



# The Dublin Gazette

David A. Norris looks at the value of the official government newspaper and its importance to genealogists today

**G**AZETTES, THE OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT NEWSPAPERS, HAVE preserved centuries' worth of news, official announcements and military reports. For Irish genealogy, the availability of a partial selection of the two century-long run of the *Dublin Gazette*, is a valuable resource. Tens of thousands of names appear in marriage and death notices; lists of newly commissioned or promoted military officers, minor government officials, defendants or plaintiffs in court cases, and bankrupts; and tradesmen, merchants, and job seekers who placed ads.

Gazettes appeared as official government newspapers in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Sweden led the way with the world's first gazette, *Post-och Inrikes Tidningar*, in 1645. Changed to an Internet-only edition in 2007, it is still the oldest continually published periodical in the world. England followed with the *London Gazette*, which dates from 1665. Soon following were companion newspapers, with Scotland covered by the *Edinburgh Gazette*, and Ireland by the *Dublin Gazette*.

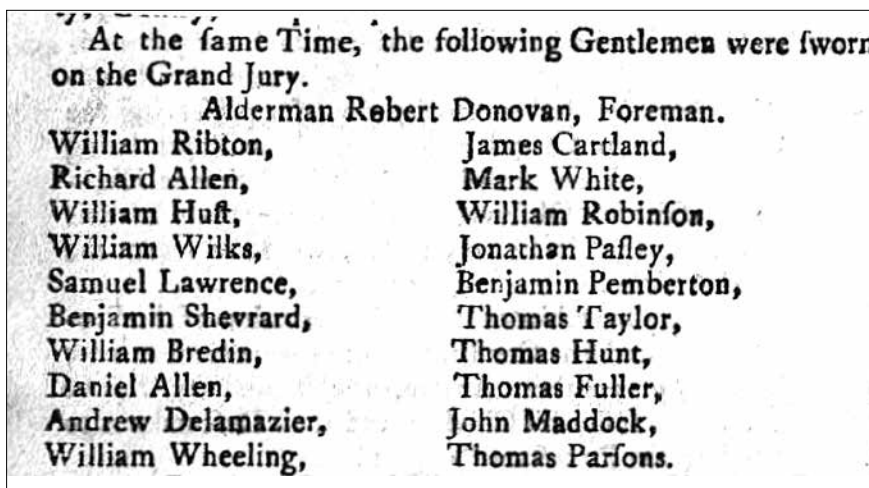
Once government gazettes caught on, quite a few publishers decided to call their own newspapers "gazettes", to imply that they had official support, and so had better access to news.

The *Dublin Gazette* first appeared in 1689; many early issues are missing, and regular publication dates from 1711. Usually there were two four to six-page issues a week, with occasional supplements. The gazette covered all of Ireland, but especially in the earlier years, it was also a local newspaper for Dublin, with city-related news and advertisements. Lists with names include grand jurors, board members of civic and charitable organizations, and graduates of Trinity College.

Official government announcements and proclamations were routinely sent to the *Dublin Gazette*. The paper also recorded promotions or new appointments in the



The front page of the Dublin Gazette for September 25-29, 1764. (Wikipedia)



Lists of grand jurors are one way that many thousands of names were included in the mid-1700s Dublin Gazette. (Wikipedia)