

- **New Project at University College Cork**
- **News, Queries and much more ...**
- **World History Association of Ireland?**

The Genie Gazette

*Newsletter of
the
Genealogical Society
of Ireland
Volume 5 • Issue 6
June 2000*

Welcome
to the
World of
Genealogy

“ACCESSING THE ANNALS OF IRELAND”

The CELT PROJECT @ U.C.C. provides a new resource for genealogy

University College Cork's CELT project aims to produce an online database of contemporary and historical topics from many areas, including literature and the other arts. It will provide material for the greatest possible range of readers, researchers, academic scholars, teachers, students, and the general public. The texts can be searched, read on-screen, downloaded for later use, or printed out. The project grew out of the joint involvement of the Department of History and the Computer Centre in a number of related text projects over many years, including the project formerly known as CURIA. This relationship has become a major academic resource for UCC and for Ireland, and is providing skills and expertise that are applicable in many other fields. In short, the Celt Project brings the wealth of Irish literary and historical culture (in Irish, Latin, Old Norse, Anglo-Norman French, and English) to the Internet. The project is rigorously scholarly and yet, at the same time, user-friendly for the widest possible range of readers and researchers - academic scholars, teachers, students (at all levels), genealogists and the general public, in Ireland and overseas. Texts will be presented in immediately usable form and accompanied by introductions, translations (where possible and necessary), and scholarly bibliographies. Images will be an integral part of text presentation and texts will be accompanied, where useful and possible, by graphics, maps, line-drawings etc. Check out U.C.C.'s Celt Website at <http://www.ucc.ie/celt/irishpage.html> **Beatrix Faerber**, Project Manager, informed "The Genie Gazette" that the Annals and all texts on site are accessible

to search via our search engine. Volumes 3 and 4 of the Annals of the Four Masters (Irish Originals) will be put onto the web this summer. Moreover, it is planned to include a personal names index. Work on this name index is to start this week. For use with its search engine, CELT aims at enabling a comprehensive name index, among other things for purposes of prosopography - an independent science of social history embracing genealogy, onomastics and demography, something that has scarcely begun in Celtic Studies. This index will be based on markup and machine retrieval of names in a logical order - given names, additional names, nicknames, role names and surnames. A personal name index will consist of all the personal names found in the CELT database. It will allow personal names, kindred and dynasty names to be identified, to be placed in their social and historical context, and every mention of them to be traced so as to give comprehensive data of a given individual's life. The Irish Annals which are extant in Irish, Latin and English are a particularly valuable source for information regarding personal and family names. There are major problems, however, most of the body of the Annals written in Irish cover a wide time-span. Major language changes have occurred within that period, as is inevitably the case with any large, heterogeneous database. Besides, many texts are written in a mixture of Irish and Latin. This affects many things, including the orthography of personal names which may differ greatly from century to century and from text to text. For research in Irish history and related fields this has given rise to problems for those less familiar with Irish orthography. Indeed, sometimes, for those less familiar with Latin, it may not be easy to equate a Latinised personal name with

the corresponding Irish or English form. However, this problem can be overcome so that a search can be enabled for somebody outside the specialist field of early medieval studies. The variants in spelling and morphology of a given name are given a single target value and used to create a name pool. Search options could include selecting between a thesaurus match which will yield all variants in the name pool, and an exact match - which will exclude unwanted orthographic variants. The staff at UCC must be congratulated for developing and providing this very valuable resource for Irish history and genealogy.

DIARY DATES

Monday 12th June 2000

Evening Open Meeting **Dún Laoghaire Club**, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire. 20.00 hrs. - 22.00 hrs. Buses 7, 8, 46A, 75 & 111 - DART Dún Laoghaire station.

Speaker: Aoife Crowley,

Topic:- "Families of County Leitrim"

Monday 10th July 2000

As above - Speaker: Liz Lynch

Topic:- "Conserving Paper Records"

Wednesday June 28th & July 26th 2000

(Discussion Group on Irish Family History)

Morning Open Meeting - **The Port View**

Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire. 10.30 hrs. -12.30 hrs. Buses etc. as above.

SEACHTAIN OIBREACHTA

HERITAGE WEEK CONFERENCE

This year the National Heritage Week runs from the 3rd to the 10th September and, following on the success of last year's Conference, the Society will host a Genealogical Conference on **Saturday 9th September 2000 in The Kingston Hotel, Dún Laoghaire**. The theme of the conference is "Ancestry & Our Ancestors at Work" with speakers from North and South. With "Ancestry" we hope to focus on the new awareness of the importance of genetics and recent studies in Ireland and overseas. The full programme for the conference will be published in "The Genie Gazette" when the

programme is finalised at the end of June. The price for the full day from 10.00 hrs to 17.00 hrs will be Ir£15.00 (including Morning/Afternoon Tea/Coffee) or Ir£10.00 for either the Morning or Afternoon Sessions.

OUR SOCIETY'S ARCHIVE

Located at 14, Rochestown Park,

Dún Laoghaire. Open (Members only)

Saturdays 14.00 hrs. - 17.00 hrs and Mondays

(excluding 2nd Monday)

NEITHER WAIF NOR STRAY

With the Commission to Inquire into Child Abuse due to start public sittings in Dublin this month under Hon. Justice Mary Laffoy of the High Court, we are not alone with a painful past in this area as Perry Snow, a Canadian, shows in a new book just published. There are very few books written about the British Child Emigration Scheme to Canada (1870-1940). The recently published book "**Neither Waif Nor Stray: The Search For A Stolen Identity**" is the first book published by a Canadian about the British Child Emigration Scheme to Canada (1870-1940) in 20 years. Indeed, it is very possible that these "British" children could have included many Irish children or ethnically Irish from places in Great Britain like Liverpool, Newcastle, Manchester or London. It is complete with a biography of the life of the author's father - a British Home Child in Canada. The book is the first published since the scandalous revelations ten years ago by the Child Migrants Trust of the British Child Emigration Scheme to Australia (1947-1967). It contains a comprehensive examination of the Psychological traumas experienced by the British Home Children while "in care" and throughout their lives in Canada. According to the author, this book is not simply a family history. His father's lifelong search for his identity represented the lifelong yearning of the 100,000 British Home Children to find the families from whom they were separated, and, in some cases, the author maintains, were "abducted" by British childcare organisations. Alarming, he maintains that, as many as 25% of these 6-15 year old alleged orphans were "emigrated" without either their parents' knowledge or consent and half of them suffered from physical abuse and neglect. The book presents a personal and professional analysis of the entire scheme and highlights the difficulties the British Home Children and their descendants have encountered for over a 100 years

when they tried to get personal information from the sending agencies. It underscores the present difficulties the descendants continue to experience in trying to obtain information from the sending agencies. There are now 4 million Canadian descendants of the original British Home Children who were emigrated to Canada by 50 British Child Care organizations. An unknown number of children made their way to the United States. The author's father, like thousands of other British Home Children wrote to the Waifs and Strays Society for over 50 years, trying to identify his parents and find his family. The author, like thousands of first-generation descendants, also wrote to them following his father's death. With the help of a "kind stranger" in England, he was able to identify his father's heretofore unknown brothers and sisters. The book, according to the author, provides documentation of how the Church of England Waifs and Strays Society (now the Children's Society) withheld critical information, denied the existence of information, and presented false information to his father and him. The Psychological trauma of "coming into care," living in the Boys' and Girls' Homes, being deported to Canada, working as indentured farm labourers, experiencing prejudice in Canada, and being abandoned by the sending agencies is examined in detail. The author, Perry Snow BA (Hons) MA Clinical Psychologist, may be contacted at E-mail:- psnow@cadvision.com or by ordinary mail at 325 Market Mall Executive Professional Centre, 4935 40th Avenue N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada

QUERIES RECEIVED

Editor's Note:- Due to the overwhelming demand for query space, as and from the June issue, in order to place a query in "*The Genie Gazette*" a person must be a member of the **Genealogical Society of Ireland** (or one of the Irish societies listed over), or a member of a member society of the **Federation of Family History Societies** (UK) or a member/member society of the **National Genealogical Society** (USA). Simply e-mail GenSocIreland@iol.ie placing the single word "Gazette" in the subject box and in the message include a full name, e-mail address and the name of your society - not more than 200 words in all please. Queries not matching this format will NOT be considered for publication in this newsletter. **Kathleen Woodrow**, E-mail:- woodrowk@flash.net Wrote: Our family tradition is that the League's who were our ancestors were French. Does anyone know of

League's who lived in Longford, Westmeath, Mayo, Donegal or Galway, Ireland? My earliest known League ancestor was Aaron League who died circa 1792 in Amelia Co., Virginia, USA. He had one son named Edmund born in Amelia Co. in 1759. Any help will be very much appreciated.

Christene Smith E-mail:- cristene@swbell.net Wrote:- My ancestors came to America from Ireland aboard the ship "Volunteer" in January or February 1795, landing in Charleston, South Carolina. I have not been able to find from what port in Ireland the ship sailed. Would you have any suggestions on how I could find this information? Also, it was family history that the family left Ireland for America "for the lack of religious freedom." How could I learn more about the lack of religious freedom in Ireland in 1795? I have not been able to find anything to date. I would especially like to find out exactly where my ancestors lived in Ireland. I do not know their occupation there or much about their life before they came to America. My ancestors were: John Brooke and his wife, Mary Prescott Brooke. Their children: James Brooke born March 8, 1795 in Ireland, Elizabeth Brooke, Margaret Brooke, Mary Brooke all born in Ireland, John Prescott Brooke born Feb. 26, 1795 on board the "Volunteer" during the voyage to America.

Kenlyn Morris Perry, E-mail:- forjets@aol.com Wrote:- My great grandfather Henry Coyle was in the Civil War 1861 for Massachusetts in the United States of America. It says he was 19 at the time, but he could have been as young as 14. My mother says he was approx. 10 yrs old when he left Ireland for the United States. This would make him born between 1842-1847. He may have come to America 1852-1857. How does a person check on Passenger ships for a Henry Coyle who left Ireland for the USA and how would I find out where he was born? I am new at looking for my ancestors. Hope you can give me some clues on how to do this search

David Henebury, E-mail: (with Hon. Sec.) wrote:- Seeking information about my family name which is Henebury. I currently live in the Netherlands, but I was born in Liverpool in 1957. My father (James) was born in Manchester in 1919, but where his father (Austin) was born or came from is unknown.

Gail Cooksley, 33 Loyola Way, Attadale, 6156, Western Australia wrote:- I am seeking some help and guidance in trying to locate where my great grandfather originated from in Ireland. His name is John William MURPHY - Born 22nd June 1808. I do know that he trained to be a priest, but I do not know where this took place. So far I have twice written to the Archbishop of Dublin at Drumcondra without any reply. I have more recently e-mailed Colm McQuinn, Archivist at All Hallows College and he replied saying that he did not train there. I also know that my great grandfather left Ireland - possibly in the mid to late 1850's, as he married in Tasmania,

Australia on the 4th September, 1860. Any help please. Advise of any costs involved.

Joe Fuller (E-mail with Hon. Sec.) Wrote:- I am trying to find my grandmother's birthplace, parish, hometown. Maiden name was Bridget O'Grady, DOB 4/24/1884, father, Patrick, mother, Catherine (nee Collins). I was told she was from Westport, she left Ireland and moved to Scotland with her husband Michael J. Barrett, DOB 12/25/1875, from Belmullet. If you can offer any assistance much appreciated.

Mike Dunn, E-mail:- mdunn@bbengr.com Wrote:- Searching for my g.g grandparents. The only info I have is that my g. grandfather was born here in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1858, his parents were both listed as being from Ireland. Arthur Dunn and Johanna Corbett were the Irish immigrants, my g.g. grandparents. There is an Arthur Dunn listed as arriving in New York on May 8, 1850, at 25 years old – could this be him?

Joyce (RI) E-mail:- SCRITTERS@cs.com Wrote:- The Irish surnames I am researching are: Adams/ Donahue/ McMahon/O'Brien On the documents I have located (in the USA) each one states that the above individuals were born in Ireland. No county or other info was recorded. Period 1800-1900. I have spouses names, and children names also. Any help pls.

Val D. Connor, 7, Hamilton Court, Breakwater, 3219, Victoria, Australia. Wrote:- Seeking information on my great grandparents John Connor & Georgina Bartholomew who were married at Dublin Castle on 01. July 1840. Georgina's father was a caretaker at the Castle. John & Georgina had five children, the third and fourth are said to have died in Ireland. I am also seeking information on my great great grandparents, Patrick Connor & Jane Stewart. Val gave the Society a full ancestry chart for the Archives.

Mike Ridenour E-mail:- ridenour@mis.net Wrote:- My family came to America in 1739 on a ship reportedly built (and home port?) in Dublin. The ship's name was the "Robert and Alice". I've also seen it spelled "Robert y Alice". It apparently was a passenger ship that made several voyages to America during the mid-late 1730's from ports such as Rotterdam. I'm trying to find information on the ship herself. When built, specifications, even a drawing or lithograph of her would be fantastic. Does anyone know how I might find information on such a ship? Built in Dublin in most likely the early 1700's?

George Eaton, email eatong@ireland.com postal address Shannon Lodge Barrybeg, Athlone, Co. Westmeath Wrote:- seeking any information on Anne Alexander who married Daniel Eaton of County Limerick in Kilrush County Clare in 1875. She may not have been a native of either of these counties.

Philip Lecane, 77, Windsor Drive, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, (E-mail via Hon. Sec. GenSocIreland@iol.ie) Wrote:- I am seeking information on William Birch, Captain of "RMS Leinster" Born Dublin 1857. Second son of Edwin & Eliza (née Worm) Birch of

Molesworth Street, Dublin. Married Louisa – surname unknown. Lived at "The Sycamores", Holyhead, North Wales. So Louisa may have been from Holyhead. Died 10. Oct. 1918 when the "Leinster" was sunk. Body lost at sea. Grateful for info. on exact date of birth, date and place of marriage & surname of his wife.

Margaret Nowlan, 29, Edmondson Street, Wagga Wagga, 2650, New South Wales, Australia. Wrote:- Seeking information of Timothy Nowlan who went to Australia in 1822. He was commissioned by the British Government to bring some of the first Merino sheep to Tasmania. He came from Kilkenny and his family had woollen mills there and on Westmoreland Street, Dublin. The mills were called "The Merino Factory". Seeking info. on the mills and possibly photos. Will cover costs.

W.J. Taylor, Old School Cottage, Llanwrin, Machynlleth, Powys, SY20 8HQ, Wales. Wrote:- Seeking info. on Eliza McDonald, born in Ireland between 1782 & 1791. Eliza married Bartholomew Fuller in London 1811.

LOCAL SOCIETIES WITH MONTHLY MEETINGS IN IRELAND

Ballinteer FHS, Co. Dublin – Info: Chris Ryan, 29, The View, Woodpark, Ballinteer, Dundrum, Dublin 16.

Blessington FHS, Wicklow. Info: Maureen Phibbs, Blackrock, Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

Cork Gen. Soc., Info: Michael O'Connell, 4 Evergreen Villas, Evergreen Road, Cork.

Dún Laoghaire Gen. Soc. - meetings organised by the GSI - see *DIARY DATES*

North of Ireland FHS Info. Hon. Sec., NIFHS, c/o Dept. of Education., QUB, University St., Belfast, BT7 1HL, N. Ireland.

Raheny HS, Co. Dublin - Info: Christy Kerins, 4, Thorndale Drive, Artane, Dublin 5.

Wexford FHS, Co. Wexford - Info: Mr. Hilary Murphy, 24, Parklands, Wexford Town, Co. Wexford.

Wicklow Co. Gen. Soc. Info: Declan Byrne, 22, Wesley Lawns, Dublin 16.

ANCESTORS IN THE BRITISH ARMY?

In the March issue of "The Genie Gazette" we reported on the very helpful service provided by a British researcher, Kevin Asplin, (E-mail: Kevin.Asplin@tesco.net) and that he has a database of over 160,000 persons who fought in the British Army. Kevin is currently charging Stg£10.00 to find, copy and post soldiers documents (a once off payment) and Stg£30.00 to build a complete soldiers' career. However, the report did not contain his Mailing address: Kevin Asplin, 17, Muscott Close, Shipton Bellinger, Tidworth, Hampshire, SP9 7TU, England. (Please include two x IRC's for reply).

SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Genealogical Society of Ireland website <http://welcome.to/GenealogyIreland> features articles, downloadable lists, full info. on our publications and you can JOIN the GSI on line.

OPINION

As students around Ireland sit down to their College Leaving and Junior Certificate exams this month, many of us will take a moment to look back at our days sitting these exams and, possibly, pity these students. However, I find myself in total agreement with Professor Dermot Keogh of University College Cork, writing in "The Irish Times" (June 9th 2000) www.ireland.com/education/el on the subject of history in Irish education. For many years this subject was the Cinderella of the curriculum. Not so long ago we had the ludicrous suggestion to drop history as a core subject in second level education in Ireland, thankfully, that proposal was followed through. But it should be of great concern to us all that history, as a subject, is still very marginalised with some students seeing little or no use for the subject. Whether this negative image is a product of teaching methods or the prescribed texts I don't know, however, in a country where Local History Societies are thriving it's sad to see World History so neglected. Indeed, the importance of securing a higher profile for World History in our schools and amongst the public has never been more acutely urgent. With many thousands of immigrants coming to our shores to share in the wealth and prosperity of the Celtic Tiger economy, Irish people, especially the young, need an appreciation of World History if we are to avoid the bitterness of xenophobia and a rise in racism. Whilst, Irish History Teachers and the Department of Education should be encouraged to develop a better image for the subject in secondary schools, I strongly believe that there is a need in Ireland for a World History Association to promote a public awareness, appreciation and knowledge of World History. To quote Professor Keogh "The discipline of history is an intellectual tool which is a necessity not merely for the Leaving (college exam) but for a lifetime". Indeed, educational organisations in Ireland with an international focus, such as the GSI, should kick-start the process by becoming sponsoring bodies of a World History Association of Ireland. I would welcome comments and suggestion from persons interested in establishing the World History Assoc. of Ireland e-mail:- Michael_Merrigan@hotmail.com

OUR GENIE UPDATES....

NUNS REGISTER, the project to compile a complete register of all Irishwomen that entered Religious Life from the middle of the 18th century to the close of the 20th is gathering momentum with many Orders willing to assist with the project. Many people have written to the Hon. Secretary with details of nuns in their own family history research. Volunteers are now required for the sorting of the data and coordinating the collection of new material including obituaries and memorial inscriptions concerning nuns. Already, Michael Gandy of the Catholic FHS in the UK and others in the USA have offered to help with this important and very worthwhile genealogical project. Like to help? Contact the Hon. Secretary on E-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie or at the address below.

DAONCHARTLANN, the major works at the Martello Tower are due to get underway later this month according to the Chairman of the Daonchartlann Development Executive, Liam Mac Alasdair. Liam and his team have brought together the various elements of the project in order to have most of the work completed by August. Officials at Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council have been very supportive, especially, Mr. Eamonn O'Hare, who has been a constant source of encouragement and advice for the DDE.

PUBLICATION FUND, the Society has recently received a donation of Ir£1,000 from the Bank of Ireland for the Fund. Also, Jim Miley, Chief Executive of Dublin Chamber of Commerce has pledged a sum of Ir£500 towards the cost of the production of "*The Merchants & Traders of Dublin, 1798*" as part of the Irish Genealogical Sources series.

VOLUNTEERS are required for various projects over the Summer months including, the transcription of Memorial Inscriptions, data input, cataloguing in the Archive, proof reading etc. Interested? Contact Róisín Lafferty at Tel: 280 0894 or E-mail: fjlafferty@eircom.net

GRANTS, the Society has successfully secured a grant offer from the Heritage Council in the sum of Ir£4,000 towards the cost of computer equipment and a digital camera in order to place the Society's manuscript collection on CD ROM. The grant offer was made by Michael Starrett, CEO, under the Museums & Archives Grant Scheme.

FLYLEAF PRESS:- New Contact person: Deirdre Danaher, Address: 4 Spencer Villas, Glenageary, Dún Laoghaire Co. Dublin, Ireland. Telephone/Telefax. 353 1 283 1693 e-mail: flyleaf@indigo.ie;

BALLINGARRY, GRANAGH & CLOUNCAGH, County Limerick – Archival Records 1800-1900 compiled by Christy Kerins, Hon. Secretary of the Raheny Heritage Society is now available price Ir£10.00. ISBN 0-9538402-0-4. Copies may be had by sending a cheque for Ir£10.00 plus Ir£1.50 p+p Ireland & UK (Ir£3.00 elsewhere) to Christy Kerins, 4, Thorndale Drive, Artane, Dublin 5, Ireland. This 184 page book contains a wealth of

information for those with ancestors or connections with this part of County Limerick.

GSI JOURNAL EDITOR, Liam Mac Alasdair, recently resigned as Editor, after nearly nine years in the position, to devote all his energies to the project at the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin. Our Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley, very reluctantly accepted Liam's decision to resign, however, he understood the urgency and scope of the works at the Tower and praised Liam for his commitment to the project. Rory, under Standing Orders appointed Brendan Hall (E-mail:- jbhall@indigo.ie) as Acting-Editor to be confirmed at the July meeting of the Executive Committee. We wish Brendan and Liam every success in their new positions.

BELFAST TRIP, the Society wishes to thank James Davidson and John Sturgeon for organising an excellent tour of Belfast repositories for members of the GSI on Thursday 8th June. The members thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. They also met the new Lord Mayor of Belfast, Cllr. Sammy Wilson of the DUP who welcomed the group to Belfast's magnificent City Hall.

PUBLICATIONS FUND

The Genealogical Society of Ireland, a registered charity, is committed to the promotion of the study of Irish Family History at home in Ireland and overseas amongst the Irish Diaspora. This promotion has been most effectively achieved by the publication of valuable source material at a retail cost affordable by all wishing to trace their Irish roots. Affordability is central to accessibility and therefore, the Society must seek sponsorship for each of its publications. Should you like to sponsor one of the many titles yet to be published please contact the Editor of the Society's Irish Genealogical Sources series. Remember, what better way to commemorate the life of an ancestor than to sponsor a genealogical publication in their name. Interested? Contact **George O'Reilly** on E-mail ghor@iol.ie or write to him at 97, St. Assam's Avenue, Raheny, Dublin 5, Ireland.

COLLECTING FOR THE ARCHIVE

Visiting Dublin's General Register Office for family history research we collect, over a period, many photocopies of Birth, Marriage and Death entries. Some of these prove useful to our research, however, many others do not. Please just pop them in the mail to Frieda Carroll, the **GSI Archivist, 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin**. A database of these unwanted photocopies and certificates is being compiled by Frieda and her Team – Noel & Mary Delaney and Daphne Chawke. Frieda also is looking for donations of Directories, Local Histories Journals, School Yearbooks, Obits., Old Photographs etc. for the Society's Archive. She also wishes to thank Ann Gregg of Dublin and John Kerrigan of New York for depositing copies of the files with the Society's Archive. Members are

always encouraged to deposit copies of their own research, notes etc. with the Archivist. Have you lodged a copy of your Birth Brief yet? Just pop it in the mail to Frieda.

THE IRISH DIASPORA Short Biographies Sought

The lives, times, works and achievements of much of the Irish Diaspora goes completely unsung in the land of their birth and, yet, their impact on their adopted countries and communities may have been monumental and still remembered. In an ambitious attempt to bring together many unpublished biographies of Irishmen and Irishwomen, the Society is demonstrating its commitment to the repatriation of genealogical material. The biographies must be unpublished and be no more than 2000 words in length and be submitted to the Society for publication by either the author or the family of the author. A reasonable number of references and sources must be supplied with each biography to assist either verification and/or further research. Annette McDonnell has agreed to act as the GSI's Biographical Editor and therefore, readers wishing to submit short biographies on ancestors or others please do so by e-mail: to mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com or by mail to Annette McDonnell, 4, Kippure Avenue, Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, DUBLIN

The situation at the GRO in Dublin is still causing great difficulties for genealogists due to long delays and a "capping" on the issuance of photocopies. Despite the overwhelming support for this Society's "*Regional & North/South Proposal on the Records of the GRO, Dublin*" little urgency is attached to the problems at the GRO by Mr. Micheál Martin, T.D., Minister for Health & Children. Understanding the negative impact a certain campaign in March caused to the whole issue of genealogy in Ireland, it is not surprising that Parliamentary Questions have been tabled and the same mantra is proffered in answer to each. This is simply not good enough and with Dáil Éireann rising shortly for the Summer recess the matter is put back until the Autumn. One wonders whether the Irish Government Ministers sunning themselves on the Mediterranean this Summer will spare a thought for the frustrated tourist in the crowded and cramped conditions at the GRO in Dublin possibly, vowing NEVER TO RETURN. Time has come Ministers Martin, de Valera and MacDaid to show leadership by addressing the problems at the GRO in the interest of Irish tourism, heritage and genealogy. Simply put – make microfilm copies of the records of BDMs over 70 years of age & Indexes over 20 years of age available in the National Library, National Archives and Central Public Libraries in the regions. This is the only practical and equitable solution to the problems at the GRO.