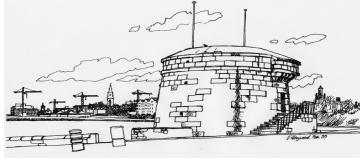


- Special Commemorative Service – Oct. 25th 2005
- New Fellows of the Society Appointed
- Celebrating 15 Years – A Brief History of the Society

Editor: E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie



The Genee Gazette

The Newsletter of
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WHO DID DESIGN THE EUROPEAN FLAG?

50th Anniversary of the Adoption of the European Flag Raises Many Questions

On Tuesday 25th October 2005, this Society held a Special Commemorative Ceremony in Monkstown Parish Church in County Dublin to mark the Society's 15th birthday, to inaugurate our new President, to receive new Fellows of the Society and to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the European Flag.

"A Glorious Extravaganza"

In the ornate surroundings of the wonderful and architecturally unique Church of Ireland church in Monkstown, a lone piper, **Mr. Tom Durkan** led the dignitaries, including the new President, Vice-President and clergymen up the centre aisle of the church to take their positions. Then the Rector, **Rev. Kevin Dalton** welcomed Members and friends of the Society to a very special event in the history of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. It was fitting that the proceedings commenced with a guided tour of this historic church building by **Dr. Étain Murphy**, author of *"A Glorious Extravaganza – The History of Monkstown Parish Church"*. Dr. Murphy described the Society's decision to host these ceremonies in this church as "inspired" as the church is the oldest in continuous use in the area having Parish Registers dating back to 1669, its connections with Betham and its place in the history of our country – all of interest to the genealogist and historian alike. The great Irish genealogist and onetime Ulster King of Arms, **Sir William Betham**, was a churchwarden in this Parish and his Arms are depicted in the stained glass window in the south transept. Dr. Murphy pointed out the many genealogical and heraldic features of the building, including the many memorials around the walls of this magnificent building. These memorials tell of an age of imperial wars, world wars, civic and religious service and the private dedication of families in the parish to their beautiful church building. Indeed, like all buildings of its age, Dr. Murphy explained, this church too is in need of repairs to deal with damp problems in the fabric of the building at one end. A fund

raising campaign has been established to acquire the estimated €4.1 million required for this restoration project.

"Remembering Our Ancestors"

In keeping with the wishes of the Members of the Society, a short Inter-Faith Service of Remembrance was planned for this event, however, because of religious commitments the Jewish and Moslem representatives were unable to attend. However, **Fr. Seán Cassidy** and the Rector, **Rev. Kevin Dalton** proceeded with a very moving and deeply appropriate inter-denominational service, in which, **Sr. Bernadette de Lourdes, O.Carm**, the recently deceased Vice-President of the Society and **Rosa Parkes**, the American civil rights activist were both remembered in prayer.

"The Society at Fifteen"

The Cathaoirleach of the Society, **Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI**, provided a brief outline of the past fifteen years since the foundation of the Society on October 25th 1990 in Rochestown, Co. Dublin. Mr. Stanley brought us through the development of the Society from the local to the national and international organisation that the Society is today. In pointing to the Arms of the Society and its Heraldic Banner, the Cathaoirleach explained the significance of each and then invited the clergymen to bless the work and the insignia of the Society.

"Our Second President"

The Cathaoirleach invited the new President, **Mr. Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI** to come forward as the piper led the Vice-President, **Mr. James Davidson, FGSI** and the Membership Officer, **Ms. Hilary Byrne, MGSi** up, once again, through the Church with the new Presidential Chain of Office and his personal Coat-of-Arms. The Arms were designed by **Mr. George Lucki** of Canada and painted by Heraldic Artist, **Mr. Andrew Tully**, of South Africa and were presented to the Society by the **International Association of Amateur Heralds** for this occasion. The Vice-President placed the new Chain of Office on the President as the Membership Officer

presented him with his Arms. The organist, on recognising that Mr. McCarthy was a Corkman, immediately gave us a rendering of *"My Own Lovely Lee"*. Following the inauguration of the President, the Cathaoirleach announced the winners of the Presidential Annual Journal Award. As befitted the occasion, the President then announced his two nominees to the College of Fellows of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. **Garda Jim Herlihy, FGSI** was present to receive his certificate of appointment from the President.

"The European Flag"

The President delivered the inaugural Presidential Invitation Lecture which will now be a feature of the October Evening Meeting each year to commemorate the foundation of the Society. The subject chosen by Mr. McCarthy was yet another important element of this Special Commemorative Service – the 50th Anniversary of the European Flag. The story of the development and final adoption of this flag was a fascinating tale of discovery uncovering the very peripheral role, played by the then Chief Herald of Ireland, **Mr. Gerard Slevin**, in the design of this flag. Mr. McCarthy researched the on-line archives of the Council of Europe and discussed the matter with former colleagues of the late Mr. Slevin – all pointing to a non-Irish source for the Flag. Following Mr. McCarthy's lecture a very upbeat Director of the **European Movement** in Ireland, **Mr. Brendan Kiely**, drew on the significance of the flag and stressed the importance of the European ideal. A Service of Peace & Reconciliation for Europe was concluded with the European anthem. The evening ended with a splendid wine reception provided by the **European Commission Office** in Dublin. Whilst, other names continue to emerge, will we ever know for sure who the actual designer of the Flag was? Sadly, it seems that officially sponsored sources, including obituaries published in 1997, advocating that an Irishman designed the European Flag cannot now be substantiated.

SPIRALLING POSTAGE RATES

As the Board of the Society at its November meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure, a further increase in the postage rates in Ireland looms. An Post, the Irish Postal Authority, is seeking, according to some reports, up to 25% increase in the cost of the standard mailing rates. Already, the rates for postage in Ireland are considerably higher than other European Union countries. Noting that such an increase in postage rates could not, in any way, be absorbed by the Society, an adjustment upwards in the Membership Fee appeared inevitable. However, following a detailed examination of each of the existing Membership Packages, the Board decided to "streamline" the range in an effort to both avoid a substantial fee increase and to maintain the highest standard of services to the Members. Under **Res: 05/11/456** the Board adopted the following Membership Packages:- **Ireland:-** Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, biannual Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. Optional second Membership Card for a household member, including voting rights. Cost €30.00 per annum. **Overseas:-** Offering the same at €40.00 per annum. The avoidance of any substantial increase in the Membership Fee was achieved by the adoption of **Res: 05/11/455** which provided for the production of a biannual Journal instead of a quarterly Journal with no reduction in content or overall size of the annual volume. The savings here are entirely on postage costs as the cost of mailing the Journal overseas was becoming greater than the unit cost of the publication. This situation was unsustainable. The new Membership Packages will come into effect on January 1st 2006, however, persons with existing Membership Packages will receive their entitlements until the renewal date of their membership. The Board trusts that this measure aimed at tackling spiralling postage costs will be fully supported by the Members.

NEW FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY

As part of the presidential inauguration ceremonies held on Tuesday 25th October in Monkstown, the President of the Society presented certificates of appointment to two persons who became Fellows of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. In accordance with **Res: 05/04/401** adopted by the Board of the Society in April this year, the President of the Society was requested to nominate two people from the world of Irish genealogy nominated to the College of Fellows of the Society. The President nominated **Mr. Jim**

Herlihy, FGSi in recognition of his position as the acknowledged expert on the pre-independence police force in Ireland the Royal Irish Constabulary and other police forces in Ireland. Jim is a member of An Garda Síochána (Irish Police) based in Ballincollig, County Cork and is the author of several books on policing, all published by Four Courts Press: *The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Short History and Genealogical Guide* (1997); *The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Complete Alphabetical List of Officers and Men, 1816-1922* (1999); *The Dublin Metropolitan Police: A Short History and Genealogical Guide* (2000); *The Dublin Metropolitan Police: A Complete Alphabetical List of Officers and Men, 1836-1925* (2001). The President also nominated **Mr. Brian Mitchell, FGSi**. Brian is Manager of the Derry Genealogical Centre in Derry City, Northern Ireland. He has lectured at many genealogical events in Ireland and abroad and is a regular contributor to family history magazines such as *Irish Roots*. He is the author/editor of twenty-two books in the fields of genealogy, emigration and history. Some of his works are now regarded as essential research tools. They include: *New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* (1988); *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers* (1988); and *A Guide to Irish Churches and Graveyards* (1990); all published by the Genealogical Company of Baltimore, USA. The President also signed a certificate of appointment to the College of Fellows of **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSi** in accordance with **Res: 05/04/403** of the Board. This appointment was in recognition of Mr. Rosenblatt's extraordinary contribution to the study of Irish Jewish genealogy and the Irish Jewish Community and for his indefatigable work on behalf of his community in recording the history of the Jewish people in Ireland over the past few centuries. A community, despite its small numbers, contributed immeasurably to the making of modern Ireland.

DICTIONARY OF WICKLOW BIOGRAPHY

Many people are familiar with "A Dictionary of Irish Biography" edited by **Henry Boylan**. It is a wonderful resource, briefly outlining the lives of people who have distinguished themselves in many areas of human endeavour- and not always for the right reasons. The entrants are mostly Irish born, but many are people who came to live in Ireland and contributed to the many facets that go to make up Irish life. Several counties have used this model to celebrate the good and sometimes not-so-good of their own county. A well known County Wicklow local historian, **Jim Rees**, is in the process of compiling such a dictionary for County Wicklow. To tie in with the forthcoming Wicklow 400, Jim hopes to have 200-300 word biographies on 400 Wicklow people, to be published in 2006, possibly towards the end of the year. Such an undertaking is beyond the reach of one person,

or even a small group of people, so the author is appealing to everyone to help him compile this record. He is looking for sports people from all disciplines, clergy, writers, painters, local and national politicians, revolutionaries, explorers, scientists, inventors. The list is endless. The only criterion being the nominee must be no longer living. This is an ideal opportunity to record the many Wicklow born people who may have made their contributions to their communities, professions or whatever in countries overseas who otherwise would go unrecorded in their county of origin. At present, the author has 273 names for inclusion, so there is quite a way to go. A list of these names is available should you wish to see who has been omitted. If you can suggest anyone you feel deserves to be included in this book, please contact **Mr. Jim Rees**, 3 Meadows Lane, Arklow, County Wicklow, Ireland. Tel:- (0402) 39125 or from overseas (00353402) or e-mail: jrees@eircom.net

JOURNAL PRIZE ARTICLE

Under **Res: 05/09/439** the Board of the Society established the "Presidential Annual Journal Award" for the best article published in the Society's journal in the previous year. The Board asked our new President, **Mr. Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSi** to select an article from volume 5 (2004) of the *Genealogical Society of Ireland Journal* as the recipient of a prize for 'best article'. In his report, the President states that the 260 page volume is comprised of a large number and a wide variety of articles, covering such diverse areas as newspaper extracts, genealogical data compilations, anecdotes, stories, opinion, advice and research projects. He decided to opt for an extended narrative piece, as he considers entertaining stories to be the end product that all family historians should aim to create. According to the President, the authors of the chosen article had one great advantage over many of us: interesting ancestors on whom a wealth of material was available. However, he said, they deserve full credit for being up to the task of relating a long and complex story in an engaging manner. In particular, they were able to weave the threads of several family stories into the fabric of contemporary historical events. For this year's prize, the President recommended as the winning article '*The Gentleman Soldier*' by **David and Diana Hope**'. Congratulations to David and Diana and a Certificate of Merit will be forwarded to them shortly.

QUERIES RECEIVED

GINNY MURPHY, 11143 Apache Trail, St. Louis, MO 63146, USA. E-mail: tgmurphy@sbcglobal.net Wrote:- I am attempting to connect our **Jeremiah Murphy**, born in Wexford, circa 1813, and who supposedly emigrated to Canada at the age of 14, to someone in Wexford. Any help would be appreciated. I can supply more detailed information to anyone interested in helping

connect this family. My family and I plan to visit Ireland in 2006 and would be thrilled to meet a relative or family members in Ireland. **STEPHAN DONOVAN**, 4851 North Bernard Street, Chicago, IL, USA, E-mail: stephandonovan@aol.com Wrote:- I am writing a family history and I am seeking information on: Mary Josephine **Dolan Van Buskirk** of Boston (my paternal grandmother) and her parents. Mary Josephine **Dolan** (died in 9/11/1908, age 27 of anaemia at Mass General). She was the daughter of Michael Dolan, born in Ireland and Bridget **Foley**, born in Boston. They had five/six children. Her death notice read: **Van Buskirk**, in Roxbury, Sept. 11, Mary J. Beloved wife of Norman L. Van Buskirk and daughter of Bridget and the late Michael Dolan from her residence 1271 Columbus Ave., Monday, Sept. 14, High Mass of Requiem at All Saints Church, Center Street. Any information much appreciated.

SHEILA MARTIN, 32 Keswick Avenue, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, OL7 9JH, England E-mail:- sheila.martin34@ntlworld.com Wrote:- I am looking for any information on John **Martin** (carpenter) and Rachel **Campbell** who lived in Cootehill, Cavan and got married in the Dernakesh Church in Drumgoolan in 1863. John was a widower at the time and was aged 34, Rachel was 24. They moved to Birkenhead/Liverpool, England shortly after and had their first son John in 1864. John's father was Robert Martin also a carpenter and Rachel's father was Thomas Campbell, a farmer. It looks like Rachel had an older sister called Margaret - her married name was **Flack**; she also moved to England. Any info. please.

PATRICIA RUSH GILBERT, 52167 Worthington Lane, Chesterfield, Michigan 48051 USA. E-mail:- FamilySeeker@aol.com Wrote:- I am researching John **Rush** who married a Susan ? in Brinesford, Ireland circa 1836. They had 2 children, that I know of, Peter Rush born circa 1839 and Mary Rush. They moved to England where they are listed in 1851 census. John **Rush** was born in USA but a "British Subject" and Susan was born in Ireland. Any information greatly appreciated.

BILLY RALPH FURM DENTON, 23 Bluebell St., Brisbane 4122, Queensland, Australia. E-mail:-brfdjr@bigpond.net.au Wrote:- I am searching for my Great Grandfather's Irish birth place and I have heard from many different family lines the same story that Andrew Alex **Denton** born 1828 Ireland was a Catholic Priest and he got his brother out of Ireland due to some trouble he was in at the time. Andrew is supposed to have come from County Gall (Galway? or Donegal?) but am unable to find any County of that name, but I hope the surname may give a clue. Myself I was born in Texas raised in Missouri USA but live in Australia for about 45yrs. Any information much appreciated.

THOMAS BULGER, 91 Wellington Ave, West Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, L1H 3X8. E-mail:- trbulger@porchlight.ca Wrote:- Researching Robert Mathew **Jones** came to

Canada from Dublin with his mother and father when he was 11 years old in 1828 and settled in Ontario, Canada. I have no record of his mother and father's names. Any assistance or information on this family much appreciated

JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS...

KOREAN WAR James Durney is currently writing a book on Irish servicemen in the Korean War (1950-53) telling the story of the war from the perspective of the men who were there. Irish soldiers, volunteers and draftees served with the various United Nations forces including British, American and Australian services, naval, air force and army. Irish missionaries were also involved as they had a presence in that country since the 1930's when the Japanese occupied the country. Personal stories, reminiscences, family stories, photographs and documents are sought and can be sent to **James Durney**, 52 Morell Drive, Naas, Co. Kildare, Ireland. E-mail: jamesdurdurds@eircom.net All material received will be treated with the utmost care and will be returned.

CLIFFS OF MOHER It has been reported that the cost of the Cliff of Moher Interpretative Centre has risen to €31.45M with Clare County Council facing an estimated €4.5M shortfall in funding for the scheme. The revised cost of the centre is now more than 8 times the original estimate of €3.8M when the scheme was first suggested in 1990. Work on the 2 storey project began in April this year and its estimated that the building will be completed by early 2007. Clare County Council received €10M in grant aid from Fáilte Ireland, had Government approval to secure a loan for €15M and a historic investment of €2M leaving a short fall of €4.5M. The Council hopes to make up the shortfall by obtain a further grant aid from Fáilte Ireland and is also currently seeking a corporate sponsor.

BLENNERVILLE CANAL The Blennerville Canal which was used to steer transatlantic ships into Tralee, Co. Kerry, is to be developed as an amenity for recreational users as well as wildlife enthusiasts. Working on dredging the canal by the Office of Public Works began in 1990's and currently it has been completely dredged and the walls restored. Walkways have also been laid out along its banks to the port of Tralee at Blennerville.

MEDIEVAL SITES Up to 19 archaeological sites including a Neolithic settlement and an early medieval cemetery have been found along the route of the final stage of the Dublin to Newry motorway but they discovery will not delay the project. According to Archaeological Developments Services Limited, an early medieval farmstead / enclosure was found at Faughart Lower which due to its location gave it a commanding position over an ancient route. Initial results indicate that it may date from 400AD to 1169AD and was expanded several times

before it was used as a cemetery for the wider community.

TEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO GENEALOGY

The Board of the Society at its November meeting very reluctantly accepted the resignation of our long-time Public Relations Officer, **Róisín Lafferty, MGSIL**. Róisín stepped down from the Board as she had been unwell for sometime. Her service to genealogy covered a period of ten years on the governing body of the Society. Firstly as Chair of the Activities & Education Sub-Committee (1995-7); secondly as Oifigeach na Gaeilge (Irish Language Officer) and Projects Liaison Officer (1997-1999) and latterly up to her retirement from the Board as Public Relations Officer of the Society. In the past ten years Róisín was responsible for the Guest Speaker Programme for the Evening Open Meetings. The quality of our Guest Speaker Programme in this period has been exceptionally high with a range of topics and subjects suitably chosen to meet the research requirements and interests of a membership with differing levels of expertise. This programme has been the mainstay of the Society's Evening Open Meetings since 1991 and, without doubt, Róisín's stewardship of the programme since 1995 has been exceptional. The Society owes a considerable debt to Róisín for all her sterling endeavours in respect of the Guest Speaker Programme for without her commitment and planning, the Society's meetings and activities generally would be the poorer. The Board wishes Róisín every success for the future.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

The opening times of the Society's Archive are subject to alteration. Therefore, members and visitors are advised to phone ahead to ascertain the current opening times. Telephone +353.1. 202 0464. for information.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday November 8th 2005

Evening Open Meeting, 20.00hrs
Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.
DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.
Speaker: **Collette O'Flaherty**
Topic: "Sources at the Genealogical Office"

Tuesday December 13th 2005

"Members' Night"
Topic: *Open Discussion, Q & A*

Weds. Nov. 23rd 2005 & Jan. 25th 2006

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs
The Port View Hotel
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire
Discussion Group on Family History

*Contribution of €3.00 at each meeting
Coffee/Tea served at Morning Meetings*

CELEBRATING 15 YEARS

The following is the text of the talk delivered by **Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI**, Cathaoirleach, on Tuesday 25th October 2005 in Monkstown Parish Church, County Dublin. The Society was founded on October 25th 1990 by four neighbours in the Rochestown area of Dún Laoghaire, **Frieda Carroll, Jean Reddin, Joan Merrigan and Michael Merrigan** to promote the study of genealogy and to collect and preserve genealogical material. It was also agreed back in 1990 that one of our main objectives was to establish a repository for genealogical material in Dún Laoghaire. Indeed, from the outset, this Society differed significantly from other family history organisations in Ireland in that, its aims and objectives were far reaching and ambitious and some would say, more akin to overseas genealogical organisations. Plans for the establishment of the Society were formulated sitting in Frieda Carroll's kitchen at 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire during September and October 1990. Information received from the UK based Federation of Family History Societies provided a useful template for the establishment of a society here in Ireland, however, the Founders were adamant that the new society must be distinctively Irish in character and they decided on a framework and a constitution for the new organisation with that ethos in mind and therefore, the "*Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society*" was born. With interest in family history growing amongst the neighbours and friends of the Founders, the first Executive Committee of the young society decided to host an open meeting to open up the organisation to the general public. The meeting was held in the Hotel Victor (now The Rochestown Lodge Hotel) in Dún Laoghaire on Tuesday April 9th 1991 with twenty three persons in attendance, seven of whom are still members today – fifteen years later. At the Executive Committee meeting of June 7th 1991, Michael Merrigan delivered a report on the necessity of establishing "an independent genealogical library and repository in Dún Laoghaire" and six publicly owned buildings were considered by the Executive Committee as possibilities. The campaign for a permanent home for the Society's Archive had begun in earnest. The Society's first Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday October 8th 1991 in the Hotel Victor, Rochestown Avenue, Dún Laoghaire with our new President of the Society, **Denis O Conor Don** in attendance. Along with holding monthly meetings of the Executive Committee, the Society also organised monthly Open Meetings each month since April 1991 and indeed, increased this to two Open Meetings each month with the hosting of Morning Open Meetings in The Port View Hotel in Dún Laoghaire from October 1992. Again from the earliest months of the

Society, members were encouraged to participate in group projects, both indoor and outdoor, to widen their knowledge of the subject and through publication of the results of these projects provide further research data for genealogists and social historians throughout the world. The first issue of the Society Quarterly Journal was published on January 13th 1992 and was presented to the members at the Open Meeting held that evening. The Society following much campaigning to acquire a premises for its Archive finally accepted the offer by **Liam Byrne**, Assistant Manager, **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** of a building in the Council's ownership for use by the Society as a permanent home for its Archive and Research Centre. This offer was endorsed in March 1997 by a subsequent vote by the County Councillors of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in favour of the project. A year later the Society became the first voluntary genealogical organisation in Ireland to be incorporated as a Company under the Irish Companies Acts. A new era in Irish genealogy beckoned when the Members of Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society overwhelmingly supported the proposal to change the name of the organisation to "*Genealogical Society of Ireland*" or in the Irish language "*Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann*" at the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 12th October 1999. Not just a "*New Name*" but a whole new approach to the "World of Genealogy" was envisaged by the Executive. It was the only option for the Society as it embraced the whole of the country as our Members already undertook their genealogical research in every county of Ireland providing the Society's growing Archive with data from the entire island of Ireland. An application for a Grant of Arms for the Genealogical Society of Ireland was delivered to the Chief Herald of Ireland and through fund raising the Society obtained its beautifully designed Arms in an Official Ceremony held in the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire on Monday 23rd July 2001. Due to the generosity of our American Member, **Mrs. Barbara Mungovan-Koch**, the Society has been able to commission a Dublin city based flag-maker to provide the Heraldic Banner and the Society's livery flag for display at the Martello Tower. The Society planned to restore and refurbish the Seapoint Tower to house its expanding Archive and to provide a research centre. **An DAONCHARTLANN**, as it was to be called, is the first such facility in the Republic. The term "**Daonchartlann**" is a new one, roughly translated as "*peoples' archive*", yet the concept is not, many such facilities exist around the world, especially in New Zealand, Australia and North America. Nearly seven years of planning, fund raising and following the complete restoration, we officially opened An Daonchartlann at the Martello Tower, Seapoint on September 15th 2004. Without the selfless generosity of Frieda

& John Carroll who housed our Archive in their own home for nearly fourteen years, this project would have been meaningless as the Society was enabled to gather a fine collection over those years. Since its foundation, this Society has been a strong and consistent advocate for better access to our genealogical heritage and indeed, the Society initiated the campaign to have genealogy included in legislation, firstly in the Heritage Act, 1995 and then the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. Our campaign for the introduction of a Genealogy & Heraldry Bill continues. Through "*The Genie Gazette*" – now in its tenth annual volume, the Society has maintained a robustly independent line on genealogical, heraldic and heritage matters over the years. The Society has also launched its own website – www.familyhistory.ie last year which has proved to be very popular and a successful outlet for our range of publications. In conclusion, the Society has come along way since October 1990 and this would not have been possible without the dedication and hard work of many, many people – members and friends of this Society. We celebrate our 15th birthday today secure in the knowledge that this Society will continue to play a central role in the cultural and heritage life of our nation and, no doubt, in time, each of our remaining objectives will be achieved. It only remains for me, as Cathaoirleach, to thank each of my colleagues on the Board of the Society for all their advice, support and assistance over the years. *Monkstown 25th October 2005*

HERITAGE TRUST ESTABLISHED

Mr. Dick Roche T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government on Monday 7th November established a the Steering Group to advise him on the governance and successful launching of the independent Irish Heritage Trust. "The Trust will have a mandate to acquire for public access major important heritage properties where the State does not wish to acquire them directly and where there is imminent risk to their heritage value through neglect or where an appropriate use cannot be brought forward through sale to a private sector investor" the Minister continued. The Minister stated that **Sir David Davies** of Abbeyleix will be the Chairman of the Trust. The Steering Group is charged with reporting back to the Minister no later than early January 2006 so that the Trust can be up and running during 2006. The Trust will operate on the basis of existing charities legislation but with possibly new tax incentives for donations of heritage properties to the Trust and donations to endowment funds required for each property. (*Press Release Nov. 7th 2005*)

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