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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
Heritage Matters
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Burial Records On-Line *Limerick City Council Leads the Way*

Limerick City Council has most certainly thrown down the gauntlet to all other local authorities by its decision to utilise its archival and heritage resources as a means to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the social history of its city. Limerick City has become the first local authority in the country to put its burial records on-line. Burial records for the City's largest cemetery, Mount Saint Lawrence, dating back to 1855 are accessible on the internet free of charge. This latter point is a hugely significant departure from the blinkered norm in Ireland. Many in Ireland viewed genealogical records as 'potential earners' to be computerised and shamefully sold at unsustainably high prices to gullible tourists. This Society has battled since its foundation against this blatant commercialization of our nation's genealogical heritage. The '*Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access*' to our genealogical heritage adopted by the Society at its 1997 AGM has slowly emerged as the enlightened public policy of many institutions. However, for many years this important principle was either strenuously opposed or deliberately misrepresented by vested

interests which sought to confuse the issue with spurious claims to copyright, privacy matters and other utterly extraneous arguments. Limerick is to be congratulated for its initiative which will create an affinity with the City amongst visitors to its website www.limerickcity.ie. Those with Limerick ancestry will be able to locate the burial place of their forefathers and in doing so, be encouraged to find out more information on the City, its environs and especially, its rich and varied history. This is an investment in the City's tourism potential and in essence it is creating and informing future visitors to the City. This is precisely the intelligent and strategic use of genealogical records publicly advocated by this Society since 1990. These resources should be freely available on-line to encourage and sustain an interest in the mother country amongst the millions of her Diaspora. The Society has consistently argued that genealogical records should not be viewed as commercial products in themselves, but simply as components of a wider marketing strategy. Any costs involved in the uploading of these records to the websites of the local authorities could

be offset by suitably targeted advertising of tourism facilities in each county. If the link between the Diaspora and these shores is essentially one of sentiment and longing for a knowledge of ancestry, then any dampening of this initial enthusiasm for the 'old country' by the imposition of charges, pay-for-view or otherwise, to access records such as parish or burial records is simply counterproductive. Limerick has shown the way – the local authorities have the websites with the capacity to make available all sorts of genealogical information from burial records, local census records, local histories, parish registers, school registers, to old photographs and much more. In preparing our nation for the eventual upturn in the global economy and the return to a growth in overseas visitors to Ireland, Limerick City's initiative has unequivocally demonstrated the cost effective way forward. Ireland, during these recessionary times, could and should be to the forefront in such tourism promotion utilizing our rich archival resources – the records of our ancestors – freely available on-line to build a sustainable 'roots tourism' industry for this and future generations.

Limerick City Arms Confirmed

To the sounds of a trumpet fanfare the Mayor of Limerick, Cllr. John Gilligan late last month received the Letters Patent from the Chief Herald of Ireland, Mr. Fergus Gillespie, MA, confirming the Arms of the City. According to the City Council, these Arms had been adopted many centuries ago without official registration. The Arms depict a castle with two towers and portcullis raised on a shield of the 14th century with the motto "*Urbs Antiqua Fuit Studiisque Asperrima Belli*" meaning "*An Ancient City well versed*

in the Arts of War". This is yet another initiative, for which, Limerick City Council is to be warmly congratulated especially when other local authorities in Ireland are dumping their beautifully designed Arms for mere logos, many of which, are nothing but meaningless doodles. The Limerick ceremony was certainly a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and showcase Irish heraldry. However, it is unfortunate then that the press briefings for the event, unbeknown to Limerick City Council, resurrected the fanciful notion that

'Chief Herald is the holder of the oldest state office, which in its present form has been in existence since 1552'. As this appeared in both the national and regional press, a single source for this misleading and erroneous information is suspected. The heraldic authority established in 1552 ceased to have a domestic function here in 1936 and was finally closed down and transferred to London in 1943. No heraldic legislation was introduced in 1943 so, in fact, the current Irish heraldic 'authority' only dates from May 2005.

Fugitive Ireland

European Minority Nationalists and Irish Political Asylum, 1937-2008

A new publication from **Four Courts Press** reveals, for the first time, how Ireland provided a shelter for many European militants and nationalists before and after Second World War. Though many were inspired by Ireland's struggle for independence, others were fleeing their home countries accused of crimes of collaboration with the Nazis. Reminiscent of the old adage "*England's difficulty is Ireland's opportunity*" some of these nationalists viewed the German invasion of their homelands as an opportunity to break free from the occupied state and to establish independent states with German assistance. Others were associated with post-War political movements that threatened the unity of existing European states such as France, Spain and Belgium. The Irish public were only recently made aware of this controversial chapter in our nation's history mainly through the two-part television documentary by veteran broadcaster Cathal O'Shannon—'*Ireland's Nazis*' which was broadcast on History Channel and on RTÉ in 2007 and 2008. Though, O'Shannon covered the stories of number of individuals, including Célestin Lainé (Neven Henaff) leader of the Bezen Perrot, (Perrot Unit) a Waffen SS unit responsible for the torture and murder of civilians in occupied Brittany and the notorious Andrija Artukovic ('Alois Antich'), Nazi Minister of the Interior in Croatia responsible for the deaths of over 1,000,000 men, women and children in concentration camps, the limitations of the medium (TV documentary) were

very apparent. Therefore, a publication like '*Fugitive Ireland—European minority nationalists and Irish political asylum, 1937-2008*' by **Daniel Leach** (ISBN 978-1-84682-164-6 312pp ills. h/b Price €35.00) is essential to our fuller understanding of the period and the subject. Whether it was 'Anglophobia' as suggested by Eoghan Harris, or indeed, simply a manifestation of 'pan-Celtism' as advocated by the Breton émigrés, that underpinned the Irish government's policy on political asylum during this period is explored in depth by Leach. That Ireland sheltered these fugitives at a time when Nazism was utterly defeated and universally reviled is, according to Leach, 'suggestive at best of an insular mentality out of step with global realities; at worst, it suggests that in the heart of Irish government lurked the very sort of pro-Axis proclivity Allied press had long accused Dublin of harbouring.' This brilliantly researched volume grapples with this central issue through the examination of the personal histories of each of his subjects and ultimately the lives that they carved out for themselves in Ireland. Some including two Bretons, Alan Heusaff and Yann Goulet, were granted political asylum in Ireland and continued 'to lead militant Breton nationalist factions from exile.' Heusaff, in particular, became a major player in 'pan-Celtism' in Ireland as a long-time general secretary of the Celtic League and very active in Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) in Dublin. Leach examines the activities of

the Bretonische Waffenverbände der SS 'Bezen Perrot' and the émigrés it produced, a subject that has remained until now completely unexplored. He details the political mix of conservative Catholicism and nationalism of 1940s Brittany which resembled that of the clerical-fascist regime of Msgr.Tiso in Slovakia at the time. The Catholic Church's struggle against communism in the post-War period, especially with high-profile cases like Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary and Archbishop Stepinac of Zagreb (Yugoslavia) influenced Irish asylum policy which sheltered fugitives from Croatia, the Ukraine and Flanders (Belgium) in numbers greater than the Bretons. With fine illustrations, many courtesy of family members of the émigrés, this book is an immensely important contribution to our understanding of this little known chapter of Ireland's past, indeed, it is precisely the area of our history that some would prefer remained our '*Hidden History*' **MM**

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

The Society would like to thank most sincerely '*The Medal Society of Ireland*' for accepting duplicate copies held by us in our archive of its Journal and exchanging these for thirty-one issues that we were not fortunate to have. This exchange took place on the initiative of our Director, Pádraic Ingoldsby with Patrick Casey the Medal Society's Membership Secretary. These initiative benefits both societies which, it seems, have many members in common.

IRELAND REPRESENTATIVE

The Society's Director of National Projects, **Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGSI**, has been appointed to the position of Ireland Representative for the UK based *Guild of One-Name Studies*. Pádraic replaces Michael Merrigan who resigned as Ireland Representative to concentrate on other matters, including the development of the Society etc. The Guild is the only organisation in the world entirely dedicated to this special aspect of genealogy. Guild members research the origin, history and distribution etc of particular surnames and their variants. Their research encompasses all events concerning the surname and not just following particular genealogical lines. Whilst, this type of research is quite popular in England, it is less so in the Celtic nations of the archipelago where surnames tend to be patronymics. The Guild published a major article, in

two parts, on the subject of one-name studies in an Irish context which demonstrated the difficulties encountered due to the origin and development of these surnames and the impact of the language shift from Gaelic to English over the centuries. As the decline of Gaelic was very uneven throughout the island of Ireland there was no standardization in the Anglicization of Gaelic surnames resulting in many variations of very similar or identical surnames. Clearly much work remains to be done on Irish surnames, beyond the simple origin studies conducted by MacLysaght and others and therefore, the Guild's new Ireland Representative is very anxious to promote one-name studies in Ireland. Further information on the Guild can be obtained on its website www.one-name.org however, Pádraic would welcome any comments or suggestions from Irish one-namers. He can be contacted on ingold@gofree.indigo.ie

NEW FELLOWS TO BE APPOINTED

The newly elected President of the Society, **Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI**, is expected to appoint two new members of the College of Fellows of the Society to mark the President's inauguration. The appointments are entirely a matter for the President. Indeed, if he follows the example of his predecessor Mr. Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI, he could appoint two persons from outside the Society who have made a considerable contribution to Irish genealogy, heraldry or social history. Rory's many years as Cathaoirleach (Chair) of the Society has given him a unique insight into the world of genealogy and heraldry and no doubt, his appointees will be very deserving of the honour.



Monumental Inscriptions on CD

The ever increasing costs of printing and postage both here in Ireland and in Great Britain has forced many family history societies to review their publication policies and programmes. Some have exited the publication arena completed which is regrettable though, nevertheless completely understandable as costs mount. Therefore, Board of this Society had some hard decisions to make on our own publication programme and it decided to make many of our publications available on CD. Thanks to the hard work of Barry O'Connor and Liam Mac Alasdair, the Society's first publication on CD was launched last month. This new CD contains all three volumes of the **Memorial Inscriptions of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, Co.**

Dublin, Ireland – Vol. 1 includes the following graveyards:- Barrington's Burial Ground; Blackrock College; Dominican Convent, Dún Laoghaire; Old Glencullen; Kiltiernan Church of Ireland; Loughlinstown; Old Connaught; Rathmichael (Old Church); St. Brigid's Church of Ireland and Tully Graveyard. **Vol. 2** is a special publication on the Friends Burial Ground, Temple Hill, Blackrock and **Vol. 3** contains the following graveyards: Carmelite Monastery; Carrickbrennan Cemetery; Kill of the Grange Cemetery and Sion Hill Cemetery. This CD is fully searchable and easy to use. Normally these three volumes would cost €7.00 each plus postage, however, this new CD has been launched at a *special introductory price* of

just €15.00 including postage. Another new publication of immense assistance to those tracing ancestors in the British forces in Ireland up to 1922 "**Memorial Inscriptions of Military Personnel and Their Families**" is now available at €10.00 including postage. It has been painstakingly researched by Barry O'Connor and his team. To obtain a copy of either publication please send a cheque for the amount required (*made payable to the Society*) to the address (Director of Finance) on the bottom of page 3 of this newsletter. For a full listing of the Society's publications of memorial inscriptions, including other military cemeteries, please see the Society's on-line shop on the website www.familyhistory.ie/shop

James Scannell Reports...

NATIONAL AWARD FOR KERRY

During May it was announced that Kerry County Museum has been awarded the title of *'Museum of the Year'* in a competition hosted jointly by the Heritage Council of Ireland in partnership with the Northern Ireland Museums Council. Part of the award citation described the **Kerry County Museum** as a vibrant cultural resource for the Kerry community and the island as whole. Other awards made were – *Highly Commended*: Knock Museum, Co. Mayo. *Best Exhibition*: The Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin for its 'Soldiers and Chiefs—The Irish at War and at Home and Abroad since 1550'. *Highly Commended Exhibition*: Down County Museum in Northern Ireland for 'Down Through Time'. *Highly Commended Exhibition*: Derry City Council Heritage and Museum's Service Tower Museum for 'An Armada Shipwreck – La Trinidad Valencera'. *Best Education and Outreach Project*: South Tipperary County Museum for its 'Heritage in Schools Project'.

HAYDN SCORE UNVEILED

A handwritten score by the composed Joseph Haydn on loan from the National Library of Austria went on display in the Chester Beatty Library located in Dublin Castle as part of an exhibition commemorating the bicentenary of the death of Austrian composer Joseph Haydn (1732-1809). The manuscript, *'The Second Cello Concerto in D Major'*, was rediscovered in 1951 and brought to an end a long dispute over its authorship. First published in 1804 under Haydn's name, it was later attributed to Anton Kraft, a cellist, for whom Haydn had written the piece but the manuscript was found to be in Haydn's handwriting thus ending the dispute.

ULSTER-SCOTS CENTRE OPENED

Last month Mr. Éamon Ó Cuív, TD, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs formally opened Monreagh Manse, Ireland's first Ulster-Scots Heritage Centre in Carrigans, east County Donegal, located in a building

linked to a church across the road which is home to Ireland's second oldest Presbyterian congregation dating back to 1644. The aim of Monreagh Manse is to explore the culture and history of the Ulster-Scots and to attract visitors to the area, especially those with an Ulster-Scots ancestry or heritage.

CONNACHT TRIBUNE

The National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG) was the venue for a celebration on May 21st to mark the centenary of the *'Connacht Tribune'* newspaper. It marked the contribution of this newspaper to the social and economic life of the west of Ireland. The *'Connacht Tribune'* was the place where many leading journalists began their careers including Seán O'Rourke, presenter of RTÉ Radio 1 'News at One', Seán Duignan, former RTÉ political editor who subsequently became government press secretary, Joe Fahy, who went on to work for the European Parliament and Ray Burke who became RTÉ chief news editor. For further information see www.galwaynews.ie

Précis of the May Lecture

On Tuesday May 12 members heard a very interesting lecture on the records in the RCB Library by **Dr. Raymond Refaussé**, Librarian and Archivist. The **Representative Church Body Library** is the main repository for the records and archives of the Church of Ireland (Anglican) and it is located at Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin.14. Dr. Refaussé explained the main purpose of the RCB Library and stressed that it was not a genealogical research library though its holdings may be of considerable interest to family historians. The lecture brought us through the history of the RCB Library and detailed its main collections, especially those of use to genealogy. The RCB

Library's acquisitions programme and indeed, its publication of some of the older parish registers and vestry books has been widely welcomed by genealogists and historians. Dr. Refaussé said that although the RCB welcomes visitors to the library, a telephone call or e-mail message in advance of a visit is very helpful to the staff and saves time. For further info. on the RCB Library see <http://Ireland.anglican.org>

GSILECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. June 9—The Student Records of Dublin University. Alumni Office, TCD. **Tues. July 14**—The [UK] National Archives, Kew by

Conor Dodd; **Tues. August 11**—The Records of Glasnevin Cemetery by Mervyn Colville, Dublin Cemeteries Committee; **Tues. September 8**—The National 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**—Topic and Speaker TBA. Any comments, suggestions or queries on the lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty**, MGSI by e-mail on 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.

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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 June 9th & July 14th 2009

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday June 24th & July 22nd 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

@

www.familyhistory.ie/shop**Ulster Museum to Reopen**

In October 2006 the Ulster Museum in Belfast closed for a major makeover and is currently scheduled to reopen in the Autumn of this year as planned following the provision of additional finance to ensure that the refurbishment work could be enhanced and expanded, bringing expenditure on this major project to around Stg£17.2M. All the main structural work which has increased the gallery area by 10% has now been completed and the focus is now on fitting-out all the exhibition rooms. The most striking element of the refurbishment work will be apparent to visitors as they walk into the new large and bright atrium due to its 23m high ceilings and the glass and steel walkways which lead to the history, art and science galleries which are at different levels. To create a spacious effect walls have been painted white while a new restaurant has been created with a terrace which leads out to the botanic gardens. Other additions include four new learning zones, a new high level gallery in which glass, silver, ceramics and jewellery will be displayed while the 'Friends of the Ulster Museum' are supporting a new art discovery zone which form part of the suite of art galleries. Old favourites which will have a special place in the galleries include the Egyptian mummy Takabuti which first came to Belfast in 1835, the long canoe of the Solomon islands head-hunters, and the dinosaur collection.

*James Scannell***FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more at..*www.fourcourtspress.ie10% Reduction On-Line **CHECKOUT THE SALE ITEMS****GSI JOURNAL 2008**

Copies of the Society's Journal have been despatched to all Members. The volume number on the Journal should have read Vol. 9 and not Vol. 8 as printed. Further copies may be purchased price €10 plus postage. The front cover photo is of *British Railways FC* (Dún Laoghaire Pier) on April 30, 1949 after losing to *St. Kevin's FC* : 1. BR FC players named on back of photograph.

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**National Famine Memorial Day**

Skibbereen, Co. Cork, was the location on Sunday 17 May for a special National Famine Memorial Day which began in O'Donovan Rossa Park in the town at which the Guests of Honour was Mr. Éamon Ó Cuív, T.D., Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and Chairperson of the National Famine Commemoration Committee who gave the dedication. Music was provided by Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann. Ms. Catherine O'Keefe, Mayor of Skibbereen, read an extract from 'An Gorta Mór' by Peadar Ó Laoire. Music was then provided by Cór Cuil Aodha which was followed by a reading by Mr. Jerry O'Sullivan, Secretary of the Skibbereen Famine Commemoration, of an extract from an open letter to the Duke of Wellington written by Mr. Nicholas Cummins, a Cork magistrate, published in *The Times* (London) on Christmas Eve, 1846. Prayers for the victims of the Famine were led by Bishop John Buckley, Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Bruce Hayes Church of Ireland, Rev. Moba Mwanzele, Methodist Church, Mr. Alan Pim, Society of Friends. Following the prayers, local school children lit candles in memory of the victims of the victims of the Famine. A Minute's Silence was then observed after which there was a tree planting ceremony at which the Minister made the closing statement. A Famine Walk then took place to

Abbeystrawery Cemetery where the following events took place - Address by the Minister; Prayer by Fr. Tony O'Keefe; Piper played a lament; Wreath Laying Ceremony; Minute of Silence for all those who died; Playing of the Last Post; The raising of the National Flay to full mast; Reveille; The playing of the National Anthem and finally the unveiling of a Commemorative Plaque by the Minister and closing address.

*James Scannell***GSI 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. Volunteers may either contact Séamus by e-mail on 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.

GSI WEBSITE NEWS

The Society's Director of Internet Services, **Bartosz Kozlowski**, MGSi (right) has uploaded a Members Only Area (MOA) to the Society's website. However, it appears that many members have experienced difficulties in registering for entry to the MOA. Therefore, Bartosz has altered the registration requirements to have the 'user name' the same as the member's e-mail address and the password to be one generated by the member concerned. He hopes that this will simplify matters and allow for an early beneficial use of the MOA facilitate by members. The Board has appointed **Sharon Bofin**, MGSi as the Moderator of the MOA at its meeting on June 4th. Therefore, as advised last month, the MOA will be operative by the end of June. The MOA will enable members to assist each other with research problems and to exchange tips on sources etc. Another feature of the website that Bartosz is keenly endeavouring to expand is the numbers of on-line articles by members. Working in conjunction with the Director of Archive Services, **Séamus O'Reilly**, MGSi, Bartosz hopes to include a catalogue of the archival collections held by the Society. This will greatly assist members wishing to access these records and publications. In the meantime, Bartosz welcomes comments and suggestions on the design, layout and content of the website. Please contact Bartosz by e-mail on b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com

