



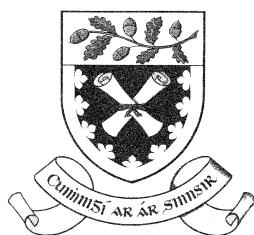
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 7 No. 1

www.familyhistory.ie

January : Eanáir 2012

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

www.eneclann.ie

CONTENTS

Irish DNA Atlas Project	2
2012 National Famine Commemoration	2
GSI Lecture Programme Stock Clearance	2
James Scannell Reports .. Précis of Dec. Lecture	3
GSI Membership Package Diary Dates	3 4
Dublin Bus 1987-2006 1916 & Moore Street	4
Weekend Courses 2012 20th Anniversary Appeal	4

Researching the Family History

A Gift for Future Generations

Meeting old friends and extended family over the holidays always seems to rekindle an interest in family history as fond reminiscences are shared on people, places and the past. We listen attentively to the family stories with the determination that, sometime in the future, we must get around to 'doing the family history' and 'getting it all written down for the kids'. But with one thing and another, like last year and possibly, the year before, we just never seem to get around to starting the research. However, few of us realise how fragile our own family story actually is until that aged and much loved relative is no longer with us. All those stories, personal memories and subtle details are gone forever. Indeed, many of the very interesting articles in a new publication launched at the 'Back To Our Past' event in the RDS in October 2011 emphasise the need to record these family stories. *'The Irish Family and Local History Handbook'* by Robert & Elizabeth Blatchford (224pp p/bk ISBN: 978-0-

9552399-5-3 Price£10.00 see: www.genealogical.ie) not only provides details on the sources for family history research, but also provides a social history framework for the research. Undoubtedly, Robert and Elizabeth Blatchford are to be congratulated on the thematic and multidisciplinary approach to Irish family history presented in this publication. This novel approach emphasises that there is much more to family history than mere dates and charts. Our family stories are unique to each and everyone of us. Besides the mere facts of dates of birth, marriage and death, there is the real story of the triumphs, toils, loves, sorrows, failures and successes. Each of our ancestors has a personal story that joins with our own over generations. Our family story goes beyond the simple genetic and therefore, our quest is to understand the circumstances that shaped the lives of our ancestors. In many ways, their dreams, ambitions and lifestyle decisions, unwittingly or otherwise, shaped or influenced the destinies of many of their descendants right down

to today. This is the real stuff of family history that makes it such a rewarding and enriching personal journey. There are many ways to start your quest, amongst which are, taking up an evening or weekend class in genealogy; getting right down to it DIY-style with an essential guide book (see page 4) and, of course, by joining a family history society. If you don't have the time to do your own research there are many fine professional researchers in Ireland (see: www.apgi.ie or http://24-7genealogist.com). So what are you waiting for? The time to start is right here!!

Certificates Awarded

The Society extends its warmest congratulations to **Anne Brophy, Anne Stewart, Jean Power** and **Celine Walsh** on their successful completion of the Society's Weekend Genealogy Course. The President of the Society, Rory Stanley, FGSI, presented each of the above with their certificates at the December 2011 open meeting held in Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education. For further information on these excellent courses see page 4 of this newsletter.

Jewish Ancestry in Northern Ireland

Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, Vice-President of the Society has just completed another volume, his seventeenth, on the archival heritage of Ireland's Jewish communities. This new volume consists of 6,247 individual entries in alphabetical order covering the six counties of Northern Ireland. In reality, the North's Jewish communities are based mainly in and around the cities of Belfast and Londonderry/Derry. However, Belfast's once vibrant Jewish population

has been reduced to just eighty individuals in 2012 from 1,287 listed in the 1911 census. Over the last fourteen years Stuart has located, researched and collated the existing records of births, marriages, deaths, school registers, census returns, Hebrew names, burial inscriptions and addresses for 6,247 individuals of the Jewish faith in Northern Ireland. According to Stuart, "here, away from the tyranny and uncertainty of Imperial Russia, they found a safe haven to practice their religion and provide for their families. Their

contribution to Northern Ireland was phenomenal in business, culture and education". It is certainly a wonderful addition to his sixteen volume *'Rosenblatt Collection'* on the archival heritage of the Jewish communities. It is a monumental genealogical and social history research project that certainly ranks amongst the most extensive on the archival heritage of any ethnic or minority community in Great Britain or Ireland. For further information see the website: www.irishjewishroots.com

Irish DNA Atlas Project

As reported last month, 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 initial despatch of sample kits to the first group of participants has been a wonderful success with over 80% returned before the end of December 2011. Séamus O'Reilly is now following up on the remainder of that batch and hopefully, all the samples in the first batch will be returned to the RCSI before the end of January. Participants are now being sought to build on the information received and to expand the scope of the project across the island of Ireland. 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. 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. Dr. Cavalleri is currently conducting the analysis of the samples already received from participants at the laboratories in the RCSI. Séamus O'Reilly has been examining and collating the associated 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. Séamus is applying GPS 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. In the meantime, Oxford University Press published a very interesting book dealing with this exciting new area of research. *'Surnames, DNA, and Family History'* by George Redmonds, Turi King, and David Hey. (256pps ISBN: 978-0-19-958264-8; H/bk Price: UK£20.00 : www.oup.com). This book combines etymological and historical approaches with the latest techniques of DNA analysis in the research of surnames. Although it focuses on surnames found in Great Britain (mainly in England), tracing their origins to

different parts of Great Britain, Ireland and across Europe, it is certainly of interest to Irish research also. The book examines how surnames often remain concentrated in the districts where they first became established centuries ago, a situation well understood in Irish research. The book considers new approaches to researching the ancient peopling of this archipelago over millennia. In this respect, the results of the *Irish DNA Atlas Project*, when published, will greatly enhance our knowledge of the particular situation across the island of Ireland. The OUP book explains recent advances in DNA testing to discover whether particular surnames have a single, dual or multiple origins and whether various forms of a name have a common origin. This aspect of DNA analysis is of particular use in Ireland where the same surname is present in several parts of Ireland. The authors show how DNA can be combined with historical evidence and techniques to distinguish between such surnames. This book is an excellent contribution to a rapidly evolving area of scientific research. Regarding the Irish based project the *'Irish DNA Atlas Project Newsletter'*, available on the Society's website, which outlines the aims, objectives and methodologies of the Project. Interesting in participating? For further information please e-mail Séamus O'Reilly on Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie

National Famine Commemoration 2012

On December 30th, **Mr. Jimmy Deenihan TD**, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht announced that the National Famine Commemoration Committee has selected the town of Drogheda, County Louth to host the National Famine Commemoration in May 2012. "The choice of Drogheda as host town is particularly significant as during the Famine years, the town was the second largest port of departure for over one million people who were forced to emigrate. Some travelled only as far as Britain while others became known as 'two boaters' – travelling onwards from the UK to North America" said Minister Deenihan. Ireland was ravaged by the Great Famine or An Gorta Mór from 1845 to 1852. To many this famine is referred to as the *'Great Irish Potato Famine'*,

however, in many ways this is an over simplification of a very serious national calamity. Millions of the rural Irish poor in died from hunger and disease or emigrated during that period. Relief committees established to feed the poor were unable to feed the starving masses. Archival material shows that 'despite pleas from the local clergy, which fell on deaf ears, in the main famine victims were offered nothing more than silent contempt.' Minister Deenihan also said "This will be the fifth consecutive year in which the National Famine Commemoration has taken place. Communities working in partnership with the businesses and local authorities of Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Murrisk, Co. Mayo and Clones Co. Monaghan all created a programme of events which honoured and respected the earlier

generation who had perished in the Great Hunger" The Famine Commemoration Committee looks forward to working closely with these groups to ensure that the Commemoration for 2012 will be a fitting and dignified tribute to our ancestors. A number of very significant publications on the Great Famine are still widely available including, *'The Great Hunger'* by Cecil Woodham-Smith; *'The Great Irish Famine'* edited by Cathal Póirtéir; *'Ireland 1815-1870—Emancipation, Famine and Religion'* edited by Donnchadh Ó Corráin and Tomás O'Riordan (see www.fourcourtspress.ie) and the various excellent works by Professor Cormac Ó Gráda including *'The Great Irish Famine'*, *'Ireland Before and After the Famine'*, and *'An Drochshaoil—Béaloideas agus Amhráin'*.

GSI Lecture Programme 2012

The Society's monthly lecture programme for the first six months of 2012 is as follows. 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

GSI ARCHIVES REOPEN

The Society's Archives and Research Centre—*An Daonchartlann* - at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire will reopen at 10.30hrs on Wednesday January 11th 2012. Full details on www.familyhistory.ie

STOCK CLEARANCE

The Director of Cemetery Projects, **Barry O'Connor, FGSI**, advises Members that the *Memorial Inscriptions of Deansgrange Cemetery* will 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, 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 wonderful collection in hardcopy remain. Special rates apply for the complete set. Interested in acquiring this collection? Contact Barry O'Connor on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

James Scannell Reports...

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Following his inauguration as President of Ireland in Dublin Castle on Friday November 11th, President Michael D. Higgins carried out his first official presidential duty on Sunday November 13th 2011 when he laid a wreath at a Remembrance Sunday service in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. The President attended Evensong in St. Patrick's Cathedral to pay his respects to the Irish soldiers killed in World War One and World War Two.

75 YEARS OF MET ÉIREANN

During December 2011 Met Éireann celebrated the 75th anniversary of its creation. Established in 1936 as the Irish Meteorological Service, it was re-branded in 1996 as Met Éireann. Initial operations were conducted from offices in St. Andrew's Street, Dublin, but it was not until 1941 that it was in a position to issue its own independent weather reports. The growth of aviation in the 1930s was the reason for the initial creation of the service as it aimed to provide weather reports for flying boats operators making transatlantic crossing from Foynes, Co. Limerick, to Newfoundland. After World War Two or 'The Emergency' as it was known

in neutral Ireland, the agricultural sector provided the need for weather forecasts as Ireland sought to subsist and export supplies to Britain. In 1948 the Service began supplying weather details to Radio Éireann for its broadcasts, daily forecasts to the newspapers in 1952 and for TV bulletins in 1962. In 1979 the Service moved to its current landmark offices in Glasnevin.

MEDIEVAL HOUSE DISCOVERED

Irene Clune's house (aka McPartland's) is understood to be the oldest inhabited house in Ennis, Co. Clare. The building's triple diamond stone Jacobean chimney has been an icon of medieval Ennis for centuries and is a protected structure. Following a 2008 inspection by the County Council's Conservation Officer, it was recommended that that the property undergo structural repair and following a series of technical analyses by the National Monuments Service, Ennis Town Council officials and conservation engineers it was found that the structure was unstable. Last October Ennis Town Council began to protect and preserve the fabric of the structure. The historic gable and chimney were recorded, taken down and placed in storage. The historic gable is being rebuilt using the original stones bedded in an authentic hydraulic-lime mortar. Archaeologists discov-

ered an oak-framed structure which they described as potentially one of the most exciting discoveries in Ireland in recent years. The existence of a foundation cut in the interior of the house indicated an earlier structure on the site. This was confirmed by the presence of large oak beams in the walls of the house. Tree ring dating analysis is expected to confirm a medieval date and that this is the earliest surviving example of a medieval timber house and the only example of its type in the country.

SOLDIERS MARK UN SERVICE

On Sunday 12th December 2011 some seventy members and friends of the 36th Infantry Battalion gathered in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, to mark the 50th anniversary of their unit. In silence the group stood with heads bowed as Company Sergeant Jim Clarke laid a wreath acknowledging the unit's contribution to United Nations service since its establishment. Piper Sergeant Anthony Byrne from the 15th Infantry Battalion played a lament for comrades killed in overseas tours which included service in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cyprus and Lebanon. During the famous battle of the Elizabeth Tunnel in the Congo, three lives were lost and fourteen bravery medals awarded.

Précis of the December 2011 Lecture

On Tuesday 13th December 2011 **Katherine McSharry**, Head of Services at the National Library, spoke to the Society on 'The National Library: Recent Developments and Future Plans' on 14 December last. She outlined developments in the NLI's on-line services, focusing firstly on enhancements to viewing photographs. The NLI has digitised and made over 35,000 of its historic photographs freely available, but until now only at a low resolution. This has meant that the photographs have not been as useful as they might, with key details – signs on walls and in shops, clothing and faces for example – still difficult or impossible to make out. From early in 2012, however, a new zoom feature developed by the NLI will allow researchers everywhere to view the tiniest details in all of these images. An example of how valuable this will be was demonstrated by zooming in to see how clearly the details of gravestone inscriptions could be read. Ms McSharry also demonstrated a feature in the NLI's catalogue, which provides a link from catalogue records to the full text version available from online

sources, such as Google Books and the Internet Archive. She then went on to show some NLI images now available on the online image site Flickr, pointing out that the Library is increasingly active with social media. In addition to these online developments, the NLI will be offering new services onsite in 2012, including the re-opening of the National Photographic Archive reading room, the availability of Wifi, and user training sessions on online resources such as newspapers. New kinds of activity are also underway, with pilot projects in collecting websites (for the General and Presidential elections) having been undertaken in 2011. Alongside this, of particular interest to genealogists is a survey being carried out on the NLI's landed estate papers in association with NUI Maynooth, and digitisation work on the Roman Catholic parish registers. The parish register project will give the NLI digitised images of the registers, not transcriptions of the content, which is a far more labour intensive process. However, they do plan to make the digitised images available to researchers on

the NLI premises later in 2012 as an interim step. Ms McSharry concluded by discussing the possibilities of collaboration between the National Library of Ireland and researchers, outlining the benefits which could be gained by "crowdsourcing" – drawing on expertise outside the library to provide valuable information and assistance in the NLI's work.

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. Members wishing to renew their Annual Membership may do so via the secure payment facility on the home page of the Society's 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; 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**, MCSI, 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?

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

is published by the

Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited

11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie

Charity Reference: CHY10672

*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 Jan. 10th & Feb. 14th 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)

DUBLIN BUS 1987-2006

'Dublin Bus: Changing with the City 1987–2006' by Jonathan McDonnell, Darren Hall and Ian Molloy, published by Ian Allen Ltd., (h/b, 80pps, ISBN 978-0-7110-3229-3). This book was published to mark the twentieth anniversary of the creation of Dublin Bus / Bus Átha Cliath as a transport operator in 1987 when CIÉ ceased being a transport operator and became the holding company for the three new transport operators of Dublin Bus, Bus Éireann (rural bus services) and Irish Rail. This excellent photo-book looks at the variety of vehicles used by Dublin Bus during this twenty year period showing them in every day operation at various locations and event in the Dublin area. Some vehicles used were short lived such as the various types of mini-buses introduced to work local services where passenger numbers did not warrant the use of full size buses but later these were replaced by the latter as mini-bus operation was not economic. In 1987 Dublin Bus on establishment had a fleet of 816 buses, of which nearly 170 were aged between thirteen and eight years of age. By 2006 bus number had risen to 1077 but the age of the fleet had dropped dramatically with only about 130 buses aged between ten and twelve years old and this policy of replacing elderly buses is ongoing depending on the company finances. While currently Dublin Bus uses a standard livery on all its vehicles, this book also recalls the various ones that were used, some experimentally, which were not adopted, or only remained in service for a short while. A unique photo-book looking back at twenty years of Dublin Bus with all images reproduced to the very high standard—the hallmark of Ian Allen books. **James Scannell**.

2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership, **Tom Conlon**, MGSI, wishes to advise Members that they can renew their membership for 2012 on the secure payment section on the Home Page of the Society's website. Reminders were forwarded by e-mail to each Member with a January 2012 renewal date. The renewal date is printed on the Membership Card and on the new Membership Certificate. Queries regarding membership status or payments should be sent to Tom at membership@familyhistory.ie

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*www.fourcourtpress.ie*The 2012 Catalogue will be launched later this month***1916 EASTER RISING & MOORE STREET**

As the nation embarks on a decade of commemorations marking the momentous events in Irish history of a century ago, the descendants of the 1916 Easter Week Rising leaders and participants have called on the Irish Government to purchase the site of the former Carlton Cinema near the General Post Office in Dublin's O'Connell Street on the grounds that it is of national historical importance. A developer currently owns the site with the loans associated with it controlled by NAMA [National Asset Management Agency]. The descendants' group believed that part of the site formed part of the evacuation route taken by a number of rebels from the General Post Office to 16, Moore Street and should be preserved. They have also called for the creation of a cultural and historic quarter between numbers 14 and 17, Moore Street where some of the Rising leaders and several of the garrison met for the last time. These buildings were designated as national moments in 2007. According to some of the relatives current plans for the site involve 'gutting' the Moore Street houses whereas they are seeking what they call an 'Anne Frank House Approach' so that what was there in 1916 will be kept intact. In November the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, **Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, said that he was in consultation with the National Museum of Ireland with regard to an application by the developer of the Moore Street site which includes plans to incorporate a commemorative centre at 16, Moore Street and that a decision would be made as soon as possible. **James Scannell**

Lt. PETER LEECH, 1826-1899

Seeking information regarding this Peter Leech who was born in Dublin in 1826 and died in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, in 1899. He joined the Royal Engineers and served in the Crimea before being transferred to Canada. After the disbandment of the regiment in 1863, he was involved in an exploratory expedition on Vancouver Island and in 1864 they found gold at a place called Leechtown and on a river subsequently named the Leech River. We are about to celebrate this discovery on its 150th anniversary on the 14th July 2014. We have ample information of his marvellous life here in Canada but we're unable to get much information regarding his family connections in Ireland. All we know is that he was the son of Peter and Susanna Leech of 96, Cork Street, Dublin and was baptised on 26th July 1826 in St. Catherine's Church (Anglican), in Dublin city. He was a man of great character and bravery and his deeds are legendary here in this part of Canada. He was a NCO in the Royal Engineers and he did not receive a commission despite his title "Lt." I am a new member of the Victoria Genealogical Society, but have great difficulty getting more information on this man's family history. Any advice or assistance would be greatly appreciated. **Dr. Patrick R. Lydon**, BC, Canada. E-mail: perrylydon@hotmail.com

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 Daonchartlann*, 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.books4vijnica.com