



# CLANN ÓSIOCHRÚ NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 Issue 3

Winter 2009

*Shugrue, Sughru, Sughrue, Sugrue*

*ÓSiocfrada, ÓSiochfhradh, ÓSiochrú*

## Clann ÓSiochrú proudly introduces our new president.....

In response to our request for volunteers to assume the role of officers of the Clann, we have been fortunate to have three people step forward.



My name is John Sugrue (*Sean O'Siochfhradha, in Gaelic*) and I come from Innishannon in the County of Cork, Ireland. Innishannon is situated between the famous Irish towns of Kinsale and Bandon. My father, Michael Sugrue came from Sneem in County Kerry and my grandparents and great-grandparents came from nearby Templenoe, Kenmare. As a young boy growing up in Ireland in the 1940s and '50s I knew we had a unique family name because we did not know of any other Sugrue Family living in the County of Cork. We were it, or so, we thought!

Upon graduating high school in 1960, and with a far off look in my eyes, having borrowed the passage money from my sister, I was westward bound for the U.S. of A.. After a five day voyage aboard the SS Ivernia, (*affordable jet service came shortly after*) I was welcomed to New York by several aunts, uncles and a cluster of about thirty five cousins. In November of 1963 I married Mary Rowland who comes from Bellacorick in the grand and glorious County of Mayo and together we started our own branch of Clann O'Siochru. We are very grateful for the past 45 years together. During this time we raised three wonderful children, John, Patricia and Brian and they have given us five lovely grand children. We are blessed to have Tyler & Sean (*twin Sugrue boys*), John, Alyssa and little Brian. Thank God we are all blessed with good health.

After a period of working in the construction trades I was lucky enough to get a good paying union job in New York. This provided me with steady work, medical coverage and pension benefits. I retired from that job several years later and opportunities opened up for me within a local union of the AFLCIO. Over the ensuing years I was elected to several different union positions and retired as Vice President in December of 2008. I will continue to serve on the Executive Board of the International Union for a while longer.

Over the years I have been involved in many Irish American Cultural and Labor organizations throughout the New York City and neighboring areas.

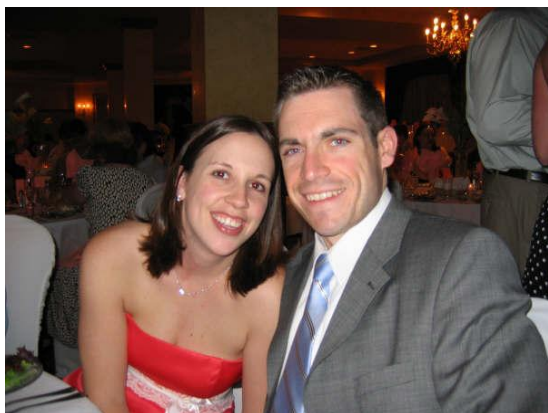
*continued on page 2*

In the September of 2008 issue of the Clann O'Siochru Newsletter, Harold Crowley, the past President of Clan ÓSiochrú, asked for volunteers to help keep the Clann alive. Chris Shugrue of Massachusetts, Jeff Sugrue of South Dakota and I answered the plea. At that time we did not know exactly what we were being asked to do, but soon afterwards we learned that we had been "designated" (elected) President, Vice President and Recording Secretary of the ÓSiochrú Clann. I'm sure that I speak for all three of us when I say, we are happy to join with Mary Murray, Francis Cummings, Clare Powanda, Jim Sugrue, and Bill Conole and will work as hard as we can to keep Clan ÓSiochrú alive and vibrant. I wish to thank Harold Crowley for his outstanding service as President of the Clan for the past several years. He did a great job and deserves our applause and gratitude.

No matter how you spell your name we are a very unique group of people! I feel we are all descendants of a Norse Viking named Sigfried, [*sorry, no first name*] who somehow came ashore on the south west coast of County Kerry some several hundreds of years ago. Yes, we all share a common relationship and *DNA* that is extraordinarily distinctive and befitting of every person ever born into this Clann.

From Skelligs Rock to Plymouth Rock, from the Parries and the Mountains, to Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and beyond we are all proud members of the ÓSiochrú Clann. As an officer of the Clann, I know we will do our best to promulgate all that we are and ever will be. In the coming months, we will keep you informed of the upcoming events, which will always be a work in progress. God be with us all.

## and Vice President.....



Christopher J Shugrue  
Vice President, Clann OSiochru  
Member Since 2006  
Age: 28  
Occupation: Technology Project Manager  
Origin: Firies, Castleisland (Co. Kerry)

Chris is the son of James and the late Donna Shugrue of Stratford, Connecticut. His father has been a member of the Clann for several years. Chris attended Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio and graduated in 2002. After graduation, Chris transferred to Minneapolis to continue working for a large Midwest bank where he had spent much of his college career. In 2004, Chris met his future wife, Lynne and shortly thereafter returned to the Northeast in early 2005 to work for another bank near his hometown in Connecticut. Later in 2005, Chris moved closer to Lynne, who lived in Milton, Massachusetts, when he accepted a new position with a tech company outside of Boston. Three years later, Chris and Lynne still live in Massachusetts. They were married in Milton in April 2008 and recently became homeowners. They enjoy traveling, cooking and exercise. In 2009, they will be representing the Shugrues at the Nashville Country Music Marathon to help raise money for cancer.

As Vice President of the Clann, Chris hopes to help the organization attract new members and establish a national identity for members of the Shugrue ancestry by strengthening regional chapters. Chris especially wants to encourage younger Shugrues and their families to join and become active members in the Clann.

## and Recording Secretary.....



Jeff was born in 1957 to Doug and Joyce Sugrue in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He grew up in Sioux Falls, Brookings and Pierre, South Dakota. Jeff graduated from Riggs HS in Pierre in 1975. He attended the University of Montana from 1975 to 1980, graduating with a BS in Forest Management. Jeff was commissioned as an officer in the US Army in 1981 and continues to serve on active duty. He married Jodi Smith of Presho in 1988.

Jeff & Jodi Sugrue settled in Silver City, South Dakota in 2002 upon Jeff's Army assignment as the Inspector General for the South Dakota National Guard. Silver City is a small village in the Black Hills (location of Mount Rushmore). They have two children, Christian (17) and Hannah (13) who are growing their South Dakota roots before beginning their own adventures. The family is active in the Silver City Volunteer Fire Department, Silver City Chapel, and Boy Scouts.



The Clann warmly welcomes our new officers and looks forward to exciting times ahead. Please watch for news and upcoming events. Also, remember to keep us posted on address or email changes. We want to stay in touch. If you do not have email, but have a friend or family member who does, we will be glad to send information to them for you.

## Clann ÓSiochrú Officers 2009

**President:**

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### Chalk It Down! ---- Ar fud an Baile ---- Around The Town

No matter where you are, we would love to hear from you. I can assure you, we are thirsting for nice things to say about our kith and kin and all of the goings on. Tell us about all the Births, Baptisms, Confirmations, Engagements, Graduations, Promotions, Weddings, Illness. And not that we are anxious to, but, we will mention the onward passing over the Great MacGillycuddy Reeks of our dearly departed. *[All things else considered, I promise we will not engage or have anything to do with dowry matrimony.]*

All this is doable, but, we must hear from you. Whatever good news you have we will Chalk It Down. You might be my 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> cousin but you are still part of the ÓSiochrú DNA. We are all different branches of the same Three.

Oh, I almost forgot to tell you, membership dues are not to be deliberated upon at this time. We will have to give that matter greater pause and broader consideration before pursuing it any further. For now, we're good. Don't forget to write. My e-mail address is attached. Love to hear from you.

For those of you in the Gaeltact, my Gaelic is, briste (broken). I've been away too long. (Do bi me ag lar go fada.) I could use a bit of your help in that department to make this Newsletter better. Any volunteers?

## 1911 Irish Census Records Now Available Online

You'll be pleased to hear that the much-delayed second release of the Irish Census project took place, rather quietly, the day before Christmas Eve. It included the 1911 census records for counties Antrim, Down and Kerry.

You can search them here:

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>.

The National Archives of Ireland say that the 1911 census returns for Cork, Donegal, Galway, Wexford and Kings (Offaly) will be released by March, and the remaining counties in monthly batches for the next four months.

The 1901 census records will be released in one fell swoop (not in batches, as originally planned) by the end of 2009.

Be sure to check for your Sugrues. There are a great many listed.



To find out more about the Irish Census taken by the British Government in 1911, go to:

[www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie)'. Click on Search Census and just print in the name Sugrue as the surname and Kerry as the county.

From there you will be able to see every person with the surname Sugrue living in Kerry as of Sunday, April 2nd, 1911. Scroll through the geographical areas and perhaps you will recognize a familiar name of a place that you may have heard of before. Click on the Sugrue name that belongs to the area and that will give you access to four documents, all hand written forms;

- 1) Household Return (Form A)
- 2) Enumerators Abstract (Form N)
- 3) House and Buildings Return (Form B1)
- 4) Out-offices and Farm Steadings Return (Form B2)

See also, who could read, write, spoke Gaelic (Irish) only, spoke Gaelic (Irish) and English.

# HERE IS A PLAN FOR THE

## ÓSIOCHRÚ CLANN

1. New website will be up and running before February 15, 2009. It will be a work in progress and we appreciate your input.
2. The Long Island Sugrue's will host the 2009 Annual Meeting Clann ÓSiochru
  - Dates being negotiated: are Saturdays (only) from September 26 thru October 10, 2009
  - Place: **Vineyard on the North Fork of LI Wine Country**  
(Pindar and Martha Clara being considered)
  - Access: **From New York City**; a bus (or buses) can be chartered from one or more locations around the NYC area. **From New England**; take the Ferry from **New London**, Connecticut to **Orient Point**, Long Island. (About an hours ride across the LI Sound.) From **New Jersey** and points south join the bus ride from one of the NYC location(s). For Airport facilities there are **Kennedy, Long Island McArthur** and other fine airports.
  - Accommodations: Several good hotels and bed and breakfast facilities in the area.  
*Listing to follow for those who are interested.*
  - Lots of things for children to do: Animal petting zoos, Teams of horse drawn wagon-rides around the vineyards and, **YES**, great pumpkin picking, nearby.

**RSVP: Your intentions by March 15, 2009. Please include the total number of attendee's**  
**Email Your Response to: [Clannosiochru@verizon.net](mailto:Clannosiochru@verizon.net)**

*(Many places require reservations to be made six month in advance.  
Therefore, your prompt response is appreciated!)*

3. Exploring the idea of establishing a **Annual College Scholarships Awards** for college bound students who are members of Clann OSiochru. These students will have to demonstrate a **serious interest** in their studies and in the Culture and History of the Clann. To sponsor such a program we need significant consideration from (several) private and/or corporate benefactor(s). Please let us know your thoughts and if you are interested in becoming a benefactor.
4. ***Clann ÓSiochru will be marching as a group in the Rockville Centre (N.Y.) Saint Patrick's Day Parade - 12 Noon on March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Everyone with a drop of O'Siochru blood is welcome to join with us! (Sunrise Highway and Long Beach Road, RVC, Parking Field 12)***

***ÓSiochrú Abú***

**From the *Boston Irish Reporter* of December, 2008**

*From "Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There"  
by Bill O'Donnell*

**"Travel Alert** – Keep an eye on the currency exchange rate if you are heading for Ireland or other Euro countries. The most recent Euro rate is down to about \$1.25 (from \$1.60) to the U.S. dollar, and the British pound (not too long ago at \$1.90 U.S. dollars to the pound) is now \$1.47. Check purchase prices in both dollars euro to figure the best price available."

**From the *Boston Irish Reporter* of November, 2008**

*From "Boston Irish Reporter's Here & There"  
by Bill O'Donnell*

**"They're Out There** – That familiar light-hearted warning heard for years when Jerry Williams ruled Boston talk radio might be said of Northern Ireland today following the recent release of some Department of Defense files. The government records newly released concern about the sightings by citizens (shades of Roswell) of unidentified flying objects or UFOs. The reports, classified until their release, report three 'sightings' at Aldergrove RAF base outside Belfast and others in Glenavy and one seen by a passenger jet bound for Heathrow in 1991. The sightings in the government reports cover the years from 1986 to 1992. Sometime during that period both the Irish Taoiseach Charles Haughey and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher were kept informed of the sightings and related UFO intelligence."

*From "News Direct from Ireland"*

**"Bertie Ahern has taken issue with an account of one of his first official visits to London as Taoiseach.** In the introduction to a new book about Oliver Cromwell by Micheal OSiochru, it is claimed that Ahern stormed out of the office of the then British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, on being faced with a portrait of Cromwell. Ahern says he remembers the occasion in 1997 and was indeed uncomfortable at the portrait being given a place of honor. Cook noticed the reaction and asked Ahern how he felt about the portrait. According to Ahern, Cook was taken aback at the strength of the feeling in his response. He did not, however, walk out of the room."

*(Note: Dr. Micheal OSiochru is a lecturer at Trinity College in Dublin. Previously he worked as a journalist in Hong Kong, as a political officer for the UN in Bosnia, and was the co-founder of Historical Insights Ltd which provides historical walking tours of Dublin. He is the author of several scholarly books.)*



**Annual Gathering Bristol, RI 10/4/08**

Left to Right: Justine and Jim Sugrue, Clare Powanda, Eleanor Morrissey, Frank Cummings, Harold Crowley, Mary Castoldi, Karen Delorey, Dan Sughrue, Mary Murray.



**Lunch with the new officers**

Left to Right: Lynne and Chris Shugrue, Jim Sugrue, John Sugrue, Clare Powanda, Mary Murray in Manhattan.

**Coming Soon.....**



**Watch for the new Clann website now under construction. Details to follow very shortly.**

## Sugrues in the News

### The other battlefield

#### The struggle for civil rights in the North, often overshadowed, gets a comprehensive review



Seventh-graders in Boston, September 1975. Sugrue downplays the impact of school desegregation in his new history

By Joseph Rosenbloom *The Boston Sunday Globe*  
November 30, 2008

#### **SWEET LAND OF LIBERTY: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North**

By Thomas J. Sugrue  
Random House, 688 pp., illustrated, \$35

Barack Obama's stunning rise to the White House has inspired hoorays as a mark of the phenomenal progress toward racial harmony in America. But Thomas J. Sugrue's study of the civil rights movement in the North suggests that nothing more than a muted celebration is warranted.

Sugrue's ironically titled "Sweet Land of Liberty: The Forgotten Struggle for Civil Rights in the North" looks backward, not forward. He does not ponder how the symbolic power of Obama's election might promote first-class citizenship for African-Americans. Still, if history is a guide to the future, the stubborn racial polarization he documents seems unlikely to vanish soon, even if the election reflects a sea change in racial attitudes. The civil rights movement may have produced a "transformation of attitudes and public discourse," he says, but it did not "dramatically change the patterns of racial inequality in the North."

The topic that Sugrue, a historian at the University of Pennsylvania whose book on crisis in urban America won a number of awards, has roped off for this study is what he calls the "unheralded struggles" for civil rights in the North. That purpose separates him from historians of the Southern civil rights saga, who have in Martin Luther King Jr. and his associates a cast of legendary figures.

Sugrue sets out to debunk "the tired clichés of recent books that fixate on the 1960s as the fundamental turning point in the history of race in modern America." His exhaustively researched account demonstrates that Northern activists achieved critical breakthroughs in the cause of African-American economic and political equality.

If his book lacks the narrative power of Southern civil rights history, that's at least partly a function of his inherently less dramatic material. Sugrue writes clearly, though blandly. His prose is downright clunky in spots, such as a description of the federal housing programs of the 1930s as having "mixed the gravel of racism into the mortar of public policy."

Many of his heroes are down-in-the-trenches activists. One is Hallie Taylor, who spearheaded protests in 1949 against the racially gerrymandered Lincoln School in the New York suburb of New Rochelle. Sugrue heralds the protests, which did not succeed in closing the school, for having advanced the drive for school desegregation by turning New Rochelle into a national "cause célèbre."

Also spotlighted is Cecil Moore, a lawyer who steered the Philadelphia chapter of the NAACP toward action and civil disobedience in a campaign to open construction jobs to black workers. The specter of African-American militancy emerging at Northern job sites impelled President Kennedy to announce his opposition to racial discrimination on federally funded projects.

Sugrue's scholarship is most impressive in his analysis of the social, economic, and political currents that swirled around the activists. Sugrue identifies cogently, if didactically, a series of intellectual concepts to explain how activists' tactics evolved.

One concept that took hold in the 1950s was the belief that racism was an irrational, but fixable, pathology of white Americans. That notion gave rise to open-housing initiatives - a push to desegregate the planned community at Levittown, in Pennsylvania, for instance. Advocates of housing desegregation believed that, if they prevailed, they would foster interracial harmony.

The idea that blacks ought to run for public office gained traction in the 1970s. Many tried. Among the notable successes were Harold Washington of Chicago and Tom Bradley of Los Angeles, the first African-Americans elected mayor of their cities.

Sugrue says that the surge into electoral politics reflected a philosophical convergence between the Northern civil rights movement and "the liberal state," stemming partly from President Johnson's War on Poverty.

Even with blacks sitting in the corner offices of many city halls, Sugrue concludes, "the most sweeping political" gains "resulted from disruption or the threat of it." Thus, he contends that marches and boycotts, not the school desegregation cases that activists brought in the federal courts, advanced the cause of equality in the North.

He cites the federal suit that forced Boston to desegregate public schools in the mid-1970s. He says the seeming victory for activists actually spelled defeat because whites eventually abandoned the educational system for the suburbs and left city schools more segregated than they had been before. A metropolitan-wide, as opposed to a citywide, plan might have been more effective, but the US Supreme Court barred that remedy in 1974 with its *Bradley v. Milliken* ruling. Even if the suits had little lasting effect in achieving racial balance, as Sugrue says, what about their symbolic value as the white establishment's attempt to root out bigotry? He doesn't say.

Of course, many of the civil rights undertakings in the North did not end in defeat. There have been important gains: the fading of overtly racist attitudes among white Americans, the growth of an African-American middle class, and the election of numerous blacks to public office.

A far less rosy picture emerges, however, from statistics that Sugrue reports: median household income (blacks' earnings are 62 percent of whites'); household wealth (\$74,900 for whites, \$7,500 for blacks); and life expectancy (78.3 for whites, 73.1 for blacks). Despite the many initiatives to integrate schools and neighborhoods where blacks are scarce or unknown, he points out, the "most persistent feature of life in the North has been racial segregation in housing and education."

No doubt the statistics are open to varying interpretations. Yet, Obama's triumph notwithstanding, few would argue that the quest for civil rights in the North is close to a mission accomplished.

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**INTERESTING information about the Gaelic Language that perhaps you are not aware of:**

In the Gaelic language there are only 18 letters.

**a, b, c, d, e, f, g, h, i, l, m, n, o, p, r, s, t, u.**

(There are no letters j, k, q, v, w, x, y, z.)

Pronunciation accents are acquired by placing forward *slanted symbol* on vowels ( e.g. Seán = Shaun) and grouping the letter h with consonances to bring out the desired stress (Siochrú). The h places weightier stress on the letter c of SIOCH-ru. With that combination you must clear the throat a little. [In some scripts you will see a dot over the consonances c, t, d, b, etc. These dots place the same emphasis the consonances as the h.]

**UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION; It's been years since the official Clann O'Siochru membership information has been updated. Over the past 30 years people have passed on, changed addresses, changed phone numbers and gotten new e-mail addresses. It is time to update the entire membership list. Won't you please take a few minutes and write or e-mail us. (Thanks we appreciate it.)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Are there other members of your family whom you would think would like to receive the Clann O'Siochru Newsletter?**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Add as many as you wish

**QUESTION (regardless of surname spelling)**

**Who is the oldest living ÓSiochrú in the whole world? Please help us identify this most cherished person. Send us a picture and/or an e-mail and tell us all about the oldest living member of your branch of the Clann.**

**GREAT OLD IRISH SAYINGS;**

“Níl aon teintean mar do teintean féin.” ## [There is no fireside like your own.]

“It's a mighty long road that does not have a bend in it.”

**LOOKING FORWARD: We have a new website coming your way, soon. Don't forget to go to your computer and check out Clann OSiochru.com. It is new and most definitely is a work in progress and needs improvement. Click on [clannosiochru.com](http://clannosiochru.com). Send me an e-mail and tell me what you think and how we can improve it.**

## Sugrue/Shugrue/Sughrue, et al History

***Territory:*** The Sugrues and Shugrues traditionally trace their lineage to the chieftain Eoghan, son of Oilioll Olum, third century King of Munster, from whom they derive their clan name Eoghanacht, or 'the people of Eoghan'. The patrimony of Eoghanacht originally encompassed much of western Munster, and the early ancestors of the Sugrues were particularly associated with Kerry and Cork where, in the later middle ages, they maintained seats at Dunloe and Fermoy. There are some one thousand bearers of the surname in Ireland today, over ninety percent of them in Kerry, with the remainder chiefly in Cork and Dublin.

***Meaning:*** The original Irish surname was OSiochfhradha, denoting literally 'grandson/descendant of Siochfhraidh', an ancient personal name introduced into Ireland by the Norse Vikings in the form Sigfrith, meaning 'victory-peace'. 'The sept has two unusual and unexplained historical nicknames in local dialect; 'Muintir an tSneachta' denoting 'people of the snow, and 'Muintir an Smear' denoting 'people of the blackberry'.

***Ancestors:*** The Sugrues are a junior branch of the great Munster sept O'Sullivan, and trace their lineage to the chieftain Suileabhan macMaolura who lived around the year 950. The Sugrues came to prominence in the fifteenth century when Murtagh O'Sugrue married the daughter of O'Brien, Marquis of Thomond; the son of this marriage was Chieftain Charles O'Sugrue (fl 1500). Later that century, Elizabethan pardons (or royal indemnities) list, amongst others, a Donough O'Sugrue of Cork in 1570 and a Conogher I Sugrue of Cork in 1584, while the scholar and theologian Dr. Charles Sugrue was Bishop of Kerry 1797-1824.

***Coat of Arms:*** In chief are two red lions denoting Strength, Deathless Courage and Might; between the lions is a hand holding a sword, around the blade of which is entwined a serpent, symbolizing Justice and Wisdom in Authority. In the dexter base is a trotting stag, the emblem of a Lover of Peace, Policy and Harmony, and in the sinister base is a black and white boar denoting a Fierce and Fearless Warrior.

***Motto:*** "Lamh Foistenach Abu" (The gentle hand to victory)

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

