

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION AND CURRENT STATUS

(for information of potential sponsors and any other interested party)

**PROJECT TITLE:** THESE OLD WALLS - THE HOMES OF OUR GREAT-GRANDPARENTS.

**OBJECTIVE:** To create the conditions whereby an accredited heritage institution such as the Cavan County Museum in Ballyjamesduff, County Cavan, could take on the leadership and direction of the project, with a start date as early as possible in 2011. At this initial stage, the two critical requirements are:

1. To find a qualified and motivated 'Project Manager', based in the Bailieborough area, to champion the project; and
2. To obtain enough seed money through a Government Employment Program (or other source) to fund the Project Manager's operation, including the expenses of a predominantly volunteer team of 'helpers'.

**PROJECT JUSTIFICATION:** The primary justification is to contribute to the preservation of a heretofore neglected part of the history and heritage of pre-electrification rural Ireland, starting with the townlands surrounding Bailieborough, County Cavan. The spin-off benefits include economic stimulation through employment, skills development, cultural awareness, and tourism primarily from 'Irish Diaspora' based on genealogical interests.

#### PROJECT TASKS:

**Stage 1-** Execute a 'Pilot Project' in a few townlands in the parish of Tierworker, near Bailieborough, to

- a) Prepare an inventory of the ruins (old walls) of abandoned residences of the small farmers and labourers as recorded in the 1901 and 1911 Censuses, and tie in with Census baseline;
- b) Take a few photos of the ruins
- c) Record the GPS latitude and longitude of the site;
- d) Write/record a few paragraphs identifying the people who lived there, stories about them, and where their descendants might be today - most of which would be based on memories and oral accounts by some of the surviving 'old folk' in the neighbourhoods;
- e) Post the resulting data and information on a professionally structured and managed website controlled by the Cavan County Museum (or equivalent);
- f) Communicate the planning and completion of the pilot project to interest groups around the world - such as Genealogical and Historical and Heritage Societies and their Magazines;
- g) Keep local communities informed and involved at all stages.

**Stage 2 -** Evaluate the results from the Pilot Project, and if warranted, organize follow-on projects in more townlands and more parishes until all of Ireland is covered - a big undertaking, but could pay rich dividends in social, cultural, and economic terms.

#### ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

- Letter by Philip Donnelly to the *Anglo-Celt* newspaper published March 31, 2011. Click on: <http://www.anglocelt.ie/opinion/letters/articles/2011/03/31/4004070-letters-to-the-editor/>
- Proposal by Philip Donnelly dated Nov 2009 (not successful) to Ireland's Heritage Council. Click on: <http://www.donnellycanada.com/images/stories/articles/heritageapplication.pdf>
- Communication by Philip Donnelly with Mike Feerick, CEO of Alison, who is leading a related project based in Loughrea, County Galway entitled 'Ireland Reaching Out'. Click on: [www.Irelandxo.org](http://www.Irelandxo.org)

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