



Cumann Seinealais na hÉireann

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(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

Vol. 6 (2011) Contents	2
Irish DNA Atlas Project— Update	2
GSI Lecture Programme Deansgrange MIs	2
James Scannell Reports .. Précis of Nov. Lecture	3
GSI Membership Package	3
Aer Lingus—75 years	4
Diary Dates Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921	4
Weekend Courses 2012 UCC Egyptian Mummy	4

National Genealogy Centre

In Dáil Éireann on Wednesday December 7th 2011, **Tom Fleming, TD** (Independent, Kerry South) tabled a Parliamentary Question asking the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, **Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, "if he will consider locating a National centre of genealogy in Killarney house, which is to be refurbished in the new year; and if he will make a statement on the matter". In his written reply, the Minister said "as the Deputy will be aware, I take a keen interest in genealogy issues and I am conscious of the potential for genealogical tourism around the country. However, I have no plans to develop a national centre of genealogy in Killarney House at this point in time". This idea of establishing a National Genealogy Centre has gained considerable momentum since it was suggested that the Old Irish Parliament building, dating from 1729, should be acquired from the Bank of Ireland in return for the State pouring billions into the Irish banks. The intention was to adapt this building, the world's first purpose built two chamber parliament building, for cultural purposes, including a National Genealogy Centre. However, it is reported that the Bank of Ireland has absolutely no intention of giving up its hold on such an iconic and historic building in the heart of Dublin city. On the face of it, the idea of establishing a

The President of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, Mr. Rory Stanley, FCSI, wishes all of our Members, Friends and readers at home and around the world a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

National Genealogy Centre for Ireland sounds like a wonderfully exciting project richly deserving of government support. But what exactly is a 'National Genealogy Centre' and how will it augment the services provided by the existing repositories? Is it proposed that it will provide additional services to genealogy and, if so, what are these services? Without clear answers to these questions, one could be forgiven for feeling a sense of *déjà vu* as it appears that an old plan maybe quietly being resurrected. Back in 1997 the Heritage Council was commissioned by the Minister to carry out a survey of genealogical practices in Ireland and indeed, its *Interim Report on Genealogical Practices in Ireland* which was 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 and pandered to vested interests which caused it to be very publicly rejected by the Minister. This report proposed removing all of the genealogical resources from the National Library, the National Archives and other State repositories and to centralise them in an 'Irish Family History Research Centre' where the public would have to pay a daily rate to view these resources at this publicly funded facility. The Minister's total rejection of this report over ten years ago rightly preserved free access to genealogical records at our national repositories. Undoubtedly the Internet has rendered most of the rationale underpinning the Heritage Council's 2000 proposal absolutely irrelevant today. But without ditching the current proposal completely, maybe there is merit in establishing such a centre as a virtual facility offering access to records held by the National Library, National Archives and other State repositories. Such a cyber facility could be a collaborative digitisation project by these institutions where the sharing of resources and expertise could provide a much wider range of genealogical material on-line and free of charge to researchers worldwide. Indeed, it could also showcase Ireland as a centre of excellence in digital technology.

Merger of Cultural Institutions

Originally announced as a budgetary measure back in 2008, the proposal to merge the National Archives of Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission 'into' the National Library of Ireland was included in the Government's Public Sector Reform Plan which was published on November 17th 2011. Following the publication of the Reform Plan, a few newspaper articles and press releases have unfortunately caused some concern amongst our members. However, this merger will require

the introduction of new or amending legislation and as yet, the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, **Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, has not released any detailed proposals for this proposed merger. Therefore, any suggestions that skills sets will be lost or that service to the public will be impacted by this proposed merger are entirely speculative at this stage and will remain so until either the draft legislation is produced or the Minister provides more details on the proposed merger. This Society is pleased that its April 2010 sugges-

tion has been apparently accepted by the Irish government inasmuch as that the 'legislative amalgamation' of separate institutions is preferable to a simple merger of these institutions as first proposed back in 2008. It should be noted that the recent announcement stressed that the 'identities' of the institutions will be maintained in the proposed merger, however, further details are required before any authoritative consideration of this proposal can be undertaken by the Irish genealogical community.

Vol. 6 (2011) Contents

January 2011: Seanad Éireann – Abused, Legislatively Starved, Ignored and now to be Abolished? / General Election Manifestos / The Alchemy of Medicine and Print – The Edward Worth Library, Dublin / Fire Destroys Sacristy of Historic Church / Famine Talk / Weekend Genealogy Courses / I.C.A. Centenary / Ireland's Big Houses / A.T.Q. Stewart, RIP / John Hamrock 'How to Go About Tracing Your Irish Ancestors' / Dún Laoghaire Harbour / 'Shadow of the Brotherhood' / 'History Ireland' Hedge School / Guild of One-Name Studies / Genealogy Roadshow

February 2011: The Dawn of Irish Recorded History – High King to be Commemorated in 2013? / Genealogy & Multiethnic Ireland / Clubs and Societies in Eighteenth-Century Ireland / Remains of U-Boat found in Cork Harbour / Wanted by Archives / GSI Outreach Programme / 14th Annual Lecture / The Thrifty Irish / Chester Beatty Library / The Sound of Silence / Joss Lynam, RIP / Joe Whelan – 'Irish Gathering – Recording your Family History in real time Global Web Environment / GSI Projects & Volunteers / 'Dublin's Fighting Story 1916-1921 / Tracing Your Galway Ancestors / General Election 2011 / AGM

March 2011: Sarajevo's Library / Four Courts Press supports Bosnian Appeal / Annual Report of the Board of Directors / On-line Library & Archive / Family History Day / Forthcoming Events / 1641 Massacres Exaggerated / Clonliffe Harriers / Sligo Gaol Conservation / Second World War Veterans / Jim Herlihy – 'RIC and Related Police Forces' / New Irish Government – Genealogy & Heraldry / First Flight by an Irishman / Annual General Meeting

April 2011: Deenihan at the Helm / State Visits a

boost for Ancestry Tourism / The Donegal Plantation and the Tir Chonaill Irish, 1610-1710 / Aprils of Yesterday / GSI Archives News / I.G.R.S. 75th Anniversary / Land Leaguer Remembered / Roscommon Association / Dr. Dáithí Ó Corráin – 'Researching the Irish Revolution' / The Bombing of Dolphin's Barn, Dublin, 1941 / Genealogia Polska : Polish Genealogy / Board of Directors 2011-2012

May 2011: Queen's Kildare Roots / 'Redacting' the 1926 Census / Treasures of the National Folklore Collection / Dr Elaine Murphy & Dr. Mark Sweetnan – 'The 1641 Depositions as an aid to the genealogist' / findmypast.ie / Outreach Programme / Centenary of Cinema / Haughey Archives on Display / Fully Open 'The Dead Zoo' / New Initiative for Senior Citizens / 'The Path to Freedom – Articles and Speeches by Michael Collins' / Charles O'Morchoe, RIP / Seanad Éireann / Famine Clearances

June 2011: "Is Féidir Linn" – With Imagination, Innovation and Inclusivity / Fiftieth Anniversary & No Redaction / Ireland 1815-1870 – Emancipation, Famine and Religion / Summer Cemetery Project / In Memoriam: William 'Bill' Stuart Griffith, Thomas J. O'Reilly & Peter Lewis / World War I Veteran Dies / Looting of U-Boat Wreck / District Nurses / Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri – 'Tracing Ancestry through DNA' / 'Raids and Rallies' / Launch of the Munster Landed Estates Database / Railway History

July 2011: Irish DNA Atlas / Irish Genealogy in 2016 / Ireland 1870-1914 – Coercion and Conciliation / Commissioning Research in Ireland / In Memoriam: Hugh Conlon and Jean Reddin (née Taaffe) / Catha Brugha Barracks / Heritage Buildings at Risk / Summer of Heritage / Mary Beglan – 'Irish On-line Sources' / 'Unlikely Rebels' / Irish Archives / GSI Annual Journal / Landing & Radio Sites Still Unknown

August 2011: Tracing Irish-Jewish Ancestry / Irish DNA Atlas & 'NASC' / Reshaping Ireland 1550-1700 – Colonization and its Consequences / Weekend Genealogy Courses / Maritime Institute of Ireland / Outreach Programme- Heritage Week / Heritage Council / Heritage Seminar / Calling All Book Lovers / James Scannell – 'Dublin Fire Fighters and the 1941 Belfast Blitz' / 'Brian Boru- King of Ireland' / Volunteers Sought / UCD Adult Education / GSI Annual Journal / Protected Structures in Ireland

September 2011: Genealogy – Product or Resource? / 10th Anniversary of 9/11 / Landscapes of Cult and Kingship / Irish DNA Atlas Project / GSI Archive News / Child Casualties of 1916 / Letters Preserved / Small Lives Exhibition / Declan Heffernan – 'Dublin's Own Titanic: The sinking of the 'Tayleur' off Lambay in 1854' / 'Enniskerry- A History' / Dunlavin, Co. Wicklow / Heritage Week

October 2011: October- Family History Month / Back To Our Past / Maynooth Studies in Local History / 'Wicklow Villages – A Historic Guide' / GSI Archive & Projects / The History of Glasnevin / Family to Visit Congo / WW2 Bullion Located / Rosemary Raughter – 'Unbounded Charity and Unfortunate Females: Lady Arbella Denny and the early years of the Leeson Street Magdalen Asylum' / Warning on Post-1700 Structures / A New On-line Atlas

November 2011: An Naotú Uachtarán ar Éirinn / RDS Event a Great Success! / A Dictionary of Irish Saints / A New History of the Royal Military School / Irish DNA Atlas Project Officially Launched / Cathal O'Shannon, RIP / Maritime Museum to Open 2012 / Seafarers' Commemorations / Brian Donovan – 'Court and Prison Records / GSI Internet Services / The Battle of Benburb 1646 / Commissioning Research in Ireland. [NB. Regular notices not included]

Irish DNA Atlas Project—Update

The Society's Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, and **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) are both delighted with the progress of the Irish DNA Project since it was officially launched at *Back To Our Past* event at the RDS on Friday 21st October 2011. The readership of the *'Irish DNA Atlas Project Newsletter'*, which is available on the Society's website, has greatly exceeded all expectations as interest in the project continues to grow. Séamus advised the Board at the December meeting that Project Packs have been despatched to participants. These Project Packs include the questionnaire, birth brief and a sample kit. Participants are asked to read the information carefully, complete the forms and

to return them in the envelope provided. There is no cost to the participant except the return postage on the sample kit which is reasonably small—around €2.00. Dr. Cavalleri has already received a substantial number of samples from participants and these are now being analysed at the laboratories in the Royal College of Surgeons. In the meantime, Séamus will be preparing the genealogical information for inclusion in the actual mapping process which will include an examination of the origin of each of the surnames. These surnames are generally either of native Gaelic origin or derived from the various waves of invasions and settlements. In the mapping process care is taken to ensure that data is collected from all thirty-two counties in Ireland. Séamus will be applying the Ordnance Survey

map references to the areas of origin of each of the great grandparents of the participants. This will allow for the data to be plotted correctly on a digital map of Ireland, to which, Dr. Cavalleri will apply the results of the DNA analysis. By the way, the aims of this important 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. Participants may opt to take part in the medical or historical research or both. The project continues to seek 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. For further info. please e-mail Séamus on Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie

GSI Lecture Programme 2012

The Society's monthly lecture programme this year has been excellent with a wide range of very interesting topics covered since January last. This high standard and varied programme continues with the following lectures for each month up to June 2012. On **Tuesday 13th December** - *National Library of Ireland - Recent Developments & Future Plans* - Katherine McSharry. On **Tuesday 10th January** - *Quaker Records in Ireland* by Rob Goodbody. On **Tuesday 14th February** - *The Sinking of the 'Vanguard' off Kish in 1875* by Declan Heffernan. On **Tuesday 13th March** - *Some Sources for Family History Research in the City Archives* by John Grenham. On **Tuesday 10th**

April - *St Brides Church of Ireland Parish Records* by Ronnie Wallace. On **Tuesday 8th May**—*Dublin Metropolitan Police—DMP Casualties during the War of Independence* by James Scannell. On **Tuesday 12th June** - *Irish Railway Records Society Archives* by Norman E Gamble All lectures are held at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions to the venue have been posted to the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie Please send any comments on the lecture programme or suggestions for future lectures to **Séamus Moriarty, FGSI**, Director, GSI Lecture Programme, by e-mail at Gazette@familyhistory.ie

DEANSGRANGE MIS

At the December Board meeting, Barry O'Connor, FGSI, Director of Cemetery Projects, advised members that the *Memorial Inscriptions of Deansgrange Cemetery* should no longer be produced in hardcopy due to the rising costs of printing and postage. Therefore, following the last print-run of the five volumes of these memorial inscriptions of south Co. Dublin largest cemetery, only 13 copies of Vol. 1 (South West Section); 11 copies of Vol. 2 (Lower North Section); 12 copies of Vol. 3 (Upper North Section); 11 copies of Vol. 4 (South Section) and only 7 copies of Vol. 5 (West Section) remain in stock. Only seven full sets of this publication are now available for sale and the Board, under *Res: 11/12/875*, has decided that no further copies will be printed. Special rates apply to the purchase of the complete set. Interested? Please contact Barry O'Connor on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

James Scannell Reports...

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN

On Friday November 11th 2011 thirty-nine new headstones were dedicated in Glasnevin Cemetery which had been erected on the previously unmarked graves of Irishmen servicemen and women who served in World War One and World War Two. The headstones were part of the ongoing special project by the Glasnevin Trust and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to mark the 208 graves of Irish people who served with Commonwealth armed forces. The project, which began on Armistice Day 2009, has seen the erection of eighty-five headstones to-date. This year's commemoration also saw the rededication of two war memorials which have been moved from the back of the cemetery to a position near the main gate.

WILDE'S TOMB RENOVATED

On Wednesday November 30th 2011, Mr. Dinny McGinley, TD, Irish Minister for the Arts, British actor Rupert Everett and Merlin Holland, grandson of Wilde, unveiled a make-over of Wilde's tomb in the Pere Lachaise cemetery in Paris on the 111th anniversary of his death. Previously the grave had been covered in notes and lipstick and to prevent this, the reno-

vated grave is surrounded by a glass screen.

SEARCH FOR SECOND PASSAGE

Archaeologists have believed for many years that Newgrange, Co. Meath, may contain a second passage which may be aligned with a solstice event. Teams from Ireland and Slovakia are currently investigating this possibility using state of the art technology which has proven successful at the Egyptian pyramids.

END OF A TRADITION

In October a centuries old tradition of senior judges wearing wigs in Irish courts ended following a decision by the Superior Courts Rules Committee and its signing into law by Minister for Justice Mr. Alan Shatter, T.D. A similar rule will come into force for Circuit Court judges. Mr. Shatter has also proposed ending the requirement that barristers wear gowns and wigs in court. The compulsory wearing of wigs by barristers was ended by former Chief Justice Mr. Justice John Murray but the gowns remained. Additionally many barristers also choose to continue wearing wigs. Mr. Justice Murray also changed the required form of address to a judge from 'My Lord' to 'Judge'

and also commissioned the design of new robes for the judiciary which would have dispensed with the need for wigs, which was approved and resembled the types of robes worn by judges in many of the EU states but their introduction had not been implemented when Mr. Justice Murray retired earlier this year. An exemption to the rule requiring wigs to be worn has existed for family law cases proceedings for some time so as to minimise the formality associated with such cases.

OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY MEDAL

The Old Dublin Society's Silver Medal which is awarded annually to the most outstanding paper read to the Society during the year was awarded in October to Ms. Catherine de Courcy for her paper on 'Dublin Zoo' read to the Society during the Autumn 2010-Spring 2011 programme. Ms. De Courcy was presented with the medal by the Deputy Lord Mayor of Dublin at the Society's October meeting held in the Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

EDITOR: Many thanks to James Scannell for all the excellent contributions to this newsletter that he has kindly provided over the past year.

Précis of the November Lecture

On Tuesday 8th November 2011, members were treated to a fascinating lecture by **Fiona Fitzsimons**, Director, General Manager and Research Director with the very successful genealogical research company, Eneclann. Fiona's lecture was based on her extensive research into President Barack Obama's Irish ancestry. Although, many may be aware of President Obama's Kearney ancestors from the Co. Offaly village of Monegall, few are aware of his Benn and Donovan ancestors and thus, Fiona centred her lecture on this lesser-known lineage. Researching Obama's ancestry with Eneclann colleague, Helen Moss, they built on the earlier research of the American genealogist, Megan Smolenyak. Ms. Smolenyak proved that the then Senator Barack Obama of Illinois had Irish ancestry which could be traced back to a Fulmoth Kearney, born circa 1829 to parents Joseph Kearney, shoemaker, and his wife Phoebe (née Donovan), of Monegall in King's County, now Co. Offaly. On completion of the Kearney side, the Eneclann team turned its attention to the Benn and Donovan ancestry. The very

unusual forename Fulmoth, Fiona discovered, was to appear in both the Benn and the Donovan lines which indicated a close connection between the families in the 18th century. Fulmoth Kearney's mother, Phoebe Donovan, born circa 1800, was the daughter of Mary Benn (1768-1860) and Fulmoth Donovan who died in 1844. Fiona pointed out that Mary's own father (Fulmoth Kearney's grandfather) was Fulmoth Benn who died in 1777. The etymology of this unusual forename is still uncertain and although a number of theories have been published, any agreement on its meaning and origin appears elusive at this stage. Fiona outlined the outcomes of her interviews with the living relatives of Barack Obama who are still farmers with deep ancestral roots along the Offaly / Tipperary border and in the villages of Monegall and Shinrone. These are the President's closest Irish cousins through their link with Phoebe Kearney (née Donovan). For further information on this research see the Eneclann website www.eneclann.ie or Fiona's wonderful article in 'Irish Roots Magazine' - Second Quarter 2011.

GSJ ARCHIVE HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Society's Archives and Research Centre—*An Daoncharatlann* - at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire will close at 16.00hrs on Friday December 16th 2011 and remain closed for the holiday period reopening at 10.30hrs on Wednesday January 11th 2012.

SOCIETY'S ON-LINE SHOP

The Society's on-line shop is undergoing some upgrading and reconstruction at the moment and therefore, the on-line shop will be unavailable for the duration of these works. The Board apologises for any inconvenience caused to Members wishing to renew their Annual Membership at this time. The on-line shop should be fully operational again in January 2012.

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine? Checkout the Medal Society of Ireland on www.msou.ie

GSI Membership Package for 2012

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 3, 2011. It was agreed under **Res: 11/11/689** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2012 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2012 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 2012 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 on www.familyhistory.ie/shop or if you prefer, simply

download the form 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 is 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 Archives & Research Centre 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 & Internet Services); **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) and **Eddie Gahan** (Research Information Services).

JOIN ON-LINEwww.familyhistory.ie/shop**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Dec.13th 2011 & Jan. 10th 2012

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Jan. 25th & Feb. 22nd 2012

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)

AER LINGUS—75th ANNIVERSARY

'Doesn't Time Fly, Aer Lingus - Its History' by Mike Cronin, The Collins Press, (h/b, 222pp, ills, ISBN - 978184889111). 2011 is the 75th anniversary of the foundation of Ireland's national carrier, Aer Lingus, and in this fascinating and engrossing book Mike Cronin tells the history of this airline from the time it commenced operation with one aircraft in 1936 right up to the present time. Over this 75 year period Aer Lingus has contributed economically, socially and culturally to Ireland with its distinctive Shamrock symbol making its aircraft easily recognisable all over the world. When Aer Lingus commenced operation in 1936, it was a one aircraft one route operation but today it operates in a highly competitive market where established carriers are under threat from variety of budget operators which over the years have managed to eliminate some long established operators which in their time were either pioneers or major carriers in their day. The opening chapter deals with the history of aviation in Ireland leading up to the establishing of Aer Lingus followed by succeeding chapters which cover - Routes, Planes, Personnel, Cabin Crew, Passengers, On Board and Selling Ireland. All these chapters are supported with a terrific selection of illustrations in the form of photographs, posters, and other materials and collective to make a really fascinating and super history of this company. One of the great strengths of this book is that all the technical terms are explained clearly and simply, another is the tremendous focus on the people side of the airline i.e. crews, hostesses and ground staff and the numerous photographs of them. This is really excellent history, excellently written and superbly illustrated and is an essential acquisition for anyone interested in transport or aviation or Irish history.

*James Scannell***THE ANGLO-IRISH TREATY 1921**

The National Archives of Ireland has marked the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on December 6th 1921 with an on-line exhibition of documents associated with this momentous event in our history. The Treaty paved the way for the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922. The actual Treaty document with all the signatures of the Irish plenipotentiaries is on display (on-line) for the first time. This on-line exhibition includes an impressive document gallery with background information, biographies, timelines and interestingly, a collection of reflections on 'The Treaty' exploring its significance and legacy. For further information see: treaty.nationalarchives.ie

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*www.fourcourtspress.ie*Checkout the Sale Items - 10% Reduction On-Line***Future of Egyptian Mummy in UCC**

University College Cork (UCC) is currently engaged in talks with the Egyptian Embassy concerning the conservation of an ancient mummy discovered at the university during reconstruction work carried out in 1970. The mummy, which has been dated to the period 305 to 30 BC, was discovered under the floorboards of the Pathology Department and how it and the coffin that contained it came to Cork is unknown. The mummy is stored in the Boole Library with other items in its small collection of Egyptian artefacts. This collection included a coffin and canopic jars used during the process of mummification to store the body organs of their owner for the afterlife but the jars held by the university are empty. The mummy is that of male aged between 45 and 50 years of age and from the upper echelons of Egyptian society who appears to have died from natural causes. This collection of artefacts was acquired during the 19th century by the university when it was known as Queen's University, Cork, and had been the subject of inquires from the Egyptian Embassy which is now seeking the repatriation of the artefacts for its new museum. UCC is currently in the early stages of discussions with the Egyptian Embassy and looks forward to discussing the matter of proposed relationships between Egypt and academic institutions such as itself and with similar institutions in Egypt. The final outcome will depend on whatever is agreed between the university and the Egyptian Embassy. It is believed that if UCC agrees to repatriate some or all of the artefacts to Egypt, some of them may be housed in the Great Egyptian

Museum at Giza, expected to open 2013 and housing some 50,000 Egyptian artefacts, some of which whose return are being sought from European countries.

*James Scannell***STUDY ON COMMEMORATIONS**

The British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) will undertake a study of how best to approach the series of commemorations that will take place over the next decade marking the centenaries of some of the most historic and significant events in British and Irish history. The study will be undertaken by the Assembly's Committee on Sovereign Matters, under the chairmanship of **Frank Feighan, TD**, and will consider how to mark events such as the signing of the Ulster Covenant, the Easter Rising, and World War One in a manner that is inclusive, sensitive, and appropriate. The BIPA members are determined to undertake a widespread consultation and meet with as many groups and individuals as possible to understand their perspective on these events. In the new era of British-Irish relations that now exists these commemorations should be used to further reconciliation between the two countries and to deepen our understanding of our shared history. Sources: www.oireachtas.ie and www.britishtirish.org

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The Society strongly recommends this very comprehensive guide available at www.gillmacmillan.com

*Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!***WEEKEND COURSES 2012**

The next series of the Saturday Morning Genealogy Course, provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.**, will commence on **January 14th 2012**. 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. Courses are held at the Society's Archive and Research Centre, *An Daoncharlann*, Carlisle Pier (Old Mail-Boat 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. For more information on these courses please contact John Hamrock, MGS1 by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

ACADEMIC BOOKS APPEAL

Over two million volumes, including priceless manuscripts, were destroyed in the fire that engulfed the National & University Library in Sarajevo on August 26th 1992 during the Bosnian civil war—just over seventy years after we lost our Public Records Office during our bitter Civil War. Now a group of Bosnian students is seeking donations of contemporary academic works in any discipline to restock their university's library which was totally destroyed. 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, Zmaja od Bosne bb., 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Please share this appeal with your friends and colleagues. For further information see: www.books4vijecnica.com