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# THE GENIE GAZETTE

Vol. 2. No. 4. (2) April 1997  
D.L.G.S. Monthly Newsletter  
(Morning Edition)

## COUNTY COUNCILLORS APPROVE MARTELLO TOWER.

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council at the *Housing & General Purposes* meeting of Thursday 27th March 1997 approved the allocation of the Martello Tower at Seapoint to the Society as a permanent home for its archive. Whilst, many of the Councillors warmly supported the Manager's Proposal, there were some dissenting voices, notably, one proposing that the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council also allocate space to another "archive" (?). Though, it is *not* clear that this Councillor knew that the organisation she mentioned was, in fact, located in County Kildare. However, with very strong support declared from *An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Tony Fox* and *Cllrs. Pat FitzGerald, Donal Marren* and *Betty Coffey*, the Manager's Proposal to allocate the Tower as a permanent base for our Society was carried.

The good news was carried in the "locals" and in *The Irish Independent* newspaper. *Rory Stanley*, Cathaoirleach and *Michael Merrigan*, An Runai, were present in the Council Chamber for the debate and later thanked the Councillors and the Assistant Manager, *Liam Byrne*, for their kind support for this important project.

Members can make donations to the Building Fund established by the Sub-Cmmtt. for Finance by sending their donations to *Joe FitzGerald*, Hon. Treasurer, D.L.G.S. Building Fund, 14, Rochestown Park, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

New. Tel. No. 235 2032 (Hon. Sec. & Society)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

*Wednesday 23rd April 1997* - Morning Discussion Group, Port View Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire. 10.30 - 12.30 hrs.

*Tuesday 13th May 1997* - Evening Meeting - Members' Night & Computer Group Meeting. An Culturann, Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. 20.00 - 22.00 hrs

*Tuesday 20th May 1997* - Wicklow County Gen. Soc. Discussion Group. Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town. 20.30 hrs.

*Wednesday 28th May 1997* - Morning Discussion Group. Port View Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire 10.30 - 12.30 hrs.

## I.G.R.S. (Ireland Branch)

On Saturday 19th April 1997 the A.G.M. of the Ireland Branch of the London based *Irish Genealogical Research Society* voted to instruct the Branch Officers to seek membership of the *Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (C.I.G.O.)*.

## SPRING JOURNAL PUBLISHED

The Society published Vol. 6 No. 1. of its quarterly journal in March with articles on the 1821 Census of Ireland : O'Connell's National Annuity, 1833 : Jim Larkin : Rathmichael Church. of Ireland. Parish Marriages listed 1864-1919 ; Members' Queries : Harpur Letters from the Front : The O'Byrne of Wicklow: St. Peter's Cemetery, Little Bray - extracts. & Parish Register Microfilm Project. Copies available at the Open Meetings or by post - rates on request.

## IRISH GENEALOGY UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

The Minister for Arts, Culture & the Gaeltacht has requested The Heritage Council to undertake a complete review of Irish genealogy. The Editorial in Vol. 6. No. 1. calls on The Heritage Council to initiate "a comprehensive and open examination of the situation" for without such "Irish Genealogy will continue to labour under the shadow of negative press reports generated by the closure of records and the wholesale fleecing of roots tourism by Heritage Centres in the absence of a co-ordinated, publicly accessible, National Database, covering all counties, centres and dioceses". Send your comments to The Heritage Council, 4 -5, Harcourt Road, Dublin 2., Ireland. OR FAX: 353.1.475 2739

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## SOURCES FOR IRISH GENEALOGY - *New Series*

The Sub-Committee for the Archive & Publications has been considering the publication of various sources for the researcher. These sources will be either unusual or from the lesser known collections in the National Archives, National Library or other repositories, local and national. The idea was explored by *Brian Smith* and *Sean Magee* and the first two of these occasional publications are with the Editor, *Liam Mac Alasdair*, for production assessment. The main object of these publications is to share these valuable resources with as wide a readership as possible and to encourage researchers to utilise these "gems" in their own quest.

### National Cultural Institutions Bill, 1996

The Bill has passed all but the final Report Stage in the Seanad after being passed by Dail Eireann on 19th March 1997. This Society is well pleased with this important piece of legislation covering the National Library, Genealogical Office, Chief Herald and the National Museum. Our last request to the Minister was to include "burial and cemetery records" in Section 49 (15) and, we are pleased to report, that this point was included by the Minister. With the Bill almost ready to go to the President, we urge the Minister to include persons from the voluntary and community sector amongst the membership of the new Boards for the Library and the Museum. The Society has always viewed this legislation "globally" and commends the Minister and his officials on the production of this Bill.

### C.I.G.O. PROJECTS

Steven Smyrl has launched the first national family history project for the voluntary and community sector in Ireland. The *Marriage Licence Bonds* in the National Archives are to be indexed and placed on microfiche. You can participate from your own home if you have an IBM Compatible P.C.. *Volunteers wanted*, please phone *Steven* on 668 8074 for further information.

### PARISH REGISTERS PROJECT - Update !

The Society, in conjunction with the National Library, has just completed the microfilming of the registers of *Dun Laoghaire (1769-1900)* and *Boosterstown (1755-1900)* and hopes to continue the project to include other South Dublin & North Wicklow Parishes in due course.

### THE GREHANS OF LEHAUNSTOWN

*Declan Byrne* has researched the Grehan family of Lehaunstown (near Loughlinstown in South Co. Dublin) and an article on the family was to appear in the Spring issue of the journal, though, due to the length of the piece it has been held over until the Summer issue. However, Declan would like to hear from persons with connections to the Grehans of Lehaunstown. *Declan Byrne, 22, Wesley Lawns, Sandycroft, Dublin 16.*

### VALUE FOR MONEY REPORT OUT !!

The long awaited Report prepared by the *Comptroller and Auditor General* into the working of the Heritage Centres was published on Tuesday 22. April 1997 - time will tell whether this Report will either gather dust or point to calls for radical changes in the *Irish Genealogical Project*.

### EMIGRANT SAVINGS BANK RECORDS

*Godfrey Duffy* at the Wicklow County Genealogical Society meeting in March advised us of a newly available resource for Irish Genealogy. The *Emigrant Savings Bank* was founded in New York City in 1850 by the *Irish Emigrant Society*, founded 1841, for the protection of immigrants from Ireland. The Bank offered a safe place to deposit earnings and facilitated the sending home of money to relatives in Ireland. The files contain detailed personal and genealogical information covering the period 1841-1933 and, naturally, these records are of great value to Irish genealogists. *The New York Public Library*, Copy Services, Room 315R, Fifth Ave. & 42nd Street, New York, New York 10018-2788, U.S.A. (FAX: 00.1.212. 221 3423) has placed this source on microfilm for researchers. Ideally, a copy should be available in the National Library or the National Archives in Dublin.

### HOW COSTLY IS FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH ?

Most people starting to research their "roots" ask this question. Fine, if you wish to engage a commercial genealogist, you pay an hourly rate for their services and Dublin is fortunate to have many commercial genealogists providing a top class professional research service, though, if you'd like to "do-it-yourself" joining a society is highly recommended. Advice and contacts are free. Information is shared and "pitfalls" can be avoided. Indeed, getting back to your sixteen great great grandparents from all over Ireland would be a daunting and expensive task if you were to commission research from even eight Heritage Centres, lucky if they all came from the same county !! The Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society offers new members, *free of charge*, advice, worksheets, Starter Pack and two Open Meetings each month. Membership is just ten pounds per annum. Application Forms available from *Sean Kane* our Membership Officer.