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



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1926 Census & the Decade of Centenaries

The first definitive results of the 2011 census, undertaken on 10th April 2011, were released on March 29th 2012 and show that Ireland's population has continued to grow strongly since 2006, increasing by 348,404 to 4,588,252, and that the total number of non-Irish nationals has increased by 124,624 persons or 29.7% from 419,733 to 544,357. The CSO publication 'This is Ireland – Highlights from Census 2011 Part 1' looks at the overall change in the population since the last census in 2006. It also provides first results on age and marriage, households and families, as well as including results on nationality, foreign languages, the Irish language, religion and housing. Not surprisingly, much of the media commentary centred on the actual numbers of households in the country regarding the new Household Charge. Irish language groups continue to analyze the increase in the numbers of Irish speakers and their declared frequency of use of the language. Interestingly, besides a one-line comment in the 'Irish Times' most commentaries ignored the spectacular rise and dramatic fall in the numbers of Methodists and Wesleyans recorded in the period 1991 to 2011 as follows. **2011**—6,842 representing an actual change of minus 5,318 or -43.7% on the 2006 census. **2006**—12,160 representing an actual change of

plus 2,127 or +21.2% on the 2002 census. **2002**—10,033 representing an actual change of plus 4,996 or +99.2% on the 1991 census. **1991**—5,037 representing an actual change of -753 or -13% on the 1981 census. In 1926 in the first Census taken since independence, the Methodist population stood at 10,663 and then went into steady decline. So where did all the Methodists and Wesleyans go since 2006? Could it be that the dramatic increase in numbers coincided with an influx of migrants from Africa or elsewhere during the 'Celtic Tiger' era? So did these people leave the country with the economic downturn or merely move to the various African evangelical churches that were established in that period? Clearly these statistics throw up many questions, however, without a detailed examination of the actual returns, any further interpretation of these figures may be purely speculative. Using such data on religious affiliation alone as evidence of alleged 'ethnic cleansing' in west Cork during the War of Independence and the Civil War or as a basis for saying that most Irish-Americans are descended from Ulster-Scots is fraught with difficulty. Our understanding of the situation in west Cork, for example, should be greatly enhanced by the release of the 1926 Census where issues of intermarriage and the impact of the *Ne Temere Decree*, which came into effect at Easter 1908, could be analyzed. Although

not included on the US Federal Census, it is believed the majority of Irish-Americans are non-Catholic and thus descended from Ulster-Scots, but this too is purely speculative. With the US Census for 1940 now open to the public on-line, Irish researchers have the wonderfully exciting opportunity of mapping the westward expansion of the Catholic Irish from the cities of the northeast since the middle of the 19th century. Where they remained in New York, Boston or Chicago, for example, these communities were served by well organised Catholic parochial and diocesan structures providing education, health care and, of course, nurturing a strong ethno-religious identity. Further west, very often, these familiar community support networks did not exist and, over time, with intermarriage and assimilation many of the descendants of these Catholic Irish are now Episcopalians, Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans and Mormons. Tracking the families westward through the US Censuses and correlating this information with marriage records and obituaries, undermines the myth on the ethnicity of Irish-America. In Ireland as we deal with a decade of centenary commemorations, the early release of the 1926 Census will be vitally important to our understanding of these centenaries, their legacies and maybe, it will help explode a few enduring myths!

IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT

Over the past six months or so, the Irish DNA Atlas Project has generated considerable interest at home and overseas. There were many enquiries regarding participation and indeed, the numbers of participants actually meeting the criteria was surprisingly high. The main objectives of the project are to (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants are sought from across the island of Ireland and,

indeed, from overseas who can trace each of their eight great-grandparents to the same general area of Ireland to present a Birth Brief and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. The response from certain areas of the country was excellent, however, more participants with roots in the midlands, north Munster and mid-Ulster are particularly sought. Check out the project newsletter available on the Society's website. Are YOU ready to JOIN? For info. e-mail: Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie

FAMILY HISTORY ADVICE

Free family history research advice at the GSI Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs on Weds and Fri (except 4th Wednesday open 13.00hrs). Experienced researchers are on hand to help beginners plan their own research path by setting out clear objectives and by introducing them to the various on-line and other resources. Interested? Why not drop by for a chat?

Galway: politics and society, 1910-23

Over the years this newsletter has featured news and reviews on the **Maynooth Studies in Local History** series of publications and has strongly recommended these excellent works published under the general editorship of **Professor Raymond Gillespie**. Another such excellent publication in this series which will be of considerable interest to the genealogist and local historian is '*Galway; politics and society, 1910-23*' by **Tomás Kenny**, published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-293-3 : 54pp : Price €9.95 : Web Price €8.95). Undoubtedly, the period 1910-23 was the most turbulent in modern Irish history and indeed, Galway, was no exception in this regard. The choice of 1910 as a starting year for this study is interesting and no doubt, largely due to the availability of the 1911 Census of Ireland. In his introduction, Tomás Kenny notes that 'the historiography of Galway is poor, but it is nonetheless surprising that no major survey of the years 1910-23 has been attempted'. This stands in stark contrast to other counties and major towns where local historians and professional historians have been remarkably successful in documenting this period. Kenny believes that local studies in Galway have been 'hampered by several factors, perhaps the most pertinent of which was a perception of inaction in the county during the revolutionary years'. However, Galway is one of the few places outside Dublin to see action in

1916, it is not surprising that most studies concentrated on the 1916 Rising. The book opens with a look at 1910 when emigration was rife, poverty widespread, in one of Ireland's poorest counties, and there was extensive agrarian agitation. Agitation was not always aimed at the landlord class and, as Kenny points out, splits between local nationalist hardliners and the United Irish League and the Irish Parliamentary Party were common despite edicts and pleas from the Bishop of Galway, Dr. O'Dea. The widespread poverty and the existence of hundreds of barely economical small holdings forced many to emigrate or to join the British Army, indeed, there was a strong tradition of joining the Connaught Rangers. So it's not surprising that at the outbreak of the World War I in 1914 attracted significant numbers of men to enlist in the British armed forces, particularly from Galway city. Like everywhere else in nationalist Ireland, this early enthusiasm for the War soon evaporated as republican influence gained in strength through the growth of the IRB, the Volunteers and Sinn Féin. Galway mustered a large number of Volunteers for the 1916 Rising, but they achieved very little. Kenny provides extensive references to the original sources for this period, many of which, include names of participants which is excellent for genealogy and local history. Attitudes were becoming more militant as republicans began to

organize, again the author provides copies references. Grassroots support for Sinn Féin in the General Election of 1918 gave the party all of the five parliamentary seats in the County. However, as Galway City was so heavily garrisoned by British troops that it was difficult to mount a military campaign there. During the War of Independence there were some major incidents which achieved national and international prominence but mostly what went on in Galway was limited to sporadic ambushes, shootings and agrarian violence. The ensuing Civil War followed a similar pattern of violence, though, as Kenny points out 'not everyone still had the stomach for battle'. This excellent book explores some of the significant and dramatic changes in the County of Galway during the period 1910 to 1923 and, once again, it is simply full of names which is of particular interest to the genealogist and local historian. The illustrations and photographs provided are particularly interesting. This book is a 'must buy' for anybody with Galway ancestry as it has many fine research leads to enhance any family history narrative. **MM**

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions may be paid via the secure payment facility on the GSI website. Queries regarding membership? Contact: membership@familyhistory.ie

Nineteenth-Century Ireland Studies & Family History

Most Irish genealogists and local historians find themselves exploring more and more of history of nineteenth-century Ireland, primarily because it's the period that is surprisingly well recorded in terms of primary and secondary sources, despite the almost dearth of census returns. Civil Registration records and Parish Registers, the mainstay of our genealogical resources for the nineteenth-century, are being increasingly augmented by new research into the political and social conditions of this century of transition and transformation. This was the century of mass movements, universal primary education, political agitation and polarisation, identity formation and consolidation, famine and emigration, rebellion and land wars, and at the close of the century, native political control at local government level. Each of these momentous events had a profound impact on the social conditions of our ancestors and therefore, an understanding of history of nineteenth-century Ireland is essential if our family history narrative is to be complete. Researchers are

fortunate that the nineteenth-century produced copious records, both primary and secondary, although the destruction of the Public Records Office ninety years ago at the start of our Civil War resulted in the near total loss of the 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 census returns. The census returns for 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891 were 'pulped' by the UK authorities, leaving us only the census returns 1901 and 1911. However, research undertaken by professional historians and indeed, by students of Local History Studies at the National University of Ireland at Maynooth, has unearthed and made available through publication a wonderfully rich resource for the family historian. Check out the list of the publications in the **Maynooth Studies in Local History** series (General Editor, Prof. Raymond Gillespie) on www.fourcourtspress.ie. In addition, organisations such as the **Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland (SSNCI)** promotes research into this fascinating, tragic and occasional turbulent century in Irish history. SSNCI mem-

bership is open to scholars both from Ireland and other countries. The principal activities of the Society are the organising of conferences and the publication of works or collections of papers on Nineteenth-Century Ireland. It welcomes members from a wide range of disciplines: literature, history, economics, geography, sociology, theology, anthropology, women's studies etc. It thus seeks to foster an inter-disciplinary approach to Nineteenth-Century Irish studies. The latter point is absolutely essential to the development of a fuller understanding and appreciation of this period and, in many respects, this is the real benefit for genealogists and local historians. For further information check out www.ssnci.com

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine? Check out the MSI on www.msoi.eu

LEGAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

On Weds 25th April 2012 at 17.00hrs retired Supreme Court judge, the Hon. Hugh Geoghegan, will deliver the **26th Hugh M Fitzpatrick Lecture in Legal Bibliography** in the Library, Honorable Society of King's Inns, Henrietta Street, Dublin on "*Hidden Treasures in the Irish Law Times of the late Victorian period*". Charles Lysaght, Barrister, Biographer and Honorary Bencher, will be in the chair. This lecture series opens up a much overlooked source for genealogy and local history. To request an invitation to this free event, kindly contact: Hugh M Fitzpatrick, Lectures in Legal Bibliography, 9, Upper Mount St., Dublin 2. Tel: 01-2692202; e-mail: hmfitzpa@tcd.ie

GSI ON-LINE SHOP

The on-line shop is being reconstructed at the moment—apologises for any inconvenience caused. A secure payment facility is available on the home page of the website for the payment of membership fees. At the April 2012 meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided to broaden the accessibility to our publications by establishing a presence on abebooks.com. The main objective will be to maximise the commercial value of our publications, many of which are very short print-runs, to provide a sustainable revenue stream to assist the funding of the Society's activities. This facility will also allow for 'off-cuts' of articles published by the Society since 1992 to be made available for purchase on-line.

APRIL IN THE NORTH

The Society will exhibit in Northern Ireland for the first time on **Saturday 28th April 2012** at the **Newry City Library Family History Fair** from 10.00hrs to 16.00hrs. Also, the Society is also organising a **Research Familiarisation Day Trip** to Belfast on **Thursday April 19th 2012**. Eddie Gahan, Director of Information Services, has been busy making the arrangements in the wonderful city of Belfast. The itinerary planned includes coach to/from Belfast, the city sights and a visit to Stormont for just €20 per person. Entrance Fees to the brand new Titanic Centre are extra—payable on the coach. The GSI has secured prepaid tickets for all travelling. Contact Eddie on 087 248 6878 or by e-mail: eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com

James Scannell Reports...

CHAIR OF ADVISORY GROUP

Dr. Maurice Manning, Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, will chair a group consisting of leading authors and academics, the Advisory Group on Centenary Commemorations, established to advise the Government on centenary commemorations covering the period 1912 to 1916. The Group will be initially involved in preparing an overview statement to inform the development and delivery of the commemoration programme with the Group continuing to exist for the duration of the commemorative programme, culminating with the centenary of the 1916 Rising. Dr. Manning has indicated that the Group's principal role would be to advise Government and the all party Oireachtas Consultation Group on Centenary Commemorations, chaired by Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD, Minister for the Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, on the overall commemorative programme and the many specific issues and seeking to set a tone that is inclusive and non-triumphal ensuring authenticity, proportionality, and openness.

MISSING RELICS

In early March thieves stole a heart shaped wooded box from Christ Church Cathedral contained the preserved heart of St. Laurence

O'Toole, the patron saint of Dublin, which has been displayed in the cathedral since the 13th century. Laurence O'Toole was Archbishop of Dublin from 1162 to 1180 and achieved a great reputation as a skilled mediator between the Anglo-Norman lords and native Gaelic kings who were fighting at that time for power in Ireland. The saint was canonised by Pope Honorious III in 1225 following numerous claims of miracles at his original grave site. This theft is the latest in a series of thefts of religious objects from houses / places of worship. Last year three relics believed to fragments of the cross used to crucify Jesus were stolen from Holy Cross Abbey in Co. Tipperary but were recovered in January. Also in January a reliquary that normally holds the jawbone of St. Brigid was stolen from a northside Dublin church but the relic was not in the reliquary at the time of the theft as it had been removed to permit the cleaning of the reliquary.

ADDELGOOLE 14

On Easter Sunday Castlebar Stationmaster, Noel Hoban, unveiled a plaque in Castlebar Station to the fourteen people from Addeigoole, in Co. Mayo, who travelled from Castlebar to Cobh (Queenstown) in April 1912 to sail to America on the *RMS Titanic*. Sailing as steerage passengers, eleven were lost in the liner's

sinking and an annual commemoration to them has been held every year.

PEARSE DOCUMENTS TO BE SOLD

A file of documents relating to Pádraig Pearse will be auctioned by White's in Dublin on April 21st at their auction of historical memorabilia. The file contains documents showing that his life insurance policy was cashed in several weeks after his execution in 1916 to redeem a series of promissory notes taken out to establish St. Enda's School. The correspondence reveals that the policy only cleared half what was due and that the balance was not cleared until 1960 when the some of the proceeds from the sale of the Pearse family home at Cullenswood House were used to do this. It is expected that the file of correspondence, found in the estate papers of a Dublin solicitor will sell for at least €2000.

NICKY RACKARD STATUE

During March a statue to the legendary Co. Wexford hurler, Nicky Rackard, was unveiled in Selskar Square, Wexford Town. Nicky Rackard is considered one of the greatest hurlers of all time and known on the pitch for a particular point or goal scoring movement termed a 'Rackard special'.

Précis of the March Lecture

On Tuesday 13th March 2012, members were delighted to welcome our newest Fellow and author of the now definitive guide to Irish genealogy *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* **John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSL**. John delivered a wonderful talk on *'Some Sources for Family History Research in the City Archives'*. Dublin City Library and Archive are continuing and expanding their contribution to Irish genealogy on their dedicated research website, dublinheritage.ie in a number of areas. The *Directory of Graveyards in the Dublin Area*, edited by Marjorie Sliney and the late Deirdre Conlon, was first published by Dublin City Libraries in 1988, and an expanded edition was re-issued in 1990. In 2009, it was decided to make the third edition web-only to take advantage of the power of the Internet. The online *Directory* was launched in 2011. Its Search allows users to pick from an alphabetical list of graveyards (covering the city and the old county Dublin) in precisely the same way as the old hard-copy *Directory*, and retrieve the same range of information as previously; who is in charge, and their contact details; period of use; location and

dates of burial records (with links, if online); location or publication details of any gravestone transcriptions (with links, if online); details of any relevant publications. The biggest difference from the old hard-copy is the incorporation of a Google Map showing the precise location of each graveyard, and allowing zooming and satellite views. The maps are also the basis of the Browse section, which uses a large-scale map of Dublin city and county to show all the burial grounds known to have existed. This allows researchers to identify all cemeteries serving a particular area. The online *Directory* is also much more flexible. Already a programme has begun to add old photographs and drawings of the churches and graveyards. The second service is the database of the Ancient Freemen of Dublin city. Based in large part on the work of genealogist Gertrude Thrift in the early decades of the twentieth century, this is a calendar, or expanded summary, of the records of admissions to the Freedom of the city. The earliest record dates from 1461, but a large majority are from the early eighteenth century. The Freedom was in effect citizenship: freemen had the right to vote, were exempt from many tolls and taxes, were subject to the laws of Dublin and had the

duty to take up arms to defend the city when it was under attack. Because full guild membership was dependent of obtaining admission to the Freedom, the database can be used as a substitute for the now-destroyed Dublin guild admission records. And because the Freedom could be passed from father to son, the admissions records can give a snapshot of anything from three to five generations of a family. A pilot programme has begun to digitise the annual Burgess Rolls, dating from 1898 to 1915. These records were a result of the broadening of the franchise in the Local Government Act of 1898. This Act enabled men over the age of 21 and women over the age of 30 to vote in local elections, if they were either householders or occupants of portion of a house, in effect a form of near-universal suffrage 20 years before the fact. The pilot will start with the earliest records and provide transcripts and digital images in a format similar to the twentieth-century electoral rolls already available on dublinheritage.ie and in the Gilbert Library Reading Room. It is hoped to have the first year online by the autumn. Following the talk there was a lively Q&A and all were delighted with the news that the Fourth Edition of *'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'* is out now!!

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 (under construction); 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

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 2012-2013**

Pádraic Ingoldsby (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications & Internet Services); **Billy Sanderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Sales, Marketing & Membership, On-Line Shop); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive, Irish DNA Atlas Project); **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**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday April 10th & May 8th 2012

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday April 25th & May 23rd 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)

A Visit to the Military Archives

The most surprising thing about my visit to the Military Archives was the vast amount of material available for genealogical research. Located inside Cathal Brugha Barracks, Rathmines, in a building which was once used as a soldiers' mess, the Archives has a large range of finding aids as well as a library containing books and journals necessary for the non-specialist to acquire some insight into the background of the documents. The most publicised part of the Archives has been the release, nearly ten years ago, of the witness statements collected by the Bureau of Military History. Over 1,700 people contributed to the initiative set up in the late 1940s by Oscar Traynor, then Minister of Defence. There are over 36,000 typed pages of testimony with thousands of names and hundreds of photos. There is also an audio visual section of the Bureau where some of the witnesses recorded their memories. Some of the statements are already online as part of the Jacob's Factory online exhibition organised by the Military Archives in collaboration with the National Archives. The rest of the statements will be online before the summer. Another major collection of interest to genealogists is the Pension Records. Set up in 1924 under the *Pensions Act*, those who claimed a pension for active service during the crucial period in the struggle for independence 1913 to 1922 had their claims assessed by the Board. These records will be invaluable for genealogists investigating persons with a connection to the struggle for independence. These records provide more than just names; they give invaluable information about the background of what was involved in the active service. Towards the end of this year, a number of these records will be put online. Another exciting new development is the Army Census of 1922. The Defence Forces had to find out personal information on the officers and men in each barracks and their exact roles. This information was copied into 15 enormous ledgers which are now being digitised. This will provide another genealogical boon for those with army ancestors. This was also the first attempt at a census by the newly formed Free State. The reading room has complete sets of Defence Forces publications like *An Cosantoir*, *An tOglach* and *The Irish Sword*. These publications will be of great interest especially to those who served in the Defence Forces in more recent times. The Military Archives are open Tues. to Thurs. 10.00hrs to 16.00hrs but bookings are essential. The staff provide each new researcher with a guided tour. Tel: 01 8046457 : E-mail militaryarchives@defenceforces.ie **Aiden Feerick MGSi, MAPGI**

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**GSI BOARD 2012-2013**

The following Members were elected at the AGM held on March 13th 2011 to serve on the Board of Directors for 2012-2013. *Cathaoirleach*: **Pádraic Ingoldsby**, MGSi [Liaison with the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Herald and College of Fellows]. *Leas-Chathaoirleach*: **Gerry Hayden**, MGSi [Buildings & Utilities, Liaison with Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company]. *General Secretary*: **Michael Merrigan**, MA, FGSI [Company Secretary, Policy Matters, Gazette, Legislative Matters, Publications, Internet Services, Heraldry]. *Director of Finance*: **Billy Sanderson**, MGSi [Budgets, Financial Control and Grant Applications, Corporate Matters]. *Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership*: **Tom Conlon**, MGSi [Marketing & Promotion Strategies, Advertising, Membership Matters, On-Line Sales, GSI Rep. at The Wheel]. *Director of Archival Services*: **Séamus O'Reilly**, FGSI [Archival Collections, Archival Policy, GSI Files, Irish DNA Atlas Project, Public Office]. *Director of Cemetery Projects*: **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI [Recording & Publication of Memorial Inscriptions, Group Projects]. *Director of Education & Social Inclusion*: **John Hamrock**, MGSi [Education Programmes, Outreach & Volunteerism Programmes, Liaison with Educational Establishments & Repositories, Educational & Social Agencies. GSI Rep. at The Wheel]. *Director of Lecture Programme*: **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI [Evening Meeting Lecture Programme, Liaison with Speakers & Venue]. *Director of Research Information Services*: **Eddie Gahan**, MGSi [Public Office, Exhibitions & Outreach Programme]. *Gen. Secretary*

GSI Lectures 2012

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** - TBA. All lectures are held at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Full directions by car and public transport to the venue on the GSI website: www.familyhistory.ie

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The Society always strongly recommends that for anyone embarking on their family history quest one essential piece of kit must be John Grenham's *'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'*. This wonderful guide book is now published in its fourth edition and, not surprisingly given the growth of genealogy on the Internet, it embraces online research as an essential part of any Irish family history project. Grenham includes detailed guides to Irish online records throughout the book, discussing the idiosyncrasies of the digital versions of sources and outlining research strategies. The sheer scale of digitisation can make it both easier and more confusing to do research, and makes a guide such as this all the more essential. John Grenham's well-established and detailed guide has thorough descriptions of all the relevant sources and county-by-county reference lists—all expanded, updated and indexed to make the book easier to use than ever before. See: www.gillmacmillan.com - Price €22.99 [RRP]

NEW WEEKEND COURSES

The next series of the Saturday Morning Genealogy Courses, provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.**, will commence on Saturday May 19th 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 centres of research. Learn how to be your own researcher. All you need is 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 Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. For more info. on these courses please contact John Hamrock, MGSi by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

20th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Calling all bibliophiles, academics and authors. Twenty years ago 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