

ISSN 1393-3183

THE GENIE GAZETTE

Vol. 2. No. 12. December 1997
D.L.G.S. Monthly Newsletter

UNITY ON GRO IN DOUBT

The proposed increase in fees at the General Register Office has been met with division amongst Irish genealogists. At the recent AGM of the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations some commercial genealogists, members of APGI, viewed the proposed increases as inevitable and possibly justified. Coincidentally, this was the exactly the view expressed by the Dept. of Health in a letter to this Society. The letter stated that *"these fees were last revised in 1987 and, in setting the level of fees, account must be taken of the need for each Government Department to recover a more substantive proportion of the actual cost of providing different services. In addition, a number of legislative developments and changes since the last review of fees have meant that the volume of work undertaken by the registration service has increased significantly."* Whilst, understanding that non-commercial genealogists and the general public are not in a position to recoup fees, the Government's argument for the increase was met with anger and disbelief by members at the Society's Morning Meeting in November. The linking of the proposed price increase in Public Search Room to an increased volume of work in the other services provided by the G.R.O. is simply a fallacy. Surely users of the Public Search Room cannot be expected to fund other services or indeed, the computerisation activities in Roscommon. The operation of the Public Search Room is simple and it has remained unchanged for decades, i.e. the public consult a general index and then request and pay for a photocopy of the entry required. It is clear that this Society's proposal to either move all records over seventy years of age to the National Archives or to hold same at the GRO as a "new" designated place of deposit under the National

Archives Act, 1986, provides for the greatest public accessibility to these records, whilst, freeing-up the resources of the GRO to more effectively deal with its core function of "registration and certification". However, this too found little favour with some commercial genealogists arguing that the National Archives could not be expected to cope with the public demand to exercise the right to view these records. Time will tell whether the lack of unity and leadership shown by CIGO on this important issue will greatly handicap CIGO's effectiveness and potential as a national representative body for Irish genealogy.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday Dec. 9th 1997 & Jan. 13th 1998

Evening Open Meeting - An Culturlann, Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Belgrave Square, Monkstown. 20.00 hrs.

Buses 7 & 8 - DART Seapoint or Monkstown.

Wednesday Jan. 28th 1998 (no Dec. meeting)

Morning Open Meeting - Port View Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire. 10.30 hrs

Buses 7, 8, 46A, 59, 111, 75 - DART Dun Laoghaire Station.

DAONCHARTLANN PROJECT

Like to help ?

The Society will erect a lasting memorial to all those who, by their kind and generous subscriptions, enabled Ireland's first "*Daonchartlann*" to become a reality. This memorial will be placed in a prominent position in the Martello Tower as a mark of gratitude and respect. This memorial is an unique opportunity for members and friends of the Society to mark the life of a loved one or that special ancestor by having their names inscribed on this memorial. What better way to commemorate their lives than on this memorial in Ireland's *Daonchartlann* (Ir. "peoples archive"). The Society will publish a full list of subscribers, though not the amounts of each subscription, in the commemorative booklet to accompany the opening of the *Daonchartlann*. As this special memorial has limitations as to the number of names that may be inscribed thereon, only subscriptions in excess of twenty five pounds or fifty dollars will qualify for inclusion on the memorial, though, all subscriptions will receive a certificate to mark the donation and the official opening of the *Daonchartlann*. Payments by *Bank Transfer* to: D.L.G.S. Building Fund, c/o Ulster Bank, Rochestown Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Dublin. Sort Code: 98-59-50 Building A/C No. 52252212. *Thank you for your support.*

DUBLIN '98

The Dublin 1798 Commemoration Committee will present a series of public lectures by the foremost scholars of the day on the momentous events of two hundred years ago during **The Great Rebellion of 1798**. Amongst the speakers and topics are Prof. Tom Bartlett (UCD) (i) Spies & Informers (ii) Theobald Wolfe Tone; Brian Cleary (Wexford) (i) The road to '98 in Wexford (ii) The Wexford Republic; Ruan O'Donnell (Dromcondra) (i) Michael Dwyer & Joseph Holt (ii) United Irishmen in Botany Bay; Kevin Whelan (Notre Dame) (i) The relevance of the United Irishmen today (ii) Lord Edward FitzGerald; Daire Keogh (Dromcondra) (i) 1798: political or sectarian ? (ii) Catholic priests in '98; Tommy Graham (TCD) Dublin in '98; Breandan Mac Suibhne (UCD) The origins of Uniting in Ulster; and Mary Cullen (Maynooth) Women in '98. (enquiries: Dublin '98, P.O. Box 695, Dublin 8. tel: 453 5730 or Fax: 453 3234) A **1798 Bicentennial Conference** will be held in the Ulster Museum, Belfast on Tuesday 19th & Wednesday 20th May 1998 and in Dublin Castle from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd May 1998. (enquiries: Daire Keogh tel: 837 6191 or email: dairekeogh@spd.ie) Beidh leachtai comortha 1798 as Gaeilge in aras Bhord na Gaeilge, 7, Cearnog Mhuirfean, Baile Atha Cliath 2. Tuilleadh eolas: Aengus O Snodaigh tel: 676 3222.

IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOURCES SERIES

"Irish Genealogical Sources No. 1 - Shillelagh & Ballinacor South, Co. Wicklow 1837 - A Memorial" price IRP5.00 (ISBN 1 898471 40 1). Memorials were a common form of petition to the authorities in the 19th century. This memorial of 1837, containing the names and addresses of 1,500 people from south west County Wicklow, sought a change in the location of the Quarter Sessions town from Baltinglass in the west of the county to Tinahely in the south. The date of this memorial is intermediate between the Tithe Applotment Survey and the Primary Valuation Survey (Griffith's Valuation) and covers an area which includes the vast Coolatin Estate of the Earl FitzWilliam which witnessed large scale assisted emigration between 1847 and 1856.

"Irish Genealogical Sources No. 2 - Corn Growers, Carriers & Traders, County Wicklow 1788, 1789 & 1790" price IRP3.00 (ISBN 1 898471 50 9). The information contained in this publication has been extracted from two documents covering the period just before **The Great Rebellion of 1798** and therefore, provide the researcher with a valuable census substitute for the county almost fifty years before the Tithe Applotment Books.

"Irish Genealogical Sources No. 3 - Newcastle, County Wicklow - School Register 1864-1947" (ISBN 1 898471 70 3) price IRP5.00 (postage IRP1.00 - Ireland & IRP2.00 overseas). George H. O'Reilly has compiled and edited this valuable genealogical source as a census substitute for this area of north County Wicklow. Hopefully, other school registers will be produced in this format for ease of access for researchers in Ireland and overseas. Available by post from Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society, 14, Rochestown Park, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland enclose a further IRP1.00 per item for Ireland and IRP2.00 overseas to cover postage.

COUNTY HERITAGE POLICY

At the meeting of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council held on Tuesday 11th November 1997, County Councillors adopted a new clause to be inserted in the County Development Plan committing the County Council to the formulation of a County Heritage Policy in consultation with interested community groups and the public. Congratulations to An Foram Oidhreachta (The Heritage Forum) which has campaigned for this clause since January last with the publication of its interim report "*Towards a County Heritage Policy*". A first for Ireland !!

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS NOW DUE

Members are reminded that their Annual Subscriptions fall due on November 1st each year. The amount is just IRP10.00 which can be paid by moiety, if desired. Please forward your cheque to the Membership Officer at the address below. To receive "*The Genie Gazette*" by mail to your home each month just add IRP2.50 to your payment.

Hon. Secretary's Contact Number

Members and those seeking info. on the Society may 'phone the Hon. Sec., Michael Merrigan on Dublin (01) 235 2032 or email the Society at ghor@lol.ie.