

- **New Civil Registration Bill**
- **Notice of Annual General Meeting**
- **News from the World of Genealogy & Heraldry**

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CIVIL REGISTRATION BILL DUE SHORTLY

Anxious Times Ahead for Genealogists in Ireland as New Legislation may Restrict Access

Letters appearing in *The Irish Times* last month clearly point to a heightened sense of anxiety amongst the genealogical community in Ireland in the run-up to the publication of the new Civil Registration Bill. Worries concerning the continued access to the records of the General Register Office in Dublin could possibly be well founded. The Minister for Social & Family Affairs, **Ms. Mary Coughlan, TD**, confirmed on the 6th February that, her department will be introducing the Bill in this current session of Dáil Éireann.

New Challenges

Previously, the responsibility for the introduction legislation concerning the GRO rested with the Minister for Health & Children. However, despite Minister Coughlan's contention that the modernisation of the civil registration system is a joint programme between her department and the Department of Health & Children, the very evident shift of control of the project to her department brings new challenges for the genealogical community. Not least amongst these challenges is the culture of secrecy and the tendency by officials at her department to view civil records as "personal records" requiring privacy and possibly, "closed" access.

Eleven Year Campaign

Whilst, awaiting the publication of the Bill to accurately determine the action that must be taken to secure the widest possible access to the records of the General Register Office, it's worth noting

that this eleven year campaign is entering its final and most crucial stage.

"Culture of Secrecy"

What is clear is that once the Minister has published this legislation, much of the damage will already have been done. Indeed, an uphill battle to secure amendments to the text of the Bill does not look promising at all. This is partly due to the "culture" of the Minister's department and the intended ancillary function of the Bill to provide a mechanism for the generation of Personal Public Service Numbers - PPSN for each citizen.

Transformation of GRO Records

The Minister's department will oversee the transformation of the records of the General Register Office from public records of life events to a database of "personal" information on individuals attracting the requirement of secrecy and privacy. This attitude was clearly evident during the sham public consultation process back in May 2001.

Minimal Accessibility to Records

The failure to support the 1997 proposal by this Society to have microfilm copies of the registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths deposited in the National Library and the National Archives is certainly going to haunt many during the difficult debate to come on this Bill. Latent conversions on this issue are always welcome, however, it may be too little and far too late to change the obvious intention of permitting only minimal accessibility to the GRO records following computerisation. Whether there is a sad day looming for the future of genealogical research in Ireland with the

passing of this new Civil Registration Bill only time will tell. However, if and when a history of the development of genealogy in Ireland is ever written, few will be able to deny that much of the blame for this situation rests with the genealogical community itself. The opportunities afforded by this Society's 1997 proposal were not fully understood nor appreciated by many in the genealogical community. Therefore, the subsequent failure to jointly campaign for this proposal before the goal posts of the "*Roscommon Experiment*" were changed for the third time was, as we'll see, a serious mistake.

"Closure by Stealth"

With the alteration of the original computerisation project to facilitate the issuance of the PPSNs, it's far from certain that anything worthwhile can be retrieved on the issue of accessibility to the records of the GRO. The imminent publication of the new Civil Registration Bill may just be the final act in the restriction of accessibility by stealth. The damage may well have been done already.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All Members please take note. The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Ireland will be held on **Tuesday March 11th 2003** at 20.00hrs in the **Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland. The AGM will receive the Annual Report, Audited Accounts and elect Members to the Board of the Society for the coming year. Membership Subscriptions for all Irish based members fell due last month, however, arrangements will be made for the collection of overdue subscriptions at the AGM. Members should bring their Membership Cards in order to vote at the AGM.

STOCK ALERT

Members and friends wishing to purchase copies of the following publications by the Society are advised to order their copies soon as stocks are becoming very low in most cases. These publications in the Irish Genealogical Sources series **will NOT be reprinted** and therefore, once the stock is sold out, copies will only be available in selected libraries. Orders can be placed on line at the Society's Website using either VISA or MasterCard or by mail by writing to the Hon. Secretary enclosing payment by cheques in either EURO, UK£ or US\$. As postage rates vary please see Website for details. For bulk orders please contact Barry O'Connor on e-mail: btoc@esatclear.ie for a quotation on the shipping costs. The number of each publication remaining as of February 6th is as follows:-

No. 16 - Kilcoole County Wicklow, School Registers from 1861 (ISBN 1 898471 36 3). By George H. O'Reilly. Price €6.35 (78 copies)

No. 17 - Index to the 1821 Census of Crosserlough, Co. Cavan (ISBN 1 898471 41 X). By Marie Keogh. Price €11.43 (87 copies)

No. 18 - Dublin's Riviera in the Mid 19th Century (ISBN 1 898471 46 0). By Brendan Hall & George H. O'Reilly. Price €6.35 (37 copies)

No. 19 - Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny 1901 Census (ISBN 1 898471 61 4) Compiled by Tom Delaney. Price €11.43 (59 copies)

No. 20 - Directory of Merchants & Traders of Dublin in 1798 (ISBN 1 898471 56 8). By Sheila Martin. Price €8.89 (31 copies)

No. 21 - The Louth Rifles 1877-1908 (ISBN 1 898471 71 1). By Brendan Hall & Donal Hall. Price €8.89 (52 copies)

No. 22 - 1901 Census Index for Blackrock Urban District Area, Co. Dublin (ISBN 1 898471 76 2). By Marie Keogh. Price €7.62 (76 copies)

No. 23 & 24 - Name Index to Tombstone Inscriptions of County Louth, Ireland Vol. 1 & 2 (ISBN 1 898471 81 9 & ISBN 1 898471 86 X) sold together. By Brendan Hall. Price €17.78 (2 copies of each)

No. 25 - History of the Royal Hibernian Military School, Dublin (ISBN 1 898471 91 6). Edited by George H. O'Reilly. Price €10.16 (53 copies)

No. 26 - Families of Newlands, Co. Dublin - A Genealogical Study (ISBN 1 898471 96 7). By Eamonn Dowling. Price €5.08 (71 copies)

No. 27 - Officers & Recruits of the Louth Rifles 1854-1876 SECOND EDITION (ISBN 1 898471 02 9). Compiled by Brendan Hall. Price €10.16 (40 copies)

No. 28 - Howth, Sutton, Kilbarrack & Baldoye County Dublin 1901 Census Index (ISBN 1 898471 07 X). Compiled by Marie Keogh. Price €6.00 (130 copies)

No. 29 - The Bradys of Cavan in history and genealogy (ISBN 1 898471 12 6) By Seán MacBradaigh, BA. Price €12.00 (53 copies)

ORDER NOW VIA THE WEBSITE

DIARY DATES

Tuesday February 11th 2003

Evening Open Meeting, 20.00hrs
Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,
Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire
Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.
DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.
Speaker: Timothy Carey
Topic: "Mountjoy & Kilmainham Gaols - Records"

Tuesday March 11th 2003

Venue as above
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Speaker: Eibhlín Roche
Topic: "The Guinness Archives"

Weds. Feb. 26th & March 26th 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

GSI QUARTERLY JOURNAL

The Society publishes a quarterly Journal containing articles on a range of genealogical and heraldic topics. The main objective of the Journal is to place in print, for future generations, the research undertaken by our members at home and overseas. This is one way members can preserve their Family History in print without the expense of publishing it themselves. Biographies of the Irish Diaspora, descriptions of sources and other genealogical or heraldic data collected by members are always welcome. Items for the forthcoming issue required now. Please forward articles by E-mail to jbhall@indigo.ie

10th Anniversary

Members of the Society fondly remember this month our dear friend Séamus Madden, one of our first members, who died on the 22nd February 1993. Séamus was the beloved husband of the second Cathaoirleach of this Society, Mrs. Rita Madden, MGSL. Séamus was buried at Boyle in his native county of Roscommon. Our thoughts are with Rita and her family at this time.

LIVERPOOL CONFERENCE

The Guild of One-Name Studies will hold its Annual General Meeting and conference in Liverpool, England, between the 25th and 27th April 2003. The theme will be Civil Registration in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Proposed new developments in the legislation in both the United Kingdom and Ireland could leave the One-Namers out in the cold as access to information may be restricted. Irish One-Namers should avail of the opportunity to attend this conference. Fuller details available on the Guild's Website: www.one-name.org or by writing to the Guild of One Name Studies, Box G, 14, Charterhouse Buildings, Goswell Road, London, EC1M 7BA, England.

FEBRUARY GENIE UPDATES

ARCHIVE FUND An Archive Fund was established by the Board due to the need to obtain various publications for the Archive as and when they become available. The fund organisers welcome donations from members and friends of the Society who value the importance of maintaining the Society's Archive and providing for additions to its collections. Frieda also welcomes donations of books, CDs or microfilm / microfiche records for the Archive. Donations may be forwarded directly to the Archivist, Mrs. Frieda Carroll, FGSI, 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland or to the Hon. Secretary.

DUBLIN MEETING? The FFHS - **Federation of Family History Societies** has been invited to hold a General Meeting in Dublin City, the first to be held outside Great Britain and possibly jointly hosted by the Irish member societies of the Federation. However the Federation is concerned that not enough voting member organisations would send delegates from Great Britain to make this venture viable. As one of the Federation's Irish based members, the Society would urge our colleagues in the various societies in Great Britain to take this opportunity to visit us in Dublin. Federation administrator, Maggie Loughran, would welcome the views of member societies on this proposal. E-mail: info@ffhs.org.uk

NATIONAL LIBRARY The National Library of Ireland is closed for relocation and rearrangement of library materials and equipment as part of the on-going building and development programme. This closure applies to the complex at Kildare Street only. The library will re-open on Monday February 17th 2003.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH The Kingstown Congregational Church which once stood on Northumberland Avenue in Dún Laoghaire had its beginnings in the missionary work undertaken by some of the Dublin congregational churches in the 1840s. It became a distinct congregation in 1849 with its first Minister Rev. Joseph Denham-Smith, previously the Independent Minister in Newry, Co. Armagh. Rev. Denham-Smith was Minister in Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) for fourteen years until 1878. The church in Dún Laoghaire finally closed during WWII and the building was partially demolished during the 1970s. The Society published the Membership Roll for the period August 1849 until November 1861 in the DLGS Journal - Vol. 2 No. 1 (1993). Now the Archivist is trying to locate a photograph of the church building. Any information or clues as to where to find a photograph much appreciated. Please contact the Editor.

WILL YOUR SOCIETY WELL If you haven't already done so, maybe it's time to consider writing your Will. We are all advised to make a Will, irrespective of our socio-

economic status or the amount of property or possessions that we may have accumulated over the years. It just makes good sense to make provision for the disposal of our belongings after we die and also, to set out the manner we desire for the disposal of our earthly remains. This careful consideration should also apply to the disposal of your genealogical records, files and books. Why not consider donating them to the Society's Archive or as you're thinking of donations, why not make a bequest in your Will to the Society? Think about it - you know it makes sense and remember future generations of genealogists will be very grateful for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

CEMETERY PROJECTS Barry O'Connor, FGSI, the co-ordinator of the cemetery projects is urgently seeking volunteers to input the data collected in Carrickbrennan Cemetery on to computer discs for publication. Contact Barry O'Connor on E-mail: btoc@esatclear.ie or by phone on (01) 285 4386. The next volume in the Memorial Inscriptions of the smaller cemeteries in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown will feature the Friends' Graveyard at Temple Hill, Blackrock, Co. Dublin.

OBITUARIES The Archivist would like to thank Ms. Ann L. Wells of Wells Genealogical Research Associates, PO Box 672, Crystal Lake, Illinois, USA 600039-0672 for the donation to the Society's Archive of various obituaries of Irish persons who died in the USA. Frieda welcomes photocopies or the actual newspaper cuttings of obituaries of Irish born persons dying overseas. These may be forwarded directly to the Archivist, Mrs. Frieda Carroll, FGSI, 14, Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

MARTELLO TOWER APPEAL

Work on the restoration of the Martello Tower at Seapoint has commenced this month after a protracted and exhaustive planning appeal process. Now Members and friends of the Society are encouraged to participate in the Martello Tower Project by becoming patrons of the Daonchartlann. Along with the names received in the previous campaign, patrons will have their own names or that of a loved one or ancestor inscribed on a commemorative scroll to be placed in the Tower for donations of €100 (US\$100). The names of each patron will be published in a commemorative booklet to accompany the official opening of the Daonchartlann (Ir. Gaelic "peoples' archive") in 2004 two hundred years after the Tower was originally built to repel a possible attack on Ireland by Napoleon. Donations should be forwarded to the DAONCHARTLANN FUND, c/o Hon. Secretary, address below. Please include details of the name to be entered on the commemorative scroll and published in the commemorative booklet. Mr. Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI, Project Chairperson, (E-mail: lmac@dna.ie).

THE FORGOTTEN ANNIVERSARY

With many notable anniversaries being observed this year in and around Dublin, one wonders why the 1550th anniversary of the building of the "dún" by Laoghaire is being ignored in Dún Laoghaire. The staging of the "Dún Laoghaire 1500" in 1998 had no historical basis whatsoever as it suggested that High King Laoghaire established his fortress forty-one years after his death. This lack of a historical basis for the "Dún Laoghaire 1500" was raised by this Society at the time, however, as the event was mainly a tourism and business promotion for the Town, its historical accuracy was not considered by many to be of any importance at the time. However, due to the fictitious nature of the 1500th anniversary in 1998 there may be an understandable reluctance by the Local Authority to acknowledge a more accurate anniversary this year. So what, you may ask, is a more accurate recorded date for the building of the "dún" by Laoghaire? Well, from the **Annals of the Four Masters** we can ascertain a possible date in a reference to a battle fought by Laoghaire. An entry in the Annals for the Age of Christ, 453, records it being the twenty-fifth year of the reign of Ard Rí Laoghaire Mac Niall, a great defeat was given by Laoghaire to the Leinstermen or Lagin. This is an important entry in the Annals as this victory would have permitted Laoghaire to establish a base, south of the traditional border of the River Liffey, to keep the Leinstermen in check. The positioning of the "dún" or stonewalled fortress on the coast at present day Dún Laoghaire in 453AD was clearly to protect his flank and the approaches to his base at Tara through the River Liffey and the plains of north Dublin. This is the only entry concerning a battle between Laoghaire and the Lagin tribes to the south of the Liffey before his final defeat at the Battle of Áth Dara in 457AD by the Lagin and his taking of a vow not to do battle again with them. It could also have been a base for the favourite pursuit of Irish High Kings of the period - the raiding of the Roman province of Britannia. Indeed, this connection would have made Laoghaire a wealthy king possibly dressed in the finest of Roman fabrics and adorned with riches stolen in raids on the west coast of present day Wales and England. The following year, 458AD, after Laoghaire, the son of Niall of the Nine Hostages, had been thirty years in the sovereignty of Ireland, the Annals record that he died by the side of the Caissi in the lands of the Uí Faeláin (north Wicklow / Kildare). It is said by the poets of the time that he had violated his oath to the Sun and the Wind by attacking the Leinstermen in that year. Given that it was this High King Laoghaire that is reputed to have met with St. Patrick in 432AD his place in Irish history has been secured as an early liberal European ruler permitting the spread of Christianity

throughout Ireland without hindrance. Though, not adopting the new religion himself, his tolerance ensured that uniquely in the spread of Christianity in Europe, Ireland has no Christian martyrs from this time. This lesson in religious tolerance alone would be worthy of civic observance in this the 1550th anniversary of the foundation of Dún Laoghaire.

SUBSCRIPTIONS OVERDUE

Irish based Members are reminded that their Membership Subscription for 2003 is NOW OVERDUE FOR PAYMENT. The membership year for Irish based Members runs from January to December in each year, whilst, Overseas Members have their Membership Subscriptions falling due each year on the anniversary of their joining date. Queries regarding membership should be addressed to the Membership Officer, **Annette McDonnell, MGS**, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland or contact Annette by E-mail on mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com. The Membership Subscription is €15.00 which should be forwarded to Annette or if you wish, renew your Membership Sub. on-line at www.gensocireland.org using your Credit Card MasterCard or VISA.

SIX GENERATIONS

*Two Irish Farriers/Blacksmiths followed by
Four Manchester Veterinary Surgeons*

By R. David Locke, MGS

I am the fourth generation veterinary surgeon, all four of us having been born in Manchester. My great great-grandfather was Henry Locke (c1819-1869), a farrier born in Dublin, who came to Manchester about 1838 and married a Manchester lass, Mary Priestley, in 1842. Henry's father was John Locke, also a farrier, said to be "working on an estate in Rathmines, Dublin" - this information about Rathmines came from my father's sister, now deceased. Henry and Mary had eight children and their second son, Samuel Locke, overcame him humble beginnings in the slums of Manchester to qualify as a veterinary surgeon. In 1909 he was elected President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). One of his sons, George Harry Locke, married the daughter of an Irish stonemason, David Conway, and he too became President of the RCVS in 1935. The third generation vet was my father, Richard Conway Locke. The family tree of Henry's descendants is virtually complete, but over twenty five years of Irish research, I have failed to find out anything about John or Henry Locke in Ireland. Much time spent on Rathmines did uncover a John Locke, but he was a rich "gent", as were two other John Locke families - one in Coldmanstown and the other the owners of the Locke Distillery in Kilbeggan, County Westmeath. One on-going line of enquiry is that John Locke was a farrier at the cavalry barracks in Rathmines, but research of British Army records has not yet revealed anything. The name 'Locke' is not common in Ireland. Of the 'Lockes' I have

found, 'John' is common but 'Henry' is rare. I followed this with the Dublin Heritage Centres looking for a Henry Locke son of John Locke in their Parish Registers. This has produced a Henry Locke, second son of John Locke and Sarah Hanlon, baptised in St. Mary's Church, Haddington Road, Dublin, on 15th April 1821. This date fits my Henry Locke born about 1819. John and Sarah Locke had four children James, Henry, John and Sarah. Sarah Hanlon was the daughter of Laurence Hanlon and Jane Lacy and was baptised at Clondalkin Roman Catholic Church in March 1796. What I would like to know is where and when John and Sarah were married, where they lived, where they were buried and was John Locke a farrier? Finally, I bought a copy of Sean Magee's book "Weavers & Related Trades, Dublin 1826". "Henry Locke, Blacksmith" Any info. about other 'Lockes' in Dublin, or suggestions for further research, will be gratefully received by **Richard David Locke**, BVSc MRCVS MGS1, 4, Rathmore Road, Cambridge, CB1 4AD, England.

JOINING THE GSI

Wishing to join the Genealogical Society of Ireland? Just log on to the Website or write to **Annette McDonnell MGS1**, Membership Officer, Genealogical Society of Ireland, 4, Kippure Avenue, Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland enclosing the Membership Subscription of €15.00 or US\$15.00. Membership is open to all with an interest in genealogy or heraldry. A laminated Membership Card featuring the Society's heraldic badge "the Mungovan Badge" will be forwarded to you in due course. Welcome to the GSI.

QUERIES RECEIVED

MARK USDEN, PO Box 5108, Netanya 42150, Israel. Wrote: Seeking information on two people believed to have been buried in the Jewish Cemetery at Dolphin's Barn in Dublin. **Benjamin (Ben) Fisher** and his wife **Jessie Fisher** (née **Finerman**). Also a daughter **Clare Fisher**. Looking for the ages, date of deaths, last known addresses and any other children. Any info. appreciated.

GERARD J. SHERIDAN, 14, Oak Drive, New Balderton, Newark, Notts., NG24 3BH, England. E-mail: anne@polestardigital.net Wrote:- Seeking info. on maternal grandfather **Richard Beamish** born in Co. Cork in 1878. His father, also **Richard**, was born in 1839. This latter **Richard** married **Brigit Donovan** in 1869 and remained in west Cork all their lives at Bealad and Beamish's Crossroads. **Richard** died in 1918 and **Brigit** died in Cork City in 1925. Both buried at Castlefreke. A GSI member in the 1997 GRD was looking for a **Daniel Donovan** of Tullyneasky, just down the road from Beamish's Crossroads. My great-grandmother **Brigit Donovan** (b. c. 1839) was the daughter of **Daniel** and **Ellen Donovan**, presumably married in the Clonakilty / Skibbereen area. **Brigit** had a brother **Daniel Donovan** who had a son **Denis** born c. 1870. I

discovered that the father of the elder **Richard Beamish** was **John Beamish** (b. 1806) married a **Mary Donovan** in 1834. **Mary's** parents were yet another **Daniel Donovan** and **Mary Sullivan**. Any information on or connections to the above families.

ALYSON GAVIN, 22, Seafield Crescent, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Wrote: I refer to your publication "Memorial Inscriptions of Deansgrange Cemetery – Vol. 1 – South West Section" – on p. 121, the plots at O.87 and O.88 only have the name **White** because the inscriptions have been obliterated. These plots belonged to the **White** family of Gowran, Co. Kilkenny. The burials are as follows: Mrs. **Anna Mary White**, d. 05.02.1930; Mr. **Richard White**, d. 26.04.1933; Miss **Aphra G. White**, d. 05.08.1935; Miss **Anna M. C. White**, d. 29.11.1941; Miss **Eva Maud White**, d. 01.06.1946 and Miss **Dorothy Isabel White**, d. 12.06.1970. The relationships were parents (**Richard** and **Anna Mary**) and four daughters. They also had three sons. **Henry**, buried in Kilkenny. **Vere**, buried in England and **Aubrey**, died at the Battle of the Somme 1916 and is buried in France. Currently researching **Aubrey White** for an exhibition in Gowran. Any info. much appreciated.

Mr. G. MITCHELL, 44, Langford Road, Bedminster Down, Bristol, BS13 7AR, England. Wrote:- What Dublin church were my ancestors married in on 12th May 1834? Both Catholics. Names: **Peter Carroll** and **Anne Corry**. Also, were there any baptisms registered in that church for any of their children. A daughter, **Ellen Carroll**, was born c. 1842, however, the family left for Australia in 1850/1. Nothing in the shipping records found. **Ellen** married in Adelaide to my great great-grandfather **Joseph Clifford**. She was previously married to a **James Corcoran** – a local landlord of a hotel. Any information on the above much appreciated.

DAVID JEPSON, 91, Maldon Road, Witham, Essex, CM8 1HP, England. E-mail: davidjepson91@o2.co.uk Wrote: I am seeking information on my great great-grandfather **Charles Castles** who was born c. 1815 in Mullingar, Co. Westmeath. He father was also **Charles** and his occupation was given as clerk at the distillery. Possibly another brother **C. W. Castles** who was residing at "Braisborough" South Circular Road in Dublin City in 1898. Any info. much appreciated.

PAT GUERIN, 16, Rockbarton Green, Salthill, Co. Galway, Ireland. E-mail: pguer@iol.ie Wrote: Looking for any info. relating to the Will of **James Hargrove**, Ballymicassellrode, Co. Clare. Date of Probate, 1793. Any info. on family much appreciated.

GAYE STRADWICK, 510A, Blockhouse Bay Road, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland, New Zealand. E-mail: gayestradwick@lysos.com Wrote: Researching the **Seaver** family of north Co. Dublin. My great-grandfather **Patrick Matthew Seaver** married **Teresa Maria Arabello Locke** in the Naul Parish in 1836. They lived in Ballyboughal and emigrated to

Australia in 1864. His parents were **Patrick Seaver** from Lusk and **Mary Dollard** from Skerries, who married in Skerries in 1795 & settled in Ballyboughal. Trying to locate the parents of **Teresa, Mary** and **Patrick snr**. Through family deeds, we think **Patrick's** family came from **Baldrummin** near Lusk. **Mary's** family seems to come from the **Balcunnin** area of Skerries. I know nothing of **Teresa Locke**. Any info. most appreciated.

CHRIS THOMAS, 141, Warwick Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1HY, ENG. E-mail: CJMThomas@ukgateway.net Wrote: Writing a book on the loss of the **HMS Vanguard** in Dublin Bay in 1875 after she was rammed by **HMS Iron Duke** in thick fog. Concentrating on the stories of those involved & interested in talking to the descendants or other relatives of the officers and crew of the ships involved. **HMS Vanguard** was a coastguard ship based at Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) 1871-1875. Many of the crews were Irish. Any info. very much appreciated.

FEBRUARY REVIEWS

"The Ballymoney Northern Herald and Ulster General Adviser" – Births, Marriages & Deaths 1860-1863. Published by the Coleraine Branch of the North of Ireland FHS. Price UK£6.00 (€10.00). This newspaper flourished for just 22 years, 8 months and 21 days according to an obituary published by its rival "The Coleraine Chronicle". This neat collection of over 300 births, 500 deaths and 300 marriages published in that short time is of immense importance to researchers with links to this part of Ulster. Well produced and each section indexed.

"Irish Records Index Vol. 1 – Index of Irish Wills 1485-1858" Published by **Enecclann** of Dublin. Price €49.50 www.eneclann.ie

This CD-ROM has various features that make it easier for one to order a photocopy of a testamentary document on-line. However, the information provided on the CD is minimal and designed accordingly. Without ordering the document only the following information is shown. Example: **LOCKE**, **Richard**; Administration; Transcript; 1832; Dublin & Glendalough Diocese; Executor / Administrator: **LOCKE**, **Denis**; Audeon's Arch, Dublin and the NA reference etc. Example: **LOCKE**, **Elizabeth**; Eccles Street, Dublin; Will & Grant; Abstract; 1833; Executor/ Administrator: **LENNON**, **Elizabeth Maria**, 42, Eccles Street, Dublin and the NA reference. Searches may be made by surname, location, occupation, year or by soundex. A search by the occupation "priest" for example, turned up 145 matches, mostly Parish Priests. Where documents no longer survive, this CD references other sources i.e. Crossle Genealogical Abstracts – example, for the **SEAVER** family – 1 envelope and the National Archives reference. The soundex seems to throw up oddities, however, this should not take from the value of this CD-ROM as a finding aid for 70,000 records for the period.