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GENEALOGY
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VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
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New Archives Legislation Required

In a written reply to a Parliamentary Question tabled by Deputy Phil Hogan on April 20th 2010, Minister Mary Hanafin confirmed that 'the basis on which the decision to merge the National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission into the National Library was the consideration that more effective use of scarce resources and better value for money can be obtained by combining similar 'back office' administrative functions together with certain technical functions that are currently common across the three bodies.' On April 27th 2010 Deputy Hogan sought clarification on 'the type of technical functions proposed to be merged; the effect that this will have on the respective collections of the institutions in question; the estimated savings from this proposal; the breakdown on the way these savings will be achieved.' But in a written reply the Minister seemed to offer little by way of clarification saying that 'the types of technical functions that are common to the institutions in question and which will be considered for merger are: Paper Conservation, Digitisation, Collections Management, Exhibitions, Education and Outreach and Maps. It is anticipated that this will have a beneficial effect on the collections of the institutions and it will be easier to exhibit material

from the national collections held than is currently the case. While the exact future cost savings are difficult to isolate it is clear that savings can be achieved by this measure.' The matter was also raised on April 27th and 28th in Seanad Éireann (Senate) by Senator Ivana Bacik who sought a debate on the proposed merger, however, in reply the Leader, Senator Donie Cassidy, seemed less than forthcoming on any commitment to arrange for such a debate. No doubt the Minister will face further probing on this issue in Dáil Éireann on May 19th when she is scheduled to take Ministerial questions. But the time for prevarication on this issue is over as clearly any further 'holding replies' will fail to convince anyone that the Government has a coherent plan for this proposed merger. Ever since the Minister's predecessor, Martin Cullen, was forced to admit on Nov. 19th 2008 in Dáil Éireann that 'there may not be any savings' resulting from this merger, it was abundantly clear that this 'budgetary measure' lost all credibility. The Minister's reply to Deputy Hogan of April 27th is wholly unconvincing as any savings achievable in the areas suggested would be hugely outweighed by the enormous costs involved in the implementation of this proposed merger. It's time to get real, either drop this nonsensical and fiscally unsound 'budgetary measure' or take the opportunity provided to examine the legislative basis of

the NAI and NLI. The Minister should facilitate a meaningful public consultation process to examine the functions and services of these institutions. Such a process could provide the basis for new legislation to modernise, expand and improve on the *National Archives Act, 1986* and the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*. This would deliver the 'legislative amalgamation' of the institutions whilst retaining their separate functions and identities. The Minister should seek submissions on: (1) The NAI in the 21st century including: Archival Policy (other archival resources); Accessibility (30 Year Rule); Digitisation; Local Authority & State Agency Archives; Archives of private institutions; Places of Deposit; Governance; Standing Advisory & User Committees; Links to Third Level Colleges; Education & Outreach Policy; Services to our Diaspora. (2) The NLI in the 21st century including: Acquisitions Policy; Accessibility; Digitisation; Special Collections (Film, Photographic, Ephemera); Heraldic Services; Governance; Standing Advisory & User Committees; Links to Third Level Colleges; Education & Outreach; Services to our Diaspora. Undoubtedly, this is a real opportunity for the Minister to produce hugely significant and culturally important legislative reform now.

Chief Herald of Ireland

Last November, amidst the growing economic crisis, many wondered whether the Board of the National Library would appoint a successor to Mr. Fergus Gillespie who announced his intention to retire as Chief Herald of Ireland. A recruitment ban and a freeze on promotions across the civil and public service could have resulted in this position being left vacant for the foreseeable future. Thankfully, the NLI Board has decided not to allow matters fall into abey-

ance and has appointed Ms. Colette O'Flaherty to the position of Manuscripts Keeper and Chief Herald of Ireland. Ms. O'Flaherty was a part of the team that established the very successful Genealogy Advisory Service in the NLI to assist, free of charge, the thousands of visitors every year who come to the NLI to research their family history. More recently Ms. O'Flaherty has been responsible for the development of the Library's film and photographic collections. As a long-serving,

highly respected and innovative professional, Ms. O'Flaherty's appointment will be welcomed by all who wish to see a flourishing, professional and modern heraldic service in Ireland. The NLI Board which had its inaugural meeting five years ago this month on 11th May 2005 and therefore, is coming to the end of its five year term, can be congratulated on its choice of Chief Herald. The Society wishes Ms. Colette O'Flaherty every success in her new position.

Ireland and the Spanish Empire 1600-1825

It was probably the language barrier that for years deterred many Irish historians from following in the footsteps of Dr. Micheline Kerney Walsh or Patricia O'Connell who explored the many and varied aspects of the relationship between Spain and Ireland. Indeed, **Oscar Recio Morales** in his *'Ireland and the Spanish Empire, 1600-1825'* (ISBN 978-1-84682-183-7 : 384pp : Price €65.00 h/bk) draws parallels between the way in which Irish historiography has broadened its enquiry into the complexities of Ireland's relationship with the British Empire, so too are Spanish historians now lifting their horizons to include the Spanish Empire's relationship with the 'non-Castilian' territories and 'foreigners' in the Empire. In recent years there has been a rediscovery of the historical links between Ireland and Spain and indeed, in the area of genetics, the newly discovered links between the Irish genetic make-up and that of the peoples of northern Spain has, for some, provided a basis for the ancient invasion myths of the Irish. The tale of the Clanna Mileadh setting out from northern Spain to conquer and settle Ireland sometime in the first millennium BC and the fact that Gaelic genealogies linked the Irish kings and later chieftains to the sons of Mileadh, provided both an emotional and 'ancient' connection between the two peoples. Hugh O'Neill stressed the antiquity of this 'special relationship' in 1615 accusing the English and Scottish planters in Ulster of 'uprooting from the island its ancient inhabitants who had been in possession of it for three thousand years or more since they arrived from Spain to populate it'. Though ancient these links are in our mythologies, for most Irish people today these historical links seem to end at the Battle of Kinsale in 1601 and the Spanish military expedition under Don Juan D'Aquilla. However, the most signifi-

cant Irish involvement in Spain actually dates from that period. This was the time of religious exiles and dispossessed native nobility seeking the protection of the Spanish monarch. Also around this time many of the Irish colleges in Spain were founded including, Valladolid 1589 (seat of the Spanish Court 1601-5), Salamanca 1592, Santiago de Compostilla 1605, Seville 1612, Madrid 1629 and Alcalá de Henares in 1630. This very important work published by Four Courts Press examines Irish migration to the Spanish Empire, from the seventeenth century Habsburg Spain to eighteenth century Bourbon Spain, from the continent to the world. Even if Ireland did not form part of this vast empire, the contribution of Irish men and Irish women to this multinational multicultural Empire was remarkable. These Irish exiles through their military service and the acquisition of nobiliary titles were placed by Spanish kings in an advantageous position, on the same level as the nobility in the early modern Spanish world. Spanish imposition of orthodox Catholicism resulted in the social inclusion of certain 'nations' such as the Irish and the exclusion and repression of other groups like the Jews, Moriscos and gypsies. Not all Irish migrants were soldiers, neither were they all men; nor did they all obtain honours and full integration into Spanish society. In Spain, Irish migrants would face social exclusion and even for the Irish nobility, confronted by Spanish native elites, assimilation was anything but an easy process. In his foreword to this book Prof Ciarán Brady of Trinity College Dublin points out that this book represents a substantial contribution to the major revolution in the study of early modern Irish history in the last decade. Before then, according to Prof. Brady, 'though it had become a territory rich in interpretive debate, the schol-

arly interest remained steadily focused within the traditional framework of Anglo-Irish relations or more specifically on the significance of political, social and cultural developments in England for the changing attitudes and actions of the English in Ireland.' Building on the fine corpus of works on Irish-Spanish relations published by Four Courts Press over the past decade, Oscar Recio Morales broadens the field of enquiry to include the Spanish colonies where the Irish and their descendants served both the Spanish Empire and later the independence movements throughout Latin America. His research clearly shows that the Irish did not, as we once believed, confine themselves to military service and religious life but instead entered many professions and others became successful merchants and traders. The author's account of the medical profession, in particular, shows the remarkable mobility of that profession especially as part of a 'Jacobite network' operating in the eighteenth century. Whether one is interested in military history, diplomatic relations or imperial expansion, Morales provides a hugely significant contribution to our knowledge of the Irish in the Spanish Empire. This work is of immense importance to the genealogist researching not only the Gaelic chiefly lines but the ancestry of thousands of ordinary Spaniards and Latin Americans with Irish roots. The pathway to this rediscovery of the Irish Diaspora within the Spanish world has certainly been mapped by Morales as he clearly throws down the gauntlet to others to continue this fascinating exploration of Ireland and the Spanish Empire. But as his very extensive bibliography clearly indicates, a lack of Spanish may unfortunately continue to restrict this area of research to a few making works like this by Morales simply invaluable. **MM**

Skype Your Jewish Family History

Society Vice-President, Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC., FGSI, has launched yet another world first for Irish Jewry in tracing your ancestors. Not only has he recorded the archival history of the Irish Jewish community spanning circa 350 years, he now employs the latest Internet technology to assist those with Irish Jewish ancestors in their roots quest. In conjunction with the Irish-Jewish Genealogical Society, a division of the Irish Jewish Museum, Stuart Rosenblatt provides access circa 42,501 records, many in family tree format. By directly speaking to Stuart Rosenblatt you may find from the Alien files, naturalisation papers, Ada Shillman birth records, marriage and burial details the elusive family details missing from your family tree. Records stretching back over three centuries

includes families that emigrated to all corners of the world and, in many cases, their descendants. This is a breakthrough using modern technology of SKYPE which can be downloaded free. There is no cost when used from computer to computer. By making contact you will be adding to the already exhaustive detail of one of Ireland's oldest national minorities. With so much detailed information available in one place this saves years of arduous research. There are sixteen volumes printed by Stuart chronicling this ethnic minority which has contributed so much to the benefit of Irish society. These volumes may be accessed in the National Library and National Archives, Dublin, with local interest volumes in Belfast, Limerick and Cork. Now Jewish Ireland is at your

finger tips. For further information contact the Irish Jewish Genealogical Society & Family History Centre, established in 1999 as a division of the Irish Jewish Museum 3, Walworth Road, Portobello, Dublin 8, Ireland. Or contact Stuart Rosenblatt PC., FGSI, Facilitator, Jasonia Centre, 76 Dame Street Dublin 2, Ireland Email: masterc@medianet.ie telephone: +353.1.677 3808 or simply **SKYPE**: Stuart.Rosenblatt Other contacts Baltic research Len Yodaiken. shoshly@kfar-hanassi.org.il or, indeed the Jewish Irish Group website on ShalomIreland@yahoo.com and for Lithuanian research contact the website of the LitvakSI <http://www.jewishgen.org/litvak> Learn more about the Irish Jewish Community through its website <http://jewishireland.org/>

12th Medieval Dublin Symposium

The 12th Medieval Dublin Symposium will be held on Sat. May 22nd 2010. Organised by the Friends of Medieval Dublin it will be held in the Robert Emmet Theatre in the Arts Building of Trinity College, Dublin. Topics include 09.45hrs. *'Recent excavations of a Viking burial at the War Memorial Gardens, Islandbridge'* by Maeve Sikora; 10.30hrs *'The pencillings and antiquarians rambles of a Fingalian: John S. Sloan and the Victorian historiography of medieval Dublin'* by Stuart Kinsella; 11.10hrs Tea/Coffee; 11.30hrs. *'Printing in Dublin - the first 60 years'* by Dermot McGuinne; 12.10hrs *'The kings of Dublin and the kings of Leinster'* by Clare Downham; 12.45hrs Lunch (not pro-

vided); 14.00hrs *'The Early Medieval Archaeology Project (EMAP): some observations on early archaeological excavations in the Dublin region, 1930-2009'* by Lorcán Harney, Jonathan Kinsella and Aidan O'Sullivan; 14.45hrs. *'The Dominicans and medieval Dublin - the sources re-examined'* by Bernadette Williams; 15.20hrs. Tea/Coffee; 15.40hrs. *'The Norse settlers - excavations of a Viking house at Hammond Lane Phase 3'* by Colm Moriarty; 16.15hrs Public viewing of *'Medieval Dublin - From Vikings to Tudors : Volume II'* by Niall Ó hOisín and Breffni O'Malley. Admission is free and all are welcome - for further info. contact Dr. Seán Duffy at e-mail: sduffy@tcd.ie

VIKING NECKLACE FOUND

During the excavation of Glencurren Cave in the Burren, Co. Clare, a significant discovery found in this dig funded by the State and the Royal Irish Academy was the largest ever Viking necklace discovered in Ireland. It is estimated to be 1,150 years old and could have been the result of trade between the Vikings of Limerick and Gaelic chieftains in the Burren area of Co. Clare. **James Scannell**

PRESBYTERIAN RECORDS

Owing to the building work in Church House, the library of the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland will be closed for the foreseeable future. Urgent enquiries by e-mail Librarian@presbyterianhistoryireland.com or by letter c/o Church House, Fisherwick Place, Belfast, BT1 6DW, N. Ireland.

James Scannell Reports...

RMS LAURENTIC CANNON

On Easter Sunday, April 4th 2010, a 7m cannon from the *RMS Laurentic*, recovered by the Downings Divers sub aqua club in 2007 after a three-year salvage operation, was unveiled on the quayside of Downings, Co. Donegal where it will serve as a tourist attraction. The *RMS Laurentic* was a 15,000ton White Star liner converted into an auxiliary merchant cruiser for the duration of World War One and sank one hour out from Buncrana, Co. Donegal on 25th January 1917 in 39m of water with the loss of 354 passengers and crew after it struck German naval mines in the vicinity of Malin Head. It had stopped off in Buncrana, Co. Donegal, to land some crew members showing signs of fever to receive medical attention. At the time of her sinking the *RMS Laurentic* was en route from Liverpool to Halifax, Nova Scotia, with some 3211 bars of gold to purchase arms and munitions from the Canadian and U.S. governments. Between 1917 and 1924 all the gold bars except 20 were recovered from the sea bed and its believed that these bars valued up to Stg£8M are unrecoverable as they are lying beyond reach beneath the wreck. The Downings based diving team which raised the cannon, led by Kevin McShane, spent three years on prepara-

tory dives, loosening the massive cannon from the bow deck and securing heavy lifting chains to a specially designed flotation bag. Donegal County Councillor, Noel McBride, (Fine Gael) persuaded Donegal County Council to contribute €8000 to the €15000 cost of converting the cannon into a tourist attraction.

UN MEMORIAL UNVEILED

On Monday April 12th 2010 serving and retired members of the 4th Western Brigade attended the unveiling of a memorial at Athlone Castle to their nineteen fallen comrades. Some one hundred members of the Irish Defence Forces including the Band of the 4th Western Brigade and lone piper took part in the ceremony. To date eighty-four members of the Irish Defence Forces have died on United Nations service, nineteen of which were from the west of Ireland.

ANZAC DAY IN DUBLIN

On Sunday April 25th upwards of two hundred people attended a dawn ceremony in Dublin to mark Anzac Day which honours the men of the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps who fought at Gallipoli in 1915. Ireland first hosted

an Anzac Day commemoration ceremony in April 2006. This year's commemoration began at 06.30hrs in Dublin's 130 year old Grangegorman Military Cemetery which contains 619 graves of soldiers from the First World War and Second World War. Msgr. Eoin Thynne, chaplain to the Irish Defence Forces led the service at which the attendance included H.E. Mr. Bruce Davis, Australian Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Mr. Julian King, British Ambassador to Ireland, Mr. Don Smith, First Secretary at the Australian Embassy, Lt. Aston Talbot and 2/Lt Clare Hagward from the New Zealand defence forces, John Spink, Shannon Lowe, and representatives from Belfast's cross community group, the Lily and Poppy Project.

RECORD PRICE FOR RMS TITANIC LETTER

A letter written by a first class passenger on board the *RMS Titanic* just five days before it sank on April 15th 1912 sold for €62,500 at an auction of White Star Line memorabilia in Wiltshire, England, in April. This was a record price for such an item of correspondence from this tragic ship. The letter in question was written by Mr. Adolphe Saafeld and addressed to his wife.

GSI Lecture Programme

APRIL LECTURE

On Tuesday April 13th 2010, the Society heard a very interesting talk by **Tim Carey**, Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council on the subject of his publication *'In Honour and Memory - Memorials of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown'* (ISBN 978-0-9557829-0-9) First published in April 2007, this booklet records the public memorials of the County of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown which Mr. Carey describes as 'a discreet part of our cultural heritage' and 'important physical reminders of what are often intangible aspects of our identity.' Mr. Carey brought the meeting through a selection of these memorials, many of which, go unnoticed by the public. Many record the achievements of the 'great and the good' others are of a more personal or familial nature recording tragedies and the deaths of loved ones. The latter are mainly located on park benches or on small memorial stones

beneath trees planted in memory of these local people. After locating the memorials Mr. Carey researched the lives of the individuals concerned in order to provide brief biographies of each and where possible, photographs or illustrations. All sections of Irish society are memorialised—protestant, catholic and dissenter, unionist and nationalist, soldier and pacifist, revolutionary and empire builder, and, of course, writers, painters, musicians and poets abound. There is also a fair splattering of British nobility and royalty, some famous, others infamous and others mostly obscure and long forgotten. The county's seafaring heritage is well represented, however, mostly tragically such as the loss of 'Hobblers', Lifeboat men, sailors and, especially the 501 lost on the torpedoing of the mail-boat *RMS Leinster* in October 1916. Newer memorials record the extraordinary wealth of the county's twentieth century literary heritage which includes many of the greats such as James Joyce, Samuel Beckett,

George Bernard Shaw, Padraig Colum, Brian O'Nolan and many more. The erection in 1988 of a memorial to the eponymous Ard Rí Laoghaire Mac Niall during the *'Dún Laoghaire 1500'* celebrations was, rather surprisingly, the first time he had been memorialised since independence in 1922. So popular did Mr. Carey's booklet become that the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council commissioned and published a revised version in Nov. 2007. Further info. tcarey@dlrcoco.ie

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. April 13 – Tues. May 11 – Mary Beglan – *'On-Line Sources of Irish Genealogy'*. **Tues. June 8** – James McGuire - *'The Dictionary of Irish Biography'*. The list for the next six months will be published next month. 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. Tom Conlon**, MGSI, 24, Carrickbrennan Lawn, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

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

Tuesday May 11th & June 8th 2010

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday May 26th & June 23rd 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)

RUSSIA HONOURS IRISH VETERANS

On Sunday April 25th 2010 the consul at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Dublin, Andrie Nikeryasov, travelled to Cork City Hall to present 93-year old John Hallahan with the 65th Anniversary Medal of the Great Patriotic War. This special medal was struck by a decree by President Dmitry Medvedev of the Russian Federation. John Hallahan is one of only three remaining Irish ex-servicemen who served on WWII Arctic convoys. John Hallahan joined the [British] Royal Navy in 1938 and between 1940 and 1942 served as a boiler room technician on the cruiser *HMS Devonshire* which protected convoys bringing vital arms, food and medical supplies to the Soviet ports of Murmansk and Archangel. These convoys had to run the gauntlet of treacherous ice floes, mine fields, in addition to the constant treat of attacks from German aircraft and submarines. After leaving the Royal Navy in 1950, John Hallahan worked at Cork's Whitegate Oil Refinery for twenty-five years. Due to Mr. Hallahan's recent ill health, Mr. Nikeryasov made the journey to Cork to present him with his medal in Cork City Hall in the presence of Lord Mayor Cllr. Dara Murphy. Children from the Cork Russian School, founded by Tania Zhinzhina, presented Mr. Hallahan with flowers and a piece of Russian soil. During the presentation ceremony Mr. Nikeryasov said that it was due to people such as Mr. Hallahan and fellow Irish Royal Navy veterans, George Jones and Geoffrey Metcalfe, both of whom live in Dublin, that the Soviet Union had survived. He said that they are owed a great debt as it was thanks to them and their comrades that the Soviet Union was able to get food and medicines from our allies in Great Britain and the United States of America which helped thousands survive and contributed to the victory over the Nazis. Former submariner Ronald Erridge, Secretary of the Royal Naval Association in Cork and County, said that the life expectancy of an Arctic convoy sailor who fell into the water was one minute and that few people could accept that without the strength of character that John has and that they were very proud of him. The Ambassador of the Russian Federation, H.E. Mr. Mikhail E. Timoshkin, presented similar medals to Ted Jones and Geoffrey Metcalfe at the Russian Embassy in Dublin on May 7th and to the relatives of Norman Sparksman who died earlier this year and the family of Thomas O'Neill who died in 2008. The event was also attended by the acting head of the Irish Defence Forces, Major General Dave Ashe. *James Scannell*

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more***www.fourcourtspress.ie***Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***GSI ARCHIVE NEWS**

The Board of the Society at its meeting this month in Dún Laoghaire was advised that the Society had to vacate the premises at 111, Lower George's Street in accordance with the provisions of the lease. In anticipation of the ending of the temporary lease on the premises, the Director of Archival Services, Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI, organised the boxing of the Society's archival collections ready for transfer to a new location. During this time, our new Cathaoirleach, Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGSI, located and investigated several options for a suitable location for the Society's Archive. Finally, another local premises was identified and following discussions with the owners, it was agreed to recommend acceptance of this building to the Board at its May 6th 2010 meeting. Though much smaller than the building on Lower George's Street, this new premises will still provide adequate shelving space for the current and anticipated needs of the Society's Archive. In addition to the ample shelving space, the premises will have space for research stations and, of course, the Board meetings. The building is centrally located in the heart of an area which is set to become the heritage/cultural hub of the Town of Dún Laoghaire and very close to DART and Dublin Bus connections, this building will also permit the Society to operate a family history information service to the public. Members will have regular access to the Society's archival collections and hopefully, through the Society's Outreach Programme that the full potential of this location will be utilised to promote the study of genealogy and heraldry as open access educational leisure pursuits. In the

Society's twentieth anniversary year this development marks a significant milestone in the history of the Society. The building is currently being refurbished and very shortly it is hoped to erect the shelving in order to commence the transfer from Lower George's Street. As the Society must vacate the current premises no later than Friday 11th June 2010, the Board appointed a Select Committee under *Res: 10/05/760* to negotiate and to conclude an agreement in the form of a lease in respect of the premises and pending the refurbishment of that premises to receive the Society's archival collections, that such arrangements may be made by the Select Committee for the secure temporary storage elsewhere of the archival collections. The Select Committee, according to the resolution, shall ensure that adequate shelving is provided in this premises and that such is erected so as to maximise the potential of the premises to meet the current and anticipated requirements of the Society. It was also agreed that this Select Committee shall be deemed to have been stood down not later than one calendar month following the Society's occupancy of the new premises and the completion of the transfer of the archival collections. The Select Committee consists of the Cathaoirleach, General Secretary, Director of Finance and the Director of Archival Services. Therefore, in order to facilitate the above the Society's Archives at Lower George's Street will be closed and hopefully, will be reopened in the new premise by the end of June 2010. Whilst, apologising to our Members for any inconvenience caused, further information on the relocation will be published next month.

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

TITANIC ELEVEN REMEMBERED

On Thursday April 15th 2010, three slow tolls of St. Patrick's church bell in the north County Mayo of village of Lahardane were sounded for each of eleven local emigrants who were lost on the *RMS Titanic* to mark the 98th anniversary of its sinking. The bell ringers, some of whom were descendants of those lost, tolled the church bells at 02.20hrs which is the estimated time that the *RMS Titanic* sank on April 15th 1912 after it struck an iceberg off the Grand Banks of Newfoundland on April 14th 1912. Three of the fourteen emigrants from Addergoole Parish were saved and a granddaughter of Delia McDermott, travelled to the parish from New Jersey several days earlier. Lahardane is the only European community where the sinking of the *RMS Titanic* is commemorated each year at the very time it slipped beneath the waves. Pupils from the three Addergoole Parish national schools based at Lahardane, Rathbane and Rathkell attended the hour long ceremony between 02.00hrs and 03.00hrs which included recitations, poetry and music. For further info. and RTÉ news report :- www.addergoole-titanic.com *James Scannell*