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THE GENIE GAZETTE

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Dun Laoghaire Genealogical Society
Monthly Newsletter

ARCHIVE OR INSTITUTE

Ever since the foundation of the Society in 1990 the question of the ultimate goal of the organisation was always kept under review. Whether, to seek the establishment of an archive and research facility in Dun Laoghaire meeting the needs of our members and the community or to go further and seek the foundation of an Institute of Genealogical Studies with a national focus as contained in the Society's submission of the 24th February 1992 to the Dun Laoghaire Vocational Education Committee. Indeed, over the years the Society's development and its activities have been overtly national in orientation with members researching ancestors and links with every county in Ireland. This nationwide approach was very evident during the passing of the Heritage Act, 1995 and the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 where the Society's submissions on such legislation were largely accepted by the then Minister, Michael D. Higgins T.D.. Accepting that genealogy and social history are integral components of Irish Studies, a subject receiving great attention at home and overseas, the Society must look to addressing the serious question of the establishment of its archive or Daonchartlann as an "Irish Studies" facility specialising in genealogy and social history. Should the provision of An Daonchartlann as solely an archive be sufficient to meet the needs of researchers is a matter that requires serious consideration. The broad range of subject material researched by our members and the high standard of the resulting publications points the Society, some would argue, to the ultimate choice to be faced by the membership - incorporation as an institute of genealogical and possibly, heraldic, studies or to restrict the inevitable growth in that direction by the Society. The latter choice would, no doubt, satisfy many of our members and it would be the ideal future if the development of genealogical and family history societies in Ireland matched that of the United Kingdom with its county, district, town and city societies. Ireland requires a facility like the Society of Genealogists' Library in London - a general repository for genealogical material donated by the general public. An Daonchartlann can and should meet that need, however, are we sure that alone is not enough for Irish genealogy. Do we require a facility possibly, linked with a third level institution at home or overseas, which, through education and research, promotes genealogy as a social science?. Are there not many other disciplines that would benefit from the establishment of an institute? Understanding, that An Daonchartlann Project at the Martello Tower is a challenge for the Society, its members and fund raisers, would not greater currency be afforded to this important project should the wider Irish Studies fraternity be

convinced to support the project in a meaningful manner as an institute of genealogical studies. Either way it will be up to the members to decide at an Annual General Meeting whether to alter the Society's Constitution to adopt incorporation or to endorse a wider function for An Daonchartlann as an Irish Institute of Genealogical Studies. Your comments & suggestions are welcome!! Write to the address below or E-mail: rorstan@tinet.ie - Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday July 14th & August 11th 1998

Evening Open Meeting - An Culturlann, Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann, Belgrave Square, Monkstown. 20.30 hrs. - 22.00 hrs.
Buses 7 & 8 - DART Seapoint or Monkstown.

Wednesday July 22nd & August 26th 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. Society.

Please contact Declan Tel: (01) 295 7782 for details etc.

Our Society's Archive

Located at 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.

SGT. JOHN BROPHY a.k.a. COATES

Mrs. D. A. Forder of P.O. Box 824, Prospect East, South Australia 5082, Australia seeks information on her great grandfather John Brophy from Dublin. He enlisted in the British Army (8th Kings Liverpool Regiment of Foot) as a gunmaker on 14th September 1842 in Dublin. She has no details of his parents and believes he may have married his wife, Marian, in India where she was previously married. Sgt. John Brophy died in Poona, Bombay on the 10th October 1848 leaving a son, John, aged 6 months and a daughter Catherine. Marian later married Sgt. John Coates who, Mrs. Forder recently discovered, adopted baby John as "John Coates" - the name he and his descendants used. Any information on possible source material or connections please.

SUMMER EDITION OF THE JOURNAL

Volume 7 No. 2 of the Society's quarterly journal is now available - price IRP3.50 - postage Ireland & UK IRP1.00 - Others IRP2.00. 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).

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. Copy should be received no later than August 30th 1998. Please forward items for publication to the Society's registered address below.

ERSON FAMILY CONNECTIONS SOUGHT

Howard Erson of 2/6 Maaka Place, St. John's Park, Auckland 5, New Zealand writes seeking information on the family of William Ledger Erson of Carysfort Lodge, Blackrock, Co. Dublin (c. 1865) - his forebears were possibly in the cloth or linen business in Mountmellick, Co. Laois. Another reference found was a William Erson, solicitor, of 8, Andrew Street, Dublin (1846/7) - Any information on connections to this family or on the individuals above, please.

MICROFICHE, MICROFILM, CD ROM or PRINTED MATERIAL

Many overseas societies and organisations publish very valuable information concerning the Irish Diaspora on either microfiche, microfilm, CD Rom or in print. These cover gravestone inscriptions, census records, shipping lists, parish registers, immigration records or Births, Marriages and Deaths from Civil Registration Records. Why not obtain a copy for this Society's Archive in Ireland? The Society welcomes donations of such material from all over the world for its growing Archive to be located at the Martello Tower, Seapoint, Co. Dublin following the refurbishment of the Tower, dating from 1804, as our Daonchartlann (Irish - 'peoples' archive'). Is there anything published in your area that you might donate to the Society - donations will be acknowledged in *The Genie Gazette*. Donations of material for the Archive can be made in honour of an ancestor or a loved one - the names will be recorded in the Archive and acknowledged in *The Genie Gazette* at the time of receipt. This is an easy and yet, very tangible, way overseas members can contribute to the development of genealogical research in Ireland.

JEWISH CEMETERY AT DOLPHIN'S BARN TRANSCRIBED

As reported in last month's issue, 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.

AUSTRALIAN GROUP VISIT DUN LAOGHAIRE 1500

On Monday 17th August 1998 the Society will host a visit by a group of twenty-five genealogists from Kiama, New South Wales, Australia to Dun Laoghaire. The group will be lead by Ray Thorburn who very kindly provided our Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley, with a tour of their Research Centre and Archive in Kiama during his last visit downunder. The programme for the visit is arranged in conjunction with *Dun Laoghaire 1500* to include a lecture and Cheese & Wine Reception at the Kingston Hotel, Haddington Terrace, Dun Laoghaire at 20.00 hrs. *All members welcome to attend.*

WICKLOW TRANSPORTATION RECORDS PUBLISHED

Ann Gregg, a member of the Society from Clondalkin, Co. Dublin has just published "A Guide to the National Archives Records on Transportation for the County of Wicklow" - containing details of the 726 transportation records covering the period 1788 to 1868. Ann has compiled the records in the following format:- Surname: *Stanley* Other Names: *Michael* Date, Place of Trial Imprisonment: Document Date: *26.06.1822* Crime Description: *Smuggling* Sentence: *Transportation 7 years* Ship: Petitioner: *Matthew Cullen* Relationship: *Uncle* Document References: *PPC 1783* Microfilm References: Comments: *Petitioner is 82 years and was born and bred in the parish of Killadrima, Co. Wicklow where he still lives. States he has leased a small farm from Lord Fitzwilliam during the life of the convict. This publication is a welcome and worthy contribution to the body of material now in print for the genealogist with an interest in Co. Wicklow (see Irish Genealogical Sources Nos. 1, 2 and 3 published by this Society). Copies of Ann Gregg's publication can be obtained by mail from:*

Ann Gregg (TGG), 35, Woodford Heights, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, Ireland
price IRP5.00 plus IRP1.00 p+p for Ireland & UK - others p+p add IRP3.00.

DAONCHARTLANN PROJECT

Have you contributed to the Building Fund as yet? Ensure that your ancestor or loved one is recorded on the memorial in the Martello Tower - contact the Hon. Secretary at the telephone number above for details of the Fund. Don't miss out on this opportunity to actively participate in this important project to provide Ireland with its first Daonchartlann.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

On behalf of our President, O'Connor Don, the Trustees, the Executive Committee and the Members, An Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley, extends Birthday Greetings to our senior Member, Sr. Bernadette de Lourdes, OCarm., (Kathleen Wisely) of Germantown, New York who will be ninetyone this month - wishing her continued good health & looking forward to seeing her on her next trip to Dublin. *Happy Birthday !!!*

NEWFOUNDLAND LINKS EXPLORED

The Society's regular Evening Meeting on Tuesday 14th July 1998 will hear a talk on Ireland's unique links with Newfoundland, Canada by Mr. John Dyer, Chair of Raheny Heritage Society and Cathaoirleach of the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations. All Welcome - see overleaf.

DLGS AT CIVIC RECEPTION IN BELFAST

An Cathaoirleach, Rory & Mrs. Roz Stanley and Membership Officer, Sean and Mrs. Jo Kane were guests of the North of Ireland Family History Society at a civic reception held in the City Hall, Belfast, to mark the visit by members of the Society of Australian Genealogists to the city on Thursday 11th June 1998. The Australian group was lead by Prof. Richard Reid and Perry McIntyre. Rory Stanley was presented with a commemorative plaque by the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr. David Alderdice and Rory, in turn, presented the Australian visitors with a complete collection of the Society's publications for their Library in Sydney. James Davidson, Vice Chairman and Rob Davison, General Secretary, were the perfect hosts showing the DLGS visitors around the "Up in Arms 1798" exhibition and discussing the development of future contacts between the two societies. The Society wishes to thank all the NIFHS officers and members for making the visit so informative and, above all, very enjoyable.

AUSTRALIANS PETITION BOBBY MOLLOY T.D.

The May issue of the Newsletter of the Irish Group of the Western Australian Genealogical Society (6/48, May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia 6053) carried the following report: "Bobby Molloy Petitions. In the last issue of this newsletter (Vol. 6 No. 1) I briefly spoke about the petitions that Sandra and I presented to Mr. Molloy (Member for Galway and Minister of State in the Government of Ireland) at a St. Patrick's night reception for him at the home of Sandra and Ed Pigott who is President of the Australian-Irish Heritage Association Inc. The petitions were about making the BDM index for Ireland more readily available for overseas Societies and the many problems that researchers here and in Ireland have with a number of Heritage Centres. As of this date [May] we have not had a reply but will give him a few more weeks before we start jumping up and down. I think there needs to be a joint effort made by the Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations (AFFHO), the Federation of Genealogical Studies (FGS) in USA, the Federation of Family History Societies (UK) and the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) in Ireland." *Well done WAGS !!*

SUMMER PROJECTS 1998

Have you some time on your hands this Summer - like to participate in the Society's group outdoor projects ?? Contact ROISIN LAFFERTY, Projects Liaison Officer on Tel. 280 0894 or for the Cemetery Project, contact the Co-ordinator BARRY O'CONNOR on Tel. 285 4386 -