

# Irish Roots

**Using Ordnance  
Survey Maps  
To Locate Your  
Ancestors!**

**Unique Photographic  
Record Of Life In Dublin  
City Now Online**

**Thinking Of Starting  
A Graveyard Project?**

**Read The Essential Information You  
Need To Know Before Commencing!**



**Tracing Your Westmeath Ancestors - Find Out More Inside.  
The Irish In India - Excellent Records Kept By The EIC Armies.  
Discover Irish Genealogy Directory Sources In The US.  
Ships To Far Shores - Exploring Passenger and Naval Records.  
News From The World Of Irish Genealogy And Lots Lots More!**

# Irish Roots

Issue No 4 2013 ISSN 0791-6329

## CONTENTS

- 4 News
- 5 And Another Thing - Steven Smyrl
- 6 Ships To Far Shores
- 8 A Wexford Colony In Brazil
- 10 Tracing Your West Meath Ancestors
- 13 Books Ireland
- 14 Society Notes
- 16 The Irish In India
- 18 Whats New? - Review
- 20 Thinking Of Starting A Graveyard Project?
- 22 Irish Genealogy Sources In The US
- 24 Where Do You Think They Were?  
Exploring Ordnance Survey maps
- 26 Irish Ancestors In Australasia
- 28 A Question Of Genealogy
- 29 Letters To The Editor
- 30 Being A Limerick Clancy



Follow us on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/irishrootsmag](http://www.facebook.com/irishrootsmag)  
or on Twitter @IrishRootsMag

Copyright ©2013 Irish Roots Media Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without prior permission of the publishers. Personal views expressed in articles and letters are those of the contributor and are not necessarily those of the publishers. We reserve the right to delete from any article, material which we consider could lead to any breach of the law of libel. While we do not knowingly include erroneous information, the responsibility for accuracy lies with those who have submitted the material.

## A few words from the editor

Welcome to our winter edition for 2013. The Back to our Past show held in October was another great success. It is the highlight of the Irish genealogical year and a showcase of what is available for family history researchers and enthusiasts alike. This year was packed with presentations, in three lecture areas running concurrently, covering a wide area of genealogy and local history as well as a complete conference on DNA. Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search for Genetic Genealogy Ireland where you can access all the DNA lectures. Many thanks to all our subscribers and readers from overseas and at home who called to our stand during the show, it was lovely to see you all. Next year's show is billed from October 17 - 19, so definitely a date to highlight in your calendar or if you are planning a trip to our fair Isle it would be well worth planning your holiday around these dates.



Among the treasure troves to be discovered at this year's show were a super range of family tree charts from Irish Genealogy Solutions as well as some innovative special occasion cards for Christmas and birthday celebrations that also double up as family tree charts. What a truly wonderful gift to present to your loved ones - a special card complete with their family history! Of course a subscription to Irish Roots magazine would also make a wonderful gift to friends and family members who have an interest in their Irish connections. If you are looking for some great gift ideas or stocking fillers this holiday season, have a look at [www.irishgenealogysolutions.com](http://www.irishgenealogysolutions.com) website or visit our online store at [www.irishrootsmagazine.com](http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com) and simply click on the 'shop' tab.

The General Register Office's Research Room has now relocated to Werburgh Street, Dublin 2, a brisk walk from College Green up Dame street keeping on the left-hand side, after Dublin Castle keep left around the corner (opposite The Lord Edward pub) and the GRO office is just next to St Werburgh's church. It is also within walking distance of the National Archives via Bride Street. Passengers on Dublin city buses can take numbers 56A, 77A, 150 or the 27 (from Connolly rail station) to alight alongside the GRO.

We hope that you enjoy this issue of Irish Roots magazine, we thank you all for your continued support, kind words and positive feedback. We wish you all the very best with your research endeavours and a joyous and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Nollaig shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise daoibh.

*Maureen*



Photo from the Clarke Collection - courtesy of The National Library of Ireland.

### Editor/Publisher

Maureen Phibbs  
Irish Roots Media Ltd, Blackrock,  
Blessington,  
Co. Wicklow, Ireland.  
Tel: + (0)87 9427815 Intl +353 87 9427815  
Email: [editor@irishrootsmagazine.com](mailto:editor@irishrootsmagazine.com)  
Website: [www.irishrootsmagazine.com](http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com)

### Printed by

Boylan Print Group, Co. Louth, Ireland.

### International Distribution-

Pineapple Media Ltd, Hampshire, UK.

## IRISH ROOTS SUBSCRIPTION ORDER FORM

Simply fill out the order form below (or a photocopy of it) and send it together with the appropriate remittance to:-  
Irish Roots Magazine, Blackrock, Blessington, County Wicklow, Ireland.

Name:- .....

Address:- .....

I enclose a cheque for ..... payable to Irish Roots Media Ltd. **Yearly subscription rate to Irish Roots** (four issues, including postage): Ireland €23.00; UK Stg £23/€25.00; US\$35/€25.00; Australia \$42/€25.00; Canada CAN\$40/€25.00; Rest of world: €25.00. Make payable in draft or cheque (in your local currency) to Irish Roots Media Ltd or subscribe online at [www.irishrootsmagazine.com](http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com). e-mail: [editor@irishrootsmagazine.com](mailto:editor@irishrootsmagazine.com) [www.facebook.com/irishrootsmag](http://www.facebook.com/irishrootsmag) 88



**IRISH ROOTS**  
MAGAZINE

Connect To Your Irish Roots  
[www.irishrootsmagazine.com](http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com)

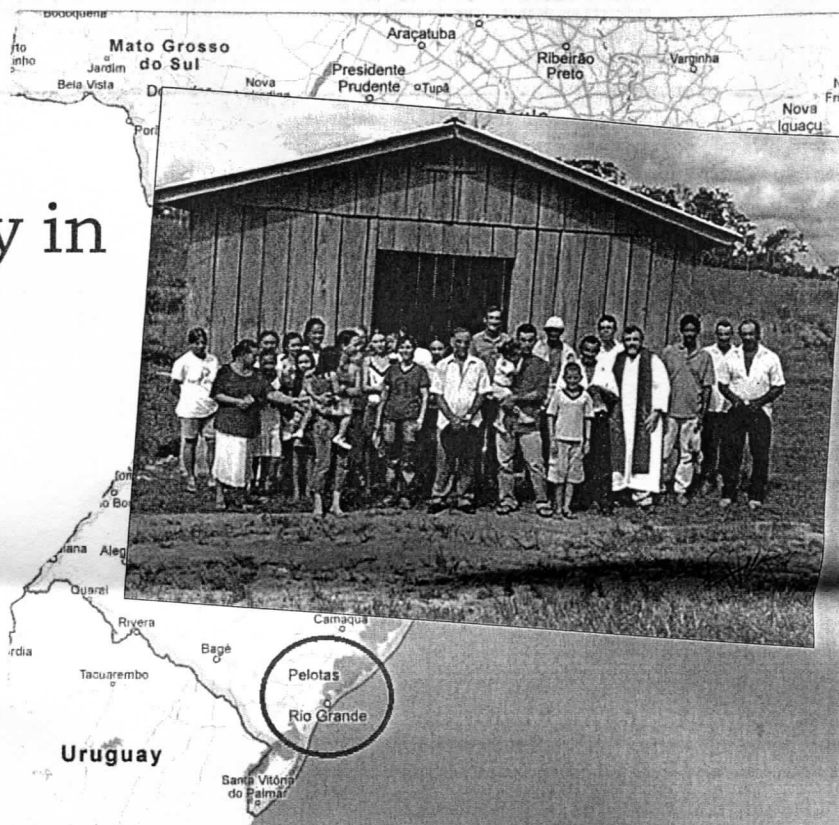


# A Wexford Colony in Brazil

by

Hilary Murphy

The visit of Pope Francis to the World Youth Day in Brazil in July brought to mind the associations my own county of Wexford has had with that vast country. Back in the early 1980s, the then Bishop of Ferns, Dr Donal Herlihy, established the Ferns Mission to Brazil and several of his priests opted for the adventure of serving on this mission which continued for the next thirty years when there were no longer any priests to spare. Those who had the experience found it very rewarding.



Another notable Wexford association began in the late famine years of the 1840s when a large group of farmers from the baronies of Forth and Bargo in the south of the county responded to an invitation to form a colony in Capão do Leão, a village 14.8 Km (9.2 miles) from the town of Pelotas in the province of Rio de Grande de Sul with the dream of a more prosperous life than they had at home.

Their migration venture was sponsored by Admiral Grenfell, the Brazilian Consul General in Liverpool, who had subscribed a considerable sum of money for the purchase of some prairie land upon which to settle the Wexford immigrants. This colony became known as the Cologne Dom Pedro II Colony. Around this time, Captain William Sinnott, a native of Bunarge in the Wexford parish of Carne, owned a ship named the "Don Pedro" and was trading to foreign ports around the world. He made a point of writing to his brother Robert, and other family members, from whichever foreign port he happened to be berthed in. A collection of these letters were found many years later in the ruin of the former Sinnott home in Bunarge.

William was trying to persuade Robert to join his ship on a voyage to Brazil. In a letter, dated Nov 7, 1849 and sent from Liverpool he wrote: "You cannot do better than go out in the "Don Pedro" with as many of your friends as are inclined to better their situation. There is not the slightest doubt but you will be comfortably provided for by the Brazilian Government. I have spared no exertions in gaining for such as go out under our directions the good will of all the principal men of the province of Rio Grande. Preparations for your reception are going on rapidly. The President of the Province shall order to be measured and marked out the lands which are unoccupied, taking care that they are within the district of Pelotas."

In a follow-up letter, dated Oct 9, 1850 and mailed from Queenstown (Cobh), William instructs Robert to "write to me if you are to come and tell me how many more is to come. Enquire for me when you come to Rio Grande and tell the rest to do the same. Keep this to yourself for I have told the Commissioners I would bring out some of the respectfulest (sic) men in Ireland. There are four houses built for the people, until they choose the place to settle down and then their own house is built for them."

Robert, however, decided not to emigrate, as he was still living in Bunarge in 1860 when he received a letter from another brother, Michael, who had become a Benedictine monk in England. The migrating group arrived in their new world without implements or other means, but farming equipment, seeds, etc were soon dispatched from Liverpool. By 1851 these Irish pioneers were followed to Brazil by 140 more. An auxiliary society was established in Liverpool, which guaranteed to Irish farmers emigrating to their allotments of about 150 acres of land, near to the town of Pelotas, provisions for twelve months, assistance in stocking their land and agricultural implements when required.

The price of the allotment was about £60 sterling, which sum, together with the assistance for stock, provisions, etc was to be repaid to the society by instalments of three, four, or five years without interest: after that period 6 per cent interest was chargeable on the balance. The expensive passage from Liverpool was also subsidised.

In 1851, the Irish immigrants replied to official questionnaires regarding the lands they occupied, the state of the crops and their satisfaction with the

contracts. Their replies were sent to the Chief Commissioner of the Dom Pedro colony. James Murphy from Bridgetown, Co Wexford, gave the following account of his experience: "The country has truly a fine, healthy climate, and is beautiful, with river, plain, mountain, wood, hill and valley: it is my fondest aspiration that at no distant date shall I behold in this fine country a harvest in all its pride. The Brazilians in general, are familiar, kind and hospitable, complacent and willing to oblige, and my only regret is that I cannot speak the language. Regarding the crops I can say but little as the wheat I brought here did not vegetate, except 100 grains or thereabouts, a few grains of barley also, though about one-fifth of Peter Meyler's vegetated.

"The portion of land allotted to each colonist is 100,000 braces (about 96 English acres). Of this I tilled a few acres. My wheat not growing, I replanted the ground with milo (Brazilian wheat) and oats, and each one is growing very well. I have some good potatoes, from which I expect excellent seed next year. I have received more kindness, hospitality and encouragement from the gentlemen with whom I am connected as an agriculturist than ever I did from the landlord in Ireland, who had the sole benefit of my labours from boyhood."

In a letter to his brother in Carne, Peter Meyler wrote: "I write to inform you of our safe arrival, after a most agreeable and speedy passage of 45 days. Mr Morgan brought us to the lands and pointed out to everyone his plot of land. Mine was comprised of 150 acres." Other accounts were given by George Kearney, also from Carne, and John Parle.

The bunch of letters found in the old Sinnott home in Bunarge revealed the existence of Sinnott descendants in Pelotas, Brazil, in more recent years. One was from Annibal Sinnott in 1936 to her cousin Robert in Bunarge; another from 18-years-old Charles Sinnott in 1961 "to my dear relations" in Bunarge with the information that his parents were John Sinnott, aged 70, and Victory Sinnott, aged 60.

The following additional information on the Irish settlers came to me from Adelia Yates, a historian living in Pelotas: "The Irish came in 1852, escaping the Great Famine that fell upon their country. There were about 300 people who crossed the sea in small boats and came to occupy the 40 lots allocated to them region of Capon Lion (now a city).

"The few existing records on the Irish say that they came from County Wexford, barony of Forth, in the southeast of Ireland. They were often victimized by assaults. Some Brazilians treated them as "some redheads who speak a language that no one understands" - possibly the yola, the regional language of Wexford at the time, now extinct. At least one of the members of the colony was English: Richard Lloyd Yates [Adelia's ancestor] who travelled with the Irish and managed to become the owner of 600 acres of land in the Lion Capão. A good shooter, the bullet wrote his initials on a piece of wood.

"The Irish colony was unsuccessful. In the year following its arrival there were only 30 families, or about 180 people, but by 1859 there were 16 families and less than a hundred people. For economic hardship, most immigrants disbanded for Montevideo, Buenos Aires and other states of Brazil. Even Father Patrick Donovan, who had accompanied the settlers left."

Adelia tells us that the Wexford Cologne Dom Pedro II left few marks in Pelotas, but there are still descendants of the pioneers in the region, with surnames preserved: Stafford, Sinnott, Yates, Furlong, Monks and Carpenter.

*Photo opposite page: Fr Denis Browne of the Ferns Mission to Brazil with parishioners attending the first Mass in the Church of Nossa Senhora Aparecida in the state of Mato Grosso.*



## Elaine Hannon Genealogy

Family History Researcher

All Areas of Ireland Covered

Record Retrieval and Consultation Service

Free Assessment

Have your family history presented in a durable book that will last a lifetime

Web: [www.ehgenealogy.com](http://www.ehgenealogy.com)

Email: [info@ehgenealogy.com](mailto:info@ehgenealogy.com)

Tel: +353 (0)86 1070834

## Do You Have Irish Roots?

Trace Your Ancestors With  
**Irish Roots Magazine**



Subscribe today at  
[www.irishrootsmagazine.com](http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com)



[www.facebook.com/irishrootsmag](http://www.facebook.com/irishrootsmag)



[@irishrootsmag](https://twitter.com/irishrootsmag)

*Celebrating Irish Ancestry*



**CERTIFIED  
GENEALOGISTS,  
RECORD  
AGENTS, AND  
CHARTISTS**

conducting work in multiple countries with a network of agents, specializing in Canada, US, Australia, New Zealand, UK, & Ireland research. Emphasis on family history, forensic/heir/probate research, complex pedigrees, and searches for missing families.

Find YOUR ancestors and/or descendants who emigrated to Canada, America, Europe, and elsewhere. Consult our website for further details.

**GEN-FIND**

**Research Associates, Inc.**  
#101-5170 Dunster Road, Suite 521,  
Nanaimo, BC, Canada V9T 6M4  
Toll Free Tel: (877) 390-1766  
E-mail: [services@gen-find.com](mailto:services@gen-find.com)  
Web: [www.gen-find.com](http://www.gen-find.com)