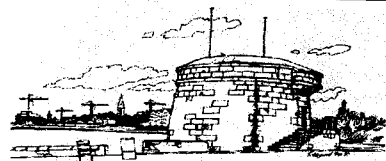


- "Family History Tower" – progress report.
- 60th Anniversary of the Genealogical Office
- Two New Publications

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Editor:

E-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie TEL: +353.1. 284 2711



The Gene Gazette

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OFFICE OF CHIEF HERALD – 60th ANNIVERSARY

Marking the Transfer to Irish Control of the Office of Arms on April 1st 1943

This year on April 1st 2003 will mark the 60th anniversary of the transfer of the Office of Arms in Dublin Castle to Irish control by the British government. Though, the country had been independent since 1922, the Office of Arms or Ulster King of Arms, as it was known, remained in Dublin Castle under the imperial government in London.

"A Political Anomaly"

Many Irish government ministers, including Gen. Michael Collins and later, Éamonn de Valera, noted this anomaly and sought to bring the Office under Irish control. From 1922 all the pomp and circumstance that was previously provided by the Office of Arms, ceremonies, processions and regal spectacles was not required by the newly independent government. However, the Office continued to service the heraldic needs of its clients throughout both parts of Ireland and indeed, in August 1924, the Office provided the Arms for Northern Ireland.

An End of an Era

This political anomaly of having a Crown Office remaining in the heart of Dublin Castle with the office holder, Sir Neville Wilkinson, residing in London and leaving the day-to-day functions in Dublin to his deputy, Thomas Sadleir, was drawing

to a close on the death of Wilkinson in December 1940. Pressure from the Irish not to have a successor appointed by the King and with war matters preoccupying the minds of both governments an agreed transfer date was set for April 1st 1943. The title "Ulster King of Arms" was attached to the "Norroy King of Arms" based in the College of Arms in London.

First Chief Herald of Ireland

In Dublin the Genealogical Office was established with Dr. Edward MacLysaght as the first Chief Genealogical Officer and Chief Herald of Ireland. Dr. MacLysaght soon gave the Office a distinctly Irish character with the use of the Irish language on Letters Patent granting Arms and he paved the way for the State to offer courtesy recognition to the principal male descendants of the last inaugurated Gaelic Chiefs. Indeed, such recognition in later years produced much controversy with "bogus" claimants hitting the headlines, most notably *The MacCarthy Mór*.

Heraldry throughout the Land

But leaving the on-going saga of the "bogus chiefs" aside, the Office has rendered much service to the Nation in the past sixty years which resulted in a higher profile for Arms in Ireland now than at any period in the past 450 years of the Irish Heraldic authority.

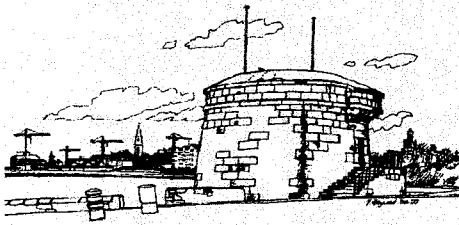
With grants of Arms to County, City and Town councils, County Gaelic Football Teams, sports clubs, businesses, educational and professional institutions and bodies, Irish nationals and members of the Irish Diaspora, this Office has grown and adapted the ancient rules of heraldry to the modern requirements of the citizenry of a sovereign republic.

European Union Flag

One of our Chief Heralds, Mr. Gerald Slevin, designed the flag used by the European Union (azure, in a circle, twelve mullets or) which was adopted on November 12th 1954. No doubt, the fiftieth anniversary of the adoption of this beautifully simple and elegant flag will be marked in some suitable manner next year throughout Europe.

Marking the Occasion

The Society extends its best wishes to the Chief Herald of Ireland, **Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue** and his staff on the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the Office of Chief Herald of Ireland. Indeed, a very suitable acknowledgement by the Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, **Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD**, of this important anniversary would be to announce his intention to secure and expand the role of the office through legislation by bringing forward an *Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill* in this Dáil.



FAMILY HISTORY TOWER

"An Daonchartlann" as the new Archive for the Society will be called is steadily becoming a reality after many years of fund raising and being stalled in a protracted planning process for approximately two years. Work is progressing at the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin with the removal of the old, though, most certainly not original, floor and wooden stairs. The excavation of the ground floor under the supervision of an archaeologist revealed a beautifully cut granite paved surface under the modern concrete and rubble. This was a great discovery and the Project Director, Liam Mac Alasdair, (e-mail: lmac@dna.ie) is now examining ways to keep this paving exposed as a feature of the Society's Archive. A full archaeological mapping of the floor area is in progress and every stage of the operation is photographed and filmed to comprehensively record as much as possible of the architectural features of this Tower. Dating from 1804, these Martello Towers were originally built by the British military in Ireland to defend their hold on the country from a possible French invasion. Locals and many Members are already referring to the Martello Tower at Seapoint as the "Family History Tower" much as they refer to the one in Sandycove that houses the James Joyce Museum as the "Joyce Tower". Plans are to install a new wooden floor, windows, interior doors and a new spiral stairway to the bottom floor. Shelving and workstations will be erected on the first floor, whilst, shelving and storage facilities will be installed on the bottom floor. When finished "An Daonchartlann" (Ir. "peoples' archive") will be unique in Ireland and some say, it will be the most picturesquely located genealogical archive or library in the world. From the roof of the "Family History Tower" the views of the wide expanse of Dublin Bay are stunning. Indeed, in the distance, on a clear day,

looking north beyond Howth peninsula, one can easily see the Cooley Mountains in Co. Louth and further on, the beautiful Mourne Mountains in Co. Down in Northern Ireland. Looking southward, the view is spectacular towards Dún Laoghaire Town and Harbour, Killiney Hill and the majestic sweep of Dublin Bay affectionately well known as "Dublin's Riviera". Members and friends of the Society are understandably very proud to be associated with this exciting development and many have already contributed to the Building Fund, for which, the Society is very grateful. However, more money is needed to fully equip the "Family History Tower" with the latest technology and the various published sources in microform and CD Rom. Please give generously. Remember each sponsor will be named in the Commemorative Book to be published for the official 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\$100.00) 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. 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".

ANNE MORAN

It is with great sadness that we report the death of one of our first members and a long-time friend of the Society, Ms. Anne Moran. Anne died on Thursday 6th March 2003 at her home in Tuam, Co. Galway. In recent years, due to illness, Anne was virtually housebound. However, she kept a keen and active interest in the activities of the Society. All her former colleagues in the offices of the Dún Laoghaire Vocational Education Committee and the members of the Junior Chamber of Commerce, where she served as an officer for many years, will fondly remember Anne as a loyal, vivacious and generous friend. She was buried in her Westport, Co. Mayo following a funeral mass in the Cathedral of the Assumption in Tuam, Co. Galway. RIP

GRAPHIC FAMILY TREE SERVICE

HAVE YOUR FAMILY TREE PRODUCED AS A SUPERB VISUAL DOCUMENT

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 or black & white. All you have to do is complete a standard family tree chart 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. You decide the level of information to be included on the document - we will work in close consultation with you at all stages of the project. Costs are based on the number of individual images involved. CONTACT Frankie Lee at 087.782 0932 or E-mail: frankiezee@eircom.net for more information and quotations.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

"MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS of DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN, Co. Dublin, Ireland" Vol. 2. Friends Burial Ground, Temple Hill, Blackrock. ISBN 1 898471 27 4 Price €7.00 (p+p IRL & UK €1.50: Others surface mail €4.00 : airmail €10.00). Barry O'Connor, FGSI.
IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOURCES No. 30 – "John O'Donovan (1806-1861) Origins and Meaning of Irish Family Names including a description of the families of the Maguires and O'Reillys" Extracted from 'The Irish Penny Journal' 1841 & 'Duffy's Hibernian Magazine' 1861. ISBN 1 898471 17 7 Price €7.00 (p+p IRL & UK €1.50: Others surface mail €4.00 : airmail €10.00). Edited by George H. O'Reilly.

GSJ QUARTERLY JOURNAL Vol. 4 No. 1. Spring 2003.

Articles in this issue include: Fire in Patrick Street, Dublin, 1861 by G.H. O'Reilly; Corporal John Lyons V.C. (1825-1867) by Dennis Allen; An Ulster/French Marriage by Róisín Lafferty; "Empress of Ireland" – The Story of an Edwardian Liner by James Scannell; Hugh MmcCarthy's Sick Leave by Liam Clare; The Proposed Dublin to Kilkenny Railway 1837 by Brendan Hall; Table of Improvements in Locomotive Engines 1829-35; Imirce by Seán MacBrádaigh; Early Days! By G. H. O'Reilly; Extracts from St. Nicholas Register, Liverpool by Bill Potter; Missing Sources of Genealogical Data by

A.W. Cockerill & P. Goble; Oath of a Substitute or Volunteer Militiaman; The Genealogical Material in the Depositions of 1641 by Seán MacBrádaigh; From Thornhill to Grange: One Lady's Journey by James O. Coyle; Genealogical Data from a Map by William Duncan 1814 by Pat Power; Notes on the 1793 Relief Act by Brendan Hall; Calendar of the Pharmaceutical Society of Ireland 1931; Problems with the 1901 Census by G.H. O'Reilly; Names from a Medieval Inquisition at Shankill etc. by Eamonn Dowling; Irish Crime Statistics 1837-46; Assizes Intelligence July 1843; Review: of IGS No. 30 and Review of "St Anne's - The Story of a Guinness Estate" by Sighle l'Estrange.

Copies available via the Society's Website or by mail from the Hon. Secretary. Price €5.00 (members €4.50) with postage IRL & UK €1.50 and others €3.00

MARCH GENIE UPDATES

SOCIETY A.G.M. 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. Members should bring their Membership Cards in order to vote at the AGM.

MARRIAGE LAW The Inter-Departmental Committee on Reform of Marriage Law has commenced a process of public consultation on the law relating to marriage in Ireland. Most of Irish marriage law dates from the 19th century and is contained in various Acts of Parliament. The views on this issue are varied and complex as practitioners, academics and others have repeatedly advocated reform of marriage law. A point of interest to genealogists is the reform of the certification process and accessibility to the information on the parties to a marriage, including, religious denomination, age, date and place of birth etc. A document setting out the scope of the committee's remit and approach is available on the Website of the General Register Office www.groireland.ie or in writing from the address below. Submissions from the public are invited before 31st March 2003 either by e-mail on marriage.reform@welfare.ie or to Ian Quinn, Inter-Departmental Committee on Reform of Marriage Law, Dept. of Social

& Family Affairs, Store Street, Dublin 1, Ireland. The provisions of the Freedom of Information Act, 1997 will apply to all submissions received.

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR The Society of Genealogists' in London will host its annual Family History Fair on May 3rd and 4th 2003 at the Royal Horticultural Society, New Hall & Conference Centre, Greycoat Street, Westminster, London SW1. Tickets cost £6.00 per day at the door or £4.00 if pre-paid on line at www.sog.org.uk E-mail: events@sog.org.uk A very interesting programme of daily lectures has been organised to accompany the usually high standard of exhibits mounted by family history organisations in Great Britain.

ONE-NAME 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. 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.

GSI JOURNAL As reported above, 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

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 improving the collections in the Society's Archive. This is especially important with the new home for the Archive in the Martello Tower at Seapoint coming on-stream later this year. 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.

FFHS IN DUBLIN The **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. 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. Contact her by E-mail: info@ffhs.org.uk

MAKING YOUR WILL? If you haven't already done so, maybe it's time to consider writing your Will. We are all advised to make a Will. It's just good sense to make provision for the disposal of our belongings after we die and to set out our funeral arrangements. This careful consideration should also apply to the disposal of your genealogical records, files and books. Consider donating them to the Society's Archive or why not make a bequest in your Will to the Society?

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 this graveyard.

SPONSOR SOUGHT

With the work on the Martello Tower progressing well, the Board has decided to place an order to have our **Heraldic Banner** granted to the Society by the Chief Herald of Ireland made in cloth to hang inside the building and in a flag to fly above this historic Tower. The Society's heraldic banner may be viewed on the **National Library of Ireland** Website www.nli.ie under Grants of Arms for 2001. The projected costs are about €550 and the name of the sponsor and photograph of both will be published in the commemorative book to accompany the official opening of the Society Archive at the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin. If you wish to sponsor the making of the banner and the flag, please contact the Hon. Secretary on Tel. +353.1.284 2711 or E-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie

DIARY DATES**Tuesday March 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.
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Speaker: Eibhlín Roche

Topic: "The Guinness Archives"

Tuesday April 8th 2003

Venue as above

Speaker: John Morris

Topic: "Mining History Society"

Weds. March 26th & April 23rd 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*

JOINING THE GSI

Wishing to join the Genealogical Society of Ireland? Just log on to the Website or write to the Membership Officer, **Annette McDonnell**, MGSI, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin 12, Ireland or you may contact Annette by E-mail on mcdonnellanette@hotmail.com The Membership Subscription is €15.00 (US\$15.00) which should be forwarded to Annette or if you wish, you can pay on-line at 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" will be forwarded to you in due course.

QUERIES RECEIVED

GRAHAM HEATHER, One Green Park, Dublin 14, Ireland. E-mail: grahamheather@eircom.net Wrote: Seeking information on my great-grandfather George Heather of Summerville, Dundrum, Co. Dublin who was the son of William and Rachel Heather of Moy, Co. Tyrone. As a widower George Heather married Jane **Jacob** in 1868. His first wife's name was Elizabeth **Hanna**. I have no knowledge of his brothers or sisters, if any. I am also anxious to trace any connection with Rev. George Abraham Heather (b. 1831, Dublin) of Errislannan, Clifden, Co. Galway. His father was the Rev. Dawson D. **Heather**, Doctor of Divinity, in Dublin. But I have been unable to find any information on him at Trinity College Dublin. Rev. George Abraham Heather was Archdeacon of Achonry. On February 8th 1866 he married Henrietta Jane, 3rd daughter of Rev. Richard Henry **Wall**, DD

of Errislannan and had issue. His eldest son Major Dawson Dean Richard Henry, RFA, served in WWI and married April 25th 1923, Muriel Kathleen **Langtree**, daughter of Alfred **Hollis**, MD. of the Isle of Wight, England and died 11th November 1927 at Knocadoo, Coolaney, Co. Sligo. Any information please. **GAYE STRADWICK**, MGSI, 510A, Blockhouse Bay Road, Blockhouse Bay, Auckland, New Zealand. E-mail: gayestradowick@lycos.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**. Gaye's E-mail address was incorrectly entered last month. Apologies to Gaye and those who tried to contact her by e-mail. Any information please. **MARY CHULOW**, 10, Mitcham Walk, Mackworth Estate, Derby, DE222 4FJ, Derbyshire, England. Wrote:- A branch of my family originated in Ireland and through the 1871 Census of Sheffield, I have traced back to Catherine daughter of Hugh **Flanagan** and his wife Alice. Catherine was unmarried in 1871 and on the 1881 Census she was married to Charles Wainwright and had two children. Catherine Flanagan and Charles **Wainwright** were my paternal great-grandparents. Any connections to the above or further information much appreciated.

JOURNAL STOCK ALERT

Members and friends wishing to purchase copies of Vol. 8 No. 2 and No. 3 of the DLGS Quarterly Journal published in 1999 are advised to order their copies soon as stocks are running low with only 32 and 17 copies of each remaining. Copies remaining of the GSI Quarterly Journal published in 2001 are Spring (7), Summer (17), Autumn (55) and Winter (40) and for 2002, copies remaining are Spring (39), Summer (57), Autumn (37) and Winter (81). These publications **will NOT be reprinted**. Orders can be placed by writing to the Hon. Secretary enclosing payment by cheques in either EURO, UK£ or US\$. As postage rates vary with the number of each purchased please see please contact our Publications Despatch Officer, Barry O'Connor on Tel: +353.1.285 4386 or E-mail: btoc@esatclear.ie for a quotation.

ENGLISH CULTURE

Dr. Joan Beal, Director of the National Centre for English Tradition at the University of Sheffield, Sheffield, S10 2TN, England has written to the Society with details of the MA course in Folklore & Cultural Tradition. This course aims to provide students with knowledge of the materials of folklore and cultural tradition and to train students in the methodologies appropriate to their study. The course comprises four taught modules and a dissertation on a topic of interest in depth. The teaching is mostly of a seminar-type, however, opportunities for both practical fieldwork and archival research will be available to all students. This course brings to life the six genres of folklore i.e. childlore (nursery rhymes, nicknames etc.), language (dialect, proverbs, riddles, *blason populaire* etc.), custom & belief (superstition, traditional "foodways"), folktale & legend (including the modern urban legends), folk music & dance and finally material culture (traditional crafts, vernacular architecture etc.). The history and theory of folklore and cultural tradition traces its origins and first instances in Europe and North America. This module looks at the historical timeframe, survival and structural analysis of, amongst other things, placenames. Many of us with a Celtic cultural background sometimes display a chauvinistic disregard for "English" folkloric tradition because of the stronger and more visible affinity that the Irish, Scots or Welsh may have with our own cultural traditions. Therefore, courses like this one in Sheffield University are very important to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of English cultural traditions and especially for us Celts, to finally dispel the myth that English culture is just cider and Morris dancing. Surely there are opportunities for the folklore departments of Irish universities to collaborate with Sheffield University, possibly under the auspices of the British-Irish Council, to provide access for Irish students of folklore to explore the English cultural traditions. Further information on this course may be obtained from the Website: www.shef.ac.uk/english/natcect/ or by E-mail from j.arbon-davis@sheffield.ac.uk

REMINDER

THE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR IRISH BASED MEMBERS FELL DUE IN JANUARY – *Have you paid yet?*