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THE GENIE GAZETTE

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Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society
Monthly Newsletter

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RIFT BETWEEN THE HERITAGE COUNCIL & DEPARTMENT OVER GENEALOGY

"The Sunday Times" of July 11th reported that the Irish Government had rejected a proposal by the Heritage Council to have a Ir£3 million purpose built genealogical self service research centre in Dublin on the lines of those in London and Edinburgh. John Burns of "The Sunday Times" highlighted the open division between the Heritage Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands on the issue of the report commissioned by the Minister from the Heritage Council on genealogical practises in Ireland. This report was delivered to the Minister Ms. Síle de Valera T.D. nearly seven months ago, however, the Minister commissioned a further report on the Heritage Centres from her own Department - both reports are not published (see Vol.4. No. 5 May 1999 of "The Genie Gazette"). This article raises many interesting questions for genealogists at home and overseas. This new facility proposed by the Heritage Council would, according to this article, provide access to over 29 million records and would be linked to every county in the Republic. The proposal, it is claimed, would ease the pressure on the existing repositories (National Library, National Archives and General Register Office) and would, in effect, become a one-stop-shopping facility for genealogists for Ir£15.00 per day. This proposal by the Heritage Council contained in this Ir£10,000 report certainly appears to be yet another lifeline to Irish Genealogy Limited (Heritage Centres) and possibly, a back door to the introduction of charges to view records that one can presently access for free. Should this be the case, it's hardly surprising that the Department, according to the article, believes that this proposal was inconsistent with the terms of reference supplied to the Heritage Council when the Minister commissioned the report on genealogical practises in Ireland. The Department, it's reported, view that the necessary improvements can be achieved by the integrated and co-ordinated development of the services provided through

existing organisations. This proposal by the Heritage Council raises questions as to its impartiality and fairness of the process employed to evaluate applications for Heritage Council grant aid to organisations, such as this Society, which are committed to the principle of public ownership and free public access to our genealogical heritage. Indeed, it appears that this may not have the support of a number on the Heritage Council. Voluntary genealogical organisations seeking grants from the Heritage Council may be, following the publication of this article in "The Sunday Times" in "competition" for such grants with the already heavily funded Irish Genealogical Project and now, it seems the Heritage Council itself. This Society's plans and proposals for our Archive Project at the Martello Tower, Seapoint, Co. Dublin, and indeed, our publications and equipment have received no support from the Heritage Council and all grant applications from Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society, to date, were refused. Should there be on the Heritage Council's grant allocation committees any person or persons connected with the promoters of this proposal by the Heritage Council, then at the very least, the Minister Síle de Valera T.D. must instigate an investigation to ascertain whether any conflict of interests existed at the time grant decisions were made. If established that such existed resignations must follow in the public interest.

CHANGE OF VENUE

With a marked increase in the cultural and Irish music activities in An Culturann attracting many more overseas visitors during the summer each year, the Society has little room to accommodate the increase in our own numbers attending our monthly meetings in Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. Therefore, with sincere regret we must relocate the next Monthly Open Meeting to another venue. Many sites were considered and we were delighted to accept the invitation by Mr. Edward Confrey, President of the Dún Laoghaire Club, to avail of their premises on Eblana Avenue in Dún Laoghaire. The Club is located to the left of the entrance to Dún Laoghaire Market on Eblana Avenue (avenue just behind St. Michael's Church, Dún Laoghaire). Bus 7, 7a, 8, 46A, 75 and 111 & DART - Dún Laoghaire Station. The next meeting will be held there on August 10th and on the second Tuesday of each month thereafter. The Executive Committee greatly appreciates all the kindness and hospitality received, since Feb. 11th 1992, at Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Monkstown - we'll continue to promote the fine work undertaken by CCE in future publications.

OVERSEAS MEMBERS RESEARCH COUPONS

The Society's special Research Coupons for our Overseas Members will be despatched during the month of June and July to all corners of the globe. These coupons enable our members in New Zealand, Singapore, Australia, Canada, United States, Belgium, France and Great Britain to have limited research undertaken on their behalf by our Archivist, Frieda Carroll and our Overseas Members' Officers, Marie Keogh and Annette McDonnell. Overseas Members who have not received their six Research Coupons by the time they receive the July issue of "The Genie Gazette" should inform the Society's Hon. Secretary at the above address. or e-mail: dlgs@iol.ie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday August 10th 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.

Wednesday July 28th & August 25th 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 Station.

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

A NEW PUBLICATION ON THE REBELLION IN WICKLOW

A new volume in the very successful Irish Genealogical Sources Series will be published by the Society on July 12th 1999. "**Irish Genealogical Sources No. 14 People of the Rebellion, Wicklow 1798**" (ISBN 1 898471 26 6) Price Ir£8.00 (p+p Ir£1.00 Ireland & UK. Others Ir£2.00). Researched and compiled by the noted Local Historian, Pat Power of Arklow, Co. Wicklow. The course of the Rebellion in County Wicklow has always been overshadowed by the more militant events in other parts of Ireland despite the fact that even after the Rebellion had been quelled in the rest of the country the fight continued in that county. This publication is an attempt to show that this affected the lives of many of the people at that time. Around 1,800 names of those who took part on both sides in the 1798 Rebellion in Wicklow are listed together with their affiliation at the time, their probable addresses coupled with information about other aspects of their lives or deaths. "People of the Rebellion, Wicklow 1798", which includes the names of United Irishmen, Yeomen, and other notables of the period, is the first time that an effort has been made to bring together in one publication all the available names of those involved in this important phase in Irish history. It will provide a useful resource for those researching military, social or family history for the period mentioned. The author, Pat Power, is a local historian specialising in the history of County Wicklow. Among his publications are "The Arklow Calendar", "Pocket Guide to South East Wicklow" and various articles in the county historical journals. Pat is an acknowledged expert in the county's visual history and is well known for his series of illustrated lectures which include "Wicklow's Mining History", "The Visuality of Rebellion" and "Parnell of Avondale". He was a contributing essayist to the monumental volume "Wicklow, History and Society". During the bi-centenary of the 1798 commemorations he chaired the County education committee which produced an innovative educational pack for schools. He is also local historian accredited to the Parnell Summer School since its inception in 1990. Pat was also associated with the Rathdrum Cartoon Festival where he presented lectures

and papers on the works of Hogarth, Gillray, Rowlandson and other notables in the world of caricature

QUERIES RECEIVED

Note: If you have information on any of the queries below and don't have access to the Internet (where no other address is given) please drop info. to the Hon. Secretary for forwarding.

Mrs Carol Hopkins 118 Pound Bank Road Malvern Worcs. WR14 2NU England, seeks any information on Forsyth(e) and Lounds/Lownds/Lowends families from Oldcastle area Co. Meath. Charles Smyth dealer C1875 and Henderson families Shoemakers/Bakers from Tullow Co. Carlow.

Robert Whaley, (e-mail with Hon. Secretary) seeks information on Henry Whaley (Whalley). He made a will on June 7, 1659 and supposedly is buried at St. Werburgh Church in Dublin. I would like to get info. about the church and resources that might be available to research Henry's actual date of death and where to search for a copy of the will. Thank you in advance.

Raymond McDonough 75, Gloucester Rd., Hounslow Heath, Middlesex TW4 6AB England is seeking information McDonough/Dunn families in Dublin circa 1890. Any information please.

Marie Keogh 113, Grange Rd., Baldoyle Dublin 13 is seeking information on James Cassidy Professor of Music died 1869 Dublin. Any descendants still in Dublin?

TYPEFACE OF THE GENIE GAZETTE

Following complaints it has been agreed to increase the size of the print in this publication. We trust that this meets with the overall satisfaction of our Members.

CORRECTION (June Gazette)

John Dossor, 72, Wheatlands Park, Redcar, Cleveland, TS102PS England sought information in the June '99 issue, however, we misprinted FALKNER as SALKNER, therefore John still seeks info. on his grandmother **Jessie Mary Falkner** born 1874. Members of her family living in Kingstown(Dun Laoghaire) 1870 - 1910. The family owned a Grocery Wine & Spirits Business called "**Francis Falkner & Sons**" at 83 Grafton St. Dublin and lived in a house called "St Kilda" in Sandycove Avenue East, Dún Laoghaire not far from James Joyce Martello Tower.

ONE DAY CONFERENCE

A one day conference will be organised by the Society for Heritage Week. To be held on Saturday 11th September in the Rochestown Lodge Hotel, (Victor Hotel), Rochestown Ave., Dún Laoghaire it's open to members and non-members alike. The theme of the conference will be "Genealogy, Computers & the World Wide Web" - speakers will cover a range of topics and suppliers will be on hand to introduce the best packages and equipment available in Ireland. The cost of the event will be Ir£20.00 p.p. with Morning & Afternoon Coffee, Lectures, Starting Pack etc. Lunch will be available at a special rate for participants. Full details in the August issue of "*The Genie Gazette*".

Volunteers Required

Barry O'Connor (tel: 2854386) is seeking volunteers for a number of cemetery related projects - call him !!