

THE GENIE GAZETTE

Vol. 3. No. 6. June 1998
Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society
Monthly Newsletter

FUNDING GENEALOGY

With the Society's activities and publications now greatly expanded, it's time to reflect on the thorny subject of funding genealogy in Ireland. Much has been written on the state of the Irish Genealogical Project and especially so, since the publication of the Comptroller & Auditor General's Value for Money Report on the I.G.P., however, little consideration has been afforded to the funding of the real promoters of Irish genealogy - the voluntary organisations like this Society and the ones in Wicklow, Cork, Wexford and Raheny. In these societies people give of their time freely to promote a positive attitude to Irish genealogy, not least, by corresponding with many hundreds of overseas researchers each year, providing advice, information and, above all, encouraging the Irish Diaspora to visit Ireland. Whilst, commercially, the members of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland have consistently maintained high standards in the research and delivery of genealogical services to persons at home and abroad, this cannot be said universally of the Heritage Centres in Ireland. In addition to the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our genealogical heritage, Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society, alone seeks to establish an institute for genealogical research in Ireland based on the Daonchartlann Project at the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin. This project requires funding, members have contributed 25% of the total refurbishment costs, though, much more money is required to bring this important project into operation. Legal advice has been sought on the possibility of introducing Deeds of Covenant to permit members and friends to contribute to the project, whilst, receiving tax benefits for such contributions to an organisation like the Society with charitable status. However, following the Society's failure to secure a grant from the Heritage Council this year, funding from the State would make this unique project a reality in 1998. With only a tiny fraction of the fifteen or so million pounds spent on the Irish Genealogical Project (Heritage Centres) since 1988 required to complete the Daonchartlann Project, members of this Society fully expect the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ms. Sile de Valera, T.D., to act positively and proactively by assisting the execution of the Daonchartlann Project. It's time that those promoting a positive image, internationally, of Irish genealogy are in receipt of State funding and that this free promotion of Ireland, from which many sectors of the economy benefit, is justly rewarded and assisted to develop further by the provision of funding to see the establishment of An Daonchartlann in this year of the Celtic Tiger.

WELL DONE DUN LAOGHAIRE 1500

The Society wishes to thank the organisers of Dun Laoghaire 1500 for their sponsorship of the Cheese & Wine reception to mark the visit to Dun Laoghaire by members of the Anglo-Irish Family History (Liverpool) led by Jo McCann and the North of Ireland Family History Society represented by Rob Davison and Randal Gill on Thursday 24th May 1998. The visitors were received by the Cathaoirleach of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council at County Hall and given a guided tour of the new building and the Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Donal Marren, MCC presented Jo McCann with a locally crafted crystal vase to mark their visit to Dun Laoghaire. Following the photocall at County Hall, the evening was complete with a fine talk delivered by Bob Burke to around sixty members, guests and friends at the Kingston Hotel, Haddington Tce., Dun Laoghaire where An Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley, presented the visitors with copies of the Society's publications.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday June 9th & July 14th 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 June 24th & July 22nd 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 Co. Gen. Soc. contact Declan Tel: (01) 295 7782

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

DEATH OF FORMER MEMBER

The death has occurred on June 5th 1998 of William Hobbs who first joined the Society in August 1991. Following his retirement from the Irish Lights, William, was very active in the amateur dramatic scene in Ireland, organising many shows and entering competitions. Coming from one of the old Dun Laoghaire families, William had many stories, some tragic, others hilariously funny, of life in the town and its characters during the war and before. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Society and the wider community. He is survived by his wife Ettie (nee Emo), children; Joe, Mary, Patricia, Tony, Judy and Liz; grandchildren, sons-in-law and his daughter-in-law. Our sincere condolences to Ettie and family.

NIFHS MEMBERS VISIT TOWER

Rob C. Davison, General Secretary and Randal Gill, Librarian of the North of Ireland Family History Society, accompanied by Mrs. Nora Roberts, were provided with a pre-refurbishment viewing of the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin by An Cathaoirleach Rory & Mrs. Roz Stanley, Frieda Carroll and Michael Merrigan on Thursday 24th May 1998. The visitors expressed surprise at the size of the tower, commented on its great potential and hoped to develop closer links with the Society's Archive when it's operational at the Tower as An Daonchartlann. Following the visit to the Martello tower, the party had coffee in Dun Laoghaire's oldest hostelry "The Purty Kitchen" in Old Dunleary where the problems of funding were discussed. The visitors were shocked at the failure, to date, of the State to appreciate the potential and value of this Project.

JOURNAL EDITOR BY E-MAIL

Liam Mac Alasdair, Editor of the Society's quarterly journal may be contacted by e-mail on Liam@lndigo.ie with items for inclusion in forthcoming issues of the journal. Copy should be received no later than August 30th 1998. Advertising rates are as follows: Full Page (A5) IRP50.00; Half Page IRP30.00 and Quarter Page IRP18.00 : FAX: 01. 285 4020

INTERIOR DESIGN COMPETITION

Dun Laoghaire Community College and the Society organised an Interior Design Competition for Computer Aided Design students at the College to design the interior of An Daonchartlann to be established at the Martello Tower, Seapoint, Co. Dublin. The Society hopes to move its growing archive to this location following its refurbishment for which funding is being sought. The standard was very high and the Adjudication Panel, including the County Librarian, Muiris O Raghail and the Society's Architect, Sean Gaynor, found it extremely difficult to come to a final decision. The prize giving reception was held in the College on Thursday 14th May 1998. The designs were displayed and the Acting Principal, Mr. John Howe spoke of the growing co-operation between the College and the community, especially, organisations such as Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society. Rory Stanley, Cathaoirleach of the Society, thanked the Dun Laoghaire Community College, Cumberland Street, Dun Laoghaire, for facilitating this important competition for the students and the Society. Our County's first citizen, An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Donal Marren, MCC, of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council presented the prizes. The first prize was presented by An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Donal Marren, MCC, to Ann Kehoe, who received a cheque for IRP200 and a Certificate, the two runner-up prizes went to Catherine Gearty and Enda Kirwan, who both received cheques for IRP50.00 and Certificates of Merit from An Cathaoirleach. Following the presentation, a Cheese & Wine reception was laid on by the College.

NEW PUBLICATION

BOOTERSTOWN, Co. DUBLIN, IRELAND
SCHOOL REGISTERS
1861-1872 & 1891-1939

"Irish Genealogical Sources Series, No. 6 (ISBN 1 898471 80 0) price IRP7.00 (postage IRP1.00 Ireland & IRP2.50 overseas) Compiled by Frieda Carroll, *Archivist* of Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society, this publication contains circa 1,700 names of the boys who attended this National Primary School situated on the road from Dublin City to Dun Laoghaire. The registers were microfilmed by the Society and this publication is the latest in a series, co-ordinated by George H. O'Reilly, MA, *Leas-Chathaoirleach* of the Society, aimed at providing genealogical material in print for the general researcher. School Registers are a source for social historians as they provide an insight into the socio-economic situation for the area during the period from the mid-nineteenth century to the outbreak of World War II. Members with research material that may be suitable for publication in the Irish Genealogical Sources Series should contact George H. O'Reilly on tel: 831 4475 or email: ghor@iol.ie to discuss the possibility of publication - articles for the journal, however, should be forwarded to the Editor, Liam Mac Alasdair - see over.

JEWISH CEMETERY RECORDED

Barry O'Connor and his team of sixteen volunteers successfully completed the transcription of the approximately 2,800 memorial inscriptions of the Jewish Cemetery at Dolphin's Barn, Dublin. It is intended to publish these memorials to commemorate the cemetery's 100th anniversary this year. Barry O'Connor is now seeking volunteers to transfer the data on to computer discs. If you wish to help, please call him on tel.: 285 4386.

GALLAGHERS SOUGHT

Richard Gallagher of 9, Normandy Street, Narrawallee 2539, New South Wales, Australia seeks information on his great great grandfather, Edward Gallagher, a farmer from Offaly. His wife was either Mary Butler or Mary Buckley. They had, supposedly, three sons John, Patrick and Michael. Michael arrived in Australia in the 1850's and the other two went to America. Any information please.

SUMMER EDITION OF THE JOURNAL

Volume 7 No. 2 of the Society's quarterly journal is now available - price IRP3.50 (Members IRP3.00). Subjects covered include: Scottish Ancestry; National Archives in New York; R.I.C.; Surnames; Clan Kavanagh; American Civil War; Record Keeping and much more. The cover drawing by Veronica Heywood is of the new County Hall in Dun Laoghaire incorporating Johnson's old Town Hall, Court House (1878) and Post Office (1879) and facing Mulvany's Railway Station (1842). Veronica undertakes commissions for artwork, landscapes or buildings etc. - Studio: 38, Cross Avenue, Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin (tel: 280 3204).

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.

CLAN KAVANAGH MOURNS

The death took place on May 17th last of Michael Kavanagh, Executive Secretary of Clann Chaomhanach (Clan Kavanagh). Michael was the tireless engine behind the Clan and he looked forward to hosting the Clan Rally in Ferns, Co. Wexford, from July 31st to 3rd August 1998. The Clans of Ireland movement has surely lost one of its most fervent promoters and organisers. The Society's sincere condolences are forwarded to Michael's family, Clann Chaomhanach and Clans of Ireland Ltd. - a truly lasting tribute would be the success of the forthcoming Rally. Information: Bridget Kavanagh Dalton, Tanaiste, Clann Chaomhanach, Ballinvalley, Borris, Co. Carlow - tel: 0503-73336 or through Bord Failte (Irish Tourist Board) Offices in Ireland, UK, mainland Europe, North America and Australia.

UNDERTAKING A PROJECT ?

Should you be undertaking a project, one name study, or whatever - contact Roisin Lafferty, Projects Liaison Officer of the Society to register the project. You never know someone else may have the same interest and be undertaking or have completed a similar project. Roisin's register facilitates greater contact between those undertaking projects. Call her on tel: 280 0894 or write c/o the address below.

DLGS WRITERS' GROUP

New members welcome - contact Ellen Beare, 35, Castle Court, Killiney, Co. Dublin (s.a.e. please or 1 x IRC for reply) The Group aims to assist members wishing to publish their family history or perfect their writing skills - possibly, to write an article for the Society's journal on a topic of their choice.