



THE BUTLER SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

April 2005 - No. 23



We apologise for not bringing out a Newsletter last Autumn, but Melo our secretary has been having treatment for cancer. Happily, she is now restored to the computer and the membership list.

MADRID

The annual dinner in Madrid, which is so much enjoyed by those attending and gives them the chance to meet the Spanish Butlers is being held this year on the **18th of June 2005 at 9 p.m.** at **La Real Gran Pena, Grand Vía 2, 28013 MADRID**. It is important that those intending to be there notify **David Butler, Orense 46-5° J, 28020, Madrid** by **14th June**. Once again, we are indebted to the member of the Pena who sponsors us. The dress code for the gentlemen is 'jackets and ties', but there is air-conditioning.

Anyone requiring accommodation in Madrid should consider: **Hotel Casón de Tormes, Calle del Río 7, 28013 Madrid Tel: (34) 91 5419746 Fax: (34)91 5411852 e-mail: hotormes@infonegocio.com**

This hotel is priced at €121 for a double room, €94 for a single (prices include breakfast) and has been found comfortable and suitable. Other accommodation might be found through the internet (some people find Hotelclub.com to be quite useful) or through airline offers or, if given enough advance warning, David Butler might be able to advise.

USA

From Sunday 12th June to Sunday 19th June 2005, the USA Butlers are having a rally in **Gettysburg, Pennsylvania** organized by Tammy Butler who some of you may have met at the rallies in Kilkenny. <http://www.thebutlerfamily.net/>

THE PROGRAMME (OR PROGRAM) IS AS FOLLOWS:-

- Sunday, 12th June 2005 - Gettysburg
Opening Reception 7:00 - 10:00 PM - Welcome & Announcements/Schedule
- Monday, 13th June - Carlisle & Harrisburg
Coach tour to Carlisle- Visit the gun shop of Thomas Butler (Gunsmith - 1740's)
Reception/Tour & Lunch - Historic Carlisle Barrack (1757)-National Civil War Museum
- Tuesday, 14th June - Gettysburg
Coach Tour of Gettysburg Battlefield - Tour of National and Evergreen Cemeteries (Meet James Getty who portrays Pres. Lincoln in the movies Gettysburg & Gods and Generals)
Dinner and Reception in a Confederate Field Hospital (Gettysbrew Pub)
- Wednesday, 15th June - Gettysburg Genealogical Forum and talks
KIDS DAY @ the Historical Daniel Lady Farm (All are welcome!) - Step back in time and meet several Confederate Soldiers. Tour a Confederate Field Hospital - Participate in "Special Activities" for children
Deli Buffet at the Historic Dobbin House (Revolutionary Tavern)
Guided Tour of the Shiver House - Civil War Home - Evening Entertainment: Rant & Roar
- Thursday, 16th June - Antietam, (Sharpsburg) Maryland
Coach Tour of Antietam Battlefield - Wine Tasting and Tour of Adams County Winery Entertainment -Meet Mark Nesbitt, the author of The Ghosts of Gettysburg - GhostTour
- Friday, 17th June - Gettysburg Coach Tour to the Eisenhower Farm (Pres. Dwight D. Eisenhower's Home) - Possible DNA Forum - Tour of the Rupp House - Fashion Show and Dancing with the Victorian Dance Ensemble - Entertainment: Irish Town Road
- Saturday, 18th June (NOTE: This day is still in the planning stage) - Baltimore, Maryland - Coach Tour to Baltimore - Boat tour to Fort McHenry - Francis Scott Key & The Star Spangled Banner - Lunch on your own
Free to tour Inner Harbor on your own: Perhaps visit the Baltimore Aquarium or see the Constellation
Closing Reception at the Dobbin House - Ballroom 2nd Maryland Fifes & Drums Performance

- Sunday, 19th June - Gettysburg Church Service - Depart for Home or stay an extra day?

Details for Saturday, June 18th are still be finalised. There may be a few changes as everything pulls together but Tammy is very excited about the Rally and thinks you will be too. Please feel free to pass this event on to family and friends! Tammy looks forward to seeing you in June! Check out the family website as well:

Rally Costs

The Cost (per adult) to attend the Butler Rally is \$330.00 (U.S.). Children between 6 and 15 years of age are \$100.00, while children 5 and under will be free of charge.

Note: Individuals pay for all travel arrangements and for accommodation.

Information from:

Tamzen (Tammy) M. Butler

1380 Baltimore Road

Shippensburg, PA 17257

Phone: 717-530-1259 Email: rere@epix.net

NEW ZEALAND

We are sad to hear from the hard-working Secretary, Eric Collinson, that the New Zealand Society has ceased as an independent group. John Denniston put an enormous amount of effort into establishing this far-flung and successful Butler outpost. The forty members have been enrolled in the Society and we look forward to meeting those, we have not already met, at the Rallies.

BUTLER SURNAME DNA PROJECT

Members of the Society may have heard about the use of DNA analysis to identify related family groups and trace common ancestry. This technique tests the genetic material of the Y chromosome of male family members, in effect checking on their paternity. A group of Butlers, mainly in America, have started the Butler Surname DNA Project under the auspices of www.FamilyTreeDNA.com. The results are published on www.butlerdna.org listed by ID number to protect the identity of individuals. However, we wish to make it clear that there is no link between the Butler Society and the Butler Surname DNA Project beyond the fact that some members of the society are participants in the project. As a society, we do not want to encourage or to discourage our members to participate. This is an interesting project but there are potential implications to this type of research which merit careful consideration. We therefore believe that individuals should form their own informed opinion on whether to participate in this project or not.

THELMA GILLIOTT, a Vice-President of the Society and well-known to all who have attended the rallies, is having her 90th Birthday and we send her every good wish.

SALE OF BACK NUMBERS OF THE JOURNAL:

We are offering back numbers of Journals for **€5 plus postage**: Volume I Numbers 2, 7, 8 ; Volume II 1, 2, 3, 4; Volume III 1,3,4, Volume IV 1,2, A Journal including postage (surface mail) would cost: Ireland €6.50, Europe €8, Sterling £5, USA \$11(\$13 airmail), Australia, NZ & Canada \$16.

Send to **The Butler Society, Lavistown, Kilkenny, Ireland**

Lord Dunboyne's Archives

Paddy Dunboyne, who was the Society's Genealogical Assistant, died in May 2004. His son John inherited the title and Paddy's books and papers.

The volume of documents is daunting but they have all now been safely moved to John's home in Sussex, England. Much is still boxed, waiting to be catalogued, but the main files for Butler genealogy have been recreated.

Lord Dunboyne is not currently in a position to research these files on behalf of members, but he is prepared to offer access to bona fide researchers. Contact johndunboyne@aol.com to arrange a visit, preferably not during high summer.

WEBSITE

The Society's website www.butler-soc.org continues to attract new members and to provide the membership with a valuable forum for their genealogical research. The "Desperately Seeking" page generates a remarkable number of replies from the general public. Your webmaster, Lord Dunboyne, (johndunboyne@aol.com) is investigating ways to enable members to post their own queries to this page and automate the replies, on similar lines to the current "NoBo" page in the Members Only section.

The Irish Genealogical Research Society is interested in a similar system, so it is possible that we will co-operate on development. Any members with the technical skills to provide input to this project should make contact. Lord Dunboyne is also keen to stimulate debate on what members want in the way of new facilities on the website; so don't hesitate to contact him with ideas.

Rather later than planned, for which apologies, the **password** has now been changed. To enter the Members Only section of the website, **USER NAME** = aboo, **PASSWORD** = hudibras

Roger Butler from Moree, NSW Australia has sent us this account of the last Rally:

THE BUTLER SOCIETY – 13TH INTERNATIONAL RALLY IN 2003

The 13th International Butler Society Rally in Kilkenny between the 9th and 10th September, 2003 was another fabulous occasion. Unfortunately Australia was not represented as well at this rally as it had been at the previous one. Indeed we were not as well represented as were our New Zealand cousins. The Australian attendees were Anne and Roger Butler, Murray Carter from Tweed Heads NSW and Abigail Butler from Forest Hill, Victoria.

We commenced with registration at the Heraldic Museum in 2 Kildare Street, Dublin and after renewing acquaintances with many of our cousins we were then taken on a fascinating trip through the Chester Beatty Library, from there to the State Apartments of Dublin Castle then a lunch (the quality of the meals at the Butler Rallies are something to behold) at the Coach House of the castle. After that we took a trip to Phoenix Park (laid out by the Duke of Ormonde) and then on to Farmleigh and the State Guest House which until recently was the home of the Guinness family.

On Wednesday the 10th September we departed by coach from outside Trinity Collage and stopped for morning tea with the Count and Countess of Matuschka whose farm land includes Moone Abbey and the beautiful High Cross. Fancy living in a hidden wooded valley having a medieval keep for your barn and the ruins of an abbey in your backyard. Then we went on to Rathvilly in County Carlow to have lunch with Lord and Lady Rathdonnell (again well wined and dined). Kilkenny was reached mid afternoon and we were accommodated in various different locations close to the castle. The lucky ones were in Butler House. That evening there was a reception in the Parade Tower of Kilkenny Castle where we were treated to a talk by Dr. David Edwards from the Department of History of the University College, Cork on "Ormonde's Lordship of County Kilkenny – the rise and fall of Butler Feudal Power".

On Thursday there was the formal welcome to Kilkenny and the Castle by the Mayor of Kilkenny and the official opening of the rally by Sir Richard Butler, our President. We were able to have a series of splendid rally photographs on the front steps of the castle similar to the photographs that were taken at the very first rally. A considerable amount of further work as been done on the castle since the last rally and so the tour this time was another eye opener. The general meeting was held in the Parade Tower and an important event was the election of our southern region president Hinton Lowe as one of the two Vice-Presidents of the International Butler Society.

Then at 2:30, again in the Parade Tower of the castle, we heard the Hubert Butler Memorial lecture on General Sir William Butler by Martin Ryan the author of "William Francis Butler – A life 1838-1910". General Sir William Butler was a remarkable man whose life story is well worth reading.

At 5:30 we departed for Maidenhall the home of the late Hubert Butler where we were the guests of Dr. Richard and Mrs. Julia Crampton, Hubert Butler's daughter and son-in-law. I urge anyone with an interest in either Ireland or the Butler Family to read "Unfinished Ireland, Essays on Hubert Butler" and any of his books of essays or articles. His daughter Julia was responsible for publishing in the United States a book called "Independent Spirit" which is a collection of what are regarded as his best essays and they make most absorbing reading. Hubert Butler was an extraordinary man and a master of prose – a brilliant and intellectual writer with a profound sense of humanity. He was fluent in Russian, Yugoslav, German, French, Irish and English. His translation of Anton Chekhov's "The Cherry Orchard" is regarded as the finest translation of this classical work into English. His efforts received little recognition during his lifetime because despite his genius he was an Anglo-Irish

Protestant who chose to continue to live in Ireland instead of living in England. Swift and Shaw all went to England and became famous Anglo-Irish authors. Maidenhall was his home just out of Kilkenny and it was enthralling to absorb the atmosphere of his gardens, orchards and house. The society secretary, Melo is Hubert Butler's niece.

The next day, Friday the 12th we took a tour to Cahir visiting on the way the Cistercian Abbey (which includes the tomb of Piers Oge Butler) and Kilcooley House before stopping at the splendid Bishops Palace in Cashel for morning tea. Lunch was at the Galtee Inn, Cahir. We were given a tour of the well restored Cahir Castle which was once the home of the Butlers', Earls of Glengall. From there we had a trip to Swiss Cottage a "must see" for anyone who goes to that part of Ireland.

On the way back to Kilkenny we stopped at Kilcash to be entertained by the village community with beautiful singing and Irish music (and more food and wine). There is an historical connection between the Butler rally and Kilcash and the community takes it to be its absolute right to host the Butler rally members.

Saturday the 13th provided us with a genealogical forum and a discussion on the establishment on the Butler Society website with the Honourable John Butler as its web master and indirect access to his father, Lord Dunboyne for genealogical support.

During the afternoon we were given a tour of the medieval foundations of the castle. This was conducted by Ben Murtagh who was the archaeologist in charge of the recent excavations and it was a fascinating "trip". Also intriguing was the recent accidental discovery on the opposite side of the Nore River of the remnants of a medieval tower which would indicate that at one time the castle spanned the river and effectively controlled all passage up and down the river.

The rally formally concluded with the society dinner in the Parade Tower of the castle – another splendid event.

Sunday commenced with the usual morning prayer service at St. Canice's Cathedral – a beautiful Church of Ireland medieval building. More good food and wine awaited us for lunch at Kilkenny Castle before most of the travellers returned by coach to Dublin.

The committee and our Irish cousins in Kilkenny were splendid hosts and the quiet efficiency of secretary Melo, Treasurer Mark Reade and committeeman John Kirwan was outstanding.

The International Butler Society was a vision of Lord Dunboyne and Hubert Butler and it behoves all of us to seek to include as many of our cousins as we can and hopefully to encourage as many of them as possible to meet together in their regional societies but especially at the triennial rally.

My wife, Anne and I will certainly be attending the next one.

THE CARTE PAPERS IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY IN OXFORD

The correspondence of the 1st Duke of Ormonde which documents the complexities of the Restoration settlement in Ireland and the difficulties of dealing with the land claims of former Cromwellian soldiers, royalists and loyal Catholics.

A joint project by the History of Parliament Trust and the Bodleian Library with support and the Access to Archives (A2A) Programme is transforming this paper calendar into easily searchable electronic one. By the summer of 2005, 32 volumes covering the period 1660-1687 will be fully searchable online via the A2A database at <http://www.a2a.org.uk/>. Already sixteen volumes of the calendar have been posted to the Bodleian Library's web pages.

To celebrate the completion of the project, three events will take place in autumn 2005 to bring the wealth of the Carte Manuscripts to the attention of new users.

On 5th November the Society of Genealogists hosts a half day course examining sources for seventeenth and eighteenth century Irish ancestry. The following week (12 November) Oxford Dept Continuing Education will hold a one day course on Restoration Ireland. A third event will be held in Belfast (details to be confirmed).

To find out more about these events:

The Society of Genealogists, 14 Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Rd, London, EC1M7BA
Oxford University Dept of Continuing Edu, Rewley House, Wellington Sq, Oxford OX12JA

Membership Subscriptions for January 1st - December 31st 2005 are due from those who have not already paid.

Annual subscription from 2004: €15, £10 sterling, \$20 US, \$25AUS & NZ, \$25 CAN.

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