

Cumann Genealaíais na hÉireann

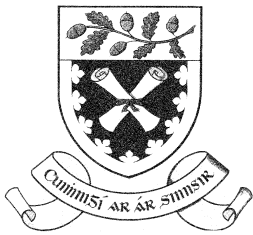
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
**Book Reviews**  
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## Website Distorts the Historical Narrative

Last month was the tenth anniversary of the 'de-recognition' of 'The MacCarthy Mór' by the Chief Herald of Ireland in July 1999. Four years later, in July 2003 the State formally abolished the facility of 'courtesy recognition' afforded to Irish Gaelic chiefs. This unwittingly placed all Gaelic chiefs, bogus and legitimate, in the same predicament. At the root of this 'bogus chiefs' scandal was a failure on behalf of the State's officials to properly examine claims for recognition or indeed, to have such examined by competent researchers. Some have very convincingly argued that if the procedures established by Ireland's first Chief Herald had been observed the State would have been spared the embarrassment of the 'bogus chiefs' scandal. Documentation lodged with the Chief Herald was found to be 'lacking in genealogical integrity' as dates, events and other pertinent facts were omitted, altered or 'created' for the exercise. The publication of the detailed background to the 'bogus chiefs' affair by lecturer and genealogist, Mr. Seán Murphy, MA, should have encouraged the development of a climate of careful investigation of facts and procedures at the 'office' of the Chief Herald of Ireland. But claims on the website

of the National Library of Ireland [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie) continue to undermine the integrity of the 'office' and prove that little or nothing has been learned from past controversies. Visitors to the website are informed that 'the post of Ulster King of Arms, Herald of all Ireland, was created by the Crown in 1552 and continued under the name until 1943 when the Office of Arms was transferred to the Government of Ireland and renamed the Genealogical Office' and that 'in 1943 heraldic responsibility passed to the Irish State. Dr Edward MacLysaght, styled Chief Genealogical Officer to which was later added Chief Herald of Ireland, succeeded to the functions and powers of Ulster King of Arms.' The above statements 'lack historical integrity'. But visitors to the National Library website would find it very difficult to establish the true facts of the matter. Indeed, unlike investigating a corporate body where details are freely available from the Companies Registration Office website [www.cro.ie](http://www.cro.ie) or indeed, a person's birth, marriage or death details from the General Register Office, checking the veracity of the statements on the origin of Irish heraldic authority is difficult. Most published accounts of its origin tended to just 'absorb'

the official line as stated on the website without qualification. No doubt it's simply a case of 'say it long enough and convincingly enough' and it becomes a part of the historical narrative of Irish heraldry. Without restating the facts here it is suffice to quote from a small piece on the front page of 'The Age' newspaper published at Melbourne, Australia on March 26<sup>th</sup> 1943 with the headline 'End of Ancient Office' and then the writer very succinctly presents the facts of the story as follows. 'The last relic of British rule in Éire will vanish this month, when the office of Ulster King of Arms in Dublin Castle will be wound up. The office was created in 1552. Valuable heraldic documents which were formerly under the care of this official will be transferred to an Irish state department.' Simple and to the point, the British closed the office and transferred its contents to the Irish—absolutely nothing more. Legally the current Irish heraldic authority only dates from May 2005 and not 1943. Calls to amend the NLI website have been ignored. However, for genealogists, historians and heraldists, the importance of the publication of verifiable information such as dates, sources, events etc should always be of the utmost concern.

## 'A Long, Long Way'

**James Scannell** reports... On Friday July 10th 2009 an important exhibition 'A Long, Long Way - Letters from the Great War 1914-1918' went on view at the Irish Museum of Modern Art which is located in the Royal Hospital, Kilmmainham, Dublin. This is where ceremonies were held on Sunday July 12th to commemorate Irish men and women who had died in past wars and on service with the United Nations. The exhibition displays a selection

of letters sent to Ireland from soldiers during World War 1 drawn from the archives of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association which promotes awareness of those who served and died with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers. Several of the letters displayed included photographs of the writers and images of medals and commemorative scrolls are also on view. Most of the letters were written to Monica Roberts who founded the voluntary group, 'The

Band of Helpers to Soldiers', which provided Irish soldiers with basic comforts such as handkerchiefs, bootlaces and cigarettes, and detail their experiences. The exhibition, which will be on view to the public until Sunday September 6th 2009 is sponsored by Yellowstone Communications Design in dedication to Lt. Col. Richard Joseph Fogarty, father of the director of this company, in partnership with Dublin City Libraries and Archives.

# Maps in Those Days

## *Cartographic Methods Before 1850*

At some stage in every genealogist's quest for details on the locality in which our ancestors lived we are confronted with the wonderful information contained in old maps. Unfortunately few of us ever give a thought to the production of these invaluable charts of the human impact on the landscape. Naming an area or a topographical feature has hugely important cultural implications and indeed, this fact is never lost on those whose ancestors suffered in the days of European colonialism. The renaming of the landscape by the colonisers was an act of claiming ownership of it and in doing so, attempting to obliterate its cultural past. In an important study published by Four Courts Press *'Maps in Those Days—Cartographic Methods Before 1850'* (ISBN 9781846821882 549pp Price €58.50 h/bk) **J. H. Andrews** brings the reader into the world of the early cartographer and explains how these multitalented individuals produced these works of art, often in very challenging circumstances. Andrews describes the technical and sometimes pseudo-scientific methods employed by cartographers through the ages. However, the author stresses the need to understand that 'maps are more easily recognised than defined' and a map within the period covered by Andrews is 'a partly schematised graphic representation whose signs are interrelated in ways that resemble or could reasonably be thought to resemble the horizontal relations connecting the objects represented'.

Though, he admits that this is a bit of a mouthful, it nevertheless highlights the main characteristic as 'resemblance'. Seeing the world from the perspective of say a 13th or 17th cartographer may seem strange to us today, however, it is important to be aware of different or indeed, differing world views and philosophies influencing the cartography. Maps, he explains, 'express beliefs about the surface of the earth' including such biblical assertions 'that only one seventh of the earth's surface is covered by water'. Andrews with the aid of circa 460 illustrations, explains the purpose for which each of the maps was created whether to assist exploration, encourage trade, embellish potentes or, in the case of Ireland, to secure the country and to facilitate plantations through the dispossession of the native population. From the rather crude looking maps of the Greek cartographer and royal librarian in Alexandria, Claudius Ptolemy (AD c.90–c.168) to Europe's first modern national topographical survey in France by César Francois Cassini in 1779, Andrews chronicles the relentless advances in methodology and depiction. Within that period the panoramic pictorial 'map' was commonplace and, indeed, for historians these provide much more information than just placenames and a depiction of the topography. Some have sketches of buildings, people, shipping and, of course, heraldic symbolism. Of particular interest to genealogists, local historians and linguists are the maps show-

ing early placenames. This is especially important for Irish researchers and Andrews fully appreciates this point and provides copious examples including some described as 'high-density' like James Wyld's 1839 *'Ireland'*. Earlier maps and their 'copies' make for fascinating investigation as not only placenames are shown but the names of the landowners or local potentates are also shown. Though many a cartographer suffered badly for his art, others were clever copyists producing maps not from their own experiences but from data collected by others. In the final chapter, Andrews explores the question of 'maps and society' in a thought provoking manner that may challenge many perceived views on the subject, history and civilisation. A cartographer, he says, may be like 'a lawyer in his treatment of boundaries, a soldier in his assessment of heights and slopes, a linguist in his anxieties about the spelling of names, a teacher in his concern for clarity of exposition' and without doubt, here Andrews provides a most captivating informative journey into maps. *MM*

### Volunteers Sought

Barry O'Connor, Director of Cemetery Projects, is seeking volunteers to record cemeteries in the north Dublin area on Saturday 22 August 2009. Barry O'Connor may be contacted at [btoc@esatclear.ie](mailto:btoc@esatclear.ie) or Pádraic Ingoldby on [ingold@gofree.indigo.ie](mailto:ingold@gofree.indigo.ie)

## At Auction

On Tuesday 14th July a very rare half-sheet of the original Dublin Easter Week 1916 Rising Proclamation failed to reach its reserve price at auction in Sotherby's, London, who had quoted a guide price of between of £20,000/€ 23,345 to £30,000/€35,018 but did not disclose the reserve price. The Easter Week 1916 Proclamation was printed in two halves and the document offered for auction was one of the rarer half sheets containing the second section which begins with 'The Irish Republic' and concludes with Joseph Plunkett who was the final signatory. It's believed that the second half of the Proclamation was still on the printing press in Liberty Hall when British soldiers arrived on 27 April 1916. According to Sotherby's, the docu-

ment was a very rare one and were aware that there were only five other copies in existence, four of which are held in institutions. Included with this Lot was another Rising Document 'The Irish Volunteers, Dublin Brigade, Company Mobilisation Order' printed in red and black and includes the instruction 'arms and full supply of ammunition to be carried'. Some other Irish items auctioned at Sotherby's of London on Tuesday July 14th included a first edition of J.P. Donleavy's 'The Ginger Man' which sold for £2,750/€3,209 and was a presentation copy signed by the author on the half-title. A first editor copy of Séamus Heaney's 'The Tree Clock' containing an autograph poem 'The Point' and printed on handmade paper sold for £2,500/€2,918 A first edition of 'Ulysses' in the original wrappers did not sell with a guide price of between £ 25,000/€ 29181 to £30,000/€35,018 **James Scannell**

## Redesign of Website

At the August meeting of the Board of Directors, the Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozlowski, brought forward a plan to totally redesign the Society's website. This initiative was developed, in part, arising from the many comments and suggestions received from Members around the world. Bartosz aims to simplify certain features and more importantly, in conjunction with the Director of Archive Services, Séamus O'Reilly, he is going to upload images of items from the archive, previously published articles and other resources held by the Society. Discussions are on-going regarding the appointment of a Moderator for the Members' Only Area (MOA). Bartosz can be contacted at [b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com](mailto:b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com)



## Preserving Our Placenames Heritage

Back in August 2007 the Society adopted a proposal for a Draft County Placenames Policy prepared by Michael Merrigan for presentation to the Strategic Policy Committee [SPC] on Culture, Community Development and Amenities of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The document was presented to the September 2007 meeting but due to the pressure of other business it was deferred to the December 2007 meeting for consideration by County Councillors and Sectoral Representatives. Following a very interesting debate it was agreed to recommend the Draft Policy to the Council and to send it to the Law Department for clarifi-

cation of the Council's legal responsibilities in respect of placenames. There was unanimous support for the Draft Policy at the SPC meeting and members were advised that much of the proposals recommendations would be considered for inclusion in the Draft County Development Plan, work on which, was to commence the following year [2008]. However, when the Draft County Development Plan went on public display earlier this year it had no reference whatsoever to our placenames heritage. The Society, as part of the public consultation process, resubmitted the Draft County Placenames Policy document to the County Council's Plan-

ning Department for inclusion in the revision of the Draft County Development Plan. The Society strongly believes that the adoption of this County Placenames Policy would greatly assist and augment the wonderful work undertaken by the County Heritage Officer, Mr. Tim Carey, who has been a great asset to the County since his appointment a few years ago. Interestingly this County Placenames Policy was possibly the only policy document presented to any of the County Council's SPCs since 1998 which was not produced by County Council officials. It is doubtful whether the issue of its provenance played any part, whatsoever, in the absence of any mention of our placenames heritage in the Draft County Development Plan. The full text of the Draft County Placenames Policy is available on [www.docstoc.com/docs/9108186](http://www.docstoc.com/docs/9108186)

# James Scannell Reports...

## AN DAINGEAN ROW CONTINUES

In 2005 the name of Dingle, Co. Kerry, was changed under the Placenames Order of the *Official Languages Act* to An Daingean which allowed for Irish only placenames for Gaeltacht (Irish speaking area) areas. The move was greeted with disbelief by many residents and followed by a wave of protest and expressions of indignation by the townspeople of Dingle with resistance to the name being expressed by people removing the new name from signs and replacing it with the old one, a situation that is still ongoing at the present time. It has now been suggested to the Minister of the Environment that the English version should be reinstated side by side with the Irish version – i.e. Dingle / Daingean Uí Chuis and the Minister's reply to this proposal is awaited. Checkout: [www.dinglename.com](http://www.dinglename.com)

## HISTORIC HOUSE GUTTED

On June 29th historic Annamult House on the banks of the River Nore in near Bennettsbridge,

Co. Kilkenny was destroyed by fire despite the best efforts of eight units of Kilkenny Fire Brigade who fought the fire throughout the afternoon to no avail. Annamult House dated back to the 1700's and was purchased at auction for €2.5M in May 2005 by Mr & Mrs. Sheils who in 2008 offered the house for sale by private treaty for €1.85M but failed to find a buyer and withdrew it from the market.

## WICKLOW WAR DEAD

Members of the London Irish Rifle's Living History Group took part in the launch of Tom and Séamus Burnell's book *'The Wicklow War Dead'* published by Nonsuch Ireland, in Carnew, Co. Wicklow, at the end of June. This book documents the deaths of over 840 soldiers, sailors airmen and nursing sisters as well as casualties who listed their next of kin from Co. Wicklow. The casualties who died during both World Wars served with the British Army, Australian Army, New Zealand Army, Canadian Army, American Army, Indian Army, the Nursing Service, Queen Mary's Army Auxil-

iary Corps, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service, the South African Army, the Royal Navy, the Royal Air Force and the Mercantile Marine. Brothers Tom and Séamus Burnell were inspired to embark on their research a number of years ago after being made aware of relations of their own who had fought in both World Wars and two others who died during the Irish Civil War (1922 -1923).

## CONSERVATION FORUM

From Sept. 13th to 17th An Taisce will host the 13th International Conference of National Trusts in Dublin which will be attended by more than 300 representatives from heritage trusts from all round the world in addition to experts on climate change, conservationists and academics which will include former president Mary Robinson. The title of the Conference will be 'Conservation in a Changing Climate' during which topics to be discussed will cover the care of historic buildings in the light of challenges caused by climate change, sustainable tourism and community participation in conservation.

## Précis of the July Lecture

On Tuesday 14 July 2009, the largest attendance at an Open Meeting seen in years heard Conor Dodd of the Royal Dublin Fusiliers Association speaking on the [UK] National Archives at Kew. So large was the crowd that we had to move the meeting to the Lecture Theatre of the College. With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation Conor explained how to go about researching ancestors who fought in the British forces during the First World War. Working from the bits and pieces of information held in the family papers or indeed, lore, Conor went through each of the resources available and pointed to both their limitations and potential for further research. He concentrated

on service records, death records and other files generated by the British military during the War. He also dealt with the information that can be gleaned from photographs, cap badges and slight variations in uniforms etc. Each of which, he explained, was a valuable piece in the puzzle that often confronts people starting out on the quest for information. For further information see [www.greatwar.ie](http://www.greatwar.ie)

## GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Tues. August 11**—The Records of Glasnevin Cemetery by Mervyn Colville, Dublin Cemeteries Committee; **Tues. September 8**—The Na-

tional Archives of Ireland as a Resource for Genealogy and Local History by Gregory O'Connor, Archivist, NAI; **Tues. October 13**—Research Collections at Dublin City Library and Archive Dr Máire Kennedy, Dublin City Library and Archive; **Tues. November 10**—Researching one family history in Co Wexford by Gaye Conroy, MGSI and **Tues. December 8**— The Bram Stoker family – a typical 19<sup>th</sup> century Dublin Protestant family. Douglas Appleyard, historian, author and specialist on the author of *Dracula* Comments or suggestions on the Society lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty**, MGSI by e-mail on [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

## Membership of the Genealogical Society

Membership fee **renewals fall due in January** each year. The Board of the Society at its November 2008 meeting conducted the normal annual review of the **Membership Fee** structure and under **Res: 08/11/632** the Board adopted the following equalised Membership Package for 2009:- **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. Therefore, despite tighter economic conditions, there was no increase in the Membership Fee

this year. Unlike many other similar organisations faced with the problem of rising costs of printing and postage etc., 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. Another new feature introduced was the offer of one year free membership to persons undertaking accredited genealogy courses on the condition that they supply a suitable article for the Society's journal. Also persons under twenty-five years can avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. Membership can be renewed on-line or, if you prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Director of Finance, **Mr. Denis Ryan**, MGSI, 6, St. Thomas Mead, Mount Merrion, County Dublin, Ireland.

## Fr. Seán Cassidy

This month marks the first anniversary of the death of a former Member of this Society, Fr. Seán Cassidy. As a great lover of the heritage, culture and history of Ireland, Fr. Seán donated many items to the GSI Archive. He also was the concelebrant at the Inter-Faith event held in Monkstown Parish Church to mark the 15th anniversary of the Society, at which, our former President Tony McCarthy was inaugurated in October 2005. To celebrate the life of this wonderful man, friends will gather to unveil a park bench in his honour at the Harbour Gardens in Sandycove, Co. Dublin on Sunday 23 August at 14.00hrs. All welcome. Bring a picnic and enjoy the music, readings and tributes to Fr. Seán Cassidy, RIP.

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*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2009-2010**

**Séamus Moriarty** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary); **Denis Ryan** (Finance); **Sharon Bofin** (Publications & Membership); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Bartosz Kozlowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (National Projects)

**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Aug. 11th &amp; Sept. 8th 2009

**Evening Open Meeting**

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education  
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Aug. 26th &amp; Sept. 23rd 2009

**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)***JOIN ON-LINE**

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[www.familyhistory.ie/shop](http://www.familyhistory.ie/shop)**GS ARCHIVE NEWS**

The Society's Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly**, MGSI, is seeking volunteers to assist with the cataloguing of the collections held at 111, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin—almost diagonally across from the Dún Laoghaire Public Library. There are several collections, including the manuscripts, that require sorting and cataloguing. In addition to the above collections, during September and October 2009 the General Secretary will transfer the Society's administrative files, dating back to October 1990, to the Archive. These files, read in conjunction with the Minute Books and the newsletters, arguably provide one of the finest resources for the study of the development of Irish genealogy since 1990. These files require sorting and cataloguing in order to make such available for research, however, the Society's administrative files are subject to a short closure period for current operational reasons. Clearly no narrative or study of genealogy or indeed, heraldry, within the period would be complete without consulting this unique resource. Volunteers may either contact Séamus by e-mail on [jsoreilly@eircom.net](mailto:jsoreilly@eircom.net) in advance of visiting the Archive or simply meet him at the above address on Mondays between 10.30hrs and 16.30hrs (*with the exception of Bank Holidays*). Whilst, Séamus also facilitates members wishing to access items within the collections for their own research, he would welcome copies of birth briefs and family histories for the Archive.

**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more at..*[www.fourcourtpress.ie](http://www.fourcourtpress.ie)10% Reduction On-Line **CHECKOUT THE SALE ITEMS****HERITAGE WEEK**

The Society is participating in the national celebration of our heritage organised by the Heritage Council. The Board has duly designated the Morning Open Meeting on Wednesday 26 August 2009 as a special forum for a general discussion on family history during Heritage Week 2009.

**Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**

by John Grenham

Highly recommended by this Society for **EVERYBODY** researching Irish family history at home or overseas.

[www.gillmacmillan.ie](http://www.gillmacmillan.ie)**Deputy Newsletter Editor Sought**

As many of our Members and regular readers will know, this Society has been publishing monthly newsletters since 1991. This Society, founded in 1990 as the Dún Laoghaire Genealogical Society, has hosted Evening Open Meetings each month since 1991 and Morning Open Meetings since 1993, for which, until 1996 two editions of the monthly newsletter were produced. Then a single two-page newsletter 'The Genie Gazette' was published which, on the change of the name of organisation in 1999 to the Genealogical Society of Ireland to more accurately reflect the status, reach and activities of the Society, increased from two to four pages and assumed its current format. On the incorporation of the Society in 2000 it was decided to retain the title of the newsletter, however, in 2006, it agreed to adopt the current title which was suggested by Pádraic Ingoldsby. In the eighteen years of the publication of monthly newsletters by this Society these pages have not only chronicled the development of Irish genealogy and heraldry in that period but also provided a platform for innovative proposals and important initiatives aimed at promoting the study of genealogy and heraldry as educational leisure pursuits available to all in our community. Issues such as public accessibility to records, quality of service provision, campaigns for legislative reform and, of course, challenging vested interests have been central themes of the main article each month. However, the newsletter also provided news from the wider

world of genealogy and heraldry, research tips, Members' research queries and book reviews. The newsletter has carved out a valued niche for itself as the premier monthly genealogical bulletin published in Ireland with a worldwide readership both in hardcopy and on-line. Indeed, many issues raised by the 'Gazette' have been aired by our parliamentarians from all parties and none in the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) and quoted and reprinted widely. This is a clear testament of need for such a publication and indeed, of the service it provides to Irish genealogy and heraldry as a vibrant, current and informative monthly newsletter. Indeed, on many occasions it had to plainly confront vested interests and question the official line on many perceived 'sacred cows' of genealogy and heraldry, for to do otherwise, it would have failed in its duty to its readership. Regular contributors such as James Scannell and the many providers of stories have successfully expanded the range of items covered by the 'Gazette' in recent years. Indeed, there has been suggestions that we move to a six or eight page format especially for an on-line edition. However, such developments require a greater number of individuals to be regularly involved in the production of the newsletter. Therefore, as a first step, a Deputy Newsletter Editor is being sought to work closely with the Editor for the six months period leading up to the Annual General Meeting in March 2010 which will elect the members of the Board for 2010/2011.

This new Board will be charged with organising the celebrations to mark the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Society in October 2010. Indeed, this occasion may well be marked by an expansion of the newsletter, in its on-line edition, from its current four pages to a full colour production. Following the 2010 AGM it is envisaged that the Deputy Newsletter Editor would be in a position to assume, with the approval of the Board, the full role of Editor of the 'Gazette' from April 2010. Though, the current Editor has agreed to continue to provide a monthly book review for the 'Gazette' and be on hand in a 'consultative' role, the new appointment will finally allow him the much needed time to pursue a number of personal research projects which are currently in the planning stages. Naturally, it is not expected that any new Editor must hold the position for a period of nineteen years, however, membership of the Board, by cooption or election, and attendance at meetings will be a requirement of the position. As a voluntary position, like all positions within the Society, the Deputy Editor would be expected to have a passion for genealogy, a flair for writing, computer literacy and a good knowledge of the world of genealogy and heraldry. Applications for this position are invited from both within our current membership and from potential members. It is hoped to have the position of Deputy Newsletter Editor confirmed by the Board at the October 2009 meeting. Interested, but not sure of the actual role? Don't worry, just send an e-mail with your query or relevant experience to the Editor at [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie) by August 31, 2009.