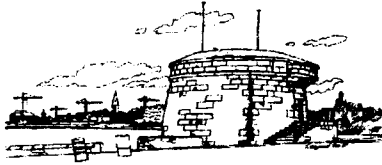


- The Future of Genealogical Services in Ireland
- New Publications Reviewed
- New Annual Membership Fees Adopted

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# The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of  
the Genealogical  
Society of Ireland  
Volume 8 • Issue 11  
November 2003



## CRUCIAL TIME FOR GENEALOGY IN IRELAND

*Co-ordinated Forward Planning Required for Genealogical Services in Ireland*

For the first time since the passing of the National Cultural Institutions Act in 1997, genealogical services in Ireland will be the subject of parliamentary scrutiny when Dáil and Seanad Éireann consider the new Civil Registration Bill. Teachtaí Dála and Senators will once again be expected to confront the history and complexities of the long running battle over civil registration in Ireland and, in particular, access to such records by genealogists.

### *"Concerns Ignored in 2002"*

Last year, many of the issues to be discussed in the upcoming debate on the new Civil Registration Bill were unsuccessfully raised during the passing of the Social Welfare (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2002. During that debate the Government insisted that a comprehensive civil registration bill would be published in due course to meet most of the concerns expressed by genealogists. This long awaited piece of legislation was published quietly during the summer recess. However, after eleven years in preparation, it offered few surprises and very little clarity.

### *"Lobbying for Reasonable Access"*

Quite understandably lengthy submissions to the Minister, lobbying and letters to the newspapers will feature in the on-going campaign to secure proper and reasonable access to the records of civil registration in Ireland. However, despite the detailed nature of each submission to government on this issue, there is little if any evidence that the plight of genealogists is either appreciated or understood. The prospects

for a breakthrough at this stage appear to be remote as the original computerisation project has been totally subsumed into an interdepartmental database of life events for the provision of social services. Irrespective of the merits or otherwise of this new database, subtle and very important changes to the nature of the records held by the General Register Office are proposed by this legislation.

### *"Matters Fragmented & Inadequate"*

Whilst, the new Civil Registration Bill is the only piece of new legislation published concerning any aspect of the provision of genealogical services in Ireland, other legislative measures are urgently required. Whether it is the provision of access to locally held records or the uncertain legal status of the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland matters are now fragmented and, in many cases, in a legislative limbo due to official neglect.

### *"Lost and Squandered Initiative"*

The failure of the initiative announced by Minister Michael D. Higgins, TD in 1997 to have a comprehensive study carried out into the provision of genealogical services in Ireland has left Irish genealogy rudderless. The subsequent publication by the Heritage Council of its proposal for a "pay-for-view" genealogical facility dealt a fatal blow to the original initiative, which was simply meant as a fact-finding exercise. Few could have realised that when Minister Síle de Valera, TD rightly consigned this Ir£10,000 report by the Heritage Council to the parliamentary dustbin that with it went the government's interest in genealogy. The Irish Genealogical Project was already in terminal decline and matters at the

General Register Office went from bad to worse. Ireland's reputation in the field of "roots tourism" took a severe battering in the intervening years. Not surprisingly it became cheaper and more productive for genealogists to travel to Salt Lake City rather than face the delays at the GRO in Dublin or the unrealistic charges at the IGP Heritage Centres. Despite continuous calls for action since the middle of the 1990s the government has shown little or no interest in halting this decline.

### *"An Opportunity for Action"*

Few would deny that proper co-ordination is required at interdepartmental level in the provision of genealogical services either directly by the State or by State funded establishments. The widespread use of the Internet by genealogists and would-be "roots tourists" has created an opportunity to re-examine the situation in a post 9/11 international tourism environment. The Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD should immediately commission a new comprehensive study into the provision of genealogical services in Ireland by a competent independent body. This new study would provide the basis for the examination by an interdepartmental committee of the existing legislative framework covering the various repositories and agencies providing services to genealogists. Indeed, with the assistance and advice of the soon to be established Committee on Genealogy & Heraldry at the National Library, the Minister could finally bring the much needed co-ordination and joint planning to the provision of genealogical and heraldic services in Ireland.

GSI Website: [www.gensocireland.org](http://www.gensocireland.org)

**LATEST ISSUE OF THE SOCIETY'S  
QUARTERLY JOURNAL**  
*Vol. 4 No. 3, Autumn 2003.*

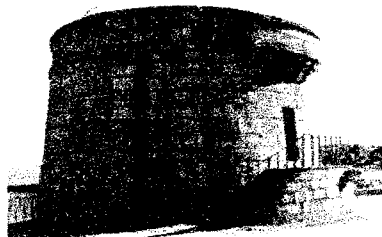
Articles in the current issue of the Society's Quarterly Journal include:- **The Tallest Windmill in Ireland** by Caroline McCall; **The Depositions of 1641** by G.H. O'Reilly; **Shirley Estate (Co. Monaghan) Petition** by Róisín Lafferty; **Irish Manuscripts Commission** by G. H. O'Reilly; **Medieval Surnames in North County Dublin** by Eamonn Dowling; **Origins of My Family** by Peter Manning; **Birthdays of Thomas Oriel Foster** by Róisín Lafferty; **'The 1st Royal Irish Rifles in the Great War'** reviewed by Dónal Hall; **'Through Streets Broad and Narrow; a History of Dublin Trams'**, reviewed by James Scannell; **Surnames** by Seán MacBrádaigh; **The Battle of Carrickshock** by H. J. Matthews; **The 'Evening Freeman' (Extracts) May 1848** by Gaye Ashford; **More Quirky Entries From 'Irish Marriages from Walker's Hibernian Magazine'**, by Gaye Ashford; **A Legacy from the R.L.C.** by Seán MacBrádaigh; **Newspaper and Journal Listing 1922; The Cow Pock Institution; Modern Ireland's Electors' Lists** by Seán MacBrádaigh; **Kirwans from Galway in a Well Worn Prayer-book** by Ignatius Fennessy; **The Death of Darby Gornley - 1844** by G. H. O'Reilly

**COPIES AVAILABLE** via the Society's Website or by mail from the Hon. Secretary. Price €5.00 (members €4.50) with postage IRL & UK €1.80 and others €3.50. (*EURO PRICE*) **ARTICLES** for future issues of the Society's quarterly journal are always welcome. Remember publication of your family history in the Society's Journal preserves this valuable record for future generations and may connect you with others researching the same lines. Please forward items for publication to the new Editor **Margaret Conroy, MGSI** at E-mail: [mmeconroy@eircom.net](mailto:mmeconroy@eircom.net) or to by mail to the Editor **Margaret Conroy, MGSI**, 3, Kill Abbey, Kill O' The Grange, Blackrock, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE**

The Board of the Society at its October 2003 meeting unanimously adopted **Res: 03/10/279** authorising an increase in the Annual Membership Fee payable by both Irish based and overseas Members. This very modest increase in the Annual Membership Fee was recommended by the Hon. Treasurer due to increased administration costs caused by inflation and higher direct charges such as postage and insurance. The increase for Irish based Members is just €5.00 bringing the Annual Membership Fee due on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 to €20.00. For overseas Members the increase is just €10.00 bringing the Annual Membership Fee due on the anniversary date of joining to just €25.00. The Board will seek the endorsement of this increase by the Members at the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2003.

**AN DAONCHARTLANN**



Thanks to Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI and his team, the restoration work at the Martello Tower is now complete. Refurbishment or Phase 2 of the project is now well underway. Following the fitting of the oak flooring by Barry O'Connor, FGSI, he has now designed and constructed the workbenches on the first floor. It was decided to create a spacious research area on this first floor and to concentrate the archival and storage areas on the ground floor. Eventually new computer equipment and microform readers will be installed on this first floor. A specially designed meeting / research table will grace the centre of the first floor facilitating specialist group meetings along with the monthly Board Meetings. This will enable various interest groups i.e. the Chapter of One-Name Studies, to meet on a regular basis in the Tower. A service desk on the first floor will cater for the needs of the Archivist and our volunteer staff. The Archives will be accessed by means of a specially constructed spiral staircase linking the first and ground floors. On the ground floor, specially designed shelving and storage units will be installed to house the thousands of individual items in the Society's Archive. Imaginatively designed lighting will illuminate the beautiful barrel-vault ceiling of the first floor research area of this historic tower. Members and friends of the Society are still invited to help with Phase 2 of the project which, aims to fully equip the "Family History Tower" with the latest technology and research aides produced in Ireland and overseas. One way of helping is to become a sponsor. Each sponsor will be named in the *Commemorative Book* to be published for the official ceremonial opening of "An Daonchartlann" in 2004 - the two hundredth anniversary of the building of the Tower. Patrons may have either their own name or that of a loved-one entered in this *Commemorative Book* and on a scroll that will be permanent memorial in the Tower. For just €100.00 (US\$117.00) per name, this is a special and worthy manner in which to remember an ancestor, to honour a friend or loved-one or to memorialise your family ties with Ireland. Another way of helping is to send what you can as donations no matter how modest are all very welcome. Donations should be sent to the Hon. Secretary at the address below with details of the name or names to be entered on the scroll and published in the commemorative book to mark the official opening of "An Daonchartlann".

**USD & UKP CURRENCY RATES**

The Board of the Society at its October meeting has adopted a new exchange rate for persons paying by check or cash in US dollars €1.00 = US\$1.17 and similarly for those wish to pay in British pounds €1.00 = 0.70p. The Hon. Treasurer of the Society will keep these exchange rates under constant review to ensure that the Society can continue to accept payments in these currencies. These new rates will be applied to all purchases and membership subscriptions transacted in the currencies concerned. This rate alteration is necessary to cover the conversion rate and bank charges. Alternatively why not pay by Credit Card - MasterCard or VISA via the Website?

**GRAPHIC FAMILY TREE SERVICE**

**VISUAL ARTIST & GRAPHIC DESIGNER  
OFFERS THIS SERVICE AT REASONABLE  
AND AFFORDABLE COST**

Artist based in Dún Laoghaire will work with you to produce a beautiful graphic presentation of your Family Tree in full colour, with all your photographs of family members included. All you have to do is complete a standard family tree chart or Birth Brief and send all relevant photographs, clearly identifying the individuals as per the chart. Each person will be framed, and the complete document printed on a textured background, with Crests and any text you may require - you decide the level of information to be included. We will work in close consultation with you at all stages of the project. Costs are based on the number and quality of the images involved. Confidentiality and security guaranteed. We also specialise in Photographic Restoration. **CONTACT Frankie Lee** at 087.782 0932 or E-mail: [frankiezee@eircom.net](mailto:frankiezee@eircom.net) for more information and quotations.

**JOINING THE SOCIETY**

The Society always welcomes new Members from Ireland and overseas. If you wish to join, it's easy - just log on to the Society's Website or write to the Membership Officer, **Mrs. Annette McDonnell, MGSI**, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland. You may also contact Annette by E-mail via the Hon. Secretary [GenSocIreland@iol.ie](mailto:GenSocIreland@iol.ie) You may pay your Annual Membership Fee on-line at [www.gensocireland.org](http://www.gensocireland.org) using your Credit Card MasterCard. Membership of the Society is open to all with an interest in genealogy or heraldry. A laminated Membership Card featuring the Society's heraldic badge "the Mungovan Badge" as depicted on the GSI Livery Flag will be forwarded to you by mail. Overseas Members and those Irish Members living outside Co. Dublin receive the monthly newsletter "The Genie Gazette" by mail each month. All Members are invited to place their research queries in the newsletter without charge. Through the newsletter contact is made with other Members and those possibly researching the same persons or surnames.

## IRISH CENSUS OF 1926

The Society is continuing its long running campaign to have the first census taken following independence released for research. This census of the twenty-six counties of the Irish Free State was taken in 1926 and was the first census taken since the all-Ireland census of 1911. Though, both the 1901 and 1911 census returns have been open to researchers for many decades now, there is a reluctance on behalf of the State to release the 1926 returns. Questions have been raised many times as to the care and custody conditions of the 1926 returns and despite assurances by successive Ministers, concern still exists for this invaluable national treasure. **Mr. Eamon Gilmore, TD** raised the issue of the release of the 1926 census in a Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State, **Ms. Mary Hanafin, TD** on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003. Requesting that the closure period of 100 years as imposed by the **Statistics Act, 1993**, to be reduced to a more practical and reasonable 70 years, the reply issued as follows. "Access to individual Census of Population records under Section 35 of the Statistics Act, 1993 is a special exemption to the general prohibition in the Act on the disclosure of individual data collected for statistical purposes. The exemption was inserted in the Act in response to representations from social historians and genealogists for access to what is a unique source of information on Irish society. The 100 year provision was adopted on the basis that very few of the persons recorded in a census would be alive 100 years after the event. In this way, the seeming contradiction between the absolute guarantee of confidentiality given during the census and the subsequent public release could be represented as a reasonable proposition. Such an approach would be difficult, if not impossible, to sustain if the limit was reduced to 70 years since it is estimated that over 10% of the enumerated population (i.e. 330,000) would still be alive. Since the guarantee is essential to the success of the census fieldwork, the Director General of the Central Statistics Office has advised against any reduction in the time limit. In these circumstances, I have no plans to review the issue at this state". This Society would welcome comments from Members and the wider readership of this newsletter on the reply above. Should Ireland follow the American and Canadian example and release census returns much earlier than the present 100 rule which applies here and in the United Kingdom? Is the confidentially argument sustainable given the earlier release of the 1901 and 1911 census returns? Should a differentiation be made between a 100 year rule on general access and a 70 year rule on access to "family" members for bona fide genealogical research or is such a proposition possible or practical? Selected comments on this issue will be published in a future issue of this newsletter. *Editor*

## DIARY DATES

**Tuesday November 11<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
Evening Open Meeting. 20.00hrs  
Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,  
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.  
DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.  
**Extraordinary General Meeting**  
Topic: "Annual Membership Fees"  
*followed by*  
Speaker: **Sr. Maev O'Sullivan**  
Topic: "Database of Irish Orphanages"

**Tuesday December 9<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
Venue as above  
Members' Night  
Topic: "Research Problems Q & A"

**Weds. Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup> & Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> 2003**  
Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs  
The Port View Hotel  
Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire  
Discussion Group on Family History

*Contribution of €3.00 at each meeting  
Coffee/Tea served at Morning Meetings*

## QUEENSLAND FHS

In October whilst on holiday in Australia, the Hon. Secretary of this Society made a courtesy call on our friends and colleagues in the Queensland Family History Society. The society's headquarters is located in the Old Fire Station in Albion, a suburb of the state capital, Brisbane. The society was founded in 1979 and over the years it has amassed an impressive archive collection of over 6,000 books, 130,000 microfiche, 470 microfilms, 500 CD Roms, assorted maps, extensive cemetery records and a very comprehensive set of genealogical journals from Australia and overseas, including the GSI Quarterly Journal. **Mr. Garth Elvery** provided a tour of the premises including its computer room, microform room, library, bookshop and archival storage areas. The society has very vibrant special interest groups dealing with specific geographic areas and topics, including a special Family Tree Maker User's Group. Given the size of Queensland and the fact that the society has many rural members, the society operates a home lending policy on much of its collection of journals and other publications. The society has the entire St. Catherine's House Index on microfiche and two complete sets of the International Genealogical Index along with a very extensive Australian States & Territories microform collection. The society's premises is located at the Old Fire Station, 42, Bridge Street, Albion, Brisbane, however, all postal correspondence should be forwarded to the Hon. Secretary, Queensland FHS, PO Box 171, Indooroopilly, QLD 4068, Australia. Website: <http://www.qfhs.org.au> The Hon. Secretary would like to thank Garth and his colleagues for their kindness and warm welcome to their society's premises – it was most appreciated.

## NOVEMBER GENIE UPDATES

**GSI LIVERY FLAG** Order a GSI Livery Flag to fly at your home or business. Measuring (3ft x 5ft) at just €90.00 each including delivery to the Member's home address. Made by the bespoke Dublin flag makers, **Timothy O'Regan** of Pearse Street, as a GSI Member, this Livery Flag would make a handsome statement at your next family gathering. Contact the Hon. Secretary at the address below or by E-mail on [GenSocIreland@iol.ie](mailto:GenSocIreland@iol.ie) MasterCard or VISA welcome or by cheque made payable to the Society. Allow approx. 28 days for delivery

**JEWISH CEMETERY** Following a long delay in the provision of a translation of the Hebrew text on the memorial inscriptions at the Jewish Cemetery at Dolphin's Barn in Dublin, work on this publication is progressing quickly. Liam Mac Alasdair is preparing the typesetting and arrangements for the printing are being finalised. Cemetery Project Co-ordinator, Barry O'Connor, thanks all his team for the assistance. This volume will be an invaluable addition to the increasing corpus of published material on the Jewish community in Ireland. A special word of thanks must go to our Vice-President, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC** for all his hard work and dedication in bring this project to a successful conclusion.

**CONGRESS 2004** Held last year in Dublin Castle, the **International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences** will be held in Brugge in Belgium from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2004. The theme of the 26<sup>th</sup> congress will be '*Genealogy and heraldry - a heritage for the future*'. Congress organisers **Vlaamse Heraldische Raad** seek to promote a dialogue between different disciplines and the various links between heritage and genealogy and heraldry. Presenters of research papers should contact **Mr André Vanderwalle**, Stadarchief Brugge, Burg 11A, 8000 Brugge, Belgium or contact him by E-mail: [andre.vandewalle@brugge.be](mailto:andre.vandewalle@brugge.be)

**IRISH BASED MEMBERS** Our Membership Officer, Annette McDonnell, would like to remind all Irish based Members that the Annual Membership Fee falls due on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2004 and may be paid by Credit Card via the Society's Website. Overseas Members will receive individual reminders of their due date of Membership Renewal

**NUNS REGISTER** The Society is compiling a Register of Nuns of Irish origin. The details for this register of Irish women in religious orders include, name, religious name, order, parent's names, place of birth, date of birth, entered order, date and place of death etc. and, if possible, a short biography of her life. Contact: **Clare Malone, MGSi**, Registrar, **GSI Nuns Register**, 90, Parnell Road, Dublin 12, Ireland. The Nuns' Register will greatly assist genealogists, social historians and religious historians. If you would like to assist Clare in the collection or sorting of data – please contact her at the address above.

## NOVEMBER GENIE REVIEWS

*"On Tranquil Land or Story Sea" – Gravestone Inscriptions and Interments, Islandmagee New Cemetery, Co. Antrim 1925-2002.* Compiled by Heather Baird and Edna Orr and edited by Heather Baird and Jim McKinty. This fine publication is the latest from the Larne Branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society. ISBN 0-9544813-0-5 price Stg£10.00. With 227 pages and no less than eleven full colour plates, this book is superbly produced and fully indexed throughout. The cemetery is located in the Townland of Ballyharry on the peninsula of Islandmagee that lies on the seaward side of Larne Lough in south east County Antrim in Northern Ireland. The main towns in the vicinity are Larne to the north and Carrickfergus to the south of Islandmagee. The surnames recorded here reflect the full spectrum of the origin of the inhabitants of this area of Ireland from the original Irish Gaelic surnames through the various waves of plantation and settlement down to the present day. Links with nearby Scotland abound and with the inclusion of a seafarers' section and a military or "Debt of Honour" section, the full history of the area is represented in this volume. The information on the First and Second World War dead from the area, though buried on the continent, is very useful genealogical data. Indeed, it is an important feature that should be copied by others producing such volumes. (MM)

*"The Encyclopaedia of Ireland"* published by Gill & Macmillan Ltd. of Dublin. ISBN 0-7171 3000 2 – price €65.00. General Editor – Brian Lalor. The most welcome publication to have come out of Ireland for many years. Long overdue and immensely important, this mammoth volume provides a unique insight to many aspects of Irish life, history, geography, literature, culture and, of course, politics. With 1218 pages and lavishly illustrated and fully indexed, this volume is a must for any serious student of Ireland. Described as "a celebration of Irish achievement in the fields of human endeavour" it is, however, a fantastic achievement in itself. Gathering together the accomplishments of an entire people in a single book may be an impossible claim to substantiate, however, Lalor and his 950 contributors have certainly thrown down the gauntlet with this publication. Inevitably many of us can point to omissions and some quirky or debatable explanations and assertions proffered by contributors to this encyclopaedia, however, the final product is nevertheless a masterpiece. Readers will find in this volume a font of knowledge and reference points on thousands of individuals that have contributed to the life of the nation over the millennia. With over 5000 original pieces by the nearly a thousand contributors and accompanied by over 700 illustrations, many in full colour, this is a publication that should be in every home in the country. It's an essential tool for the study

of Ireland and her people. I was so impressed with this publication that I brought a copy with me to Australia, despite its weight, as a gift and on my return, I purchased another copy for myself. The only question remaining for the General Editor and publishers of this monumental work is whether *"The Encyclopaedia of Ireland"* is really a work in progress and whether a second volume is planned. For further details on this wonderful publication see the Website of the publishers [www.gillmacmillan.ie](http://www.gillmacmillan.ie) (MM)

*"Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire and Dalkey – Along the coast from Booterstown to Killiney"* by Tom Roche and Ken Finlay. Published by Cottage Publications ISBN 1-90093534 1 – price €25.00. This is a delightful book beautifully illustrated with paintings by Tom Roche of the scenery in and around the towns along Dublin's Riviera to the south of Dublin City. With the sometimes tongue-in-cheek text by Ken Finlay, this book becomes more than another travelogue on this famous coastline. Ken brings a life and currency to the text whilst still providing the essential well researched historical narrative on the personalities associated with the many places of interest in the area. Whilst, no exhaustive by any means in its coverage of the towns of Blackrock, Dún Laoghaire and Dalkey, the authors have selected the "gems" that are sometimes overlooked in similar publications. For anyone with connections to this part of south Co. Dublin this book is certainly a charming seasonal gift. (MM)

## QUERIES RECEIVED

**GARTH ELVERY**, c/o Queensland FHS, PO Box 171, Indooroopilly, Queensland 4068, Australia. Wrote:- Seeking copies of any adverts or photographs of *"Elvery's of Dublin"* the sports outfitters. I have family connections with the original owners of this famous Dublin firm and would welcome any information on the Elvery family in Ireland.

**ANGELA FIELD**, "Apnabari", 6, Barnsley Drive, Teignmouth, Devon, TQ14 8PP, England. Wrote:- Seeking information on Thomas Patrick **McHugh**, the youngest of ten children, who lived in County Tyrone as a youngster. I have no further information. Any assistance much appreciated.

**DAWN O'HARA AERTS**, 616, Locust Street, Hudson, Wisconsin 54016, USA. E-mail: [aertsjerry@hotmail.com](mailto:aertsjerry@hotmail.com) Wrote:- Seeking information on Dennis **O'Hara** and Catherine **Devitt** married in Co. Sligo or Co. Mayo late 1870s or early 1880s. Dennis was one of three brothers, Patrick and Michael remained in Ireland, Dennis emigrated from Ireland to the USA. Any information please.

**DAVID HOPE**, MGS, 2 Basil Terrace, Enterprise Road, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6LS, England. Wrote: Seeking to make contact with persons researching the surnames, **Dillon, Tandy, Suffield, Cramer, D'Arcy, de Burgh, Desterre** and **Guinness** to share information on these families.

**RAYMOND McCRAREN**, MGS, 245, S. Park Lane., #408, Palatine, Illinois 60074, USA. Wrote:- Wishing to make contact with persons researching the **McCraren** surname.

## MAGDALENE LAUNDRY

In Dáil Éireann on 09th October 2003 the issue of the possible non-registration of the deaths of women when residents of the Magdalene laundry in High Park, Drumcondra, Dublin, was raised by **Mr. Emmet Stagg, TD**. He asked the Minister for Health and Children, **Mr. Micheál Martin, TD**, about any investigation his Department has held into these claims of non-registration of deaths. **Mr. Micheál Martin, TD**, in reply said, the administration of the registration system, including the registration of deaths, is a matter for an tArd-Chláraitheoir, the Registrar General of Births, Deaths and Marriages, and for local registrars who operate under his general direction. He continued, I understand that applications were made to the General Register Office in 1993 for death certificates relating to persons interred in the graveyard in High Park. With the information supplied, the General Register Office was able to issue 75 death certificates. The office issued "no trace" forms for a number of others where it was unable to trace a death entry in the records with the information available to it. The office was unable to conduct a search of the records in some cases in respect of which insufficient details were supplied. The deaths may be registered, but the details upon which the searches were based were insufficient or may have been incorrect. In addition, he said, there is a provision for late registration of deaths. It is understood from recent press reports that the religious order concerned has stated that it complied with regulations in relation to the registration of deaths of persons in their care. **Ms Liz McManus, TD** said of the women who worked in the Magdalene laundries, that they were treated with scant regard and respect while they were alive. It appears that they are being treated with the same lack of regard and respect after they have died. She asked the Minister was he not disturbed that when a religious order was requested to exhume the bodies of 133 women, 22 additional bodies were discovered? The deaths of only 75 of the women had been properly registered. **Mr. Micheál Martin, TD** said, of course, I share the Deputy's concern regarding what has been revealed in relation to this tragedy. He then confirmed that different Ministers and Departments have responsibilities under the legislation which governs this area. **Ms Liz McManus, TD**, in reply, said that, she would appreciate any follow up on this. It is an important point, particularly in view of the fact that so much effort has gone into redressing the wrongs of the past. In this case, registration of deaths at least to acknowledge the existence of these women is of fundamental importance. **Mr. Micheál Martin, TD**, in conclusion said, I share the Deputy's views.