

- Possible New Name for the Society
- New Publication - IGS No. 15 (Co. Louth)
- Queries from around the world.

# The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of  
Dún Laoghaire  
Genealogical Society  
Volume 4 • Issue 10  
October 1999

Welcome

to the  
World of  
Genealogy

## NEW NAME FOR A NEW MILLENNIUM?

*Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society set to become the new "Genealogical Society of Ireland"*

### "AINM NUA"

Yes, a new era in Irish genealogy beckons should the Members of Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society approve a motion by the 9<sup>th</sup> Executive to alter the Society's Constitution at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1999. Not just a "New Name" but a whole new approach to the "World of Genealogy" is envisaged by the Executive. After years of debate about the restrictions imposed on the Society's development by its "local" name and indeed, as it is widely viewed as a "national" organisation, time has come to take the logical next step - change the name of the organisation. Members will be assured that this is no mere cosmetic exercise nor cynical ploy in a numbers game. It's the only option for the Society should the rate of expansion of our activities and publications continue to embrace the whole of the country. With the Society's publications set to cover topics from over half of the counties of Ireland by the end of next year, investment by the Membership in this activity must be matched by a comparable profile for the organisation. With two Open Meetings and eight two hour Archive sessions each month, monthly newsletter, quarterly Journal and over twenty volumes now published, the Society is the most active in the Republic. Members already undertake their genealogical research in every county of Ireland providing the Society's growing Archive with data from the entire island of Ireland. Asked whether this would jeopardise a future "unity" in the world of Irish genealogy, Rory Stanley, Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society, stressed the need for the Society to "abandon its perceived parochial image and to adopt a more realistic

name reflecting its actual position in Irish genealogy at home and abroad" he continued "in past the Society has given exceptional value to its Members and it continues to do so, therefore, this new national organisation will be in a position to offer all the very best in Irish genealogical services - it's a simply matter of choice". In its new form the Society will be in a better position to co-operate with all in the world of Irish genealogy, he said. Members will be asked to support the 9<sup>th</sup> Executive on a number of other minor amendments to the Society's Constitution including a more flexible membership year for our Overseas Members; new Honorary Vice-Presidents and generally preparing the way for the eventual incorporation of the Society as agreed at the 1998 AGM.

**"The Gene Gazette"** is published by Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society, 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland as a free newsletter for all interested in the study and promotion of Irish Family History in Ireland and overseas. E-mail: [dlgs@iol.ie](mailto:dlgs@iol.ie) Website: <http://www.dun-laoghaire.com/genealogy>  
**Michael Merrigan, Hon. Sec., DLGS**  
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### "PAY FOR VIEW" NO WAY!!!

As reported in the September issue, the Society's position on the Heritage Council's proposal for a "Pay for View" facility for genealogists in Dublin is gathering momentum. The Minister will be requested to make her views clear on this outrageous plan to have ordinary genealogists pay Ir£15.00 per day to view many records that are on free open access to the general public in the National Library and the National Archives. As concerned genealogists let your Teachta Dála (M.P.) know your opposition to the principle of "Pay for View" genealogy in Ireland.

### QUERIES RECEIVED

**Jacqueline Whitefield, Kingsclere, The Steeple, Caldy, Wirral, CH48 1QE, England** wrote: I am seeking any information on Denis Peter Mooney born circa 1850 in (it is said) Dalkey, Co. Dublin. He was married to Ellen and had a daughter Georgina, son Denis born either in Dalkey or Liverpool - they were all in Liverpool in the 1881 Census. A visit to the General Register Office in Dublin turned up nothing. Dalkey Heritage Centre advised me to contact the Society. Any info. please.

**Thomas Gibney** wrote:- On August 29<sup>th</sup> I sent a request for information on Patrick Gibney, born about 1845 Now I have a new lead it is, Patrick Gibney may very well come from Oldcastle, County Meath. Now Patrick immigrated to America about 1862 Patrick married Bridget McLaughlin in Jersey City N.J. USA on July 1<sup>st</sup> 1863. Now I understand that Bridget could very well be from County Meath also. They had seven children Thomas 1864, Mary 1866, Daniel 1871, Kate 1872, Margaret 1875, Ann 1877, Patrick 1880 Patrick senior died 1884 and Bridget died 1889, both in Jersey City, NJ. USA

**Duncan Watney** wrote:- I have an ancestor Mark BLOXHAM, a tallow chandler who was Lord Mayor of Dublin in 1816, and I want to discover his roots. So far I seem to have found his father, also Mark BLOXHAM who married Martha NICKOLDS in St Catherine's, Dublin on 10<sup>th</sup> Feb. 1756, but I haven't been able to progress either forward or backward from these two beyond the next generation. Any information on the above most welcome.

**James Merrigan** wrote:- I have just received some information about Merrigan. my grandfather Michael J. Merrigan was married to Ellen Behan on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1903 in Brooklyn, New York. My Aunt Mary said her father Michael J. Merrigan was born in Tipperary about 1875. Mike Merrigan had a brother Thomas and a sister Julia. My grandmother was born on June 14<sup>th</sup> 1878. she was the

daughter of James Behan, a Royal Irish Constabulary officer, living in Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny. James Behan, my great grandfather, was married to Bridgit Donohue. the sponsors at Ellen's baptism, were John Dunne and Eliza Kavanagh. do you have any information about the Royal Irish Constabulary?

**Kathy Ryan** (E-mail with Sec.) wrote:- My father's (James J. Breslin) grandfather, James A. Breslin, was married to a Mary Winifred Merrigan, born 1873 in New York City. Her parents were Michael Merrigan and Katherine Lindsay, both born in Ireland. Any relation? Any information would be greatly appreciated.

**Bridgette Mazier Mary Pacy-Tootell** in **Calitzdorp, South Africa**, contactable by her E-mail: [ozbee@mweb.co.za](mailto:ozbee@mweb.co.za) wrote:- I am researching: CHARLES BYRNE born 1805 Annamoe, County Wicklow. His last address was c/o C. Frizell, Castle Kevin, County Wicklow. He married Honora (Deborah) Cavanagh, also of Annamoe, born 1809. Of his children, his daughter Bridget Byrne born 1837, Annamoe came out to South Africa. She married MARTIN FOLEY born March 1836, Vale of Avoca. Martin's father was John Hume Foley.

## DIARY DATES

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 1999*

**9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue,**  
**Dún Laoghaire 20.00 hrs - Membership**  
**Renewal usually at AGM - Ir£10.00**

*Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 1999*

**Evening Open Meeting - Dún Laoghaire**  
**Club, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire.**  
**20.30 hrs. - 22.00 hrs. Buses 7, 8, 46A, 75**  
**& 111 - DART Dún Laoghaire Station.**

*Weds. 27<sup>th</sup> Oct. & 24<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1999*

**Morning Open Meeting - The Port View**  
**Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire.**  
**10.30 hrs. -12.30 hrs. Buses 7, 8, 46A,**  
**59, 111, 75 - DART Dún Laoghaire Stn.**

*Our Society's Archive*

Located at 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire. Open (Members only)  
**Saturdays 14.00 hrs. - 17.00 hrs and**  
**Mondays 19.00 - 21.00 hrs. Closed Bank**  
**Holiday Weekends i.e. on both days.**

*Wicklow Co. Gen. Soc.. Contact Declan*  
 Tel: (01) 295 7782 for details

## QUERIES RECEIVED

**Laura Brody** from the United States, E-mail: [laura@hvcomputer.com](mailto:laura@hvcomputer.com) wrote:- I have been trying for several years to discover the county that my COMISKEY line originated (and when they crossed the Atlantic). The family was not in Putnam Co., New York in 1840 and they were there for the 1850 census. I looked

for US Naturalisation papers in Putnam Co. NY and found Declarations of intent" for James COMISKEY and his brother-in-law, Bartholomew CUNNINGHAM both dated 21.11.1850. Nothing after that. These papers only stated that they were from Ireland (no town or county -basically, it was a very short form letter). I already checked "The Famine Immigrants" (right names, wrong ages), "Missing Friends" (not found), and Spinning Wheel Survey (the surname appears mostly in Co. Monaghan, Parish Aughnamullin).The family: Descendants of Patrick Comiskey:- (1) Patrick COMISKEY b: About. 1784 in Ireland d: April 6<sup>th</sup> 1859 in Kent, Putnam County, New York, (2) Owen COMISKEY b: About. 1812 in Ireland d: after. 1870 in Putnam Co. NY married ANN b: About. 1824 in Ireland d: after. 1870 in Putnam Co. NY (4) Mary COMISKEY b: 1821 in Ireland d: September 13<sup>th</sup> 1885 in Kent, Putnam Co. NY married Bartholomew CUNNINGHAM b: 1802 in Ireland d: July 27<sup>th</sup> 1883 in Kent, Putnam Co. NY. (5) James COMISKEY b: about. 1822 in Ireland d: September 12<sup>th</sup> 1861 in Kent, Putnam Co. NY married MARY b: About. 1828 in CT d: before 1861 in Putnam Co. NY (6) Catherine COMISKEY b: May 1835 in Ireland d: after. July 6<sup>th</sup> 1910 in NY or CT married Alexander HOBBY b: about 1832 in Putnam Co. NY d: May 24, 1896 in Danbury, Fairfield Co. CT. Where should I look next? Laura Brody, Hudson Valley Computer Associates, Inc., PO Box 859 120 Sixth Street, Verplanck, NY 10596-0859, USA

**Doris Holliday** E-mail: [djsmart@gtcom.net](mailto:djsmart@gtcom.net) wrote to our website:- I am trying to locate any family with the surname of Smart or Smartt. My grandfather was born in Oldbridge, County Meath, Ireland. I would appreciate any help I can get in locating his family. His name was William Alexander Smartt or Smart. I'm not sure of the Irish spelling. Any help please.

## NEW PUBLICATION

**"Irish Genealogical Sources Series No. 15 - The Louth Militia"** by Brendan Hall (ISBN 1898471 31 2) Ir£8.00 (Ir£1.00 P+P - Ireland & UK : Ir£2.00 elsewhere surface mail Ir£4.00 airmail) Throughout the nineteenth century Irishmen enlisted into the British Army in numbers, in terms of population, far exceeding the other regions of these islands. As an example, the Irish proportion of the British army in 1830 and 1840 was 42.2% and 37.2% respectively, gradually diminishing as the century wore on and the decimation caused by famine and emigration took effect. For no other reason than the fact that there was such a high amount of recruitment in Ireland, it may be seen what a valuable source of genealogy British Army records can be. However, because of difficulties of access (the British Army Archives are held in the British Public Records

Office at Kew outside London), they remain under utilised. Just as the Irish responded to the call to the Line (the main regiments in the British Army), in part, it must be added, for reasons of poverty, so, too, the quotas for recruitment to the county regiments of the Irish Militia were met with relative ease, once the military organisation was in place and initial local hostilities overcome. This book concentrates on those persons who served with the Louth Rifles from its formation in 1854 until 1876 and, in the case of officers, their antecedents in the Louth Militia. As well as nominal lists, historical and contextual background information extracted from the Regimental History, local newspapers, etc. is provided. This type of information is probably more pertinent in terms of the ordinary recruits as, for the genealogist, it places individuals at a particular place at a particular time and it is hoped will add to the family history of individual men who served with the Regiment. In fact, for many of those in the nominal list of recruits, it may be the only "personal" information now available on them. Within the context of this book, "Louth Militia" refers to that period in the history of the regiment up to 1854. From 1854 the name was changed to "Louth Rifles". However, in newspaper articles and, apparently, local parlance, the old name was often used. Louth County is situated on the east coast of Ireland. With about 38 pages of text and there are about 3,900 names on the list this publication is a must for anyone researching their County Louth roots.

## MARTELLO TOWER PROJECT

**New Genealogical Archive for Ireland** in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown - the Society plans to restore the *Martello Tower* at Seapoint, Co. Dublin, to house its growing archive. This new facility - *An Daonchartlann*, will be a major visitor attraction in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown complementing the *Joyce Museum*, *Dalkey Heritage Centre* and the *National Maritime Museum*. If you would like to make a donation to the Building Fund - please make cheques (Ir£., US\$, CAN\$, Stg£, AU\$, NZ\$ or Euros) payable to DLGS Building Fund and send to: Michael Merrigan, (address below)

## NOTICE

Remember folks, as always, your Annual Subscriptions falls due in October. It's just Ir£10.00 payable by Cheque or Credit Card MasterCard/Visa (Number & Expiry Date) to the address below. *Thanks!!*