

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

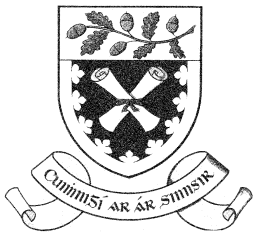
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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



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CONTENTS

Treasures of the National Folklore Collection	2
Précis of April Lecture Findmypast.ie Launched	2
James Scannell Reports... GSI Membership Package	3
New Initiative for Senior Citizens - 'Ask Granny'	3
Charles O'Morchoe RIP Diary Dates	4
The Path to Freedom—Articles & Speeches ...	4
The Famine Clearance in Toomevara, Co. Tipp.	4

QUEEN'S KILDARE ROOTS

Much has been written about the Irish ancestry of President Barack Obama who will visit Ireland on May 25th 2011. The areas associated with his 2nd great grandfather, Falmouth Kearney, Shinrone in Co. Offaly and Moneygall on the Co. Offaly border with Co. Tipperary, are readying themselves for their special visitor. Since his election in 2008, there has been a frenzied attempt by genealogists on both sides of the Atlantic to research his Irish ancestry. Seasoned commentators in the US may point to the perceived electoral importance of 'Irish ancestry' in American presidential contests as the real reason for the visit. While here in Ireland politicians and others are increasingly viewing the President's visit in terms of inward investment opportunities and tourism. Either way, both sides could be accused of demeaning 'ancestry' by reducing it to 'bucks and votes' and thereby, depriving it of its unique cultural value so cherished by tourists with a genuine interest in Irish ancestry. However, neither inward investment nor Irish ancestry seem to feature in commentaries on the most significant State Visit to Ireland since independence in 1922 - that by H.M. Queen Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom. The queen is to visit Ireland between May 17th and 20th 2011 and whilst some oppo-

sition to the visit has been voiced, most Irish people view the visit in terms of the 'normalisation' of the relationship between Ireland and the UK. Some highly symbolic official engagements during the State Visit will, it is hoped, free both nations from the ghostly shackles of our turbulent history to facilitate the celebration of a unique friendship. With a busy schedule of engagements it is a pity that the royal couple won't have the time to relax and enjoy their shared passion for horse racing, but thankfully a visit to the National Stud in County Kildare is included in the itinerary. Surprisingly nobody is mentioning Her Majesty's ancestral connections with County Kildare. These connections would have remained obscure and forgotten were it not for the abdication of King Edward VIII in 1936 and when her father became King George VI. Her mother was Lady Elizabeth Bowes Lyon, more commonly known as the Late Queen Mother, who could trace her ancestry back to County Kildare through her own mother's line. The queen's 5th great grandfather on her mother's side was Richard Colley of Castle Carbury, Co. Kildare who died in 1758. Richard Colley inherited the estate of his cousin, Garret Weisely (Wisely Wesley, later Wellesley) of Dangan, Co. Meath, when he died without issue in 1728. Garret and his wife were good friends of Jonathan Swift when he

was Vicar of Laracor, Co. Meath. Although, Garret Wesley is also related to the queen as her first cousin seven times removed, her direct line goes through Richard Colley who assumed Garret's surname by Royal Licence in 1728. Richard Colley's lands were situated at Castle Carbury, Co. Kildare, about 15kms from Garret's estate at Dangan, Co. Meath. The Colleys of Castle Carbury came to Ireland during the reign of King Henry VIII and therefore, Richard Colley had Plunkett, Cusack and, of course, Wellesley (Weisely) ancestors. Most of the Weisley landowners, as Catholics, lost their lands in Co. Kildare in the latter half of the 17th century, however, Garret Wesley converted to Protestantism and recovered his lands. With no heirs he tried to adopt his distant relative, Charles Wesley, who along with his brother John were the founders of Methodism. Charles and John were also descended from the Colley family of Castle Carbury. It is through this Castle Carbury connection that the queen is the great-great-grand niece of Arthur Wellesley, Duke of Wellington. So with such strong County Kildare roots, when the royal party visit the National Stud in the county, why not give Her Majesty a chance to do some 'ancestry tourism' and view the ruins of Castle Carbury - a 16th century tower-house and the former seat of her Irish ancestors?

'Redacting' the 1926 Census Returns

This Society campaigned for the early release of the 1926 census since before the enactment of the *Statistics Act, 1993*. Indeed, until mid 2008, the Society was alone in insisting that *only* a legislative amendment could remove the 100 year rule to facilitate public access to the 1926 census. Besides continuously lobbying Ministers and politicians on this issue, the Society produced two pieces of draft legislation to amend the 1993 Act namely the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* and the *Statistics*

(Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2010. Keeping this issue to the fore right up to the recent General Election, the Society was delighted that two of its main legislative campaign issues are now included in the *Programme for Government*—reform of the State's heraldic services and the release of the 1926 census. The Minister hopes to bring forward legislative proposals on the release of the 1926 census later in the year. However, reports on a 'proposed redaction' of any information on 'living persons' from the 1926 cen-

sus are causing considerable concern. Members are perplexed by further suggestions that this now means 'the early release of the 1926 census could be facilitated by making available only the information relating to individuals born more than 100 years ago'. With the 1911 census available on-line, many suggest that this 'redaction proposal' has unwittingly kept the outdated 100 year rule by another means—a point that will be greeted with utter dismay by genealogists throughout the world.

Treasures of the National Folklore Collection

Seoda as Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann

Whether we are genealogists, social or local historians, we all have a very deep interest in the exploration and expansion of the narrative of our subject. We seek out nuggets of information on people, places and the past generally to enhance our knowledge and understanding of our ancestors and their times. Many of us can be seen regularly scouring the dusty shelves of second-hand bookshops for the little known local history or long-forgotten commemorative publication. We know the real value of such publications as they give us a rare insight into the life and times of our ancestors. So you can readily understand my joy at receiving a copy of *'Treasures of the National Folklore Collection—Seoda as Cnuasach Bhéaloideas Éireann'* for review. Published in December 2010 by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-0-9565628-0-7 : 208pp : h/b €50.00) and edited by Críostóir Mac Cárthaigh, Séamas Ó Catháin, Ríonach úf Ógáin and Seosamh Watson—all of University College Dublin. Without a shadow of a doubt this book is a real gem for anybody wanting to capture more than a glimpse of the folkloric life of Ireland. Dr. T.K. Whitaker reminds us in his foreword to this volume that 'the Irish Folklore Commission, founded in 1935, came into being just in time to save a precious oral heritage from oblivion.' Ireland was changing—it was modernising and many of the old ways were falling into disuse or solely preserve of their ageing custodians. The Irish language was retreating rapidly westwards as emigration and internal migration tore the hearts out of rural Ireland. Times were hard and made harder, some say, by the conservatism and rigidity of the social strata in Ireland of the 1930s and 1940s. So into this Ireland went part-time, full-time

and voluntary collectors with their notebooks, questionnaires, drawing pads, cameras and sound recorders to record and rescue our rich folkloric traditions. It is the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Irish Folklore Commission that is celebrated so beautifully in this volume. The Editorial Board describe this book as 'primarily a visual presentation. Its appeal is to the imagination, as is the appeal of much of folk tradition itself. Of its nature, this volume can only provide a sample of the treasures of the National Folklore Collection. Images and visuals were selected that best communicate the essence of this material'. Amazingly their selection of photographs and drawings has a culturally powerful hold drawing the reader back to a strangely familiar, yet distant place. Each of the sections has within its visuals and its text that universally understood 'come meet the neighbours' narrative where the collector's skill and respect introduces named individuals and not mere research subjects. These collectors were not mere folklorists, but in many cases unsung linguists, musicians, artists and all with a keen eye and a marvellously attentive ear. Their drawings and paintings capture the vernacular architecture and a number of processes used to maintain such, like thatching. The ordinary life of the community and especially, of the artisans and the colourful characters in the locality, was meticulously documented right down to the kitchen utensils, vernacular furniture and farming or fishing equipment. But above all, the hospitality shown by the people to the collectors shines through with 'its ability to elevate ordinary people as the principle characters in the narration of Irish culture' according to Anne Burke who succinctly sees it as 'a

redemptive investment in Irish culture which was very specifically of its time and which was concerned ultimately with a reinvigoration of Irish identity'. One of the most important widespread projects of the Folklore Commission was the Schools' Collection which aimed to reach the 'home culture' through the schools with questionnaires and tasks prepared for distribution and collection by local teachers. More than 5,000 schools participated in the scheme which produced an enormous collection of information on folklore, legends, pastimes, agrarian conflict, poems, folk prayers and much more besides. Traditional music and song forms another very important collection—a rich and pure well, from which, musicians and singers continue to draw inspiration. However, for many it will still be the exceptionally intimate, warm and familiar scenes immortalised in the photographic collection that are the most vibrantly eloquent texts of all the various collections in this wonderful national treasure. This publication itself provides a fascinating glimpse of this hugely important resource that offers enormous research potential for the genealogist, local historian and social historian. **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!!

Précis of the April Lecture

On Tuesday 12th April 2011, Dr. Elaine Murphy and Dr. Mark Sweetnan delivered a fascinating lecture on the *'The 1641 Depositions as an aid to the genealogist'*. This project transcribed and digitised the 1641 Depositions in which Protestant men and women of all classes told of their experiences following the outbreak of the rebellion by the Catholic Irish in October 1641. Located in Trinity College Dublin they comprise 3,400 depositions, examinations and associated materials collected by government-appointed commissioners in the wake of the 1641 Rebellion. The approximately 19,000 pages of witness testimonies constitute the chief evidence for the sharply contested allegation that the rebellion began with a general massacre of protestant settlers. As a result, this material has been central to a protracted and bitter historical dispute. Propagandists, politicians and historians have all exploited the depositions at different times, and the controversy surrounding them has never been satisfactorily resolved. In fact, the 1641 'massacres', like King William's victory at the Boyne (1690), and the battle of

the Somme (1916), have played a key role in creating and sustaining a collective Protestant/British identity in the province of Ulster. Using both a PowerPoint presentation and direct access to the website, the lecturers pointed out that this body of material is unparalleled elsewhere in early modern Europe. It provides a unique source of information for the causes and events surrounding the 1641 rebellion and for the social, economic, cultural, religious, and political history of seventeenth-century Ireland, England and Scotland. In addition, the depositions vividly document various colonial and 'civilizing' processes, including the spread of Protestantism in the north of Ireland and the introduction of lowland agricultural and commercial practices, together with the native response to these developments. The website allows users access to all images and transcripts, with search options allowing free text search, while the database is certainly of interest to the general public, both for historical and genealogical purposes. A very lively question and answer session followed. For further info. see: <http://1641.tcd.ie/>

GSI LECTURES 2011

On Tuesday 10th May *'Tracing Ancestry through DNA'* by Gianpiero Cavalleri and finally, on Tuesday 14th June *'Irish Online Sources'* by Mary Beglan, MAPGL. Details of the lectures for the latter half of the year will be published as soon as they become available. Please send any suggestions for possible lectures to the Director of the GSI Lecture Programme, Séamus Moriarty, FGSI at e-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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

findmypast.ie

On Thursday, May 5th 2011 in the Reading Room at the National Archives, the new Minister for Arts, Heritage & Gaeltacht Affairs, Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, officially launched the findmypast.ie website. The new website will host the most extensive collection of Irish land records available anywhere online and with over 50 million records to be online within the first 12 to 18 months. Findmypast.ie is jointly owned by Eneclann and technology company, brightsolid which began as Scotland Online in 1995. Brian Donovan, CEO Eneclann, said that 'the combined expertise of Eneclann and brightsolid we are able to offer a truly comprehensive service' and that the website 'will host some of the most significant Irish records'. Congratulating the joint venture for making this website available, Minister Deenihan said that 'the provision of easy access to as many genealogical records as possible is very important. I want to acknowledge the

involvement of the Mormon Church. I am confident that this project will help to bring to life how our ancestors lived. Indeed, I am particularly pleased that the 'free access' principle will be maintained for important State records after the initial five year period and I applaud the very interesting and creative partnership that enabled today's event to take place'. According to the Press Release 'the joint venture will be exploring a range of opportunities within the cultural sector, North and South. Annual subscriptions for the site will be €59.95 and PPV (pay per view) will be available'. The Society was officially represented at the launch by Leas-Chathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden, MGSI, who personally congratulated the Minister on his endeavours to have the 1926 census released to the public. The Minister advised Gerry that the issue is now being considered by the Attorney General and that he was hopeful for a successful outcome.

OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The Director of Research Information Services, Eddie Gahan, MGSI, advised the Board of a number of upcoming events, at which, the Society will have a stand, including the **Genealogy Roadshow** at Carton House, Co. Kildare on Sunday May 29th 2011 between 15.00hrs and 19.00hrs. Participation at other events is in the planning including Heritage Week, Culture Night and some local events in Dublin. The Director of Internet Services, Bartosz Kozłowski, MGSI, has been invited to speak at the Polish Social & Cultural Association in Dublin on researching Polish ancestry and the Society's archives. The **'Weekend Genealogy Courses'** at the GSI Archives commenced its second round on April 2nd 2011. The course is delivered by John Hamrock, MGSI of **Ancestor Network Ltd.** For more information on these unique courses please contact **John Hamrock, MGSI** by phone at 087 0505296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

James Scannell Reports...

CENTENARY OF CINEMA

Later this year Galway City Museum will hold a special exhibition on 100 years of cinema in Galway with one of the exhibits being the director's chair used by John Ford while making *The Quiet Man* in 1951. John Morris, John Ford's Irish godson, who is the son of the late Lord Killanin, who worked with Ford on a number of projects including *The Rising of the Moon* in Galway city centre in 1957 with part of the filming taking place along the banks of the River Corrib at the Spanish Arch where the Galway City Museum is located. Morris has also permanently donated other pieces of memorabilia to the Galway City Museum and has lent Ford's director's chair to for two years.

HAGHEY ARCHIVES ON DISPLAY

In April a collection of papers and documents covering the relationship between the late Charles Huaghey, T.D. and former Taoiseach, and the island of Innisvickillane, the most southerly of the Blasket Islands, went on display at the Blasket Island centre in Dún Chaoin, near Dingle, Co. Kerry. The 170 acre island of Innisvickillane lies nine miles off the Co. Kerry coast and was purchased by Mr. Haughey in the

1970's and is still owned by his family. The archive contains a vast collection of correspondence with people, government departments and politicians and photographs. One of the largest files in the collection covers the decade long attempt by Mr. Haughey to re-introduce the white tailed sea eagle and his efforts to attract sponsorship for this project estimated at IR£50,000 which ultimately saw eagles Maeve and Aillil being brought to the Blaskets from Germany via the Fota Island Wildlife Park in Cork Harbour. The Haughey papers on the island were handed over in October 2010 by the Haughey family at a ceremony in Ionad an Bhlascaoid Mhóir, the Blasket Islands interpretative centre on the tip of the Dingle Peninsula at Dún Chaoin (Dunquin). The entire archive is available for viewing on request while some items are on public display

FULLY OPEN 'THE DEAD ZOO'

Séamus Lynam, Head of Services at the Natural Museum of Ireland has called on the Office of Public Works to consider the possibility of adding an extension to the Museum on a phased basis. Located in Dublin's Merrion Street, this 150-year-old museum, known affectionately by Dubliners as 'The Dead Zoo', was closed to the

public in 2007 following the cracking and collapse of a staircase. At that time the Office of Public Works and the Department of Arts, Sports and Tourism pledged €15M to refurbishment the entire building but this funding allocation was put on hold as part of the December 2008 Government cut-backs. In early 2008 €500,000 was spent on essential basic works to enable the Museum open to the public but two floors and overhead balconies where seven thousand birds, animals and fish are on display including the extinct Dodo, remain closed for health and safety reasons. Séamus Lynam says that the Museum's agenda is to fully open up the building as they are not happy that there is no public access to the balconies or to the upper floor for people with mobility difficulties. As a protected structure there is very little structurally that can be done to the Museum to deal with access and mobility issues. But under the National Development Plan it was intended to add an extension to the north wall of the building. The Museum is now calling on the Office of Public Works to consider a phased development of the Museum with the access issue being the first to be resolved with the provision of a new stairs and a lift as the policy of the Museum is for the public to have full access which is not possible at the present time.

New Initiative for Senior Citizens

The following information was provided to the Society's Director of Education & Social Inclusion, **John Hamrock, MGSi**, who views this initiative as a providing a wonderful resource for the promotion of genealogical research. "Ask Granny"© is an innovative genealogical outreach program especially designed to be presented by local genealogical society members at assisted-living or retirement homes or other places where seniors gather, such as a Community Councils on Aging. The program can also be used as a workshop event at a Family Reunion or at a church or synagogue senior group. The authors provide FREE specially formatted materials and instructions via emailed .pdf files. Genealogical Society members can easily use the materials to guide the senior citizens as they create a simple ancestral chart for themselves and for their spouses. There are also "Ask Granny"© administrative helps, such as flyers, announcements, and teaching outlines. The .pdf files can be easily printed for students or made into slides, flyers, or posters. The program is very different than a

beginning genealogy course. Using only pencils and paper, the Grannies and Grandpas who attend the seminars record their memories of family names, dates, and places on a chart labelled "A Genealogical Gift to my Family." When those pages are preserved in their special gift folder, future family members will never have to wonder "why didn't we ask Granny about that?" Whether the students can remember the details of one generation or six, they create an irreplaceable record of family history for their grandchildren and great grandchildren. At every session, even seniors who think they will remember nothing have been able to record several generations with the help of their instructors. One retiree from Poland said "Thank you! I always wanted to create a family tree, but I never knew how." Since 2009 the authors of "Ask Granny"©, Judy Russell and Greg Crane, have presented the program to over 500 Grannies and Grandpas in Georgia and South Carolina, in retirement centers, and for local senior groups, such as Community Councils on Aging. They also report that it has

also been adopted by genealogical societies, family reunions, and schools in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and in 35 states in the USA. A recent initiative directed toward genealogical librarians resulted in 38 requests for the free emailed materials to be used in library settings in 28 states. Email the "Ask Granny"© authors with your questions or your request for a FREE set of materials by return email. Your email should include the name of your genealogical society or the name and date of your upcoming Family Reunion or church/synagogue group. The only stipulation of the authors is that students are *never charged* for their participation in an "Ask Granny"© Seminar or for the materials. The programme was designed by **Judith F. Russell, Ph.D.**, retired educator, Bogart, Georgia, USA. Member of the Georgia Genealogical Society and the Old Edgefield District [SC] Genealogical Society and **Gregory L. Crane**, Captain, USCG, Retired, Athens, Georgia, USA. Publications Director of the Clarke / Oconee [GA] Genealogical Society. The "Ask Granny" website www.askgranny.us has full contact details.

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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World of Genealogy and Heraldry*

DIARY DATES

Tuesday May 10th & June 14th 2011

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday May 25th & June 22nd 2011

Morning Open Meeting

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

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

'The Path to Freedom—Articles and Speeches by Michael Collins'

'The Path to Freedom – Articles and Speeches by Michael Collins' with a foreword by **Tim Pat Coogan**, published by Mercier Press [www.mercierpress.ie - ISBN: 9781856351485 : €12.99]. Michael Collins wore many hats - he was Minister for Finance and T.D. for Cork South in the First Dáil of 1919, Director of Intelligence for the I.R.A. during the War of Independence and successfully implemented an intelligence gathering system and operated from a network of safe houses and secret rooms where he conducted businesses. A member of the Treaty delegation which went to London he took part in the negotiations and while the Treaty that was signed which allowed Northern Ireland to remain within the United Kingdom did not give the Republic he hoped for, he believed that it was stepping stone to the today's Irish Republic. Chairman of the Provisional Government and Commander in Chief of the Irish Free State Army, he was killed during an ambush at Béal na mBláth [situated between the villages of Crookstown and Cappeen on the R585 on the main Cork - Killarney Road (N22) c. 70km west of Cork city] in August 1922 during the Irish Civil War which had broken out several weeks previously and one can only speculate on the course of Irish history and role he would have played in it had he survived. This excellent book is a re-issue of a 1922 book containing essays and speeches by Collins in which he set down his vision for the future for Ireland in addition to his analysis of the recent past. Some of these were written during the civil war which was a conflict he struggled very hard to prevent as he saw former comrades take opposing sides and became the deadliest of enemies. Collins was also a visionary as he saw the necessity for open trade with overseas markets, something we now have within the EU, the need for good investment and sound management of resources and as priority the placing of the national economy on a sound basis. In the foreword Pat Coogan makes the interesting observation that Michael Collins declined an invitation from his brother Pat to travel to America where he joined the Chicago police force and rose to the rank of captain, and instead destroyed the armed R.I.C. in Ireland which were later replaced by the unarmed An Garda Síochána when the Irish Free State, the present day Republic, was established. Coogan then provides the reader with an overview of Collins' career concluding with the irony that the leader of the Béal na mBláth ambush was a former comrade who had undergone sadistic torture at the hands of British Intelligence Officers rather than betray his boyhood friend Michael Collins. A really remarkable and interesting book, which compliments the other books on Michael Collins published by Mercier Press. –'Michael Collins: A Life in Pictures' by Chrissy Orborne; 'Michael Collins and the Women who Spied for Ireland' by Meda Ryan; 'Michael Collins and the Making of the Irish State' by Gabriel Doherty and Dermot Keogh (Eds) and 'Michael Collins: The Man Who Won The War' by T. Ryle Dywer. **James Scannell**

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Charles C.C. O'Morchoe, RIP

The Society extends its sincere condolences to our Vice-President, Maj. Gen. David, The O'Morchoe, OBE, FGSI, on the death of his brother Charles Christopher Creagh O'Morchoe, M.D., Ph.D., D.Sc. on April 18, 2011 (peacefully) at his home in Poulso, Washington surrounded by family and friends after a 14 year battle with prostate cancer. He was born in Quetta, India (Pakistan) on May 7th, 1931 to Niall and Jessie (Joly) O'Morchoe. He married Patricia Jean O'Morchoe, M.D. on September 15th, 1955 in Dublin, Ireland. Dr. O'Morchoe completed his undergraduate education at Dublin University, Ireland, where he also obtained his M.D., Ph.D., and D.Sc. Over 41 years, he held teaching and research positions at medical schools at Dublin University, University of Maryland, Harvard University, S.M.S. Medical College in Jaipur, India, Loyola University (IL) and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he served as the Regional Dean of the College of Medicine from 1984 until his retirement in 1997. At the time of his death, he was a Visiting Scholar in the Department of Medicine (Division of Oncology) at University of Washington, Seattle. In total, he authored over 182 papers, chapters and books, many of which were in conjunction with his wife Patricia Jean O'Morchoe, M.D. He served on over 51 committees and boards. He was editor of six peer-reviewed journals. During his career, he received numerous honors and awards for excellence in teaching and research. After his retirement, Charles and his wife moved to Poulso where they became active members of St. Barnabas Episcopal Church on Bainbridge Island. He continued to enjoy his many hobbies such as boating, collecting and caring for classic cars, fine wood-working and gardening. Charles was preceded in death by his wife of 47 years, Patricia Jean, and is survived by his brother, David, of Gorey, Ireland; his two sons, Charles (Susan), of Gurnee, IL, and David (Patrice), of Poulso, WA; and his four grandchildren, Katherine, Brendan, Caitlin and Christopher. Funeral services will be held on May 7th at 15.00hrs at St. Barnabas Episcopal Church, 1187 Wyatt Way, Bainbridge, WA, 98110.

Memorial contributions can be made to The Joly-O'Morchoe Exchange Fellowship Fund or the Patricia J and Charles CC O'Morchoe Fellowship in Leadership Skills Award Fund at The University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, c/o UOI Foundation, 1305 North Green Street, Urbana, IL 61801. Please sign the online Guest Book for the O'Morchoe family at: www.cookfamilyfuneralhome.com. Arrangements entrusted to Cook Family Funeral Home, Bainbridge Island, WA. *Published in the Irish Times from 30th April 2011 to 2nd May 2011*

SEANAD ÉIREANN

The Society's nominee on the Cultural & Educational Panel in the recent Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) General Election, **Cllr. Victor Boyhan**, polled exceptionally well in a very tightly fought contest. With a total of 55,000 senatorial votes, Cllr. Boyhan, was eliminated on the 7th Count. Running as an independent, Cllr. Boyhan competed in a Panel of eighteen candidates, from which, five Senators were elected.

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

FAMINE CLEARANCES

In November 2010 another excellent publication in the **Maynooth Local History Studies** was published by Four Courts Press. At no. 89 in this series '**The Famine clearance in Toomevara, County Tipperary**' by **Helen O'Brien** (ISBN: 978-84682-2605 : 64pp : Price €9.95) is a very well researched account of a notorious event during the Great Famine in County Tipperary. Many genealogists when thinking of the horrors of the Great Famine focus on the western counties and the south west, few ever think of Tipperary. O'Brien's description of the parish of Toomevara in north Co. Tipperary during the two decades preceding the Famine show the population increasing steadily with a housing stock 'substantially poorer' than that elsewhere in the barony or county. She points out that on the national average the housing stock in Toomevara more resembled that of Clare, Kerry and Mayo. Like the rest of the country the north of Co. Tipperary was carved up amongst the landed gentry, many absentee landlords, with the smaller tenanted holdings heavily sublet and subdivided. Attempts to consolidate holdings led to agrarian unrest with the secret societies abounding. Such observations are important indicators as she sets the scene for the harrowing story of the cruel eviction of over 500 people from the small Tipperary village of Toomevara on May 28th 1849 at the height of the Great Famine. The author was very fortunate to have access to the manuscript memoirs of Thomas Tracey, a local schoolmaster, who was born in Toomevara in 1832. The local newspapers '*Nenagh Guardian*' and '*Tipperary Vindicator*' proved essential in building a picture of the community life in the village. Agrarian unrest in the run-up to the onset of the Famine created an atmosphere of fear and mistrust where petty rivalries turned violent and faction fights were the order of the day. The account of the famine taking hold and the subsequent evictions are exceptionally well researched. Indeed, since the events are still part of the local folk memory, from a genealogical perspective, it is essential reading for anybody researching ancestry in this area of Co. Tipperary. **MM**