

## Connecting Charleston and Kilkenny

**Charleston County** covers just over 900 square miles of coastal territory in eastern South Carolina, with a population approaching 350,000. It includes the sixth busiest container port in the U.S., and sixteen municipalities adjacent to the Ashley, Cooper, Stono and Wando rivers: the major centers of Charleston, North Charleston and Mount Pleasant; the island and beach communities of Isle of Palms, Sullivan's Island, James Island, Folly Beach, Kiawah Island, and Seabrook Island; and smaller inland and coastal communities such as Awendaw, Hollywood, Lincolnville, McClellanville, Meggett, Ravenel and Rockville. The Charleston area is among America's premier visitor destinations, attracting more than two million visitors per year. The city of Charleston, under its mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. (in office since 1975), has become a national and international example of heritage conservation and sustainable development.

The city of Charleston's history is dominated by its pioneering role as a colonial settlement and slave trading center, and most of the city's major historical attractions are from this period: Charlestowne Landing, the Old Exchange and Dungeon, the Historic Charleston Courthouse and Drayton Hall. The period houses of Charleston, both south and north of Broad Street, are also a major feature. In the large areas of protected forests and river basins in both the north and south of the county, there are interpretive locations such as the Caw Caw and Seewee Centers, and a number of preserved plantations where the slave-based economy for rice and cotton production can still be studied. The unique African-American coastal culture known as Gullah-Geechee is reflected in traditional seagrass basket production. Charleston's Spoletto Festival (May-June) is an international focal point in the U.S. cultural calendar.

**Kilkenny County** covers just under 800 square miles, with a population of almost 90,000, in the south-central area of Ireland, north of the city of Waterford. The county includes the city of Kilkenny, administered by a Borough Council, and the principal towns of Ballyragget, Callan, Castlecomer, Goresbridge, Graignamanagh, Johnstown, Thomastown and Urlingford. Villages such as Ballyhale, Bennettsbridge, Gowran, Inistioge, Knocktopher, Mooncoin and Piltown are also an important part of an infrastructure that has acquired a reputation for sensitive development and visitor appeal based on its scenic vistas and strong craft infrastructure. In 1966 the Irish government located its national craft development authority in Kilkenny City, thereby creating a movement that has flourished to the present day in a network of studios, workshops and retail outlets throughout the city and county. The county also has an important port facility and industrial complex at Belview in the Waterford Estuary, as well as the headquarters of the international Glanbia dairy products group, and the famous Smithwick's brewery.

Kilkenny's position as Ireland's premier inland destination (it is also the country's second most popular visitor destination, after Dublin) is based on the quality of its historic sites, including Kilkenny Castle, St. Canice's Cathedral, Rothe House and Shee Almshouse in the city itself; impressive medieval church remains at Graignamanagh, Kells and Thomastown, and natural features such as the Dunmore Caves and the scenic delights of the Nore, Barrow and Suir river valleys. Kilkenny Arts Festival (August) is regarded as one of Ireland, and Europe's, most innovative cultural events.

THE JAMES HOBAN SOCIETY  
THE WHITE HOUSE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION  
AND THE CIVIC AND CULTURAL INTERESTS OF  
CHARLESTON SC AND KILKENNY, IRELAND

INVITE YOU TO

# Join us in honoring James Hoban, designer and builder of The White House, in the city where he made his reputation – Charleston SC

Take part in

K I L K E N N Y  
T O C A R O L I N A

THE EMIGRANT EXPERIENCE OF A SINGLE AREA  
OF IRELAND AND ITS CHARLESTON CONNECTIONS

A UNIQUE ONE-DAY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Charleston, South Carolina, Monday 16 March 2009

THE CITIES AND COUNTIES OF CHARLESTON AND KILKENNY  
THE ANCIENT ORDER OF HIBERNIANS (MSGR. MANNING DIVISION)  
THE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OF THE ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE  
THE SOUTH CAROLINA IRISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
THE KILKENNY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
THE CHARLESTON ARCHIVE AT CHARLESTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
*with the administrative and promotional support of THE IRSEUS PROJECT  
and the sponsorship of THE CONSULATE GENERAL OF IRELAND (New York)*

present

## KILKENNY TO CAROLINA:

THE EMIGRANT EXPERIENCE OF A SINGLE AREA OF  
IRELAND AND ITS CHARLESTON CONNECTIONS

MONDAY 16 MARCH 2009

The Mills House Hotel, 115 Meeting Street, Charleston, South Carolina

*IN 1787, Kilkenny-born James Hoban arrived in Charleston, having spent two years in Philadelphia, where he made the acquaintance of many of the prominent South Carolinians who were attending sessions of the Constitutional Convention there. From his studio/workshop in Trott (now Wentworth) Street, Hoban worked as craftsman, designer and instructor with some of the most prominent local merchants, planters and developers. His reputation as a 'practical builder' became such that his name was mentioned to George Washington during the President's visit to Charleston in 1791. This resulted in Washington's recommendation and promotion of Hoban as the architect of The President's House. Hoban's success as designer, builder and supervisor of several major projects in the new federal capital, his contact with the leading figures of the era, and his prominent role in civic and community affairs over four decades, make him almost unique in the early history of the United States. Now the city where he made his name honors him with a local mounting of the Hoban Exhibit recently seen by more than half-a-million visitors to the White House Visitor Center, and a day-long conference that celebrates the country and region of his origin.*

### 9.00 a.m. ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE OPENING:

*Stephen J. White Sr., Chairman, Organizing Committee, Moderator; Yvonne Evans, City of Charleston Councilmember; Joseph Crockett, Kilkenny City and County Manager*

MORNING SESSION **Dr. David Gleeson**, Associate Professor of History, College of Charleston, and Author 'The Irish in the South 1815-1877', *Chair*

9.30 **Dr. David Kilroy**, Associate Professor of History, Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale FL: *From Callan to the Caribbean and the Carolinas: Exploring the transatlantic implications of Cromwell's invasion of Ireland*

10.05 **Dr. Colin Bennett**, Professor of Mathematics, University of South Carolina: *James Wallace S.J. (d. 1851), Kilkennyman, Scientist*

### 10.40 Refreshments

11.15 **Dr. Máire Downey**, Chairperson, Kilkenny Archaeological Society  
*Good-bye and Good Riddance: Emigrating with Assistance from the Landlord*

11.50 **Dr. E. Moore Quinn**, Associate Professor of Anthropology, College of Charleston: *At Mother's Knee: Stories from a Rathdowney Past, as told in America*

12.30 **Visit to St. Mary's Church (1839) and Hall, 89/91 Hassell St.**  
*Informal lunch on the site of the mother-church (1789) of the Carolinas and Georgia, of which James Hoban was a founding member, followed by:*

Presentation and tour of church and cemetery, led by Al Stiles

### 2.00 REASSEMBLY (Mills House Hotel):

AFTERNOON SESSION: **Denis Bergin**, Director and Managing Editor, The IRSEUS Project, and Joint Editor, 'The Charleston Irish Trail', *Chair*

2.15 **Nic Butler**, Manager, The Charleston Archive: *Masons and Musicians: Construction and Culture in Hoban's Charleston*

2.50 **Bill Bushong**, Staff Historian, White House Historical Association: *James Hoban's Progress from Charleston to Washington*

3.25 **Brian Fahey**, Archivist, Catholic Diocese of Charleston: *The Other 'Bishop Baker': Richard Sullivan Baker (1806-1870), Kilkennyman and Vicar General*

4.00 **Stephen J. White Sr.**, President, Charleston Historical Society, and Director, The Karpeles Museum: *It Says in the Papers: The Budds Family of Kilkenny and Charleston*

5.00 Official opening of the James Hoban Exhibit  
*The Historic Courthouse, 84 Broad Street, Charleston*

*Judge Irvin Condon*, President, The James Hoban Society *Moderator*  
*Tomás Breathnach*, Chairman, Kilkenny County Council  
*Teddie E. Pryor Sr.*, Chairman, Charleston County Council  
*William Bushong*, White House Historical Association

*Admission to all conference events and activities is open to the public and is completely free of charge, though donations are not discouraged.*

*For information contact Stephen J. White Sr. at 843 723 3398 or Denis Bergin at 843 743 5228.*