

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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CONTENTS

The History of Irish Education 1780-1922	2
Chief Herald of Ireland 'Open for Business'	2
GSI Board News	2
James Scannell Reports..	3
GSI Lecture Programme Membership of the GSI	3
New On-Line Gazette Required?	4
Diary Dates More Records On-Line	4

'CLASH OF THE HARPS'

British Royal Visit to Ireland & Heraldry

With the possibility of a State Visit to the Republic next year by the UK's Queen Elizabeth, it appears that a very warm 'Céad Míle Fáilte' will be extended to Her Majesty. However, Mr. Charles Kidd, certainly raised eyebrows and possibly howls of laughter around Irish breakfast tables when he spoke on RTÉ Radio's Morning Ireland programme (25.06.10) of the correct royal etiquette that should be observed during the visit. No doubt listeners to this popular radio programme were relieved to hear that 'the sweeping bows of history are gone' but for gentlemen a 'nod from the neck' and for ladies a 'bob' or curtsy was the correct way to greet Britain's monarch. Evidently the editor of Debrett's believes that royal etiquette, no matter how anachronistic, travels with the monarch when visiting foreign countries and should be observed by others. No doubt then, when King Bumibol Adulyadej of Thailand paid a State Visit to the UK in 1960 and indeed, when Japan's Emperor Akihito did likewise in 1998, British officials greeted the latter with a bow from the waist and approached the former on their knees during those State Visits. Surely Mr. Kidd is aware that neither bowing nor curtsying are appropriate for citizens of repub-

lics like Ireland or the United States. Not content with having the citizens of our Republic bowing and curtsying, Mr. Kidd advised us against firm handshakes with the queen and, recalling the 'transgression' by US First Lady Michelle Obama, warned us off touching the royal personage. Reminiscent of the hullabaloo in 1992 caused by the then Australian Prime Minister, Paul Keating, putting his arm around the queen. Well Mr. Kidd needn't worry as most Irish citizens fully appreciate the historic and political significance of the State Visit to Ireland. It was Queen Elizabeth's grandfather, George V, who was the last British monarch to visit Dublin in July 1911. Her own father, George VI, in 1949 became the last British 'King of Ireland' when the twenty-six counties of the Republic were declared to be 'no longer a part of His Majesty's dominions' in accordance with the UK's *Ireland Act, 1949*. This was the British government's response to the Irish government's 'Declaration of the Republic' and Ireland leaving the British Commonwealth in April 1949. The British monarchs were already deprived of any domestic function in Ireland thirteen years previously when De Valera took the opportunity of the abdication of Edward VIII, over his wish to marry Mrs. Simpson, to amend the constitution. Indeed, opinion is still divided over whether

the *External Relations Act* of 1936 was actually necessary to give effect to the succession of George VI in the Irish Free State given that the 1542 Act 'that the King of England, his Heirs and Successors, be Kings of Ireland' was already on the Irish Statute Book and only repealed in 1962. The 1542 Act made Henry VIII 'King of Ireland' and he duly adopted the heraldic symbol of his new realm—*azure a harp or stringed argent*—and included this on the Royal Arms. The British Royal Arms still retain the blue shield with the golden harp symbolising Ireland as part of the realm despite the declaration in the UK's *Ireland Act* of 1949. In 1945 the Irish adopted the golden harp on a blue shield as the *Arms of Ireland*. These Arms are used by the State and by the President of Ireland. The UK Royal Arms were altered to reflect the political realities in 1801 to remove the *Arms of France* and in 1837 to remove those of the Kingdom of Hanover. As flags and symbols have always been controversial in our shared history, therefore, if this upcoming State Visit is supposed to represent a 'maturing' of the relationship between the UK and Ireland, then is it too much to expect that this growing friendship and mutual respect be reflected heraldically by the UK?

Soccer World Cup's Irish Diaspora

Whatever about State Visits cementing new friendships between old foes, FIFA president Sepp Blatter certainly united England and Republic of Ireland soccer fans around the world. Both sets of goal-line video technology. The disallowance of a perfectly good goal scored by England's Frank Lampard in their vitally important World Cup match against Ger-

many stunned fans everywhere. In Ireland it brought back bitter memories of the double hand-ball in the goal mouth by Frenchman Thierry Henry that robbed Ireland of her World Cup place. A belated apology by Blatter and a half-hearted promise to 'reconsider' technology may not satisfy England or Rep. of Ireland fans but it's a start. Genealogists and especially, One-Namers, no doubt enjoyed seeing the many players of Irish extraction playing for England, USA, New Zealand and Australia and other countries in the

qualifying stages. According to media reports, the Irish government is due to announce plans to introduce a 'certificate of Irish heritage' for up to seventy million people of Irish descent around the world who do not qualify for Irish citizenship. Maybe sport, especially soccer, could provide a real celebration of this ancestral heritage through the organisation of a biannual match between the national squad and one drawn from the Irish Diaspora—a feast of great football steeped in heritage!

The History of Irish Education 1780-1922

'*A Guide to Sources for the History of Irish Education 1780-1922*' by Susan M. Parkes (ISBN: 978-1-84682-128-8 : 208pp : Price €45.00 h/bk: €22.50 p/bk) and published by Four Courts Press is an introductory guide for students and researchers. As genealogists we tend to look at the history of Irish education from the point of view of finding more information on ancestors who attended various establishments as either students or teachers. Local historians, on the other hand, have tended to concentrate on the architectural heritage and on the lives of the more famous persons or groups connected with Irish education in their localities. The history of Irish education is deserving of a much wider and deeper enquiry by genealogists and local historians not only because Ireland has a long tradition of formal education, but because of the importance placed on education by our ancestors. Many people think of Irish education in terms of the establishment of national primary education in 1831, the intermediate public examination system from 1878 or indeed, from the state funded universities founded in 1845. This may well represent the main developments in the 19th century, but it ignores the earlier privately or publicly funded institutions that provided education at various levels to sections of the population in the 18th and early 19th centuries. But, as the author rightly reminds us, there's an older story of Irish education stretching back through the hedge schools to the monastic schools of the Middle Ages and the earlier bardic schools. The history and development of the state funded educational initiatives of the 19th century is well documented and therefore, present few problems for the researcher. The other providers of education, voluntary schools and the churches, documented their work in parish and diocesan records, in the

archives of schools and the annals of the teaching religious orders. It wasn't until the early part of the 20th century that the long running struggle between the churches and the state for the control of Irish education was finally brought to a conclusion by a compromise or partnership whereby the state provided most of the finance for public education including teachers' salaries, while the ownership, management and administration of education institutions remained in the control of the voluntary bodies including the churches. State involvement in Irish education dates from the 16th century with the enactment of legislation in 1570 aimed at providing a system of diocesan schools offering a classical grammar school education for the sons of the middle ranks in society and, of course, with the establishment of Trinity College Dublin in 1592. The main objective of these establishments was to encourage the spread of the English language and culture and the reformed Protestant religion which came to Ireland in 1537. Education became a major factor in the religious tensions and conflicts of the 17th and 18th centuries, a bitter battle ensued for the hearts, minds and souls of the population where education was seen as both a weapon and a means to an end. The book is comprised of three parts, the first dealing with the history, organisation and administration of Irish education during the period 1750 to the early 1920s. The second section surveys the main archival repositories, both public and private, where education records are held and assesses the value and importance of these records. The final part intriguingly offers a sample local study bringing together the various resources available to the researcher. Chapter 1 brings the reader through this fascinating history of Irish education by examining the various surveys, initiatives and organisations involved in

the delivery of educational services. For example, the report of the Irish education inquiry of 1825 recommended that a system of national education in which Catholic and Protestant pupils would be educated together for secular instruction, but separately for religious instruction. This report paves the way for the setting up of a national schools system in October 1831. By 1833 there were 789 national schools in operation and by 1840 the number had risen to 1,978 and by 1900 there were over 8,000 national schools throughout the country and the illiteracy rate decreased dramatically from 53% in 1841 to just 14% at the turn of the century. To meet the growing need for teachers the Marlborough Street Training College was established in Dublin in 1838 and offered a short, six-month training course for teachers, in addition district model schools offered pupil teacher apprenticeships. Chapter 2 explores the primary sources for the history of Irish education from the printed guides to the manuscript sources in our national repositories and, of course, the archival collections of universities, local authorities and other institutions. Chapter 3 is essentially the textbook part of this publication and it is undoubtedly of immense importance to those wishing to research the history of Irish education or aspects thereof. In this chapter, Susan Parkes, offers some case studies and in doing so, shows how the various resources can be brought together in a coherent narrative as would meet the needs of the genealogist and local historian. With copious footnotes, references and the select bibliography the author has provided the student and researcher of the history of Irish education with the wonderful guide to the available sources and in doing so, she has opened up a world of possibilities for the genealogist and the local historian. *MM*

Chief Herald of Ireland 'Open for Business'

The 'office' of the Chief Herald of Ireland is now, once again, accepting applications for Grants of Arms following the appointment of Ms. Colette O'Flaherty as Chief Herald. Normal business at the 'office' was suspended following the retirement of Mr. Fergus Gillespie in November 2009. Whilst, once again, wishing Ms. O'Flaherty every success in her new role, nobody should be in any doubt that an enormous amount of work is required to provide an effective break with its unfortunate past. This past, once described by the Chairman of the Board of the National Library of Ireland as a 'shambles' centred around the 'bogus chiefs' affair. However, allegations that purchased or questionable titles such as '*Lords of the Manor*' or '*Feudal Baronetcies*' were included on Let-

ters Patent granting Arms, allegedly sometimes with trappings of nobility such as coronets or supporters, must be investigated. The 'office' was operating without any legislative basis from 1943 and performing functions and duties for which it had no legal authority until the Irish government was forced to concede this issue in October 2007. This followed an eight month suspension of the State's heraldic services on foot of the issues raised by the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006*. Finally, the Attorney General advised that the State's heraldic services were lawfully performed from May 2005 with the enactment of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* at that time. To ensure a clean break with the past Ms. O'Flaherty should immediately instigate a complete audit of the

files dealing with the 'bogus chiefs' and others identified as being possibly without genealogical or heraldic integrity. Questionable grants should be suspended pending the production of further specified information. In addition, in order to regularise the pre-May 2005 grants that a '*Supplementary Register*' should be established wherein the details of each grant made before May 2005 and found to be in order could be recorded 'de novo' and a certificate of such should be issued. This procedure should be designed so as to place grants made by the Chief Heralds since 1943 on the same legal basis as those made under the 1997 Act. The effective operation of this procedure should allow the 'office' to start afresh under its highly respected new Chief Herald Colette O'Flaherty.

GSI Board News

The Board of the Society at its monthly meeting this month decided to introduce a new category of membership to facilitate the use of the Society's archival collections by visiting researchers. The initial cost for this 'Day Membership' is a nominal €5.00 per visit for the duration of the opening time of the Archive on that day. Naturally there are a number of restrictions on this type of membership which are designed to protect and strengthen the rights and privileges of ordinary members. At the same meeting the Society's Director of Education & Social Inclusion, Fiona Tiplle, presented draft proposals for a survey of our female members in respect of the Society's services and structures. The Board appreciated that family commitments and the times of the Society's meetings, amongst other matters, have sometimes created unintended difficulties for our female members. The survey

will, it is hoped, will provide a framework for the future planning of membership services and the Society's activities. Fiona is in charge of the '*Carroll Initiative*' aimed at increasing the participation of our female members at all levels within the Society. This initiative is named in honour of our co-founder and first Cathaoirleach, Frieda Carroll, FGSI, who always championed this extremely important issue. This Society takes the issue of gender equality and social inclusion very seriously. The Society's Director of Finance, Tom Conlon, turned movie produced just before the July Board meeting as he shot a short video '*Meet the Board*' which will be uploaded to the GSI website. The Director of National Projects, John Hamrock, outlined the many outside initiatives in which the Society is currently involved and indeed, the likely expansion of these activities. The Director of Membership Services & Publications, Sharon Bofin, and members Aiden Feerick and Clare Touhy, represented the Society at the Irish Chancery Project Workshop held at TDC on June 29th 2010. Whilst, John

Hamrock and others attended the information seminar on the new web portal for Irish Archival Collections on June 25th 2009 in the Dublin City Archive & Library. In order to provide for the effective management of the new premises the Board has established a new position of Building Manager to take charge of all the non-archival functions at the new premises. Gerry Hayden who is expected to be appointed as the Building Manager will take up his position when the Select Committee currently overseeing the equipping of the new premises is stood down possibly at the August Board meeting. The Board was saddened to learn of the death of Mrs. Amy Boyhan (née Glynn) on June 17, 2010 in her ninetieth year. Her son Cllr. Victor Boyhan of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company has been extremely helpful to the Society in obtaining its new premises. The Board extends its sincere condolences to Victor and his family. Leas-Chathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden, represented the Society at Mrs. Boyhan's funeral in Narraghmore, Co. Kildare.

James Scannell Reports...

BOLTON LIBRARY IN STATE CARE

A collection of rare books held by the Bolton Library in Cashel, Co. Tipperary, originally established by 18th century Church of Ireland bishop Theophilus Bolton, comprising 11,000 antiquarian European books, maps and pamphlets, including works by Dante and Machiavelli, has been taken into State care by the Office of Public Works. The collection of books housed in the Chapter House of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist and St. Patrick's Church, traditionally had been looked after by local clergy but despite its nearness to the Rock of Cashel, the existence of the library was little known and did not attract a lot of visitors. Mr. Martin Mansergh, T.D., Minister for State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, said that a new visitor facility would be established at the library which would then form part of the Rock of Cashel complex. He hoped that the extra visitor centre would add to the ability of Cashel to cater for increased numbers of visitors and act as a signpost to the various other attractions located within it. The visitor facility will be managed jointly by the Library of the University of Limerick and the Office of Public Works with the current building being acquired by the State on a long-term lease from

the Church of Ireland Representative Body. The collection of books will remain on site but in time ownership will be lodged with Marsh's Library in Dublin. An advisory body consisting of representatives from the Office of Public Works, the Church of Ireland, University of Limerick and interested parties will be established to utilise their expertise in the management of the library. Dr. Mansergh has acknowledged the great care and custodianship taken of the library by successive Deans and Bishops and also the financial support provided by the late Tony Ryan, founder of the Ryanair, who died in 2007. Dr. Philip Knowles, Dean of Cashel, who has acted as the library's voluntary curator welcomed this development as very good news.

FLEISHMANN REMEMBERED

On April 13th 2010 a special performance by three harpists and three fiddle players took place in Cork City's Crawford Gallery to mark the centenary of the birth of Professor Aloys Fleischmann, composer, musicologist, teacher and founder of the Cork Symphony Orchestra. The musicians played music from Professor Fleischmann's monumental work *'The Sources of Irish Traditional Music'* while his contribu-

tion to ballet was marked by performance from ballerina Guzel Atymtayeva. The ceremony was one of a hundred held globally to mark the birth of the German born professor which included fifty concerts, ten exhibitions, ten public lectures and a Fleischmann Week in Dachau near Munich where Fleischmann was born in 1910 to Irish based German parents. Professor Fleischmann's contribution to the cultural and music life of Cork was recognized when he was awarded the Freedom of Cork in 1978. Professor Fleischmann died on July 21st 1992. Earlier in the year speaking at the launch of a booklet *'The Fleischmanns: A Remarkable Cork Family'* published by Cork City Library, historian Professor John A. Murphy recalled how Professor Fleischmann and his family had played a part not only in the musical life of Cork but also in the growing cultural nationalism that blossomed in the city in the first half of the 20th century.

Recommended Website

'London Lives 1690 to 1800 – Crime, Poverty and Social Policy in the Metropolis' - a fully searchable website of 240,000 manuscripts from eight archives and fifteen datasets, giving access to 3.35 million names is well worth a visit for anyone with London connections. Check out: <http://www.londonlives.org/>

GSI Lecture Programme

JUNE LECTURE

On Tuesday June 8th 2010, the Society heard a very interesting talk by **James McGuire** on the compilation and production of *'The Dictionary of Irish Biography'*. Nobody thought that when James Maguire last spoke to the Society on this project some years ago that it would end up covering the lives 9,700 individuals compiled by 700 contributors in over 8 million words and covering over 2000 years of our history. It's almost mind-boggling the amount of hours of research required for this wonderful *Dictionary of Irish Biography from the earliest times to the year 2002*, edited by James McGuire and James Quinn, which was published on 18 November 2009 by Cambridge University Press. Available in hardcopy in nine volumes and on-line at <http://dib.cambridge.org/> The Dictionary was devised, researched, written and edited under the auspices of the Royal Irish Academy's 'Dictionary of

Irish Biography Project' which was a collaborative project between the RIA and the world renowned Cambridge University Press. In this captivating lecture James Maguire highlighted the potential of this enormously valuable project for genealogists and indeed, produced the biography of the scribe, genealogist and 'professor' of Irish at Trinity College Dublin, Charles Lynegar or Cormac Ó Luinín (fl. 1708-1731), as an example of the wealth of information available. With 9,014 articles the Dictionary is the indispensable reference work for Ireland. It includes the lives of Irish people who made a significant contribution in Ireland and abroad, as well as those born overseas who had noteworthy careers in Ireland. The Dictionary will put their lives into every major library in the world. It is an educational resource of huge potential and will be widely consulted by the genealogist, historian and, of course, the general reader interested in Ireland's past or in biography. A very lively Q&A followed this wonderful lecture.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. July 13th *'Three Centuries of Irish Banking Crises'* by Tom Conlon, MGSI; **Tues. August 10th** *'The Lawrence Photographic Collection in the National Library of Ireland'* by Brian Siggins; **Tues. September 14th** *'Irish Newspaper Archives as a Resource for the Genealogist'* by Philip Martin; **Tues. October 12th** *'The Medlar's Gotcha – the story of a Dublin family'* by Pól Ó Duibhir; **Tues. November 9th** *'Irish Convict Transportation – Damnation or Salvation?'* by Seán Solan; **Tues. December 14th** *'1916 to 1921 Casualties'* by Dáithí Ó Corráin. The Director of the Lecture Programme can be contacted via Gazette@familyhistory.ie

VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

The Director of Cemetery Projects, **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI is seeking volunteers to record the memorial inscriptions in Clontarf Castle graveyard which is located at the terminus of the No. 130 bus. Barry has arranged to undertake this project on **Tuesday July 20th at 10.30hrs.** Volunteers are asked to contact Barry at e-mail btoc@esatclear.ie or to meet him there.

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. Tom Conlon, MGSI**, 24, Carrickbrennan Lawn, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

by **John Grenham**

Highly recommended by this Society for **EVERYBODY** researching Irish family history at home or overseas.
Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!

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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 July 13th & Aug. 10th 2010

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday July 28th & Aug. 25th 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)

New On-Line Gazette Required?

This Society has been producing a monthly newsletter since 1991 and indeed, between 1993 and 1996, two newsletters each month—one for the Morning Meeting and the other for the Evening Meeting. In 1996 at the suggestion of Jack Sweeney 'The Genie Gazette' was established as the Society's monthly newsletter. Originally a single double-sided sheet, it expanded in 1999 to a four page format (A3 folded). After publishing ten volumes of 'The Genie Gazette' it was agreed in 2005 to revamp the newsletter and to give it a new title 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' to incorporate 'The Genie Gazette'. This new title was suggested by Pádraic Ingoldsby and endorsed by the members. Readership levels for the Society's monthly newsletter increased dramatically when it was published simultaneously in hardcopy and on-line. Today it is Ireland's premier non-profit genealogical publication with a worldwide readership and it's frequently quoted in other publications and by Irish media and politicians. The combination of genealogical news and issues of topical interest, including legislative measures, impacting on the study of genealogy, heraldry or social history, has provided this Society with a quality publication with a currency and an edge envied by many other voluntary organisations in the world of genealogy and heraldry. Though, the newsletter will continue to strive to be the most comprehensive chronicler of the development of Irish genealogy and heraldry, inevitably questions have arisen on matters of format, style and non-textual content. The Society's Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozłowski, MGSI, has suggested that it's time to 'go completely electronic' and to 'expand the photographic content' of the newsletter and to 'include interactive features'. Bartosz has certainly given us all food for thought as the newsletter has never sought to stand still and therefore, must embrace the potentials of technology. The current format of four pages A3 folder is produced by photocopying, however, this method of production does not lend itself easily to the inclusion of photographs or other illustrations as they must be in black and white. Bartosz's suggestion would see the production of a full colour on-line magazine style publication which could easily be expanded as required and, of course, the uploading of a blog for interactivity. Some very legitimate reservations as to the availability of suitable content and resources have been raised. But what do you, as a GSI Member or reader, think of these suggestions? You views on this important issue would be very welcome by e-mail on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

*Editor***FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more***www.fourcourtpress.ie***Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***More Records On-Line**

On Wednesday 16th June, 2010 at St Werburgh's Church, Dublin 2, Ms. Mary Hanafin T.D., Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport launched a further batch of Church Baptism, Marriage and Death genealogy records on the website www.irishgenealogy.ie The Minister also presented a copy of the completed records on discs to The Most Revd. Dr. John R. W. Neill, Archbishop of Dublin (Anglican) on behalf of the Representative Church Body Library of the Church of Ireland (RCBL). According to the Department's Press Release the website www.irishgenealogy.ie now contains over two million records for counties Kerry, Cork, Dublin and Carlow with more to be added in the future as work is on-going. According to the Department this website forms part of the Irish Government's policy to provide free and universal access to archival material such as the Census 1901 and the Griffith Valuations. During her speech, which according to all accounts, 'electrified' the proceedings, the Minister thanked the RCBL and said that the Department 'is pleased to be able to provide the RCBL with a set of images of the registers provided which can now be viewed on the website and will allow users an even more tangible link with their past.' The Minister also thanked Dr. Raymond Refaüssé, Dr. Susan Hood, [two former Guest Speakers at the GSI Meetings] Mary Furlong and Jennifer Murphy for their cooperation on the project. Minister Hanafin added 'I know that the availability of this material electronically will lessen the need for you in the RCBL to consult the original registers, which will reduce wear and tear on these

irreplaceable assets'. Minister Hanafin also paid a very warm tribute to the staff and former Director of the National Library of Ireland, Aonghus Ó hAonghusa for cooperating with the project by providing access to the microfilm records for Cork City and West Cork. The Minister continued 'users on this website will now be able to view the original registers where their ancestors baptism, marriage or burial was recorded and, just like the availability of the original Census records online, will provide users with another important link to their past. This website brings the past to life for its users and should help generate interest in genealogical research into family histories.' The Minister concluded 'I know that all users of this website will get great benefit from it and with further records coming online in the near future it will be a valuable source of information for the wider community and a gateway for visitors from abroad to research their family history and visit places which will bring their own family stories to life not just for their generation but also for generations to come.' The Genealogical Society of Ireland was represented by GSI President, Rory Stanley; Leas-Chathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden; the Director of National Projects, John Hamrock and the Director of Education and Social Inclusion, Fiona Tipple.

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

COMMERCIAL LINKS & ADVERTS

The following is the full text of *Res: 10/06/767* adopted by the GSI Board in respect of the placing of commercial links or advertising on the Society's website. The Society, as a registered charity, does *not* provide any commercial research services and normally directs such enquiries to the organisation representing professional genealogical researchers in Ireland (APGI). The publication of the text (below) of the proposal should clarify matters. **PROPOSAL:** That, the Board shall permit the advertising of commercial services, as defined by this resolution, on the Society's website at rates to be determined, from time to time, by the Director of Finance and published on the Society's website. The commercial services to be permitted are defined as those offering (1) professional genealogical research; (2) professional heraldic and vexillological research and design; (3) professional local, military, social or national historical research; (4) historical, genealogical, heraldic or academic publishing; (5) photographic or document restoration; (6) electronic, digital or web publishing; (7) professional or academic lectures, training or courses; (8) research or historic tours and guides; (9) DNA or genetic ancestry research; and (10) language, cultural or heritage services. However, advertisements for the provision of legal services such as visa applications or passport services shall not be permitted. Members of the Society seeking to place such commercial advertising on the Society's website for such services provided by themselves shall be permitted to do so in accordance with such design restrictions and parameters as may be determined, from time to time, by the Director of Internet Services. The section of the website hosting these advertisements shall be clearly marked as 'Commercial Classified Advertisements'. The Director of Internet Services in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Sales & Marketing shall determine the appropriateness of any item presented for advertising and any decision by these Directors to disallow or remove any advertisement shall be considered final. (End Text)