

# The AGNEWSLETTER

OFFICIAL QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE AGNEW ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



Volume II, Number 3 • July 1989

## Kilwaughter Castle and the Agnews

In 1988, a newspaper published in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, the *Larne and Coast*, featured an article about the history of nearby Kilwaughter Castle. A local minister, the Rev. John Wallace Nelson, whose family originated in the Kilwaughter area, wrote a letter to the newspaper to clarify some of the facts. The following letter, quoted from the newspaper, provides some insight into the Agnews of Kilwaughter. The Rev. Nelson writes:

"There seems to be some uncertainty concerning the pedigree of the Agnew family and especially concerning Squire Jones Agnew.

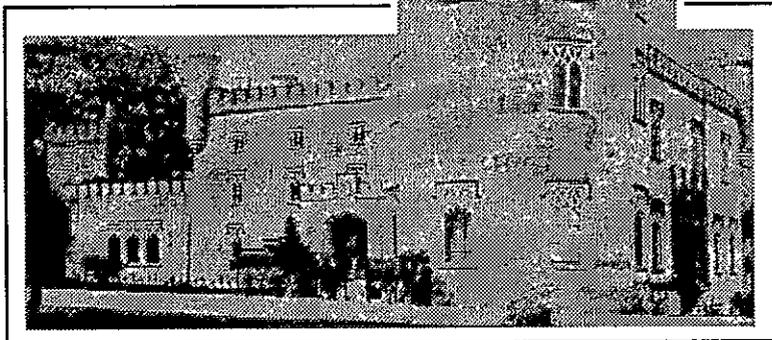
"This gentleman was born Edward Jones—the son of Valentine Jones, a Belfast merchant, and his wife Eleanor

Agnew from Kilwaughter.

"When his grandfather William Agnew (1706–1776) died, no male heir remained in the Agnew family. Edward Jones inherited the estate under his grandfather's will, on the condition that he add the surname Agnew to his own. He died in 1834 and the estate passed to his sister Miss Margaret Jones, who died herself in 1848. The estate then passed to William Agnew, the illegitimate son

See Castle, page 8

Kilwaughter Castle, circa 1892



## How to Tap Your Roots

By Dennis Coello

Reprinted from *Friendly Exchange Magazine*.

Ever wonder if you had relatives who fought in the civil War? Or if your people came through Ellis Island? Or where you great-great-grandmother was born?

Chances are the answers to all these questions—and a great many more—are waiting to be unearthed in the microfilm catacombs of Salt Lake City's Family History Library. It's free, it's fun, and you don't have to be Alex Haley to shake the limbs of your family tree in

See Roots, Page 2

### In this issue

Kilwaughter Castle .....	1
How to Tap Your Roots .....	1
Dues Reminder .....	3
Humor .....	4
Agnews and Othernews .....	4
Looking for an Agnew .....	5
Profiles .....	6
Editor's Corner .....	7
The Last Word .....	9
Membership Information .....	10

# Roots

(Cont. from Page 1)

a short time.

In fact, some of the hard work has already been performed by professional genealogists of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (the Mormons) around the world. Every day, photographers in dozens of countries use special microfilm cameras to take pictures of the past. Through nearly 90 million exposures annually, they capture the records of a bygone world—preserving on film the necessary birth, death, marriage, census, court, land title, tribal, church, military, and government data vital to piecing together the past. Shipped back to the United States, this mountain of information is cataloged and stored, waiting for curious visitors to thread their way back in time.

The task of finding your roots may seem daunting, but only until you first visit the 5-story Family History Library. There are no musty smells, stern librarians, or miles of confusing card catalogs to greet you. Instead, you're met by warm smiles and an eager query: "Hello, may I help you?" It's one question you'll hear repeated many times by dozens of volunteers during your stay.

The first stop is a 15-minute

film telling the newcomer what the library has to offer: 1.5 million rolls of microfilm (equivalent of 6 million

---

“...three complete strangers discovered they were related.”

---

300-page books), 185,000 printed manuscripts and volumes, an International Genealogical Index with over 121 million names, and more.

Next, you'll receive a free handout titled "Where Do I Start?" and instructions on how to fill out the enclosed Pedigree Chart. For this, you provide the birth, death, and marriage dates and locations for as many parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents as possible. Arriving with this information will speed

your research immensely.

Next, circle the ancestor you wish to research—preferably someone who was born before 1910 (most of the library's records date from before then because of privacy laws).

Your third step is to find out if any research has already been done on your family—the library records all the searches that have been conducted there. One volunteer tells of the day when three complete strangers from different parts of the country discovered they were related. "It was such a thrill for all of them," says veteran volunteer Ida Elizabeth Hensen, "and a joy to have helped them along."

Now it's time for the headiest part of the search: playing detective with the original documents of blood relatives you probably never knew existed. Guide Service personnel will assist you in determining where in the archives to look, but *you* have to pore through church, military, and census records to find a link.

"Their excitement at this

**See Research, page 3**

---

# Research

(Cont. from page 2)

stage is remarkable," says Mary McConnehey, a volunteer in the Special Collections section, of family fact finders. "Some-



times, especially when people locate a photograph of a relative they've never seen, they even jump up and down."

The Mormon Church operates more than 1,200 branch Family History Centers in 44

countries, most of them in Mormon meeting houses throughout the United States. From these you can begin your research without leaving your hometown: microfilm reels will be sent to these branches for a small postage and handling fee. For the locations of local archives, write Family History Library, 35 North West Temple St., Salt Lake City, UT 84150.

If you're in Denver, San Francisco, or Kansas City, Mo., the federal government also offers branch offices of the National Archives for ge-

nealogical research. These do not contain the vast array of records available in Salt Lake, but they do have enormous holdings of federal government data, including census and military records.

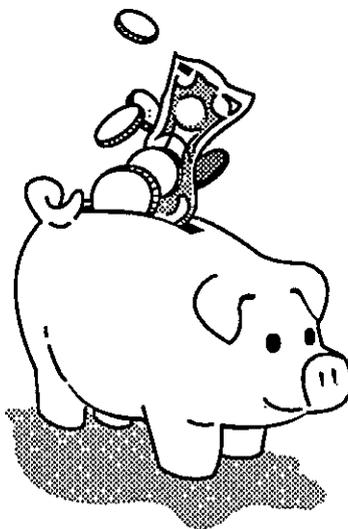
The Family History Library in downtown Salt Lake City is open Mondays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays through Fridays 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturdays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. ♦

*Copyright Meredith Corporation 1989. All rights reserved.*

---

## Dues Reminder

In the last issue of the *Agnewsletter*, we announced a dues decrease! Annual membership is \$15.00 per year for a regular membership, \$6.00 per year for students. Under the new structure, everyone will owe their annual dues on July 1. However, there will be a phase-in period because most of our members didn't join on July 1. This adjustment may "short change" some members immediately, but this is miti-



gated by the adoption of a sliding scale to phase all the members to the July through June schedule. If you haven't paid your dues for the year, you'll soon receive a reminder notice. When you do, please mail your check to Mrs. Lois Schieck, #105, 4615 N. Park Ave., Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

Thank you for your prompt payment. And remember, a membership in the Association makes a great gift for a family member! ♦

---

## Humor

---

*More about Sam Agnew, Major League Baseball Player, whose name has appeared on several occasions in this newsletter. This article was contributed by Dr. Alvin W. Agnew of Santa Rosa, California.*

Sam Agnew wound up his professional baseball career with the San Francisco Seals and he moved to Boyes Hot Springs, north of San Francisco, where he enjoyed a quiet and serene retirement until World War II events altered his calm existence.

Sam wasn't drafted—into the army, anyway. Rather, Santa Rosa Junior College

found they were losing their athletic coaches to the conflict.

Someone connected with the college was aware of Sam's success as a player and because he was beyond military age, he was invited to serve as the Junior College baseball coach. He accepted and when the training season started, Sam began teaching the players the fine art of the game. Unfortunately, some didn't



learn quickly enough for him, and Sam let them know about it with rather colorful expletives, blistering the potential players.

The College Administration Department heard about the profanity. But when he was called in to discuss it, Sam, true to his character, said, "to hell with it" and resigned 3 weeks after he started. ◆

---

## Agnews — and Othernews

---

### Congratulations—

Sir Crispin and Lady Susan Agnew are the proud parents of a lovely baby daughter named Roseanna. She was born in Scotland on Sunday, April 16. ◆

Eleanor and Russ Agnew of Salinas, California are celebrating their fiftieth wedding anniversary in August. ◆

### New members—

**Ronald E. Agnew**  
Rte 2, Oak Valley Rd.  
Toccoa, GA 30577

Ronald's brother David, of Monroe, Georgia, gave him a gift membership in the Agnew Association as a birthday present. Happy birthday, Ronald. We hope you enjoy the *Agnewsletter*. ◆

### In memorium—

We were saddened to learn that one of our members, Mrs. Ruth Miner of Denver, Colorado, has passed away. Our sympathies to her family. ◆

### Othernews—

Sir Crispin has accepted the Caledonian Club's invitation to visit the 1990 Gathering and Games in California. ◆

# Looking for an Agnew—

*This issue, we have inquiries from two members who have provided us with partial family trees. If anyone can make a connection, please contact these members.*

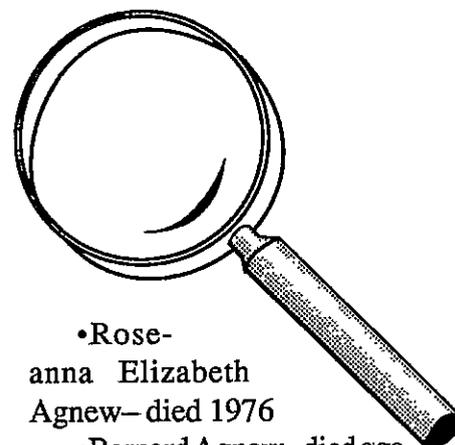
**Martha Agnew Dickerson** is seeking information about her grandfather, Arthur Agnew. If anyone has any information that might help Martha, please write to her at 13493 Cooper Rd., Spring Hill, Florida 34609. The following is what she currently knows about her grandfather.

Arthur Agnew, born in 1836 in Dorgheda, County Louth, Ireland. Died Novem-

ber 26, 1912 at St. Mary's Hospital, Orange, N.J.

He came from Ireland through Canada in 1868 and he lived in Canada for two years before coming to New York in 1870. He worked on Long Island, New York in the potato fields before moving to Jersey City, New Jersey, where he bought a farm next to the Holy Name Cemetery. He and his wife, Elizabeth (Liza) Hynes Agnew, are both buried there. Elizabeth also came from Ireland, County Tipperary.

Their children were:



- Rose-anna Elizabeth Agnew—died 1976
- Bernard Agnew—died age 27 on January 5, 1924
- Arthur Joseph Agnew (Martha's father)—born Sept. 11, 1888, died Sept. 26, 1971
- John Agnew—died age 7
- Mary Agnew—died in infancy
- Thomas Agnew—died January 5, 1934
- Elizabeth Agnew—died in infancy

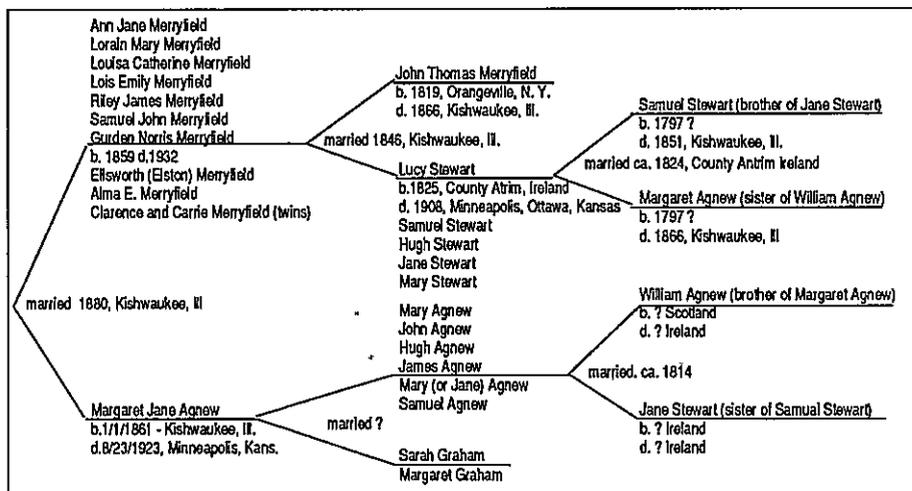
**Helen Belt** of Lane, Kansas is seeking information about her Agnew connections. She sent the following information from family records, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who can offer more. Refer to the inset for an abbreviated version of the charts Helen sent.

**William Agnew** (thought to have been born in Scotland before moving to Ireland) and **Jane Stewart** married in Ireland circa 1814. Wil-

liam and Jane Agnew's six children moved to Canada and lived near Oxford Mills, County

Granville, Ontario, Canada. Five of the six moved to Win-

*See Helen Belt, Page 9*



---

## Profiles

---

*This issue, we're profiling two genealogical societies which may help us in our research. If you know of other sources for genealogical research, please send us the information. We'll pass it on to our members.*

---

### New England Historic Genealogical Society

The New England Historic Genealogical Society was founded in 1845. The group, located in Boston, Massachusetts, was the first organization dedicated to the study and preservation of family and local histories. The Society's collections include local histories for all states and Canadian provinces and vital records for Massachusetts from 1841 to 1895. It also houses the largest private collection on European families, including Irish and British families, as well as a



large collection of Canadian families.

The Society houses more than 200,000 genealogical books, one million manuscripts, and an expert genealogical staff. For members who cannot visit the center in Boston, the Society offers a 20,000 volume circulating loan collection which is available to members anywhere in the U.S. and Canada.

Annual membership runs \$40.00 for individual membership, \$60.00 for family mem-

bership. The Society's facilities are available to the public for day-fees. The Society offers a quarterly journal, *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, published since 1847, and a bi-monthly newsletter. It provides a professional staff and referral service and offers publications, genealogical charts, and other materials for sale.

For more information, write to the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: Linda Naylor. ♦

---

### The State Historical Society of Wisconsin

The State Historical Society of Wisconsin offers numerous tools for the genealogical researcher, both novice and experienced. Located in Madison, Wisconsin, the Society is open to the public and genealogical researchers are welcome to use its collections. The Society operates a library

which possesses one of the largest genealogical collections in the country. More than two million items housed in the library deal with family or local history. While much of the information in the library is associated with Wisconsin, the library attempts to acquire all available historical and genea-

logical materials relating to any part of the United States and Canada. The *Agnewletter* is acquired by the Society and is part of its vast collection. The Society does not, however, collect foreign historical or genealogical publications.

**See Wisconsin, page 7**

---

## Wisconsin

(Continued from Page 6)

The library has a complete file of all the available schedules of the 1790–1910 U.S. Censuses for all the states as well as all the available censuses of Canada, 1666–1881. These materials are not available for interlibrary loan, but are available to researchers visiting the library.

Passenger lists are among the most frequently requested genealogical materials, and the library holds most of the lists from the colonial period through the early nineteenth century. The library holds most of the items cited in the *Passenger and Immigration Lists Bibliography* by P. William Filby (Detroit, Gale Research, 1981) and its 1984 supplement, as well as most of the available

microfilm from the National Archives of lists for the major U.S. ports through the late 1800's as well as those for Quebec, 1865–1900 and Halifax, 1890–1900. These materials are not available for interlibrary loan.

The Society Library holds a large collection of newspapers which is national in scope, featuring colonial newspapers, ethnic and labor newspapers, and papers from major cities. Many of the papers are available for interlibrary loan.

The Society receives a large number of mail requests for genealogical research assistance, so only limited searching can be performed in response to a particular request. Genealogical questions by mail

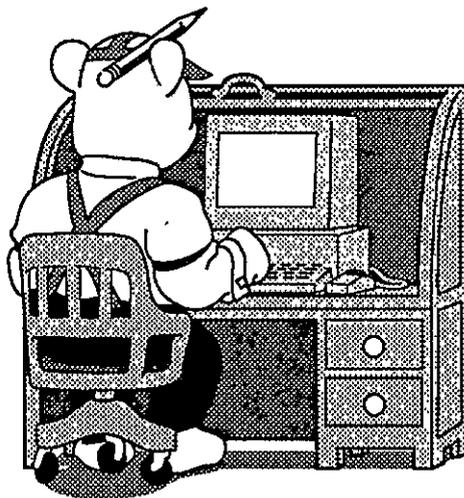
may be directed to the Reference Librarian, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. For a fee, the Society offers more detailed information about the genealogical materials available through the Society and how to use them. For \$5.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling (Wisconsin residents add 5% sales tax) the Society will send its *Genealogical Research, An Introduction to the Genealogical Resources of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin* (1986). To order, write to Publication Orders Department, 816 State Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53706–1482. ♦

---

## Editor's Corner

Much of this issue has been devoted to information about genealogical research. We wish to thank Meredith Publishing Services for granting us permission to reprint the article *How to Tap Your Roots*. We are sure the information from that article, and the information from the *State Historical Society of Wisconsin* and the *New England Historic Genealogical Society* will assist you in furthering your own family research.

A special thanks to all who contributed information and sent favorable comments about the *Agnewsletter*. It is gratifying to know that so many of you like the new look. Please continue to send your ideas and information about your families so that we can continue to produce a useful and informative newsletter.



# Castle

(Cont. from Page 1)

of Edward Jones Agnew by Nellie Galbraith, who died, without issue, in 1891.

"This William Agnew had a sister Maria who married a gentleman named Symmonds. It was their daughter, Mary Maria Augusta, who was to marry Count Ugo Balzanni.

"However, Count Balzanni had relatively little connection with Kilwaughter and was more preoccupied with his Italian interests, as indeed were all the family after this time.

"The last major rebuilding of Kilwaughter Castle was undertaken ~~not by~~ Count Balzanni but by Edward Jones Agnew, commencing in 1799.

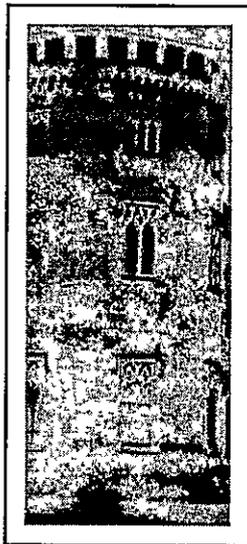
"The remodelled house was based on [modeled after] Killymoon Castle the County Tyrone home of the Stewart family, with whom the Agnews had marriage ties extending over three generations.

"It was at this time that John Nash was involved in the work of redesign, and it is the decayed ruins of this rebuilding which the present day visitor may still see.

"Kilwaughter Castle was, in its heyday, a magnificent house with all the trappings of gentile living. Yet, repeatedly over its long history, and espe-

cially in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the master, or mistress, was a single person and therefore not living amid all the trappings of a married couple, or even more so of a couple with a family.

"The castle was probably at its peak in the last years of the nineteenth century, but decline markedly after that.



"At first there were tenants—a Mrs. Galt Smith was in residence during the First World War—but then the Balzanni family had decided that they did not wish to live in Kilwaughter again and in 1920 the contents were sold by public auction.

"However, some of the family did return between the

wars and lived in the house, although on a much reduced scale. With the outbreak of the Second World War their Italian nationality led to the confiscation of the property and while it was returned afterwards, the progress towards decay and ruin was inexorable.

"By the 1940's virtually every farmer on the Kilwaughter estate had purchased their land, and the rent role, so vital to the upkeep of houses like Kilwaughter Castle, no longer existed. In the absence of any substitute income, abandonment had to follow.

"There is still something pleasing and graceful about the crumbling walls. A reminder of times that are long gone and of a way of living that was both more settled and more refined than the modern world seems to have time for."

*The current owner of Kilwaughter Castle is Frank Ferguson, from Whitehead, who bought the castle in 1982. He describes the castle as a "lovely old place" and says it should be preserved.*

*Article courtesy of Lois Schieck, the Agnew Association's Secretary-Treasurer.*

## Helen Belt

(Cont. from Page 5)

nebago or Ogle County, Illinois. Daughter Jane Agnew remained in Canada and married a Mr. Johnston, but their six children moved to the United States and settled near Minneapolis, Kansas.

William Agnew's sister, Margaret Agnew, married Samuel Stewart, Jane Stewart's brother. All the children of these two marriages were double first cousins. The entire family immigrated to the New World following a similar path.

Lucy Stewart (first born of Samuel Stewart and Margaret Agnew) married John Thomas Merryfield in 1846 in Kishwaukee, Illinois. Five of their twelve children married Agnews. Helen's grandparents were Gurden Norris Merryfield (born July 15, 1859) and Margaret Jane Agnew. They were married on January 1, 1880.

If anyone can provide Helen with information about her family, please write to her at Route 1, Box 113, Lane, Kansas 66042. ♦

## The Last Word — Convener Art Agnew

Never volunteer for anything! That is a very familiar military expression. However, if one adheres to this philosophical rationale, one can miss out on some interesting conundrums. I think I volunteered—maybe coerced is a better word—to lead the Agnew Association of America—a group of more than 100 who exalt the name of Agnew but who, for the most part, remain silent about what they expect from the association.

In the short time since I volunteered, many strides have been made toward revitalizing the association—I can point to three in particular.

First, reducing the dues and establishing a payment schedule are an incentive to increase membership—or at least encourage existing members to renew and offer gift memberships to family members.

Second, restructuring and modernizing the *Agnewletter* has generated enthusiastic responses and even spawned an increase in membership. It is now possible to anticipate what each issue will cover, and it provides a forum for the exchange of familial, historical, genealogical, and social infor-



mation.

Finally, our early preparation for the Agnew Family Gathering in Santa Rosa, California in 1990 will make it possible for many of us to personally share experiences and meet more Agnews.

My progress for even faster improvements in the Association has been temporarily slowed by unanticipated increases in business activity, meaning a curtailment of non-business functions. I hope soon to be able to devote more of my energies to plans for the Association's future.

I hope *you* will become more involved, too. You can do this by promoting new subscriptions and by submitting articles, news items, family histories, and ideas. *Start now!* Anyone who offers suggestions will receive a welcome response from this convener! ♦

## Agnew Association Membership

*The Agnew Association of America was established in the United States in April 1984 at the request of Sir Crispin Agnew, Bt. of Lochnaw, Chief of the Family Agnew. The purpose of the Association is to bring together all of the name Agnew or those descended from the name Agnew to promote interest in lineage and exchange of information. An Association newsletter is published quarterly to disseminate items of Agnew interest and assist contacts with other members tracing their Agnew line. The newsletter is available to members only, and back issues are available at \$3.00 each to members and prospective members. Member queries are answered without charge.*

*In order to support the Association, the Board of Directors established*

*annual dues of \$15.00, and \$6.00 for students. Dues are payable by July 1 of each year.*

*Life membership in the parent Association in Scotland is \$30 in the United States and Canada.*

*Membership application for both the American and Scottish associations and annual dues should be sent to:*

*Mrs. Lois Schieck  
Apt. 105, 4615 North Park Avenue  
Chevy Chase, MD 20815*

*Please make checks payable to the Agnew Association of America. For membership in the Agnew Association of Scotland, send a separate check for \$30 payable to the Agnew Association.*



### Agnew Association Officers

Arthur W. Agnew—Convener  
Kenneth H. Agnew—Co—Convener  
Lois Schieck—Secretary/Treasurer  
Pat Alexander—Archivist  
Dr. G. Marie Agnew-Marcelli—  
Historian  
Magalen Bryant—Director  
Jean Schneider—Membership  
Carol Agnew Smith—Editor



### Honorary Members

Colonel John Park Agnew—  
Convener Emeritus  
Sir Crispin and Lady Susan Agnew  
Lady Swanzie Agnew

### THE AGNEWSLETTER

Agnew Association of America  
P.O. Box 691  
Petaluma, California 94953



Dr. Marie Agnew Marcelli  
61 Maple Ave.  
Hastings-on-Hudson, NY  
10706

