

Cumann Seinealais na hÉireann

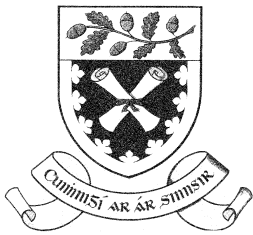
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(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

<i>Landscapes of Cult and Kingship</i>	2
<i>Irish DNA Atlas Project</i> <i>GSI Archive News</i>	2
<i>GSI Lecture Programme</i> <i>Genealogy Courses</i>	2
<i>James Scannell Reports...</i>	3
<i>Précis of August Lecture</i> <i>GSI Membership Package</i>	3
<i>Diary Dates</i> <i>Enniskerry, A History</i>	4
<i>Heritage Week</i> <i>Sarajevo University</i>	4

Genealogy—Product or Resource?

During the Seanad debate on the *National Cultural Institutions Bill* in 1996, the then Minister **Michael D. Higgins, TD**, accepted a proposal by this Society to conduct a *Survey of Genealogical Practices in Ireland*. With the change of government that year it fell to the new Minister **Síle de Valera, TD**, to launch this important nationwide consultation and survey. The Minister commissioned the Heritage Council to carry out the survey and indeed, its *Interim Report on Genealogical Practices in Ireland* published in 1998 was very promising and was widely acclaimed. However, the production of its final report in 2000 was an unmitigated disaster for Irish genealogy as it breached its terms of reference, pandered to vested interests and thus was very publicly rejected by the Minister. A wonderful opportunity to develop a national policy on the delivery of genealogical services in Ireland was lost for over a decade. The editorial in the June 2011 issue of the *Gazette* urged the new Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, **Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, to bring together, in a structured manner, those involved in genealogy in Ireland to formulate a national strategy for the promotion of ancestry tourism and related heritage products. Therefore, the Society warmly applauds the Minister's decision to convene a

meeting on Wednesday September 7th 2011 of groups and individuals who are professionally involved in the provision, dissemination and use of genealogical records. The purpose of the meeting was to establish the current position regarding the provision of genealogical services and to discuss options for further development of these services. So over fifty people gathered in the National Library to present their views on the future of Irish genealogical services. The Society was represented by the Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI** and our Senior Librarian, **Fiona Tipple, MA, DipLib, DipGen, ALAI, MGSI** who delivered the Society's presentation at the meeting. This presentation outlined a bright future of Irish genealogy with constructive proposals on a range of issues. It proposed that the *National Archives Act, 1986* and the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* could be updated in a new and comprehensive *National Cultural & Archival Institutions Bill*. Reporting for the Society's *Gazette* Fiona Tipple described the meeting as follows. All the Irish genealogical organisations were represented, as well as organisations such as Eneclann, AEL Data and Tourism Ireland. Genealogists John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI and Seán Murphy, MA, also attended, as did observers from the Irish Bishops' Conference. The meeting was chaired by retired High Court judge

Bryan McMahon, and the Minister and his officials attended for the full day. The speakers split into two factions: those who supported the expansion of free public access to genealogical records and those who did not. Those supporting free access included, not surprisingly, Dublin City Public Library, the National Archives and the National Library. Those opposing it included the Family History Centres, the Ulster Historical Foundation, and the Offaly Historical & Archaeological Society. One of the reasons given for their opposition to further expansion of free-to-view parish records was that it would cause unemployment. The GSI proposed the view that genealogy is a resource to be developed for the benefit of many, rather than a product to be sold for the benefit of the few. We also emphasised our commitment to the *Principle of public ownership and right of access*, and insisted that these rights apply equally to the Irish diaspora. It was obvious that our views struck a chord with several organisations, and we were strongly supported by the final speaker, **Catriona Crowe** of the National Archives. **John Grenham** spoke of a moral duty to reconnect with the Irish diaspora, and suggested that 'moral generosity' required that our genealogical records be made freely available to it. Genealogy is clearly a resource!

10th Anniversary of 9/11

Described as the greatest terrorist attack ever on the Irish diaspora, 9/11 has a very special meaning for the Irish at home and overseas. Although we Irish have taken the tragic events of that fateful day ten years ago into our collective memory with a deep sense of hurt, loss, anger and possibly, despair, we are amongst many nations to do so. Our nearest neighbours and indeed, each of our partners in the European Union, all share in these mixed feelings of grief and revulsion. Whilst reading the long list of those who were murdered on 9/11 and indeed, seeing the photographs of the NYPD and FDNY personnel in particular, nobody can be

in any doubt of the fact that 9/11 touched every parish in Ireland. Very few families in Ireland could claim to have no American relatives and even fewer view New York, like Boston, Chicago or Butte, as anything other than an Irish city in America. Waves of Irish immigrants over the past two centuries have created a familiarity with this wonderful city for the Irish at home. This unique link with NYC is almost entirely based on kinship—cousins and, possibly more recently, brothers and sisters, working and living in the city and its suburbs. Affinity with Ireland remains strong for most Irish New Yorkers, which is hardly surprising, in a city that hosts the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the

world. But beyond the razzmatazz of the annual parade along 5th Avenue, the real celebration of the Irish presence in New York is the pride that they have in their city and of their contribution, over several generations, to its success as one of the world's greatest cities. Ten years on from 9/11, we in Ireland share in the painful memories of our kinfolk in New York and indeed, with all New Yorkers and with those who lost loved ones in Pennsylvania and Washington DC. The 9/11 Memorial Garden at Ground Zero is powerful in its symbolism, strength and determination—a fitting testimony to what it means to be a true New Yorker.

Landscapes of Cult and Kingship

'*Landscapes of Cult and Kingship*' edited by Roseanne Schot, Conor Newman and Edel Bhreathnach and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-219-3 : h/bk : 322pp ills : Price: €50.00 : Web Price €45.00) is a wonderful collection of essays offering new and exciting perspectives on kingship and royal landscapes in Ireland. The contributors, all leading experts in their fields, consider how the topography, monuments, place-names, myths and histories were symbolised, interwoven and forged into one of the more enduring institutions of human culture—kingship. Though aspects of this study have received much attention from some very noted scholars in the late 19th and 20th centuries, advances in archaeology in particular, have forced academics to re-examine the period from prehistory to the Middle Ages in a modern interdisciplinary manner. The first essay by Marion Deane looks at the establishment of kingship as an institution and the central place of clientship in early Irish society. She examines the divine and the earthy concepts of royal marriage with reference to the mythologies and pseudo-histories of ancient Ireland. Conor Newman explores 'the sacred landscape of Tara' which was 'conceived of through the prism of religion and myth' and as a sacred landscape may have 'cosmogenic symbolism'. Newman's essay places Tara and its surrounding landscape firmly within a broader Indo-European context with the relationship between religious sites and water of significant importance in this area. Though a lot of archaeology was discovered relatively recently, he is unequivocal in his condemnation of the decision to run the M3 motorway through the Tara-Skreen valley. The 'death-tales of the early kings of Tara' are explored by Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin and emphasises that 'in Irish tradition, the names

of places are crucially important and the stories are set in the physical landscape of the country even if their physical characteristics are not described in detail. This landscape was vital and its rivers, lakes, mountains, hills and valleys were seen as sacred places, and even regarded as gods and goddesses'. Could this be the root of the Irish attachment to land, place and 'Mother Ireland'? Building on the theme of the sacred landscape, Bridgette Slavin explores the influence of the 'supernatural arts' on kingship. Her essay looks at ancient legal, literary and hagiographical texts providing evidence for the protection or rejection of a king by supernatural arts. Roseanne Schot's essay examines one of the pre-Christian royal capitals of Ireland, Uisneach, and explores its role in the early medieval period. Schot stresses that multi-disciplinary studies have a major role to play in our investigations of these sites, the associated texts and indeed, the whole concept of 'a landscape conceived'. The archaeology of the Uisneach complex is also explained in a very accessible manner with some excellent photographs. Intriguingly Marie Leconte-Tilouine's essay brings us to a Himalayan sacred site of royalty at Dullu in Nepal and provides a fascinating insight into a seemingly very similar sacred environment as found in Ireland. Edel Bhreathnach examines the transformation of the concepts of kingship and sovereignty with the coming of Christianity and its impact on the provincial ceremonial capitals in early medieval Ireland. Based on the archaeological excavations conducted on these ancient sites, Bhreathnach traces the gradual transformation or abandonment of these ceremonial capitals to meet the needs of the newly Christianised Ireland. Indeed, in that process of 'Europeanization' Edel Bhreathnach makes the case that a feudal-manorial system had

developed in Ireland, as it had on mainland Europe, before the arrival of the Anglo-Normans in the twelfth century. However, her statement based on the marriage of a number of British women into the nobility of fifth- and sixth-century Meath that British (sic) was spoken in Brega requires some verification. Brian Lacey's essay takes us to three 'royal sites in Co. Donegal and to a possible 'amphitheatre' in the landscape with possible connections to the Celtic god Lug (Lugh). The inspiration for the wonderful cover illustration by artist Bríd Ní Rinn becomes clear in the essay by Elizabeth FitzPatrick Eileen Murphy, Ronan McHugh, Colm Donnelly and Claire Foley- 'Evoking the white mare: the cult landscape of *Sgiath Gabhra* and its medieval perception in Gaelic *Fir Mhanach*'. The essay looks at the *Sgiath Gabhra* landscape situated north of the town of Lisnakee in southern Co. Fermanagh which was the inauguration site for the Maguire. This highly significant poetic name translates as 'shield or defence of the white mare' and with aerial photography the authors provide a fascinating interpretation of this landscape. John Waddell charts the cultural continuity of these ancient sites and challenges the triumphal narrative of the Christianisation of Ireland. He sees it as a process of religious syncretism where Christianity triumphed over paganism 'largely by its fusion with older traditions'. Ger Dowling explores the functions, dating and locations of monuments with a complex of multiple defensive ditches or ramparts. Kay Muhr looks at the 'dindsenchas' or the 'lore of Irish places' as a means of interpreting and understanding ancient monuments and sacred landscapes. Finally, Ann Dooley provides a captivating look at the inauguration odes to Gaelic chiefs. This is an excellent collection of essays. *MM*

Irish DNA Atlas Project

The Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, and **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) are currently finalising the first issue of a newsletter on this exciting new project. The publication of a newsletter was considered more appropriate than the production of a single explanatory leaflet on the project as it allows for regular updates to be circulated to participants. The first issue of the '*Irish DNA Atlas Newsletter*' will be available in October and will be circulated to GSI members via e-mail and a link will be posted on the Society's website and Facebook page. As the aims of the project are twofold (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland, it is possible for participants to opt to take part in the medical or historical research or both. The project is seeking participants with all eight great grandparents from the same general area, say a radius of 30-40kms, to present a Birth Brief and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Appreciating that many

participants will have great grandparents from both sides a county boundary, for example, therefore the project team developed a research mapping model based on 'natural areas of social cohesion' (NASC) which would cater for this cross-county ancestry. This mapping exercise crucially takes account of the historical development of the areas concerned and facilitates a more targeted approach to the recruitment of volunteers to participate in this all-Ireland project. Whether participants opt to take part in one or both studies is entirely their own choice and, of course, this project is open to both GSI members and others. Participation is on a strictly pro bono basis to further the project's two main objectives. The project newsletter will be available next month, however, in the meantime should you be interested in participating in this new research project, please contact the Society's Director of Archival Services, Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI by e-mail on Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie When the project newsletter and sample kits are available Séamus O'Reilly will contact all participants by e-mail.

GSI ARCHIVE NEWS

The Society's Archive and Research Centre, An Daonchartlann, at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire is now open two days a week offering a Free Family History Advisory Service to visitors to the facility. It's open each Wednesday and Friday from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs with the exception of the fourth Wednesday of each month when it opens at 13.00hrs. There is full internet access allowing for visitors to be introduced to the myriad of on-line resources for genealogy. The Board is exploring the possibility of have the facility open on a Monday evening and possibly, on Saturday afternoon, however, this will depend on the availability of suitable volunteers to staff the facility on those days. The Director of Archival Services, Séamus O'Reilly, would like to thank Mr. Howard Clarke, BSc. (Econ), M.Sc.(Oxon), FRSA for the kind donation of his new book '*A New History of the Royal Hibernian Military School, Phoenix Park, Dublin—1765-1921*'. This is an excellent addition to our Society's growing library. A review of this important work will be published in the next issue of this newsletter.

Weekend Genealogy Courses

A new Saturday Morning Genealogy Course in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Limited** is due to begin this month at the GSI Archives & Research Centre. The aim of the course is to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library, and other important centres of research. You can learn how to be your own researcher. All you need is some curiosity and some expert guidance. Topics to be covered include the principles of genealogy, computers and the internet, place names and surnames, location and use of census, vital, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared with participants as they embark on the quest to trace their ancestors. The following areas are covered on the course: getting started; talking to family members, drawing up a family tree, family group sheets, organising files, origins of surnames;

Church Parish Records; Civil Registrations (births, marriages & deaths); Census Returns and Census Substitutes; Land Records; Other; estate records, directories & occupational records, grave records and inscriptions, newspapers, wills & administrations, DNA testing (genetic genealogy) and Recommended Books and Websites. Courses are held at the Genealogical Society of Ireland Library and Archive, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where computer access ensures that the major online resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. The Weekend Genealogy Courses will commence on Saturday, 17 September 2011. So when you hear that question—*Who Do You Think You Are?* - let us help you find out! For more information on these courses please contact **John Hamrock, MGSi** by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

GSI LECTURES 2011

The following are the lectures for the remainder of 2011. The Director of the GSI Lecture Programme, Séamus Moriarty, FGSI, will announce the list of lectures for 2012 in January. In the meantime, on **Tuesday 13th September** - Unbounded Charity and Unfortunate Females: Lady Arbella Denny and the early years of the Leeson St. Magdalen Asylum - Rosemary Raughter. On **Tuesday 11th October** - Court and Prison Records - Brian Donovan. On **Tuesday 8th November** - Barrack Obama's Benn and Donovan ancestors - Fiona Fitzsimons. On **Tuesday 13th December** - National Library of Ireland - Recent Developments & Future Plans - Katherine McSharry. All lectures are held at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire. For directions to the venue www.familyhistory.ie Please send any suggestions for lectures to **Séamus Moriarty** at e-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie

James Scannell Reports...

CHILD CASUALTIES OF 1916

Speaking at this year's Parnell Summer School held during August in Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, Dr. Anne Matthews, a lecturer at NUI Maynooth, called for the 28 children who died during the Easter Week 1916 Rising to be remembered in the 2016 commemoration. Dr. Matthews revealed that of the more than 250 civilians killed during the Easter Week Rising, 28 children aged between 2 and 16 were killed by gunfire, pointing out that the children who died were from working class backgrounds and still have not been commemorated even with a plaque. She said that the children and their mothers had remained invisible as they did fit in comfortably into the romantic view of 1916 and gave examples of some of these casualties.

LETTERS PRESERVED

A collection of letters numbering over 1300 sent to a Co. Cork 'big house' between the 1780's and the 1820's, written by friends and associates of the Purcell family, are to be preserved following the allocation of an €8,000 grant by the Heritage Council to enable this work to be carried out. The Purcell family's 'big house' was located at Burton Park, near Churchtown, with their estate covering more

than 2000 acres at one stage near Charleville, Co. Cork. According to archivist Brian McGee, based at Cork City and County Archives, the Purcell documents were identified as being at risk as they were literally falling apart, and that without implementing conservation methods, would have been lost to posterity. Their uniqueness stems from the fact that the letters are from the heyday of the 'big house' and an absence of a lot of this type of material in Cork. Most of them appear to be incoming correspondence from friends and family. The Purcell family was very well connected with Lord Edgemont and most are very personal and immediate. The conservation work by paper conservator Paul Curtiss, based at Muckcross House, involves cleaning followed by reversible paper repair and reinforcement which will ensure that this valuable collection is preserved and available for future generations. It's expected that the conservation work will be completed by November after which a date will be selected for their public display. Burton Park, which was originally owned by Sir Philip Perceval, became the seat of the Earls of Edgemont in 1670 and was later burned by King James's troops in 1690 and subsequently rebuilt around 1692. The house and demesne were purchased from the Perceval Family under the Land Acts by

Matthew John Purcell in 1889, the Purcells having rented the property since 1800. During the 1890's they carried out significant alterations and improvements to the house which is still owned by the Purcell-Ryan family.

SMALL LIVES EXHIBITION

Currently on view at the National Library's Photographic Archive in Temple Bar, Dublin is a photographic exhibition 'Small Lives' featuring 50 images of childhood of Ireland from the 1880's to the 1970's, selected from 25,000 images by exhibition curator Aoife O'Connor. Mainly in black and white, the images on display range from formal studios portraits to informal street photos. Images show children as witnesses to major events in Irish history as well as every day social events such as a day at the seaside or a St. Patrick's Day parade. Also portrayed are the harsh realities of life showing the terrible working conditions some had to endure or live in. In addition to the photographs there is selection of illustrations pre the 1830's, drawn for the National Library's extensive collection of prints and drawings showing how children were depicted before the invention of photography. The exhibition will be view to the public until June 2012.

Précis of the August Lecture

On Tuesday 9th August members were treated to a fine piece of maritime history in a lecture by Declan Heffernan on 'Dublin's own Titanic: The sinking of the 'Tayleur' off Lambay in 1854'. This is the fascinating and yet, harrowing story of a ship that left Liverpool on January 19th 1854 on her maiden voyage bound for Melbourne in Australia. The ship's complement of 652 passengers and crew included only 37 trained seamen amongst the 71 assigned to the vessel. The crew was by all accounts a motley bunch, many not speaking English and others just working their passage to Australia. Designed by William Rennie of Liverpool the 'Tayleur' was the largest merchant ship afloat – 230ft in length with a 40ft beam and displacing 1750 tons. She could carry around 4000 tons of cargo below three decks and was launched by her owners Charles Moore & Co. in Warrington on the River Mersey on October 4th 1853. The vessel was named for Charles Tayleur, founder of the Vulcan Engineering Works in Warrington. Chartered by the White Star Line and under Captain Noble she left

Liverpool on January 19th 1854 and sailed out along the Welsh coast with the intention of going so far westward before turning south through the Irish Sea and out to the Atlantic Ocean around the Cape of Good Hope and onwards to Melbourne in Australia. But things went wrong almost from the start, not only with a barely trained crew, but the ship's compasses didn't work properly due to the iron hull and, instead of heading south through the Irish Sea, the 'Tayleur' headed due west for Ireland. The weather played a significant part in its fate as she sailed out in a fog and then in a storm directly towards the rocky coasts of Lambay Island off County Dublin. Within 48 hours of leaving Liverpool disaster struck, the rudder was undersized for the vessel and control of the rigging was hampered by ropes which were not properly stretched and became slack and useless in controlling the sails. The vessel ran aground on the east coast of the island and attempts to lower the lifeboats were hampered by the seas and the rocks. The high seas moved the vessel to deeper water where she eventually

sank in around 18m of water. The loss of life was horrific as out of the complement of 652 passengers and crew, 380 people drowned including all but three of the 100 women on board. Survivors faced a grueling hard climb up a 24m high cliff to safety. When the alarm was finally raised and word reached Dublin, the City of Dublin Steam Packet Company steamer 'Prince' was dispatched to pick up survivors. Many of the bodies recovered were either buried on Lambay or in the graveyard on the nearby north Dublin coastline. An inquiry into the tragedy absolved the Captain for negligence and blamed the ship's owners for failing to test and to adjust the ship's compasses. However, a Board of Trade inquiry found that the Captain failed to take soundings which would have been the standard practice in such circumstances of low visibility. Declan Heffernan's knowledge of this vessel was greatly enhanced by the fact that he has dived on the wreck several times and indeed, his enthusiasm for the subject was certainly infectious as he gave a most fascinating account of this little known maritime tragedy of 157 years ago.

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 Certificate [**Res: 11/09/859**]; 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 projects; 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 Certificate 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 Sanderson, 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**

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DIARY DATES

Tuesday Sep. 13th & Oct. 11th 2011

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Sep. 28th & Oct. 26th 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)

'Enniskerry—A History'

'Enniskerry – A History' by **Michael Seery**, published by The History Press Ireland, published by the History Press Ireland, ISBN 978 - 1 - 84588 - 699 - 8, pb, 94 pp, ills. This book traces the evolution and development of Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow from its origins as a small settlement by a bridge crossing the Glencullen River to the vibrant centre that it is today with the emphasis of this book on the 19th century when most of this development took place. Divided into three main chapters, the first chapter 'A Sense of Place' provides the reader with a brief history of how Enniskerry village evolved, what it looked like at various periods as recorded by numerous travel writers who left early descriptions of the village and surrounding areas, and from various maps which recorded its development as a small rural cluster of buildings around a river crossing with this development increasing in tempo following the construction of Powerscourt House. The second chapter 'Education and Religion' covers education in the village before and after the implementation of the National School system with education making a huge positive impact on the youth of the village by improving literacy and numeracy rates and improving their employment opportunities. The author also looks at some problems that were encountered with the schools and the impact and role that local clergy had with their congregations. The final chapter 'Life in the Parish of Powerscourt' looks at life in the village and surrounding area during the 19th century and the influence and role of Lord Powerscourt on the development of the area. During this century the quality of housing improved, employment was mainly in agriculture and having got through the Famine by a combination of factors, the author includes the interesting observation that in the latter half of the 19th century, the number of women in the village declined as they left it to take up employment in domestic service in Dublin. At the same time the village experienced renewed development between 1850 and 1870 driven by the 7th Viscount Powerscourt after which the village settled down remaining virtually unchanged until well into the 20th century. By drawing from 18th century travel literature, the Powerscourt Papers and other sources, the author looks at the evolution and development of Enniskerry, who drove it and influenced it and how all the events and developments that took place in and around it were interlinked with each other. All in all an excellent concise history of Enniskerry Village, Co. Wicklow, and a title that no local historian should be without.

James Scannell**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*www.fourcourtspress.ie*Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***DUNLAVIN, Co. WICKLOW**

Chris Lawlor's new book 'An Irish village: Dunlavin, County Wicklow' will be launched in Rathallagh Golf Club, Co. Wicklow at 8 p.m. on Friday 23 September. This new book traces the history of the Dunlavin region from earliest times to the present day, but this groundbreaking study is more than the history of a single County Wicklow village and its communities over time. It is, in fact, the history of a whole nation in microcosm. This book explores the impact of national events on a specific locality. In its pages you will read of Celtic warriors, Viking raiders, Norman conquerors, English settlers, improving landlords, liberal loyalists, subversive radicals, rebellions, mass political movements, the Tithe War, the Great Famine, the Land War, political upheavals, social change and economic developments – all viewed through the prism of one village and its environs. The book locates the Dunlavin region within the larger framework of Irish history. It is both an invaluable case study and a work of reference with wider significance, which will appeal to all Irish history enthusiasts, particularly those with an interest in the Wicklow-Kildare region, and will also be of interest to professional Irish historians. Chris's work has already drawn praise from the Irish academic community, with three history professors speaking very highly of the new book on Dunlavin. Local people and everyone with a Dunlavin connection may find references to their ancestors in the appendices in the book, which will include all Church of Ireland baptisms in Dunlavin during the 18th century, all households subject to the payment of tithe in Dunlavin parish in 1823, all landholders in Dunlavin parish in 1854 and

all householders in Dunlavin from both the 1901 and 1911 censuses, in addition to many other appendices. There is a limited print run, so people should attend the launch night in Rathallagh Golf Club in order to avoid disappointment later! Books will be on sale at the launch at a specially reduced rate and everybody is welcome on the night. Chris Lawlor lives in Dunlavin and is head of the history department in Meánscoil Iognáid Rís, Naas, County Kildare. He won the Dunlavin Arts Festival short story award in 2001 and the Lord Walter Fitzgerald prize for original historical research in 2003. He holds an MA from NUI Maynooth and a PhD from DCU, and has lectured in Ireland, the UK and Australia. **James Scannell**

SARAJEVO UNIVERSITY

The Society is supporting the very worthy initiative by Bosnian students to restock the Library of the University of Sarajevo following its destruction in the Bosnian civil war. Over two million volumes, including priceless manuscripts, were destroyed in the fire that engulfed the National Library of Bosnia-Herzegovina on August 26th 1992—just over seventy years after we lost our Public Records Office during our bitter Civil War here in Ireland. Therefore, we Irish can readily appreciate the enormous sense of loss felt by the Bosnians at the destruction of their National Library. The library collections of the University of Sarajevo were housed in the same building which was destroyed by shelling. The building is currently being restored. The students are seeking donations of contemporary academic works in any discipline. Have you any books that you could donate? Please forward your donated volumes to the University Library by mail to: **Mr. Muris Rahmanovic**, University of Sarajevo—Campus, Zmaj od Bosne bb., 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Please share this appeal with your friends and colleagues. For further information see: www.books4vijeknica.com

HERITAGE WEEK

The Society's Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan**, MGSJ, wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped out during Heritage Week. As part of the Society's participation in Heritage Week the GSI Archives and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire was open each day from 13.00hrs to 16.30hrs from Saturday 20th August to Sunday 28th August 2011. Members assisted visitors to the facility with family history research queries and introduced them to the services provided by the Society. At times during the week it was so busy that queues formed awaiting to discuss their research needs with our volunteers. Eddie is now seeking volunteers for **Culture Night** on September 23rd 2011 at the Dublin City Library & Archive between 18.00hrs and 21.00hrs. Members wishing to volunteer should contact Eddie on eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Members researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine will find the publications and meetings of the Medal Society of Ireland of interest. For further info. see: www.msos.ie

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

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

Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!