Minister visits Martello Tower

Archive Summer Project

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• Irish & Welsh Universities to link in Holyhead



The Benie Bezette

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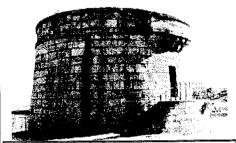
MINISTER CULLEN VISITS THE TOWER

Heritage Minister Praises the Society on the Restoration Works at the Martello Tower

The Minister for the Environment, Heritage & Local Government, Mr. Martin Cullen, TD praised the restoration work at the Martello Tower and was delighted, he said, to see heritage buildings restored and used appropriately.

"Blue Flag for Seapoint"

The Minister was in Dún Laoghaire on Thursday 5th June to present the European Union "Blue Flag" awards and took timeout to visit the Martello Tower. The presentation by the Minister of these prestigious awards at Seapoint Beach was acknowledging the excellent work by the County Council here as Seapoint was the only beach in the Dublin region to achieve "Blue Flag" status. The Society's Archivist, Mrs. Frieda Carroll, FGSI invited Minister Cullen to visit the Martello Tower to view the restoration works and explained the project to the Minister. Most of the dignitaries attending this function were afforded a guided tour of the Martello Tower by the Society's PRO, Mrs. Róisín Lafferty, MGSI. The Cathaoirleach of the County Council, Clir. Dónal Marren and the County Manager, Mr. Derek Brady, accepted the "Blue Flag" for Seapoint from the Minister and it was raised on top of the Martello Tower. The flag proclaims this popular bathing area to have water quality of the highest European Union standards. The Society congratulates all involved in the achievement of this award and especially, the many dedicated and hardy individuals who swim all year around at Seapoint beside the Society's "Family History Tower".



Martello Tower Restoration Progress Report

After a long delay due to the Planning Permission saga work on the restoration of the Tower was finally started early this vear with the engagement of Shane Breen as builder. The first problem we faced was gaining access. Because of nonuse during the planning stage the dead locks and padlock were seized up and the services of a locksmith had to be obtained to open the door and replace the locks. On gaining access it was obvious that there had been a considerable deterioration in the condition of the Tower over the period of the planning appeal. The wooden floor was now in a very dangerous condition due to wet rot and an accumulation of guano. The mural stairs was almost impassable due to the depth of guano.

"Pigeons & Guano"

The first task was to evict the resident population of pigeons and ensure that they did not return. All openings used by the birds were secured by temporary doors and wire mesh. The guano had then to be removed as it was a health risk to anyone working in the tower. Shane then proceeded to remove the wooden floor, joists and stairs to the bottom floor. All of this wood was in very bad condition and

none of it could be salvaged. Work was then started on the bottom floor.

Discovery by Archaeologist

One of the conditions of the planning permission was that we have an archaeologist present when doing any excavation. Chris Corlett approached and agreed to give us his assistance. A trial excavation was carried out in one corner which led to the discovery of the original granite slab floor. Subsequent excavation showed that most of this floor was extant. Foundations for the original partition walls on the bottom floor were also found. The granite slabs and the foundations were documented and mapped by Chris Corlett. It was found that a considerable amount of rubble had been dumped on the floor and covered with a cement screed. Clearing this involved a lot more work than we had envisaged. Five skips were required to dispose of the rubble. It had the advantage however of providing more headroom than we had expected on the ground floor.

Original or Not?

Another condition of the planning permission was that we retain the wooden beam supporting the upper floor as Dúchas thought this was an original feature of the building. We discussed this with Chris Corlett who thought that it was more likely to be a modem addition. After some discussion **Majella Walsh** the County Council conservation officer agreed with him and gave us permission to remove it.

No Modern Cement

As the Tower is a listed building we were precluded from using any modem cement, hydraulic lime mortar had to be used.

GSI Website: www.gensocireland.org

There are only three suppliers of hydraulic lime in the country, one in Belfast, one in Cork and one in Tullow, Co. Carlow. We decided to use The Traditional Lime Company in Tullow. Edward Byrne the owner of this company has considerable experience in conservation work on listed buildings and was of great help to us with advice on the proper materials and methods to use.

Radon Barrier & Venting

The architect had proposed the use of a radon barrier under the new floor, however, Ed. Byrne felt that this could cause problems by hindering the dispersal of any moisture there might be in the lime cement. There was also the problem of putting a barrier under the granite slabs which we had decided to retain. I discussed this with the architect, Seán Gaynor, and he agreed that we could dispense with the radon barrier if we provided means of venting any radon that there might be. We can provide venting through the chimney with the assistance of an extraction fan.

Out with the Beam - New RSJs

Since we were no longer required to retain the wooden beam the layout of RSJs, which had been designed assuming the retention of the beam, had to be redesigned. I am very grateful to Liam Hayden for his help with this. He was always available for consultation when required. The most obvious change here was the decision to use a centre support. Apart from Liam's feeling that he would be happier with a centre support the main reason for using it was the difficulty in getting a 20 foot long RSJ weighing 7 cwt. into the Tower and the danger of an accident while getting it up on its supports. Using a centre support enabled the use of two 10 foot RSJs welded in the centre. With the installation of the RSJ Shane was able to proceed with the fitting of the new joists, plywood sub floor and the new spiral stairs. In order to avoid unnecessary damage during restoration the final floor will not be fitted until later.

Water for the Garrison

During the work on the Tower it has become obvious that water is coming into the tower mainly through the roof and the windows with relatively little through the wall pointing. When the Tower was in use water for the garrison was obtained by piping rain-water through a hole in the roof into a water tank in the Tower. Over the years a lot of the damp inside was

caused by water coming through this hole and flowing down the walls. Cleaning the gullies on the roof has considerably reduced this and it will be cured completely when the roof-sealing is complete.

Roof of Tower

The centre boss on the roof had been covered with a thin screed of cement which was badly cracked and not adhering to the granite in places. It was intended to remove this screed and repoint the granite but when the loose cement was removed it revealed the underlying granite to be in a bad condition. It is cracked and broken in places and in such a condition that repointing is not a viable option. The damage appears to have been caused by the careless removal of the circular metal band on which the gun ran. We have from requested permission Conservation Officer, Majella Walsh, to encase the boss in cement. After consulting with Dúchas she confirmed that we could proceed with this.

Interior Walls & Fittings

Apart from the sealing of the roof and exterior pointing other work to be completed includes fitting of doors, windows and final floor surface. A decision will have to be taken on whether or not to plaster the inside walls, advantage would be appearance, and reduced danger of condensation, but the disadvantage would be cost. There also remain a few minor details like the preservation of the remains of the fireplace and the metalwork at the top of the mural stairs and at the "murder hole".

Completion of Project

With the completion of the restoration nearing, the focus is now on the subsequent fitting out of the Tower to the necessary standard and this will depend on the finance being available. To ensure this, the Society must redouble its efforts at fundraising at home and abroad.

"A Fitting Tribute"

I cannot finish this progress report without paying tribute to our builder, Shane Breen, whose interest in and enthusiasm for the project has been obvious and whose capacity for work is enormous.

Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI, Chairman, Daonchartlann Committee 23-05-03.

Editor: The above report was presented to the Board of the Society at its June meeting and was duly endorsed by the Board. The Cathaoirleach, Rory Stanley, FGSI, congratulated Liam on the progress of the project to date.

WELSH & IRISH UNIVERSITIES IN NEW VENTURE

Speaking on Wednesday 4th June 2003 in the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Cllr. Jeff Evans, announced that a new Stg£30 million project is to link Irish and Welsh universities in a new third level campus at Holyhead. Cllr. Evans as the Deputy Mayor of Holyhead and Chairman of the Laoghaire Holyhead Dún Organisation was part of a delegation from Holyhead Town Council and Anglesey County Council. The new Mayor of Holyhead, Cllr. Gary Jones and representatives of development agencies were invited by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council to make a presentation on developing co-operation between the two counties. This new proposed third level facility for Holyhead, Cllr Evans told the Strategic Policy Committee on Arts, Culture, Community Development & Amenities, grew from an initiative proposed by Michael Merrigan of the Genealogical Society of Ireland at the September 2001 meeting of the Link This proposal for the Organisation. establishment of an International British Irish University as set forth in the September 2001 issue of this newsletter was taken-up by the MP for Anglesey, Mr. Albert Owen and the Welsh Assembly, finally going to Westminster for approval. The Anglesey County Council in North Wales produced a new Stg£112 million "Holyhead Forward" development strategy that will transform the town within the next ten years. The Council has placed the establishment of this new international third level facility as a priority in its development strategy for Holyhead. The Dublin based Irish universities could benefit greatly from this inter-regional initiative. Therefore, we could soon see Holyhead emerge as a "university" town in the "Heart of the Isles" serving both sides of the Irish Sea.

Editor: Further information on this venture may be obtained from **Dewi Lloyd** of the Holyhead Regeneration Trust by E-mail: dewi@holyregen.fsnet.co.uk

GRANT AID RECEIVED

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council has agreed a Community Grant of €19,000 for the Martello Tower Project. The Council sanctioned this grant at its meeting of May 12th 2003 following a recommendation by Senior Community Officer, Mr. Tom Mowlds and Local Community Officer, Mr. Chris Furlong. The Society extends its sincere gratitude to all concerned.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday June 10th 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: Joan Sharkey
Topic: "The Story of St. Anne's Estate"

Tuesday July 8th 2003
Venue as above
Speaker: Bro. Connolly,
Topic: "The Allen Library, Dublin"

Weds. June 25th & July 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

GENEALOGY & HERALDRY COMMITTEE NEXT YEAR?

We reported last month that the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr. John O'Donoghue, TD, is to fully implement the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. This includes the establishment of a Committee on Genealogy & Heraldry to assist and to advise the Board of the National Library and the Chief Herald. The Board will appoint this committee. Confirmation has been received that it will only be appointed following the coming in to legal existence of the new Board of the National Library on January 1st 2004. The Society looks forward to the appointment by the Minister of a Board of the National Library that is drawn from a broad spectrum of Irish society reflecting the importance of this great national cultural institution to many interests.

GSI & SOCIAL INCLUSION

03/05/249 Under resolution: adopted unanimously by the Board at its May meeting, the Society has committed itself to a policy of social inclusion. The text of the resolution is as follows: That, following the restoration and refurbishment of the Martello Tower, the Board should seek to foster social inclusion by facilitating the expansion of our services to cater for Ireland's minority groups. It is the strong conviction of the Board that the successful integration of ethnic and racial groups in to mainstream Irish society must not be achieved at the loss of their connectivity with their own national, ethnic or communal heritage, including their genealogical heritage. It is our objective, therefore, to be a focus for this continued connectivity for minority groups here in Ireland by providing a base for the study of international genealogy and heraldry and to seek funding for this objective from government, local government and state agencies as appropriate.

GSI OUARTERLY JOURNAL

Vol. 4 No. 2. Summer 2003.

Articles in this 68 page issue include: Julia Merriman by Seán MacBrádaigh, Records and History of the Church of St. Nicholas of Myra, Dublin by G.H. O'Reilly, A Piece of Daniel O'Connell's Family Tree by Ignatius Fennessy, O.F.M., Quirky Entries from 'Walker's Hibernian Magazine' by Gaye Ashford, David Nagle - Whiteboy & Emigrant by Gaye Ashford, High Sheriffs of County of Down 1714 - 1857 by Brendan Hall, John McGrath of Cashel the Story of a Convict by John McGrath, Fire in Patrick Street, Dublin Addendum by James Scannell, High Sheriffs County Armagh 1714 - 1857 by Brendan Hall, The Death of District Inspector Michael Hunt RIC, by Pat Callery, The Genealogy of MacGovern by Seán MacBrádaigh, The Ballykinlar Book by Patricia Carr Biczynski

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, MGSI at E-mail: jbhall@indigo.ie or to the Hon. Secretary at the address below.

JUNE GENIE UPDATES

US DOLLAR RATE

The Board of the Society has adopted a new exchange rate for persons paying in US dollars as and from Sunday 8th June 2003. This resolution brings to an end the "one-for-one" parity rate with the EURO because of the strengthened position of the EURO against the US dollar. The new rate will be €1.00 = ÚS\$1.20 and will be applied to all purchases and membership subscriptions. The Board regrets having to implement this new rate but it is due to circumstances beyond its control.

GILBERT LIBRARY The Society welcomes the recent announcement by Dr Maire Kennedy, Librarian at the Gilbert Library on Pearse Street, Dublin, of that library's collaboration with the Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) to make available microfilm copies of the General Register Office records. This is in line with the policy adopted by this Society back in 1997 to make such records available through the National Library, National Archives and regional archives and public libraries. This is a progressive approach to making such records more accessible and therefore, this initiative by the Gilbert Library should be replicated by Public Libraries throughout Ireland.

NEW YORK The Brooklyn Public Library in New York has uploaded the "Brooklyn Daily Eagle" from 1841-1902 to its Website http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org It's fully indexed too a great resource for the Irish in New York.

COASTGUARDS

The research of many years on the coastguards around the shores of Ireland has been made available by Anthony Daly, FGSI on his Website: www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org

More information most welcome. Please send to: Mr. A. Day, FGSI, 30, Gledswood Park, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14, Ireland.

CLANS OF IRELAND The Clans of Ireland will host a gathering at Portumna, Co. Galway on July 12th 2003. Seminars, workshops and linking with the historic march of O'Sullivan Beare in 1603. More info. on the Clan's Website: www.irishclans.com

ISSN FOR IGS SERIES The National Library has allocated the International Standard Serial Number to the Irish Genealogical Sources series published by this Society. The ISSN 1649-3699 will appear with the ISBN.

N.Y.G.B.S. The New York Genealogical & Biographical Society will jointly host a conference in Buffalo in upstate New York on Friday & Saturday 26th and 27th September 2003 with the Western New York Genealogical Society. The theme will be "Find Your Family in New York". Additional information at E-mail: education@nygbs.org or Website: www.nygbs.org/ed/programs.html

JOINING THE GSI?

Just log on to the Website or write to the Membership Officer, Annette McDonnell, MGSI, 4, Kippure Ave., Green Park, Dublin E-mail Ireland by 12, mcdonnellannette@hotmail.com The €15.00 Membership Subscription is (US\$18.00) 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.

TEN YEARS ON & NO CHANGE

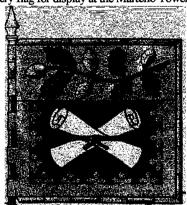
Ten years ago on June 17th 1993 the Statistics Bill, 1993 was passed by Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate). This Bill established the Central Statistics Office as a statutory and reinforced the confidentiality provisions while allowing access to non-identifiable data. It also set in law the closure period of 100 years for Irish Census Records, excluding the 1901 and 1911 that were already open to the public at the National Archives. This Society had lobbied for a seventy-year closure period. This was achieved during the initial stages of the passing of the Bill, however, the period of closure was raised again to 100 years on the Minister's recommendation. This prevented the State making the first Census of an independent Ireland available for research. This important 1926 Census remains closed and reportedly in urgent need of conservation and microfilming. Has not the time come to revisit this closure period and to OPEN the 1926 CENSUS NOW.

MARTELLO TOWER APPEAL

Phase 2 of the project aims to fully equip the "Family History Tower" with the latest technology etc. Please give generously. 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\$120.00) 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".

OUR HERALDIC BANNER & LIVERY FLAG

As reported in April 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 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. Mícheál Ó Comáin the Consulting Herald at the Office of the Chief Herald. The Heraldic Banner measures 4 feet x 4 feet and is currently being crafted by Timothy O'Regan of Pearse Street, Dublin. The Society's new 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 later this month and hopefully, at a date yet to be decided by the Board, a suitable ceremony to mark the occasion of the first raising of the Heraldic Banner will be organised.

QUERIES RECEIVED

JUDITH HORSFALL, 17 Foot Wood Crescent, Shawclough, Rochdale, Lancashire OLI2 6PB E-mail jhors62055@aol.com Wrote: Seeking to trace Ellen Browne, who I believe may have been born in Ireland in May 1938 (approximate date). She may have had some family in the northwest of England and could have spent some time there in the 1950s. I have some information and family photos that she may be interested in. The Public Records Offices have been unable to help and I have also contacted all the 'Brownes' in the Irish telephone books, plus newspapers, TV/radio to no avail. Any help much appreciated. KEVIN J MORTON, 37, Glenarber Way, Willetton 6155, Perth, Western Australia E-mail:- tekmar@opera.iinet.net.au Wrote:- I am tracing my Irish grandfather. He was supposed to have been born c. 1838 in Listowel, Co. Kerry. Please can anyone help with this the facts areas follows. His name was Henry Maurice Morton, and he arrived in Australia in 1855 at the age of 17 which makes him born about 1838. His marriage licence confirms his birth date states born in Listowel Co. Kerry but he was listed on the ship he came in as English. His father was named Charles. Also his age may be wrong as when he died in 1935 his age was 94 this makes him born 1841. Any information much appreciated. DOUGLAS, KIMELLE Deen Street_Rochedale South. Oueensland 4123 Australia E-mail s k douglas@bigpond.com Wrote:- Seeking more information about Edward Byrne born c1828 in Dublin. In his will dated 1892, he left a legacy to Father Deasey (Roman Catholic Priest) of Dalkey County Dublin. Edward Byrne died 5 Feb 1896 in Bundaberg, Queensland, Australia. His parents were Edward (an engineer) and Honor Byrne. Edward married Mary McKenna (born 1835 in Dundalk, Louth) in

FRANK CASSELL, 105 Oak Ridge Drive, Edenton N.C. 27932, USA Wrote:- I have found out that my grandfather, James Cassells, might have been born and raised in a place called Crumlin Road. The only one I can find by that name is in Dublin, but I have been unable to get any information about it. Anything information much appreciated.

Liverpool England in 1861. They emigrated to Australia in 1862 aboard the "Young

Australia". Any info. Please.

JOYCE TUNSTEAD, MGSI, 17, Sycamore Crescent, The Park, Cabinteely, Dublin 18, Ireland E-mail: joytun@utvinternet.com

Wrote:- Seeking information on an Edward Macdonnell (variations with spelling of name) born about 1850, his father was John Macdonnell and also on a Jane Linton born about the same time, her father was Maurice Linton. Anecdotes suggest that one was from Roscommon and the other from Wexford. Edward & Jane married in England.

Editor: Queries must be accompanied by a mailing address in order to be published.

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.

ARCHIVE SUMMER PROJECT

To facilitate the move of the Society Archive to the Martello Tower the reorganisation of the Archive collections must be completed this Our Archivist, Frieda Carroll, simmer 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. It has been agreed to commence this project at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education at 10.30hrs on Tuesday 24th June 2003. The contents of the Society's Archive will be transferred to the college the previous day and it is hoped to have six volunteers each day to complete this project. Rosters will allow flexibility for each volunteer whilst maintaining the number of volunteers throughout the period. Volunteers can contact Frieda on Tel: +353.1.235 2150 or Margaret on mmeconroy@eircom.net This will mean that the Society's Archive will close on Monday 16th June 2003 until further notice. The Board regrets any inconvenience caused by this unavoidable closure of the Society's Archive at Rochestown Park, Dún Laoghaire.

GSI RECENT PUBLICATIONS

"MEMORIAL INSCRIPTIONS of DUN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN, Co. Dublin, Ireland" Vol. 2. Friends Burial Ground, Temple Hill, Blackrock. ISBN 1898471274 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.