

# Irish Routes

## The Newsletter of the Scully-Greene-Dunn Family Association

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# Happy St. Patrick's Day



### Millennium Reunion Plans Underway

In May, 1999, a group of individuals met to discuss the possibility of having a Family Reunion in the year 2000. Janice (Lucey) Johnson, Grace (Kelly) Clohosey, and Sheila (Dunn) Parmelee agreed to be Chairpersons of the reunion committee. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS – THE REUNION IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 25, 2000.** More information on the reunion will follow shortly. **See Article on last page of this newsletter.**

The 1997 Reunion was a tremendous success, and many family members have expressed an interest in another Reunion. Anyone willing to serve on the Reunion committee or willing to help plan the reunion should contact Regina Woltmann or Janice Johnson.

### Historical Research Continues

On a recent tour of Mortimer Cemetery in Middletown, sponsored by the Middlesex County Historical Society, Regina Woltmann and Kathryn Paredez ran into cousins Jim and Carolyn Laban. Regina was there to look for graves of Irish individuals who were buried prior to the establishment of St. John's Church and Cemetery, and found two Green Graves. The names were not legible, but one was a baby who died on August 12, 1839 at the age of one year, and another Green who died in 1848. Luckily, Carolyn had her camera and took pictures for our Genealogical Research.

Recently Bill and Barbara Pitt have been sending in newspaper clippings and other memorabilia concerning family members. These items are important in that we are able to find out more about those family members who came before us. Much of this information will be included in the future books on the Dunn and Scully Families. We would like to offer special thanks to Bill and Barbara for their efforts, and we encourage anyone with similar information to send copies to the Association.

In The Descendants of Edward & Esther (Lalor) Greene, published in 1997, we noted that one of Edward and Esther's children, Richard / Michael Green, disappeared shortly after the 1860 US Census was taken. On a recent trip to the Middlesex County Historical Society, Regina Woltmann may have found the clue we were looking for. Among those individuals of Middletown who answered President Lincoln's call for troops to defend the Nation's Capital while the Union Army was busy with the Battle of Bull Run was an individual named Michael Green. We are currently pursuing this lead and will keep you informed of our progress as more information becomes available.

## Memories of Ireland – 1999

### A Summary of the 1999 Scully-Greene-Dunn Family Reunion Tour of Ireland

On Wednesday, July 21, 1999, approximately 50 family members and friends met in two locations – Portland, CT and Waterbury, CT, to board a shuttle to Kennedy International Airport and embark on the Scully-Greene-Dunn Family Reunion trip to Ireland. The trip was organized and led by Rick Synnott and his company, A & S Travel. At the airport, Herb and Pat Videll, who flew up from their home in Virginia, joined the group. Herb presented those on the tour with Leprechaun pins that he hand carved out of walnut shells.

The group arrived at Shannon Airport in Ireland at about 7:00 a.m. the next morning, and headed north-west past Ennis to the Cliffs of Moher, enjoying the scenery (that certainly lived up to the description “40 Shades of Green”) and taking in a bit of history from our tour guide, David O’Brien. Leaving the Cliffs of Moher, the group continued north, passing by Galway Bay into the city of Galway. Galway is one of the biggest cities in Ireland. Along the way, many family members remarked that there were few trees but hundreds of miles of stone walls – a bit different from the topography at home. We stayed at the Imperial Hotel right in the center of downtown Galway. The group relaxed for the afternoon, trying out the local restaurants and pubs, and prepared for the next day’s adventures.

On Friday morning, we set out for Kylemore Abbey in Connemara, approximately a 1-½ hour drive from Galway. On the way to Kylemore, we made a side stop at the Connemara Marble Shop, where the world’s primary source of green marble is fashioned into building materials and jewelry. The scenery surrounding Kylemore Abbey was beautiful – set among mountains, valleys and lakes. Kylemore was originally built as a private residence, but is now occupied by the Benedictine Nuns, who run a boarding school on the premises. In addition to the castle, there is a small Gothic Cathedral on the grounds.



*Ruth (Synnott) James and her husband, Gordon, pose for a photo on the way to Kylemore Abbey.*

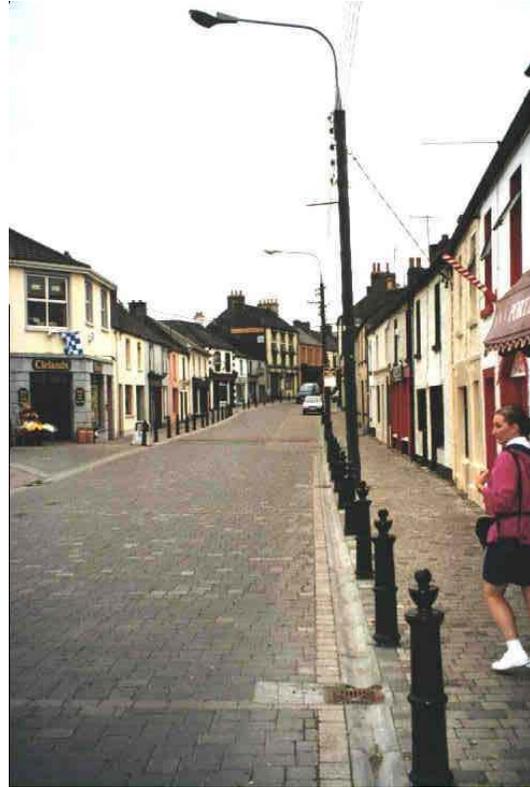
Saturday morning, July 24<sup>th</sup>, began with a cloudy sky with some drizzle and mist. The group left Galway for a tour of Galway Cathedral. Galway Cathedral is adorned with a generous supply of Connemara Marble, and has a small shrine dedicated to an American – President John F. Kennedy. Following the tour of Galway Cathedral, the group headed west, stopping at the Tara China Factory and Shop to purchase a few gifts for family members at home. A few hours later, the coach arrived at the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock, situated on the location where the The Virgin Mary appeared to local citizens. Several family members brought home bottles of holy water from Knock, and at least one person on the trip referred to the experience as a trip to ‘Catholic Land.’ Leaving Knock, we stopped at the Longford Arms Hotel for lunch, after which we headed for Dublin, arriving at approximately 5:00 p.m. for a night at the Stakis Hotel. In the evening, the group toured the city, enjoying dinner on their own. After dinner, a large number of relatives gathered in the lobby of the hotel to converse and get to know each other.

Sunday morning began as a partly cloudy, partly sunny day, with a bit of chill in the air. After eating breakfast at the Stakis Hotel in Dublin, the group departed for a tour of St. Patrick’s Cathedral. St. Patrick’s was originally built as a Catholic Church, but currently is used by the Church of Ireland. In addition to being a church, the structure is also a museum that

houses many artifacts from ancient Ireland, including some from the time of St. Patrick. Following the tour of St. Patrick's Cathedral, the group went to Dublin's City Park, and caught a glimpse of the homes of the President of Ireland and the US Ambassador. These are the only homes in the park. The United States was honored in this way as a thank you from the Irish Government for being the first nation to recognize Ireland's independence. Before leaving Dublin, we visited the Book of Kells at Trinity College. After lunch, we were off to Portlaoise, the home of John Dunn, one of our immigrant ancestors.

On the way to Portlaoise, a drive of approximately 2 hours south of Dublin, we dropped off Johnny and Sarah Lucey at the Irish Stud Farm, arriving in Portlaoise at approximately 4:00 p.m. The group settled in at the Montague Hotel for a few day stay in Portlaoise, and prepared for dinner and the evening festivities. Tom Langdon, Regina Woltmann, Charles Woltmann, Martha Lutecki and Kathryn Paredez took a taxi down to the center of town to take a tour on foot. Not surprisingly, some of the local shops had names familiar to family members – including Dunn and Scully.

Sunday night turned out to be quite a treat. Tom Jacob, Mayor of Portlaoise, organized a welcoming reception for family members at the hotel. A large number of musicians, Irish Step Dancers, storytellers and singers entertained the family with approximately 3 hours of traditional music and song. Several prominent members of the community also attended the reception, some bringing pictures of Portlaoise taken long ago, and others bringing information about their branches of the Dunn and Synnott families. John Dunn and his wife Denise were on hand to welcome the family. John is the local elementary school principal and his wife is a teacher. After the entertainment had concluded several family members, and our hosts, stayed up into the wee hours of the morning enjoying pints of Guinness and good company.



*Main Street, Portlaoise, County Laois*

Our first day in Portlaoise turned out to be a beautifully sunny day with temperatures in the mid to high 70s. After breakfast at the Montague hotel, the group left for a tour of Kilkenny Castle, followed by a tour of the Waterford Crystal factory. On the Waterford tour, the group learned that the furnace used to melt the crystal has been burning for decades – if the furnace was turned off, it would take approximately 3 months to cool! After leaving Waterford, the bus turned to Portlaoise for dinner. Family Association President Tom Langdon had other plans for the day, however. Tom Jacob and John Dunn spent the day giving Tom Langdon a tour of the local sites in County Laois, including many of the local parish churches, the Rock of Dunamase (a stronghold of the Lalor family that was destroyed in the time of Cromwell), Emo Court, and the Blue Slieve Mountains (the historical lands of the Dunn family).



*Tom Jacob & John Dunn in front of the Rock of Dunamase, County Laois.*

Following dinner at the hotel, Rick Synnott's new-found family members invited us to a local pub that was literally out in the country for a Synnott/Sinnott Reunion complete with sandwiches, Guinness, and traditional Irish entertainment. The group had so much fun that, after midnight, it was a chore to get everyone back on the coach to go to the hotel! We arrived back at the Montague after 1 a.m. to find the doors locked. Despite our late arrival, the doorman was kind enough to let us in, and we all retired for a sound sleep.



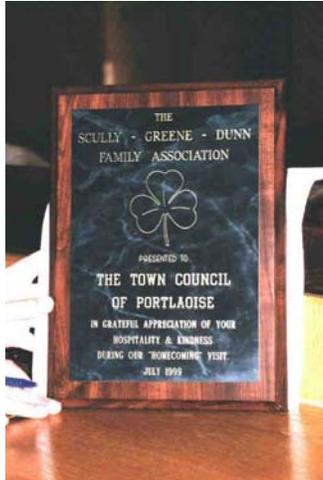
*Scene from County Laois, Ireland*

On Tuesday morning, the group set out for a drive through Stradbally, the home of Edward and Esther (Lalor) Greene prior to their arrival in the United States. Several family members had their photos taken next to the Road Sign for Stradbally.

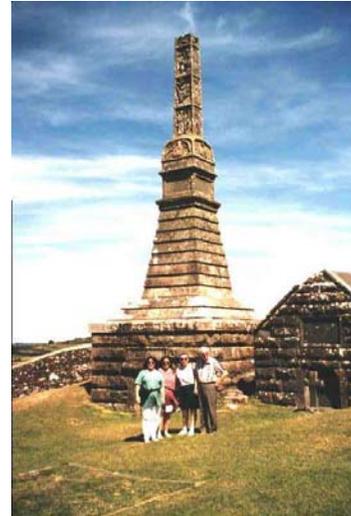


*Lee Sisson & Herb Videll in Stradbally, the home of Edward & Esther (Lalor) Greene.*

After leaving Stradbally, we headed for the Portlaoise Town Hall for a formal reception with the Town Council in the Council Chambers. The family was met by County Council Chairman John Dunn, Portlaoise Mayor Thomas Jacob, and several members of the Town and County Council. The Council members welcomed the family and presented items depicting the County Arms to Rick Synnott and Thomas Langdon. Herb Videll presented Tom Jacob with a hand carved Tea Set made from peach pits, a skill he learned from his grandfather. Tom Langdon presented a plaque to the Town on behalf of the Scully-Greene-Dunn Family Association for the hospitality and friendship shown to the family. Mayor Tom Jacob presented a book to Thomas Langdon. Following the reception, we lunched in Portlaoise, and explored the center of town, including the ruins of the church where Queen Mary held court when in Ireland. (Recall that, during the English occupation, County Laois was renamed "Queens County"- presumably after Queen Mary, and Portlaoise was renamed to "Maryborough").



*Plaque presented to the Town of Portlaoise by Family Association President Tom Langdon.*



*The Woltmanns in front of Scully's Cross at the Rock of Cashel.*



*Tom Jacob (Mayor of Portlaoise) and John Dunn (Chairman of County Laois Council) pose with other Council members and Tom Langdon after the welcoming reception.*

After lunch, we boarded the coach and were off to the Rock of Cashel. Originally, the Rock was a fortress, but was later transferred to the Church. In fact, St. Patrick baptized a converted Irish King at the Rock of Cashel. Buried on the grounds of the rock are several persons with the surname Scully. The most impressive Scully grave was a family tomb capped with a huge Celtic Cross. The top portion of that cross was struck by lightning, and to date has not been repaired. The busy schedule apparently was getting to several family members by now. The tour guide asked the group where we came from that morning, and, after a long silence, Rick Synnott joked, "Elaine, do you have an easier question?"

Our next stop was our place of lodging for the night, a manor house called Dundrum House, located in County Tipperary. Dundrum House is located on beautiful grounds, and is surrounded by the Tipperary County Club. The group had several hours to relax and enjoy the surroundings before a superb dinner of lamb or salmon. Tom Langdon, Rick Synnott, Pat McGivney and David O'Brien (our tour guide and bus driver) enjoyed a round of golf this afternoon. After dinner, the hotel's owner entertained us with songs and stories of times past.

Wednesday, July 28<sup>th</sup>, was a beautifully sunny day with a temperature in the 70's. After breakfast at the hotel, and a group photo, we were off to Killarney. On route, we stopped at Blarney Castle in County Cork, where several family members attempted to acquire the gift of gab by kissing the Blarney Stone, while others contented themselves with shopping in the Blarney Woolen Mills. Many enjoyed the gardens surrounding Blarney Castle, which had several items of historical interest, including a dolmen and a Druid's Altar.

After leaving Blarney Castle, we stopped for tea and an afternoon performance at Bru-Boru where we heard Irish music and singing, and enjoyed watching Irish Step-dancing. Following the performance, we were off to Killarney and by mid-afternoon we found ourselves exploring the city after checking into the Killarney Towers Hotel. Killarney was an

active town, with lots of shops as well as historical sights. After dinner we headed out to a manor-house theater for some mulled wine and traditional Irish entertainment.

Thursday morning was a bit cloudy, but the sun attempted to shine through. The group left Killarney for a tour of the Dingle Peninsula in County Kerry. On the way to Dingle, we enjoyed some spectacular views of the lakes, islands, and city of Killarney. Mackens of Ireland was the first stop – a store that sells traditional Irish wares (Celtic jewelry, Aran sweaters, and the like) and welcomes its customers with true Irish hospitality by providing complimentary Irish coffee to all who enter. Dingle Peninsula provides breathtaking views of the western coast of Ireland. The rolling hills and farmland gave an opportunity for several family members to pose for photographs.



*Rennie & Pat (Dunn) Langdon at the Dingle Peninsula.*

One series of mountain peaks along the peninsula shows 3 crests, and is referred to as the three sisters. The picture in the next column shows the three Woltmann Sisters in front of the Three Sisters. Interestingly, all of the relatives on the trip were descendants of three Greene Sisters – Mary (Greene) Dunn, Margaret (Greene) Scully, and Julia (Greene) O’Brien Bray. On the way back to Killarney for the evening, the group stopped by an old country cemetery to see an ancient sun-dial, ogham stone, and the ruins of an old church, and we also came across the remains of an old ring fort (or fairy’s dance). Following dinner at the hotel,

several members of the group went to a local pub/music garden to enjoy traditional Irish entertainment for the evening.



*The Three Woltmann Sisters in front of the Three Sisters.*



*Al Sisson & Rick Synnott with an Ogham Stone.*

Friday proved to be another beautiful day, with the sun shining and the temperature in the 70’s. This morning, we departed from Killarney to view the Ring of Kerry. While clouds and mist did begin to roll in, we were able to enjoy some wonderful views of this scenic area of Ireland. Early in the morning we stopped at a location where “tinkers” (Irish gypsies) were selling their wares. To attract tourists, one of the old tinkers known only as Mike (who had passed away the year before), used to stand by a donkey carrying a basket in which a small dog sat. Actually, the dog was half fox, half dog, and was very cute. While Mike can no longer be there, his friends still bring the donkey and dog out to greet tourists on

the Ring of Kerry. We also stopped to see a demonstration of sheep herding. A shepherd showed us several (about 20) different types of sheep, and then demonstrated the use of dogs to herd them. This was quite a sight – each dog knew whether to advance, retreat, turn left or turn right based solely on the whistle of the shepherd. Along the way, we stopped for lunch and some shopping in Sneem, and we arrived back in Killarney around 3:00 to enjoy a relaxing afternoon. After dinner, a large number of people from our group went back to the pub/music garden on a beautifully clear and cool night for a few pints before retiring.

We woke up on Saturday, July 31<sup>st</sup> to a sunny day in the 70's for our last day in Ireland, and boarded the coach for our trip back to Shannon Airport, stopping in Adare along the way. Adare is a beautiful town with thatched cottages and sumptuous gardens. On his trip to Ireland a year or so ago, President Clinton stayed at Adare Manor to enjoy a few rounds of golf on its well manicured grounds. After a spot of tea, the group was back on the coach en route to Shannon. After arriving at the airport, we bid farewell to our tour guide & coach driver, David O'Brien, whose efforts made the trip a most

enjoyable one. David is extremely knowledgeable about the history, geography, literature, mythology, music, economics, and culture of Ireland, and was very eager in sharing his knowledge with us on the trip. Shortly thereafter, we were on the plane en route to New York enjoying our last views of the Irish countryside. As the Aran Islands began to slip out of sight, we realized that the trip was now a memory and we would soon be back to the hustle and bustle of everyday life.

The trip was an enjoyable one, and allowed many distant cousins to get to know each other and become friends. Many commented that they hoped a similar trip would be organized a few years from now, and, if family members are willing, the Family Association will organize another trip. Overall, the trip was a relaxing, enjoyable adventure, and reconnected the family with its place of origin. It is fair to say that everyone enjoyed their visit.

*Our special thanks is extended to our cousin Rick Synnott and his Travel Agency, A & S Travel for coordinating our memorable Family Reunion Tour of Ireland.*

## **Please Help We Need Volunteers to Contribute to the Family Newsletter**

We are currently looking for volunteers to help write stories for the newsletter and help in the mailing and distribution of the newsletter. If more family members are involved, we will have more frequent and more interesting newsletters. Over the past 4 years, we have only been able to publish 3 per year. Volunteer to help the association in this important task.

Anyone wishing to volunteer time or articles should contact either Tom Langdon at 860-628-9302 or Regina Woltmann at 860-342-3092.

## **Cousin Dies from Injuries suffered in House Fire**

**Contributed by Dorothy (Dot) Daniels**

The day after Christmas was a sad one for the Kenney family as news spread of a house fire in Cheshire, CT where Thomasine Kenney was rescued but severely burned. Tommie, always a trooper, fought for her life for three weeks at Massachusetts General Hospital where she had been taken by Life Star helicopter the morning of the fire. She died on January 21, 2000.

A wake was held at Chase Memorial in Waterbury on January 24<sup>th</sup> and was attended by hundreds of people - her family, friends and co-workers at Southbury Training School where she worked caring for

mentally disabled adults. Relatives and friends came from near and far, including New Mexico, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Florida.

On the following day, January 25<sup>th</sup> it snowed heavily and a service was held at the funeral home with Fr. Carter of Cheshire officiating. Tommie was buried at Calvary Cemetery next to her father, Tom Kenney. Because of the snow, a Memorial Mass will be held in May commemorating her birthday.

We will remember Tommie as a fun-loving, talkative, family oriented person, who had a fantastic memory, especially for family stories, who never refused an invitation to a party and always had a kind word. She will be missed much more than she would imagine.

The Memorial mass will be held on Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at St. Bridget's Church in Cheshire, CT.

## **Julia (Kenney) Hall**

**Contributed by Dorothy (Dot) Daniels**

Julia Kenney Hall, formerly of Wolcott, CT, is now living at St. Mary Home in West Hartford. Julie, who is the oldest living member of the Kenney clan, is 93 years old and still going strong.

Grandkids are growing in numbers; Julie is a very proud grandmother to 23 grandkids and 29 great grandkids, ranging in age from 10 months (Miranda Zygmunt) to 40-something (we're not mentioning his name). Julie loves to get mail and would be delighted to hear from you via note or card. Her address is:

JULIA HALL. St. Mary Home, Frances Warde Apts #171  
2021 Albany Avenue, West Hartford, CT 02117

## **Recent Family Notes**

### ***Births***

**Hannah Eve Dunn** was born 27 June 1998 in Farmington, CT to Michael and Rebecca Dunn. Hannah is Michael and Rebecca's third child, and is a grandchild of Eugene and Marie Dunn of Middletown, CT.

**Miranda Lynn Zygmunt** was born May 11, 1999 to John and Janet Zygmunt.

**Shannon Rose MacGuire** was born on July 1, 1999 to William and Deborah (Kelly) MacGuire.

**Thomas Ryan Kelly** was born in Florida on July 23, 1999 to Brian and Christine Kelly.

**William James Grant** was born on June 29, 1999 to Patricia (Scully) Grant

### ***Deaths - Our Sympathy to the Family of***

**Mary (Robinson) Maynard**, died in August, 1999.

**Grace (Cully) Sullivan**, died July 24, 1999.

**Thomasine Kenney** died 21 January, 2000 as a result of injuries suffered in a house fire on Christmas Day, 1999. (see Article Above).

## Recent Family Notes, Continued

Jennie (Wallbeoff) Scully, widow of Mark F. Scully, died September 17, 1999 at age 95. She is survived by her 11 children, Jennie Teresa Hotchkiss, Joseph Francis Scully, Martin James Scully, Thomas Gerald Scully, Robert William Scully, Claire Elizabeth Kirhhof, Richard Raymond Scully, George Edward Scully, Marion Sovereigns, Loretta Lindsey, and Leslie C. Scully, forty-two grandchildren, fifty-four great-grandchildren, and 19 great-great grandchildren.

### *In Memorium*



*Jennie (Wallbeoff) Scully  
1904-1999*

*Photo Taken on Mother's Day, 1999.*

### *Engagements*

**Kevin William Flood**, son of William & Arlene Flood of Portland, is engaged to marry Julie Ann Sprenglemeyer of South Windsor. Kevin is a graduate from the University of Hartford with a Degree in Communications Arts. He is Associate Editor of the Journal Inquirer. Julie is a Staff Writer at the Journal Inquirer.

### *Weddings*

**Kathleen Signs** married James Johannsen on July 10, 1999 in Florida.

**Todd Aresco**, son of Anthony and Nancy Aresco of Portland married Melinda Artis of Portland in November, 1999. Melinda is a graduate of Portland High School and is employed by the Mortgage Lenders Network in Middletown, CT. Todd, also a graduate of Portland High School, is employed by Kennedy, Gustafson and Cole in Berlin.

## Relatively Speaking

**David Messina**, son of James and Caroline (Russell) Messina, started College at Northeastern University in 1999.

**Debbie Signs** graduated from Mitchell College with Honors in May, 1999. She is the daughter of Richard and Kathleen Signs, and the granddaughter of Al and Lee Sisson.

**Rick Mickens**, son of Evelyn Coughlin and a descendant of Martin & Minnie (O'Brien) Scully has led his Central Connecticut State University Basketball Team to their best record in more than 30 years and an automatic berth in the

NCAA tournament. Rick, a co-captain of the team, won most valuable player (MVP) and defensive player of the year in his conference and is second in the nation for steals. Congratulations for a job well done!

Congratulations to **Jack and Margaret (Peg) Scully** on the celebration of their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Jack and Peg still have a few years to go to break the family record, which was held by Patrick and Margaret (Greene) Scully, who were married for 66 years.

## 2000 Reunion Committee Meeting

A reunion planning meeting will be held Sunday April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Riverdale Motel Meeting Room on Route 66 in Portland from 1-3 p.m. All interested family members are encouraged to attend. The Family Association extends thanks to Joe Seiferman for allowing us to use the meeting facility at the Riverdale Motel.