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



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Public Consultation on Merger?

As the Irish government's plan for the amalgamation of the National Archives, National Library and the Irish Manuscripts Commission requires the introduction of new or amending legislation, an opportunity now exists for a meaningful public consultation on this plan. Professional genealogist and member of the National Library's *Genealogy & Heraldry Committee*, Paul Gorry, MAPGI, correctly highlighted the concerns of genealogists, researchers and academics in his letter of January 11th 2010 to *'The Irish Times'*. Indeed, the published responses to Mr. Gorry's letter have all been very supportive, though, one quite understandably questioned his 'interpretation' of the events which resulted in the destruction of the Public Records Office in 1922 at the start of the Civil War. However, given Mr. Gorry's membership of the NLI's *Genealogy & Heraldry Committee* over the past five years, it is surprising that he maintained 'the National Library's dismantling of the Genealogical Office (a 'branch' of the library, according to the legislation) should give some indication of the fate of the National Archives' should it be merged with the National Library. On Saturday February 6th the Irish Times columnist, Fintan O'Toole, maintained that 'while Official Ireland fiddles with legislation to



Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, (above) Vice-President of the Society and renowned authority on the archival history of the Irish Jewish community will deliver the February lecture. Stuart has produced 16 volumes of international significance documenting nearly three hundred and fifty years of Irish Jewish history.

amalgamate national repositories of priceless information, thousands of documents sit on pallets in unsuitable warehouses'. Mr. O'Toole pointed to the digitisation of the 1911 census and its availability online as 'the single most successful cultural project in the last five years in Ireland' and compared such innovation to the lamentable state of our National Archives in Bishop Street, Dublin. With no room for much of

the archival material due to be transferred under the 30 year rule, much of this material had to be retained by the government departments while over 100,000 documents are kept in a warehouse behind 'the cramped archives building'. The government's response is to move the invaluable and as yet, publicly inaccessible, Land Commission archives to a storage unit in Co. Laois and thus freeing some space at Bishop Street. Originally announced as a budgetary measure, the amalgamation of the NAI, NLI and the IMC is now looking like another fiasco as the Minister has already confirmed to Deputy Olivia Mitchell (Fine Gael) on November 19th 2008 that in the merger of these institutions 'there may not be any savings' - so why proceed? What are the merits, if any, in the government's plan for our national repositories? In the February 2009 issue of this newsletter this Society called for a meaningful public consultation process on the amalgamation of these institutions. The Minister must provide a coherent and clearly stated vision for the future of these institutions and on the government's plan, if any, for an improvement in their facilities and services. Proceeding with the merger without such would certainly amount to what Mr. Gorry described as 'cultural vandalism'.

Onomasticon Goedelicum

This year is the centenary of the publication by Fr. Edmund Hogan of an index of Gaelic names of places and tribes. Published in 1910 by Hodges Figgis of Dublin '*Onomasticon Goedelicum locorum et tribuum Hiberniae et Scotiae*' is an outstanding piece of scholarship. It is an index, with identifications, to the Gaelic names of places and tribes in Ireland and Scotland giving dates and references to the primary sources. Whether the centenary of

the publication of this immensely important work is to be marked in some way by the State remains to be seen. However, Edmund Hogan's work is receiving much attention through the *Documents of Ireland — from Original to Digital* project at University College Cork. This project is producing an online database of text, images, maps, sounds and video at <http://doi.ucc.ie/> The university's '*Locus Project*' aims to produce a new historical dic-

tionary of Irish placenames and tribal names to replace Hogan's 1910 publication which will be incorporated into the new dictionary. With the government intent on the introduction of a nationwide system of post codes, possibly with an inevitable reduction in the use of many townland names outside their immediate location, maybe this centenary of Hogan's work should remind us of the fragility of this important aspect of our national cultural heritage.

Plantation Ireland

Settlement and Material Culture, c. 1550-c. 1700

In 2009 a number of publications appeared to mark the 400th anniversary of the Plantation of Ulster which radically transformed the most Gaelic and Catholic of the four provinces into a staunchly British and predominantly Presbyterian enclave. But far from pacifying Ulster as its architects had hoped, the plantation's legacy has been one of turmoil, discrimination, sectarian conflict and war. The Ulster Plantation is probably the best known of the various plantation schemes devised for parts of Ireland. Therefore, a study of the policy and implementation of plantation schemes in Ireland is critically important with a significance beyond these shores. *'Plantation Ireland—Settlement and Material Culture, c.1550-c.1700'* edited by **James Lyttleton** and **Colin Rynne** is an interdisciplinary study published by Four Courts Press (ISBN 978-1-8462-186-8 : 304pp : Price €45.00 h/bk). This wonderfully researched volume takes a fresh look at this major subject which is of particular interest to local historians and genealogists in Ireland. In the introduction the editors outline the new approaches to the study of 'plantation-period' Ireland. This new approach brings together scholars from the fields of archaeology, history, historic geography, literary and culture studies and emanates from a 2006 conference held at University College Cork. The various essays argue that the plantations engaged with the greater cultural, economic and social processes that ultimately transformed Ireland in a series of distinct and, yet linked, 'revolutions'. The various ideological movements of the time like the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Counter-Reformation and Capitalism impacted, moulded and ultimately brought about the birth of modernity in Ire-

land. The advancement of the latter, Capitalism, or more accurately the 'market economy' was to embrace the entire population, Gaelic-Irish, Old English and the New English with an ever-increasing number of fairs and markets throughout the country. The growth of trade goods, manufactured commodities and, of course, taverns and tipping houses clearly marked the real impact of the plantations even where such, from a demographic perspective, were considered weak. In taking this interdisciplinary or indeed, multidisciplinary approach to the subject, the editors and the essayists have provided the genealogist and the local or social historian with a remarkably refreshing opportunity to fundamentally reassess this 'plantation-period' Ireland and to bring forward new local studies accordingly. The thirteen essays start with Rolf Loeber's exploration of the biblical and foreign 'signposts' to the plantation in Ireland and discusses the significance and true authorship of the early seventeenth century *'Certyn notes & observations touching the planting of colonies'* - the full text of which is published here for the first time. Raymond Gillespie's essay on 'The problems of plantations: material culture and social change in early modern Ireland' provides an insight into the concept of plantation as a means of creating a new social order and the 'highly innovative and diverse society' produced by the interaction of people, ideas and material possessions. Sharon Weadick explores the popularity of 'fortified houses' in Irish castle building history and examines the range, type and distribution of these buildings. Tadhg O'Keeffe and Sinéad Quirk examine one of the finest pre-Cromwellian seventeenth century buildings in Ireland—Ighermurragh Castle, Co.

Cork—a house at the birth of modernity. The disciplinary context of their examination is 'historical archaeology'. Audrey Horning explores the cultural role of the alehouse in the Ulster plantation and asks intriguing questions on who was gathering in these alehouses, what did they say to each other and if the native Irish were flocking into town to frequent them, who served them. Colin Breen examines 'Famine and displacement in plantation-period Munster' and urges researchers to re-examine the information base for evidence of past famine and displacement. Annaleigh Margey concentrates on the mapping of the plantation landscape of Ulster c.1560-1640 and explains the types of maps produced with some beautifully colourful examples. Harold Mytum deals with another area of considerable interest to genealogists, heraldists and local histories—the mortuary monuments of the period. James Lyttleton examines counter-reformation Offaly and the remarkable degree of evasion and compromise which characterised relations between native and newcomer at local level. Clodagh Tait continues the examination of the religiosity of the period with an essay on 'the material culture of Catholic martyrdom in Ireland'. Thomas Herron studies the poetry of Edmund Spenser from a point of view of material culture. Colin Rynne looks at the social archaeology, industrial communities and technology transfer. Toby Barnard explores the 'last stages of plantation' and looks at the fate of existing schemes. With an extensive bibliography this volume is an extremely important resource for the genealogist or local historian seeking to explore 'plantation-period' Ireland. See: www.fourcourtspress.ie **MM**

Victoria Cross Recipient Remembered

On Saturday January 2nd 2010, Deansgrange Cemetery in County Dublin was the setting for the unveiling of a headstone to a forgotten World War 1 Victoria Cross recipient - Sergeant John Edward Woodall - who died in Dún Laoghaire in 1962. He was buried in a grave in Deansgrange Cemetery with headstone. Father and son team Liam and Conor Dodd came across his name while searching records for Victoria Cross winners and discovered that he was buried in an unmarked grave in Deansgrange Cemetery. With the assistance and fund raising efforts of the *Medal Society of Ireland* and the mid Antrim branch of the Friends of the Somme Association in Northern Ireland, sufficient money was raised to design an erect a suitable headstone to him in Deansgrange Cemetery. Mr. Woodall enlisted in the Rifle Brigade during World War One and while serving as Lance-Sergeant with the 1st Battalion was the awarded the Victoria Cross for his action and bravery during an attack on the La

Bassee Canal France on April 18th 1918. The citation for his Victoria Cross stated *'For most conspicuous bravery and fine leadership during an attack, Sergeant Woodall was in command of a platoon which, during an advance, was held up by a machine-gun. One his own initiative he rushed forward and, single handedly, captured the gun and eight men. After the objective had been gained, heavy fire was encountered from a farm house some 200 yards in front. Sergeant Woodall collected ten men and, with great dash and gallantry, rushed the farm and took thirty prisoners.'* After the First World War, Woodall remained with the Army and was commissioned as 2/Lt. with one of the Service battalions of the Rifle Brigade on March 7th 1919 and retired from the Army with the rank of Captain in September 1921. Woodall rarely spoke about his First World War gallantry and moved to Sandycove in 1952 where he spent his last years. He did not attend the 1956 Victoria Cross Centenary Review but did attend

a Festival of Remembrance in Dublin in November 1956 along with three other Irish Victoria Cross holders - Adrian Carton de Wiart, John Moyney and James Duffy. He died in St. Michael's Hospital on January 2nd 1962 from burns received in a household accident. The headstone contains his name and the crests of the Rifle Brigade and the Victoria Cross. Present at the unveiling of the headstone were Liam and Conor Dodd, and members of the Mid Antrim branch of the Friends of the Somme Association, the Royal British Legion, the Connaught Rangers Association, the Royal Munster Fusiliers Association and retired members of the Irish Defence Forces. The medal entitlements of Captain Joseph Edwards Woodall - 1st Battalion The Rifle Brigade - *'The Victoria Cross'*, *'The 1914-1915 Star'*, *'The British War Medal (1914-1920)'*, *'The Victory Medal (1914-1919)'*, *'King George VI Coronation Medal (1937)'* and the *'Queen Elizabeth II Coronation Medal (1953)'*. **James Scannell**

Researching the History of Fencing in Ireland

Following on from his research into Irish-Polish relations published recently in the Society's Festschrift *'Féil-Scribhinn Liam Mhic Alasdair'* the Society's Director of Internet Services, **Bartosz Kozłowski**, MGSJ, has embarked on an ambitious research project aimed at producing a definitive History of Irish Fencing. According to the Irish Fencing Federation's website fencing has been included in the Olympic Games since their modern day inception in 1896 and the sport came to Ireland ten years later in 1906 when the Irish Fencing Club was founded in Dublin. This Club folded in 1917 but was resurrected following a meeting in the Grosvenor Hotel in Dublin on November 7th 1933. The meeting decided to seek recognition from both the Irish and British authorities. This was followed in 1934 by the Cork Fencing Club, renamed Club Palestrina in 1943, and the British Legion Fencing Club in 1935. Clubs were also established in

Blackrock College, Dublin University (1936, revived in 1940), Kilkenny (1942), Limerick Fencing Club (1944), Shannon Fencing Club (1947), Cork County (1952) and Clonmel (1954). Three years after the foundation of the Irish Fencing Club the Irish Amateur Fencing Federation (IAFF) was established in 1936 as the governing body of the sport in Ireland. This was the year that the Olympic Games were held in Berlin, but because of disagreement between the Irish Amateur Athletic Association and the International Amateur Athletics Federation, there was no Irish team at Hitler's Olympic Games in 1936. In January 2008 the IAFF changed its name to the Irish Fencing Federation (IFF). The IFF is affiliated to the Federation Internationale d'Escrime (FIE), the European Fencing Confederation (EFC), the European Veterans Fencing Committee (EVFC) and the Olympic Council of Ireland, and is recognised by the Irish Sports Council.

So with just over a hundred years in existence in Ireland as an organised sport, fencing has always been very much a minority and possibly, elitist sport in Ireland. Maybe for this reason it has not attracted the attention of sports or cultural historians. Bartosz is a keen fencer who developed his love for the sport in his native Kraków in southern Poland where it is far from a minority sport and indeed, included in the sports activities of many second level colleges. A definitive history of the sport and persons associated with the development of the sport in Ireland would not only be a sporting history, but also a social history dealing with lives and times of sportsmen and sportswomen whose achievements are little known outside the sport itself. Bartosz would welcome any comments or suggestions on his research into the history of Irish fencing. Bartosz can be contacted by e-mail at b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com

James Scannell Reports...

EXPLORE, REFLECT, CONNECT

This is the title of an exhibition which opened during January in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. It provides the visitor with the unique opportunity to view representative selections of the items held by the Library. The Library has the world's largest and most comprehensive collection of Irish documentary material which runs to nearly 8 million items covering maps, prints, drawings, manuscripts, photographs, books, newspapers and periodicals. Included in the items on view are rare manuscripts such as the *Book of Maguaran* which dates back to the Middle Ages and a deed signed by Sir Walter Raleigh. There are such curiosities as a 1795 lottery ticket and more modern items such as cigarette cards from the 1930's illustrated by Jack B. Yeates. Last year (2009) was the bi-centenary of the Bogs Commission which is celebrated by the Library by focusing on the achievements of the 18th century and early 19th century pioneers who managed to produce large and very detailed maps of Ireland's bogs prior to the advent of the Ordnance Survey. The effort to survey the bogs was spurred by the need to see if it was feasible to grow crops such as corn or hemp on Ireland's

bogs at time when the British Government was fighting the Napoleonic wars and sustaining economic shortages. This exhibition makes extensive use of digital media with special feature including a series of screened talks by the Library's curators in which they describe the significance or importance of certain exhibition items. One of the most popular features is an interactive table using Microsoft Silverlight technology which enables the visitor to zoom in on images of objects from the collections which can be seen in amazing detail. With images tagged in such a way that if the visitor finds an item they are particularly interested in, the technology automatically them to other similar items likely to be of interest.

NATIONAL LIBRARY LECTURES

This series of lectures is dedicated to the memory of William Elliott Mackey (1924-1996), a former librarian in Trinity College, Dublin. The first lecture takes place on Wednesday February 10th at 5.30p.m. in the Seminar Room of the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, on '*Medicine and the State: the Poor Law medical service*' and will be given by Dr. Laurence Geary, Senior Lecturer in History,

University College Dublin. Admission free - no booking required. Further information available at www.edwardworthlibrary.ie.

SIXTH LOCAL HISTORY DAY

The Dublin and Irish Local Studies Collection is organizing its sixth Local History Society Day to be held in the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144, Pearse Street, Dublin 2, on Saturday April 17th 2010. The aim of the event is to highlight the work done by the Local History and Heritage Societies in the study of Dublin and its environs and will provide an opportunity for society members from many different areas to exchange information and ideas and, of course, to network with fellow local historians. The day will consist of short presentations by representatives from the local history societies on specific topics and be followed by a general discussion. Three or four presentations will be held on this date and those speakers who cannot be facilitated will be invited to speak at the next Local History Society Day. Closing date for applications is April 1st 2010 and further information is available from Dr. Máire Kennedy or Hugh Comerford on dublinstudies@dublincity.ie.

GSI Activities & Projects

The Board of the Society has just adopted a comprehensive blueprint upon which it hopes to organise a number of new activities for our Members. Up to now the main participatory activities included the recording of memorial inscriptions, cataloguing of the archival collections, contributing articles for the GSI Journal and attending the Open Meetings. The Society's new policy on volunteerism and its new *Outreach Programme* offer many opportunities to expand our existing activities and to develop entirely new and exciting activities and research options. The individual Directors will be expected to develop programmes in their own areas of responsibility aimed at encouraging more Members to get involved at various levels in the Society. The blueprint involves new initiatives on archival acquisitions, group projects, a newly structured publication programme, proactive alliances with educational institutions, establishment of 'specialist' groups within the Society, designation of 'official' repositories

for the Society's publications overseas and the expansion of the Society's national projects programme. The development of strategic alliances with similar organisations overseas dealing with heraldry or vexillology, for example, will greatly assist the Society in its promotion of these subjects. Recently, as part of the *Outreach Programme*, **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI presented a near complete collection of the Society's publications to **Mr. Michael Condren**, Principal of Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, for the college library. This college provides courses which involve the study of genealogy and local history. It is expected that further third level colleges will be considered for such a donation of publications. Members will be encouraged to participate in the organisation and delivery of the *Outreach Programme* and its various activities. The new Board to be elected at the AGM will be expected to bring forward implementation plans covering the activities mentioned above.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

As the meeting of Tues. Jan. 12, 2010 was cancelled due to the adverse weather conditions, the lecture by Tim Carey, Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council - '*In Honour and Memory - Memorials of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown*' will be rescheduled. The lectures for the following months are: **Tues. Feb. 9** - Stuart Rosenblatt, Vice-Pres., GSI - '*From Immigration to Integration of the Jewish Community in Ireland*'. **Tues. March 9** - Risteard Mulcahy - '*The life of Dick Mulcahy*'. **Tues. April 13** - Adam Byrne - '*Dún Laoghaire Public Library as a resource for the genealogist*'. **Tues. May 11** - Mary Beglan - '*On-Line Sources of Irish Genealogy*'. **Tues. June 8** - James McGuire - '*The Dictionary of Irish Biography*'. Any suggestions on the Society lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty**, MGSI by e-mail on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

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. 1st 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. 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, Co. 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 Kozłowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (National Projects)

JOIN ON-LINE

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

Tuesday Feb. 9th & Mar. 9th 2010

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Feb. 24th & Mar. 24th 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)

The Ulster Earls and Baroque Europe

Mainland Europe of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries received successive waves of Irish vagrants, mercenaries and merchants, dispossessed nobility and, of course, religious exiles. The culmination of the various commemorative events marking, not only the 400th anniversary of the 'Flight of the Earls', but also of the foundation of St. Anthony's Franciscan College in Leuven in Flanders, was a conference held in Rome entitled 'Awakening Irish identities: the Ulster earls in baroque Europe' hosted by the Irish College in October 2007. *'The Ulster Earls and Baroque Europe'* edited by **Thomas O'Connor** and **Mary Anne Lyons** and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN 978-1-84682-185-1 : 424pp : Price €55.00 h/bk) is a collection of essays emanating from that conference. The collection is divided into five parts dealing with 'the labyrinth of baroque politics', 'making the Irish Catholic', 'Ireland and the baroque imagination', 'self preservation and refashioning' and interestingly, concluding with 'commemorating history and the history of commemoration'. Though the term 'baroque' is used here to describe Europe at the time it is rightly contested, sometimes in favour of the term 'confessional' Europe as being more accurate politically, culturally, intellectually and importantly, geographically. The eighteen essays commence with this point being discussed by James Bergin as he examines the Europe the earls encountered. Hiram Morgan deals with the policy and propaganda surrounding Hugh O'Neill's connection with Europe. David Edwards outlines the political state of Ulster just prior to the departure of the earls. Colm Lennon explores the murky world of British-Spanish diplomacy at a time of a 'fragile international peace' where the earls could expect no overt assistance from Spain. Steve Murdoch examines the much neglected subject of Irish soldiers in seventeenth century Scandinavia. Peter Lombard explores the political intrigue 'at the grand theatre of European politics' - Rome, 1598-1612. L.W.B. Brockliss details the creation of a network of Irish colleges and a comparable network of English and Scottish seminaries across Europe. Raymond Gillespie explores the 'contrasting communities' of Irish across Europe and questions the widely held view that the 'ethnic origins' of the inhabitants of the various colleges underpinned different reactions to baroque Europe. Hedvika Kucharova and Jan Parez trace the Irish military and religious presence in Prague and examine literary works in the humanities and theology by Irish émigrés in Bohemia. Ana Castro Santamaría and Nieves Rupérez Almajano examine the Irish college at Salamanca and others in Iberia. Fr. Mícheál Mac Craith explores the concept of 'self-fashioning' by the Irish in relation to Tadhg Ó Cianáin's narrative. Peter Stoll examines an intriguing Irish legend in a south German abbey church. Florian Krobb discusses the Irish character. Col. Walter Butler, in Friedrich Schiller's 1799 trilogy 'Wallenstein'. Gráinne Mc Laughlin provides an insight into the high level of literacy in Latin amongst the Irish Catholic elites. Jason Harris deals with the 'Scotic debate' on whether 'Scotia' referred to Ireland or Scotland. Richard Adam Marks explores the 'Scottish flight of the earls' and the Scots in Italy during the thirty years war. Ruairí Ó hUiginn explores the wealth of Irish literature in Spanish Flanders. Ciarán Brady's concluding essay on commemorating 'the flight of the earls' in contemporary and historical contexts is a very relevant and interesting critical assessment of the urge to commemorate and its inevitable pitfalls. **MM**

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**GSI Board News**

At the Board meeting this month, **Bartosz Kozłowski**, **MGSI**, Director of Internet Services, launched the new design of the Society's website. The website was revamped following calls from members at home and abroad for a greater degree of 'interactivity' on the website. With the new Members' Forum it will be possible for Members to exchange ideas and to share research information and tips. However, as reported last month, Bartosz is still seeking copies of photographs of any meetings, projects or other events hosted by the Society e-mail him at b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com Another issue discussed at the February meeting was the very successful launch of a work experience programme for five students attending the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education. This programme was the brainchild of one of the students, **Gerard 'Josh' O'Connor**, who approached the Society and his tutor, **Brian Smith**, on the possibility afforded by the Society's Archive to facilitate such 'in-house' training opportunities. The Society's growing archival collections which are housed temporarily at 111, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire, are being fully catalogued with work continuing on the manuscript collection in particular. Indeed, when the work experience programme ends on Friday 12th February, the Director of Archive Services, **Séamus O'Reilly**, **FGSI** will be seeking more volunteers to complete the cataloguing so, if you're interested, contact Séamus on jsoreilly@eircom.net The Society's Archive is open to Members on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 10.30hrs to 16.00hrs. At the January meeting of the Board of Directors two sizeable draft policy documents prepared by the General Secretary were carefully considered and after some slight amendments were duly adopted. The policy on 'Nomenclature & Protocol' (Res: 10/01/733) is mainly a 'housekeeping' document aimed at streamlining and coordinating procedures within the Board itself. The policy on 'Volunteering & Gender Equality / Representation' (Res: 10/01/734) is a substantial document examining the participation of

Members in the governance and activities of the Society and in particular, the participation in the governance of the Society by our female Members who make up circa 50% of our total membership. Detailed comparisons were made with similar organisations which broadly confirmed the findings for our own Society. The Board is determined to examine its operations and structures to address the apparent gender balance issues in the governance of the Society. The policy document suggested circa seventeen positive actions that could form the basis of an initiative to encourage volunteerism and participation at all levels within the Society. As this situation had been highlighted and championed many times over the years by the Society's co-founder and first Cathaoirleach, **Frieda Carroll**, **FGSI**, it was decided to name this new initiative in her honour as 'The Carroll Initiative'. To complete its consideration of policy matters, the Board adopted the Society's 'Outreach Programme 2010-2015' policy document (Res: 10/02/741) at its February meeting. This is another substantial document prepared by the General Secretary to harness the resources of the Society including our personnel with skills and expertise, our group activities and publications, our growing archival collections and our newly designed website and, often overlooked, our solid track record spanning twenty years of development and innovation in the fields of genealogy and heraldry. The Board agreed that these are the very tangible resources upon which to formulate and implement a sustainable *Outreach Programme*. The policy document suggested twenty areas which are to be considered by the portfolio holders (individual Directors) and recognises that 'underpinning the successful implementation of the *Outreach Programme* is the need to draw on the potential afforded by the collective and individual expertise, knowledge and creativity of the portfolio holders. It is envisaged that the *Outreach Programme* will strengthen and enhance the role of individual portfolio holders on the Board and hopefully, encourage others to come forward and participate in a much more varied and exciting governance of the Society.' News on the implementation plans to be formulated by the portfolio holders will be published when available. Please note the date of the Annual General Meeting.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given to all Members of the Genealogical Society of Ireland that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday March 9th 2010** at 20.00hrs in Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The Annual Report of the Board and the Annual Financial Report will be delivered at the AGM. Also Members will be elected to serve as Directors for 2010/11. Only fully paid up Members are entitled to vote. *General Secretary*

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 on the Society visit its website at: www.msou.ie

**Los descendientes del Dresden**

Buscamos descendientes de los inmigrantes que Febrero de 1889, para que nos cuateen su historia.

We are looking for descendants of the immigrants that came in the SS Dresden to Buenos Aires in February 1889, to tell their story.

Contacto: Juan Pablo Alvarez
e-mail: descendientedresden@yahoo.com.ar
web site <http://descendientedresden.blogspot.com>