characterize him as a killer and assassin, but other contemporary accounts depict him as a brave ranch foreman whose livelihood was being threatened by rampant cattle theft. Either way, he emerged the victor and contemporary courts of law ruled he acted in self-defense. He lived a long life and died as a well-respected citizen. His rifle was recently in the Nebraska news when it was donated to the Nebraska history museum by a descendent. A few years ago I was doing a search on his name spelling and discovered a genealogy website by one of his descendant's in-laws. Sure

enough, Mike Shonsey's father was a Thomas O'Shaughnessy from County Galway! You can find his full story in several books and on the Internet. You can make up your own mind about him, but I like to think of him as someone whose loyalty to his mentor and benefactor drove him to take a stand and his tenacity in the fight earned him many friends as well as enemies. Many thanks to Gene Wheeler for his website.

How about O'Shaughnessy women? While randomly searching marriage records one day I was shocked to find a license issued to a Winifred Shaughnessy and Rudolph Valentino! Yes, THAT Rudolph Valentino! It seemed that his betrothed was forced to use her real name instead of her adopted exotic stage name of Natacha Rambova! She was a daughter of Civil War veteran and later Utah mining engineer Michael Shaughnessy. She must have been a character to be reckoned with in her own right, as Valentino's later film contracts had clauses banning her from the film sets! Teacher Eileen Maud O'Shaughnessy married a young writer named Eric Blair who wrote under the pen name, George Orwell. There is much debate and speculation on whether she influenced such works as "Animal Farm" and "1984." Under authors we also have contemporary author and science educator Tam O'Shaughnessy. Also let's not forget Margaret Mary O'Shaughnessy, known as lawyer and former Reagan cabinet member Margaret Heckler.

I am sure there are many other O'Shaughnessy's whose stories are waiting to be rediscovered and told. I recently heard of a biography on the millionaire philanthropist Ignatius Aloysius O'Shaughnessy. Now there is an Irish name! Maybe the subject of another article?

I wish you all the best in the coming holiday season. We are currently working on the 2018 Gathering schedule and hope to make it a memorable one. I hope to see many of you there.

Sincerely,  
William M. Shansey, Esq.

## O'Shaughnessy Society Account Summary

*By Des O'Shaughnessy*

*All amounts shown in Euros*

Accounts for Year-end 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2017			
Income		Expenditure	
Fees	557.40	Postage	9.25
Bank Interest	<u>0.38</u>	Printing	11.49
	557.78	Stationery	16.90
		Clans of	65.00
		Ireland	
		Bank Fees	6.28
		Surplus	<u>448.86</u>
			557.78

Capital Account	
Opening Balance Nov. 2016	6405.36
Surplus	448.86
Closing Balance Nov. 2017	6854.22
Represented by:	
AIB Bank – Current Account	577.20
Deposit Account	6277.02
	6854.22

## Early Irish Newspaper Entries

*Submitted by Ann Staines and Megan McKenzie*

Excerpts from early newspapers of Limerick, Clare & Dublin, transcribed by Megan McKenzie at the National Library in Dublin a few years ago. She shared them with me and has given her permission to submit them to our newsletter. We hope you will find some missing links for your family history among these events. Newspapers are a valuable source, not always consulted. This is part 1, the next part will be in our next newsletter. Respectfully submitted by Ann Staines

Publication	Date	Entry
Ennis Chronicle	Thurs 11-9-1788	Galway 8 <sup>th</sup> – died a few days ago near Drennan, Mrs Shaughnessy Wife of Michael Shaughnessy of Gort, shopkeeper
Ennis Chronicle	Sat 12-1-1811	Advert – Timothy Ryan & Patrick Russel esqr. Assignees of Kennedy Ryan plt vs Patrick Shaughnessy dfd. Sheriff's sale of a distillery at Clonroad, Co Clare
Limerick Evening Post	Thurs 1-8-1816	Married on Sat in Charleville by the Rev Wm Dunn, Mr Robert S Shaughnessy To Miss Maria Patton
Ennis Chronicle	Thurs 14-3-1805	Limerick 13 <sup>th</sup> on Monday last died Mr James Mealy of the Spittal – the Mayor held an inquest on the body – verdict was that he died in consequences of a mortal wound received on 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan last from Thomas & John Shaughnessy who are now confined in the City Gaol.
Ennis Chronicle	Sat 29-6-1811	Died in Clare St, Limerick Thomas Shaughnessy
Clare Journal	Mon 29-6-1807	Advert – to be set part of Ballylinesmore, Clonsheeren East & West, with a Grist & Tuck Mill as will be pointed out by Mr John Shaughnessy
Dublin Hiberian Journal	Mon 25-2-1782	Married at Edenderry, King's Co, Mr Matthew Barrett serge weaver to Miss Kitty Shaughnessy of Clongarret in said co.
Faulkener's Dublin Journal	Thurs 8-12-1768	Married at Limerick Cpt John Calmady to Miss Shaughnessey

Limerick Chronicle	Mon 16-11-1789	Advert – Michael Mulvihill of Athea in Co Lim weaver, cautions the public not to credit Mary Mulvihill alias Shaughnessy his wife, she having eloped
Limerick Chronicle	Mon 10-1-1785	Advert – to be let the house & demesne of Inchirourke. Proposals to Robert Hunt esq – Michael Shaughnessy who lives at Inchirourke will show the house & land
Limerick Chronicle	Sat 20-1-1821	Died in the Abbey, Mrs O'Shaughnessy wife of Thomas O'Shaughnessy, victualler
Limerick Chronicle	Sat 15-4-1815	Advert – Wm O'Shaughnessy apothecary & chemist, Broad St Limerick
Limerick Evening Post	Mon 8-9-1817	Died this morning Wm O'Shaughnessy of Broad St. druggist & apothecary
Limerick Chronicle	Wed 28-2-1816	Married on Mon Edward Hogan of Ferretterston to Eliza 2 <sup>nd</sup> daug of Mr James Shaughnessy Also Limerick Evening post entry
Ennis Chronicle	Sat 19 Jan 1811	Died at Rockstown Co Lim aged 78 yrs Mr J Shaughnessy
Limerick Chronicle	Mon 28-1-1782	Advert: to let by Mr John Shaughnessy grocer elegant unfurnished lodgings formerly held by Mr John Harrison next door to Counsellor McNemara's Bow in the English town
Limerick Chronicle	Sat 27-3-1813	Advert – All persons indebted to late Mr Mark O'Shaughnessy are requested to pay his widow – executrix Mrs Ellen O'Shaughnessy
Clare Journal	Mon 29-1-1821	Mr Michael O'Shaughnessy died a few days since at Coolfune near Kildysart Mr Michael O'Shaughnessy
Limerick Evening Post	Thurs 20-11-1817	Patrick T O'Shaughnessy of this city to Eliza dau of late Timothy Meara of Thurles distiller
Limerick Chronicle	Mon 28-7-1783	Died a few days ago at Six Mile Bridge Co Clare Rev Mr O'Shaughnessy PP of that town
Clare Journal	Tues 5-2-1799	Limerick 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Married on Thurs night Thomas O'Shaughnessy to Miss O'Donovan both of Rutland St.
Limerick Evening Post	Wed 7-2-1815	Married on Tues last at Dysart near Kilrush Thomas F O'Shaughnessy of this city to Miss McMahon d of James McMahon of said place.

## The Orwell Society

*Submitted by Des O'Shaughnessy*

Des O'Shaughnessy received the following email from Richard Blair and kindly submitted it for the group to share:

As the Patron of the Orwell Society and son of same, I am writing to you about my mother and her brother Major Lawrence O'Shaughnessy (1900-1940). You had an article in your 2013 newsletter by Richard McNab, a book that I have read. The article has just been put on our Orwell Society website and many of our members will be interested to read of the account about Richard's father at Dunkirk. As I write I am reading a mms (to be published?) about the origins of my mother, Eileen who married Eric Blair (George Orwell) in 1936. She and her brother, Lawrence, but always and confusingly known as Eric, were born in South Shields. The author of my mother's biography is a Canadian academic (living in New York), has turned up a lot of interesting information; that the family originated from Valencia Island and thereafter. However it lacks readability and might not be published, unless worked on extensively. I just thought you might be interested, if only that we two societies touch base.

Kindest regards  
Richard Blair, Patron, Orwell Society

In a follow-up email, Richard went on to say that the Orwell Society was started in 2011, and he has welcomed all of us to check out their website at [www.orwellsociety.com](http://www.orwellsociety.com).

## News Article – “Meet the Irishman Who Gave the Green Light to the Golden Gate Bridge”

Thanks to Michael O'Shaughnessy for sharing the attached article, “Meet the Irishman who gave the green light to the Golden Gate Bridge.” Please flip to the next page for the article.

Tags # BUILDING # ENGINEERING # GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE

# Meet the Irishman who gave the green light to the Golden Gate Bridge

An archive of papers belonging to the NUI Galway graduate have gone on show this week.

Oct 15th 2017, 9:00 PM 18,969 Views 4 Comments Share 255 Tweet Email 12

IT IS ONE of the world's most recognisable structures – but did you know the Golden Gate Bridge was overseen by an Irishman?

Born in Loughill, Co Limerick, Michael M O'Shaughnessy, moved to Galway in 1882 to study engineering in what was then called Queen's College Galway. In 1885, he emigrated to America, where he embarked on an illustrious career on railways, mines and irrigation projects in California and Hawaii.



Image: DPA/PA Images

In 1912, O'Shaughnessy was appointed City Engineer for San Francisco, six years after the city's devastating earthquake.

For over two decades he was involved in many iconic projects in the region. He approved the concept of a bridge crossing the Golden Gate Strait and the subsequent design of the Golden Gate Bridge. He led the development of municipally-owned utilities including the city's famous streetcar system and hydro-electric power projects.

An archive of papers belonging to the NUI Galway graduate have gone on show this week.

O'Shaughnessy led the Hetch Hetchy reservoir and power project at Yosemite National Park, which is still the primary water source for residents of San Francisco. One of the dams in the project is named the O'Shaughnessy dam in his honour.

The archive was donated to NUI Galway in 2016 by Bernadette O'Shaughnessy whose late husband was a grand-nephew of Michael O'Shaughnessy.

Its contents include material that documents his time in private practice: a large and fascinating volume of photographs from throughout his professional and personal life, engineering drawings, related reports and correspondence that detail survey work in California, and irrigation design and construction projects in Hawaii.

The Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, also holds a major collection of archival material donated by his youngest daughter, Elizabeth, in 1992.

Read Next:

USA Gymnastics doctor pleads guilty to molesting young gymnasts

# CHILD ABUSE

TheJournal.ie Like Page Liked 396K likes

You and 2 other friends like this2 friends like this

Download our app





University Librarian at NUI Galway, John Cox, said: "Michael Maurice O'Shaughnessy had a very distinguished career in the United States and his work continues to be recognised in San Francisco today. This was evident to me when I visited UC Berkeley earlier this year and learned of the extensive use being made of the archive there. The material donated to NUI Galway complements the Berkeley archive and adds new insights into his family life in particular."

The exhibition has been curated in a joint project between the NUI Galway Library and the College of Engineering and Informatics. In addition, a distinct project to explore the archive in O'Shaughnessy's own words, [using his memoir will also be available online](#).



Get breaking news from *TheJournal.ie* via Facebook. Just click Like.

Like You and 396K others like this. [Ann Steiner and 396K others like this](#)

Short URL

Tweet this	Share on Facebook	Email this article	<input type="text"/>
------------	-------------------	--------------------	----------------------

About the author:



**Paul Hosford**  
 @PTHosford  
 paulhosford@thejournal.ie

[> See more articles by Paul Hosford](#)

Contribute to this story:

- Leave a Comment
- Send a Photo / Video
- Send a Tip
- Send a Correction

From the web:

Sponsored Links by Taboola



**5 Foods You Wouldn't Think Are Good for You**  
[WmnLife.com](#)



**27 Photos They Didn't Show You In History Class**  
[Viral World](#)



**Top 10 innovations inspired by nature**  
[feedbox.info](#)



**10 Celebrities You Didn't Know Are Gay – Top Insider Celeb**  
[Top Insider Celeb](#)

Read next:



**USA Gymnastics doctor pleads guilty to molesting young gymnasts**

38 Views [>](#)



**Usually more famous for its tourist draw, Bali's rumbling volcano has people fleeing**

407 Views [>](#)



**Dublin psychiatric hospital investigating complaint made about Al Porter**

72,517 Views [>](#)

COMMENTS (4)

## O'SHAUGHNESSY SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**MEMBERSHIP PERIOD: JANUARY 1, 2017 – DECEMBER 31, 2017**

Title:	Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Please specify:</i>
--------	------------------------------	-------------------------------	------------------------------	--

First Name:	MI:	Last Name:
-------------	-----	------------

Street Address:

City:	State:	ZIP Code:
-------	--------	-----------

Country:	Email address:
----------	----------------

*Additional members residing at the same address:*

### NEW OR RENEWAL APPLICATION

*(please check one)*

New Application	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----------------	--------------------------

Renewal Application	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	--------------------------

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

<u>Country of Residence</u>	<u>Amount (per person)</u>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Qty. of Memberships</u>	<u>Total to be paid</u>
Ireland (€15/person)	€15	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Britain and Northern Ireland	STG£ 13.00	<input type="checkbox"/>		
United States	US \$20	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Canada	Cdn \$25	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Australia	A \$25	<input type="checkbox"/>		
New Zealand	NZ \$25	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other EU countries	€15	<input type="checkbox"/>		

*If you are a NEW MEMBER joining after September, your dues will cover the following year, as well as the remainder of this year.*

### PAYMENT METHOD

Bank Transfer	<input type="checkbox"/>
---------------	--------------------------

To transfer funds from your banking institution to the AIB Bank in Gort, you will need the following information:

Name and address of 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 Number: 27073-180 – O'Shaughnessy Society Gort

Amount to be sent

Narrative including your name and reason for payment (i.e., "Rally Deposit" or "2016 Dues").

Check	<input type="checkbox"/>
-------	--------------------------

If paying by check, please mail this form and your check to Des O'Shaughnessy, O'Shaughnessy Society Treasurer, 6 Whitehall Road, Aghagallon, Lurgan Co., Armagh, Northern Ireland BT67 OAE.

Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>
------	--------------------------

**Please do not mail cash!** Cash is only accepted when payment is made to the Treasurer in person.

<b>SOCIETY ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Are you interested in becoming involved with the administration of the Society?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>QUESTIONS?</b>		
If you have any questions, please contact your regional counselor or an officer of the Society. Current contact information is located in the latest edition of the O'Shaughnessy Society Newsletter.		
<b>SIGNATURES</b>		
<b>By signing this application (or by submitting this application electronically), I hereby apply for membership of the O'Shaughnessy Society and agree to be bound by the Society's Constitution and other applicable rules.</b>		
Signature of applicant:	Date:	
<i>By submitting this form electronically, I agree that my submission of this form qualifies as my electronic signature.</i>		