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GENEALOGY
HERALDRY
VEXILLOLOGY
SOCIAL HISTORY
Heritage Matters
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News & Queries



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Twenty Years Publishing Genealogy

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the publication of our first Journal in 1992 under the editorship of Liam Mac Alasdair. Since 1992 the Journal has carried a wealth of genealogical and heraldic articles, research and miscellaneous records from all over Ireland and from overseas. It is hoped to have most of this very interesting material uploaded to the Society's Digital Archive which is currently under construction. This new facility will enable the Society to share this wealth of published material with our members and others throughout the world. In August 1994, under the Direction of Barry O'Connor, the Society published its first volume in the hugely popular Memorial Inscriptions Series of publications. This series produced five volumes on south Co. Dublin's largest cemetery, Deansgrange, and three volumes on the smaller cemeteries and burial grounds of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown before expanding out to include the Military Cemetery at Grangegorman amongst others. In 1995 the Society

launched an occasional series on special genealogical research projects undertaken by Members which became the very successful 'Irish Genealogical Sources Series' in 1997 under the direction of George H. O'Reilly. This series has produced thirty-one volumes to date with another one due this year (see below). Many of these fine publications are now out-of-print, however, the Society is now embarking on digital publishing which could see this material being made available on CD / DVD or in a downloadable format. Between 1992 and now hundreds of articles appeared in the Society's Journal with many containing research information not published or available elsewhere. In the current issue of the Society's Journal, which will be out for the AGM in March, the high standards demanded by the Joint Editors, George H. O'Reilly and Brendan Hall, continues with a very interesting range of articles as follows. *The Montgomery Orphans: Dundalk Workhouse 1842* by Brendan Hall; *Portumna & Gort Bridewell in 1851; Fr. John Smyth, O.M.I.* by Annette McDonnell; *The Royal*

Hibernian Military School in Dublin by Howard R. Clarke; *Archdeacon James Tierney's Carte De Visite* by Brendan Hall; *Leechtown and the Medical Profession* by Patrick Lydon; *Dublin Fire Fighters and the April 1941 Belfast Blitz* by James Scannell; *The Celtic Oratory* by Veronica Heywood; *William Delany of Durrow, Queen's County* by M J Delany; *The Medieval Origins of the Surname Feeney* by Adrian James Martyn; *Nineteenth Century Kilcavan, Co. Wicklow* by Joseph A. Kenny; *Letters, Lives and Liberty at An Post Museum* by Stephen Ferguson; *Burial Rights of Kingstown & Blackrock Inhabitants at 'The Old Burial Ground at the Kill Of The Grange' in 1864* by Liam Clare; *Wicklow - Australia - England - Norway* by Steven Johnson & G.H. O'Reilly and *The Castlebellingham War Memorial* by Dónal Hall. As intended in 1992, the Journal continues to play an important role in the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our Irish genealogical and heraldic heritage.

Wrth Angor yn Nulyn

'Wrth Angor yn Nulyn' is the title of a fascinating history of the Welsh Chapel in Talbot Street, Dublin, by Rev. Huw Llewelyn Williams. This 1968 publication has recently been translated by **Dr. Meirion Llewelyn Williams** and will be published as part of the Society's Irish Genealogical Sources Series. '*At Anchorage in Dublin*' traces the origin of the Welsh Chapel and the emergence of a Welsh community in Dublin. It also provides valuable genealogical information on persons

connected with this Welsh Chapel and Irish Methodism. The foundation stone for the Welsh Church was laid on St David's Day in 1838. This book is due for publication by the Society in March, the month of three National Days on the Celtic fringe of Europe—March 1st St. David's Day (Wales), March 5th St. Piran's Day (Cornwall) and March 17th, St. Patrick's Day. The Welsh of Dublin will be celebrating St. David's Day 2012 with a party in Doheny & Nesbitt's, Baggot Street, Dublin at 19.30hrs. See: www.draigwerdd.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Tuesday **March 13th 2012** at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin at 20.00hrs. Although this is an Open Meeting with the Monthly Lecture, only fully paid-up Members are entitled to participate in the AGM, to vote or to stand for election to the Board of Directors of the Society. Members may renew at the AGM. New Members are always welcome. *General Secretary*

Miraculous Plenty—*Irish Religious Folktales and Legends*

Every so often we genealogists and local historians are blessed with a publication that illuminates aspects of the past that are not readily accessible or understood by reference to our day-to-day research. Most genealogists and local historians, though appreciating the value of folkloric research, rarely venture into the world of the folklorist or even investigate the National Folklore Collection at University College Dublin. Comhairle Bhéaloideas Éireann (Irish Folklore Council) established in 1972, is continuing to catalogue, edit and publish archival material from the National Folklore Collection. One such publication '*Miraculous Plenty—Irish Religious Folktales and Legends*' edited and annotated by **Seán Ó Súilleabháin** (Translated by **William Caulfield**) published in Jan. 2012 by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-0-9565628-2-1 : 294pp : p/bk : Price €25.00) aims to bring an enormously rich body of archival material to the attention of researchers, educators and writers in many disciplines. In describing this publication nobody could have done it more expertly and succinctly than **Bo Almqvist**, Emeritus Professor and a former Head of the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Dublin, in his introduction. He explains that the stories contained in the book were collected from 'scores of storytellers from different parts of Ireland' and are basically 'narratives relating to the religious beliefs and phenomena as they were understood by the ordinary people in all areas of Gaelic Ireland'. Originally published in Irish as '*Scéalta Cráibhtheachta*' in 1952, its translation and publication in English has been long overdue. Prof. Almqvist's description continues 'the work includes stories about Our Lord, the Blessed Virgin and saints and priests, others dealing with demons and devils; some holding up to our view pictures of the most

sublime and touching piety, divine mercy and eternal bliss in heaven while others offer the most gross and frightening descriptions of revenge, retribution and torture in the ever-lasting fires of hell'. The material collected in divided into eleven categories: Our Saviour and His Mother; Priests; The Devil; Imposition of Penances; Visits to the Other World; The Rebellious Angels; Saints; Return of the Dead from Purgatory; Piety; God Deals Justly; and Varia. However, the categorisation is far from exact, a point noted by the author himself, inasmuch as many themes and concepts cross over between the various categories. Nevertheless, each of the stories is numbered and an index of the 'Tale Types' is provided in accordance with the international classification of folktales types. This is an exceptionally important resource for students of the genre and, of course, writers and social historians. As genealogists we are always, and quite rightly, drawn to the individuals, the storytellers, and a full list is provided including address, age, date of interview and reference to the original source in the National Folklore Collection at UCD. The address provided usually consists of townland name, name of parish or district, and the name of the county. An interesting observation exists in the notes on a tale collected from Donncha Ó Fearaigh (72yrs), Caoldroim, Gort an Choirce, Co. Donegal in December 1936. 'The clergy were always accused of avarice, whether they deserved it or not, and evidence for that is the fact that this story is very common in this country. The reason that the clergy in general got such a bad name was that they had no fixed income and had to depend on the generosity of their congregations. I'm not aware of such a story about the avarice of the clergy in the folklore of any other country, although other faults of the clergy were commonly

the subject of stories in other countries.' In contrast another story collected in October 1935 from Éamon de Búrca (71yrs) of Aill na Brón, Co. Galway, deals with the power of a bishop to deprive a curate of permission to say Mass. The note states 'The general public always had a great affection for any priest to whom that happened, for any reason, and there's hardly a parish in Ireland that hasn't stories about them. The principal theme of those stories, usually, is the divine, miraculous power that those defrocked priests had which no other priest would ever have.' Wonderful stories with themes stretching back millennia. Again, quoting from Prof. Almqvist's introduction this is 'a unique work of the greatest importance to anyone who wishes to acquire an understanding of the way country people in Ireland and, for that matter, elsewhere in pre-industrial Europe, thought and felt about moral and religious issues of central importance in their lives'. This understanding should be at the heart of the quest of any family or local historian in Ireland, for without such, our narrative and the treatment of our subject matter, the life and times of our ancestors, is incomplete. **MM**

FAMILY HISTORY ADVICE

Free family history research advice is available at the Society's Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier (Old Mail-Boat Pier), Dún Laoghaire, between 10.30hrs & 16.30hrs on Wednesdays and Fridays (except 4th Weds. Open. 13.00hrs). Beginners are always especially welcome!!

The Hidden History of WWI—Wales

The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) in the UK has advised its member organisations of the following project. The project should be of interest to Irish people with connections to the cross-channel ferries, British Army, railways or mining and those with relatives in Wales. A project led by the National Library of Wales in partnership with the libraries, special collections, and archives of Wales has received £500,000 in funding from the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) for mass digitisation of primary sources relating to World War One. The project will make available a unique digital collection revealing the hidden history of World War One as it affected all aspects of Welsh life, language and culture. The project will digitise printed and manuscript

sources as well as moving image, audio and photographic material. These source materials are presently fragmented and frequently inaccessible, yet collectively they form a unique resource of vital interest to researchers, students, and the public in Wales and beyond. The project has been developed by WHELP (the Welsh Higher Education Libraries Forum). Collections to be digitised are from the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth University Special Collections, Bangor University Special Collections, Trinity St David's Special Collections, Swansea University, Cardiff University Library, the Archives of BBC Cymru Wales and archives and local records offices that are members of ARCW (Archives and Records Council, Wales). The People's Collection Wales will gather content

generated by communities and local and family historians. It will also digitise and in personal collections via outreach and targeted digitisation of significant material to enhance and complement the collections of the higher education partners. The unified, mass digital collection that will be created will represent the experience of the entire Welsh nation during World War One. This exciting project should be supported by Irish military and maritime historians and those with an interest in the Irish communities in the cities and mining towns of south Wales and, of course, those in Holyhead in north Wales. For further information on this important project please checkout: <http://whelf.wordpress.com/2012/02/09/welsh-history-of-world-war-one-to-go-online/>

Irish DNA Atlas Project—Update

This important national project, conducted in conjunction with **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, has generated huge interest at home and abroad over the past five months. However, more 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, say a radius of 30kms, to present a Birth Brief and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. 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. 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 €2.50. The '*Irish DNA Atlas Project Newsletter*', available on the Society's website, outlines the aims, objectives and methodologies of this very exciting project. If you are interested in participating, please checkout the above newsletter on-line and contact **Séamus O'Reilly**, e-mail: Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie

GSI Lectures 2012

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 on the GSI website.

James Scannell Reports...

THE IRISH ABOARD TITANIC

The Mercier Press has announced the publication of *The Irish Aboard Titanic*, by Senan Molony, author of several books, including *Lusitania; An Irish Tragedy* and *The Phoenix Park Murders*, a recognised authority on the Titanic's maiden voyage and has an extensive personal collection of related material. *The Irish Aboard Titanic* is an encyclopaedic collection of accounts of that ill-fated night from the 187 Irish passengers and crew, featuring letters, interviews, newspaper reports, family memories and White Star Line records and will reveal who lived and died from your town or county. The unspeakable tragedy of the *Titanic* disaster can only be fully appreciated through the tales of the people who were aboard on the night the ship went down. *The Irish Aboard Titanic* gives those people a voice, by focusing on both Irish passengers and crew aboard the 'unsinkable' liner. In this book are stories of agony, luck, self-sacrifice, dramatic escapes and searing accounts of heroes left behind. Senan Molony also records the heartache that continued long after that fateful night. In her wake the *Titanic* cast a long shadow over the families forced to endure an agonising wait to learn the fate of loved ones and over the lives of the survivors

PARDON FOR WW2 DESERTERS

Speaking at the launch of the opening of *The Shoah in Europe* exhibition at the Department of Justice on Monday January 24th, Minister for Defence Alan Shatter, T.D., indicated that a pardon for thousands of Irishmen who deserted from the Irish Defence Forces during World War Two, is currently on the way. The Minister is awaiting formal advice from Attorney General Máire Whelan, SC, on how to proceed on the matter. Minister Shatter added "*Many who fought in British uniform during that war returned to Ireland. For too many years, their contribution in preserving European and Irish democracy was ignored. Some of those include members of our Defence Forces who left this island during that time to fight for freedom and who were subsequently dishonourable discharged from the Defence Forces. It is now appropriate to revisit the manner in which they were treated while also remembering that those who served in the Irish Defence Forces throughout that time performed a crucial national duty*", concluding with the observation that was untenable that those who died were commemorated while continuing to ignore the manner in which the Irish State treated the living, in the period immediately after the War

when they returned to the country having fought for freedom and democracy. During the War 4,983 men deserted from units of the Irish Defence Forces to join the Allied armies or to work in British war industries. At the end of the War those who returned to Ireland were given dishonourable discharges and debarred from a range of national and Local Government employment for at least seven years on the basis of an Emergency Powers Order passed by Dáil Éireann in 1945. On Jan. 24th 2012 the Northern Ireland Assembly unanimously supported the campaign for pardons for these servicemen.

COMDT. EDWARD DALY

Ms. Helen Litton is compiling a biography of her great-uncle Comdt Edward Daly as part of series of biographies on the executed leaders of the 1916 Easter Rising to be published by the O'Brien Press. Aged 25 at the time of his execution Comdt. Daly was one of the youngest to be executed. The Daly family home in Limerick City was raided in 1920 and its contents burned. Ms. Litton is interested in any personal memoirs or memorabilia relating to him or relating to the Daly home and any information. Contact: The O'Brien Press Ltd, 12, Terenure Road East, Rathgar, Dublin 6. E-mail: helenlitton@club.ie

Précis of the January 2012 Lecture

On Tuesday 10th Jan. 2012, Members heard a wonderfully fascinating and informative lecture by the renowned local historian, author and researcher, **Rob Goodbody**, on the subject of *Quaker Records in Ireland*. Mr. Goodbody began by outlining the beliefs and history of 'The Society of Friends'. He explained that the Quakers didn't come to Ireland in the seventeenth century, as many believe, but Quakerism did—that is the religious concept arrived in Ireland at that time. Founded in England by George Fox (1624-1691) as a movement of those committed to living out the Christian message more simply through radical dissent and spiritual enquiry in contrast to other Christian denominations in Cromwell's England of the mid-seventeenth century. Quakerism in Ireland spread amongst the Cromwellian English protestant settlers and the first meeting was organised by William Edmundson in Lurgan, Co. Armagh in 1654. Indeed, 'Cromwellian' surnames such as Clibborn, Faithbrother, Grubb, Halliday, Newenham, Pike, Pimm and Shackleton still abound amongst Irish

Quakers, however, intermarriage and conversions ('convincings') brought many native Gaelic surnames into the fold. In order to provide an understanding of the nature of the records held by Quakers, Mr. Goodbody outlined the often fraught relationship between the Quaker communities and the 'official' protestant Church of Ireland. This was especially the case with the recognition of Quaker marriages which necessitated the appending of the signatures of many witnesses to the Quaker Marriage documents. Mr. Goodbody presentation displayed one such document from Newport, Co. Mayo, indicating that these documents are an important census substitute as they included many members of the community, Quaker and non-Quaker alike. He also explained the importance of certain records which are unique to Quakerism such as 'Movement or Migration Records' and the lists of 'Sufferings'. The latter deals with imprisonments, persecutions and the seizure of property (mostly goods) in respect of the non-payment of tithes to the established church. The detail in the records kept by

the Quakers is impressive and the very diligent archiving and collating of these sources has provided an excellent resource for genealogists at the Quaker House Dublin, Stocking Lane, Dublin 16; Phone +353 1 4956890; Email: qhist@eircom.net Mr. Goodbody's lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session.

SOCIETY'S ON-LINE SHOP

The Society's on-line shop is undergoing some upgrading and reconstruction at the moment. The Board apologises for any inconvenience caused. Members wishing to renew Annual Subscriptions may do so via the secure payment facility on the home page of the GSI website.

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 (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 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, 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/shop**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Feb. 14th & AGM, Mar. 13th 2012

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Feb. 22nd & Mar. 28th 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)

FAMILY HISTORY RESOURCES

In the popular imagination, there seems to be a strong link between the family historian and graveyards. It is a truism to say that graveyards are open air archives which recount in synthetic form the history of a parish through the names of its principal families. The collection of graveyard inscriptions began in the 19th century and continues to this day. Many local history societies, Heritage Centres and private individuals have become involved and their results have been published in a variety of printed sources from the Journal for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead, through the work of the Irish Genealogical Research Society especially that of Brian and Ian Cantwell to our own Barry O'Connor. The internet has played a crucial role in making graveyard inscriptions more accessible and in this short article I am going to present two which I found useful. One of the earliest websites to use crowd sourcing for the collection and transcription of tombstone inscriptions was www.interment.net. The company which hosts the website is based on the west coast of America but has an active Irish network. It covers all the counties in Ireland north and south and relies on volunteers. Typically, there is a short history of the graveyard, a general photo and a transcription of all the legible headstones. The website is freely accessible and the inscriptions are arranged in alphabetical order. The downside is that not all cemeteries have been transcribed and that it is not a complete listing of burials in any particular graveyard. Since the concentration is on legible inscriptions, it tends to concentrate on the 20th century. A more recent website is www.irishgraveyards.ie. This was started in Co Mayo in 2007 by a surveyor called Michael Durkan. Its approach is quite different. Each graveyard is surveyed professionally. Every grave is plotted and numbered using a combination of GPS and eye plotting. When a graveyard was completed, a draft was displayed outside the graveyard allowing the local people to come forward with information about the unmarked graves and names not included in headstones. All headstones were photographed and appear on the website alongside the address, date of death, plot number and section of the cemetery. This is a new and interesting departure in the recording of memorials especially since the website is free to access and download. The only downside is that most of the graveyards surveyed are west of a line from Clare to Derry. *Aiden Feerick, MAPGI, MGSi*

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*www.fourcourtspress.ie*Checkout the exciting 2012 Catalogue on-line***ALICE MILLIGAN**

'Alice Milligan and the Irish Cultural Revival' by Catherine Morris, published by Four Courts Press, is the first study to explore the life and work of Alice Milligan (1866 to 1953). A prolific writer for over six decades, she published her work in a range of genres (including poetry, short stories, novels, travelogues, biography, plays, journalism, letters, and memoirs). From 1891 to the 1940s, she founded a series of cultural, feminist, commemorative and political organizations that put the north on the map of the Irish Cultural Revival and provided a new resonance to Irish visual culture. This book not only reclaims an unjustly forgotten Irish cultural and political activist during this foundational era in modern Ireland, but also provides new ways of interpreting the Irish Cultural Revival itself. Catherine Morris is the Cultural Coordinator for Trinity College Dublin and the National Library of Ireland. She holds a degree in literature from the University of Cambridge, a PhD from the University of Aberdeen and has been the recipient of several university fellowship awards. As a writer, editor and curator she has published extensively and taught literature in several universities. In 2010 her National Library of Ireland exhibition about Alice Milligan was opened to acclaim by Fiona Shaw. *James Scannell*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Membership Subscriptions may be paid via the secure payment facility on the Home Page of the Society's website. Queries regarding membership? Contact: membership@familyhistory.ie

NATIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES IMPROVED

The National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2, will be introducing several improvements to its services on Monday 13th February 2012. These include: • Making it easier to order material. • New self-service copying equipment. • New online services facilities. • A new advance order form will be available, so you can order material online, making it possible to order material for both the Main Reading Room and Manuscripts Reading Room simultaneously, and choose the delivery time that suits you best. Please note that orders for the 9.30am delivery must be placed by the last delivery time on the previous working day. For example, orders for 9.30am on Monday must be placed by 11.30am on the previous Saturday. This will ensure the prompt availability of material in the Reading Rooms. Other service improvements are: • The installation of four new microfilm printers in the Copying Services room for use with newspapers on microfilm. • An additional six computers in the Main Reading Room to access online resources, such as newspaper archives and digitised book collections. • Microfilm copies of the Tithe Applotment Books will be available on open access in the Genealogy Microfilm Reading Room. *James Scannell*

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The 4th edition of this essential guide book is due to be published in March 2012. See: 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.**, commenced 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, MGSi by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

20th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

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