

1046-01-1574 **Charlotte K Simmons*** (cksimmons@ucok.edu), 100 N. University Drive, Edmond, OK 73034.
Boole and Hamilton: An Unanswered Question. Preliminary report.

Sir William Rowan Hamilton and George Boole are regarded as two of the greatest nineteenth century algebraists, and rightly so, as their work helped lay the foundations for abstract algebra. Though from very different backgrounds, they actually had much in common beyond mathematics. Both of their careers were significantly impacted by their early education, their religious beliefs, and by what they believed to be their mission in life. The similarities in their philosophical views and in certain personality traits that contributed significantly to their success are discussed at length in a recent paper. In spite of these similarities and the fact that they lived in close proximity for many years, Hamilton and Boole never had any significant interaction with each other. As MacHale puts it, "One of the greatest mysteries surrounding Boole's life in Ireland is undoubtedly his lack of contact with the man who was Ireland's greatest mathematician." This talk will attempt to shed new light on this mystery. (Received September 16, 2008)