

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

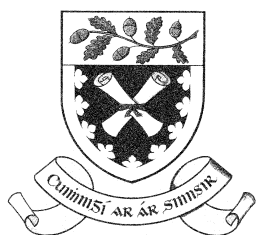
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
**Book Reviews**  
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## THE DAWN OF IRISH RECORDED HISTORY *High King to be Commemorated in 2013?*

*An Post* the Irish Postal Authority is seeking suggestions for the issuance of commemorative postage stamps in 2013 where the centenaries of events such as the 1913 Lockout and the formation of the Irish Citizen Army are likely to feature. Other events such as the 400th anniversaries of the incorporation of the cities of Londonderry and Belfast arguably both deserve similar recognition. Undoubtedly *An Post* receives hundreds of suggestions from communities and groups from all over Ireland and understandably there is a limit to what can and should be commemorated in any given year. Patriots, prelates, poets, pilgrims, pioneers and people from all walks of life have featured on our postage stamps since the foundation of the State. Some are famous, some not so, but all worthy of commemoration as it promotes an awareness of our nation's long history. Our recorded history dates from the coming of Christianity in the 5th century, however, it drew on a much, much older oral record possibly stretching back a further millennium. In the 5th century Ireland was on the periphery of the known world as understood by the Romans and the Greeks. It was a time when the Roman Empire was in serious decline. The legions had already abandoned Britannia in 410AD and though, Ireland had never been a part of the Roman Empire, the new official religion of the Empire had arrived on her shores and with it, literacy. This was barely 150 years after Constantine the Great had declared Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire in 312AD. Historians are often sceptical of Constantine's motives as many see him as a political opportunist rather than a devout convert to Christianity,

nevertheless undoubtedly his decision created Christendom. A similar conversion in 988AD by Vladimir I of Kiev to Christianity of the Byzantine rite is seen as the birth of the Russian Orthodox Church which held elaborate celebrations in 1988 to mark its millennial anniversary. Clearly these decisions by both Constantine and Vladimir are understood as milestones in the development and expansion of Western civilisation. Annually on March 17th here in Ireland and amongst our diaspora we commemorate the mission of St. Patrick—it's now our National Day celebrated around the globe. But what if we too had our Constantine or Vladimir who helped Patrick on his way, should we not commemorate that event too? The year 2013 will be the 1550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of Ard Rí Laoghaire (High King Laoghaire) who died in 463AD according to the *Annals of Inisfallen*. This High King is also recorded as the one to have met with St. Patrick at the start of his mission to the Irish. At that meeting the High King agreed to permit Patrick and his followers to proceed with their mission without molestation. Some historians argue that the traditional narrative of the confrontation at Tara between St. Patrick and Laoghaire was modelled on the biblical accounts of Elijah's contest with the prophets of Baal and of Daniel at the court of the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar. Nevertheless, Ard Rí Laoghaire displayed a highly unusual degree of religious tolerance for his time as this momentous decision changed the course of Irish and European history. The religious tolerance meant that, unlike most European countries, there were no Irish martyrs during the Christianisation of this country. This fact alone, whilst not conclusive, points

to a deliberate source of authority for the protection of Patrick and his followers as maintained by the traditional narrative. Importantly this decision by Laoghaire, taken for whatever motive—possibly opportunism, brought literacy to Ireland. It represents the dawn of our recorded history as a national, cultural and linguistic entity. This decision allowed Christianity to take root and to flourish in Ireland—the *land of saints and scholars*—and within a century of the death of Laoghaire, Irish missionaries were venturing out to bring Christianity, literacy and learning to other Europeans. The work of these missionaries and their legacy, it is claimed, ensured the survival and revival of European culture and learning following the upheavals of the so-called Dark Ages. Undoubtedly, the decision by Laoghaire fundamentally altered the course of Irish history and shaped our nation's religious, cultural and linguistic identity over the millennium and a half right down to the present. Indeed, we must view this event in a wider European and world context as a milestone in Western history, learning and culture. So, in many respects, we too have our own Constantine or Vladimir in Laoghaire. However, as Laoghaire did not convert, he is almost absent from the popular narrative—relegated to a mere footnote in the wider story of St. Patrick. Besides being the eponymous founder of Dún Laoghaire, this 5th century High King is surprisingly almost forgotten in Ireland today. Therefore, it is hoped that Ireland would recognise and honour the enormous significance of the tolerant, enlightened and fortuitous decision by Ard Rí Laoghaire by the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp in 2013 to mark the 1550<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in 463AD.

## Genealogy & Multiethnic Ireland

The results of the 2011 census of Ireland are very likely to show either a drop in the overall population figures or, at the very least, a sharp decline in the growth rate since the last census in 2006. The 2011 census will also, no doubt, highlight the levels of emigration caused by the economic downturn in Ireland since 2007/8. This figure will include migrants, mostly from eastern Europe, returning to their homelands or seeking work elsewhere in the EU. Also it will, for the first time since the 1980s, show a return to mass emigration by young Irish people and although emigration has been a feature of Irish life for many generations, its needless return now is greeted with

bitterness and resentment. However, the changes over the past twenty years which created a multiethnic Ireland are now fortunately here to stay. But some ethnic communities have been considerably impacted by the economic crisis especially those connected with the construction industry. This would be true, for example, with many of the 63,276 Poles recorded as living here in the 2006 census. Over 90% of these arrived since 2004 with an additional 10,126 Poles described as 'visitors' recorded here at the time. Like many of our migrant communities, the Poles are a hardworking, ambitious and tenacious people who have carved out lives for themselves and their families in Ireland and are determined to build their

futures here integrating easily with the majority community. Whether it be the Polish, Nigerian, Brazilian or whatever community, the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of its genealogical heritage is important to Irish genealogy in general. Therefore, this Society has prioritised social inclusion at the Board level and plans to create a resource for the various ethnic communities at *An Daonchartlann* in Dún Laoghaire. It is hoped to publish short introductory articles on the genealogical resources available for each ethnic group in the *Gazette* over the coming months starting next month with Polish genealogy. Ideally, such articles will be published bilingually.

## Clubs and Societies in Eighteenth– Century Ireland

*'Clubs and Societies in Eighteenth-Century Ireland'* edited by **James Kelly** and **Martyn J. Powell** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-229-2 : 496pp : Price €55.00 or €49.50 web price) was published by Four Courts Press in November 2010. The purpose of this collection of essays is to explore the world of clubs and societies in eighteenth-century Ireland and the foundation of what is now denominated civil society. Clubs and societies emerge as a distinct feature of the Irish social landscape from the end of the seventeenth century. However, the emergence of an associational culture in Ireland was slow in comparison to England and undoubtedly the political and economic environment in Ireland may not have been conducive to such comparable initiatives and yet, once established they flourished. An array of clubs, societies and associations were established during eighteenth century and many endure to the present while others faded into obscurity. This collection of essays by distinguished scholars and prominent historians in their respective fields can be seen as breaking new ground. Issues such as the transformation of societies into variants of democratic governance; the sharp distinction between private life and emerging public sphere; the apparent omission of women and, of course, the absence of Irish Catholics from the physical public sphere and its imagined equivalent, are amongst the matters discussed in a very accessible manner by the contributors. The centrality of 'sociability' to the associational life is explained as is the development of the public sphere from the coffee houses, reading clubs and salons to the emergence of newspapers and pamphlets. The latter serving the various elites of Anglophone Ireland provided both a vehicle and an engine for associational activity. The publication is divided into five parts including an introduction by the editors setting the parameters of the

study and giving an overview of each of the chapters. Patrick Walsh then completes the development of the scene with an exploration of club life c.1680 –c.1730. He examines perhaps the most important and influential society in eighteenth century Ireland—the Dublin Society—founded in 1731 and traced its origins to the earlier Dublin Philosophical Society 1683-1709. Walsh explores others societies founded for religious, political, trade or professional and philanthropic purposes. Part Two covers the 'intellectual and improving societies' with Toby Barnard delving into the philanthropic objectives of the 'improving societies'. James Kelly looks at charitable societies offering relief such as that provided to weavers and their families in 1720-21 during a severe economic crisis. Charitable Musical Societies raised funds for the capital's hospitals and for securing the release of debtors and assisting their families. Lisa Marie Griffith charts the development of Dublin's commercial clubs like the Ouzel Galley Society. As Dublin's oldest commercial society its origins are shrouded in myth, claim and counter-claim. These commercial clubs were founded with a clear aim to improve the economic and trading environment. Jennifer Kelly explores the annuity societies which were co-operative insurance societies organised as joint sock companies. Joanna Archbold looks at the phenomena of the book club and reading society. Michael Brown looks at the Enlightenment through the proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy. Part Three deals with political societies such as the 'loyal societies' which are explored by Jacqueline Hill. Martyn J. Powell provides intriguing insights on the 'ultra-Protestant' Aldermen of Skinner's Alley. While Bob Harris deals with the 'patriot clubs' of the 1750s which he claims have been overshadowed by the Volunteer agitations of the 1770s and early 1780s. Martyn J.

Powell looks at the 'Society of Free Citizens' which was arguably the most significant of the 'new breed' of popular political clubs between 1749-89. James Kelly examines the elite political clubs from 1770 to 1800 which were the 'most ideologically coherent component' of the political opposition in Ireland amongst the ascendancy parliamentarians. Ultán Gillen explores the revolutionary influence on 'opposition political clubs and societies' of radical and liberal political associations in a British, European and Atlantic context. Part Four explores the convivial, sociable and sporting societies. Petri Mirala looks at the sociable character of freemasonry and explores the reasons for the large number of Catholics in its ranks. David Ryan deals with the possibly much maligned but ever intriguing Dublin Hellfire Club. Martyn J. Powell examines the role of convivial clubs in the defining and development of the public sphere between 1750-1800 and in a later essay looks at hunting and sporting clubs which is a fascinating account at their origins, purpose and membership. James Kelly looks at the dining clubs and in particular the Bar Club established in 1771 in a very informative and, at times, very witty essay. In another essay, Kelly looks at the pastimes of the elite, horse racing etc and the emergence of the Jockey Club and the Turf Club. Part Five examines regional sociability with David A. Fleming looking at Munster; Alan Blackstock examining the loyal clubs in Ulster and concluding with Eoin Magennis on the situation in Belfast. This book is a fascinating and very illuminating read which is highly recommended as it should be of particular interest to the genealogist, social and local historian. However, a listing of the clubs and societies mentioned with details on dates and sources would have greatly assisted further research. **MM**

## Remains of U-Boat found in Cork Harbour

On Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2011 a group of five amateur divers revealed that they had discovered the remains of the First World War German submarine UC-42 at the entrance to Cork Harbour in 27 metres of water near Roche's Point. The submarine or U-Boat measured 38 metres in length and was found to be in remarkably good condition. UC-42 was launched in September 1915 and lost in Cork Harbour on September 10<sup>th</sup> 1917 when it is believed one of its mines exploded while it was engaged in a mine laying operation resulting in the death of all twenty seven crew. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> 1917 divers from the Haulbowlin dockyard positively identified the submarine as the UC-42 and noted the damage to its stern and the presence of the bodies of some of the crew. Prior to its loss, UC-42 was credited with sinking thirteen vessels and disabling a warship. In 1918 American and British divers attempted to disarm the mines and torpedoes onboard and up to its discovery in November 2010, it had been believed that divers from the [British] *HMS Vernon* torpedo school had destroyed the wreck with explo-

sives and that its remains had been dispersed on the seabed by wire sweeps. For the past two years the five member dive-team had been searching around the Cork Harbour area for the remains of the submarine and were more than amazed to find it on the seabed. Since the discovery the team has videoed and photographed the wreck and it has taken a series of measurements to record its condition. The dive team has placed a plaque near the submarine's propellers as a memorial to the submariners who lost their lives and whose remains still lie within the wreck of the U-Boat. No examination of the interior has been made. A number of historians and the divers are now in contact with the German authorities through the Embassy in Dublin with a view to tracing relatives of the deceased crew as it is intended to hold a Remembrance Service in Cork in the future. The five divers concerned have called on their colleagues in diving fraternity in Ireland and from overseas who may be intending to visit the wreck to respect it as a war grave and to look at it but not to touch the vessel **James Scannell**

## WANTED BY ARCHIVES

The Director of Archival Services, Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI, is seeking to replace a number of computer monitors in the Society's Archives with new flat-screen units. Initially Séamus is looking for the donation of two flat-screen units to extend the facilities available to Members and visitors at An Daonchartlann at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire. If you would like to donate a flat-screen unit please contact Séamus on [seamus.oreilly@gmail.com](mailto:seamus.oreilly@gmail.com) *Thank you!!*

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by **John Grenham**

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## GSI OUTREACH PROGRAMME

In February 2010 the Board of the Society adopted a wide ranging and ambitious Outreach Policy document aimed specifically at promoting the Society's objectives beyond the Monthly Meetings. Financial arrangements that were previously put in place can ensure the implementation of this policy. Recently, as part of this programme, representatives from the Society, the Guild of One-Name Studies and the Irish-Jewish Genealogical Society had a joint stand at a day-long 'Genealogy Roadshow' held at the beautiful old Carton House, Co. Kildare on Sunday January 16<sup>th</sup>. The event was filmed for RTÉ (*Irish Public Broadcaster*) by Big Mountain Productions and involved an interview with GSI Cathaoirleach, Pádraic Ingoldsby, as the surname Ingoldsby had historic connections with Carton House. Pádraic's hardworking team at the 'Genealogy Roadshow' consisted of Leas-Cathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden; Vice-President, Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI; Directors, Séamus Moriarty and

Sharon Bofin and Members, Eddie Gahan and Richard McCormick. Pádraic is also the Guild's Ireland Regional Representative and he was joined at Carton House by long-time Guild member, Marie Oxx, while GSI Members John Hamrock and Aiden Ferrick represented Ancestor Network Ltd at the Roadshow. With the success of the 'Genealogy Roadshow' the organisers intend to roll out the event to other locations throughout the country over the coming year. Over the next few months the Society will be represented at the Family History Days at the Dublin City Archive & Library (March 12 & April 2); at a maritime event on the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire (March 27); Guild of One Name Studies AGM in Warrington, England (April 15-17) and at the Over 50s Show at the RDS, Dublin (Oct. 21-23). In addition the Society's *Gazette* will be available during the 'Who Do You Think You Are' exhibition in London, England (Feb. 25-27). Meanwhile the Society's Archive at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, continues to provide an information service on Wednesdays between 10.30hrs & 16.30hrs.

## Bosnia's National & University Library

An international appeal has been launched by a group of Bosnian academics seeking to re-stock their University Library which was burned out during the Bosnian War. The sight of the burning of the National Library & University Library in Sarajevo horrified the civilised world and indeed, it was reminiscent of the Nazi public book burnings of the 1930s. Brave staff of the Library only managed to save circa 10% of the collection. This Society proposed a European initiative in the mid-1990s which would have seen the National Library at Sarajevo emerge as a 'hub' for European Islamic Studies and West/East Cultural Studies. Appreciating the loss of our own Public Records Office in 1922 at the start of our Civil War, genealogists, historians and other researchers are encouraged to support this appeal. **BOOKS 4 VIJECNICA** is seeking the donation of volumes in a range of disciplines. Please check out [www.books4vijecnica.com](http://www.books4vijecnica.com)

# James Scannell Reports...

## 14th ANNUAL LECTURE

On Monday January 24th the Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin hosted the 14th annual Sir John T. Gilbert commemorative lecture under the chairmanship of the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Cllr. Gerry Breen. The lecture was given by Dr. Christopher Fitz-Simon on 'Mr. Kennedy Miller's Very Capable Company of Irish Players, 1889 to 1906' which covered the history of this theatrical company which performed mainly in Dublin's Queens Theatre. The launch also took place of the book of the 13th (2010) lecture 'Commodious Temples: Roman Catholic church building in 19th century Dublin' by Brendan Grimes which is now on sale.

## THE THRIFTY IRISH

At a conference hosted by University College, Cork, Professor Joe Lee, Head of the University's Department of History, and director of the Gluckman Ireland House at New York University, revealed that 19th century Irish emigrants to the United States of America put exceptionally large amounts of their incomes into saving banks. This information is based on the records of the *Emigrants Savings Bank* in New York, an Irish institution founded in the 1850's, as these records provide an insight into the saving habits of the Irish diaspora with valuable details such as dates of arrival and townlands, villages, towns or counties of origin. Professor Lee also said that Irish emigrants sought security and that safe jobs meant public jobs, adding that in order to control these jobs they had to

run the political machine and to do that they had to win votes. This mindset, according to Professor Lee, saw the Irish engage in gross over-saving in banks coupled with an expertise in building successful political movements which became the foundation for a future of a disproportionate Irish power in US politics.

## CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

Ms. Fionnuala Croke, Head Curator at the National Gallery of Ireland since 2008 has been appointed the new Director of the Chester Beatty Library. She joined the Gallery in 1987 as a research fellow and during the 1990's was responsible for managing the Gallery's permanent collection and exhibitions and in 2000 was appointed Head of Exhibitions in anticipation of the opening of the Gallery's Millennium Wing.

## THE SOUND OF SILENCE

On Tuesday January 11<sup>th</sup> the Commissioners of Irish Lights turned off the foghorns in nine lighthouses operated by this authority while those operated by a number of local authorities or port companies were also turned off. A number of other fog signals have been discontinued over the past twenty years. Amongst the foghorns that were tuned off were Fasnet, Old Head of Kinsale and Ballycotton, Co. Cork; Hook Head and Tuskar Rock, Co. Wexford; The Kish and Dún Laoghaire Harbour in Dublin Bay; Dundalk, Co. Louth and St. John's Point, Co. Down. The decision was notified to mariners last September and was taken on the basis of rapid advances in marine technol-

ogy as foghorns are no longer considered an aid to navigation. However some mariners believe that the foghorns could be of assistance in the event of electronic failure and point out that many small boats are not equipped with electronic navigation aids. The Commissioners have warned vessels not rely on a single aid for navigation.

## JOSS LYNAM, RIP

The death took place in early January following a brief illness of Joss Lynam, renowned Irish and international mountaineer. A founder member of the Irish Mountaineering Club, he was involved in the development of the Association for Adventure Sports, which he chaired. He took part in his first international climbing expedition to India in the 1940's, climbed the Alps and the Shigri Parbat Himalayan peak in the 1950's and was deputy leader of the 1964 Irish expedition to Rakaposki led by Paddy O'Leary. Joss Lynam led his 6<sup>th</sup> expedition in 1987 to the Himalayan peak of Zhangzi when he aged 67 and recovering from a coronary by-pass. Joss Lynam was regarded as inspirational by the younger climbers who travelled with him and in 1993 was one of the first people to be contacted by Irish Everest expedition leader Dawson Stelfox when he reached the summit of Mount Everest on May 27<sup>th</sup> that year. He was also involved in initiating way-marked trails in Ireland covering some 2,000 miles over thirty routes. He also mediated in numerous disputes between farmers and walkers over access. He was also the author of number of books and was editor of *Irish Mountain Log* for many years.

## Précis of the January Lecture

On **Tuesday January 11th** members and visitors heard about a wonderful on-line resource for Irish genealogy. This lecture by **Joe Whelan** differed from others dealing with websites containing particular sources such as newspaper archives or census returns. The title of Mr. Whelan's lecture - *'Irish Gathering - Recording your Family History in real time Global Web Environment'* gave little indication of the innovative nature of this on-line resource. The website is designed to allow the individual to build their family histories on-line and to share the information with others across the globe. It is especially aimed at re-energizing the Clans Movement to encourage people sharing a surname to get involved in organizing events to bring these 'clanspersons' together both on-line and in their places of origin. It also acts as a portal for Irish genealogy by directing the visitor to other sites or resources to assist them in their quest for information of ancestors or on family connections in Ireland. The concept for the website is taken from the ancient gathering of the clans and Mr. Whelan hopes that over

the next six months to have 100,000 Irish Clan members signed-up. So checkout [www.irishgathering.ie](http://www.irishgathering.ie)

## GSI LECTURES 2011

On **Tuesday 8th February** '*RIC and Related Police Forces*' **Jim Herlihy, FGSI**. On **Tuesday 8th March** '*Researching the Irish Revolution*' by **Daithí Ó Corráin**. 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](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

## GSI Projects & Volunteers

As the term of the current Board of Directors nears its end we can look back at a very busy year. There have been many achievements in that period which will be outlined in the Annual Report next month. However, as with every voluntary organisation, this Society's progress on a number of its objectives is constrained on two fronts—finance and volunteers. With all hands on deck for the move to the new premises and its official opening, some projects were naturally deferred. However, now we concentrate on the expansion of the website; the creation of an on-line catalogue; the creation of the on-line GSI Armorial Register and the scanning of articles published over the past twenty years. Each of these exciting developments will involve the hard work and commitment of members who give of their free time and, in some cases, expertise to complete these projects. Volunteering is not only very enjoyable and fulfilling—it can be very educational from the point of view of genealogical research and other skills acquired. Why not give it a go? Contact any member of the Board as listed on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie/shop) or if you prefer, simply

download the form, complete it and send it to **Mr. Tom Conlon, MGSI**, Director of Finance, 24, Carrickbrennan Lawn, Monkstown, 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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### **Board of Directors 2010-2011**

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary & Publications); **Tom Conlon** (Finance & Web Editor); **Sharon Bofin** (Membership); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **Fiona Tittle** (Education & Social Inclusion) **Bartosz Kozłowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **John Hamrock** (National Projects) and **Pat Feenan** (Sales & Marketing).

## **JOIN ON-LINE**

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### **DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Feb. 8th & Mar. 8th 2011

#### **Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday Feb. 23rd & Mar. 23rd 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)

## **'DUBLIN'S FIGHTING STORY 1916-1921'**

*'Dublin's Fighting Story 1916-1921 – Told by the Men Who Made It'* is a remarkable and fascinating book published by **Mercier Press** that first appeared in 1948 as part of a series of four published between 1947–1948 dealing with the War of Independence based on the very popular 'Fighting Stories' series of articles in *The Kerryman* newspaper. A unique feature of this book and the other three titles in the series is that they predate the depositions later collected by the Bureau of Military History in the 1950's which were released into the public domain a few years and have been used extensively by the authors of a number of recent books dealing with this period of Irish history. In a new preface to this unique book, Series Editor Dr. Brian Ó Conchubhair provides the reader with the background and history to the publication of this book and those of the three companion volumes - *Kerry's Fighting Story*, *Rebel's Cork Fighting Story*, *Limerick's Fighting Story* – revealing that in the late 1940's plans to published a fifth title, Tipperary's Fighting Story, never materialised even through appeals for recollections and photographs were made at that time. Dr. Ó Conchubhair closes his introduction by reminding the reader that as we approach the centenaries of 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the Anglo-Irish Treaty and Civil War, it is appropriate that these texts again become part of the wider public debate and discussion on these key events. In a special introduction to this 2009 edition, Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, Chair of Modern Irish History, UCD, provides an overview of the key events in Ireland between 1913 and 1921 for the benefit of those who are not familiar with this period of our history and this is then followed by the key sections of the book which cover - *How the Fight Began*; *The Great Dublin Strike and Lockout, 1913*; *The 1916 Rising*; *The Executed Leaders*; and *The War of Independence* beginning with the Frongoch Internment Camp 'university' and the key events in the War of Independence 1919–1921 events after those who were imprisoned after the Rising were released from internment. There are accounts of Bloody Sunday, the Battle of Brunswick Street, the burning of the Customs House, Escape from Mountjoy, the role of IRA Intelligence and how it operated, the role of women in addition to accounts of various events, engagements, actions and incidents in and around Dublin City and County. The book, which contains first hand accounts by participants of the events listed in the Contents, provides the reader with hands on accounts of what it was like to take part in these events written by participants twenty-five years after they had taken place. Recent other books published by Mercier Press on various aspects of the War of Independence in the Dublin Area such as *Blood in the Streets* and *Executed for Ireland* provide excellent scope for further readings and provide additional new insights to the events featured on this book based on newly released material, in particular the Bureau of Military History statements. All in all the re-publication by Mercier Press of *Dublin's Fighting Story* and the other three titles (see above) is to be welcomed as they contain first hand accounts of this period in our history and details of events and people which are not mentioned or referred to in other books.

*James Scannell*

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## **Tracing Your Galway Ancestors**

*'Tracing Your Galway Ancestors'* by Peadar O'Dowd published by Flyleaf Press (ISBN: 978-0-956324-2-1 : 160pp : €13.00) is a comprehensive guide to tracing families in the City and County of Galway. The book is part of a series published by Flyleaf which includes volumes on Limerick, Dublin, Cork, Kerry, Donegal, Mayo and Roscommon. Each of these guides are expertly researched and presented in a structured easy-to-use manner to assist researchers from beginners to the more experienced. According to the publishers, 'Galway county is home to a widely diverse population' and this is very evident in the linguistic makeup of the county. The culture and history of the county has been shaped by the barren landscapes of its western seaboard and the rich farmlands of the eastern part of the county. In the centre is the historic city of Galway, an ancient trading port and home to the fourteen 'Tribes' whose story is central to that of the county. As with the publications on the other counties, the author of the Galway volume takes the reader through the various resources available to the researcher including, civil registration records; census and census substitutes; church records (all denominations); gravestone inscriptions; land and property records; wills, administrations and marriage licences; commercial (trade) and social directories and the wealth of information contained in newspapers. Also included is an exceptionally useful bibliography and details on published family histories, especially on the main families of Galway. Galway was particularly badly during the Great Famine and many of its people were forced to emigrate. Its population dwindled from 441,810 in 1841 to 214,712 in 1891. Genealogical records are also diverse, varying from sparse in the western poorer areas to extensive for some of the inhabitants of Galway city. For anybody with Galway ancestors this book is essential reading irrespective of research experience. It is highly recommended for those who want to get the most out of their genealogical research. Order on-line at [www.flyleaf.ie](http://www.flyleaf.ie)

## **GENERAL ELECTION 2011**

As Ireland goes to the polls on Friday February 25th 2011 to elect Teachtaí Dála (MPs) to the 31st Dáil, the Society encourages all seeking election to support its long-running campaign to amend the *Statistics Act, 1993* to permit the release of the 1926 census of Ireland. The success of the on-line access to the 1901 and 1911 census returns clearly indicates that the release of the 1926 census would be an enormous boost to the promotion of Ireland and its heritage amongst her diaspora. Also, the Society would urge all candidates to support the maintenance legislatively of the separate roles, identities and functions of the National Library and National Archives.

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday March 8th 2011** at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The meeting will receive the Annual Report of the Board of Directors; Annual Financial Report and, of course, elect the members to serve on the Board of the Society until March 2012. The election will include the offices of Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, General Secretary, Director of Finance and up eight others elected without portfolio. The members elected without portfolio will receive their various portfolios at the April meeting of the Board of Directors. As a membership based organisation, this Society's governance is determined by its members at the AGM each year. Members are encouraged to volunteer for election to the Board which meets once a month on the first Thursday (second Thursday in January) for approximately two hours to deal with the day-to-day running of the Society. The business of the Board is conducted on a 'cabinet style' basis with each Director responsible for a specific area of the Society's activities. Members must be fully paid-up for the current year in order to vote or stand for election at the AGM. The current membership of the Board is listed at the top of the left hand panel on this page. *General Secretary*

## **GENEALOGY COURSES**

As reported in December 2010 a weekend course in genealogy has commenced at the Society's Archive or *An Daonchartlann* at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, on Saturday 22nd January 2011. The class duration is 2.5 hours and each programme will run for eight weeks. The aim of the course is to provide an introduction to the theory and practice of genealogy and family history research. Topics to be covered include principles of genealogy, internet research, and how to draw up a family tree. Key records such as church parish records, civil registrations (births, marriages, and deaths), census returns, and land records will be explored in detail. Other sources discussed will include burial records and inscriptions, newspapers, wills, trade directories and new developments in DNA testing. Class size will be restricted to six students to allow for individualised training and guidance on how to conduct and write your own family history. The GSI facility provides broadband access to conduct on-line research as part of the programme. The cost of the course is €300 which includes one year's free student membership of the GSI. The course will be taught by John Hamrock of Ancestor Network Limited. John is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists. He holds a Certificate and a Diploma in Genealogy from UCD (first class honours) and is the author of *Tracing Your Roscommon Ancestors*. For more information on these unique Weekend Courses please contact John Hamrock at 087 0505296 or at [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

## **MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

GSI Members researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine will find the publications and meetings of the Medal Society of Ireland of interest. Find out more about those medals so cherished by the family and handed down through generations. For further information please visit the Medal Society's website at: [www.msoui.eu](http://www.msoui.eu)