

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

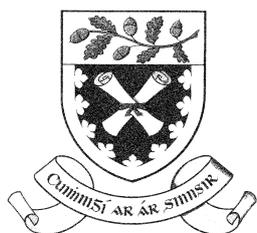
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 5 No. 8

www.familyhistory.ie

August : Lúnasa 2010



**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
**Book Reviews**  
**Open Meetings**  
**News & Queries**



www.eneclann.ie

## CONTENTS

<i>Business Archival Sources for Local Historians</i>	2
<i>Festival of World Cultures</i>	2
<i>GSI Lectures 2010 Heritage Week Lectures</i>	2
<i>James Scannell Reports..</i>	3
<i>Précis of the July Lecture Membership of the GSI</i>	3
<i>Korean War Veterans 'Action on Archives'</i>	4
<i>Diary Dates GSI Board News</i>	4

## Heraldry for All—Possible and Profitable

With all the new initiatives being considered by the Government to stimulate a greater awareness of Ireland and its heritage amongst the estimated 70 million people of Irish descent worldwide, heraldry seems to have been overlooked. Why? Coats of Arms are among the most popular retail items in Irish themed stores around the world, however, most of these popular 'Irish' souvenirs are manufactured overseas mostly in Asia and often with dubious claims to authenticity in design. Traditionally, coats of arms are personal to the individual as they heraldically belong to specific families, not to surnames as sold in these souvenir stores. But if you want the genuine article you must make a personal application to the Chief Herald and currently pay a sizeable sum for the privilege – so most stick with the fake. Back in 2006 the *Genealogy and Heraldry Bill* introduced in Seanad Éireann by Senator Brendan Ryan promised heraldry for all – an equitable, affordable, cost effective and, surprisingly for some, a profitable national heraldic service. This Bill didn't proceed to enactment, however, the recent appointment of the much respected professional librarian, Colette O'Flaherty, as Keeper of Manuscripts and Chief Herald of Ireland could and should usher in a new and exciting era of fundamental change at the 'office' of the Chief Herald of Ireland.

Gone for good are the fanciful and somewhat ridiculous notions of the past of exclusivity and pretensions based on anachronistic and non-existent prerogatives. Time has now come to reform, modernise and, in many ways, to establish a State heraldic service fit for a republic. This new heraldic service could be provided under the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 Act and indeed, at minimal set-up costs to the National Library. Currently anyone wishing to obtain a Grant of Arms must have at least €3,300 to splash out on what many would, rather disparagingly, consider a 'vanity item'. The Grant of Arms is made in the form of Letters Patent with the hand-painted arms and the accompanying text in beautiful calligraphy on vellum. The grant is recorded in the Register of Arms and is a matter of public record. But with such a price-tag it is doubtful whether commissions during this recessionary period could justify the continuation of such heraldic services. Therefore, rather than see its demise fundamental changes in both the structure and the delivery of Irish heraldic services are urgently required which would greatly broaden its customer base by expanding and developing its products. What is preventing the Chief Herald from restructuring the delivery of services to meet the clear demand for less expensive, but authentic, Irish heraldic products – is it simply a lingering fanci-

ful notion of exclusivity or what? In our republic, the State's heraldic services must deliver heritage products and not privileges or dignities as claimed by other heraldic authorities. Therefore, access to such products should be as universal as reasonably possible. To this end, instead of the elaborate and expensive Letters Patent, a computerised Certificate could be issued with the blazon or description of the Arms granted. The client is then free to engage a heraldic artist to paint the Arms on whatever surface or object they wish. The costs of producing this type of grant would be considerably less given the massive reduction in labour costs and with the 'out sourcing' of the consultative work bringing authentic heraldry within reach of most individuals. To capture the enormous potential of such commissions from around the world, the 2006 Bill proposed the setting up of licensed heraldic agents who will do much of the consultative work currently carried out by the 'office' of the Chief Herald. Naturally, it would be expected that competition between such agencies will dramatically reduce rates payable for heraldic advice and art work. More importantly it repatriates a part of our heritage industries and thus encouraging indigenous manufacturing and craft activity in a sector almost devastated by the recession. 'Heraldry for All' is possible and, in time, profitable. *So why not?*

## Mountains to Sea—dlr Book Festival

Building on the enormous success of the inaugural event in 2009 where over 5,000 enthusiastic book-lovers from all parts descended on Dún Laoghaire for the dlr Book Festival—the County Heritage Officer, Tim Carey, and his team have an outstanding programme for this year. Indeed, the timing of the Book Festival couldn't have been better with Dublin being awarded the prestigious 'UNESCO City of Literature' designation. With no less than four former Booker Prize-winners

participating this year along with many other literary greats from the home and overseas, the 2010 dlr Book Festival has something special for everyone. Fans of fiction, sport, heritage, politics, poetry, prose, Irish short stories and much more besides have six days of wonderful events, readings and book launches to attend. Though, the heritage of the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown also forms a major part of this Festival, genealogists and local historians, frequently overlook literature as a resource in their quest to under-

stand the lives and times of ancestors. Literature, albeit fictional, often captures the spirit, culture, hardship and trauma of the past in a way other sources are denied. Indeed, the research undertaken by authors for novels, for example, is often very rigorous and extensive. The Festival features many 'conversations' with well-known authors, at which, insights into their own research may emerge. Running from Sept. 7th to 12th further info. is available on [www.mountaintosea.ie](http://www.mountaintosea.ie)

## Business Archival Sources for the Local Historian

A resource which is often overlooked by genealogists and local historians has been rendered hugely more accessible by a recent publication by Four Courts Press. *'Business Archival Sources for the Local Historian'* by Ciarán Ó hOgartaigh and Margaret Ó hOgartaigh (ISBN: 978-1-84682-134-9 : 96pp : Price €35.00 h/bk: €14.95 p/bk). Published on April 16, 2010 as part of the *Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History* this type of work is long overdue and indeed, given the importance of the subject matter to the study of local and social history in particular, one wonders why such was not available before. However, the first and seminal survey of business records in the Republic was carried by L.M. Cullen in the 1970s for the Irish Manuscripts Commission. Whether it be the business owners, employees, suppliers or possibly, creditors, this guide takes the reader through the sort of information that one might find amongst business archives and explains the potential uses of such sources. The authors put it very succinctly as 'the archival material identified in this guide presents both opportunities and challenges to the local historian' and, of course, this applies to the genealogist even more so. Business was and indeed, still is the main activity around which the local community life, both urban and rural, revolves. All sections of the community, irrespective of their socio-economic circumstances, interacted within the business life of the area and this guide seeks to unlock the research potential of business or accounting records. Indeed, the authors stress that 'to varying degrees businesses served as historians as well as record-keepers of ordinary and extraordinary aspects of life in the particular time and place' and this point comes to the fore in each of the three chapters of this short book. Chapter One explains the nature of the records as those

'relating to both accounting and corporate governance' the latter, of course, contain many non-accounting material such as minute books, correspondence, shareholders' details etc and can be immensely useful for the researcher. The authors explain the terminology employed in such documents which can seem very legalistic. They stress that 'all archival material accounting records are not an unbiased source' and that 'researchers need to be mindful of the agendas that shaped the creation of these records'. This is a vitally important point to remember, for example, when viewing credit rating material on customers. Indeed, the interpretation of some business records without having the benefit of the appropriate accounting training can be fraught with difficulty. Chapter Two takes us through the various repositories holding business archival material on the island of Ireland and how to both access and use such records. Because some types of business activity or companies were dispersed nationally and others concentrated in certain localities, for example, shipbuilding and linen mills in the north east, the book also looks at county sources. Chapter Three examines the potential uses of business archival sources and here again, the authors stress the difference between the purposes for which such records were kept and our need, as genealogists and local historians, to be in a position to use such records imaginatively as they 'offer insights into the economic and social life of the wider community'. Intriguingly they title one of the sections in this chapter as 'Credit ratings and the systemization of local knowledge' which, of course, the very essence of which could be immensely valuable to the researcher. The 'Tab Book' of a local Public House, for example, could be even more of a social commentary when one considers the typical Irish mixture of business

and politics—another topic discussed by the authors. Another section title brings home to the modern reader that business operated on a transnational scale—'Traces of cosmopolitanism and globalisation in the Irish locale' and offers examples from the tourism industry. The provision of two case studies is of great assistance to our understanding of the methodology employed in researching these sources. The two appendices are excellent as they provide listings of sources in the National Archives of Ireland and the Public Records of Northern Ireland. The bibliography will be of considerable assistance to those researching particular industries, professions, trades or corporate bodies. Indeed, Charles Callan's monumental study *'Painters in Union'* could have been included in the bibliography. However, this short book is certainly a must for any genealogist or local historian and, no doubt, there is an enormous amount of work yet to be done to comprehensively locate and record Irish business archival sources. **MM**

### GSI LECTURES 2010

**Tues. August 10<sup>th</sup>** *'The Lawrence Photographic Collection in the National Library of Ireland'* by Brian Siggins; **Tues. September 14<sup>th</sup>** *'Irish Newspaper Archives as a Resource for the Genealogist'* by Philip Martin; **Tues. October 12<sup>th</sup>** *'The Medlar's Gotcha – the story of a Dublin family'* by Pól Ó Duibhir; **Tues. November 9<sup>th</sup>** *'Irish Convict Transportation – Damnation or Salvation?'* by Seán Solan; **Tues. December 14<sup>th</sup>** *'1916 to 1921 Casualties'* by Dáithí Ó Corráin. The Director of the Lecture Programme, Séamus Moriarty, FGSI can be contacted by e-mail via [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

## Festival of World Cultures

The Society's 'outreach' during the *Festival of World Cultures* in Dún Laoghaire which took place over two days (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July) was a tremendous success and this was especially due to the dedication, hard work and tenacity of our Cathaoirleach, Pádraic Ingoldsby, who organised the Society's participation at very short notice indeed. Pádraic had arranged for information packs to be produced and with four information desks on the go there was a steady conveyor belt of packing undertaken in the Archive to meet the demands of our 'new public'. The Society is very grateful, once again, for the kind assistance offered by Cllr. Victor Boyhan who provided photocopies of GSI forms for the information packs. Also, it was great to see so many members of the Board,

Gerry Hayden, John Hamrock, Fiona Tipple and Séamus O'Reilly and other members including, Eddie Gahan, Richard McCormick, Clare Tuohy, Gregory Peppard, Róisín Lafferty and Keith Thompson calling in to show their support or lending a hand to distribute circa 500 information packs and to answer queries from hundreds of people over the two days of the Festival. It was a wonderful effort by all. Many lapsed Members are pledging to return and indeed, all were very excited about the facility at the Carlisle Pier. GSI Vice-President, Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI visited the new premises on the Sunday to show his appreciation for Pádraic's hardworking team. Amongst the many other visitors were the Irish Labour Party Leader, Eamon Gilmore TD and his wife Carol

and Colin and Anna Scudds of the Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society. To coincide with the Festival our Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozłowski, set up a Facebook page for the Society - checkout the photos on Facebook (you just have to sign up to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)—it's free and then search for the Society by name etc). All in all, it was a wonderful endeavour by all concerned which greatly increased the Society's profile and, of course, highlighted the existence of our new premises at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire. With much greater access to the GSI Archives now in prospect, in addition to the current provision of two monthly meetings throughout the year, our Members can be justifiably proud of Ireland's most active genealogical organisation.

## Heritage Week Lectures

**James Scannell** provides the following information on a few of the absolutely wonderful lectures to be hosted during Heritage Week 2010 with runs from August 21st to 29th 2010. On Thursday August 26th the Maritime Institute of Ireland, in association with the Heritage Council, will hold two lectures in the Kingston Hotel, Adelaide Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. At 19.30hrs Dr. Michael Kennedy will present his lecture *'The May 1941 Luftwaffe Bombing of the North Strand (Dublin)'* while at 20.30hrs Dr. Edward J. Bourke will present his lecture *'The Rochdale and the Prince of Wales Wrecked at Seapoint and Blackrock'*. On Saturday August 28th the Dublin Library and Ar-

chive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, will host a Heritage Day Seminar at which the following lectures will be presented after the 13.45hrs registration. *'Ireland's First Deaf School: the Claremont Institution'* - Ms. Rachel Pollard at 14.00hrs; *'The Widows' Mite: the widows of 1916'* - Dr. Ann Mathews will talk about the fortunes and lives of the widows and dependents of the leaders of the 1916 Rising at 14.45hrs. Both these lectures will be supported by a sign language interpreter. At 15.30hrs. Dr. Mathews' new book *'Renegades - Irish Republican Women 1900 - 1922'* will be launched following the seminar. Further information on the seminar from 01-6744999. While on Sun-

day August 29th at 14.30hrs there will be an exhibition of ship and boat models and a lecture by Gary Mooney in the Poolbeg Yacht and Boat Club, Ringsend, Dublin. For details on all of the thousands of events and special attractions to be hosted during Heritage Week 2010 checkout the official website [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie)

### *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*

by John Grenham

*Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!*

[www.gillmacmillan.ie](http://www.gillmacmillan.ie)

# James Scannell Reports...

## FROM MERCIER PRESS

The Mercier Press has added two new titles. On Weds. July 21<sup>st</sup> 2010 Tony Behan, Vice-President of The Old Dublin Society, launched 'Executed for Ireland—The Patrick Moran Story' by May Moran in Kilmainham Gaol. The remarkable book tells the story of Patrick Moran who opted not to take part in a jail break as he was convinced that he would be acquitted of the charges against him only to be subsequently found guilty and executed for an incident he was not involved in. The following night, Thurs. July 22<sup>nd</sup>, Enda Connellan, CEO Dublin Port Company, launched 'Liffey Ships & Shipbuilding' by Pat Sweeney in the Dublin Port Centre. This engrossing book traces the history of shipbuilding and shipbuilders in Dublin and will appeal to anyone who has an interest in the history of Dublin.

## KILLARNEY WW1

At the Monday July 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Killarney Town Council, Co. Kerry, a leather bound book containing over 300 names of those from Killarney and the surrounding area who fought in the First World War, was presented to the town. The Town Council meeting was informed that

of the list of 308 young soldiers, 192 had died, the majority killed at Gallipoli and others at the Somme, and that the list was expected to grow as the result of on-going research when it was expected that more Killarney people would be uncovered. Relatives of the 126 who survived said that many returned home injured and carried emotional and other scars for the rest of their lives. In presenting the book to Dónal Grady, the Mayor, Noel Grimes, chairman of the war memorial committee, said that future generations must know that Killarney was not just all about tourism and that there was another part of the town not to be forgotten - its people. The project got under way following a visit in Sept. 2009 to Killarney by President Mary McAleese and the unveiling of a memorial alongside the Munster Fusiliers monument, the British army regiment, in which, generations of Kerry men enlisted, but it had remained an unspoken part the County's history.

## FOLHS & FULHS

On Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 members of the Republic's Federation of Local History Societies and Northern Ireland's Federation of Ulster Local Studies came together for a visit to Naas, Co. Kildare. The party numbering over seventy

began their visit with a civic reception in the old town hall chamber hosted by Cllr. Séamie Moore, Mayor of Naas. Local historians Paddy Behan and Liam Kenny then outlined the history of Naas at the end of which copies of *Nás na Ríogh* were presented to Bridgeen Rutherford, chairperson of the FULHS and to Fr. Dean Doherty, President of the FOLHS. The reception and book presentations were followed by a historical walking tour of the town centre led by Paddy Behan and Liam Kenny during which the party visited the North Moat, the Canal Harbour, the Courthouse, St. David's Church, and St. David's Castle. After lunch in Lawlor's Hotel, the party went on a visit to Palmerstown House, the ancestral home of Richard Southwell Bourke, 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Mayo, known locally as the 'Pickled Earl'. This term is said to have arisen after his assassination in India as his body was apparently returned back to Ireland in a barrel of rum for burial. Rita Keogh, hostess of the restored house which is now owned by businessman Jim Mansfield, gave a contemporary history of the house covering its restoration while Brian McCabe, Chairman of Kill Historical Society, outlined the history of the house, the Bourke family and the many stories associated with the family as landlords of the local community. A wonderful conclusion to the day.

## Précis of the July Lecture

On Tuesday July 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 members heard a very interesting lecture on the topic of '*Three Centuries of Irish Banking Crises*' by the Society's Director of Finance, **Tom Conlon, MGSJ**. Tom has very kindly provided the *Gazette* with the following précis of this very fine lecture as follows:

Ireland has a long tradition of banking crises before the present one. About 20 periods of major crisis in Irish banking are documented involving more than 60 banks which have ceased to exist and are long forgotten. The banking crises in living memory arise from industrial relations issues, resulting in 4 strikes which closed the banks for 45 weeks over the past 60 years. The crises of the 18th and 19th century show the full range of possible causes and outcomes. The Munster Bank crashed in 1885 after rumours and a court case undermined public confidence. Wilcox, Fade & Dawson Bank failed in 1755 after a massive embezzle-

ment by the chief cashier. Many banks failed during one or other of the economic downturns of the 18th and 19th century. When Ffrench's bank, of Dublin and Tuam failed in 1814, due to incompetence and lack of liquid funds to support its extensive note issue, almost all of the currency held in the province of Connaught became worthless overnight. The 50-year period following the establishment of the Bank of Ireland in 1873 was the most turbulent. Almost every year saw a bank failure, although some of these were small. But in May/June of 1820, about 20 local banks failed, leaving the whole of the southern half of the country without banks. The 1830's saw violence in the streets during runs on banks, but in some cases, the bank management suspected that such violence may have been instigated by local rebels pursuing a nationalist political agenda. The Tipperary Bank crash of 1856 deserves special mention. It was a massive fraud and speculation, perpetrated by the Sadlier brothers, both of whom were MPs, who had founded the bank 20 years earlier. The amounts involved in the various

Sadlier frauds, when expressed in terms of today's purchasing power may be equivalent to more than €1bn. There are family stories associated with each of these events. All of the partners in Dillon & Farrells bank absconded with their families in 1754 as did the partners in Lennox & French's bank a year later. Sir Charles French (d.1814), and John Sadlier (d 1856) both committed suicide when their banks failed. William Shaw, a wealthy merchant and politician and contemporary of Parnell was bankrupted by the failure of the Munster Bank (1885) and went into seclusion until his death. In some of these bank failures, only the shareholders lost out, but due to unlimited liability, many of these were totally ruined. In other bank failures, the banks depositors lost, and in some, like Ffrench's, the general public lost. In many cases, the scale of the losses were large, when placed in the context of a tiny and fragile Irish economy already ravaged by penal laws, crop failures, and unspeakable famines, and the resulting cost in terms of human suffering and misery was high.

*Tom Conlon*

## Membership of the Genealogical Society

In the annual review of the Membership Packages the Board agreed, under *Res: 09/11/718* to maintain the Annual Subscription for 2010 for Irish and Overseas Members at the level agreed in 2007 of €40.00 to include the following: Member voting rights; optional second household member with voting rights; Membership Card (s); right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club,

School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group projects; Members' internet forum; genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honoured until their annual renewal date. Also under *Res: 08/11/636* persons under twenty-five years can still avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. **NEW:** At the August 2010 meeting of the

Board of Directors, **Sharon Bofin, MGSJ** Director of Membership Services & Publications, has agreed to offer a 50% reduction for persons joining with six or less months due before the end of the year. This will give these Members full entitlements, however, the full rate is payable on renewal in January 2011. **Day Membership** at €5.00 is available for persons visiting the Society's Archive at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire. 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. Tom Conlon, MGSJ**, 24, Carrickbrennan Lawn, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

**IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE**

is published by the

**Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited**

11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie

Charity Reference: CHY10672

*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2010-2011**

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary); **Tom Conlon** (Finance); **Sharon Bofin** (Membership & Publications); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme); **Fiona Tipple** (Education & Social Inclusion) **Bartosz Kozłowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **John Hamrock** (National Projects) and **Pat Feenan** (Sales & Marketing).

**JOIN ON-LINE**

@

**www.familyhistory.ie/shop****DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Aug. 10th &amp; Sept. 14th 2010

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday Aug. 25th &amp; Sept. 22nd 2010

**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)

**KOREAN WAR SERVICE MEDAL & CERTIFICATE**

The Embassy of the Republic of Korea on Clyde Road, Dublin, was the setting for a June 25th presentation ceremony commemorating the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War recognising the service of Irish veterans who fought to defend the freedom of the Republic of Korea at which Ambassador Chang Yeob Kim presented Korean War service medals and certificates to Irish veterans and relatives of veterans who served during the Korean War. The ceremony marked the culmination of an effort by the Embassy of Korea to honour Irish veterans of the Korean War. Those who were presented with the Korean War Service Medal and Certificate included – Andrew Coleman – on behalf of his father John Coleman; Elizabeth Farrell – on behalf of his father Michael McSherry; Deborah Hutchinson – on behalf of her father Brendan Hutchinson; Michael Keogh Snr - on behalf of his brother Daniel Joseph Keogh; Bernard Mulhall – on behalf of his brother Christopher Mulhall; Dónal O'Connell – on behalf of his uncle Alphonsus O'Connell; Aubrey John Bunyan; John Joseph Clarke; Canon Thomas Robert Jennings; Michael Kehoe; Michael C. Kelly; Thomas William O'Keefe; John Oliver Powell; Kevin Wood and John Hawkins. Two veterans were in attendance and who will receive their medals in the coming weeks were John Taheny and Thomas McKenzie. The Korean War Veterans Association issues the Korean War Service Medal and Certificate. The Certificate is co-signed by Mr. Yang Kim, Minister for Patriots' and Veterans Affairs, and Mr. Se-Hwan Park, Chairman of the Korean Veterans Association. This medal was first authorized as the Incident Participation Medal in December 1950 to South Korean troops who had participated in the initial counter-assaults against North Korean aggression in June 1950. In 1954, the South Korean government authorized this medal, now called the Korean War Service Medal, to all U.N. troops who had fought in the Korean War between June 25th 1950 to July 27th 1953. Up to 1999 members of the U.S. armed forces were precluded from receiving or wearing this decoration until the regulations in force with regard to receiving and wearing foreign decorations were amended to allow the receipt and wearing of this decoration. In 1999 the South Korean government proposed the decoration to be reactivated and awarded retroactively awarded to all Korean and U.N. veterans who had served in the Korean War. In April 2001 the Korean War Service Medal was authorized for distribution and wear by serving members of the British Commonwealth forces including the New Zealand Defence Force.

*James Scannell***FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more***www.fourcourtpress.ie***Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***'Action on Archives'**

The Society is very grateful to Dr. Peter Crooks of TCD for the following update and some specific information on developments since the 'Archives in Crisis' symposium held on 10 April 2010. Many readers will have noticed that the National Archives issue has been receiving some attention in the press and Oireachtas [Parliament] in the past few months. Following the symposium, an 'Action on Archives' committee formed and met on 11 May 2010 under the interim Chairmanship of Professor Diarmaid Ferriter. The following persons were in attendance: Chair, Diarmaid Ferriter (Professor of Modern History, University College, Dublin); Members:- Nicholas Canny (President, Royal Irish Academy); Cecile Chemin (Chairperson, Society of Archivists: Ireland); Catriona Crowe (Chairperson, Archivists branch of IMPACT [Trade Union]); Paul Gorry (APGI: Association of Professional Genealogists Ireland); Steven Smyrl (CIGO: Council of Irish Genealogical Organizations); Eunan O'Halpin (Professor of Contemporary Irish History, Trinity College Dublin); Anne Dolan (Secretary, Irish Committee of Historical Sciences); Apologies: Dr. Raymond Refaüssé (Chairperson, Irish Society for Archives); Minutes: Dr. Peter Crooks (Deputy Director, Irish Chancery Project). At the meeting the committee asked Professor Ferriter to continue acting as Chair to represent the public interest. It was agreed that Professor Ferriter should seek a meeting with Minister Mary Hanafin in order to convey the concerns that were raised at the symposium about the future of Irish archives. This

meeting took place mid-July and the following items were discussed: (i) Concerns raised by the merger of the National Archives and National Library; (ii) Appointment of the National Archives Advisory Council; (iii) Space problems in the National Archives of Ireland; (iv) Staffing problems in the National Archives of Ireland. The 'Action on Archives' committee will meet again on Tuesday 7 September 2010 to discuss the outcome of the meeting with Minister Hanafin in detail, and to make plans for future action. **EDITOR:** As a point of clarification for readers, unlike APGI the Genealogical Society of Ireland is *not* a member of CIGO which is represented on the above 'Action on Archives' committee by its current Chairman and APGI member, Steven Smyrl. However, for details on this Society's approach to the issue of the amalgamation of the National Library, National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission see back issues of the *Gazette* on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie). Also, there is a very interesting article by Dr. Peter Crooks in the May/June 2010 issue of 'History Ireland' see [www.historyireland.com](http://www.historyireland.com)

**MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

GSI Members researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine will find the publications and meetings of the Medal Society of Ireland of interest. Find out more about those medals so cherished by the family and handed down through generations. For further information please visit the Medal Society's website at: [www.msociety.ie](http://www.msociety.ie)

**GSi BOARD NEWS**

The Board of the Society at its monthly meeting this month decided to appoint **Gerry Hayden** to the new position of Building Manager to take charge of all the non-archival functions at the new premises. Gerry Hayden took up his position when the Select Committee overseeing the equipping of the new premises was stood down. A new Select Committee was established under the direction of Gerry Hayden, as Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair), to oversee the planning of the Society's 20th Anniversary celebrations and the Official Opening of the new premises in October. Another Select Committee was established under the direction of **Tom Conlon**, Director of Finance, to examine the systems and computerisation within the Society and to report back to the Board with recommendations at its meeting of February 4th 2011. The Board agreed to the proposal by the Director of Education & Social Inclusion, **Fiona Tipple**, for the Society to participate in the Irish Archives Resource initiative. Regarding the increased opening hours of the GSI Archive, **Séamus O'Reilly**, Director of Archival Services, is to designate certain days on a trial basis for this month with a view to having, at least, three research days each week available in due course over the coming months. *General Secretary*

**CHANGE OF BUSINESS ADDRESS**

In accordance with **Res: 10/07/770** the Board has changed the principal place of business of the Society from 111, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin to the new premises at The Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire Harbour, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. This has been registered with the Companies Registration Office and an amended *Certificate of Registration* was issued pursuant to Section 4 of the *Registration of Business Names Act, 1963*. **PLEASE NOTE** that the Registered Office and Mailing Address of the Society remain UNCHANGED as 11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. *General Secretary*