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"FOR OUR INHERITANCE"

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O'DOCHARTAIGH CLANN REUNION 2008 A GRAND TIME IN COUNTY DONEGAL!



Ye Lords & Ladies
of the Reunion 2008 Medieval Banquet pose for a
group photo while sharing a laugh with the
Court Jester and their invited Viking guest!

[Photo courtesy of Kitty Barr, seated immediately behind the Young Lord lad.]

MADDIE, THE BEE, & THE SILVER KEY

Can you spell "exceptional?" Allow me to use the word in a sentence: Madeline "Maddie" Weiner is an *exceptional* young lady! She finished the eighth grade, at Turkey Foot Middle School in Edgewood, Kentucky, by competing in the Scripps National Spelling Bee Competition in Washington, DC; a few weeks before her poem, "Different and Dead," (at left) was awarded a Silver Key in New York City.

Maddie, who turned 14 years old on St. Patrick's Day, is quite a busy 'bee' herself. She was a member of her school choir and drama club, editor of the school newspaper, and served on the yearbook staff. In her 'free' time, Maddie enjoys writing, which led to her Scholastic Regional Gold Key and American Voices Award for poetry, followed by the National Silver Key Award; and drawing, a talent she undoubtedly inherited from her grandmother, Anne Daugherty, who has contributed numerous watercolors to this newsletter. An avid reader, Maddie plans to become a novelist or comic book writer/illustrator.

The Northern Kentucky/Indiana Regional Spelling Bee Championship opened on March 1st, with approximately 150 students in competition. Maddie won the event after successfully spelling "manteau," and was on her way to the National Bee in Washington, DC, with 287 students from around the country. Although she didn't make it to the final round, her family and friends are extremely proud of and excited about her accomplishments, perhaps none more so than her grandfather, John Daugherty. Again, talent runs in the family. Maddie's mother, Dawn Daugherty Miller, won the District Spelling Bee Championship when she was a middle school student.



Don't let her scholastic achievements fool you though; Maddie is an All-American girl with flowing red hair, dimples, and a smile that lights up a room. She descends from John and Elizabeth Conway Dougherty (Family Group #506), articles about whom have appeared in previous newsletters.

Prepare yourself, Literary World, Maddie Weiner is on her way!

DIFFERENT AND DEAD [Maddie Weiner's Award-Winning Poem]

Bright summer day
Colors too rich to be real
I walk along until I find
A sight
Five trees
Curiously arranged and
Coincidentally contrasting
Four to the left, clustered together
Bejeweled with green leaves
Winding up the chocolate trunk
So full that some leaves
Had fallen to the ground
And instantly camouflaged themselves
To match the grass
Exactly
They were living trees
Beautiful

To the right
Isolated
A dark tree
A naked tree
Proudly stood alone
Its trunk the black of a raven's wing
Its branches twisted
Reached for the sun
The gnarled bark just missed the mark
A dead tree
Also
Beautiful

How strange to see society
Reflected in the scenery
Conformity surrounds itself
With conformity
And the odd one out
All by itself
Distinguished
And discernible
Different
And dead

