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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
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Houses of the Oireachtas Attacked by "Corporate Logoism"

The Houses of the Oireachtas (*Parliament of Ireland*) have been savagely gripped by the insidious mania of "corporate logoism". Once the sole preserve of corporate Ireland, it has now infected Leinster House. Out goes our beautifully unique national symbol as represented by the Arms of Ireland—*Azure a harp Or stringed Argent* to be replaced by a "corporate logo" for the Houses of the Oireachtas. This disease has been rampant in Ireland for several years now as county councils, universities, government departments and state agencies replace coats-of-arms with meaningless doodles masquerading as corporate branding. The introduction of the logo for the Oireachtas was achieved without consultation with the deputies and senators. Indeed, the replacement of the Arms of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council in 2005 with a logo that looks distinctly like a tsunami warning sign was achieved in a similar

fashion. Naturally our Teachtaí Dála (MPs) and Senators are up in arms at this blatant attempt to promote the corporate image of the commission that runs Leinster House over and above that of the Oireachtas itself. The service provider promoting itself above those it is paid to serve. The Arms of Ireland represent our nation, its people and its democracy and therefore, under no circumstances whatsoever should any government department, state agency or

indeed, the Houses of the Oireachtas be permitted to replace these Arms with a mere "corporate logo". However, what is more galling is the cost of this nonsense reported to be a staggering €63,000. It's clear that "corporate logoism" has never come cheap, but how that amount could have been sanctioned beggars belief. In a country with a very rich heraldic tradition, the Arms of Ireland and indeed, the coats-of-arms granted by the Chief Heralds of Ireland should not be treated with such disdain by replacing them with "corporate logos" for whatever purpose. The protection and promotion of these coats-of-arms is one of the main objectives of the Society's *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill*. With no cure insight for this dreaded "corporate logoism" thankfully our national flag, which was first unfurled 160 years ago on April 15th 1848 in Waterford, is constitutionally protected.

Happy St. Patrick's Day from the GSI



Memorial Inscriptions on CD Rom

With the cost of printing continuing to rise the Board of the Society agreed to make as many as possible of the Society's publications available on CD. This programme will commence with the publication of the three volumes of the *Memorial Inscriptions of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown* on a single fully searchable CD. These volumes covered many of the smaller and little known cemeter-

ies in the county. **Volume 1** published in 2000 contains the following:- Barrington's Burial Ground; Blackrock College; Dominican Convent Dún Laoghaire; Glencullen Old; Kilternan Church of Ireland; Loughlinstown; Old Connaught; Rathmichael (Old Church); St. Brigid's Church of Ireland and Tully. **Volume 2** published in 2003 contains the memorial inscriptions of the

Friends' Burial Ground, Temple Hill, Blackrock. **Volume 3** published in 2005 contains:- Carmelite Monastery; Carrickbrennan Cemetery; Kill of the Grange (St. Fintan's) and Sion Hill Cemetery. Work has already commenced on the production of the CD and it is hoped to have copies available for purchase in the very near future through the Society's on-line shop at www.familyhistory.ie/shop

“Lordship in Medieval Ireland”

edited by Linda Doran and James Lyttleton

“Lordship in Medieval Ireland—Image and Reality” ISBN 978-1-84682-041-0 (\$49.50) published by Four Courts Press is a surprisingly rich resource for the genealogist and consists of nine essays on various aspects of the subject, each written in a very readable and accessible style. Beginning with *“Perceptions of kingship in early medieval Irish vernacular literature”* by Edel Bhreathnach. This essay explores the basic concept of kingship for the Irish and in many ways, sets the stage for the cultural clash brought about by the Cambro-Norman invasion. But the notion that the Irish concept was utterly removed from the European norm may well have to be reexamined especially the Irish royal governance from the 10th century onwards. *“Images of Gaelic lordship in Ireland, c.1200-c.1400”* by Freya Verstaten is a wonderful account of the adoption of seals and ultimately heraldry by the native Irish lords. The essay also deals with the use of early tribal or ‘totemic’ symbolism by the Irish in their adoption of heraldry. *“The profits of lordship: Roger Bigod, earl of Norfolk and the lordship of Carlow, 1270-1306”* by Margaret Murphy provides an economic assessment of an Anglo-Norman lordship. Bigod was, it seems, a very modern entrepreneur and property developer or a “prolific builder” as described by Murphy. *“Lords of the river valleys: economic and military lordship in the Carlow Corridor, c.1200-1350 – European model in an Irish context”* by Linda Doran

extends the scope of Murphy’s examination of the Bigod enterprise to encapsulate the economic corridor established by the Anglo-Normans stretching from Waterford in the south to Kildare and Dublin in the north along the River Barrow. Widespread castle / defensive earthworks building along the Barrow and the Nore valleys attests to the importance attached to this corridor. *“The Gaelic O’Driscoll lords of Baltimore, Co. Cork, settlement, economy and conflict in a maritime cultural landscape”* by Connie Kelleher is a gem for those with connections to this west Cork sept. Kelleher provides an insight into the rise and wealth of this Gaelic family which traded with England and mainland Europe. *“The MacMurroughs and the marches of Leinster, 1170-1340”* by Emmet O’Byrne deals with Gaelic Leinster, its various septs/clans and in particular the reemergence of the independence of these Gaelic lordships in the immediate aftermath of the Cambro-Norman invasion. Even the Bigods of neighbouring Carlow were forced to accommodate the MacMurroughs. O’Byrne outlines the interconnectivity of the various Gaelic families of Leinster and provides much for the genealogist. *“Castles and landscapes in Uí Fhiachrach Muaidhe, c.1235-c.1400”* by John Malcolm deals with the seizure of the lands of O’Dowda in north west Co. Mayo and the coming of the Burkes, Prendergasts, Barretts, Stauntons and Berminghams. Many of these “English” were

over time to become very Irish indeed. But importantly no colonization of English peasantry took place simply new lords imposing themselves on the existing near feudal system. *“Gaelic lords of the sea: the coastal tower houses of south Connemara”* by Paul Naessens deals with the O’Flaherty’s and to some extent, their neighbours the O’Malley’s. These septs/clans were heavily involved in trade, both international and with the merchants of Galway city. The tower houses built by the O’Flaherty’s were a potent symbol of their wealth rather than being purely defensive structures. *“The MacCoughlans of Delvin Eathra: the transformation of a late medieval lordship in early modern Ireland”* by James Lyttleton deals with the assimilation of the lands of a Co. Offaly Gaelic lordship in the Tudor period focusing on the architectural evidence. With an extensive bibliography this volume is an excellent resource for the genealogist and historian. For further information see www.fourcourtspress.ie MM

SPONSORSHIP OF POSTAGE

The Board of the Society wishes to thank Mr. David Paling, MGSI for, once again, sponsoring the cost of the mailing out of the Society’s newsletter. With the cost of postage due to rise again in Ireland, the Board is encouraging members to opt to receive the newsletter electronically each month. Please contact the Hon. Secretary at Gazette@familyhistory.ie if you wish to receive the newsletter by e-mail only.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Society is printed on page 4 of this newsletter to save time at Annual General Meeting. The Hon. Treasurer will deliver the Annual Financial Report for the period up to 31st December 2007. Another major function of the AGM is the election of the officers and other Board members for the coming year. All positions on the Board are up for election at the AGM including An Cathaoirleach (Chair), Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair), Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Public Relations Officer and up to six other Board members who receive their portfolios at the first Board Meeting following the AGM. Both Rory Stanley

(Cathaoirleach) and Liam Mac Alasdair (Daonchartlann Director) have announced their decision not to seek reelection at this AGM. So for the first time since 1996 we will be electing a new Cathaoirleach of the Society. For the information of those thinking of letting their names go forward for election, the Board of the Society meets every month on the 1st Thursday with the exception of January when it meets on the 2nd Thursday and these meetings are each of two hours duration. The business conducted includes all aspects of the Society’s operations, policy formulation, reports and, of course, financial matters. All members of the Society who attend in person at the AGM are entitled to

vote for candidates nominated from the floor at the AGM. There is no provision for voting by proxy or by mail under the Society’s Standing Orders. Ordinary members of the Society have always been encouraged by the Board to consider volunteering for election to the Board. As with any organisation, this Society too can and does benefit greatly from the new ideas, vitality and a fresh outlook that comes to the Board with the election of new members to the various positions. The decision making process is usually by consensus and the working atmosphere is always very cooperative and supportive of each other. If you think you can spare two hours each month, why not put your name forward?

Statue of Ard Rí Laoghaire

The *Strategic Policy Committee for Culture, Community Development & Amenities* of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council agreed to recommend to the County Council that a statue of the 5th century High King Laoghaire should be commissioned for the Town Centre. The proposal was brought to the SPC by this Society’s representative on behalf of the Dún Laoghaire Community Association. The Association has campaigned for the erection of a statue to the eponymous founder of Dún Laoghaire for several years. It recently sug-

gested that a single benefactor should be sought to commission and erect the statue for and on the behalf of the citizens of the Town. The type of statue envisaged by the Association would be a scaled version of the Vercingetorix Monument in Alesia, France. The SPC proposal also sought to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the restoration of the Gaelic name of the area in 1919 by the predecessors of the current County Councillors. This decision by the Town Hall in 1919 was a peaceful act of defiance by democratically reclaiming the Town’s ancient

heritage during the War of Independence. To have the statue commissioned in time for the 100th anniversary in 2019 will coincide with the national commemoration of the *Declaration of Independence* and the meeting of the First Dáil. From a purely genealogical perspective Laoghaire’s father Niall of the Nine Hostages is the head of Europe’s oldest family lineage and the ancestor of several septs/clans in Ireland and Scotland. Laoghaire’s place in history was secured by allowing St. Patrick and his followers to undertake their mission unmolested.

James Scannell Reports...

CHRIS RYAN, R.I.P

The death took place after a short illness on 14th January 2008 of Chris (Christopher J.) Ryan, formerly of Ballinteer, in Mullingar where he moved to about fifteen months previously. Chris ran the Ballinteer Family History Society and edited and published "*Gateway to the Past*" the Society's Journal. Chris was the author of at least two books. Chris closed down the Ballinteer Family History Society when he moved to Mullingar as nobody could be found to take over the running of the Society which used to meet in the Conference Room of St. John the Evangelist Church, Ballinteer.

Editor: Chris and his wife Lilly were early members of the Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society, the forerunner of the Genealogical Society of Ireland. Chris was very active in the GRO Users' Group, the Irish Family History Society, the Irish Genealogical Congresses and the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations. News of his passing came as a great shock to his many friends in the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

WILLIAM PARTRIDG'S 1916 MEDAL

In February it was reported that a 1916 Medal awarded to William Patrick Partridge, a well known trade unionist who participated in the 1916 Easter Week Rising in Dublin, was sold at auction in Plymouth, England for Stg£12,000 (€16,000). William Partridge was an early member of Sinn Féin, an active trade unionist and a Captain in the Irish Citizen Army. Captured during the 1916 Easter Week Rising in Dublin, he was sentenced to fifteen years imprisonment and held in Dartmoor Prison in Devon, England, but was released due to illness and died in 1917 aged 43 years from Bright's disease at his home. The medal passed down through various generations of his family and was put up for auction by his grandson, Sid McAuley, who interviewed afterwards said that he was and will always be proud of his grandfather and everything that he did. He added that his grandfather was a straightforward man who fought for people's rights, that he was very proud and very brave and had more respect than most politicians. The medal, which realized

twice its estimated value of between Stg£5000-Stg£6000, was purchased by a private collector and will eventually be returned to Ireland.

FAMILYHISTORY DAY

On Saturday March 29th the Dublin City Library and Archives will host a Family History Day which will have the following programme 09.30hrs. Registration; 10.00hrs '*New Genealogical Resources at Dublin City Libraries: databases of Dublin Parish Registers, City Councillors and Memorial Plaques*' Ms. Bernadette Galloghly; 10.45hrs '*Serving the State in the 18th century: the experiences of a Skerries family*' Ms. Maighread Ní Mhurchadha; 11.30hrs. Break; 12.00hrs '*Undiscovered Repositories for tracing Roscommon Ancestors*' - John Hamrock, 12.45hrs Break for Lunch (not provided); 14.00hrs '*Marriage Settlements in the Registry of Deeds*' Ms. Mary Belgan; 14.45hrs '*Eneclann, Online Resources for Irish Genealogy*' Brian Donovan; 16.00hrs Finish. Booking is essential at Dublin City Library and Archives, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Telephone:- (353-1) 674 4873 or by E-mail: dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie

Précis of the February Lecture

On Tuesday 12th February **Ms. Noelle Dowling**, Archivist at the Dublin Diocesan Archives gave a very interesting talk on the very wide ranging archival collections held by the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin. The collections are arranged in accordance with the terms of each of the Archbishops and the cataloguing is still a work in progress. Starting with Archbishop Troy (1786-1823) right down to the present. Besides offering a fascinating insight into the development of the Catholic Church in the capital, these archives are of immense value to social history, the history of the Irish education system and indeed, political history prior to independence and thereafter. The ethos of the

current Archbishop, according to Ms. Dowling, was to make these archives freely available to researchers. Though, these are records of a private institution, she strongly believes that the archival heritage in these collections belongs to the people of Ireland. This is certainly in line with this Society's "*Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access*" to our archival heritage adopted by the 1997 AGM. Amongst the newest acquisitions are the parish registers for Dublin City parishes of **SS Michael & John's** (Baptisms 1768-1899, Marriages 1790-1879, Banns of Marriage 1879-1902, Confirmations 1887-1897) **St. Audeon's** (Baptisms 1778-1901, Marriages 1746-1901) and **Meath Street**

(Baptism 1740-1898, Marriages 1740-1892). A lively Q&A followed this most informative and interesting lecture.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tuesday 11th Mar. John Colgan, Forensic Genealogy, Origin of Family Names; **Tuesday 8th Apr.** Frank Pelly, Records of the Commissioners for Irish Lights; **Tuesday 15th May.** Patricia Boyd, Registry of Deeds. All meetings are at 20.00hrs at the Dún Laoghaire College for Further Education, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire. Buses no. 7, 46A & 75, DART, Salthill & Monkstown Station. Any suggestions or comments please contact Séamus Moriarty by e-mail at Gazette@familyhistory.ie

Membership Renewals Now Overdue

Membership fee renewals fall due in January each year. The Board of the Society at its November 2007 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure and under **Res: 07/11/573** the Board adopted the following equalised Membership Package for 2008:- **Ireland & Overseas:** Offering ordinary membership of the Society, Membership Card, voting rights, use of the Society's Archive, monthly newsletter by mail, Annual Journal by mail, and the right to purchase the Society's publications at Special

Members' prices of up to 50% off selected publications. This also includes an optional second Membership Card for a household member, including voting rights, for an all inclusive cost of just €40.00 per annum. The modest increase in the Membership Fee, which hadn't changed since 2004, was unavoidable as costs continued to rise sharply. The production of a biannual Journal became prohibitive when printing and postage costs eroded any savings that were to accrue in the change from a quarterly journal. Unlike many other similar organi-

sations faced with the same problem, the Board decided to keep publishing the Society's journal but as an annual publication only. The Membership Fee is now in line with similar organisations in Ireland. However, in many respects our Membership Package, offers considerably better value for money. You can renew your membership online at www.familyhistory.ie/shop or, if you prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Hon. Treasurer, **Mr. Denis Ryan, MGSI**, 6, St. Thomas Mead, Mount Merrion, County Dublin, Ireland.

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday March 11th (Annual General Meeting) & April 8th 2008

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

*Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs*

Wednesday March 26th & April 23rd 2008

Morning Open Meeting

Weir's, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire

10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

RESEARCH NEWS

GLASNEVIN CEMETERY

Steven Smyrl of the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (CIGO) has advised the Society that Glasnevin Cemetery records will soon be available on-line. Glasnevin Cemetery, formerly Prospect Cemetery, opened in 1832 and is well known to the citizens of Dublin as the last resting place of many of the great and good of their city. It covers a vast area of over 120 acres with approximately 1.2 million burials. Although there is no rule barring non-Catholics from being buried there, it has generally been used only by the capital's Catholic citizens. Non-Catholics have generally favoured Mount Jerome Cemetery which opened in 1836. Steven Smyrl was asked by the management at Glasnevin Cemetery to advise them on what genealogists would expect to obtain from an on-line service allowing access to the cemetery's computerised registers. It will be a pay-per-view service and all funds raised from it will be used to maintain the cemetery. Given that the vast majority of the plots are family graves, the registers which stretch back one hundred and seventy five years, contain invaluable information about Dublin families.

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Frustrations are now running at an all time high about the daily limit of only five photocopies of entries from the registers per person at the General Register Office's Dublin-based Public Search Room (PSR) according to CIGO's Steven Smyrl. Having paid a €20 fee to allow a full day's searching of the indexes, the imposition of a limit on the number of photocopies is a severe impediment to genealogical research as it can take several days attendance at the PSR to get the correct record. This situation is particularly frustrating for overseas visitors undertaking research at the PSR. But according to Steven Smyrl the GRO management in Roscommon town is not convinced that a new access structure is urgently required to cater for genealogical research. The current very restrictive regime is likely to deter visitors from using this important resource for genealogical research and to ultimately damage the city's reputation as a "roots tourism" destination. CIGO recently had a Parliamentary Question tabled to the Minister on this issue and the written reply received on February 12th 2008 interestingly stated that photocopies will now be available from the local Superintendent Registrars' Offices around the country and from Joyce House in Dublin. It is not yet known how the staff in the local offices will react to this "news" and whilst it may be warmly welcomed by genealogists, it may well prove to be a very short lived solution indeed!!

Annual Report of the GSI Board (March 2007– March 2008)

As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM to provide for the currency of the information however, the financial reports presented cover the period up to the 31st December of the previous year. The year opened with the new Board facing many difficult questions regarding the Martello Tower at Seapoint and its ultimate unsuitability as a home for the Society's Archive due to the difficulties of atmospheric control, accessibility and critically, storage and operation space. The Board held a number of meetings with officials of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council throughout the year and indeed, viewed a number of suggested alternative locations for the Archive. However, for a number of reasons including, HR issues at the County Council and the lack of industrial loading in some of the locations, none of the alternatives was available for our particular requirements. Discussions commenced and are on-going with the Board of the Maritime Institute of Ireland regarding the possibility co-locating the Society's Archive at the newly refurbished Mariner's Church in Dún Laoghaire. The obvious synergies achieved by the co-location of a genealogical archive, maritime archive and maritime museum in close proximity to the proposed new County Library Headquarters would create a much needed "heritage campus" or "hub" in the centre of Dún Laoghaire. The Society's publications programme during the year was unfortunately just confined to the monthly newsletter "Ireland's Genealogical Gazette" which continues to grow its readership in both hardcopy and on-line. The Society's biannual journal was not published as planned in 2007. Although, it was considered necessary to publish the journal biannually instead of quarterly due to printing and postage costs, the issue of the continued dearth of

suitable articles caused havoc with the Board's publication programme. The Board is committed to the publication of the outstanding two issues and to the continuation of our flagship publication. The Society's group project to record the memorial inscriptions in both military and public cemeteries continued throughout the year with several military cemeteries recorded for future publication. This project has now produced, in several volumes, one of the finest collections of memorial inscriptions for any region of the Republic. The collections in the Society's Archive continued to expand throughout the year with journals received under the Society's Journal Exchange Programme and other items donated by members and friends of the Society from at home and abroad. Though, this Archive is not currently accessible to researchers, the quality and volume of the items received during the year is consistently very high and very encouraging indeed. The annual Guest Speaker Programme has been an outstanding success with a lecture at each of the twelve Evening Meetings held in the period, whilst, the numbers attending the eleven Morning Meetings which are general discussion groups continued to grow during the year. The Society nominated the Hon. Secretary to be a candidate in the Seanad Éireann General Election held in May 2007 and though, unsuccessful the vote for an independent / non-party candidate was surprisingly high. The campaign afforded the Society with a platform upon which to promote its aims and objectives, especially, its legislative proposals. Several Parliamentary Questions were tabled on behalf of the Society in Dáil Éireann whilst, many issues raised by the Society were taken-up by Senators in Seanad Éireann. The Society agreed to the publication of an amended *Genealogy & Her-*

aldry Bill to be sponsored by Senator Alex White as the matters raised by the 2006 Bill remain unresolved despite the suspension of heraldic services by the Board of the National Library of Ireland for a period of eight months. Though, it was originally intended to have the new Bill on the Order Paper for Seanad Éireann in January 2008, the sponsoring Senator has suggested a number of significant amendments which are currently under consideration between the Senator and the Society. The Board of the Society in November 2007 introduced an equalisation of membership subscriptions between the Irish based members and those from overseas. Besides introducing a much needed equity of costs, it was very necessary to take account of the rising costs of postage, printing and general services purchased by the Society whilst servicing its membership. The members of the Board of the Society held twelve monthly meetings in the period, each of circa two hours duration, dealing with the day-to-day operation of the Society and attending to the various statutory obligations of incorporation. In addition, the Board dealt with matters relating to the Society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies; The Wheel; Integrating Ireland; Holyhead-Dún Laoghaire Link and such matters arising from having a Sectoral Representative on the Strategic Policy Committee on Culture, Community Development and Amenities of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The above report was compiled by the Hon. Secretary for and on behalf of the Board of the Society and was adopted by the Board at its meeting held on March 6th 2008 for publication in the March issue of "Ireland's Genealogical Gazette".