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# THE GENIE GAZETTE

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D.L.G.S. Monthly Newsletter

## C.I.G.O CONSIDERS HERITAGE CENTRES REPORT

The highly critical Value for Money Report on the Irish Genealogical Project (Heritage Centres) was discussed by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations at its July meeting in Dublin. The Comptroller & Auditor General's report is now set to be examined in detail by the Public Accounts Committee of the Oireachtas (Parliament), though, C.I.G.O.'s meeting heard calls for the radical overhaul of the Irish Genealogical Project and its incorporation into the Public Library Service under the control of Local Authorities. This would, it is claimed, ensure that proper mechanisms are in place to monitor its development as an asset for the Nation. Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society sought that the same sanctions would apply to the structure of the Irish Genealogical Project and Irish Genealogy Limited as would pertain in the commercial world should such a report be delivered by a company's auditor. The C. & A.G.'s Report clearly calls for change and, following the spending of nearly IRP15 million on the I.G.P., the people of Ireland, as owners of this genealogical heritage, demand and deserve value for money from the Irish Genealogical Project. Radical change is the only hope for a viable and secure future for the Heritage Centres and their dedicated staff. Local Authority management of these centres, under the direction of the County Librarians, will fulfil the main object of the I.G.P., vocational training and a service for family historians in each county area. Copies of the Report available from the Government Publications Office, Dublin.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Tuesday 12th August & 9th September 1997**

Evening Open Meeting - An Culturhlann, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Belgrave Square, Monkstown. 20.00 hrs.

Buses 7 & 8 - DART Seapoint or Monkstown.

**Wednesday 27th August & 24th Sept. 1997**

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

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

**Wicklow County Genealogical Society Update**

No meeting in August - Next Open Meeting

Tuesday 16th September 1997- Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow 20.30 hrs.

**Monday 22nd to Sunday 28th Sept. 1997**

3rd Irish Genealogical Congress - Maynooth

Booking Forms - I.G.C., c/o National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8.

## IRISH SURNAMES ARE "BRITISH"

Jeff Chapman of the website Family Chronicle has produced a listing of surnames from Great Britain and Ireland on the internet showing their origins and meaning. However, all the Irish surnames, yes our "O's" and "Mac's" are described as being of "British" origin. Mr. Chapman, in a reply to an e-mail from Jim Ryan, maintains that *"the main reason is convenience, since many so-called Irish names actually come from Great Britain"* and that *"almost all Irish names in use today have been heavily Anglicised, and thus not truly native Irish"*. Jim Ryan challenged this position and to our amazement, he received the following statement in reply, *"most Irish names have hardly anything in common with their original forms. A name such as "Kelly", for example, isn't Irish, it's simply a British name which was imposed atop an Irish name that started with a K sound and ended with a Y sound. Sadly, this is the case with the vast majority of Irish names"*. Incredible as the existence of such outlandish and erroneous views may seem, it is sad to see genealogy and history so distorted in what purports to be an "information" page. Clearly, Mr. Chapman would have benefited by a period researching Irish history and availing himself of the many fine publications on the market covering the topic of *"Irish Surnames"*. Check it out: [magazine@familychronicle.com](mailto:magazine@familychronicle.com) and let *"The Genie Gazette"* know of your views on this subject.

## DALKEY IRISH HERITAGE TOWN COMPANY Ltd.

Vanessa Butler, Project Administrator, of the *Dalkey Irish Heritage Town Co. Ltd.*, based at Avoca House, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire, provided the Society with details of the Heritage Company's plans for the use of the 15th century Goat Castle and the old Town Hall on Castle Street, Dalkey. She outlined the Heritage Company's activities as the collection, recording, publishing and exhibiting historical, cultural and archaeological material relating to Dalkey and its environs. Vanessa hopes to develop a good co-operative working relationship with the voluntary and community sector, possibly, through *An Foram Oidhreachta*. The Heritage Company is fortunate to have, on its doorstep, a wealth of expertise presently researching and publishing aspects of this heritage, from *Dun Laoghaire Borough Historical Society*, *Foxrock Local History Club*, *Rathmichael Historical Society*, *Blackrock Society* to, of course, this Society. Hopefully, all should benefit from Vanessa's suggestion that the Goat Castle Heritage Centre, when refurbished in Spring 1998, would be a window for all the best the area has to offer. Further info: Tel: 205 4745 Fax: 284 3141 & email: diht@indigo.ie

## 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 quarterly journal and 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 opening of the *Daonchartlann*. Certified copies of the entry on the memorial will be forwarded to each subscriber. *Payments by Bank Transfer to:* D.L.G.S. Building Fund, c/o Ulster Bank, Rochestown Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. A/C No. 52252212.

## PUBLICATIONS

Now available "Irish Genealogical Sources No. 1- Shillelagh & Ballinacor South, Co. Wicklow 1837 - A Memorial" price IRP5.00 (ISBN 1 898471 40 1) and "A Guide to the Articles & Sources Published by Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society -1992-1996" price IRP2.00 (ISBN 1 898471 45 2). The second in the sources series, "Irish Genealogical Sources No. 2 - Corn Growers, Carriers & Traders, County Wicklow 1788, 1889 & 1790" price IRP3.00 (ISBN 1 898471 50 9) has just been launched. George H. O'Reilly & James O. Coyle have provided a valuable census substitute for the period just before *The Great Rebellion of 1798*. Available by post, just add IRP1.00 per item.

## C.I.G.O. PROJECTS

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. or if you don't have a computer, Steven Smyrl, requires volunteers to check printouts etc.. *Volunteers*, please phone Steven on 668 8074 for further information.

## CLARIFICATION

The *I.G.R.S. Newsletter*, Vol. 2. No. 12 of June 1997 (p225) reported that the Heritage Centre in Dun Laoghaire is to publish a quarterly newsletter and invites research queries for same. Paul Morrissey, Asst. Co-ordinator of the Heritage Centre confirmed that this is an error and that the Heritage Centre had no plans to embark on such a publication.

## SENIOR MEMBER VISITS IRELAND

American based member, Sr. Bernadette de Lourdes, OCarm., (Kathleen Wisely) born in Dublin in July 1907, visited Ireland during late July, including the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin, the site for our Archive. We wish her bon voyage and hope to see her again next year in Dun Laoghaire.

*The Genie Gazette* is published by Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society, 14, Rochestown Park, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.  
Tel: 353.1.235 2032 Fax: 353.1.285 4020 or email: ghor@iol.ie