

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

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(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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



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MINISTER OFFICIALLY OPENS SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES

The Minister for Tourism, Culture & Sport, Ms. Mary Hanafin, TD, officially opened the new Headquarters and Archive of the Genealogical Society of Ireland at a ceremony held at the Harbour Lodge, Dún Laoghaire on Monday November 8, 2010. The ceremony also included a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the foundation of the Society in 1990. Members and friends of the Society were joined by the Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, Cllr. Lettie McCarthy; Mr. Seán Barrett, TD; Ms. Fiona Ross, Director of the National Library of Ireland; Mr. Seán Costello, Chairperson and Board of Directors of Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company; County Councillors and the President, Vice-Presidents and Board of the Society. This was a very special day for the Society as it celebrated two important milestones in the history and development of Ireland's most active genealogical organisation. Ever since the foundation of the Society in October 1990 one of its main objectives was the establishment of a genealogical archive in Dún Laoghaire for items collected or donated by the Members and friends of the Society. A number of premises held the archival collections over the years, including the Martello Tower at Seapoint. Pádraic Ingoldsby, Cathaoirleach



of the Society explained how the Society acquired the new premises "last year, thanks to Gerry Dunne, Chief Executive of the Harbour Company and, of course, through the good offices of Cllr. Victor Boyhan, the Harbour Company decided to offer of the premises at the Carlisle Pier in May 2010 to the Society. Fully refurbished the Society began its operations at the new premises in July 2010. It's a superb location with ease of access and ample parking right in the heart of what could become the 'heritage precinct' of the Town and Harbour of Dún Laoghaire". The Society's Cathaoirleach, Pádraic Ingoldsby, noted that the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire was dubbed the 'Pier of Tears' in recognition of the possibly millions of emigrants that left our shores from this pier since 1859. He concluded by sincerely thanking and commending the Harbour Company for its decision to enhance the heritage potential of

this area by allocating the premises to the Society. He then invited the Minister to officially open the Society's new archive which is called 'An Daonchartlann' (Irish: People's Archive). The Minister then unveiled the commemorative plaque saying "I want to congratulate all involved in getting us to this proud day for genealogy in Ireland. Helping people tracing their ancestors and the wider study of genealogy is a great service in the community. The opening of the new headquarters at the Carlisle Pier provides an opportunity now to promote this area as the 'heritage precinct of Dún Laoghaire' encompassing the Maritime Museum, new County Library & Cultural Centre, the Society's Archive, the Pavilion Theatre and the Harbour itself. The tourism potential of such a precinct could be enormous and adds to the vibrant cultural and historical attractions in the area." The Minister also presented a Special 20th Anniversary Award of a Fellowship of the Genealogical Society of Ireland to Mr. John Grenham (see page 2) in recognition of his outstanding contribution to genealogical research. Finally, Mr. Seán Costello, Chairperson of the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company, thanked the Genealogical Society for co-hosting the event and wished the GSI Archives every success at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire Harbour.

Weekend Genealogy Courses

A weekend course in genealogy will be offered at the Society's Library and Archive at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, starting from Saturday, 22 January 2011. Class duration will be 2.5 hours and each programme will run for eight weeks. The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of genealogy and family history research. Topics to be covered include principles of genealogy, internet research, and how to draw up a family tree. Key records such

as church parish records, civil registrations (births, marriages, and deaths), census returns, and land records will be explored in detail. Other sources discussed will include burial records and inscriptions, newspapers, wills, trade directories and new developments in DNA testing. Class size will be restricted to six students to allow for individualised training and guidance on how to conduct and write your own family history. The GSI facility provides broadband access allowing students to conduct on-line research as part of

the programme. The cost of the course is €300 which includes one year's free student membership of the GSI. The course will be taught by John Hamrock of Ancestor Network Limited. John is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He holds a Certificate and a Diploma in Genealogy from UCD (first class honours) and is the author of *Tracing Your Roscommon Ancestors*. For more information please contact John Hamrock at 087 0505296 or at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie.

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January 2010: New President Inaugurated (New Arms) / New Criteria for Appointments / 'Call Me Maurice' - The Life and Times of Lord Fermoy (1885-1955) / National Library's Photographic Collections / Busy Year Ahead / Bray, Co. Wicklow / Wicklow 1913-1923 / GSI Lecture (Douglas Appleyard 'The Bram Stoker Family—A Typical 19th Century Protestant Family') / Oliver Smith RIP / Féil-Scribhinn Liam Mhic Alasdair / 'Travellers' Accounts as Source-Material for Irish Historians / GSI Arms Register.

February 2010: Public Consultation or Merger? / Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI (photo) / Onomasticon Goedelicum / Plantation Ireland—Settlement and Material Culture, c. 1550-c. 1700 (review) / Victoria Cross Recipient Remembered / Researching the History of Fencing in Ireland / Explore, Reflect, Connect / National Library Lectures / Sixth Local History Day / GSI Activities & Projects / The Ulster Earls and Baroque Europe (review) / GSI Board News / Annual General Meeting.

March 2010: The Flight of the Ministers / Irish-American Heritage Month / Annual Report of the GSI Board / An Overview of the GSI Board / Four Courts Press at Forty / Gravestone Sought / Photographic Exhibition / Art Collection Safe / Emmet Spring Lecture / GSI Lecture (Stuart Rosenblatt 'From Immigration to Integration of the Jewish Community in Ireland') / National Library Acquisitions / Archive News / AGM.

April 2010: Archive Crisis or Opportunity? / Pádraic Ingoldsby—new Cathaoirleach (photo) / Cathaoirleach Nua / The Viking Age—Ireland and the West—Proceedings of the Fifteenth Viking Congress (review) / Family History with Style / New Director of the National Library / Michael Cunniffe, RIP / Hyde's 150th Anniversary

sary / Abbey Theatre Actress / Red Faces at Britannica / The Emergency (1939-1946) / GSI Lecture (Prof. Risteárd Mulcahy 'The Life, Career & Times of General Richard Mulcahy, TD) / Glasnevin Cemetery / New GSI Board / Demolition of Chapel Opposed.

May 2010: New Archives Legislation Required / Chief Herald of Ireland / Ireland and the Spanish Empire 1600-1825 (review) / Skype Your Jewish Family History / 12th Medieval Dublin Symposium / Viking Necklace Found / Presbyterian Records / RMS Laurentic Cannon / UN Memorial Unveiled / ANZAC Day in Dublin / Record Price For RMS Titanic Letter / GSI Lecture (Tim Carey—'In Honour and Memory—Memorials of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown') / Russia Honours Irish Veterans / GSI Archive News / Titanic Eleven Remembered.

June 2010: 'Separate Bodies, Separate Roles' / Census Records On-Line / The Annals of the Four Masters—Irish history, kingship and society in the early seventeenth century (review) / Garda Memorial Garden Opened / Irish Government to Commemorate the Somme in 2016 / O'Connell Commemoration / Lunchtime Lecture / Bethany Kids Remembered / National Museum of Ireland / GSI Lecture (Mary Beglan, MAPGI 'On-line Sources of Irish Genealogy') / The Most Tragic Titanic Story / GSI Archive News / Lusitania 95th Anniversary.

July 2010: 'Clash of the Harps' - British Royal Visit to Ireland & Heraldry / Soccer World Cup's Irish Diaspora / The History of Irish Education 1780-1922 (review) / Chief Herald of Ireland 'Open for Business' / GSI Board News / Bolton Library in State Care / Fleishmann Remembered / Recommended Website / GSI Lecture (James McGuire 'The Dictionary of Irish Biography') / Volunteers Required / New On-Line Gazette Required? / More Records On-Line / Commercial Links & Adverts.

August 2010: Heraldry for All—Possible and Profitable

/ Mountains to Sea—dhr Book Festival / Business Archival Sources for the Local Historian (review) / Festival of World Cultures / Heritage Week Lectures / From Mercier Press / Killarney WW1 / FOLHS & FULHS / GSI Lecture (Tom Conlon 'Three Centuries of Irish Banking Crises') / Korean War Service Medal & Certificate / 'Action on Archives' / GSI Board News / Change of Business Address.

September 2010: The New History of 'Britain' / GSI at the RDS / Troubled Waters—A Social and Cultural History of Ireland's Sea Fisheries (review) / National Library Acquires Ship's Pass / From the Viking Word-Hoard (review) / Glasnevin Museum & Tours / Cottages Given to Council / Book Launch / GSI Lecture (Brian Siggins 'The Lawrence Photographic Collection') / GSI News / Mayo Ancestors / Seán Lester Remembered.

October 2010: Fiche Bliain ag Fás "Ireland's Most Active Genealogical Organisation" / Guild of One-Name Studies / The Irish Church and the Tudor Reformations (review) / GSI Archive—Twenty Years a' Collecting / 1926 Census of Ireland & Skellig Michael / Kilmainham Gaol / Viking Fortress Discovered / Medal Society Auction / GSI Lecture (Jonathan Martin 'Irish Newspaper Archives') / 'Blood in the Streets' (review) / New NLI Board / Book Launch 'Shadow of the Brotherhood—The Temple Bar Shootings' by Barry Kennerk

November 2010: Growing Access to Heritage—Recessionary Times Offer an Opportunity to Take Stock & Plan / Official Opening & 20th Anniversary / Age of Atrocity—Violence and Political Conflict in Early Modern Ireland (review) / 1926 Census—A Stimulus Package / Over 50s Show / Headstones Erected / Rank Mills / Biography of Irish Aviator / Memorial to DMP Officers / GSI Lecture (Pól Ó Duibhir—'PJ Medlar') / Census of Elderly NY Irish / 'Executed for Ireland' / Patrick Moran.

John Grenham, MAPGI, FGSI

It is widely recognised that this Society, as an international as well as a national organisation, has contributed enormously over the past twenty years to the promotion and development of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our genealogical and heraldic heritage. Its achievements stand as a worthy testament to an innovative approach to the furtherance of its founding ideals. With this in mind, to mark the occasion of the Official Opening of *An Daon-chartlann* and the Society's 20th anniversary, the Board created a Special 20th Anniversary Award of a Fellowship of the Society to recognise 'an outstanding contribution to genealogy' in Ireland. In its deliberations on a possible recipient the Board was unanimous in its praise and admiration of Mr. John Grenham whose

publication *'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'* is now regarded around the world as 'the genealogist's bible' for Irish research. Mr. Grenham is a professional genealogist, teacher, author and a weekly contributor to the *Irish Times* on genealogical research. His magnum opus *'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'* has guided thousands to achieve that very important goal and indeed, it has contributed greatly to the research endeavours of novelists, local historians and others. Therefore, on Nov. 8th 2010 at the Harbour Lodge, the headquarters of the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company, the Minister for Tourism, Culture & Sport, Ms. Mary Hanafin, TD, presented this well deserved Special Award to Mr. Grenham who was duly bestowed with a Fellowship of the Genealogical Society of Ireland.



Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

by John Grenham

Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!

www.gillmacmillan.ie

1926 Census

The publication of the *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2010* by Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú has given hope to genealogists and historians at home and overseas that, at last, the 1926 Census of Ireland might be released to the public. Notwithstanding the great boost to the promotion of Irish tourism that would most certainly accompany the release of the 1926 Census, it seems that some officials are wedded to the 100 year rule. Citing this rule to emphasise a commitment given to those who completed the 1926 Census Returns is not only misleading but entirely without a legislative basis. The 100 year rule was only introduced in 1993 in the *Statistics Act*—not before. Further-

more, it is extremely unlikely that any adult who completed the 1926 Census is alive today. Indeed, no such concern was given to the adults that were recorded in the 1901 and 1911 census returns when these were opened to the public in the 1960s. The suggestion by some about the possible redaction of details of living persons from the 1926 returns before its release to the public is impractical, likely to be extremely costly and quite frankly, nonsensical. However, as it is unlikely that the Bill will be passed before the General Election due early next year, the Society will urge the incoming Minister to adopt this measure. In the interim and in response to concerns expressed by Members, the Society is preparing a fully documented history of the 1926 Census Campaign for publication on the Society's website in the New Year.

WILL YOUR RECORDS WELL

As genealogists, heraldists and local historians we naturally amass a huge amount of paper and computer records during our many years of research. We love these records, we've worked hard to collect the information—it's of great value. Books, photographs, charts, interview notes, copy certificates, parish register and census transcripts—all lovingly collected over many years. But how many of us have made provision for the preservation of our own records, files and notes after we die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or your genealogy, heraldry & local history books be sold off piece meal after you've gone. Why not make provision in your Will to donate them to the Society's Archive for future generations?

James Scannell Reports...

DR. CHRIS LAWLOR

In November Chris Lawlor, well known local historian of the Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow area, was conferred with a doctorate from DCU in St. Patrick's College, Drumcondra, for his thesis *'The establishment and evolution of an Irish village: the case of Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow. 1600 – 1910'* which explores changes over time in a small geographical area. Dr. Lawlor has number of books to his credit including *'The Massacre on Dunlavin Green'* and *'In Search of Michael Dwyer'*, in addition to being Editor of the very successful *Journal of the West Wicklow Historical Society* and is currently modifying his thesis with a view to its publication as a book next year.

IRELAND IN TURMOIL

The *'Ireland in Turmoil – The 1641 Depositions'* exhibition will be on view in the Long Room of Trinity College Library, Dublin, until April 201 and consists of The 1641 Depositions (TCD MSS 809-841) which are eye witness statements, mainly from Protestants, concerning their experiences and treatment during the 1641 Irish Catholic rebellion. The exhibition was opened in October by President McAleese at which the attendance included Lord Bannside (the Rev. Ian Paisley), his wife, son Kyle and daughter Sharon, representatives from the National Library of Ireland and the National Gallery of Ireland, PS Raghavan, and Andrew Staunton of British Embassy and Aurelie Bonal of the French Embassy. In her address President McAleese placed the events of

October 1641 in context pointing out that at that time Ireland was powder keg waiting to explode in the wake of the Elizabethan conquest and described the rebellion intended by its instigators as a conservative coup spun out of control. She went to say that there was everything to be gained from interrogating the past calmly and coherently, in order to understand each other's passions more compressively and to help everyone transcend those baleful forces of history so that we can make a new history of good neighbourliness. In his address Lord Bannside said that our fellow countrymen and women in the 1600s knew trouble as we have, thank God, never known it and that the testimonials before us in the exhibition recall in graphic detail the losses they sustained and the crimes carried out against them. He added that these troubles were not borne by any one social class or another, or by one gender or another and that they were not limited by age or by religious belief. He pointed out that perhaps the most telling part of the material on view is that it bears witness to the scale of wrongdoing while at the same time individualising it. The 1641 Depositions contain vivid, and often harrowing, accounts of murder, assault, imprisonment, loss of goods and military activity across Ireland. The sectarian tensions in colonial Ireland that erupted in 1641 in the course of the rebellion, and the fallout that shaped the course of Irish political and social history over the following centuries are revealed through the rich collection of manuscripts, original Depositions, maps, contemporary pamphlets and printed works. The exhibition examines the alleged atrocities that occurred during the 1640's in Ireland, and their enduring place in the

memory of subsequent generations of Irish Protestants, placing them in the wider context of massacres that occurred across Europe and the Americas in the 17th century. Ireland in Turmoil marks the completion of the 1641 Depositions Project, a collaborative initiative by scholars from Trinity College, Dublin, the University of Aberdeen and the University of Cambridge, which received funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the U.K., the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. The three year project had four main objectives: to conserve, digitise, transcribe and publish the Depositions both in printed and online format. To access the website visit: <http://1641/tcd.ie/>. The Irish Manuscripts Commission (IMC), which was established in 1928, will be making available in book format the monumental work of transcription carried out by a team of specialist historians in Trinity College Dublin. The Irish Manuscripts Commission proposes to print several volumes per year of the 1641 Depositions, arranged provisionally as follows – Vol. 1 Armagh, Louth/Monaghan; Vol. 2 Antrim, Derry, Donegal, Down, Tyrone; Vol. 3 Dublin; Vol. 4 Wexford; Vol. 5 Carlow/Kilkenny, Waterford, Wicklow; Vol. 6 Tipperary, Clare/Limerick, Kerry; Vol. 7 Cork - Part 1; Vol. 8 Cork - Part 2; Vol. 9 Connacht, Westmeath/Longford; Vol. 10 Cavan, Fermanagh; Vol. 11 Queen's County, King's County; Vol. 12 Meath, Kildare. See www.irishmanuscripts.ie

EDITOR: I would like to most sincerely thank **James Scannell** for all of his wonderfully interesting articles published in this newsletter during the past year. **MM**

Précis of the November Lecture

On Tuesday November 9th 2010 members and visitors heard a fascinating lecture entitled *Irish Convict Transportation **Damnation or Salvation?*** by **Seán Solan**. Banishment of the Irish to distant penal colonies in significant numbers began in 1652, when Oliver Cromwell shipped circa 50,000 Irish people to Barbados, Jamaica and Virginia. In 1775, when the American colonies revolted, Australia became the main convict transportation destination. In 1791, the first totally Irish consignment of convicts sailed from Cork to Sydney, on board the *"Queen"*. From then until 1853, almost 40,000 were transported to New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land and Freemantle. Amongst them were Irish revolutionaries and members of the United Irishmen, Young Irelanders and the Fenians; others convicted during the widespread agrarian

unrest as members of the Defenders and the Whiteboys; and others were, what we would call, common criminals. Sentences were for life, seven, ten or fourteen years. Most transportees lost contact with Ireland. Seán's research has shown that many prospered on their eventual release in the rapidly expanding Australian colonies. Very few returned to Ireland. Many left families behind and raised new families in Australia which, of course, is always of interest to genealogists. Their descendants regard their convict ancestry as a part of their uniquely Australian heritage and many are now actively seeking connection with their Irish roots. In his talk, Seán gave examples of research he has undertaken on behalf of convict descendants in Australia. In discussing their pre and post transportation lives, he suggested that

their exile greatly improved their lot and that Ireland's loss was Australia's gain. Seán Solan has been a professional genealogist since 1996. Contact: solanresearch@gmail.com

GSILECTURES 2010/11

Tuesday December 14th 2010 *'Key Sources for the Study of Genealogy in Ireland'* by **John Hamrock**. On **Tuesday January 11th 2011**. *'Irish Gathering – Recording your Family History in real time Global Web Environment'* by **Joe Whelan**. The Society's Director of the Lecture Programme, **Seamus Moriarty, FGSI**, is currently compiling the Lecture Programme for the first six months of 2011. Details will be published next month. Suggestions for lectures are most welcome at Gazette@familyhistory.ie

New Membership Package Agreed

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 4, 2010. It was agreed under **Res: 10/11/798** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2011 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2011 includes 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 by e-mail; 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. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised

genealogy courses etc. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2011 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date. **NOTE:** In accordance with **Res: 10/09/785** all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Card for details. Membership can be renewed via the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie/shop or if you prefer, simply download the form, complete it and send it to **Mr. Tom Conlon, MGSI**, Director of Finance, 24, Carrickbrennan Lawn, Monkstown, County Dublin, Ireland. **New Members always welcome!**

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*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 & Publications); **Tom Conlon** (Finance & Web Editor); **Sharon Bofin** (Membership); **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

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

Tuesday Dec. 14th 2010 & Jan. 11th 2011

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Jan. 26th & Jan. 23rd 2011

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)

'HOLYHEAD to IRELAND'

'Holyhead to Ireland—Stena and its Welsh Heritage' by Justin P. Merrigan & Ian H. Collard, Amberley Publishing (UK) Nov. 2010 : Price Stg£17.99 : p/bk : 160pp : ISBN 9781848689589 see: www.amberleybooks.com The Port of Holyhead has a long history and is now operated by Stena Line Ports Ltd. The company took over ownership of the port from Sea Containers in 1990, which only six years previously assumed control of the harbour as part of the Sealink privatization. Ranked as the United Kingdom's third-busiest ferry port, after Dover and Portsmouth, Holyhead handled a remarkable 1.9 million passengers in 2009. The operation is an impressive one, with world class tonnage operating for both Stena Line and Irish Ferries on sailings to Dublin Bay. In addition, cruise ship traffic continues to develop and grow and, with the recent availability of the Anglesey Aluminium jetty to the largest cruise ships, the future looks bright for this new trade. In *Holyhead to Ireland*, the authors aim to place on record the heritage on which today's successful port and trade is built - the era of railway ownership, for it is without doubt that Holyhead and the Stena Line routes to Ireland of today owe their existence to the railway companies of yesteryear. And why should the railways find themselves operating ships? Simply, they saw the benefits of extending their operations beyond the buffers! Coordinating rail and sea traffic for passengers, mail and cargo, they built first-rate ships and developed state-of the-art port facilities, pushing aside the irregular and unreliable services that had been run in a rather less than perfect fashion. Ian Collard and Dún Laoghaire native and now Tasmanian resident, Justin Merrigan, tell the story of the port in words and pictures, from the establishment of a harbour to the present day, from sailing packets that took a day or more to make the short crossing to the super-fast catamarans and the Irish Sea's largest ferries of today that can make the journey in less than two hours. While this publication deals mainly with the maritime history of the ferry route and the development of the on-shore infrastructure, it's a very valuable guide for anybody thinking of writing the definitive social and cultural history of the Kingstown / Dún Laoghaire—Holyhead mail-boat and later ferry service. The yet untold story of the millions of Irish people who emigrated from the Carlisle Pier since it was opened in 1859 has seen it popularly dubbed the *'Pier of Tears'* as many, if not most, of these emigrants never set foot on their homeland again. For others, mainly the Irish in Britain, it has many bitter-sweet memories of migration.

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more***www.fourcourtpress.ie***Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***Dublin in 1707***A year in the life of the City*

'Dublin in 1707—A year in the life of the City' by **Brendan Twomey**. Published by **Four Courts Press** (2009 : ISBN: 978-1-84682-194-3 : 78pp : Price: €9.95 – Web-Price €8.95). This is *Maynooth Studies in Local History* publication No. 87, and it is a part of the latest series to be published. In this excellent book Brendan Twomey looks at events in Dublin during 1707. Initially not a lot happened that year says the author. But then when one looks the city as he does under three main headings one finds that some of the decisions taken that year still have a bearing on the Dublin of today. These included the establishment of the Ballast Office from which the present day Dublin Port Company originated, the creation of the Registry of Deeds, now part of the Property Registration Authority, where all property transaction are recorded, and Marsh's Library which has a large and unique collection of books, manuscripts and other printed material. But they were other issues in the city at that time - there was concern over migration vis-a-vis the number of Catholics who were moving into the expanding city in which 70% of the population were Protestant and of which 75% were members of the Church of Ireland. The ruling elite intermarried with each other and there were also allegations of corruption in public office with at least one inquiry carried out which found these to be true while Dublin Corporation was a self elected perpetuating body while trade guilds regulated trade and commerce to their own benefit and prevented competition from outside traders. Divided into

three sections covering 'Governing the City', 'Governing the Nation' and 'Social and Culture', this excellent book provides the reader with a fascinating look into life in Dublin three hundred years ago at time when the Williamite Wars were still in people's minds, at a time when Catholics and Dissenters [Presbyterians etc] could not own property yet had to pay tithes and taxes to the Established Church [Church of Ireland—Anglican]. This excellent publication also looks at how people lived, were entertained and the places of entertainment. It examines the medical treatments available in an era when medical practitioners could make extravagant and incorrect claims and sell untested and useless medical products. The author explores the issue of law and order at a time when thieves stood a good chance of being hanged. While military deserters could be executed or received back into their regiment depending on the whim and mood of the commanding officer. Twomey also looks at the printing trade and the material that was published and the type of news coverage single sheet broadsheet newspapers of the day provided to readers. All in all this is an excellent publication looking at Dublin and city life in 1707.

*James Scannell***MORNING MEETING**

There will be no Morning Meeting in December. The inclusion of Wednesday December 22, 2010 on the calendar of Open Meetings recently was an error. We apologise for any confusion caused by this error in the Society's calendar.

*General Secretary***GSI BOARD NEWS**

The Board conducted its annual review of the existing portfolio structure at its meeting this month and a number of significant alterations were agreed. At the request of the Director of Membership & Publications, Sharon Bofin, the publications function of the portfolio was reallocated with the operational and reporting functions being temporarily allocated to the General Secretary and any financial functions of the portfolio likewise going to the Director of Finance. The Board has also agreed to the request of the General Secretary that the editorship of the Society's Journal be delegated to two longstanding and very experienced members, George O'Reilly and Brendan Hall. Also, at the request of the Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozłowski, that portfolio has been split between the technical and web-editorial functions. The latter has been reallocated to Tom Conlon, Director of Finance, who will upload the genealogical and heraldic information to the website. The Board also accepted the fine offer of concessionary access for our Members to the wonderful resources on the Irish Newspaper Archives website www.irishnewsarchive.com This concession allows for a 50% reduction on the access packages with the exception of the daily access rate. Further information on this new concession will be published next month. In order to meet the demand for genealogy courses the Society has invited Ancestor Network Ltd. to provide Weekend Genealogy Courses at An Daonchartlann (see front page). The Board also adopted a Computer Usage Policy for the Archives.

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.msou.ie