

- Theme for Congress Announced by Chief Herald
- Leslie Family Papers for NLI
- News & Views from the World of Genealogy

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# The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of  
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of Ireland  
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Cumharsá

AR AR  
SINNIR

## XXVth INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS

The world of Genealogy & Heraldry join the 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

### 25<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF GENEALOGICAL & HERALDIC SCIENCES Dublin Castle 2002

The Office of Ulster King of Arms was created by King Edward VI in 1552, who recorded the event in his journal as follows, February 2<sup>nd</sup> "There was a King of Arms made for Ireland, whose name was Ulster, and his province was all Ireland; and he was Fourth Herald of Arms, and first Herald of Ireland".

The successor to the Ulster King of Arms, the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland, as the oldest office of state in Ireland, will celebrate its 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary next year by hosting a major conference. The XXVth International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences will take place in Dublin from 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2002. The Congress is being organised by the Office of the Chief Herald under the direction of the Chief Herald of Ireland, Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue, and with the support of the Minister for Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ms. Síle de Valera, TD. The Congress sessions will be held in Dublin Castle and there will be a

programme of other events in Dublin and in Kilkenny.

#### A Modern Theme

The theme of the Congress will be Genealogy and Heraldry: their Place and Practice in Changing Times. This is intended to encompass historical as well as modern practice. Topics might include genealogy and heraldry in the age of information technology, heraldry in republics, women and heraldry – including female transmission of names and Arms and the use of cadency marks, accessibility of heraldic and genealogical records, heraldry and corporate symbols.

#### Participation Invited

If, in addition to attending the Congress, persons wishing to present a paper at the Congress may attach a summary of the proposed paper with their application form. All proposals for Congress papers will be reviewed by a Committee to ascertain their relevance to the theme of the Congress etc. prior to their inclusion in the final programme.

#### Provisional Registration of Interest

Application forms may be had from The Congress Secretary, Office of the Chief Herald, 2 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland. E-mail: [Hergen2002@nli.ie](mailto:Hergen2002@nli.ie) Returning the form by 31 January 2002 will permit the organisers to send information on the programme when this is finalised. This will include details of fees, lectures and other events, and information on hotel and other arrangements in Dublin.

### GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

With the last Budget of the present Irish Government to be presented in the first week of December all political parties in the Republic are gearing up for the next General Election by putting a new gloss on their manifestos or just dusting off the old. A political commitment to introduce an Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill would be a welcome step to guarantee public accessibility to our genealogical and heraldic heritage, to regulate and co-ordinate matters appertaining to research, acquisition & ownership of records and the formulation of policy relating to genealogy and heraldry in Ireland. Whatever the view on such a Bill, organisations representing genealogists from the commercial and voluntary sectors will be keenly aware of the need for some political action to place the public accessibility to genealogical records, including the GRO, on the agenda for each political party.

#### GRO raised in Dáil Éireann again.

In Dáil Éireann on the 27th Nov. 2001 Mr. Denis Naughten TD (Longford-Roscommon) asked the Minister for Health and Children if he will make microfilm copies of the registers from 1845 to 1931 and the indices from 1845 to 2000, which are held by the General Registry Office in Roscommon, available to the National Library, National Archives and other regional locations for the

GSI Website <http://www.gensocireland.org>

*nollaig shona agus áthbhliain fé mhaise*

purposes of research; when such data will be available on CD Rom and accessible through the internet. Also, when the Minister will introduce legislation to enact the transfer of the General Registry Office to Roscommon town; the legislation he intends to amend. Mr. Naughten wanted to know when the transfer of staff to the General Register Office in Roscommon town will be completed; what was the status of the computerisation of the records and when it is estimated that this computerisation will be completed; the cost of the project to date. He asked the Minister for a statement on these matters.

### Completion in 2002?

In reply, **Mr. Micheál Martin, TD.** Minister for Health and Children, once again, embarked on what has become known as the "*Roscommon Mantra*" selling the virtues of this nine year old project, however, he did confirm that "it is estimated that the work will be substantially completed in 2002" – and that "the cost to date of this work is estimated at **£4.65 million, €5.9 million.**" The Minister said that "the objective is to implement a modern efficient effective and customer focused service geared to the needs of the 21st Century. The modernisation of the registration service will benefit all its customers throughout the country by improving the efficiency, flexibility, access and management of the records and the associated indexes" and he confirmed the potential for the development of a range of services, including services through the internet, which would not be possible in a system reliant on printed indexes.

### Microfilm Copies of GRO Records

Turning to the question of providing microfilm copies of the GRO records to other repositories the Minister was less clear saying that computerisation will provide a more effective means of accessing records than the production of microfilms or CD Rom. However, he said "these issues will be addressed in the next stages of the modernisation process" – whatever that means. The Minister said that consultation process started last May is continuing, however, he made no effort to address the core issue of the question accessibility now!!!

### Legislation Required

Turning to the legislation to give effect to the proposed relocation of the GRO to Roscommon, the Minister was very ambiguous in his reply. Mr. Martin said that "the Registration of Births and Deaths Acts 1863 to 1996 and the Marriages Acts of 1844 and 1863 - provide for the location of this office" – correct Minister, "in the City of Dublin". However, the Minister did confirm that "the first stage in the amendment of the Registration Acts will begin in 2002" possibly it will be ready for the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of the "*Roscommon Experiment*" in November 2002. What's another year? – Sound familiar?

### DIARY DATES

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2001**

Evening Open Meeting  
**Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue,**  
 Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin  
 20.00 hrs – 22.00hrs  
 Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, 75, & 111.  
 DART Dún Laoghaire Station.  
 Speaker: Dr. Lorcan O'Flannery MGS  
 Topic: Irish Clans: Past, Present & Future

**Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2002**

Evening Open Meeting, 20.00hrs  
**Dún Laoghaire College of Further  
 Education**  
**Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire**  
 Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.  
 DART Dún Laoghaire & Monkstown Stations.  
 Topic: Members' Night

**Weds. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> & Feb. 27<sup>th</sup> 2002**

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs  
**The Port View Hotel, Marine Road,**  
**Dún Laoghaire**  
 Discussion Group on Family History

### Flannery Clan

**CLANN FHANNABHRA**  
 The Clan has a new Website  
[www.flanneryclan.ie](http://www.flanneryclan.ie)

### YOUR GENIE UPDATES

**IMPORTANT NOTE** The monthly Open Meetings organised by the Genealogical Society of Ireland will be changed from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month with effect as and from Tuesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 2002 at 20.00hrs. The venue for the meetings will also change from that date to the Lecture Hall, **Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The Society wishes to thank the Management and members of The Dún Laoghaire Club, especially **Richard & Breda Carolan**, for permitting the Society to use their fine premises to date. However, GSI members wanted to change the day of the monthly meeting, but the Club could not accommodate the meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday so necessitating the change of venue to the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education.

**EURO CHANGEOVER** GSI Overseas Members are advised that as and from next month on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2002 Ireland and eleven other European Union countries will introduce EURO notes and coins and over a short period, will phase out their old currencies including the Irish Punt. Three EU member states i.e. United Kingdom, Denmark and Sweden will not be changing to the EURO. The Society will still accept cheques in dollars (US, CAN, AUS & NZ) and in Sterling, however, it may be easier for persons living outside the EURO Zone to obtain drafts in Euro from their bank as all prices for Membership and publications will, from now on, be in EURO. For further

information on the changeover to the EURO see the Website:- [www.euro.ie](http://www.euro.ie)

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES** The Reading Room of the National Archives will be closed to the public on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2001 to facilitate the annual media preview of archives of Government Departments relating mainly to 1971 that will be opened to the public in January 2002. Only representatives of newspapers and broadcasting companies will be admitted to the Reading Room on the days of the media preview. The Reading Room will reopen to the public at 10 a.m. on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Closure at Christmas and the New Year - The Reading Room of the National Archives will be closed from 5.00 p.m. on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2001 until 10.00 a.m. on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2002. Any inconvenience to readers is sincerely regretted. [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

**FELLOWS** The Board of the Genealogical Society of Ireland has elected the following Members to the *College of Fellows of the Genealogical Society of Ireland* in recognition for their services to the Society and the promotion of genealogy in Ireland. **Mr. Seán Kane**, FGSI of Dún Laoghaire for his long service on the Executive Committee and the Board; **Mr. James Davidson**, FGSI of Lisburn, Co. Antrim, N. Ireland for the promotion of cross-border and cross-community genealogical research; and **Mr. Rory Stanley**, FGSI of Loughlistown, Co. Dublin for his services to the Executive Committee and the Board as Cathaoirleach for over five years. The Board received seventeen nominations for just three positions and therefore, an election conducted by the single transferable vote form of proportional representation was held amongst the Board members providing the above result. The Board will shortly ask the College of Fellows to consider nominations for the positions of President and Hon. Herald of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. The position of President has been vacant since the death of Denis O'Conor Don last year.

**OVERDUE MEMBERSHIP FEES** The Membership Officer, Annette McDonnell, advises Members based in Ireland that the annual Membership Fee fell due on November 1<sup>st</sup> this year, however, it will run for the calendar year hereafter. Annette has written to Members who were in arrears and she expressed great satisfaction with the response to the reminders. Membership renewals received up to the end of December will be able to avail of the present rate of Ir£10.00 per annum. From January 1<sup>st</sup> the rate will be €15.00 per annum following the decision to bring both the Overseas and Irish based rates into line with each other. Overseas Members have their fees calculated on a twelve month calendar basis with the renewal date on the anniversary of joining etc. New Membership Cards featuring our very own distinctive "*Mungovan Badge*" are presently being issued. Annette McDonnell may be contacted

e-mail to [mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com](mailto:mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com) or by mail to 4 Kippure Avenue, Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland.

**MARTELLO TOWER** The Society's project to restore and refurbish the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin to house its growing Archive is progressing with an Archaeological Assessment of the building being undertaken by an expert on such buildings. This assessment is a requirement of the Planning Laws and it is hoped that this detailed report will be delivered to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in the very near future. In the meantime Mr. **Liam Mac Alasdair**, FGSI, Chairman of the Project Committee, advises all Members and friends of the Society that donations towards the cost of these works are still most welcome. Please checkout the Society's Website for details.

**GSi WEBSITE** The Society wishes to thank our Webmaster, **Paul Maher**, for all the work done to the Website at [www.gensocireland.org](http://www.gensocireland.org) over the past month. The Website is providing an even better service to our Members and visitors, indeed in the coming year, it is hoped to add an extensive database of Births, Marriages and Deaths. This database has been carefully compiled by **Noel & Mary Delaney** from "unwanted certs" and computerised by **Daphne Chawke** from card index files. In the meantime, should you have any difficulties accessing the site or if you wish to comment on its content, layout or functions contact the Hon. Secretary at the address below or by E-mail on [gensocireland@iol.ie](mailto:gensocireland@iol.ie)

**ARCHIVE MATTERS** The Society's Archivist, **Mrs. Frieda Carroll**, FGSI, wishes to advise Members that the Society's Archive, presently located at 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, will close as and from 17.00hrs on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2001 and reopen on Saturday January 12<sup>th</sup> 2002 at 14.00hrs. It is important to note that the services of the Archive are strictly for currently paid-up Members only as space is at a premium. Frieda would also like to acknowledge the kindness and generosity of **Mr. Tony Daly**, FGSI who has donated many valuable research items to the Archive during the year. Finally, Frieda reminds all Members about depositing a copy of their Birth Brief with the Archive – have you done so yet?

**WANTED** Due to the increase in workload, our Membership Officer, **Mrs. Annette McDonnell**, MGSI, can no longer undertake the task of collecting and editing for publication in the Society's quarterly journal of biographies submitted by Members. Therefore, the Board seeks a volunteer or two to collect, edit and forward biographies of the Irish Diaspora to the Journal Editor on a quarterly basis by E-mail. Volunteers must be Members of the Society and have their own access to E-mail / Internet as their E-mail address will appear in this newsletter. Adverts for biographies are placed in this newsletter and Members are asked to forward such to the Society's Editor of Biographies at an E-mail

and a mailing address. Volunteers are asked to contact **Mr. Rory Stanley** FGSI, Cathaoirleach (Chair) of the Genealogical Society of Ireland by E-mail before Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup> 2002. E-mail: [rorstan@eircom.net](mailto:rorstan@eircom.net)

**CONGRATS** The Board and Members of the Society wish to extend our very best wishes to **Mr. Tony McCarthy**, Editor of "Irish Roots" magazine on the publication of his 40<sup>th</sup> issue this quarter representing ten years of continued and dedicated service to Irish genealogy and heraldry. This well presented glossy quarterly magazine has an international readership and indeed, its popularity continues to grow with each issue. Annual subs. details on the Website <http://www.iol.ie/~irishrts/> or by mail from Belgrave Publications, Belgrave Avenue, Cork, Ireland.

### QUERIES RECEIVED

**FREDA AGNEW**, MGSI, 8, Haddington Park, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland – Wrote:- My great great grandparents, **William & Elizabeth Heath** lived in Burstow, Surrey, England in Rede (or Red) Hall for sometime. I don't know where they were born, married or died. For a marriage, the only suitable entry found is that of **William Heath** and **Elizabeth Allen** on Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 1823 at Aston Juxta Birmingham, Warwick, England. My great grandfather John was baptised in Burstow in 1824 as were his siblings **Jane Sophia** (1825) and **Thomas Augusta** (1827). According to the 1881 census, John, his wife and family were living in Tooting Graveney in Surrey. John was 57 years old then and his wife, born in Croydon, was 51. I would be grateful for any suggestions, assistance or tips to enable me continue my research. Thank you.

**ANTHONY FFRENCH**, MGSI, 10, Killakee View, Firhouse Road, Dublin 24, Ireland – Wrote:- Seeking information on my great grandfather, **Gregory Ffrench**, born circa 1846 in possibly Galway, died in Dublin at 35, Lower Mount Street on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 1889. His son **Walter** was born 28<sup>th</sup> December 1878 and died 28<sup>th</sup> April 1939. **Walter Ffrench**, due to ill health, was advised to seek a drier climate abroad and to settle there. For some reason he chose **Argentina** around 1897, however, I have no idea as to why. Did he have family connections there? What was the level of emigration to Argentina or contact between Argentina and Ireland at the time? Would he have left Liverpool for Argentina – was there much trade between Liverpool and Argentina at the time? Any info. or suggestions please.

**KAY ANDERSON**, No. 11, Field Farm Mews, Belmont, Hereford, HR2 7UD, England – Wrote:- I am trying to trace my great grandparents and where they lived and worked in Dublin. My grandmother, **Pauline Alice Granfield Williams** or just "**Williams**" was born in Dublin around April 1902 and was a Catholic, became a governess and travelled to Europe teaching. She married in Liverpool in 1929 and died suddenly at the age of 42. **Pauline** had three sisters and a brother, **Lionel**,

the youngest named after my great grandfather. My great grandfather was a bookkeeper at the Gas Works on Ringsend Road in Dublin and my great grandmother was **Julia** who died in 1939. The family lost touch with the Irish branch around the start of World War 11, however, I believe that I have distant cousins in the Blackrock area of County Dublin and I hope to visit Ireland in the next six months. Any help much appreciated.

**LORIE KELLY**, (née **Massey**), 20, Mulgrave Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland – Wrote:- As Hon. Secretary of the Dún Laoghaire Community Association (DLCA), I am seeking information the life of the **Very Rev. Bartholomew Canon Sheridan PP** of St. Michael's Church in Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire). The DLCA has adopted a motion to have **Sussex Street** in Dún Laoghaire renamed "**Sráid Uí Shirideáin - Sheridan Street**" in honour of this man who was responsible for completing the building of the Church; bringing the Orders of nuns, brothers and priests to the greater Kingstown area to establish most of the many Catholic schools, colleges and convents in the area, the establishment of **St. Joseph's Orphanage** on Tivoli Road; assisting the establishment of **St. Michael's Hospital**; the establishment of **National Primary Schools** in the area and for laying the foundation for the building of new churches which were soon to become parishes in their own right. He is believed to have come from Co. Meath, however, he could have been ordained on the continent before taking over this very large parish in 1829 on the death of **Patrick Canon Doyle**, however, **Canon Sheridan** arrived here in 1822 and served the people of the area for over forty years. He is buried under the present Church of **St. Michael** in Dún Laoghaire. Any information on his parents, siblings or relatives most appreciated.

**QUERIES FOR PUBLICATION** The Editor regrets that queries without mailing addresses cannot be published, however, the publishing of e-mail addresses alongside mailing address will still be permitted. The reason for this policy is due to complaints received that e-mail addresses are not permanent, therefore, contacting the individual may be impossible if they alter their e-mail address after the publication of their query.

### YOUR DECEMBER GENIE REVIEWS

"*JOURNAL OF HENRY McCLINTOCK*" published by the County Louth Archaeological and Historical Society. **Henry McClintock**, the youngest son of **John** and **Patience McClintock**, was born at **Drumcar**, County Louth on 28 September 1783. From 1805 he kept a daily Journal until his final illness in 1843. His widow continued the Journal until the end of 1848. After serving for three years in the army he resigned his commission and was eventually appointed Collector of Customs in the port of **Dundalk** in 1811. His first army

assignment was as recruiting officer at Cootehill in Co. Cavan where he socialised continually with the **Dawsons, Cootes** and other local families. A difference with fellow officers in England led to a change of regiments and a posting to Waterford where he met his future wife. This Journal is an immensely valuable source for the everyday life of a family in the town of Dundalk for a period of nearly forty years. Invariably each daily entry starts with a brief statement about the weather and this is valuable data in the absence of official records. His daily routine, business at the Custom House, visits to friends and relations, attending church services on Sundays, informal entertainment at home (Henry was a very good singer and he also played the flute) or in the houses of friends and neighbours, formal entertainment in the theatre and by visiting artists are all recorded. In his earlier years hunting with the various local packs of hounds was a favourite pastime but in later years this gave way to fishing, mainly on the River Fane, and to shooting in the area south of Dundalk, bringing his sons with him as soon as they were old enough. Coursing and horse racing were also popular local pastimes. For the history and development of all these sports the Journal provides solid evidence where speculation previously reigned. In 1809 Henry married Elizabeth Melesina, eldest daughter of the Venerable George **Fleury**, Archdeacon of Waterford. They had fourteen children, twelve of whom survived to adulthood. Their second son, Leopold entered the Navy as a boy and became Admiral **Sir Leopold McClintock**, the famous Arctic explorer who was responsible for discovering the fate of **Sir John Franklin**. Their third son, Alfred, 'served his time' with Surgeon **Brunker** in the old Louth Hospital, later studied in Paris and eventually became Master of the Rotunda Hospital in Dublin where he initiated several major developments. This Journal is also an important primary source for social, political and ecclesiastical history in Co Louth. The McClintocks were related by marriage to many leading families: **Foster, Fortescue, Hardman, Clive, Pratt** and **Trench** and were friendly with all the local dignitaries. For genealogists it will correct a number of dates etc. given in Burke's Landed Gentry and Peerage. The Journal will dispel the notion that the upper classes at the time only travelled by coach. Henry and his sister Marianne (who also kept a diary but which survives for only four years) both record the many occasions on which they walked considerable distances. Walks around Dundalk, popular until recently but now covered by urbanisation, feature in the Journal. Sea bathing for both males and females at Soldiers Point and at Blackrock (also in Waterford and elsewhere), the first bicycle race in Dundalk (in 1819 only two years after the invention of the velocipede), material for the early history of the theatre in Dundalk, the visits of famous actors and singers, not only in

Dundalk but also in Dublin and Waterford, and the 'Night of the Big Wind', election riots and religious controversy are all recorded. The local impact of the so-called 'Second Reformation, in the 1820s can be followed in these pages. The formation and progress of the Louth Auxiliary of the Hibernian Bible Society, the visits to Dundalk of controversial preachers and the efforts of the Irish language teachers are but some of the aspects of this period. Despite the sectarian disputes caused by the 'Second Reformation' and the campaign for Catholic Emancipation social intercourse does not seem to have been greatly affected. Musical evenings in local houses were very popular and Henry was always called upon to perform. Henry spent some time in Waterford while in the army and it was there he met his wife. The modes of travelling, not only in the larger Munster and south Leinster area, but also between Dundalk and Dublin and between Dundalk and Waterford, both by canal and coach, as well as on horseback, are all recorded as the various journeys took place and provide firsthand accounts of contemporary travelling. The editor of the Journal is **Pádraig Ó Néill, M.A.** who has lectured on this period as seen through the eyes of Henry McClintock and his sister, Marianne Fortescue. This publication is the result of a painstaking transcription of a microfilm copy of the original Journal. The book contains circa 1,000 pages printed on 100 gsm matt-coated cartridge, case bound with laminated jacket. As well as the full unabridged text of the Journal it includes family trees, brief biographical details of more than 330 persons whose names occur frequently and over sixty photographs and maps. The price per copy is IR£45.00 Postage and packing extra: IR£4.00 (Ireland); IR£6.00 (UK and Europe); IR£10.00 (rest of the world) Copies are available, with the appropriate remittance, from: **Mr. Noel Ross, 5 Oliver Plunkett Park, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Ireland.**

#### PUBLICATION NEWS

The following publications are now available by mail from the address below and via the Society's Website [www.gensocireland.org](http://www.gensocireland.org) Why not checkout over 30 titles on the Website? **LOUTH RIFLES** Due to the overwhelming interest shown in the first edition of "*Officers and Recruits of the Louth Rifles 1854-1876*" published by the Society as Irish Genealogical Sources No. 15 and now completely sold out, **Brendan Hall, MGS** has now produced a revised and enlarged edition "*Irish Genealogical Sources No. 27 - Officers and Recruits of the Louth Rifles 1854-1876*" Second Edition ISBN 1898471 02 9 is now available at €10.15 or Ir£8.00. Hopefully, this second edition of one of our "sold out" publications will encourage the production of new or second editions of other titles. **GSI JOURNAL** The Winter 2001 issue of the Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland Vol. 2 No. 4 is now available price Ir£4.00 and 8 cent cheaper at €5.00 per copy.

As usual the Journal is packed with interesting articles covering a range of topics from all around the country and from overseas. Congrats once again to Editor Brendan Hall on a fine publication. Articles are now sought for the 2002 issues. Have you one for publication?

#### LESLIE FAMILY OF MONAGHAN

**Mr. Robert O'Byrne** reported on the recent acquisition of an important collection of papers by the National Library in "*The Irish Times*" of December 4<sup>th</sup> 2001 as follows. The collection, which spans more than three centuries and runs to 120 boxes containing some 15,000-20,000 documents, was bought for a six-figure sum. The National Library already held some material from the same family, having first acquired a section of the archive in 1952. In the 1970s, another portion was sold to the institution for £400. **Mr Brendan O'Donoghue**, the Director of the National Library of Ireland, quoted by Mr. O'Byrne said "the strength of the collection is that it offers a continuous block of material; not just estate papers, but an unusually strong sprinkling of political, literary and cultural material as well. Our challenge now is to get it all listed, sorted and catalogued". Mr. O'Byrne then gave the following historical account of the Leslie family which is of interest to genealogists and local historians alike. The Leslies have lived at Glaslough, Co Monaghan, since 1665, when the Bishop of Raphoe, John Leslie, bought a castle and estate there. In the late 19th century the family's holdings in Monaghan and surrounding counties ran to 44,000 acres and a large section of the archive is devoted to the management of this property. Turning to the family's involvement in Irish political life, Mr. O'Byrne, shows that this collection is of great importance to the study of Irish history with three successive patriarchs called Charles Powell Leslie serving as MPs for Monaghan between the mid-18th and mid-19th centuries. In 1878 the first baronet, Sir John Leslie, a noted artist and collector, built a new house, Castle Leslie, which still stands and is run as a hotel by the present generation of the family. Sir John's son, who bore the same name as his father, married an American called Leonie Leslie and the archive includes copies of correspondence from her young nephew, **Sir Winston Churchill**. It also contains original letters from **Daniel O'Connell** and **Charles Stewart Parnell**. In addition, there is a diary that was kept by Sir John when accompanying Queen Victoria's son, the Duke of Connaught, to India as well as a first World War diary written by Sir John's son Norman and retrieved from the battlefield where he was killed. Among more recent generations of Leslies were the writers Sir Shane and his daughter Anita, both of whom are also represented in the archive. No doubt this collection will prove invaluable to researchers of the descendants of the tenants of the Castle Leslie estate. CHECKOUT "*The Irish Times*" on-line at [www.ireland.com](http://www.ireland.com)