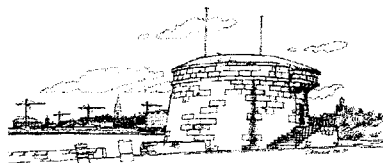


- **Dúchas – The Heritage Service abolished**
- **New Summer Archive Project**
- **Genealogy & Heraldry Committee**

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Editor: E-mail: GenSocIreland@iol.ie TEL: +353.1.284 2711



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DÚCHAS ABOLISHED BY MINISTER

Irish Government ditches the Nation's Integrated Heritage Service

“Politically short sighted and potentially damaging to our long term interests” is how the April 28th editorial in “*The Irish Times*” described the abolition by the Irish government of **Dúchas – The Irish Heritage Service**. Many letters to the editor of that newspaper agreed, but to no avail, the Minister is determined to deprive the nation of an integrated heritage service.

A Much Respected Service

As genealogists and family historians we are keenly aware of the importance of our built and natural heritage as an integral part of the story and legacy of our ancestors. Many genealogists from home and abroad have come to know and appreciate Dúchas, which had the responsibility for the preservation, conservation and promotion of public awareness of Ireland's rich built heritage and its wonderfully diverse natural heritage. It was a brand name well associated with its tasks and much respected by native and visitor alike for its quality of service. Its professionalism and the dedication of its staff was much admired by conservationists and heritage activists throughout Ireland, little wonder then, that no public consultation process was initiated prior to its speedy abolition by the Minister.

A Thorn in the Side of Some

Frequently viewed as an unacceptable nuisance by farmers and developers, Dúchas was there to provide protection for our upland and mountainous areas

against unsustainable agricultural practices and to stop the wanton destruction of our built heritage by speculative and unscrupulous developers. Farmers protesting against the designation of areas on or close to their properties as special areas of conservation to protect our flora and fauna barred its officials from their lands. Its stand on planning and development matters frequently brought Dúchas into confrontation with some politically powerful and influential interests in Ireland. Is it any wonder that some sectors in Ireland would wholeheartedly welcome the Minister's decision?

Cosmetic Changes Meaningless

The Minister, Mr. Martin Cullen, TD, in what increasingly seems a cosmetic exercise, decided to place the word “heritage” in the title of his Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government. However, this will do little to convince many of his government's commitment to heritage matters. The Minister maintains that the abolition of Dúchas was necessary in order to “optimise organisational resources” within his department. Only time will tell whether this cynical euphemism for the shooting dead of Ireland's most powerful heritage watchdog will herald an accelerated destruction of our built and natural heritage by developers.

Regime Change for Ireland's Heritage

The abolition of Dúchas is possibly the last act in the dismantling of the Irish government's heritage edifice as once proudly represented by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht & the Islands. The Minister's subsequent division of

heritage responsibilities is merely the looting of bricks of that edifice following the drastically swift and devastating heritage regime change since the General Election last year. An integrated heritage service, a requirement of European Union law, has followed an integrated heritage department into the history books. Many aspects of our natural and built heritage, once staunchly protected and championed by Dúchas, face an uncertain future at the hands of powerful lobby groups representing developers and farming interests.

Localisation of Functions

The allocation of certain heritage functions to local authorities, already in control of planning matters, will further erode our ability to comprehensively protect, conserve and properly manage our natural and built heritage throughout the State. The pressures exerted on planners at local government level by local political and developmental factors may see the emergence of an intractable set of conflicts of interests possibly leading to bad decisions and the inevitable neglect of our natural and built heritage. Clarity as to what functions and powers, formerly held by Dúchas, are to be vested in local authorities should have been provided by the Minister before the abolition of the Heritage Service. The Minister failed to seek the views of the heritage professionals at Dúchas or the local government officials and the non-governmental heritage organisations on his plans for the future of the functions and responsibilities of Dúchas in advance of the abolition of this important agency. The transparency of the driving forces

behind this arrogant strategy leaves a bleak future for our natural and built heritage in little doubt.

Questions for the Minister

For the decision to abolish Dúchas not to be seen as a backward short sighted decision by a government unconcerned with heritage matters, the Minister must answer the following questions and commit his department to an open and meaningful public consultation process on future heritage planning and policy matters.

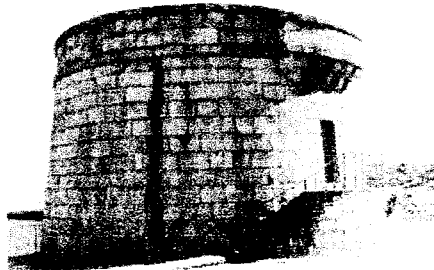
- Where now stands the **National Heritage Plan** adopted by his government before the last General Election following an exhaustive public consultation process?
- What powers are to be transferred to **local authorities** (County & City Councils) in respect of the protection, conservation, management and promotion of the awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our natural and built heritage?
- Who or what body will ensure the universal application and compliance by local authorities with **national and EU law**, policy and directives in respect of our natural and built heritage and ensure that best practice in conservation and protection of our heritage is available and applied throughout the State?
- Does the Minister envisage an enhanced role for the **Heritage Council** following his abolition of Dúchas and if so, what powers and functions, if any, does he intend to transfer to the Heritage Council?
- With the abolition of Dúchas and the dispersal of its pool of highly experienced heritage professionals, does the Minister intend to provide permanent funding to Local Authorities for the employment of a **County Heritage Officer** and a **Conservation Officer** in each local authority area to provide the specialist services and professional advice previously available from Dúchas?

ARCHIVE SUMMER PROJECT

The Society has been amassing an Archive of genealogical material since its foundation in 1990 and to date many thousands of items have been collected, donated or purchased. To facilitate the move of the Society Archive to the Martello Tower the reorganisation of the Archive collections must be completed this summer. Our Archivist, **Frieda Carroll**, FGSi, with the assistance of Board Member, **Margaret Conroy**, MGSi, will be assembling a team of volunteers to undertake the sorting, cataloguing, indexing and computerisation of the Society's Archive. Through the kindness of the Principal of the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, **Mr. John Howe**, facilities at the college will be made available for this project. It is also envisaged that the project team in advance of the commencement of the "Archive Summer Project" will seek expert advice on best practice and archival retrieval systems. Further details next month.

MARTELLO TOWER PROJECT

"An Daonchartlann" as the new Archive for the Society is steadily becoming a reality after many years of fund raising and planning. Work is progressing at the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin with the installation of the first layer of the new wooden flooring, soon to be covered with a polished wooden finishing in keeping with the Tower. The new spiral staircase has been designed and ordered to link the newly excavated granite flagged ground floor with the main or first floor area. Indeed, when the archaeologist revealed the beautifully cut granite paved surface under the modern concrete and rubble on the ground floor the works to excavate, preserve and map the floor took three weeks to complete. Project Director, **Liam Mac Alasdair**, FGSi (e-mail: lmac@dna.ie) insisted on keeping this granite paving exposed as a feature of the Society's Archive or An Daonchartlann.



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. Many 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 new windows and interior doors are underway. Shelving and workstations will be erected on the first floor with further shelving and storage facilities on the ground 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. With works on **Phase 1** of the project well underway, more money is needed for **Phase 2** of the project. This part of the project aims 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 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\$110.00) 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**".

DIARY DATES

Tuesday May 13th 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: **Eibhlín Roche**
Topic: "*The Guinness Archives*"

Tuesday June 10th 2003

Venue as above
Speaker: **Joan Sharkey**
Topic: "*The Story of St. Anne's Estate*"

Weds. May 28th & June 25th 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*

SOCIETY'S RECENT 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). Project Co-ordinator: Barry O'Connor, FGSi.

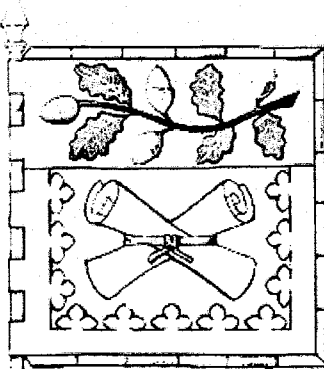
IRISH GENEALOGICAL SOURCES No. 30 "John O'Donovan (1806-1861) Origins and Meaning of Irish Family Names including a description of the families of the Maguires and O'Reillys" Extracted from 'The Irish Penny Journal' 1841 & 'Duffy's Hibernian Magazine' 1861. ISBN 1 898471 17 7 Price €7.00 (p+p IRL & UK €1.50: Others surface mail €4.00 : airmail €10.00). Edited by George H. O'Reilly.

GENEALOGY & HERALDRY COMMITTEE

Confirmation that the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, **Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD**, is to fully implement the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 is a very welcome development indeed. This Society has campaigned for years for the full implementation of this legislation dealing with, amongst other institutions, the National Library of Ireland and the Office of the Chief Herald of Ireland. During the debate on this legislation in the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) the Society was the most proactive genealogical organisation proposing amendments and additions to sections throughout the entire Bill. One such proposal was for the establishment of a Committee on Genealogy & Heraldry to assist and to advise the Board of the National Library and the Chief Herald. The Minister that introduced this legislation, **Mr. Michael D. Higgins, TD**, accepted this proposal and many others put forward on behalf of this Society by **Senator Paschal Mooney** during the passing of this legislation. Section 13.4 of the Act, which the Minister is to implement, will provide a much needed and long overdue mechanism by which to review the delivery of genealogical and heraldic services at the National Library. Though, this measure falls short of the Society's ultimate goal of achieving the introduction of an *Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill*, the Minister's intention to have the Society's proposals for such legislation examined by this Committee would prove to be a vital step in that direction. In welcoming the decision to establish this Committee, it is hoped that its membership will reflect the broadest spectrum of genealogical and heraldic opinion in Ireland free from any existing contractual association with the provision of services at the National Library. The Committee must be enabled to conduct its business and to provide such functions as may be conferred upon it by the Board of the National Library without any possibility of a conflict of interest arising. The Minister is to be congratulated on the implementation of the Act and the Society wishes the Board of the National Library and, especially, its Director and Chief Herald, **Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue**, every success with the establishment of this very important Committee on Genealogy & Heraldry.

THE SOCIETY'S HERALDIC BANNER & FLAG

As reported last month, due to the generosity of our American Member, **Mrs. Barbara Mungovan-Koch**, the Society has been able to commission a Dublin city based flag-maker to provide the Heraldic Banner and the Society's livery flag for display at the Martello Tower. The Chief Herald of Ireland contained the original design in the Letters Patent granting Arms to the Society in 2001.



The design in heraldic terms is "*azure (blue) within a bordure treflee or (gold), two scrolls in saltire argent (silver/white) banded at the centre vert (green), surmounted of a chief (band at top) of the second (gold), thereon a sprig of oak leaved and fructed proper.*" The design is by **Mr. Micheál Ó Comáin** the Consulting Herald at the Office of the Chief Herald. The Heraldic Banner will measure 4 feet x 4 feet and will be crafted by **Timothy O'Regan** of Pearse Street, Dublin. The Heraldic Banner will occupy a special place in the official opening of the "*Family History Tower*" next year and in the meantime, provide an exquisite backdrop for exhibitions organised by the Society. Delivery of the Heraldic Banner and flag is expected within the month.

GRAPHIC FAMILY TREE SERVICE

HAVE YOUR FAMILY TREE PRODUCED AS A SUPERB VISUAL DOCUMENT

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 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. 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.

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 McCarthy'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. (*EURO PRICE*) **ARTICLES** for future issues of the Society's quarterly journal are always welcome. Please forward items for publication to **Brendan Hall, MGSJ** at E-mail: jbhall@indigo.ie or to the Hon. Secretary at the address below.

MAY GENIE UPDATES

DONATIONS The Archivist, Mrs. Frieda Carroll, FGSJ would like to thank **Mr. John O'Neill** of Dublin for his kind donation of his genealogical files and books to the Society's Archive. Also, a big thank you to **Patricia Carr Biczynski** and her husband Andre of Texas, USA for their donation of the CD Rom and colour plates of the **Ballykinlar Internment Camp** autograph book. The original autograph book was donated to the National Library of Ireland by Mr. & Mrs. Biczynski. A full report on this book will be published in the Society's quarterly journal. **HERITAGE PLAN** The Heritage Officer of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, **Mr. Timothy Carey**, invites submissions from the public in the initial consultation process on the drafting of a five year Heritage Plan for the county. Submissions in writing or the completed consultation form must be received by May 30th. E-mail: tcarey@dlrcoco.ie or telephone (01) 205 4868.

100th ANNIVERSARY The National Genealogical Society (NGS) in the United States will celebrate its 100th anniversary at a special conference in Pittsburgh, PA, May 28th to 31st 2003. Hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, this event is a must for GSI members in the USA. Further details on the National Genealogical Society's Website: www.ngsgenealogy.org

EURO & UDS The Board of the Society has agreed at its May meeting to keep the present parity arrangement between the EURO and the American Dollar for payments received in respect of publications and membership. However, with the current exchange rate moving over the 10% differential the parity arrangement will be reviewed on a monthly basis by the Board.

ONE-NAME STUDIES The April-June 2003 issue of the journal of the Guild of One-Name Studies is now available. Features in this issue include the National Archives of Australia; Finding Criminal Ancestors in historic Old Bailey court records on line; Tracing Slave & Slave-owning Ancestors in British Caribbean Countries and much more. The GSI wishes Ken Toll every success as the new Chairman of the Guild. Further details on the Guild's Website: www.one-name.org

TIPPERARY The committee of the Tipperary North Family History Foundation, an Irish Genealogical Project Indexing Centre, has appealed to the North Tipperary County Council to take over its operation. According to a letter published in the "Midland Tribune" on April 19th 2003, the committee hopes that this take over will prevent the indexed records being transferred to Irish Genealogy Limited in Dublin. This Nenagh based arm of the IGP was forced to close because of a lack of funds according to a report published in the "Tipperary Star" of Saturday April 19th 2003. The Society hopes that this IGP centre will be absorbed by the local Public Library Service to preserve its records in situ for the people of the county.

QUERIES RECEIVED

RON J. ALLEN, 70 Zima Crescent, Bradford, Ontario, Canada, L3Z 2E4. E-Mail: windwillow@sympatico.ca Wrote:- My inquiry concerns my great (x3) grandparents who were born, I believe, in County Tyrone around 1793 to 96. Sarah Stewart married a John Allan (Allen?) in 1837 or 38. They had 2 sons: Robert (1810) & Joseph (1827) both born in Ireland. They came to Canada between 1827 to 1838. However, when they started homesteading in the Canadian wilderness of Erin Township, Ontario, John was not with them and Sarah gave her occupation as widow. We do not know anything about John, or if he came with them and died en route or died before they left. Their religion was listed as Free Church. The earliest records we can find here is that son Robert received the Patent on his parcel of land in 1858. They may have been living on it as early as 1838. Sarah lived with

Robert and his family. An old newspaper article says that Joseph settled in Erin Twp. in 1845 after spending 2 years in Montreal. Census takers over the years spelled their name as Allan, Allen, and Allin. Their gravestones are spelled Allan. I have not been able to learn anything about their point of entry as yet. Have been to Grosse-Ile, Quebec, but, that facility did not open until 1832 and there is not yet a reliable source for people passing through that station. I would appreciate any information or pointing in the right direction for this particular branch of the Allan (Allen) family. Is there any agency in Canada that may assist me at determining a date and point of entry?

C. MITCHELL, 15 Slades Gardens, Enfield, Middlesex. EN2 7DP England. E-mail: mitchco@blueyonder.co.uk Wrote:- I am trying to find the whereabouts of the records of The Bird's Nest Home on York Road, Dún Laoghaire (formerly Kingstown) for the 1919 - 1920 period and probably for quite a few years after. This was a home for unmarried girls to attend and have their babies. I suspect this was a home for families that could afford to pay for their daughters to have their babies away from their home areas, as opposed to the Catholic 'Magdelene' institutions for poorer families. The patients may have been predominantly Protestant. Any information on this home will be greatly appreciated.

BRIAN CALLANIN, 16 Dillichip Gardens, Bonhill, Dunbartonshire, Scotland, G839LN E-mail: Callanin@aol.com Wrote:- Does anyone have information on the surname Callanin? I have been tracing my family tree in Dunbartonshire, Scotland with some success. The Callanin surname comes from county Clare I think. My ancestors are Patrick Callanin and Margaret Sullivan from the early 1800s. Any information please.

PETER F CHARD, 12 Fordyce Avenue, Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand 1706. E-mail: chard@ake.quik.co.nz Wrote:- I am trying to locate my grandparents, Frederick Charles and Ellen Chard, in Dublin in the period 1893 to 1906. I have located some of their children in Fleetwood, Lancashire on both the 1891 and 1901 censuses but not the parents. I have unsuccessfully searched the same censuses for them throughout England, Wales and Scotland. Anecdotal stories suggest my grandfather operated a fishing boat from Dublin during this period and my own father was born at an address in Havelock Square in 1906. If they were on the 1901 census, where they were living and the names of any other people in the same house. Any info. please.

CHE'USA WEND, PO Box 254, Etna, California 96027 USA E-mail: bricolage@sisqtel.net Wrote:- My great great grandmother (on the Latham side of family) was Maria Geary, born in Dublin, Ireland Oct. 12, 1826 and died March 11, 1900 in Columbus, Ohio USA. Her parents were Richard Geary, born in Dublin, Ireland April 21, 1782 and Benigna Binns born in Dublin, Ireland July 21, 1784. Richard and Benigna

married Nov. 12, 1804 in Dublin, Ireland and he died in Ireland approx. 1834. Benigna remarried to Joseph Barlow and immigrated in 1839 to Franklin County, Ohio (near Dublin, Ohio which is 3 miles from where I was born!). Richard Geary's parents were: John Geary born Aug. 5, 1756 and Jane Musson (no info). Benigna's parents were: Jonathan Binns born Sept. 17, 1721 and Ann Vemcy / Verney born Oct. 26, 1744 (all in Dublin, Ireland I believe). I am wondering if anyone has traced this lineage. Wondering if I have 'relations' still in Dublin, Ireland. Any info. please.

JOHN FOLEY, 4 Aries Close, 20 South Road, Escombe, South Africa, 4093 E-mail: cordylina@mweb.co.za Wrote:- I require any information about William Henry Foley. According to obituaries he was born in 1852 in either Tipperary or Carlow. Before emigrating to South Africa in circa 1880 He worked on the London, Brighton and South Coast Railway. He was based at Victoria station London. He worked for the Cape Government Railways in the City of Cape Town South Africa for 2 years and lived for 20 years in the City of Kimberley. He was mayor of Kimberley in 1902, resigned from Kimberley City council in June 1904 and retired to Dublin in 1904 and died in Dublin in 1905. He is buried at Glasnevin cemetery Dublin. His tombstone states that he was from Carlow. According to my grandfather William Henry's parents were Francis Foley and Elizabeth Foley née Toppin. Any information on this family please

ARTHUR G FRITZ, 18364 Grace Ave, Port Charlotte, Florida 33948-7411, USA E-mail: agrobin_70@hotmail.com Wrote:- I am looking for information on my Great Grandmother, Mary E. Gorman. She was born in 1862/1863 to James Gorman and Julia Russell, as best we know in County Kerry, Ireland. She immigrated to the United States about 1880 with her bother James Gorman and her sister Margaret Gorman. She settled in Portsmouth, New Hampshire and married my Great Grandfather John Lawrence Fritz May 23, 1882. Any information please.

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.