

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library

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06/01/1984-06/04/1984)
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240352

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TR105-01

GI002

July 6, 1984

Dear Mr. Peskett:

One of the most welcome gifts I received during my visit to Ireland is the compendium on my genealogy which you presented to me on behalf of the people of Ballyporeen. I truly appreciate the exacting research that the staff of Burke's Peerage devoted to producing this beautiful hand-printed volume, and it is a treasured addition to the Reagan family memorabilia. Please convey my deep gratitude to the Ravendale Group and to everyone who had a part in this unique remembrance.

Nancy and I shall always cherish the fond memories of our visit to my ancestral homeland. We certainly enjoyed meeting you and we want you and your staff to know that you have our warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

RONALD REAGAN

Mr. Hugh Peskett
Research Director
Burke's Peerage
1 May Hill
London, England

RR:CMF:JEH:AVH:mds

DISPATCH THRU STATE.

Gift (Compendium
of Genealogy)

3407

7

July 5, 1984

Dear Mr. Peskett:

One of the most welcome gifts I received during my visit to Ireland is the compendium on my genealogy which you presented to me on behalf of the people of Ballyporeen. I truly appreciate the exacting research that the staff of Burke's Peerage devoted to producing this beautiful hand-printed volume, and it is a treasured addition to the Reagan family memorabilia. Please convey my deep gratitude to the Ravendale Group and to everyone who had a part in this unique remembrance.

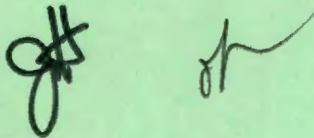
Nancy and I shall always cherish the fond memories of our visit to my ancestral homeland. We certainly enjoyed meeting you and we want you and your staff to know that you have our warm best wishes.

Sincerely,
RR

Mr. Hugh Peskett
Research Director
Burke's Peerage
1 Hay Hill
London, England

RR:CMF:JEH:AVH

DISPATCH THRU STATE.

Two handwritten signatures are present at the bottom of the page. The first signature on the left is a stylized, cursive 'JH' with a large loop. The second signature on the right is a more fluid, cursive signature, possibly 'RR', with a long, sweeping tail.

The Pedigreed President

By Michael Getler

As if Walter Mondale didn't have enough on his hands with Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson, he soon will have to contend with British genealogical bloodhounds who report that President Reagan is descended from the great 11th-century Irish King Brian Boru, whose specialty was beating up on Viking invaders.

"Mondale's [Norwegian] ancestors were Vikings, and Brian Boru always beat the Vikings," says Hugh Peskett, the senior genealogist associated with a new volume on Reagan's royal roots that will be presented to the president on June 3, when he visits the ancestral home of his great-great-grandfather at Ballyporeen in the Irish county of Tipperary.

So, says Peskett, who is dubbed the "Sherlock Holmes" of genealogy, "if genetics mean anything, the election is a foregone conclusion."

What's more, says Harold Brooks-Baker, publishing director of Burke's Peerage, the respected London title tracers that produced the volume, "President Reagan is the most royal of all American presidents since George Washington."

The 20-plus-page, red, calfskin-bound volume to be presented as a gift to the president is a hand-printed, one-of-a-kind book that cost about \$8,400 to produce and more than \$140,000 to research over the last three years, according to Brooks-Baker. The money came from a London investment banking firm, Ravenale Business Expansion Management Ltd., which saw the effort as a "good public-spirited, public relations exercise," he says.

Actually, the hero of the Burke effort is not Reagan but King Boru. Aside from dying gloriously in the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 while saving Ireland from the Vikings, the king, through four wives, managed to produce a bloodline that descended the centuries to produce Mary Queen of Scots, Queen Elizabeth of England, all the present-day royal families still holding forth in Europe and most of the royalty that has been exiled.

The best supporting role in the Burke's history goes to King Boru's brother, Donnchuan, who produced six nephews to the king. Among them was one named "Riagain," from whom descended the "O'Regan" name and even-

Genealogists Say Reagan Is Descended From Irish King

tually the "Reagan" who became 40th president of the United States.

According to this volume, there is hardly anyone who isn't descended from Boru. France's socialist President Francois Mitterrand also appears to be a Reagan cousin genealogically if not ideologically via links to George I of England and the Emperor of Hannover that stretch back to King Boru. Brooks-Baker says that it's all in the genes. "There may be such a person as a self-made man. But we have yet to find one."

Shortly after the 1980 election, another well-known British ancestral sleuth, Debrett's Peerage, traced Reagan's Irish roots back to his great-great-grandfather, Thomas O'Regan, who was reportedly born around 1810 in Doolis in Ballyporeen Parish. The exact birth date can't be fixed, Brooks-Baker says.

When this first genealogical search report was given to President Reagan, both Brooks-Baker and Peskett worked for Debrett's. The new volume to be presented to Reagan next month essentially pushes the research of the family tree back several centuries, an effort that Brooks-Baker said involved some 300 researchers working at various times under Peskett and that is hampered by the destruction of many Irish archives during the civil turmoil in that country in the early 1920s.

According to Brooks-Baker and his associates, it has been known for a long time that King Boru had a nephew named Riagain. The assumption was that anyone from that part of Ireland with that name was descended from the royal family. But the question was how to prove it. The various spellings of the name complicated the task, plus the scarcity of documents that go back more than 900 years in some cases.

Ultimately, the puzzle came together by the discovery and correlation of three key documents that enabled the researchers to eliminate Regan family names that were not royal descendants and pin down as closely as possible the linkage of the president to royalty. Burke's officers say that their efforts and the documents do not show actual lineal descent, but rather make the link be-

tween Ronald Reagan and the portion of the royal family that settled in the area known as Cregg near Ballyporeen.

The first key document, which Brooks-Baker calls a "Rosetta stone" in figuring out the linkage, was found a few months ago in a walled-up room in Lismore Castle, the home of the Duke of Devonshire, in Chatsworth, England. The so-called "Book of Lismore," written about 1500, makes the link between the Riagain and O'Regan names and identifies the home of the O'Regans in the Middle Ages with the lands at Cregg.

Then researchers found a copy of a document in French archives, the original of which now reportedly is in the Bodleian library at Oxford in England, which was written "within about 100 years of the death of Brian Boru, in the early 12th century," according to the text of the new volume. Because the document is written within what the report calls "grandfather's memory" span, it is "acceptable evidence in genealogy . . . that the O'Regan family traces from Riagain, son of Donnchuan, the nephew of Brian Boru."

It was also discovered that when King James II of England went into exile in France in 1688 because he was a Roman Catholic, he took with him a herald by the name of James Terry. A One of the officers who went with James II was John O'Regan. To remain on the continent, officers had to get certificates of nobility issued by Terry that produced evidence of the aristocratic descent.

O'Regan's certificate, which is in the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris, recited the O'Regan pedigree for four generations and established his link to the earlier Irish royalty, the new volume says. "What we have been able to prove," Brooks-Baker says, "is that John O'Regan is one of the ancestors of the president." Thus, he adds, the coat of arms designed for John O'Regan by James Terry may also be used by Ronald Reagan. It is embossed on the frontispiece of the new volume for the president.

Once the research was completed, Brooks-Baker said, his firm wanted confirmation of its efforts by an independent expert and got the chief herald of Ireland, Donal Begley, to "put his blessing on this." That's like "the Good Housekeeping seal in the genealogical world," he said.

Presented to

HONORABLE
RONALD REAGAN

FORTIETH PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

by

BURKE'S PEERAGE

on behalf of the people of Ballyporeen
and all who are proud of their Irish heritage

Ballyporeen
June 1984



on behalf of the people of Ballyporeen
and all who are proud of their Irish heritage

Ballyporeen
June 1984



Burke's Peerage

1 Hay Hill, London

COLOPHON

✓ Compiled by Hugh Peskett, Research Director
of Burke's Peerage, and his staff.

Designed by Ian Mortimer and printed at his Press,
I.M. Imprint, London, on Barcham Green
R.W.S. hand-made paper.
Set in Baskerville and Old Face Open.

Bound by James Brockman, Designer-Bookbinder, Oxford.

Heraldic painting by Peter Spurrier,
Portcullis Pursuivant of Arms.

Calligraphy by Ann Moring.

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Special thanks are due to Mr Donal Begley,
Chief Herald of Ireland,
Sir Iain Moncreiffe of that Ilk, Bart.,
The Reverend Eanna Condon and the people of Ballyporeen,
Ambassador Charles H. Price II and Mr Landon Parvin
of the Embassy of the United States of America (London),
all of whom have made this presentation possible.

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of this Book

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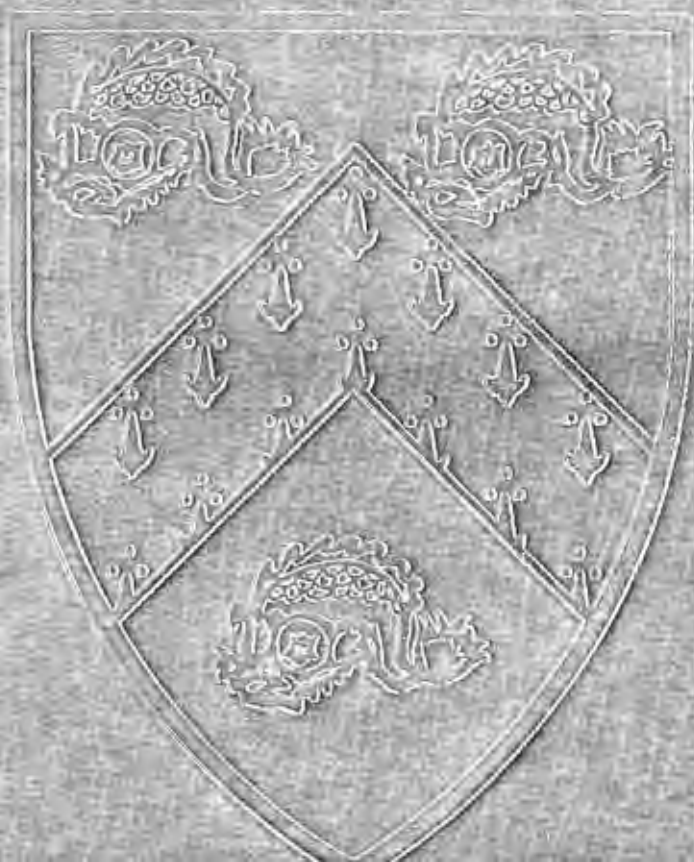
extend their greetings to

President and Mrs Reagan

on the occasion of

their visit to Ballyporeen

3rd June 1984



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Nigerium Case -	\$ 1.10 -
Marbled Paper -	\$ 20 -
Dies - (Seals)	\$ 250 -
Set up 0.25	\$ 100 -
Hand tool -	\$ 50 -
Labor -	240 -

Case -	\$ 720
	\$ 350
	<div>\$ 1070</div>

+ PRINTING OF
TEXT -

JUNE 3, 1984

BALLYPOREEN/DUBLIN

OFFICIAL PARTY, GUEST AND STAFF
INSTRUCTIONS

Official Party will be escorted from Church following THE PRESIDENT's departure.

1:35 pm

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan, accompanied by Father Condon, depart Church of the Assumption en route O'Farrell's Pub.

NOTE: Foreign Minister and Mrs. Barry join THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan.

See DIAGRAM 5.

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

NOTE: Pause for viewing of future location of Ronald Reagan Community Center en route.

1:50 pm (L) THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan arrive O'Farrell's
8:50 am EDT Pub and proceed inside.

See DIAGRAM 6.

Met inside by:

John and Mary O'Farrell, owners of
O'Farrell's Pub and Ronald Reagan
Lounge

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

THE PRESIDENT and Mrs. Reagan proceed into Ronald Reagan Lounge for brief photo session with the O'Farrell's.

Refer to DIAGRAM 6.

NOTE: THE PRESIDENT is presented a copy of his family tree by Hugh Peskett, Debre'tt's Peerage.

OFFICIAL PHOTOGRAPHER ONLY

Capt. John Hildner 5-16-11

9

240352

TR 105-01

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 6, 1984

Dear Mr. Peskett:

One of the most welcome gifts I received during my visit to Ireland is the compendium on my genealogy which you presented to me on behalf of the people of Ballyporeen. I truly appreciate the exacting research that the staff of Burke's Peerage devoted to producing this beautiful hand-printed volume, and it is a treasured addition to the Reagan family memorabilia. Please convey my deep gratitude to the Ravendale Group and to everyone who had a part in this unique remembrance.

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Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mr. Hugh Peskett
Research Director
Burke's Peerage
1 Hay Hill
London, England

REFERRAL

DATE: 06 JUL 84

MEMORANDUM FOR: STATE SECRETARIAT

DOCUMENT DESCRIPTION:

TO: FORTUGALEZA, AIDA N

SOURCE. PRESIDENT

DATE: 06 JUL 84

KEYWORDS: PHILIPPINES

GREAT BRITAIN

FRANCE

SUBJ: PRES THANK YOU FOR COURTESIES EXTENDED IN ENGLAND

REQUIRED ACTION: FOR DISPATCH

DUE DATE: 09 JUL 84

COMMENTS.

Tindell
FOR ROBERT M. KIMMITT
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

RECEIVED 06 JUL 84 18

TO FORTUGALEZA, AIDA N FROM PRESIDENT

DOCDATE 06 JUL 84

KEYWORDS: PHILIPPINES

GREAT BRITAIN

FRANCE

SUBJECT. PRLS THANK YOU FOR COURTESIES EXTENDED IN ENGLAND

ACTION: PRES SGD LTRS

DUE:

STATUS C FILES WH

FOR ACTION

FOR CONCURRENCE

FOR INFO

NONE

CHILDRESS

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COMMENTS COBB

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ACTION OFFICER (S)	ASSIGNED	ACTION REQUIRED	DUE	COPIES TO
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DISPATCH

W/ATTCH FILE (C)



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TR105-01

Burke's Peerage

1 Hay Hill, London W1X 7LF
409 - 1583

4 June 1984

My Dear Mr President,

It was an honor, yesterday in Ballyporeen, for me to present you with the results of my research into your ancestry. I am most grateful for the time you were able to give me.

Firstly I am pleased to confirm your request for me to research the ancestry of Mr Donald Regan.

Secondly I hope to be able to provide you with more information about your mother's Wilson ancestry before you leave London at the end of this week.

Sincerely yours,

Hugh Peskett
Research Director
Burke's Peerage

Honorable

Ronald Reagan,
President of the United States of America,
Embassy of the United States,
Grosvenor Square,
London W.1.