

MINUTES OF  
THE CLAN FLANAGAN  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
JUNE 2007

Present: Deputy Chair Betsy Farris; Webmaster Michael Flanagan, Historian Bud Flanagan; Secretary/Treasurer Joy Flanagan-Gardner

Apologies: Nil

Correspondence: Nil

Minutes from the last meeting: As published on the website

Business Arising from the last meeting:

- Joy Flanagan-Gardner has provided a written report to the Committee on the AGM of the Clans of Ireland. See attachment at the end of these Minutes.
- As a follow on to that report it was said that all of the displays exhibited by other clans that were represented there were excellent. The displays contained Clan newsletters and family crests, DNA results, family trees and photos were included while each Clan representative was on hand to tell the stories relating to their particular Clan along with snippets of where they were up to with organising clan gatherings across the world.

Moved: Betsy to ask for volunteers to gather information for the meeting next year to get the ball rolling on the Clan Flanagan display.

Seconded: Joy

Carried.

Fund raising was discussed without resolution. Information was made available by the Clans of Ireland in regards to Fundraising, On-line selling websites, etc. A copy of this information was forwarded to the Committee.

It was resolved that further enquiries be held by Mike and Joy in regards to an “on-line” shop.

General Business

The Clan Flanagan Constitution

It was decided that Joy would draft amendments to the current document to allow for vacancies on the committee caused by any reasons to allow the committee to continue as normal.

The draft document will be published on the website for all clan members to peruse following which a vote will be taken to adopt or reject the changes. If the changes are rejected by the majority further drafts will be written until the majority does accept the document.

Newsletter: It was decided that Betsy, Chuck and Joy will meet to discuss the newsletter at a convenient time for all.

Clan Tartan: Following general discussions it was decided that volunteers be called to participate in creating a Clan Flanagan Tartan.

Being no further business the meeting closed with the next meeting to be held on 16 September 2007.

**Report**  
**The Clans of Ireland Annual General Meeting**  
**Held 28 April 2007**

Joy Flanagan-Gardner, Secretary Treasurer Clan Flanagan

The three Clan Flanagan delegates Joy Flanagan-Gardner, Nola Flanagan-Shirley and Vicki Flanagan-Green arrived at the Dublin Library (The Gilbert) Pearse Street Dublin at the published time of mid day of the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2007 to find a smallish room furnished with tables around the walls, a podium, a power point projector, and seating to accommodate around 50 or so people, arranged in the centre of the room in auditorium style. There was a table and 3 chairs for what proved to be the seating for the Clans of Ireland Executive Committee members,

We were warmly welcomed by Fergus Kavanagh, Chieftain of the Kavanagh Clan who was thrilled and excited that we had made the journey from Australia and the USA to represent our Flanagan Clan. John Bradshaw a former member of the Executive Committee of the Clans of Ireland took us under his wing and introduced us around and while we waited for everyone to set up their displays we mingled and spoke with the various representatives from the Irish Clans in Ireland who included the Flannery's, Tierneys and Kavanaghs.

Upon being introduced to Cahir Tierney, it became apparent that he held the position of Chairperson and Secretary of the Clans of Ireland (by default he said). Although he did not introduce himself as such it wasn't until my question regarding elections of our Executive Committee and the issue of the resignation of our Chairperson did he tell of his direct decent of the Chieftain of the Name of Tierney and that elected chairpersons could in fact be called Honorary Chieftains Of The Clan, and in fact if a person could for certainty, trace his or her lineage back to the last known Chieftain of the Name (of the clan) they would then be entitled to the title of Chieftain Of The Name as is he.

It depends upon the wording of the individual Clan's Constitution as to whether or not an Honorary Chieftain of The Clan is elected. Also, it is accepted that each Sept of the Name may have and Honorary (elected) Chieftain which means that the Waterford Flanagans could elect an Honorary Clan Chieftain, the Roscommon Flanagans could elect one, etc. This same information was gained from Fergus Gillespie later on.

The displays were very interesting and enlightening. Each family name crest was displayed over the table with newsletters and other paraphernalia which included any DNA results and the happenings since the last meeting. The Flannery Clan Newsletter was a good example of a newsletter as was the Tierney Clan's publication which I will Endeavour to scan and forward for your information.

Two extremely interesting presentations were given by Patrick Guinness and Fergus Gillespie, the Chief Herald of Ireland.

The subject of Patrick's presentation involved the history of Ireland according to archeology which was absolutely wonderful. I taped some of his presentation however when the tape was finished I was so engrossed in what he was saying that I didn't notice, but we took some notes and I will make that another subject, perhaps for the Newsletter. He touched on the Ceide fields (pronounced 'caydja') which we visited a few days later on in our journey around the perimeter.

<http://www.museumsofmayo.com/ceide.htm>

The second presentation was made by Fergus Gillespie who spoke on Heraldry and its history and the fact that a Coat of Arms belongs to a person and not a group of people. For a Coat of Arms to be made, the person has to give the background of themselves to the Chief Heralds Office, with a sketch if possible of what they have in mind. This is submitted to the Herald's Office together with the amount of 300 Euro after which a herald physically draws it the coat of arms. It is all done by hand so will take a while to complete. When the draft is completed and accepted by the person a further 3000 Euro is to be paid before the item is actually completed. All in all the coat of arms costs 3,300 Euro. This may be another subject for the newsletter in the future.

Following the presentations by the guest speakers the official part of the meeting began with Chairperson, Cahir Tierney calling the meeting to order. He began addressing the gathering in Gaelge, paused and asked if we could understand him. When we said that we could not he announced that because there were visitors who did not speak the language, he would carry on with the remainder of the meeting in English. Cahir then welcomed us to Ireland and to the meeting then sent greetings from the Clans of Ireland to our Chairperson and members of our clan as well as other Clan representatives who were present at the meeting.

It was clear to me that the meeting was usually conducted in Gaelge.

After circulating the Minutes of the last meeting and going through the Business Paper as is normal, the Correspondence and Treasurer's report were presented to the meeting and accepted.

The Chairperson read the nominations for the executive committee and a vote was called. The nominees were unanimously elected and each one accepted their role. It was announced that several vacancies still exist which may be filled by the Executive through appointments if further nominees are not forthcoming. (Please note that this procedure could be adopted into the Clan Flanagan Constitution following a prior discussion.)

Due to the Clans of Ireland holdings meeting each month in Dublin, it is recommended that the members of the Committee reside in Ireland. I was asked to call for nominations from amongst our Flanagan Clan members who reside in Ireland, or those who may be able to easily attend each meeting, to join the Clans of Ireland as representatives on the Committee.

A CD was made available for each clan representative as was published in the Agenda. These PDF documents cover a range of subjects including Charitable Status, DNA projects, building a website and on line sales with a total of 12 items on the CD. Several of the subjects are items which we had set aside for consideration at our next meeting after seeking advice at the meeting. Other items were circulated including minutes of the last meeting and the Treasurer's report. It is my intention to scan these documents and send them to the executive committee for information and to the Clan Flanagan Webmaster for inclusion as well as to the editors of the Newsletter.

The meeting closed at 5.05 pm.

Because of the lateness in finishing the meeting and the time constraints with the venue, we were hustled out of the Library meeting room and after much hand shaking, more

pleasant conversation, advice and good wishes for a successful journey; everyone went their separate ways after exchanging contact details and promising to meet again soon.