

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
Heritage Matters
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News & Queries



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"IS FÉIDIR LINN"

With Imagination, Innovation and Inclusivity

President Obama's rousing speech at College Green in Dublin on Monday 23rd May 2011 probably restored a sense of empowerment in the Irish people that somehow our own politicians, from all sides, failed to deliver. The US President's use of the approximate Irish translation of his own powerful election slogan 'Yes We Can' was greeted with wild cheers. This new 'Is Féidir Linn' (pronounced 'iss fay-jeer ling') spirit is exactly what the country needs to tackle the financial mess created by lax regulation, powerful vested interests and fundamentally flawed fiscal policies pursued over the past decade. Calling for a renegotiation of the terms of the EU/IMF bailout or for the 'repatriation' of private bank debt to mainland Europe may be justified, but we need to be much more proactive and creative in this crisis. The announcement by the Tánaiste & Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, **Mr. Éamon Gilmore, TD**, that he intends to host a second high-level forum in October of businesspersons, investors, experts and talented thinkers drawn from our diaspora is excellent news. Hopefully, the links created by this forum will be both sustainable and productive. Fine words of mutual esteem to the accompaniment of sentimental ceremonial, which is so often the stuff of our engage-

ment with our diaspora, must be replaced by a hard-nosed assessment of the economic potential afforded by recognising our diaspora as real stakeholders in our nation's future. But this new 'Is Féidir Linn' spirit demands that we in Ireland must look to ourselves, first and foremost, as the drivers of the economic recovery of our country. Those involved in genealogy and heraldry in Ireland, for example, should be brought together by the Minister in a structured manner to formulate a national strategy for the promotion of ancestry tourism and related heritage products. Indeed, some of the provisions of the Society's *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006*, provided imaginative, innovative and inclusive proposals on the development and promotion of these sectors and services. Undoubtedly heritage, including genealogy and heraldry, is an enormously important national asset that can create, reawaken and sustain a desire amongst our diaspora to engage with Ireland beyond just the festivities surrounding St. Patrick's Day each year. Many members of our huge diaspora are leading lights in philanthropy and academia in their homelands. These extremely talented and resourceful individuals should be invited to become stakeholders and partners in heritage and education in Ireland. Indeed, the new Irish government's programme includes a commitment to explore

the possibilities of sourcing development funds for heritage projects from philanthropic organisations around the world. The recently announced €230 million development project for Dún Laoghaire Harbour, which includes a "world-class" diaspora centre, is a fine example of this innovative and imaginative harnessing of the economic potential of our heritage assets and it too looks to philanthropy as a source of funding for aspects of the plan. The proposed diaspora centre will be located on the Carlisle Pier and will have a state-of-the-art genealogical research centre with links to universities researching diaspora and migration studies. The facility will be on a par with the Jewish Museum in Berlin and will have a target of attracting one million visitors annually. The Society strongly supports this project as many elements of its own submission proposing the establishment of an 'Irish Institute of Genealogical & Heraldic Sciences incorporating the Centre for Diaspora & Migration Studies' have been incorporated into this wonderfully exciting vision for Dún Laoghaire Harbour. Details of the Master Plan for Dún Laoghaire Harbour are available on www.dlharbour.ie This imaginative plan certainly exemplifies the 'Is Féidir Linn' spirit that Ireland needs now!

Fiftieth Anniversary & No Redaction

In 1961, just fifty years after the taking of the 1911 census, the last one under British rule, the Irish government made it and the 1901 census available as public records by a warrant issued by the Minister for Justice under the *Public Records (Ireland) Act, 1867*. Fifty years ago politics in Ireland was heavily dominated by the legacy of a bitter Civil War that ended 38 years previously. Indeed, veterans of that bloody conflict were amongst the many thousands of persons named in the 1911 census that were still very much alive in 1961. Nevertheless the government took the decision to release the censuses without redaction. But now

constrained by the 100 year rule in the *Statistics Act, 1993*, the debate surrounding the release of the 1926 census is becoming bogged down by a sort of 'creeping redaction' argument. It started with the proposed removal of 'sensitive information' and then soon moved to the redaction of information on 'living persons' and finally to the redaction of all information on anybody born within the past 100 years. This latter suggestion makes the issue of the release of the 1926 census vulnerable to a simple cost-benefit analysis, especially since we have the 1911 census. However, on June 9th 2011 in Dáil Éireann, the Minister for Education, **Mr. Ruairí Quinn, TD**, in answer to

a question on the issue from **Ms. Sandra McLellan, TD** said "I am informed that current legislation will have to be changed.....[1993 Act]. I am aware of the great success the general public had in accessing the 1911 census. We are anxious to facilitate publication of the 1926 census, which will be revealing given it is the first census taken after establishment of the State." Mr. Quinn has strongly supported the Society's 1926 Census Campaign since he read the article published in 'History Ireland' (Vol. 16 No. 5) back in 2008. Hopefully, commonsense will prevail permitting this historic 1926 census of Ireland to be released without redaction.

Ireland 1815-1870

Emancipation, Famine and Religion

'Ireland 1815-1870—Emancipation, Famine and Religion' edited by **Donnchadh Ó Corráin** and **Tomás O'Riordan** and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN978-1-84682-232-2 : 312pp : Illustrated ; P/b : Price €19.95) is simply a 'must buy' for anybody interested in Irish history. It forms a part of a new series which takes an innovative approach to the study and, very importantly, the presentation of Irish history. Quoting Joseph Carey in the foreword to this volume 'a society without a history is a society without an identity, and one without a future. That is why the teaching and study of history is so significant for society as a whole, and for the individual within it.' His foreword reads like a mission statement and indeed, this volume certainly breaks new ground in the presentation of the subject. In this volume the editors and contributors have replaced the normal historical narrative with a more aspectual approach to the key issues, events and persons of the era which roughly stretches from the end of the European war at the Battle of Waterloo to the disestablishment of the Anglican church in Ireland. As bookend dates 1815 and 1870 are very appropriate as at the beginning of the nineteenth century Ireland was coming out of a long period of economic expansion. The war between Great Britain and France pushed up the demand for Irish agricultural produce in the period 1793-1815, but with the coming of peace in 1815, the market collapsed and Ireland's social and political problems mounted. As for the other bookend date, 1870, is the year of the deeply reactionary First Vatican Council, at which, Paul Cardinal Cullen played a pivotal role especially in his definition of papal infallibility. This is the period in

which the 'cullenization' of the Irish Catholic Church began—Cullen is seen as the maker of modern Irish Catholicism which lasted from his day right down to the end of the twentieth century. Between these two bookend dates we have the milestones of nineteenth century Irish history, for example, the Catholic Emancipation campaign 1823-1829; Daniel O'Connell's Repeal movement 1835- c. 1845; Tithe War 1830-1838; National primary education system established 1831; The Great Famine 1845-1849; 1848 Rebellion; First use of the tricolour 1848; Irish Republican Brotherhood founded 1858; Fenian Rising 1867; and the sectarian tensions leading up to the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1871. In the latter part of the period covered by this volume the most fundamental social change in modern Ireland began which, when completed in the early twentieth century, rural Ireland was transformed from a country of landed estates to a land of farmer proprietors. All of these events are of enormous interest to the genealogist as the fortunes of our ancestors were transformed either directly or indirectly by each. This is the Ireland that is revealed in this volume, but not as a historical narrative as we have come to expect, instead the editors and contributors introduce the reader to the events, concepts and key personalities in a format more resembling a dictionary. This is extremely useful as the essential facts are accompanied by brief explanations and source references. Divided into twelve chapters, the first three setting the scene with 'politics and administration', 'society and economy' and 'culture and religion' in the period. This format is very accessible for the non-historian or casual reader, whilst at the same time,

being hugely informative for the student of Irish history. As this series is linked to a dedicated website that extends its range and greatly supplements it, the MultiText Project (www.multitext.ie), the format of the next seven chapters cover two major areas The Great Famine and the evolution of the dominance of the Catholic church after emancipation. The chapters on The Great Famine, in particular, are of immense value to the genealogist and social historian as they not only deal with the event, but with private as distinct from public (government) responses to the Famine and documents associated with such responses. The subjects of Catholic emancipation (1829) and the Synod of Thurles (1850) are presented in a similar illuminating manner. The last two chapters cover 'key concepts' and 'key personalities' further enhancing the readers understanding of the subjects covered in the earlier chapters. Each of the paragraphs in the volume is numbered making for ease of reference and with thirty-two illustrations and seven tables, this volume is an excellently produced work that should be on the bookshelf of any genealogist, social historian or student of Irish history. **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!!

SUMMER CEMETERY PROJECT

Since the foundation of the Society in 1990 members have contributed through various group projects to the expansion of accessibility to our genealogical heritage. One very important aspect of this on-going work is the transcribing and publishing of memorial inscriptions. As genealogists around the world fully appreciate, memorial inscriptions very often contain vital genealogical information that is available nowhere else. Over the years the Society has become widely recognised as the main publisher of memorial inscriptions in Ireland. Starting with south Co. Dublin's largest cemetery at Dean's Grange, Barry and his team then went on to record most of the cemeteries and burial grounds in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. In the past few years the team has branched out to included cemeteries in north

Co. Dublin, Co. Kildare and Co. Wicklow. In reality Barry has two teams, one for the field work and the other to prepare the data for publication in book form or, more often now, on CD. The full listing of the Society's MI publications is available on www.familyhistory.ie/shop Now for the 2011 Summer Cemetery Project, the Society's Director of Cemetery Projects, **Barry O'Connor, FGSI**, is seeking a number of volunteers to assist in the transcription of the memorials in the Moravian Cemetery on Whitechurch Road, Dublin 16. The cemetery dates from circa 1750 and the adjoining church was built in 1740. Barry is planning to complete this cemetery in the last week of June 2011. If you wish to assist with the 2011 Summer Cemetery Project please contact Barry O'Connor on (01) 285 4386 or by e-mail on btoc@esatclear.ie

GSI LECTURES 2011

On **Tuesday 14th June** - *Irish Online Sources* - Mary Beglan, MAPGI. On **Tuesday 12th July** - *Dublin Firefighters and the 1941 Belfast Blitz* - James Scannell. 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. Full directions to the venue on the Society's website. Please send any suggestions for lectures to **Séamus Moriarty, FGSI**, Director of the Lecture Programme, e-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie

GSI BOARD NEWS & EVENTS

The new Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership, **Tom Conlon, MGSI**, is currently reorganising the Society's membership administration with the aid of a new computer package. As part of this reorganisation Tom Conlon would like Members to reconfirm their e-mail addresses with him at tom.conlon@iol.ie The Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan, MGSI**, advised the Board on the GSI stands at **Genealogy Roadshow** to be held at the Adare Manor Hotel, Co. Limerick, on Sun. June 19th and in Galway on Sun. June 26th 2011. Following the publication of the main article in last month's issue of the *Gazette*, the Director of Education and Social Inclusion,

John Hamrock, MGSI, was invited to appear on TV3's *'The Morning Show'* on Weds. May 18th—the day after Queen Elizabeth II arrived in Ireland. John was interviewed on the subject of the British monarch's Kildare ancestry, which was not given the same media attention as that of President Obama's Moneygall connections. The article was also mentioned on the hugely popular morning radio programme *'The Pat Kenny Show'* and published in the *Leinster Leader*. The **'Weekend Genealogy Courses'** are continuing in conjunction with **Ancestor Network Ltd**. For more information please contact **John Hamrock, MGSI** by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

IN MEMORIAM

The Society sends its condolences to the family of **William 'Bill' Stuart Griffith**, an Australian member, who died in February 2011 and to our own Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, on the death of his brother **Thomas J. O'Reilly**, a former Deputy Commissioner of An Garda Síochána who died on May 28th 2011. A wonderful obituary was published in the *Irish Times* of June 4th 2011. The Society sends its condolences to our co-Founder, **Frieda Carroll, FGSI**, on the sudden death of her brother, **Peter Lewis**, on June 7th 2011. Peter, like his late father, Harry, was a very well known musician and a fine singer—a lover of jazz. Peter is survived by his wife Diana (née Haskins) and daughter, Caroline and son-in-law, Eamonn. Peter had a great musical send off by his fellow musicians at his funeral on June 11th. 2011.

James Scannell Reports...

WORLD WAR I VETERAN DIES

110-year old Claude Choules, believed to be the last WW1 combat veteran, died in his sleep in a Sydney, Australia, nursing home on 5 May. Choules was born in 1901 and signed up with the [UK] Royal Navy in 1916. Following the war, he moved to Perth and joined the Australian Navy and worked as a demolition officer in Freemantle Harbour during WW2 thus making one of the last veterans to serve in both World Wars. The only other surviving British World War One veteran is believed to be British 110-year old Florence Green who served with the Royal Air Force in a non-combat role.

LOOTING OF U-BOAT WRECK

Gardaí in Cork have commenced an investigation into allegations that artefacts, including sailor's attire, have been illegally removed from the wreck of the recently discovered WW1 German submarine and war grave *UC-42* which lies in 27 meters of water of Roche's Point in Cork Harbour where it sank in September 1917 while engaged in a mine laying operation. The Criminal Investigation (Antique) Branch of An Garda Síochána was alerted to this activity by Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

underwater archaeology unit after it had received reports from divers about the desecration of the wreck site through the removal of crew members' effects as these divers did not agree with the pillaging of the wreck site who also reported that human remains were evident at it. The unit also received reports that divers had damaged the structure of the wreck in a recent attempt to remove parts of it and belongings of the crew and that one of the propellers showed evidence of being made ready for removal. The underwater unit intend to carry out a full examination and assessment of the wreck site. The assistance of the Irish Underwater Council, the principal body representing diving in clubs in Ireland, in raising awareness of this activity has been sought. The Council's code of conduct prohibits members from interfering with wrecks or sea life and requires them to respect all wreck sites. The German Embassy in Dublin has also indicated its interest in the wreck's protection and preservation, indicating that it has a particular sensitivity due to it being a relatively recent German loss in which most of the crew, who are known by name, are likely to have close living relatives. Any material removed from the wreck and not reported to the Receiver of Wrecks is an offence under the *Irish Merchant Shipping (Salvage & Wreck)*

Act 1993, and that these artefacts are also covered by the *National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004*. As the wreck of *UC-42* is of particular significance to both Irish and German maritime history, it's possible that a *Ministerial Underwater Heritage Order* may be placed on it as was done in the 1990's in the case of the RMS *Lusitania* which restricts access and places it under the protection of the *National Monuments Acts*. It's believed that this action will be initiated shortly to protect the wreck site as first and foremost it is war a grave where up to 27 sailors drowned when it sank in 1917. The Customs & Excise Maritime Unit and the National Museum of Ireland are also involved in the investigation.

DISTRICT NURSES

Ms. Elizabeth Prendergast is currently writing a book on District Nurses in Ireland who operated between 1891 and 1973 and would very much like to hear from those who served on the voluntary committees who supported these nurses, the fundraisings, the meetings and their own memories of these remarkable women who were known as the Lady Dudley and Jubilee Nurses. Ms. Prendergast can be contacted at 9, Victoria Avenue, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 or by email at: elizabethprendergastartist@gmail.com

Précis of the May Lecture

On **Tuesday 10th May** members heard a wonderful lecture on *'Tracing Ancestry through DNA'* by **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of **EthnoAncestry Ltd.** The company, formed by population geneticists in 2004, is at the cutting edge of genetic research through development of new markers, identification of new genetic signatures and by providing authoritative interpretation of deep ancestry. Dr. Cavalleri gave a brief outline of his background, interests and current projects. He is a Senior Scientist of Italian parentage but born and raised in Co. Galway, Ireland. He is a population geneticist who trained with Prof Dan Bradley at Trinity College, Dublin before going on to work at Stanford with Prof Luca Cavalli-Sforza and Dr Peter Underhill. He completed a PhD at University College London under Prof David Goldstein studying the genetics of epilepsy predisposition and treatment. Dr. Cavalleri is currently researching the genetics and pharmacogenetics of epilepsy at the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, Ireland. Dr. Cavalleri also introduced his audience to the work of

his colleague, Dr. James F. Wilson, Managing Director of EthnoAncestry Ltd., who is also a population geneticist whose list of publications and credits are familiar to all those interested in genetic genealogy and population genetics. His studies led to the identification of the first genetic signatures of Norse Viking ancestry in Great Britain and Ireland. He also discovered the 'Atlantic Modal Haplotype', which revealed genetic continuity in Britain from the Palaeolithic to the present. This work led on to the excellent TV documentaries *'Blood of the Vikings'* and later *'The Blood of the Irish'* and quite recently, *'The Blood of the Travellers'*. Dr. Wilson is developing new markers to tease apart European origins and is collecting an unrivalled resource of ten thousand samples with which to understand Scottish and British history. He is a native of Orkney, who also has Shetland roots; and is an avid genealogist. Before providing some examples of his research and its relationship with genealogical research, Dr. Cavalleri explained the various terms used by genealogists as follows.

DNA is the complex chemical in which the instructions to build and run our bodies are written – this genetic code is the 'blueprint' for life. It is also the means of transmitting this information to the next generation. The code is written in four letters, A, C, G or T. We each carry a enormous number of DNA letters (3000 billion) which we have inherited from our ancestors—the archive of our ancestry. Other terms such as Markers, Y Chromosome, YSNPs, YSTRs, Haplotype and Haplogroup were also explained as he demonstrated the methods used to explore our 'deep ancestry' through our DNA. Dr. Cavalleri drew on the work of Dan Bradley and Brian McEvoy of Trinity College to show the link between groups with the same surname and to plot its distribution over the centuries. He also plotted the various population movements into Europe and within Europe and onward to Great Britain and Ireland. There was an excellent Q&A session following this fascinating lecture. For further information checkout the website of EthnoAncestry at www.ethnoancestry.com

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 June 14th & July 12th 2011

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday June 22nd & July 27th 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)

'Raids and Rallies'

'*Raids and Rallies*' by Ernie O'Malley, 2011 (new edition) edited by Cormac K. H. O'Malley, is published by the Mercier Press, (ISBN 978-1-85635-715-9, p/b, 282pp). This latest revised edition of Ernie O'Malley's classic work was first published in 1982 and is the last in his trilogy of works looking at the War of Independence (1919–1921) and the Civil War (1922–1923). Both of these works, '*On Another Man's Wound*', which deals with the War of Independence and '*The Singing Flame*' with the Civil War have also been republished by Mercier Press. '*Raids and Rallies*' is the middle book of this trio and is based on over 450 interviews O'Malley conducted with those involved in numerous raids and ambushes outside Dublin which were intended to form the basis for a series of articles in *The Kerryman* in the early 1950's which never happened but were later published as a weekly series of articles in the *Sunday Press* between September 1955 and June 1956. It was not until the 1980's that his son Cormac O'Malley was able to organise the publication of '*Raids and Rallies*' in book form. While this new version is revised and re-edited, it does not take away from the fact that O'Malley interviewed numerous participants (circa 450) and it is based on their testimony and any corroborating information he could obtain at that time from official sources when various archives did not exist. The Bureau of Military History statements although collected in the 1940's and early 1950's were not released into the public domain until the early part of this century. In this book there are descriptions of eight important offensives mounted by the IRA against the British forces in Ireland including detailed accounts of actions, strategy and motivations which accounted for the IRA's success until 1921. O'Malley had taken part in and directed certain operations and had interviewed the participants in other ones. This book does not deal wholly with his part in the War of Independence, though the first three chapters enlarge upon and supplement his account of the attacks on R.I.C. barracks which featured in '*On Another Man's Wound*', the remainder of the chapters deal with several operations and ambushes carried out by others but containing his thoughts and observations on them and his reaction to the reprisals by both sides.. While '*The Squad*', '*Dublin's Fighting Story*' and '*The Burning of Cork*', all published by Mercier Press, deal with a bitter and bloody urban war, the rural aspect of this conflict is covered in '*Kerry's Fighting Story*', '*Rebel Cork's Fighting Story*' and '*Limerick's Fighting Story*', also by Mercier. '*Raids and Rallies*' covers various raids on police barracks in Co. Tipperary, the reprisals taken after a raid in Co. Clare, the enforcement of Martial Law and ambushes in Co. Roscommon and Co. Mayo, showing how the War of Independence was waged in variety of places away from the major centres of population by local Volunteers with only the minimum of arms at their disposal. As we approach the centenary of these events, the re-publication of these books is to be welcomed as they give the reader a good insight into just how the War of Independence was waged from those who took part in operations, many were later interviewed by the Bureau of Military History. This excellent range of books has now brought this history to a new generations of readers. *James Scannell*

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*www.fourcourtspress.ie*Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***Launch of the Munster Landed Estates Database**

Most Irish people, even those who live in cities today, are only a generation or two removed from the land. So, any genealogical tool which allows greater access to data on land occupation or land ownership is to be welcomed. On Friday May 20, 2011 at the Moore Institute of the National University of Ireland, Galway, the Munster Landed Estates Database was launched. This database has now been added to the Con-nacht Landed Estates Database launched about 3 years ago. The website, www.landedestates.ie, is searchable and free of charge; it, as it were, puts flesh on the lists of names contained in the Immediate Lessor column of Griffith's Valuation, available free at www.askaboutireland.ie Not only does it give information about the landlords, it also has links to maps and images which make any search easier to visualise. In addition, it has extensive references to the available sources, their location and accessibility. On the Home-page, the Munster Landed Estates Database circa 1700 to 1914 allows the user to search under the name of the Estate, the name of the Family or the name of the House. In addition, there is a simple search facility allowing the user to input words which might appear in the house or estate description. A Reference section lists the sources. All three areas, Estates, Families and Houses are linked so that the user can move easily between them. The material on which the data is based includes archival, contemporary and modern printed sources. The location of the archival material is given wherever possible. Contemporary maps can also be viewed using the Ordnance Survey's Historic Map Viewer at www.osi.ie. Photos, paintings or maps of many

of the estates and houses featured in the Database can be accessed on www.buildingsofireland.ie. The distillation and presentation of this vast range of information in a very accessible form was carried out by two researchers, lead archivist Ms Brigid Clesham and lead researcher, Ms Marie Boran with Prof Gearóid Ó Tuathaigh as Project leader. The Project was delivered on time and within budget. The provinces of Ulster and Leinster have considerably more landed estates. It would be a pity if the project were abandoned half way. *Aiden Feerick, MGSI, MAPGI*

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.msos.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. Authors and Publishing Houses are encouraged to support the initiative which is also supported by Four Courts Press, Ireland's premier academic publisher. For further details and for the address to which books should be sent please see: www.books4vijecnica.com

RAILWAY HISTORY

'*From CIÉ to IR - The Changing Face of Ireland's Railways*' by Mark Darby, Neil Higson, and Paul Quinlan, published by Ian Allen Publishing, (ISBN 978-0-7110-3476-1, h/b, 128pp, ills). In 1987 CIÉ ceased being a transport provider and became the holding company for three new entities - Iarnród Éireann (Railways), Bus Átha Cliath / Dublin Bus (Dublin City and suburban bus services) and Bus Éireann (long distance bus services and city & suburban bus services outside Dublin). This photo book takes Iarnród Éireann as its subject and provides the reader with an extensive collection of high quality images of the various types of diesel locomotives that have been used on the Irish railway system since the 1950s. The most popular types of locomotives to grace the system have been those made by General Motors in the USA and American railway enthusiasts visiting Ireland, recognizing the familiar hum of General Motor engines, are often fascinated by the different types of bodies that these engines have been mounted in. The authors open the book with a simple eight page concise history of diesel locomotive use in Ireland from 1950 when the first ones made their appearance right up to the present time, including information on the difference classes (types) that were used, their strengths and weaknesses, of which there very few, as some locomotives were still working forty years after they commenced service. The remainder of this book is a collection of excellent high quality colour photographs showing different types diesel locomotives in use all over Ireland with each picture dated and complete with accompanying notes and in some cases these images have changed dramatically since they were taken, especially in the case of pre-DART suburban Dublin, and other locations where significant railway engineering has taken place and building taken out of service or demolished. One will also enjoy the different liveries that have been used since the 1970's and the variations that were used on different classes from time to time. Another excellent book on Irish transport. *James Scannell*