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THE GENIE GAZETTE

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Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society
Monthly Newsletter

NATIONAL ARCHIVES EXPANSION

The Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands, Ms. Sile de Valera, T.D., announced a thirteen million pound expansion programme for the National Archives in Dublin at a Press Conference held at the Archives on Tuesday 30th December 1997. *"I am delighted to announce that this project, which will provide accommodation to international archival standards, will finally be realised"* said the Minister. *"The important work of this institution in making the records of our past available to us has been limited by the lack of space to accept this material. This major development at the Bishop Street premises of the National Archives will address its long term storage needs and will, accordingly, be of crucial assistance in making records of the modern Irish State available to students, scholars, civil servants, Irish citizens in general and visitors from abroad."* Indeed, it's reported that the much needed storage facilities, including the state-of-the-art mobile shelving systems with proper humidity and environmental control, will be provided under the development programme. Whilst, the maximum capacity of the front block at Bishop Street is about 100,000 boxes, the rear extension will have a capacity of 350,000 boxes (each box with a capacity of two-thirds of a cubic foot). The adaptation of the Bishop Street building will take several years. In the meantime, the first floor of the front block is currently being fitted out for the storage of archives and will be ready for use by Easter 1998, and some additional storage space will be fitted out in late 1998 or early 1999. The Minister paid tribute to the Director Dr. David Craig and his dedicated staff. The Society welcomes this important announcement as a clear, and overdue, commitment to our heritage by the State. *A good start to the New Year !!!*

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 13th January & February 10th 1998
Evening Open Meeting - An Culturlann, Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann, Belgrave Square, Monkstown. 20.30 hrs. - 22.00 hrs.
Buses 7 & 8 - DART Seapoint or Monkstown.
Wednesday 28th January & Feb. 25th 1998
Morning Open Meeting - Port View Hotel, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire. 10.30 -12.30 hrs.
Buses 7, 8, 46A, 59, 111, 75 - DART Dun Laoghaire Station.
Wicklow County Genealogical Society
Tuesday 20th January 1998 Grand Hotel, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow - 20.30 hrs.

THANKS TED

The Archivist, Frieda Carroll, wished to extend her sincere thanks to Ted Morrissey for his kind donation of a colour monitor for the computer in the Archive. Frieda reminds all members that the Archive welcomes donations of Thoms Directories, family histories, maps and other items of interest to genealogists and social historians. Why not *"Buy-a-Fiche"* for the Society's Archive to add to our microform collection from Ireland and overseas !!

NATIONAL CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS ACT, 1996

The Society has raised the issue of the implementation of the provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act following the loss to the nation of *An Leabhar Nuinseannach* (The Nugent Book) at auction in London. The manuscript contains early Irish bardic poetry and many other unpublished works. It has been described as the best example of such manuscripts to come on to the market in over one hundred and seventy years. It is thought that the provisions of the Act would have enabled the Minister to keep this valuable piece of our heritage in Ireland. Would any other European Union country have permitted the export of such a national treasure for sale at auction ?

DEANSGRANGE THREE TO BE RELAUNCHED

Following production problems that forced the recall of Vol. 3 of the Memorial Inscriptions of Deansgrange Cemetery, the Society is pleased to announce that this volume is to be relaunched during January. It's a valuable addition to the sources for anyone researching ancestors from south County Dublin. Price IRP7.00 (plus p+p).

1998 YEAR OF COMMEMORATION

This year we'll host commemorations for *The Great Rebellion of 1798*, the *Rising of 1848* and surprisingly the "1500th Anniversary" of the "foundation" of Dun Laoghaire. The latter has more to do with commercial exploitation than reality as the more plausible 1550th anniversary would be held in either 2003 representing the building of the "dun" by King Laoghaire or 2013 commemorating his death and burial at Tara standing upright facing his old foes, the Leinstermen. It will be interesting to see what, if anything, is planned to commemorate the *150th Anniversary* of the first unfolding of the *National Flag of Ireland* (tricolour of green, white & orange) which was brought from France by Thomas Francis Meagher on 15th April 1848. An occasion ideally suited to involve the fullest participation of the French Republic, Alliance Francaise and indeed, the Franco-Irish corporate sector as this year also is the *twenty-fifth anniversary* of the introduction of the *Ireland-France ferry link* from Rosslare. The Slieve Ardagh Rural Development Group, Killenaule, Thurles, Co. Tipperary is planning a commemoration of the 1848 Rising and details will be published later.

ECCLESIASTIC HISTORY & GENEALOGY

Worthy of a suitable memorial or, at the very least, study in Ireland is the implementation, in early 1698, of the Banishment Act, 1697 (9 Will III, C.I). The Act resulted in the transportation in the early months of 1698 of 153 priests from the port of Dublin, 190 from Galway, 75 from Cork and 26 from Waterford. Indeed, by the end of the year 118 Dominicans, 214 Franciscans, 26 Augustinians, 12 Capuchins, 5 Jesuits, 5 Canons Regular and 3 Carmelites were recorded in Paris as having been "banished from Ireland". It was decreed that "*if any person so transported shall return again into this kingdom [Ireland], they and every of them shall be guilty of high treason, and suffer and forfeit as in the case of high treason*". A fuller study of Catholic Church History in Ireland may well turn up some surprising gems for the genealogist in repositories in Ireland, the Vatican or in the Irish Colleges on mainland Europe. Well, whatever we commemorate, as genealogists, it must open doors to further research options and possibly, new and exciting sources !!!

CENTENARY OF JEWISH CEMETERY

The Society is honoured to contribute to the centenary commemoration of the foundation of the Jewish Cemetery at Dolphin's Barn, Dublin, by recording the memorial inscriptions of the 2800 plots in this cemetery founded in 1898. The Secretary of the *Jewish Burial Board* arranged for Barry O'Connor to survey the cemetery and Barry estimated that he will require ten volunteers to record the inscriptions for publication, later in this year, to mark the first one hundred years of this Jewish Cemetery. Should you like to participate in the project contact Barry on tel: 01. 285 4386.

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 *Daoncharilunn* (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, Co. Dublin. Sort Code: 98-59-50 Building A/C No. 52252212. *Thank you for your kind support.*

SOCIETY'S 1998 PROGRAMME

The 1998 Programme is currently being finalised by the Executive Committee and will be made available by the PRO, Heather Jeffery during January. A full listing will be published in the February issue of "*The Genie Gazette*".