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THE GENIE GAZETTE

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Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society
Monthly Newsletter

LEADING BRITISH GENEALOGIST SUPPORTS G.R.O. "FREE ACCESS"

Campaign launched, politicians to be contacted and challenged, arguments sharpened all to one end - greater access, *free of charge*, to the records of the Registrar General for England and Wales. Whilst, the Irish debate on the GRO was fraught with difficulty as the various genealogical organisations found it hard to achieve a united front on the threatened price increase in Dublin, the leading British genealogist, **Anthony J. Camp** has openly called for easier and cheaper access to older civil registration records in England and Wales. In this month's issue of *Family Tree Magazine* he argues strongly for the microfilms of the records of Births, Marriages and Deaths from 1837 (England & Wales) to be made available free of charge to family historians. Odd to think that a similar proposal from this Society found little support at CIGO meetings, though, this Society's approach is exactly what Mr. Camp seems to be advocating for England and Wales. He has called on family historians to write to each member of the British Parliament. The aim of the campaign initiated by the article is to make "Historic" registration records, defined as those older than 75 years, open to public scrutiny by microfilm copies throughout the UK. Indeed, this Society's proposal for Ireland suggested that records over 70 years be microfilmed and placed in the National Library or the National Archives. The Society wishes Mr. Camp and Michael Armstrong every success with the British campaign and earnestly hopes that their example will enlighten and encourage genealogists and their organisations in Ireland to take a similar stance on behalf of the public's right of access to their "genealogical heritage".

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday April 14th & May 12th 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 April 22nd & May 27th 1998

Morning Open Meeting - RJ COONEY'S, 88, Lwr. George's St., (Main Street) Dun Laoghaire. 10.30 - 12.30 hrs.
Buses 7, 8, 46A, 59, 111, 75 - DART Dun Laoghaire Station.

Wicklow County Gen. Soc. contact Maeve Tel: (0404) 67442

DLGS Archive, 14, Rochestown Park, Dun Laoghaire. Open (Members only) *Saturdays* 14.00 - 17.00 hrs and *Mondays* 19.00 - 21.00 hrs., however, *closed on Bank Holidays*

HERITAGE COUNCIL SETBACK

Members were bitterly disappointed at the Society's failure, on this occasion, to receive assistance under the Heritage Council's 1998 Grant Scheme for the Daonchartlann Project. Though, An Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley, insisted that this setback only increases our resolve to see this project completed. We must redouble our efforts, he said, to maximise our funding potential by ensuring that everybody in a position to assist us is made fully aware of the benefits to Irish genealogy and the community afforded by this unique and valuable project.

CLANS OF IRELAND

Mr. Margaret A. Tierney, the newly elected Chairperson of the Clans of Ireland, now a voluntary organisation without government assistance, has invited all family historians considering 'clan' gatherings to become members of Clans of Ireland. The Registrar, **Ms. Nuala Cassidy-White** is contactable by e-mail: Families.United@connect-2.uk or alternatively write to Mr. Tierney, Grange Clare, Kilmeague, Naas, Co. Kildare. (tel: 045-860623). The Society wishes Mr. Tierney and the Clans every success with their endeavours.

C.I.G.O. MATTERS

The following motion was unanimously adopted at this Society's Executive Committee meeting of 2nd April 1998 & forwarded to CIGO.

That the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations be informed by the Executive Committee that in protest at its failure to act jointly in relation to the threatened price increase at the General Register Office and other matters, that the Society has withdrawn, forthwith, its two Delegates to the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations until the next Annual General Meeting of the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations due to be held in Nov. 1998.

Notices, Minutes and copy correspondence etc. will continue to be received by the Society as membership of CIGO is maintained pending a decision by our members at their 1998 AGM.

PUBLICATIONS

The Executive Committee has agreed that the Society's publications should fall into five categories and be co-ordinated as follows:

- i. **Quarterly Journal.**
Liam Mac Alasdair, *Editor*
- ii. **An tEolai - occasional publication.**
David Hutcheson *O. M. O.*
- iii. **Deansgrange Cemetery Memorials.**
Barry O'Connor, *Co-ordinator*
- iv. **Irish Genealogical Sources Series.**
George H. O'Reilly, *Co-ordinator*
- v. **"The Genie Gazette"**
Michael Merrigan, *Hon. Secretary.*

The implementation and the co-ordination of our publications policy will become the function of the new Publications Sub-Committee which will meet shortly under the Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley. Distribution and marketing will also be their responsibility. Members are very welcome to join the Sub-Committee - just give Rory a call on (01) 282 4596 or e-mail: rorstan@tinnet.ie.

JOURNAL EDITOR BY E-MAIL

Liam Mac Alasdair, Editor of the Society's quarterly journal may be contacted by e-mail on Liam@indigo.ie with items for inclusion in forthcoming issues of the journal.

CENTENARY OF JEWISH CEMETERY

As published in the January issue of *The Genie Gazette*, the Society is honoured to participate in the centenary commemoration of the foundation of the Jewish Cemetery at Dolphin's Barn, Dublin in 1898. Members will be recording the memorial inscriptions of the 2800 plots in this cemetery for publication in a single volume. 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 as part of a team. Other members with computers will be required later for data input and proof reading of the hard copy. Should you like to participate in this unique project contact Barry on tel: 01. 285 4386.

NEW ADDRESS & PHONE NUMBER

The Hon. Secretary has moved to 11, Desmond Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, though, the Society's registered address will remain as below, contacting the Hon. Secretary may be expedited by utilising the new address. The telephone number has been changed to (01) 284 2711.

WORLD WAR I ANCESTORS & THEIR STORIES

Philip Lecane is researching the above for a possible publication. Philip would welcome comments, suggestions and any information on the topic. Tel: 01. 230 1489 or write to Philip at 77, Windsor Drive, Monkstown, Co. Dublin.

TRIBUTES PAID TO BILL HOGG

The Trustees, Executive Committee and members have been paying tribute to Bill Hogg who has announced his retirement as Trustee of the Society after four years to dedicate himself to other pursuits. Bill has been an active member of this Society since August 1991 and has contributed much on the Executive Committee, as a Co-ordinator, as the founder of the Writers' Group and as a valuable expert on the Registry of Deeds, the Mill Books of Ireland and sources in the North of Ireland. Whilst, thanking him for all he has done for the Society and regretting his decision to retire, we all wish Bill the very best with his future pursuits.

DAONCHARTLANN PROJECT

Like to help establish our new archive?

Once again, we appeal to all our members and friends to assist our fund raising endeavours for the project to provide a permanent home for our Society's Archive. 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, Co. Dublin. Sort Code: 98-59-50 Building A/C No. 52252212.

Thank you for your kind support.

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE - FFHS

Roisin Lafferty, Oifigeach na Gaeilge & Projects Liaison Officer, reported to the Executive Committee on the Projects & Strays Seminar she attended in Birmingham, England. Roisin, while meeting representatives of UK societies, introduced our English colleagues to this Society, our plans and our publications. Though, caught up in the Ryanair dispute on her return, necessitating an overnight stay in Birmingham, Roisin said she found the conference very informative on matters of copyright, strays, projects and project organisation.

IGRS (Ireland Branch)

The 12th AGM of the Ireland Branch of the IGRS will be held on Saturday 25th April 1998 in the Mercy Intl. Centre, 64a, Lower Baggot Street, (corner Herbert St.) Dublin at 14.30 hrs. Lecturer: Dr. Daire Keogh on "Genealogical Aspects of 1798".

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

The Morning Meetings, due to the sale of the *Port View Hotel*, will be held until further notice in RJ COONEY'S, 88, Lower George's St. (Main St.), Dun Laoghaire. Sorry for any inconvenience due to this alteration of venue.