

REPORT ON THE O DEA CLAN GATHERING JULY 1993

The second International O Dea Clan Gathering was held in Ennis, Co. Clare from July 9-12, 1993. It was attended by over 150 people from Ireland, Britain, USA, Australia and Holland. Over 90 of the visitors were from overseas.

Proceedings began on the Friday evening with a sherry and whisky reception for all clan members. Also present at the reception were a number of local dignitaries who welcomed our chieftain, John B O Day and his clan to the historic town of Ennis. Former chairperson of the Irish Senate, Treas Honan, gave an address of welcome on behalf of the Ennis Urban District Council. Michael Leahy, of the Ennis Chamber of Commerce and, Patrick Blake, of Clare Tourism also spoke.

Ristard Ua Croinin, author and archaeologist, gave the inaugural lecture on "Life in Medieval Dysert." This interesting and well received lecture was followed by a talk from James O Dea of Clontarf, on sources for tracing Irish family history.

And so began a busy weekend where the O Deas/O Deas/Days, their families and friends, came together to discuss their heritage and their ancestry on this their second clan gathering.

Irish culture and traditions were not forgotten either, as there were sessions, set dancing, singing, story telling and traditional music throughout the weekend.

Highlights of the weekend included: a guided tour of the Clare Archaeological Centre at Dysert O Dea Castle, a tour of the Burren, the re-election of John B O Day as clan chieftain, a hilarious medieval banquet at Bunratty Castle, Sunday Mass in Gaelic, concelebrated by Dom Bernard O Dea of Glenstal Abbey, Fr. Carthage O Dea of Australia and Fr. Vincent O Dea of Kinsman Ohio.

The proceedings on the final day began with the Triennial General Meeting of the Dysert O Dea Clan Association, and were concluded, with a golf outing to the Ennis Golf Club.

The next O Dea Clan Gathering will take place in July, 1996.

by Ristard Ua Croinin
