

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

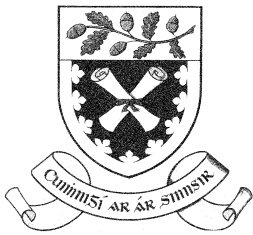
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 5 No. 3

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
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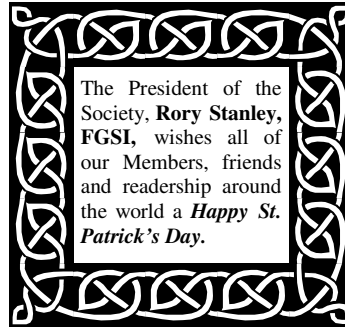
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## The Flight of the Ministers

It's that time of the year again and despite budgetary constraints and a biting recession, Government Ministers a plenty are packing their bags for the annual St. Patrick's Day exodus. It seems that the only Irish people in the world that will be denied the grand spectacle of a ministerial presence on the viewing platforms at their National Day parades will be those who elected them and continue to pay for them. Bowing to the growing public pressure to curb ministerial excesses, An Taoiseach, Brian Cowen, TD, has banned the limos, VIP lounges, first class flights and any unnecessary lunches or champagne receptions—where practicable, of course. While An Taoiseach and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mícheál Martin, TD, will join other prominent Irish and Irish-Americans as guests of President Obama at the White House on St. Patrick's Day, other Ministers will travel to every continent except Antarctica. Twenty-three officials, including An Taoiseach and twenty-one Ministers, will represent the Nation at events around the world. As some of the Junior Ministers travelling are hardly household names outside their own constituencies, one wonders what impact, if any, they will have on the Irish Diaspora. However, opportunities to showcase Ireland during these trips do exist and



Irish officials abroad carefully cultivate business networks that can reap substantial inward investment for Ireland. The list of official engagements for the senior Ministers like Mary Hanafin, for example, concentrate on business and investment. Minister Hanafin is to speak at a lunch hosted by the Irish American Business Chamber and Network in Philadelphia. However, is it not time that we carefully re-examine our links with our Nation's Diaspora and possibly develop a more sustainable connection with those of Irish ancestry overseas? Last year we looked to our Diaspora for ideas to pull the Nation out of a largely homemade economic mess. A conference was held in Dublin attended by some of the biggest names in business, trade and innovation around the globe—most of Irish extraction. Work, we are told, is on-going on the many suggestions proffered during that conference. But are we overlooking a simple, though prestigious, manner

in which to engage our Diaspora? Other nations understand the need to officially recognise and reward excellence and achievement amongst their overseas communities. Though, the achievements may well benefit their host country alone, it is the fact that a member of a nation's Diaspora was the achiever which is recognised by many of our European partners. Ireland has, for many reasons, shied away from the creation of National Honours or an Order of Merit for its own citizens and its Diaspora. Though the issue was raised several times over the last decade, nothing has been progressed as yet. Surely Ireland publicly honouring members of her Diaspora for their achievements on our National Day would be more appreciated than simply sending them one of our politicians to view their St. Patrick's Day parade? Indeed, this Society proposed a method of honouring our Diaspora in the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* involving the granting of Arms by the Chief Herald of Ireland. However, whether by offering St. Patrick's Day Diaspora Scholarships, for example, or by commissioning research on the Irish abroad and offering publication grants, we would be honouring and recognising the real achievements of our Diaspora in a truly meaningful and cost effective manner indeed.

## Irish-American Heritage Month

Washington, DC—March 1st 2010, President Barack H. Obama signed the Presidential Proclamation declaring March to be 'Irish-American Heritage Month'. The Proclamation opens 'From long before American independence to today, countless individuals have reached our shores, bringing vibrant cultures and diverse roots, and immeasurably enriching our Nation. This month, we honor the contributions made by the tens of millions of Americans who trace their heritage to the Emerald Isle.' The President outlined the Irish contribution to the US saying 'Irish Americans fought for our independence, and their signatures adorn

our founding documents. When famine ravaged Ireland in the 1840s and 1850s, many Irish men and women sought a new beginning in the United States. Though they faced poverty and discrimination, these immigrants transformed our cities, served in our Armed Forces, and settled the frontiers of our young Nation. Their children, and succeeding generations of Irish Americans, have preserved their culture's values while becoming leaders in every facet of American life. During this year's Irish-American Heritage Month, we also celebrate an extraordinary Irishman: Sen. Edward M. Kennedy. Throughout his career in public

service, Senator Kennedy worked tirelessly to create opportunity for all Americans. His legacy lives on in the legislation he championed, which will bolster and protect the health, education, and civil rights of Americans for generations to come.' Turning to Northern Ireland, the President said that 'In the face of violence perpetuated by some -- testing a hard-earned peace -- the people of Northern Ireland have responded heroically. Undaunted, they and their leaders persist on the road to peace and prosperity enshrined over a decade ago in the Good Friday Agreement.' He ends by calling on all Americans to celebrate this month.

## Annual Report of the GSI Board

The following is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited adopted by the Board at its meeting of March 4, 2010. As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM, however, the Annual Financial Report is for the period ending December 31, 2009. The Board of the Society met twelve times during the year to deal with the day-to-day business of the Society. In addition to attending these meetings each of the directors undertook duties associated with their various portfolios including organising eleven Morning Open Meetings and twelve Evening Open Meetings, the latter with guest speakers arranged by the Cathaoirleach. However, the January 2010 Evening Open Meeting had to be cancelled as the venue was closed for 'health and safety' reasons due to the adverse weather conditions. The Society published twelve issues of its newsletter 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' and its readership figures continued to be very strong throughout the year especially on-line where it was available in pdf format. The newsletter has been central to all the Society's campaigns including those aimed at having the 1926 census returns released and though, Senator Lábhras Ó Murchú is progressing with a short Bill on the 1926 census, this has been unfortunately delayed due to the enormous amount of legislation required to meet the current recessionary conditions. The Society has also vigorously campaigned for a meaningful public consultation on the Government's proposed amalgamation of the National Archives, National Library and the Irish Manuscript Commission. In addition to the monthly newsletter, the Society's publication programme for the year also included the Society's Annual Journal and a 'Festschrift' in honour of Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI. Courtesy of the Office of Public Works a temporary new home for the Society's Archive was secured at

Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire and this enable the growing collections to be fully catalogued and safely stored. In collaboration with Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education (DLCFE) a work experience programme centred on archival research and cataloguing was successfully provided by the Society for five students in February. Endeavours to secure a more permanent home for the Archive are continuing. Two more graveyards were surveyed and successfully recorded during the period, St. Canice's in Finglas and St. Peter's in Little Bray, the latter with the aid of the students from DLCFE. St. Canice's was published in the Festschrift. The Board considered and adopted three substantial policy documents during the year, the first dealing with structures, corporate identity and protocols, the second volunteerism, gender equality and encouraging greater participation of the membership in the governance of the Society and the third, concentrated on the activities of the organisation. The incoming portfolio holders will bring forward plans to implement these policies over the next five years. The Society launched a newly designed website following consultation with the Members and it is hoped to expand the facilities and options thereon over the coming months. The Society's new President, Rory Stanley, FGSI, was inaugurated in December 2009 and was presented with his own personal Arms designed by Melvyn Jeremiah of the International Association of Amateur Heralds and beautifully drawn by Heraldic Artist, Andrew Tully. The latter was also appointed as the Society's first Honorary Herald and Fellow of the Society. Also in December, the Society appointed Maj. Gen. David, The O Morchoe, CBE to the position of Vice-President and Fellow of the Society. In recognition of their contribution to the Society and to genealogy in general, Society Cathaoirleach, Séamus Moriarty, and

our Director of Archival Services, Séamus O'Reilly, were both appointed Fellows of the Society by the new President to mark his inauguration. In addition to the above, the outgoing Board dealt with matters relating to the Society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies; The Wheel; Integrating Ireland and such matters relating to the Society's Sectoral Representation on the Strategic Policy Committee on Culture, Community Development and Amenities of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The Board also complied with its statutory obligations in respect of the Companies Acts 1963-2009, its position as a Registered Charity and as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann.

*Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI, General Secretary*

In order to reduce the printing costs associated with the AGM, the Agenda is produced below.

1. 20.00hrs—Minutes of the 2009 AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. Directors' Annual Report (*printed above*)
4. Annual Financial Report
5. Election of the Board 2010/11
6. Installation of in-coming Cathaoirleach
7. Guest Speaker— Prof. Risteárd Mulcahy
8. 22.00hrs—Close of Meeting

## An Overview of the GSI Board

This year the Society will mark its twentieth anniversary of its foundation on October 25th 1990 by Frieda Carroll, Joan Merrigan, Jean Reddin and Michael Merrigan. Over the past twenty years the Society has been very fortunate to have had dedicated, efficient and hard working Executive Committees and, from 2000, Boards of Directors. The Society is a company limited by guarantee, a registered charity and a nominating body for Seanad Éireann. So, as with any company, it has its statutory and reporting obligations. Its governing body, Board of Directors, is elected annually at the AGM held on the 2nd Tuesday in March each year. The members at the AGM elect the Cathaoirleach (Chair), Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair), General Secretary and the Director of Finance. In addition up to eight members are elected 'without portfolio' which are allocated at the incoming Board's first meeting in April. The modus operandi of the governing body of the Society has variously been

described as 'cabinet style' where each Board member has a specific area of responsibility reporting to the Board as a whole. This style of governance allows for a greater degree of innovation as it values personal initiative amongst the Board members. It also allows the Board to freely draw on the professional, academic, administrative or corporate experience of each member and this is especially the case during the collective consideration of policy, operations and, of course, finance. The Board operates under its Standing Orders which were adopted in October 2000 and only amended three times in the interim. The Board meets on the first Thursday of each month (except January when it meets on the second Thursday) at 20.00hrs with the meetings usually ending by 22.00hrs. The Agenda and a copy of the Minutes of the previous meeting are distributed electronically in advance. Given the 'cabinet style' of governance, only matters of policy, finance and corporate affairs are decided by

resolution. The day-to-day operation of the various portfolios is the responsibility of the portfolio-holder. Each Director delivers a short report on his/her brief at each meeting. The incoming Board in 2010 will be greatly assisted by three policy documents that have been adopted by the Board, including a blueprint for the Society's activities for the next five years. In addition to the Board of Directors the Society has various non-executive officers whose roles are largely ceremonial, though, not exclusively so. These include the President, the three Vice-Presidents, Emeritus President, the Honorary Herald and, of course, the Fellows of the Society. The latter are collectively known as the 'College of Fellows' and the role of the College is to elect the Society President, however, the Board may, from time to time, allocate other functions to the College. As you can see, the GSI Board provides its members with real opportunities to develop and to advance the Society and its worthy objectives.

## Four Courts Press at Forty

Over the past number of years this newsletter has carried reviews of publications from a range of publishing houses in Ireland and especially, from Ireland's premier academic publisher, Four Courts Press. Indeed, April 2010 marks the fortieth anniversary of the first Board meeting of the company under its founder and Managing Director for four decades, Michael Adams. Just over a year ago in February 2009, Mr. Adams died and though this was understandably a great personal loss to his colleagues at Four Courts Press, they can be enormously proud of his legacy. From the outset forty years ago, Four Courts Press had as its mission to

publish works of scholarly merit to the highest editorial and production standards and it has been spectacularly successful in this regard. Its publications, many of which are of immense importance to the genealogist and social/local historian, are primarily aimed at an academic readership, but not exclusively so. The standard of production has always ensured a readability and accessibility that can and does appeal to the general reader. Indeed, as the numbers returning to third level education or availing of adult education courses continues to increase, these publications have become essential reading for students of history, geography, Celtic studies,

literature, film and media, art, music and drama, archaeology, Scottish and Ulster studies, military and legal history, philosophy and theology and, believe it or not, Italian studies. The Press also invites publishing proposals and very importantly, it applies a peer review policy to all its titles. This level of service to academia is the enormously important legacy that Michael Adams bequeathed to students, academics and, above all, lovers of learning not only in Ireland but much further a field. To mark its fortieth anniversary special events are planned throughout the year. For further information and the 2010 catalogue see: [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)

# James Scannell Reports...

## GRAVESTONE SOUGHT

The body of one Ireland's top inventors of the 20th century, Louis Brennan, credited with the invention of the monorail, the helicopter and the 'steerable' torpedo, has been located in St. Mary's Cemetery, Harrow Road, London. Originally from Castlebar, Co. Mayo, efforts are being made to have proper headstone erected over his grave, however, due to his family being also interred in it, it is not possible to repatriate his remains to Castlebar, Co. Mayo, as some people hoped. According to a number of historians, he was the first man to get a helicopter off the ground, and sold the design of his dirigible torpedo to the British Government for £110,000 which would equate to £10M in today's terms. However he died penniless as he invested all his money in subsequent gadgets and inventions. Brennan died in 1932 after being hit by a car while on a Swiss holiday.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION

On view at the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar, Dublin, until May 2010 is the 'Witness to War: the War of Independence and

*the Civil war through the lens of WD Hogan'* exhibition which focuses on one of the most frequently accessed source of photographs relating to the War of Independence (1919-1921) and Civil War (1922-1923) in Ireland and is on view Monday to Friday between 10.00hrs and 17.00hrs and on Saturdays between 10.00hrs and 14.00hrs and admission is free.

## ART COLLECTION SAFE

Several units of the Co. Wicklow Fire Service were called to a major fire on Monday February 8th which broke out in Russborough House near Blessington, Co. Wicklow. It took over three hours for the fire to be brought under control. Although extensive damage was caused to the 'west wing' which was undergoing restoration, a part of the roof collapsed, all valuable items including much of the original Beit Collection of paintings, had previously been removed from the site as restoration work commenced. Initial investigations indicated an electrical fault may most likely have caused the fire. Russborough House was built in 1741 and houses a valuable fine art collection, antiques and silverware. It has been the target of several robberies over the past forty years. In 1974 an

IRA gang, which included the British heiress Rose Dugdale, stole paintings valued at IR£8M while in the mid 1990's Dublin master criminal Martin 'The General' Cahill stole over IR£30M worth of paintings from the house. In 1978 owners Sir Alfred and Lady Clementine gifted the building to the Irish State but continued to reside in it until their deaths in 2004 and 2006 respectively. Russborough House attracts upwards of one million visitors annually and, as such, is very important to the local economy around Blessington, Co. Wicklow.

## EMMET SPRING LECTURE

On Monday March 15th Dr. Máire Kennedy, Divisional Librarian, Special Collections Dublin City Public Libraries, will present the 8th Annual Emmet Spring Lecture on 'Rediscovering Emmet's Dublin: through the collection of Dublin City Library and Archive' at 18.30hrs in the Conference Room of the Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome and, of course, admission is free. Doors open at 18.00hrs. This event has been organised by Dublin City Public Libraries and The Emmet & Devlin Committee.

# GSI Lecture Programme

## PRÉCIS OF THE FEBRUARY LECTURE

On Tuesday Feb. 9th 2010, the Society's Vice-President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, delivered a very fine lecture on the topic 'From Immigration to Integration of the Jewish Community in Ireland'. Stuart is probably the nation's foremost authority on the archival history of the Irish-Jewish Community as he has painstakingly catalogued this unique heritage stretching back circa 350 years. His sixteen volume magnum opus provided the basis for this lecture, however, Stuart explained that the first recorded Jewish presence in Ireland was in 1079 with a visit by five Jews, possibly from Rouen, to the Irish king Toirrdelbach who was also the overlord of the Hiberno-Norse city of Dublin. However, Stuart concentrated on the modern era from the 341 Jews recorded

in the 1861 census to its peak of 5,381 in 1946. Afterwards although the Jewish population was in steady decline, they made an outstanding contribution to the nation in the twentieth century. The 1937 Constitution of Ireland, uniquely amongst the western democracies, specifically guaranteed religious freedom to the Jewish congregations. Amongst those who played a prominent role in the political, cultural, professional, business and academic life of the country were: Robert Briscoe and his son, Robert, both twice elected Lord Mayor of Dublin and members of Dáil Éireann; Gerald Goldberg, Lord Mayor of Cork and earlier Sir Otto Jaffe who was Lord Mayor of Belfast in 1899 and 1904. A future President of Israel (1983-95), Chaim Herzog, was born in Belfast in 1918 and grew up in Dublin where his father, Isaac Halevy Herzog, became Chief Rabbi in 1919; Harry (Aaron) Kernoff, portrait, landscape and decorative painter, born in London in 1900 and moved to Dublin in 1914; another painter, Estella

Solomons born in Dublin in 1882 was a member of Cumann na mBan during the Irish Revolution and Michael Noyk, a lawyer, worked closely with Michael Collins during the War of Independence when Robert Briscoe was on Collins' staff. Stuart has a wealth of information on this topic. A very lively Q&A followed

## GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. **March 9** – Risteárd Mulcahy – 'The life of Dick Mulcahy'. **Tues. April 13** – Tim Carey, Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council – 'In Honour and Memory - Memorials of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown'. **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. 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honoured until their annual renewal date. Also under **Res: 08/11/636** persons under twenty-five years can still avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. 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.

## **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**

by **John Grenham**

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

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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**

@

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

Tuesday Mar. 9th &amp; Apr. 13th 2010

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday Mar. 24th &amp; Apr. 28th 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)

**National Library Acquisitions**

The National Library of Ireland has acquired the following collections of papers – The **Brian Friel Papers** cover the playwright's writing career since 2000 and includes manuscripts and typescripts of finished and uncompleted works including in addition to programmes and correspondence relating to the production of various plays. Also included in the acquisition are six albums of Irish and international theatre reviews and news cuttings about Friel, dating from the early 1960's, personal diaries from 1999 to 2008, letters relating to his appointment as a Saol by Aosdana; correspondence about productions and issues relating to the translation of his plays in 21 European, South American and Asian countries; an extensive body of letters from other writers. In 2000 Dr. Friel donated papers relating to the first forty years of his extensive and prolific career to the National Library which now holds his entire archive of literary papers and correspondence. The acquisition of such a large collection of Friel material is considered a major addition to Ireland's heritage and will enable scholars and literary historians to study the genesis of his works in details, from their inception to realization on the stage and to follow their fortune worldwide thereafter. The **Hugo Hamilton Literary Papers** of Irish novelist and short story writer Hugo Hamilton covering the period 1985 to 2008 consists of draft manuscripts, both handwritten and typed corrections, with background notes in addition to research material for his novels, his short story collection and for his two personal memoirs. Also included are two unpublished manuscripts, drafts of his screenplay and correspondence files. Also included with this acquisition are the archives of his parents Seán and Irmgard Ó hUrmoltaigh, whose interests exerted an immense influence on the writer's childhood, reflecting the clash between post war Irish modernization and cultural nationalism. Immigrants to Ireland will discover a particular resonance in Irmgard Ó hUrmoltaigh's diaries which describe her struggle to settle in Ireland. The **William Smith O'Brien, M.P Papers** consists of material relating to the 1849 Clonmel trial of the Young Ireland leader following his arrest for his part in the ill-organised July 1848 Rising in Tipperary. The collection includes a twenty page draft legal statement prepared by his defence team which provides previously unknown insights into the specifics of his role. This acquisition includes a contemporaneous line drawing of the Widow McCormack's house in Ballingarry produced under his direction. His original written journals following his deportation and imprisonment in Tasmania from 1849 to 1853 and journals written after his conditional release in 1854 until his death in 1864, form the main body of this collection. The first thirty journals contain a full account of the journey and of his life in Tasmania, while the description of his day to day existence in solitary confinement also provides an interesting commentary on penal servitude camps. While Smith O'Brien ostensibly wrote these journals for his wife, they were probably written with a wider publication in mind. In addition to the Tasmanian journals, the collection contains sequence of twenty-three journals in which Smith O'Brien recorded his travel through Europe and a fascinating commentary by an erudite Irishman on European countries as well as on Asia and North America. In both historical and archival terms, the William Smith O'Brien Collection represents an extremely exciting acquisition by the National Library complementing existing collections held by the Library. **James Scannell**

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

The Director of Archival Services, Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI has listed the very recent additions to the Archive as '**Dalkey Anthology**' Volumes 1 and 2 compiled by Frank Mullen and Edited by Pádraig Yeates and published by Frank Mullen 2008/2009; '**Green, Blue and Grey—The Irish in the American Civil War**' by Cal McCarthy and published by the Collins Press 2009 '**Hidden Dublin—Deadbeats, Dossers and Decent Skins**' by Frank Hopkins and published by Mercier Press 2007; '**Dublin in 1707—A year in the life of the city - Maynooth Studies in Local History No 87**' by Brendan Twomey and published by Four Courts Press 2009; and '**Dictionary of Dublin—Dissenting Dublin's Protestant Dissenting Meeting Houses 1660-1920**' by Stephen C. Smyrl, MAPGI and published by A. & A. Farmer, 2009. Séamus O'Reilly encourages Members to donate suitable publications, maps or research papers and documents to the Society's Archive. At the March Board Meeting Séamus O'Reilly reported on the very successful 'work experience programme' provided by the Society for five students undertaking an adult education course at Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education. The students were introduced to the archival work of the Society including the cataloguing of the collections, the sorting and recording of our manuscript collection and two days of 'field work' transcribing memorial inscriptions. As with any library or archive, the sorting and cataloguing of its collections is extremely important and indeed, requires careful planning and precision and consistency in its execution. Séamus O'Reilly explained the func-

tion and purpose of the cataloguing process and he was very impressed with enthusiasm and diligence shown by the students. In addition to the cataloguing duties, the students received instruction on the correct handling of the manuscript collection and on how to carefully read the details of each for recording purposes. Since a number of the manuscripts date from the mid-seventeenth century, it was necessary that each student was familiarised with the writing styles and sometimes archaic legal language of the documents. It was also important that they should understand the nature and purpose of each document, mostly indentures and leases, in order to clearly and correctly record the documents. In both supervising their work and on the examination of the recording, Séamus O'Reilly, was more than pleased with the care and professionalism shown by these students. The steady progress of their work has very greatly assisted the Society in its goal to have its entire collections recorded, catalogued and hopefully, digitised for uploading to the Society's website. The last two days of the two week 'work experience programme' involved 'field work' which is central to any genealogical organisation—the transcription of memorial inscriptions. The Director of Cemetery Projects, Barry O'Connor, FGSI, brought the students to Little Bray Cemetery, Co. Wicklow. Once again, their enthusiasm and diligence was clearly evident and great progress was made with the transcribing of these memorials for publication later by the Society. For their work the following students were awarded, by a resolution of the Board, with two years full membership of the Society, Gerard O'Connor, Keith Thompson, James Meaney, Lorna Cassin and Jane Bradley.

**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.msoi.eu](http://www.msoi.eu)

**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](mailto:descendientedresden@yahoo.com.ar)  
web site <http://descendientedresden.blogspot.com>