

- Heritage Council Report Reviewed
- Conference "Genealogy, Computers & the WWW"
- Possible new Membership provisions

# The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of  
Dún Laoghaire  
Genealogical Society  
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September 1999

"Welcome to  
the World of  
Genealogy in  
Dún Laoghaire"

## HERITAGE COUNCIL REPORT SLAMMED

*Costs for the "ordinary" researcher to increase dramatically in a "pay for view" proposal*

### "PAY FOR VIEW"

Yes, that's what is proposed by the Heritage Council's Report. Originally commissioned by the former Minister **Michael D. Higgins, T.D.**, this Report covers 160 pages and involved a "public consultation process" and visits to the General Register Office for Scotland, the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh and the British Family Records Centre in London by the Genealogy Sub-Committee of the Heritage Council. It proposes the establishment of a new facility "*The Irish Family History Research Centre*" - the IFHRC in Dublin. In justifying this proposal, set to cost over Ir£3,000,000, the Report examines each of the repositories in Dublin and the Heritage Centres (IGL). It points to the removal to Roscommon of the GRO by 2000 and the "completion" of the IGP (Heritage Centres) indexing project by 2007. Both dates very unlikely to be met as the first is dependent on funding and new legislation is required for the removal of the GRO. All in all, the Report proposes "*one-stop shopping*" in Dublin for the genealogist. Copy records of BDMs, Censuses, Parish Registers, Land Registry records etc. will be available to the public at the

proposed IFHRC. This development would be managed by 'key partners' including nominees from Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI) and Irish Genealogy Limited (Heritage Centres). It is proposed to charge for access to the to the IFHRC "on a cost recovery basis" and at a rate of Ir£15.00 per day - not including photocopies. Therefore, a three-day research trip to Dublin to view BDMs, Census Returns and microfilms of Parish Registers will rise from Ir£12.00 (GRO Day Rate) to a staggering Ir£45.00 for the general public to use the proposed IFHRC. No wonder that the "*Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access*" to genealogical heritage, mentioned in the Interim Report, is nowhere to be found in this tome. All access, it recommends, should be viewed in the context of existing legislation. Citing the provision of services, for a fee, by the Heritage Centres as a means to undermine the overall principle of free access to information is indicative of the general tone of the Report. In copying the British experience, the compilers went one step further to recommend the adoption a "*100 year rule*" for public access. Thus, ignoring this Society's call for a

more progressive policy of just seventy years permitting access to our State's first census and all records (on microfilm) of the GRO in as many repositories as will facilitate access throughout the country. Odd, on the eve of a new millennium, that the proposal is to have microfilm copies of BDMs to just 1900. The Roman Catholic Church, on the other hand, sees the need to extend the earlier microfilming to include registers beyond the year 1880 (NLI) up to the 1920s - possibly covering the period of the existing three censuses - 1901, 1911 and the "closed" 1926. The 1993 ministerial commitment to the maintenance of a GRO research facility in Dublin, obtained by the **GRO Users' Group** campaign, the Report argues, should be incorporated into the IFHRC. But most damning in this report is its omissions, especially, in relation to the valuable contribution community based voluntary organisations like this Society make to the provision of genealogical services and in the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our genealogical heritage in Ireland and amongst, her Diaspora. Recognised as the country's most active genealogical organisation and now a leading

publisher of genealogical works, Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society warranted only a mention in the Appendices of the Report and then, only citing a number of our publications. In the provision of this Report, it is clear, that the Heritage Council failed to describe the current situation correctly and comprehensively in an effort to further commercialise genealogical services in Ireland. This Report should be rejected by the Minister in the "public interest". What else could the Heritage Council have spent Ir£10,000 on .... ?

## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 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.

**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**

**Weds. Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> & Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 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

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY **Welcome** to the world of genealogy in Dún Laoghaire - the **Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society**, founded in 1990, is devoted to the promotion of the study of Irish Family History, the collection of genealogical material and the publication of research aids and data.

## MARTELLO TOWER PROJECT

**New Genealogical Archive** 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, Hon. Sec., DLGS, 11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

## "GENEALOGY, COMPUTERS & THE WORLD WIDE WEB"

Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society in association with Ireland's leading Internet Service Provider, **IRELAND ON-LINE**, is hosting a one day conference on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September 1999** in The Rochestown Lodge Hotel, Rochestown Avenue, Dún Laoghaire as part of Irish Heritage Week organised by **Dúchas** - The Heritage Service. The theme of the event is *"Genealogy, Computers & the sharing and receiving genealogical information from all corners of the globe.*

The aim of the Conference is to provide an overview of the various computers and computer packages available for use in Family History Research. **IRELAND ON-LINE** will provide an introduction to the Internet and the World Wide Web. Its ease of use and accessibility to all as not only a communications tool but one of the greatest advances in popular education since the development of television. The main speaker is John Grenham - author of the much acclaimed *"Tracing Your Irish Ancestors"*. The cost of this One Day Conference is just Ir£10.00 or €12.70. *World Wide Web" - indeed, more and more family historians are switching to PC's to store their information and availing of the newest and most versatile software packages for Family History. People researching their "roots" are now amongst the greatest users of the World Wide Web*

## MEMBERSHIP FEE CHANGES

The forthcoming Annual General Meeting is set to debate the issue of the Annual Membership Fee. Not to increase the Fee, but to facilitate Members by permitting membership to be held for a calendar year from the date of payment rather than, as now, due on November 1<sup>st</sup> in each year. This provision will be of particular benefit to

our growing numbers of Overseas Members. As this proposal will require an amendment to the Society's Constitution, it's up to the Members to decide the issue at the AGM on October 12<sup>th</sup> in the Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire.

## TWENTY-ONE NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IRELAND'S LEADING GENEALOGICAL PUBLISHER

**Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society** has no fewer than twenty-one titles in the pipe line for publication in the **"Irish Genealogical Sources Series"**. Each of these publications has been researched by our members and will make a significant contribution to the corpus of genealogical works now available from this Society and others over the past few years. George H. O'Reilly, MA, FRSAI, is the Series Editor and George is actively seeking funding for these publications. *"Give me seed capital of say Ir£5,000 now and all these publications will be on the shelves before Christmas"* according to George. However, sponsors for each publication are sought - interested contact George on e-mail: ghor@iol.ie or write to the Hon. Secretary (address below). The titles are only "working titles" and may change.

1. Social History of Ballingarry, **Co. Limerick**, 1800-1900.
2. Censii of Castlecomer, **Co. Kilkenny** 1901/1911.
3. School Registers, Kilcoole, **Co. Wicklow**.
4. Kingstown & District Guide & Information for the 1850s, **Co. Dublin**.
5. Traders of **Dublin** 1798.
6. The Dead of the **Leinster**, story and comprehensive listing.
7. Cemetery records of Arklow, **Co. Wicklow**.
8. Officers and Recruits of the Louth Rifles 1854-1876, **Co. Louth**.
9. 1821 Census of Crosserlough, **Co. Cavan**.
10. A History of Monkstown Parish, **Co. Dublin**.
11. A History of Booterstown Parish, **Co. Dublin**.
12. School Register, Edengora, **Co. Meath**.
13. **Strays** (births, marriages, deaths).
14. Notes on Researching the **Callery Family**.
15. Arklow Hearth Money Roll, **Co. Wicklow**.
16. Griffiths Valuation for Arklow, **Co. Wicklow**.
17. Arklow House Valuation 1880, **Co. Wicklow**.
18. Poor Law Union Report 1844 Extracts and Comment.
19. Griffiths Valuation for Granard, **Co. Longford**.
20. Griffiths Valuation for Oldcastle, **Co. Meath**. And finally,
21. **The Memorial Inscriptions of the Jewish Cemetery, Dolphin's Barn, Dublin.**