

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 6 No. 4

www.familyhistory.ie

April : Aibreán 2011



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



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DEENIHAN AT THE HELM

The Society warmly welcomes the appointment of Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD as Minister for Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs. Mr. Deenihan has long been acquainted with this Society's legislative campaigns and indeed, along with Labour Party Deputy Jack Wall, he agreed in 2005 to co-sponsor the Society's *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill*. However, following a careful consideration of the Dáil schedule for 2006, it was agreed that it would be more likely to get a reading in Seanad Éireann. Minister Deenihan's experience and knowledge of his new portfolio is impressive to say the least. He has been Fine Gael spokesperson on these issues for a number of years and has taken a keen interest in the national cultural institutions and their development. The new *Programme for Government* published by Fine Gael and the Labour Party is a wide ranging and ambitious document, indeed, the Society is delighted to see that it includes areas, upon which, it has campaigned for years. The programme states - 'We will promote genealogical tourism by updating the *National Cultural Institutions Act* in relation to the Genealogical office to put it on a proper statutory footing, modernise its operations and to enable publication of the 1926 census to stimulate genealogy tourism. We will also explore philanthropic

opportunities for the development of a national archives and genealogy quarter, providing easy access to archives and tapping into an area of cultural tourism which is of huge interest to the vast Irish Diaspora.' The Society was to the forefront in the campaign to have the 'office' of the Chief Herald of Ireland and indeed, the State's delivery of heraldic services, placed on a secure legislative footing. It was back in 2000 that the Society advocated new heraldic legislation and published the 'heads of a bill' in 2002 which culminated in the publication of the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* which was sponsored by Labour Party Senator Brendan Ryan of Cork. This Bill was not accepted by the Fianna Fáil led government and although it had a two hour Second Stage debate in Seanad Éireann, it was withdrawn by the sponsor at the request of the Minister who promised to examine the matters raised by the Bill. The State's heraldic services were subsequently suspended in 2007 for approximately eight months. They only resumed following the admission by the Minister that the State had no legislative authority to grant arms between 1943 and 2005 when the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* was implemented. The Society was instrumental in the publication by Labour Party Senator Alex White of the *National Cultural Institutions (Amendment)*

Bill, 2008 which sought to place Irish heraldic services on a proper statutory footing and to regularise the pre-2005 grants of Arms. The Society was the only genealogical organisation advocating the reduction of the 100 year closure during the 1993 debate on the *Statistics Act* and after years of campaigning for the release of the 1926 census, the Society included a provision for its release in the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006*. The Society followed up its legislative campaign with its *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2010* which was published by Fianna Fáil Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú. This solid record of constructive campaigning on these legislative matters and others has been vindicated by the inclusion of the Society's objectives in the *Programme for Government*. Recent statements by the Minister on the possible introduction of legislation later this year to release of 1926 census are very encouraging. The Society's wishes Minister Jimmy Deenihan every success in his role at the helm of Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs.

ONE-NAME STUDIES

The Society will be represented at the Guild of One Name Studies AGM in Warrington, England from April 15th to 17th 2011 and it will have a stand at the *Over 50s Show* at the RDS, Dublin, from Oct. 21st to 23rd 2011, at which, it will promote the Society and the Guild.

State Visits a boost for Ancestry Tourism

This month HSH Albert II of Monaco visited his mother's ancestral home at Drimurla, Newport, Co. Mayo, where his great grandfather, John Peter Kelly, was born and reared before emigrating to America in 1887. Next month President Barack Obama will visit Shinrone in Co. Offaly and Monyeggall on the Co. Offaly border with Co. Tipperary, both places associated with his 2nd great grandfather, Falmouth Kearney. Both of these villages are expecting a sizeable increase in tourism

as a result of the visit. Meanwhile preparations are also underway for the most significant State Visit to Ireland since independence in 1922. HM Queen Elizabeth II is to visit Ireland on May 17th 2011. There are a number of very important and highly symbolic engagements in the itinerary. Surprisingly, unlike the other two State Visits, there has been no mention of her visiting the county of her ancestors. The queen's 5th great grandfather on her mother's side was Richard Colley of Castle Carbery, Co. Kildare, who inherited

the estate of his cousin, Garret Weisely (Wisely Wesley, later Wellesley) of Dangan, Co. Meath, when he died without issue in 1728. Garret was the queen's first cousin seven times removed. Richard Colley assumed Garret's surname by Royal Licence in 1728. So when the royal party visit the National Stud in Co. Kildare, why not give Her Majesty a chance to do some 'ancestry tourism' and view the ruins of Castle Carbery - a 16th century tower-house and the former seat of her Irish ancestors?

The Donegal Plantation and the Tír Chonaill Irish, 1610-1710

Another essential read for anyone with Donegal ancestry is the Maynooth Studies in Local History: No. 93—'*The Donegal Plantation and the Tír Chonaill Irish, 1610-1710*' by **Darren McGettigan** and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-264-3 : 72pp : p/bk : Price: €9.95—Web Price: €8.95). The excellently researched book charts the disasters that befell the people of Co. Donegal following the end of the Nine Years War and the Flight of the Earls. This short study of the period opens with a description of Donegal in 1610 at the beginning of the Ulster Plantation. The area was 'shired' under Queen Elizabeth I in 1585, however, the current boundaries of the county were not fixed until the early seventeenth century. In 1610 we see a county which was largely still in the hands of the Gaelic chiefly families, some of which, were the junior branches of the great Gaelic lordships that left Ireland with O'Neill and O'Donnell in 1607. Attempts by O'Donnell to restore the finances of his earldom with more modern commercial and tenantry arrangements with his sub-chieftains were frustrated by the introduction of English law which fermented ancient rivalries. The departure of the earls enable the Crown to declare their land forfeit and along with five other counties, Tyrone, Fermanagh, Cavan, Armagh and Derry. This study follows the ever decreasing fortunes of the Gaelic Irish and their marginalisation both economically and politically. These O'Donnells, McSweeneyes, O'Gallaghers and O'Boyles had held sway over Tír Chonaill for hundreds of years and now their world with its ancient laws, customs and culture came under sustained pressure from the modern world in the form of the Crown and its servants in Ireland. By 1610 the

Irish of county were cowed and leaderless. Following the crushing of Sir Cahir O'Doherty's rebellion in 1608 any hope that Donegal might be reserved for the 'native nobility' was gone and by 1610 the plantation of lowland Scots, particularly from Ayrshire, began in earnest. The study details the plantation scheme and how parts of the scheme were unravelled and eventually abandoned following the 1641 rebellion. The rebellion of 1641 was, as McGettigan explains, pure folly for the Gaelic chiefly families of Donegal. They were defeated again and again by the settlers and the attempt by the Irish in Tyrone to assist them also failed. The area of Donegal most affected by the wars of the 1640s and early 1650s was the barony of Kilmacrennan which stretched from the River Swilly to the Atlantic coast. This was the only area where the planters and the Gaelic population lived side by side. The loss of the experienced leaders in the run up to the rebellion meant 'some of their successors had not known warfare in Ireland and were to prove to be open to the counsel of dangerous and more desperate men.' The confiscations following rebellion and though some lands were restored by the Crown, sometimes on the conversion of the land owner to Protestantism, compounded the impoverishment of the native population. From a genealogical perspective the study is extremely useful as it charts the movements of the Gaelic families through internal migration, for example the O'Donnells to Co. Mayo, and emigration to the continent. The remnants of the chiefly families held onto a precarious existence in the western parts of the county and in the highlands, both of which, were poor agriculturally and largely untouched by the plantation unlike the more

productive east and south of the county. As a resource for the study of the major Donegal Gaelic and planter families this study is exceptionally useful for the genealogist and of particular interest, is the extensive notes and footnotes included. However, more comprehensive genealogical tables for each of the Gaelic chiefly families and the provision of a historical timeline would have greatly assisted the reader. That said, the provision of a genealogical table for the O'Donnells from the early sixteenth to the early eighteenth centuries is a useful guide to the various branches of the family. The excellent references supplied in the notes open up this area to a number of studies on the families of both planter and Gael and, of course, to local history and other studies. For Donegal ancestry this book is simply a gem. Check-out the other titles in this series on the Four Courts Press website. Darren McGettigan is also the author of '*Red Hugh O'Donnell and the Nine Years War*' published by Four Courts Press in 2005. **MM**

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

by John Grenham

The Society strongly recommends that anybody wishing to trace their Irish ancestry should, as a first step, get a copy of this very comprehensive guide.

www.gillmacmillan.ie

Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!

APRILS OF YESTERYEAR

Twenty years ago this month the Society held its first public lecture in the Hotel Victor (now *The Rochestown Lodge*) in Dún Laoghaire. Back in 1991 many thought that organising a monthly lecture series to run right throughout the year was an overly ambitious objective, however, twenty years on and we're still going strong. The Society is the only genealogical organisation in Ireland hosting Open Meetings throughout the year without a break—twelve evening meetings with lectures and eleven morning meetings with group discussions on genealogical topics. Nowadays in addition to the Open Meetings there are approximately eighty archival research days organised by the Society and, of course, Members receive twelve newsletters and an annual Journal. Another April and another year, 1993, the Society published the agreed programme of the GRO Users' Group which was an hoc body representing various genealogical organisations in Ireland in opposition to the then government's plans for the General Register Office in Dublin. The GRO Users' Group first met on November 19th 1992,

however, it soon became apparent that getting an agreed approach would be difficult and indeed, it wasn't until April 1993 that an agreed policy was published. Resistance within this ad-hoc Group to any move beyond dealing with the GRO issue was very strong. This left this Society ploughing a very lonely furrow at the time during the passing of the *Statistics Bill* in Seanad Éireann in June 1993. We campaigned for the early release of the 1926 census and we nearly succeeded in getting the 100 year closure reduced to 70 years, but alas, despite Ministerial promises it was not reduced. Another April, just one hundred years ago, the 1911 Census of Ireland was taken on the night of Sunday April 2nd. This census recorded the population of Ireland as 4,390,219 a decrease of 1.54% since 1901. Subsequent census returns for the twenty-six counties recorded a steady decline in the population until the 1960s. This year on Sunday April 10th 2011 is 'Census Night' and no doubt the 2011 census will show a marked difference to that of 2006—a point future genealogists and historians will study with interest.

GSI LECTURES 2011

On **Tuesday 12th April** '*The 1641 Depositions as an aid to the genealogist*' by **Jane Ohlmeyer**. On **Tuesday 10th May** '*Tracing Ancestry through DNA*' by **Gianpiero Cavalleri** and finally, on **Tuesday 14th June** '*Irish Online Sources*' by **Mary Beglan, MAPGI**. Please send any suggestions for possible lectures to the Director of the GSI Lecture Programme, **Séamus Moriarty, FGSI** at e-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

GSI Members researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine will find the publications and meetings of the Medal Society of Ireland of interest. For further information please visit the Medal Society's website at: www.msoui.ie

GSI ARCHIVE NEWS

Since the Society's Archives relocated to the premises at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire the public interest in the activities of the Society has been phenomenal. With a number of special 'open days' organised since July 2010 members of the public have been introduced to the joys of family history research. The Society's Outreach Programme will continue to promote the study of genealogy and heraldry through exhibitions and the provision of information desks at events around the country. The establishment of a specific portfolio at Board level to coordinate the Society's delivery of research information was considered absolutely necessary and new Board Member, **Eddie Gahan, MGSI**, has been allocated this important portfolio. The Board is also pleased to announce that it has, by virtue of *Res: 11/04/836*, appointed **Fiona Tipple, MA, DipLib, ALAI, MGSI**, former Head of Bibliographic Services at the Library of

University College Dublin, to the position of **Senior Librarian** at the Society's Archives. Ms. Tipple will also act as a special advisor to the Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, on the development of the Society's archival and library projects and services. The Senior Librarian will also be responsible for the Society's own files which date from October 1990 and hold a wealth of information on the development of genealogy and heraldry in Ireland over the past two decades. The development of the Society's planned Digital Archive will be the responsibility of **Sharon Bofin, MGSI**. The '*Weekend Genealogy Courses*' at the GSI Archives commenced its second round on April 2nd 2011. The course is delivered by John Hamrock, MGSI of Ancestor Network Ltd. For more information on these unique courses please contact **John Hamrock, MGSI** by phone at 087 0505296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

I.G.R.S. 75th ANNIVERSARY

The Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) recently celebrated its 75th anniversary of its foundation with a reception in the National Library of Ireland with Her Excellency, President Mary McAleese, as guest of honour. This special event held on Thursday March 31st also included the conferring of an IGRS Fellowship on Mrs. McAleese by the Society's President and former Chief Herald of Ireland, Mr. Fergus Gillespie, MA. Founded in London in September 1936, the IGRS is generally considered to be the first society established specifically for the study of Irish genealogy. The society is an incorporated body in the United Kingdom with charitable status and it has an extensive library collection in London. This British based organisation has an international membership and in May 1986 its Irish members established a non-executive 'Ireland Branch' responsible to the IGRS Council in London. For further info: www.igrsoc.org

James Scannell Reports...

LAND LEAGUER REMEMBERED

A ceremony to mark the centenary of the death of James Daly, considered by some to be 'the most forgotten man in Irish history' was held at the Mayo Peace Park on Tuesday March 22nd 2011. James Daly was born in Lahardyn, Co. Mayo, in 1838 and embarked on his political career in 1869 when he won a seat in the Breaffy electoral division. Seven years later in February 1876 he and Alfred O'Hea purchased the *Mayo Telegraph* newspaper from Sir Frederick Cavendish and through its pages promoted land reform, coining the key phrase 'the soil is the property of the tiller' in 1877, some two years before the establishment of the Irish National Land League more commonly known as the Land League. Daly played an imported role in the Tenants' Defence Association which preceded the National Land League. On April 20th 1879 upwards of 8000 people attended a meeting chaired him in Irishtown, Co. Mayo, which ultimately resulted in Canon Geoffrey Burke, manager of the local estate for an absentee landlord, reducing tenant's rent by 25%. Later on June 8th that year Daly chaired a meeting in Westport which was addressed by Charles Stewart Parnell and Michael Davitt. On October 21st 1879 Daly was elected to the committee of the Irish National Land League founded in Dublin which built on the work of land reform agitated for by the Tenants' Defence Association. On November 29th 1879 James Daly, Michael Davitt and a barrister James Boyle Killeen were arrested by the authorities in Gurteen, Co Sligo, and charged with making seditious speeches. When the case came before the courts on November

24th Daly is credited with issuing the statement "Don't pay the landlord until you have some guarantee from him or from government that they won't see your children starve". The March 22nd commemoration of the death of James Daly, who in the words of Tom Gillespie, the current editor of *Connaught Telegraph*, took up the cause of land reform with Michael Davitt and together established tenant farmers' rights against mainly absentee landlords, included a tree planting ceremony in Castlebar cemetery where his remains are buried. But a great-great grandnephew believes that his ancestor has never received any recognition for the important role that he played in the foundation of the Land League.

ROSCOMMON ASSOCIATION

Dublin's Glasnevin Cemetery was the setting on Sunday March 6th 2011 for the celebration of a memorial Mass in honour of Fr. Michael O'Flanagan, Patrick Moran and Edward Duffy, organised by the committee of the Roscommon Association after which wreaths were laid on their respective graves. In January 1919 Fr. Michael O'Flanagan recited prayers prior to the sitting of the first Dáil in the Mansion House, Dublin in January 1919 and during the 1930's was one of the few Catholic priests in Ireland to support the republican government in Spain. Earlier in June 1915 Fr. O'Flanagan had campaigned on behalf of turf cutters and organised a turf cutters assault on a Co. Sligo bog from which turf cutters were being excluded by the authorities. Moved from the parish by his bishop, the board boarded up the church in his absence

until he was allowed to return several months later. Patrick Moran, from Crossna near Boyle was executed on March 14th 1921 in Mountjoy Gaol on a grim morning when six volunteers were hung in groups of two at 6am, 7am, and 8am. Moran was convicted for a crime he did not commit on very dubious and questionable eye witness testimony and the story of Patrick Moran, his court-martial and refusal to escape are all covered in May Moran's biography '*Executed for Ireland - The Patrick Moran Story*' published by Mercier Press. That Sunday also marked the start of Patrick Moran Week in Dún Laoghaire which consisted of an exhibition and talks. May Moran also spoke about Patrick Moran to the Bray Trade Unions Council during March and will speak at the Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society AGM talk in the Kingston Hotel, Dún Laoghaire on April 20th 2011. Fenian leader Edward Duffy of Ballagherreen and Laughlin died in London's Millbank Prison in 1868 while being held there for treason.

ACADEMIC BOOKS WANTED

The Society is supporting the initiative by Bosnian students to restock the Library of the University of Sarajevo following its destruction in the Bosnian civil war. Contemporary academic works in any discipline wanted. Authors and Publishing Houses are encouraged to support the initiative. For further details and for the address etc see: www.books4vijecnica.com

Précis of the March Lecture

On **Tuesday 8th March** members heard a very interesting lecture on the topic of '*Researching the Irish Revolution*' by Dr. **Daihtí Ó Corráin** of St Patrick's College, Drumcondra, Dublin. By way of clarification for our readers the 'Irish Revolution' is the period from the 1916 Rising to the conclusion of the Civil War in 1923. The human cost of Irish political violence was traumatic with in excess of 2,500 fatalities to the Truce of July 1921 alone. Dr Ó Corráin focused in particular on the array of historical sources for the period and their strengths and weaknesses. The most challenging period for the historian or genealogist is the 1916 Rebellion. Much of the information is incomplete given that the outbreak was unexpected, of short duration and occurred during the Great War. Burial registers, eye witness accounts, the register of the Commonwealth Graves Commission and the newly digitised 1911 census are the most fruitful research avenues. In the historiography of the period, civilian fatalities have generally been ignored or underemphasised. Tracing their circumstances is not easy, though

the local press often yields rich personal and funeral details. Dr Ó Corráin drew attention to two often overlooked sources. Military courts of inquiry which superseded coroners' inquests from August 1920 are held in UK national archives in London. Compensation awards at quarter session hearings are an accurate source of person information in terms of martial status, occupation, dependents and circumstances of death. Under the *Criminal Injuries Act (1919)* state servants and others murdered, maimed or maliciously injured by unlawful organisations were entitled to monetary compensation. While the life details of British officers are recorded in the Army List, tracing servicemen is more difficult. In 2005 regimental enlistment or attestation books were saved from destruction and returned to regimental archives and museums. They are a fascinating source providing age, place of origin, next of kin, service number and so forth. Regimental journals, newspapers and histories, private diaries, rolls of honour, collections of letters and reminiscences, sound recordings as well as digests of service

and war diaries are all valuable military sources. Regular soldiers describing their experience in Ireland often grumbled about that old Irish reliable the unreliable weather! Those interested in policemen are indebted to the pioneering work of Jim Herlihy, FGSI. On the Republican side there is an abundance of material from roadside memorials to well known chronicles such as Dan Breen's '*My fight for Irish Freedom*'. But many volunteers did not write memoirs. To this end, the Bureau of Military History collected oral testimony from participants between 1947 and 1959 in the form of witness statements. While they may be weak at times on dates they provide a fascinating insight to IRA activities at a local level. They are available for consultation from the Irish Military Archives. As we approach 2016, much attention will be focused on the military service pension applications. When they become available for public consultation, historians will be able to build an even more nuanced and informed picture of the dynamics of the Irish Revolution. A very lively Q+A session followed this very informative lecture.

2011 Membership Package

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 4, 2010. It was agreed under **Res: 10/11/798** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2011 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2011 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household member with voting rights; Membership Card(s); right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter by e-mail; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club, School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group pro-

jects; Members' internet forum; genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised genealogy courses etc. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2011 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date. **NOTE:** In accordance with **Res: 10/09/785** all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Card for details. Membership can be obtained or renewed via the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie/shop or if you prefer, simply

download the form, complete it and send it to **Mr. Billy Saunderson**, MGSI, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. **New Members always welcome!**

WILL YOUR RECORDS WELL

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

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

is published by the

Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited

11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie

Charity Reference: CHY10672

The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann

Board of Directors 2011-2012

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World of Genealogy and Heraldry

DIARY DATES

Tuesday April 12th & May 10th 2011

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday April 27th & May 25th 2011

Morning Open Meeting

Weir's, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

The Bombing of Dolphin's Barn, Dublin, 1941

'The Bombing of Dolphin's Barn, Dublin, 1941' by Eoin C. Bairéad, published by the Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-261-2 : 64pp : Price €9.95—Web Price: €8.95) This is another excellent title in the recently launched 2011 Maynooth Studies in Local Studies series of publications and recalls one of the lesser known bombing incidents in Dublin during the 'Emergency' [as World War II was officially known in Ireland as a neutral country] when bombs from a German aircraft were dropped on the Donore area of Dublin's South Circular Road on the night of January 2nd/3rd 1941. The story of this incident and its aftermath is told from the surviving Dublin Corporation files and interviews with a number of people who remember this incident. Local history is often about the people who live or lived in a particular area so the author opens this excellent title with a brief history of Donore Terrace, its evolution and development including information on some of the residents who lived there some of the information is drawn from the 1901 and 1911 censuses and directories. The night of bombing itself saw the Air Raid Protection (A.R.P.) and other emergency services turn out promptly and having a good idea of who was living in each house at that time due to one member having the foresight to record details of house occupants in a notebook which survived the passage of time and is currently held by Dublin City Archives. This is followed by two chapters, one dealing with the repair and re-decoration of the damaged houses, the selection of contractors, the appointment of surveyors, their instructions and the reaction of the Corporation to the incident as this was a whole issue for it to deal with. The plans and systems they put into place to deal with type of situation, of which, they had no prior experience, resulted in the evolution of a template used very effectively six months later when bombs fell on the North Strand causing far greater damage and leading to loss of life. The second chapter deals with the folklore surrounding the incident especially as the synagogue was damaged leading to the rumour that this was the reason the area was bombed but the author goes into the many reasons for the bombing including navigation error. Included in this section are the recollections of those who can still remember the events of that night based on interviews carried out by the author. Though the damage to the area was included in the compensation paid by the German Government in the 1950's for war damage, Dubliners boasted that theirs was the only city in Europe that the Germans paid for damaging a synagogue. The final chapters deal with the Easter 1941 bombing of Belfast and the aftermath of the Dublin North Strand bombing which led to certain tensions within Dublin Corporation which the author covers in detail. All in all an excellent concise and well researched account of this lesser known bombing of Dublin during the Emergency, often overlooked as it tends to be overshadowed by the North Strand bombing six months later yet this earlier incident provided the administrative template for the Corporation to deploy for the North Strand bombing. An essential read for all those interested in the history of the 'Emergency' and/or Dublin city itself.

James Scannell

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**GENEALOGIA POLSKA : POLISH GENEALOGY**

Od 2004 roku, kiedy to Polska stała się krajem członkowskim Unii Europejskiej, tysiące Polaków wyemigrowało w poszukiwaniu swojego miejsca do życia poza granicami ojczystego kraju. Szacunkowo, mimo szalejącej na wyspie recesji, na terenie Irlandii mieszka i pracuje ok. 180 tys. Polaków (www.portal.polscot.com).



Zapewne są wśród nich osoby zainteresowane bardziej lub mniej swoim pochodzeniem, korzeniami, własną rodzinną historią. Stały pobyt w Irlandii niezaprzeczenie utrudnia poszukiwania własnego rodowodu, jednak nie sprawia, iż staje się to niemożliwe. Jak w takim razie można uzyskać dostęp do bogatych zasobów danych osobowych naszych przodków, które czekają na to, by po nie sięgnąć? Oczywiście, najprostszym rozwiązaniem tego problemu są zasoby internetowe – nierzadko stanowią bardzo bogate źródło informacji. Przecież każdy wie, że wystarczy wpisać w wyszukiwarce odpowiednie hasła, kliknąć i voila – wyświetla nam się lista z mnóstwem stron o wybranej tematyce. Pozostaje jednak pytanie: którą z nich wybrać, która posiada bogate i udokumentowane źródła i zasoby, która jest łatwa w obsłudze a jednocześnie profesjonalna, a która strona prezentuje amatorski poziom przekazywanych informacji, nierzadko na potrzeby osobiste właściciela danej strony? Spośród angielskojęzycznych zasobów, należałoby wymienić stronę www.familysearch.org. Strona ta posiada w bazie danych źródła historyczne z niemal całego świata, dostęp do nich jest zupełnie darmowy. Dzięki tej stronie możemy poznać historię własnej rodziny, drzewo genealogiczne, bądź odwiedzić multimedialną bibliotekę. Spośród polskich zasobów należy wymienić Księgi Parafialne Diecezji Radomskiej z lat 1654-1946 oraz Księgi Parafialne Kościoła Rzymskokatolickiego

w Polsce z lat 1600-1950. W księgach tych znajdziemy daty urodzin, zgonów, chrztu oraz ślubów w poszczególnych parafiach, przekazując zainteresowanym dość istotne informacje w poszukiwaniu swoich przodków. Niemniej jednak, miłośnicy genealogii i języka polskiego również znajdują wiele polskojęzycznych źródeł w sieci. Należy tutaj wymienić wtyrny www.ornatowski.com – strona założona przez Artura Ornatowskiego, na której znaleźć można artykuły i informacje z szeroko pojętej historii, genealogii i heraldyki polskiej, genyzy nazwisk i pochodzenia imion. Pomocnym, jak i profesjonalnym źródłem do rozpoczęcia poszukiwań własnych korzeni tak dla amatorów jak i profesjonalnych genealogów jest strona Polskiego Towarzystwa Genealogicznego www.genealodzy.pl, założonego w 2006 roku. Czasem jednak zasoby internetowe nie są, niestety, kompletne, bądź czasem nie wystarczają do uzyskania pełnej informacji na temat historii swoich przodków. Może być konieczna osobista wizyta w archiwum bądź parafii. Nieodzowna może okazać się pomoc bądź konsultacja z bardziej doświadczonymi poszukiwaczami. Dobrym sposobem jest skontaktowanie się z towarzystwem genealogicznym działającym na danym regionie. Szukając przodków w Stanach Zjednoczonych, pomocy szukać należy w Polskim Towarzystwie Genealogicznym Ameryki (Polish Genealogical Society of America). Trzeba mieć jednak na uwadze, iż przygoda z genealogią może być nie lada wyzwaniem. Nierzadko jest to przygoda pochłaniająca wiele czasu, nierzadko kilkanaście lat i więcej. Jednak im dalej odkrywamy naszą przeszłość, tym większą mamy satysfakcję. Warto wiedzieć, iż pierwszy powszechny spis ludności w Polsce miał miejsce 30 września 1921 roku. Zatem jeżeli szukamy informacji o naszych przodkach, dotyczących lat wcześniejszych, warto skontaktować się z rodzimą parafią bądź archiwum diecezjalnym. O ile dane z ksiąg parafialnych nie zostały zniszczone w pożarach, bądź podczas wojen, można być niemal pewnym odnalezienia interesującej nas informacji. Zatem – do dzieła! **Bartosz Kozłowski** - b.k.webdesign@gmail.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011-2012

The following Members were elected at the Annual General Meeting held on March 8th 2011 to serve on the Board of Directors of the Society for the period 2011-2012. In addition to each designated title there are a number of other functions and duties assigned by the Board as follows: *Cathaoirleach*: **Pádraic Ingoldsby**, MGSi [Liaison with the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Herald and College of Fellows]. *Leas-Chathaoirleach*: **Gerry Hayden**, MGSi [Buildings & Utilities, Liaison with Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company]. *General Secretary*: **Michael Merrigan**, MA, FGSI [Company Secretary, Policy Matters, Gazette, Legislative Matters, Liaison with Oireachtas Members, Government & State Agencies, Publications, Heraldry & Vexillology]. *Director of Finance*: **Billy Saunderson**, MGSi [Budgets, Financial Control and Grant Applications, Corporate Matters.]. *Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership*: **Tom Conlon**, MGSi [Marketing & Promotion Strategies, Advertising, Membership Matters, Design & Maintenance of the GSI On-Line Shop, GSI Rep. at The Wheel]. *Director of Archival Services*: **Séamus O'Reilly**, FGSI [Archival Collections, Archival Policy, GSI Files, On-Line Catalogue, Public Office]. *Director of Cemetery Projects*: **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI [Recording & Publication of Memorial Inscriptions, Group Projects]. *Director of Digital Archive*: **Sharon Bofin**, MGSi [Creation, Maintenance & Expansion of GSI Digital Archive]. *Director of Education & Social Inclusion*: **John Hamrock**, MGSi [Education Programmes, Outreach & Volunteerism Programmes, Liaison with Educational Establishments & Repositories, Educational & Social Agencies. GSI Rep. at The Wheel]. *Director of Internet Services*: **Bartosz Kozłowski**, MGSi [GSI Website, Design and Maintenance & GSI Facebook Page]. *Director of Lecture Programme*: **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI [Evening Meeting Lecture Programme, Liaison with Speakers & Venue]. *Director of Research Information Services*: **Eddie Gahan**, MGSi [Public Office, Exhibitions & Outreach Programme]. Contact details for each Board Members are on the Society's website.