

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

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



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Tracing Irish-Jewish Ancestry

A number of fine works on the history of the Irish-Jewish community were published over the years including Dermot Keogh's *'Jews in Twentieth-Century Ireland'* and Ray Rivlin's *'Shalom Ireland - A social history of Jews in modern Ireland'* - but nothing on their genealogical heritage. This situation has been painstakingly remedied through the dedication and tenacity of the Society's Vice-President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**. In February 2010, Stuart delivered a very fine lecture to the members of the Society on the topic *'From Immigration to Integration of the Jewish Community in Ireland'* which expertly charted the arrival, expansion and on-going decline of this community. Dublin once had a thriving Jewish community until this was severely depleted through emigration from the mid 20th century. With little immigration of European Jews into Ireland during the Second World War, possibly as few as sixty, the Irish-Jewish community is primarily of eastern European origin, mainly from eastern Poland, Lithuania and Russia, arriving here in the latter half of the 19th and very early 20th centuries. The attitudes of successive Irish governments to the issue of Jewish immigration has received much attention and indeed, it can sometimes be gleaned from the files of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

The Royal Irish Academy published seven volumes of *'Documents on Irish Foreign Policy'* dating from 1919 to 1945. For example, in a letter from the head of the Irish Legation in Berlin, Charles Bewley, to Joseph P. Walshe at the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin dated November 18th 1938 (*Ref: NAI DFA 249/9*) we find an intriguing piece of information. 'A Dr. Gradenwitz called today at the Legation and stated that a Commission had been formed in England for the purpose of forming a Jewish colony in Ireland and that the Commission had selected a district for settlement of Jews in Ireland. The idea seems ridiculous on the face of it; but I shall be glad of formal instructions so that it shall be denied in the case of further Jewish inquiries here.' Interestingly, Andreas Roth in his *'Mr. Bewley in Berlin - Aspects of the Career of an Irish Diplomat, 1933-1939'* (Four Courts Press, 2000) makes no mention of Dr. Gradenwitz. One wonders what might have been if this scheme had come to fruition. Nowadays the Jewish population is so small in Ireland that many young people are forced to emigrate to areas with larger and growing Jewish communities in England and elsewhere. This emigration has given rise to a worldwide Jewish community with Irish-Jewish ancestry, for whom, Stuart has amassed the most comprehensive collection of genealogical

material ever compiled on an entire Jewish community in any country. This invaluable information covers many different sources and from all over Ireland. Records stretching back over three centuries includes families that emigrated to all corners of the world. With so much detailed information available in one place this saves years of arduous research. Stuart's extensive knowledge of the sources for Irish Jewish family and social history is unrivaled in Ireland and making this knowledge and experience available to those researching their Irish Jewish roots is a wonderful contribution to the study and promotion of genealogy in general. Stuart's magnum opus is beautifully bound in sixteen volumes and he has donated a complete to the GSI Archives, the National Library and the National Archives. Stuart's many years of detailed research to locate, record and copy the archival history of the Jewry of Ireland stands as a monumental contribution to the study of the history, genealogy and heritage of the Irish-Jewish community. This community now has its own unique Diaspora and Stuart's new publication *'The Yidiot's Guide to Irish Jewish Family Ancestry'*, published by The Varsity Press is an essential key to the roots of this Diaspora. **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI** may be contacted at masterc@medianet.ie

Irish DNA Atlas & 'NASC'

The feedback from the main article in last month's issue on the Society's new group project 'Irish DNA Atlas' has been extremely positive. Currently the Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, and **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) are producing an explanatory leaflet on the project. The aims of the project are twofold (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Originally the project intended inviting participants with all eight great grandparents from the same county to present a Birth

Brief and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Many members and others contacted the Society on the issue of the county boundaries and rightly suggested that other spatial boundaries may be more appropriate. Many indicated that they had great grandparents from both sides a county boundary and that, in many cases, areas on either side of a county line had more in common historically, socially and genealogically than with the other parts of their own counties. The project team fully accepts this point and is currently developing a research mapping model based on 'natural areas of social cohesion' (NASC) which would cater for this cross-county ancestry. This

mapping exercise will also take account of the historical development of the areas concerned and facilitate a more targeted approach to the recruitment of volunteers to participate in this all-Ireland project. As reported last month, this project is open to GSI members and others who will participate on a pro bono basis to further the project's two main objectives. The explanatory leaflet will be available next month, however, should you be interested in participating in this new and exciting research project, please contact Séamus O'Reilly on Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie When the leaflet and sample kits are available Séamus will contact all participants.

Reshaping Ireland 1550-1700—Colonization and its Consequences

A new publication from Four Courts Press explores a subject that each genealogist or local historian must confront when dealing with Ireland—its colonization and the legacy of the wars, dispossessions and plantations that brought about fundamental changes throughout the country. These periods shaped and, in many cases, reshaped the cultural, religious and national identities of the peoples of Ireland. Expanding our collective understanding of the colonial paradigm in early modern Ireland is essential, not just from a historical perspective, but because its legacy is still capable of fuelling discord and violence in twenty-first century Ireland. *'Reshaping Ireland 1550-1700—Colonization and its Consequences'* edited by **Brian Mac Cuarta, SJ** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-272-8 : 380pp : colour illustrations : h/b : Price €55.00) is a collection of essays presented as a *Festschrift* to one of Ireland's finest historians, **Professor Nicholas Canny** of the National University of Ireland, Galway, and President of the Royal Irish Academy. The first essay by Ciarán Brady *'From policy to power: the evolution of Tudor reform strategies in sixteenth-century Ireland'* explores the brutally simple solutions adopted by the Crown to undermine and ultimately destroy the native Gaelic polity. John McGurk explores *'A soldier's prescription for the governance of Ireland, 1599-1601—Captain Thomas Lee and his tracts'* and provides a fascinating insight into the twin strategy of subjugation of the native elites and the eradication of Catholicism. Anna-leigh Margey deals with a very important aspect of colonization—mapping, in her essay *'Representing colonial landscapes: early English maps of Ulster and Virginia, 1580-1612'*. Mapping was a crucial tool in imperial expansion by which a visual representation often provided an enticement to settlers or adventurers.

Rolf Loeber and Terence Reeves-Smyth outline the political intrigue, personal ambitions and extensive building works of George Touchet in their essay *'Lord Audley's grandiose building schemes in the Ulster plantation'*. Brian Mac Cuarta's essay *'Sword' and 'word' in the 1610s: Matthew De Renzy and Irish reform'* deals with a native of Cologne, Germany, De Renzy who identified himself with the New English and sought advancement in the colonial enterprise. A rather enigmatic figure, he learned Irish and even used an Irish version of his name 'Mathghamhain Ó Rensi' when dealing with the Gaelic literati. Jane Ohlmeyer's essay *'Making Ireland English': the early seventeenth-century Irish peerage'* deals with the shifting fortunes of the Irish aristocracy through strategic marriages and denominational realignment creating 'a new England in all but name'. Brendan Kane's essay *'Scandal, Wentworth's deputyship and the breakdown of Stuart honour politics'* deals with the perception of honour and civility as a cultural aspect of Britishness of the New English colonial elites that was to sweep over a barbarous Ireland. Bernadette Cunningham looks at the variety of contexts in which the slow transition from Irish to English as the principal language of Ireland was achieved over centuries. *'Loss and gain: attitudes towards the English language in early modern Ireland'* outlines the competing language domains which produced a long-term bilingualism that only gradually gave way to the dominance of English. David Finnegan's essay *'Old English views of Gaelic Irish history and the emergence of an Irish Catholic nation c. 1569-1640'* deals with the controversial identity issue of 'confessional partisanship' between the Old English and Gaelic Irish. Jason McHugh's essay *'For our owne defence': Catholic insurrection in Wexford, 1641-2*

explores the circumstances surrounding the rebellion of the mainly Old English Catholics of south Wexford. Aiden Clarke deals *'The Commission for the despoiled subject, 1641-7'* (see <http://11641.tcd.ie>) and contextualises the complex and multi-layered interpretations of the depositions. Kevin Forkin explores *'The fatal ingredient of the covenant'; the place of the Ulster Scottish colonial community during the 1640s'* examines the forging of a type of shared 'Britishness' amongst Scots and English settlers—allied against the native Irish, though, significantly it sees the emergence of the dominance of the politics of Scots Presbyterianism in Ulster. Alan Ford's essay *'Past but still present: Edmund Borlase, Richard Parr and the reshaping of Irish history for English audiences in the 1680s'* is a fascinating exploration of the writing of history which was always fraught with difficulty negotiating the delicate relations between past events and their potential present meaning. Claiming the past, in many ways, sought to secure the future. In the Irish context this is essential reading. Pádraig Lenihan examines *'The impact of the battle of Aughrim (1691) on the Irish Catholic elite'* and arrives at a more plausible number of Irishmen killed at Aughrim considerably less than the popularly accepted figure. He provides listings of the senior officers killed and taken prisoner. Toby Barnard looks at *'Sir Richard Bellings, a Catholic courtier and diplomat from seventeenth-century Ireland'* and explores the survival strategies, ideological Englishness and cosmopolitanism of the Old English Catholic elites. Finally, J. H. Elliot contextualizes the themes explored in the essays with reference to the writings of Prof. Canny. Marie Boran provides an excellent select bibliography of Canny's writings up to 2009. **MM**

Weekend Genealogy Courses

Would you like to trace your trace your ancestors? Don't know how or where to start and would like to attend a course but you can't attend evening classes due to family or work commitments? Many people earnestly seeking to undertake family history research have raised this access problem with the Society over the years and therefore, a new Saturday Morning Genealogy Course was established in conjunction John Hamrock of **Ancessor Network Limited** is conducting a course on *'How to Trace Your Ancestors in Ireland'*. The aim of the course is to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library, and other important centres of research. You can learn how to be your own researcher. All you need is some curiosity and some expert guidance. Topics to be covered include the principles of genealogy, computers and the internet, place names and surnames, location and use of census, vital, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared with participants as they embark on the quest to

trace their ancestors. The following areas are covered on the course: getting started; talking to family members, drawing up a family tree, family group sheets, organising files, origins of surnames; Church Parish Records; Civil Registrations (births, marriages & deaths); Census Returns and Census Substitutes; Land Records; Other; estate records, directories & occupational records, grave records and inscriptions, newspapers, wills & administrations, DNA testing (genetic genealogy) and Recommended Books and Websites. Courses are held at the Genealogical Society of Ireland Library and Archive, *An Daoncharlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where computer access ensures that the major online resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. The Weekend Genealogy Courses will commence on Saturday, 17 September 2011. So when you hear that question—*'Who Do You Think You Are?'* - let us help you find out! For more information on these courses please contact **John Hamrock, MGSI** by phone 087 505 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

MARITIME INSTITUTE SEMINAR

The Maritime Institute of Ireland will hold a One-Day Maritime Lecture Seminar in the Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, on Sunday August 28th 2011 from 12.30hrs to 18.00hrs. [Access via Marine Road—next to old Christian Brother's School on Eblana Avenue.] Speakers and their subjects are - 12.20hrs *'Neutral Ireland's role in the sinking of the Bismarck, May 1941'* by Dr. Michael Kennedy; 13.30hrs *'Traditional Boats of Ireland. Wooden Workboats from all of the Maritime Counties of Ireland'* by Darina Tully; 14.30hrs *'Too Many bags in the Lifeboat - a lifeboat tragedy off Bray, Co. Wicklow, 1876'* by James Scannell; 15.30hrs. Interval; 15.45hrs; *'Model Boats - Short Talk & Exhibition'* by Garry Mooney; 16.00hrs. *'Maritime Guinness - The Ships, Yachts and Barges of the Guinness Family'* by Dr. Edward Bourke; 17.00hrs *'Ireland's Armada - The Story of the Spanish Armada of 1588, the discoveries of the wrecks on the Irish coast and the recovery of artefacts'* by Cormac Lowth. All welcome. **James Scannell**

Outreach Programme—Heritage Week

The Society's Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan, MGSI**, has arranged for the Society's Archive and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, to be open each day from Saturday 20th August to Sunday 28th August 2011 between 13.00hrs and 16.30hrs to provide free family history advice to visitors. This initiative is part of the Society's contribution to the nationwide celebration of Heritage Week. In addition to the above, the Society will also be participating in a *Family History and Genealogy Night* organised by the Kilmacud & Stillorgan Local History Society on Wednesday 24th August 2011 at the Hayloft Restaurant at the Beaufield Mews, Woodlands

Avenue, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin between 18.00hrs and 21.00hrs. This will include an illustrated talk at 19.00hrs. The local history society will operate a *Drop-in Heritage Centre* creating a record of old photos and memorabilia by scanning, photographing or recording items for future generations. The *Drop-in Heritage Centre* will be next to the Post Office in Stillorgan Shopping Centre and will be operated in conjunction with Mount Merrion Historical Society from Weds 24th August to Friday 25th August from 12.00hrs to 16.00hrs each day. Future events at which the Society will participate include *Culture Night* in Pearse Street and the *Back to Our Past* exhibition in the RDS.

GS I LECTURES 2011

On **Tuesday 9th August** - Dublin's own Titanic: The sinking of the 'Tayleur' off Lambay in 1854 - Declan Heffernan. On **Tuesday 13th September** - Unbounded Charity and Unfortunate Females: Lady Arbella Denny and the early years of the Leeson St. Magdalen Asylum - Rosemary Raughter. On **Tuesday 11th October** - Court and Prison Records - Brian Donovan. On **Tuesday 8th November** - Barrack Obama's Benn and Donovan ancestors - Fiona Fitzsimons. On **Tuesday 13th December** - National Library of Ireland - Recent Developments & Future Plans - Katherine McSharry. All lectures are held at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire. For full directions to the venue see the home page on www.familyhistory.ie Please send any suggestions for lectures to **Séamus Moriarty, FGSI**, Director of the Lecture Programme, e-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie

James Scannell Reports...

HERITAGE COUNCIL

The Heritage Council which proposes policies and priorities for the identification, protection, preservation and enhancement of the national heritage, has recently been transferred to the new Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, under Minister Jimmy Deenihan, T.D. According to Minister Deenihan, he will have two key overarching objectives during his term of office in the area of heritage, which will be the promoting the role Ireland's has to play in making Ireland an attractive destination for sustainable tourism and inward investment, and the strengthening the conservation and protection of Ireland's heritage through improved compliance with national and EU law. Minister Deenihan believes that the importance and appreciation of those elements of the built heritage which are unique or district to Ireland must be increased as it is through our heritage that the Irish people will experience the history of Ireland itself and obtain an understanding of how Ireland has developed as a nation. As resources are limited it is important that all those involved to work together more creatively to carry out the work of heritage protection and promotion and it is the minister's intention to work closely with key partner bodies such as

the Office of Public Works, the Heritage Council, the Irish Heritage Trust, the Landmark Trust and other heritage bodies to deliver these overall objectives.

HERITAGE SEMINAR

On Saturday August 27th Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2 will hold an Afternoon Heritage Seminar from 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m. at which Bridget Hourican will speak on 'Ambassadors of Dublin a city of a thousand Welcomes' which is an initiative promoting Dublin as a place where tourists can experience Irish hospitality at its best. Ambassadors and first time visitors are brought together at no cost to either party with the idea of giving the visitor a positive first impression of the city. During this presentation Bridget Hourican will recount her experiences as an ambassador. Michael Molloy and Enda Leaney will follow her with their presentation covering 'Using Photographs in Local History Research'. This presentation will feature samples from the Dublin City Council Photographic Collection and will show how local photographs can enrich local history studies. A demonstration will be given of the uses that have been made of photographs from the Collection in local studies by the Digital Projects Section of Dublin City

Libraries. The Lord Mayor of Dublin Cllr. Andrew Montague will formally launch a new on line resource from Dublin City Library & Archive - Dublin Graveyard Records Directory and Dublin City Franchise Records. The Directory of Graveyards in the Dublin Area was first published by Dublin City Libraries in 1988 and re-issued in 1990. It is now available as a fully searchable on-line database. The Directory covers all graveyards in the Dublin Area (Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown, Fingal and South Dublin). The Dublin City Franchise Records lists all voters for the period 1461–1774 and because voting rights could be inherited these records are invaluable for genealogical research. Noted genealogist John Grenham MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI, who designed both databases for Dublin City Library & Archive, will speak in advance of their formal launch by the Lord Mayor. Admission is free but booking essential on 01-6744806 / 6744873 E-mail: dublincitypubliclibraries@dublincity.ie.

CALLING ALL BOOK LOVERS

The **Mountains to Sea** dlr Book Festival will be a much extended event this year running from Sept. 1st to Sept. 11th and will feature talks, readings, workshops and exhibitions. Info. available on line at www.mountaintosea.ie Box Office on (01) 2312929

Précis of the July Lecture

Renowned local historian **James Scannell** was the guest speaker for the July 12th lecture on the topic of '**Dublin Fire Fighters and the 1941 Belfast Blitz**' which focussed the April 1941 Easter Tuesday blitz on Belfast by the Luftwaffe (German Air Force) and the assistance rendered by fire fighters from Dublin, Dún Laoghaire, Drogheda and Dundalk fire brigades who volunteered to assist in fire fighting operations the day immediately after this. James began by covering the general situation in 1941 which saw Belfast unprepared for the possibility of air raids with a low priority to air defence allocated to it by the authorities in London, coupled with a misplaced belief by the Northern Ireland government that the city was beyond range of the Luftwaffe when in fact it was since the German occupation of northern France in June 1940. A six-bomber air raid on the city in early April 1941 showed the error of this complacency and the subsequent hurried scramble to improve the city's air defences and civil defence organisation which was under strength and deficient in equipment, was too

late, as this minor air raid which resulted in 32 deaths and property damage, showed the Germans that the city was undefended and easy to attack. James then progressed to the night of Tuesday 15 April 1941 when a force of Luftwaffe bombers operating from bases in the Low Countries and northern France headed for Belfast, with the first wave arriving over the city around 22.30hrs. German pathfinders mistook Belfast Water Works as the aiming point instead of Belfast Docks with the result that many bombs from the following waves of aircraft fell on residential areas rather than the Docks. Over the next few hours over 203 tons of bombs of the high explosive and aerial air bust blast type were dropped, some of which were fitted with delayed action timers, in addition to thousands of incendiaries, which triggered numerous fires which began burning out of control and to overwhelm the Belfast fire fighters on the ground. As the situation raged out of control, James outlined the steps which resulted in a request being made by the Belfast to Dublin City Manager John Herson for fire fighting

assistance, one readily approved by Taoiseach Eamon de Valera, which untimely saw fire engines from the Dublin, Dún Laoghaire, Drogheda and Dundalk fire brigades on their way to Belfast within hours where they spent the next day engaged in fire fighting operations until nightfall when they returned to Dublin. Central to this part of the presentation were the recollections of several Dublin Fire Brigade fire fighters and the detailed recollection of Paddy White of Dún Laoghaire Fire Brigade interviewed by James some years ago. James concluded his presentation with the Blitz recollections of some Belfast people who lived through this ordeal of fire and blasts. Officially 745 people were killed, including some entire families, in this raid but it is believed that the actual death toll was nearer 1000. Following the lecture there was a very lively question and answer session with many members sharing their memories or those of their relatives of the German bombing of Belfast and parts of Dublin, which was a neutral city. The full lecture text will be published in the next issue of the Society's Journal.

GSI 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?

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*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2011-2012**

Pádraic Ingoldsby (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary & Publications); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Sales, Marketing & Membership); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **John Hamrock** (Education & Social Inclusion) **Bartosz Kozłowski** (Poland) (Internet Services) and **Eddie Gahan** (Research Info. Services).

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*Checkout the Society's Facebook Page
for regular up-dates on the
World of Genealogy and Heraldry*

DIARY DATES

Tuesday Aug. 9th & Sep. 13th 2011

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Aug. 24th & Sep. 28th 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)

'Brian Boru—King of Ireland'

'*Brian Boru – King of Ireland*' by Roger Chatterton Newman, published by Mercier Press, ISBN 978 1 85635 9197, pb, 288 pp, ills. Ask most people about Brian Boru and they will tell you that he won the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 and drove the Vikings out of Ireland and that's about as much they know about him. This engrossing and fascinating book looks at Brian Boru from a number of different perspectives and reminds the reader that while he may be a half-mythical figure, there is archaeological evidence of his existence and this book helps to separate fact from fiction as Brian Boru, like many figures in history, has had his role and importance grossly exaggerated in the folklore passed down through the centuries or embellished in the manuscripts of the early scribes. The author points out that at the time of Brian Boru, the history of chiefs and their tribes were passed down orally and that it was only with the arrival of the monasteries that their histories were written down for the first time but not all these can be taken as 100 per cent accurate. Brian Boru lived in the heyday of the Viking age with the Danish centres of power in Ireland being Cork, Limerick, Waterford, Wexford, and a Norse king sitting in Dublin. There was continuous war between the Norseman and the native Irish especially in the areas bordering their respective areas and Brian Boru emerged from this warfare in the south west, in what is now County Clare as a gifted guerrilla fighter with a small band of fighters, who has to maintain the pace or die, operating along similar lines to that of I.R.A. Flying Columns during the War of Independence 1919–1921. But Brian Boru was not only a great warrior; he was also a cautious and shrewd planner and politician by carefully arranging strategic alliances by marrying his daughters to those who would assist him in his ambitions and although he became high king in 1002, he was able to exert his authority over four of the five provinces in Ireland, which was no mean achievement. This is really an excellent and fascinating study of the legendary figure who really existed with the author exploring this life and times of this man, and the era that he lived, separating reality from myth and provides a projection of what might have happened had not the Battle of Clontarf on Good Friday 1014 taken place. There is no denying that Brian Boru was a remarkable man – as the youngest son of an obscure king from the kingdom of Thomond, he came closer than other Irishmen to uniting Ireland, taming the Danes in Limerick, overthrowing the dominance of the O'Neill's on the throne of Ireland which they had enjoyed / held for over 6 centuries and became one of the few high kings of Ireland to provide this office with real authority. Away from warfare and politics Brian Boru was an able administrator, a patron of the church and learning and therefore is fully entitled to the title of 'Emperor of the Irish' given to him by some of his admirers. Tragically Brian Boru lost his life in the 1014 Battle of Clontarf and this excellent is a fascinating and remarkable biography of this famous figure in Irish History, clearly told with conciseness and preciseness and totally engrossing. Essential reading for anyone interested in Irish history.

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

The Society's Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan**, **MGSI**, is seeking volunteers for the provision of free genealogical advice to the public during Heritage Week. As part of the Society's participation in Heritage Week the GSI Archives and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire will be open each day from 13.00hrs to 16.30hrs from Saturday 20th August to Sunday 28th August 2011. Members will discuss family history research with visitors to the GSI Archives and Research Centre and introduce them to the range of resources available in order to start their family history research. Volunteers should contact Eddie on eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com For details of Heritage Week events throughout Ireland see www.heritageweek.ie

UCD ADULT EDUCATION

The new Adult Education Brochure has just been published by University College Dublin (UCD) and includes Genealogy Certificate courses (Level 7, National Framework of Qualifications) at pages 56-58. A new non-credit 'open learning' *Introduction to Genealogy* is listed at page 23. These courses are given by the renowned genealogist and historian, **Seán Murphy, MA**. In brief, the Certificate students study the subject to a higher level and must submit written assignments, while the 'open learning' students study the subject at introductory level and do not receive a qualification. Certificate students have gone on to become professional genealogists in Ireland. For further information see www.ucd.ie under Adult Education.

GSI ANNUAL JOURNAL

The Society's Annual Journal (Vol. 12—2011) was published last month. Members receive a copy free of charge as part of the current membership package, otherwise copies are available for purchase Price €7.50 (plus p+p €1.50 for Ireland : €3.00 elsewhere). **Contents** *Flanagans, Halligans and Byrnes – My Ancestors from County Louth* by Liam Clare; *Tombstone Inscriptions of Kilconickny and Lickerrig, Co. Galway* by Adrian James & Noreen (McLoughlin) Martyn; *Pedigree of the Fallons of Turloughmore, Co. Galway* by Paul McNulty; *Francis Duffy from Ballybay to Australia – A Policeman's Biography* by Róisín Lafferty; *The Gauls of Rathasker Road, Naas* by James Durney; *Logues of Stillorgan and 'The King's Speech'* by Michael Nelson; *The Last Word – Irish Wills and Testamentary Records* by Caroline McCall; *An Emigrant's Story – Eight Years in New York* by Barry Kennerk; *James Lynch, Carnamoyle, Co. Donegal, Ireland* by Dana Lynch, Phil & Anna Tiebout Reisman; *Lawless of Connacht* by Adrian James Martyn; *Miscellaneous Information from the Irish Year Book 1921; The Saundersons of Farransee, Co. Cavan* by Billy Saunderson. The Joint Editors, George O'Reilly and Brendan Hall, are now seeking articles for future issues of the Society's Journal. If you wish to submit an article contact: eolas@familyhistory.ie

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. Please forward donated volumes to the University Library by mail to: **Mr. Muris Rahmanovic**, University of Sarajevo—Campus, Zmaj od Bosne bb., 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. For further information see: **www.books4vjecnica.com**

PROTECTED STRUCTURES IN IRELAND

The Heritage Council of Ireland has estimated that there are 38,171 protected structures in Ireland and has published an '*Index to the Records of Protected Structures in Ireland*' held by each planning authority on its website www.heritagecouncil.ie Since 1999 eighty-seven planning authorities (County / City / Town Councils) have had the responsibility of protecting architectural heritage by designating buildings of special architectural interest, artistic, archaeological, cultural, scientific, historic, social or technical interest and listing them in their development plans. Most of these are available on planning authorities' websites and a spreadsheet of the ones that are, with web links to the pages, has been published on the Heritage Council's website. The Heritage Council hopes to be able to keep this listing up to date from year to year. The protection of structures by recording them in the *Record of Protected Structures* remains the responsibility of these eighty-seven planning authorities and the final word on what is or is not a protected structure remains with them.

*James Scannell***MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

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 info. see: www.msos.ie

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS
by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

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. Checkout: www.gillmacmillan.com

Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!