



Cumann Genealaíais na hÉireann

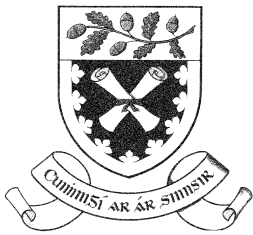
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
**Book Reviews**  
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## 1926 Census Release—Legislation Soon

"For centuries, America and Ireland have built a proud and enduring partnership cemented by mutual values and a common history. Generations of Irish have crossed the Atlantic in pursuit of prosperity, and today nearly 40 million of their proud descendants continue to make their indelible mark on the United States of America". So reads the March 1st declaration by **President Barack Obama** designating, once again, that March will be '**Irish-American Heritage Month**' in the USA. This is a powerful gesture on behalf of the American President. Here in Ireland the nationwide St. Patrick's Festival and, of course, *Seachtain na Gaeilge* (Irish Language Week), do much to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our heritage. This heritage celebration received a boost on Tuesday 6th March 2012, when the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, **Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, in answer to a parliamentary question tabled by **Catherine Murphy, TD (Ind)**, said that "Genealogical records made available through my Depart-

ment have been extremely popular with the public at home and abroad. The success of the digitisation project of the 1901-1911 census is the best proof of this. The website, hosted and managed by the National Archives of Ireland, has proved to be phenomenally popular, with over 648 million hits and more than 13 million individual visits to date". The Minister continued saying "that the more information we can make available to the Diaspora the better and the more sources there are through which people can make connections and trace their roots, the more interest there will be. We must ensure all of the information is digitised and made available to a global audience. I previously informed the Deputy that I intended to introduce legislation to enable digitisation of the 1926 census returns. The legislation has been approved by the Cabinet. Following its enactment, I will have to come up with the resources to implement it. I cannot start the process until the enabling legislation has been passed. It is hoped it will be ready in June or July". Later in a written reply to Sinn Féin's **Aengus Ó Snodaigh, TD**, the

Minister said that "The Programme for Government contains a commitment to enabling the publication of the 1926 Census. This Census was the first undertaken by an independent State ten years after the Rising; four years after the Treaty was signed; and just three years after the Civil War. It is, therefore, an historic collection of great value and interest for historians and family researchers alike. I intend to bring a proposal to Government on enabling its publication in the coming weeks". So **Happy St. Patrick's Day** to all of our Members, friends and readers at home and overseas!

## 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, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin at 20.00hrs. This is an Open Meeting with the Monthly Lecture, but 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 always welcome. *Gen. Secretary*

## The GSI on BBC Radio Wales

The Society's latest publication '**At Anchorage in Dublin**' was officially launched on Thursday March 1st 2012 on BBC Radio Wales hosted by the very popular **Ron Noble, OBE**. This special 'live broadcast' from the Maritime Museum in Dún Laoghaire was to mark **St. David's Day**. The book was originally published in Welsh as '*Wrth Angor yn Nulyn*' by Rev. Huw Llewelyn Williams in 1968. It is a history of the Welsh Chapel in Talbot Street, Dublin, the foundation stone of which, was laid on

St David's Day in 1838. Translated by **Dr. Meirion Llewelyn Williams** it is published as part of the Society's *Irish Genealogical Sources Series*. Besides the original history of this Welsh Chapel, it now includes the Register of Marriages from 1892 to 1936 and of Baptisms from 1839 to 1923. An Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs & Trade, **Éamon Gilmore, TD**, who had hoped to attend the official launch, sent a message of congratulations, which was included in the programme, highlighting the close

connections between Wales and Ireland. The Society's Vice President, **James Davidson, FGSI**, down from Belfast, added an all-island perspective to the occasion. Earlier on the same radio programme, **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the RCSI and **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, were interviewed on the progress of the Society's '*Irish DNA Atlas Project*'. GSI President, **Rory Stanley, FGSI** and Holyhead-Dún Laoghaire Link President, **Mrs. Lorie Kelly**, officiated at the book launch.

# Annual Report of the GSI Board of Directors

The following is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited adopted by the Board at its meeting of March 1st 2012 by *Res: 12/03/893*. As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM, however, the Annual Financial Report is for the period ending December 31, 2011. The Board of the Society met eleven times during the year to deal with the day-to-day business of the Society. The scheduled meeting of the Board in August was cancelled due to holidays. In addition to attending these meetings each of the directors undertook duties associated with their various portfolios including organising eleven Morning Open Meetings and twelve Evening Open Meetings, the latter with guest speakers arranged by the Director of the GSI Lecture Programme. The Board received and accepted two resignations during the year with the duties concerned being reallocated amongst the members of the Board. The Society published twelve issues of its newsletter 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' and its readership figures continued to be very strong throughout the year especially on-line where it was available in pdf format. The newsletter has been central to all the Society's campaigns, including those aimed at having the 1926 census returns released. The Society was delighted that two of its main objectives, the release of the 1926 census and the reform of the legislative basis for Irish heraldry were included in the new Programme for Government following the General Election. Senator Lábhras Ó Murchú restored the Society's *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2011*, to the Order Paper of Seanad Éireann. The Society's publication programme for the year also included the Annual Journal for 2011 and 2012 and a new publication in the Irish Genealogical Sources series 'At An-

chorage in Dublin – *The History of Bethel, the Welsh Chapel in Talbot Street, Dublin*'. The Society's Archives and Research Centre – *An Daoncharlann* - located at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, was extremely busy throughout the year providing access to the Society's collections and assisting visitors with family history research queries. The facility was open on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs with the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month when it opened at 13.00hrs. The catalogue of the Society's collections will be available on-line in due course. The recording of memorial inscriptions continued during the year with a further collection due to be published shortly on CD. The Society's Outreach Policy involved the Society's participation in a number of exhibitions, including the *Back to Our Past* event at the RDS and several others around the country in association with Big Mountains Productions. The Society had stands at various community festivals and local history events. The Society's website, our Facebook page and Twitter account continue to valuable components in the promotion of the activities of the Society and Irish genealogy in general. The Society's website now provides indexes to the Society's Journals from 1992 to 2012 and to 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' from 2006 to 2011. Work is continuing on the provision of a Digital Archive. Problems with the on-line shop necessitated a total reconstruction of the on-line shop which is now underway. Ancestor Network Ltd, in conjunction with the Society, provided very successful Weekend Genealogy Courses at An Daoncharlann. The Society continues to support the Books 4 Vijechnica initiative by Bosnian students aimed at restocking their University Library which was destroyed in the fire at the National Library in Sarajevo during

the Bosnian civil war. A proposal to mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this disaster and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the loss of our own Public Records Office during the Civil War has been presented to government and members of the European Parliament. In September 2011 the Society presented its vision on the development of genealogical services in Ireland at the seminar organised by the new Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, TD. In October 2011 the Society launched the Irish *DNA Atlas Project* in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and interest in this exciting project has been phenomenal, however, more participants are required. In accordance with its function as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann, the Society's nominee, Cllr. Victor Boyhan, contested the Seanad General Election. In addition to the above, the outgoing Board dealt with matters relating to the Society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies; The Wheel; Integrating Ireland and such matters relating to the Society's Sectoral Representation on the Strategic Policy Committee on Culture, Community Development and Amenities of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The Board also complied with its statutory obligations in respect of the Companies Acts 1963-2009, its position as a Registered Charity and as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann.

General Secretary

## 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

## The Society's AGM 2012

Every year in March the Society holds its Annual General Meeting where official reports on the activities and finances of the Society are delivered by the Board. The AGM also elects members to the Board of the Society for 2012/2013 in the following manner—firstly the four designated positions of Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, General Secretary and Director of Finance. Then up to eight persons who will receive their portfolios at the first meeting of the new Board which will be held on Thursday April 5th 2012. The Board meets every first Thursday of the month, with the exception of January when it meets on the second Thursday. Each Director is responsible for a particular area of the Society's functions or activities and, as such, the governance of the

Society is basically 'cabinet style' with Board meetings normally lasting approximately two hours receiving the Directors' Reports and dealing with corporate matters, policy formulation, legislative campaigns etc. Members are encouraged to consider offering themselves for election to the Board at the AGM. This AGM will vote on a resolution regarding the structure and function of the Society's College of Fellows. The full text of the Board's resolution dealing with this matter is available on the Society's website, however, the text of the resolution for the AGM is as follows: *'That, this Annual General Meeting agrees to endorse Res: 12/03/894 of the Board in respect of the College of Fellows of the Society including the limit of twenty Fellows; the criteria for nomination and election to the Col-*

*lege of Fellows; and the determination of the functions and duties of the College of Fellows and duly authorises the Board of Directors to proceed accordingly'*. Ballot papers will be issued to all paid-up Members in attendance. The following is the Agenda for the AGM.

1. **20.00hrs**—Minutes of the 2011 AGM
2. Annual Report (published above)
3. Annual Financial Report (2011)
4. Fellows of the Society (Resolution)
5. Election of Board 2012-2013
6. Incoming Cathaoirleach Inaugurated Award of Certificates
7. **20.30hrs**—Guest Speaker (see page 4)
8. Question & Answer Session
9. **22.00hrs**—Cathaoirleach Closes AGM
- 10.

## Titanic Event & Family History Day

The **Heritage Society of Engineers Ireland**, in present *'The Titanic: Design and Construction'* by David Livingstone MRINA, on **Mon. 2nd April 2012** at 19.30hrs at Engineers Ireland, 22 Clyde Road, Dublin 4. Titanic is the most famous of the three White Star liners of the Olympic Class designed and built by Harland and Wolff. Many claims were made about the luxury and safety of these vessels. Were these claims well founded? This presentation looks at issues surrounding her design and sinking. The author also describes his experiences of diving to the wreck. All welcome. Admission free. Info: www.engineersireland.ie The **Dublin City Library & Archive**, Pearse

Street, Dublin 2. will host a **Family History Day on Sat. 24<sup>th</sup> March 2012**. Registration: 09.30hrs. Lectures: *"The Yidiot's Guide to Irish Jewish Ancestry"* by Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI 10.00hrs. *"The Bank of Ireland Stock Book, 1783-1800: A Possible Census Substitute?"* by Marie Oxx 11.15hrs. *"The Shoemaker's Daughters, 1867-1972, or, how I found my Great Grand Aunt Eliza"* by Pól Ó Duibhir 12.00hrs. *"Twenty years researching the Fitzpatricks of Clonturk (Drumcondra)"* by Ronan Fitzpatrick 14.00hrs. *"Adoption records: where to start?"* by Anna Austin and Patricia Lowen at 14.45hrs. Finish at 16.30hrs. Booking essential E-mail: dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie

## TRIPS NORTHWARD

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. There will be stands from organisations in the Republic and from Northern Ireland. The Society is also organising a **Research Familiarisation Day Trip** to Belfast on **Thursday April 19th 2012**. Our Vice-President, James Davidson, FGSI, has been busy making the arrangements in the wonderful city of Belfast. The itinerary planned by GSI Directors, Séamus Moriarty and Eddie Gahan, includes coach to/from Belfast, the city sights and a visit to Stormont for just €20 per person. Members please contact Eddie on 087 248 6878 or by e-mail: eddie\_gahan\_snr@hotmail.com

# James Scannell Reports...

## HUNT FOR MISSING CROSS

Up to the 1950s a 2-metre high granite cross stood outside St. Patrick's Church in Wicklow Town until it was removed by a priest on the grounds that some of the carvings were considered too explicit. It is believed that after removal the cross was then broken into two pieces and buried somewhere in the green area between the church and the adjacent St. Patrick's Boys National School. The Wicklow Peace & Remembrance Memorial Committee hope to use the cross to commemorate all those from County Wicklow that fought in all conflicts on the island of Ireland and overseas and have received the support of local clergy who, after consultation, have authorised the search of the grounds to locate it. It is hoped that the two segments will be located, excavated, examined, repaired and erected on a suitable site.

## HISTORIC CLONMEL BUILDING

The Main Guard building in Clonmel, Co. Tipperary, which twenty years ago was in such a poor condition structurally that it was literally falling apart, has been total refurbished following a €3M restoration scheme. This 17th century building was originally built in 1675 by order of James Butler, first Duke of Ormonde, to serve as a courthouse for the Palati-

nate of Co. Tipperary. In 1810 the construction of a new courthouse made it redundant and the building was then substantially modified with the addition of new floods and windows and subdivided into a number of shops. Subsequently acquired by Clonmel Corporation in 1986, the building was handed over to the Office of Public Works in 1944 and designated as a National Monument. Great care was exercised during the restoration work to ensure that as much of the original building as possible was preserved. It serves as a visitors centre and a venue for recitals, lectures and cultural events.

## INDIAN IMAGES RESTORED

Glass plate slides showing Irish Protestant missionaries working in India in the late 19th and early 20th centuries have been recently discovered and can now be viewed on-line. The slides were found in a deanery in Killaloe, Co. Clare, and have been digitally re-mastered and made available for viewing on-line by the Church of Ireland. The images show the Irish Protestant missionaries going about their daily work on the Indian subcontinent. In 1892 a group of Trinity College graduates responded to a request from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel for missionaries to work in the Chota Nagpur area of north-eastern India, working in a diocese about the size of Ireland.

The Dublin University Mission to Chota Nagpur established schools, a seminary, dispensary and hospital and founded St. Columba's College, now part of Vinoba Bhava University of Hazaribagh. Although no Irish missionaries currently work in Chota Nagpur, the mission remains a registered charity and supports projects in India. [www.Ireland.anglican.org/library](http://www.Ireland.anglican.org/library)

## FRAUD DURING FAMINE

We may think that social welfare fraud is a relatively new phenomenon but a ledger dated back to Famine discovered in Co. Waterford shows that civil servants at that time were issued guidelines to ensure that all claimants were genuine. Starving claimants applying for a daily food ration were required to apply in person or to provide a medical certificate in the case of the illness. Those classed as 'lunatics, idiots, deaf and dumb, crippled or helpless from old age' (political correctness was not a virtue of the Victorians) were excluded for having to 'sign on' daily. Small farmers who were unable to leave tilling the land were also allowed to sign on less frequently. The ledger had a column in which changes in the circumstances of claimants were recorded – death and emigration being the most common ones. The ledger will be sold in Dublin during April by Mealy's the rare book and manuscript auctioneers.

## Précis of the February 2012 Lecture

On Tuesday 14th February 2012, members were treated to a very interesting talk by **Declan Heffernan** on *'The Sinking of the HMS Vanguard off Kish in 1875'*. On the 1<sup>st</sup> September 1875 a section of the First Reserve Squadron set out on the final leg of a courtesy tour of the coastal towns and cities of Ireland. The Squadron was under the command of Vice Admiral Tarleton and consisted of HMS Warrior (Flag Ship), HMS Hector, Iron Duke & Vanguard. Around midday the Vice Admiral ordered two columns of two ships. Vanguard and Iron Duke turned right to complete the manoeuvre but before this was achieved Capt Dawkins of Vanguard went off duty and handed control to Lieutenant Hawthorn. A dense fog suddenly rolled in reducing visibility to about 50 yards masking Iron Duke. Capt Dawkins came on deck and ordered speed

to be reduced, a lookout suddenly saw danger from a ship crossing their bow from right to left, Dawkins ordered Vanguard to stop, Hawthorne ordered a right turn, having decided the danger had passed the Captain ordered 'full speed ahead', too late, Iron Duke ploughed into her broadside on. In the meantime Capt Hickey of Iron Duke went off duty leaving the ship in control of Lieutenant Evans, he noticed Vanguard to be 300 yards ahead and ordered an increase in speed, Vanguard disappeared into the fog, he then ordered a right turn. Capt Hickey came on deck and reversed the change of direction decision and shortly thereafter she collided with Vanguard. The subsequent Court Martial found against Capt Dawkins, he was dismissed from Vanguard and never received another command. Lieutenant Evans was dis-

missed from Iron Duke, no other officers were found to be guilty. For further info. see [www.marlinsubaqua.ie](http://www.marlinsubaqua.ie) refer to *'Lamentable Intelligence from the Admiralty'* by Chris Thomas (includes a list of officers on both ships and 'ratings' on HMS Vanguard) and *'Shipwrecks of the Irish Coast'* by Edward J Bourke.

## SOCIETY'S ON-LINE SHOP

The on-line shop is being reconstructed at the moment—apologies for any inconvenience caused. A secure payment facility is available on the home page of the website for the payment of membership fees.

## 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.msoi.eu](http://www.msoi.eu)

## 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](http://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 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-LINE**[www.familyhistory.ie/shop](http://www.familyhistory.ie/shop)**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday AGM, Mar. 13th &amp; Apr. 10th 2012

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday Mar. 28th &amp; Apr. 25th 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)

**An Online Exhibition - Jacob's Biscuit Factory**

The centenary celebrations of the 1916 Rising have already begun. One very interesting online exhibition is being hosted by the National Archives. It can be found on their website at [www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/1916](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/1916). Occupying part of the site of Jacob's Biscuit factory, it was fitting that the National Archive's exhibition should begin there. What the Archives have done is to collaborate with the Bureau of Military History and make available those parts of the statements of surviving witness relevant to the occupation of Jacob's during Easter Week 1916. The online exhibition has three parts: a general introduction, the witness statements themselves with a commentary on each one and Other Material selected both from the NAI and from the Jacob's archives. There are 16 witness statements of people who were involved in one way or another in the Easter Week occupation of Dublin's most famous biscuit factory. They were compiled some 30 years after the events and their views of the events of Easter 1916 vary considerably. For example, Louise Gavan Duffy, founder of Scoil Bhride, tells how she went straight to the GPO to confront Pearse and tell him that the Rising would be a failure and then stayed on to work in the kitchens before ending up in Jacob's. John McDonagh, Commandant Thomas McDonagh's brother, describes the last sight he had of his brother in Richmond Barracks before he was taken away to be executed. Michael Mulloy, the compositor chosen by Connolly to print the proclamation, was also at Jacob's as was William Oman. The latter was Thomas McDonagh's orderly and gives a vivid description of the atmosphere under the command of McDonagh compared to the more austere and strained atmosphere under Mallin at the College of Surgeons. There is a chilling and objective quality to the statement given by William James Stapleton, later to be an active member of Collin's squad. He describes the attitudes and actions of the "separation women" whose sons or husbands were fighting in Belgium under the British flag and how they insulted and reviled the volunteers who occupied of Jacob's factory. Among the Other Material are the letters of two sisters, Mary and Anne Reynolds, who begged the De Valera government in the 1940s for help in their hour of need pointing out that their brother George had given his young life in the defence of Clanwilliam House. Almost in tandem, the National Library has another online exhibition dedicated to 1916 at [www.nli.ie/1916](http://www.nli.ie/1916). This is also a high quality exhibition with a mix of archive photos and explanatory text.

*Aiden Feerick MGSI, MAPGI***FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*[www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)*Checkout the exciting 2012 Catalogue on-line***Banks in Dublin**

*'Bank Architecture in Dublin—A History to c. 1940'* by **Michael O'Neill, Ph.D.** (ISBN: 978-1-902703-38-1 : 110pp : p/bk : Price €17.50) published by Four Courts Press last month is a surprisingly interesting journey through some of the hidden gems of our capital city. As the author says in the introduction "the banking industry is ever present in our lives, and today, probably more so than any other time in recent history, we are conscious of the global and local impact of the successes and failures of bank institutions. Perhaps less keenly appreciated is the significant contribution made by the banking industry to our material culture". Given the foregoing statement, maybe the use of the term 'material culture' was a bit unfortunate in that context, however, nobody can deny that bank buildings are some of the most iconic and imposing structures around Dublin. Yet, many of us take these wonderful structures for granted, rarely if ever, stopping to appreciate their architectural features, with the possible exception of the Bank of Ireland on College Green. However, this building was never intended to be a bank when it was built as the world's first purpose-built two chamber parliament building in the early eighteenth-century. It was acquired by the Bank of Ireland following the enactment of the Act of Union in 1801 and the dissolution of the Irish Parliament. Other buildings featured in this book, however, did start their lives as banks in the nineteenth-century and following mergers and consolidations, they are stores, hotels and restaurants. Dr. O'Neill explores the architecture of each of the buildings, pointing out features which are surprisingly beautiful in design and craftsmanship. Many of the exteriors are matched by wonderfully executed interiors with ceilings, balconies and staircases that would not look out of place in a stately residence. Besides the architecture Dr. O'Neill provides a brief history of each building and the banking institutions concerned. His provision of extensive references to documentary sources is an exceptionally useful aid to further research, not only for students of architecture, but for anyone interested in the history of banking and those associated with the industry. **MM**

**GSI Lectures 2012**

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: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.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 Weds. Open 13.00hrs). Beginners are always welcome!!

**IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT**

Checkout the project newsletter available on the Society's website. Are **YOU** ready to JOIN? For information e-mail: [Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.DNA@familyhistory.ie)

**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](http://www.gillmacmillan.com)

*Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!***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 **March 24th 2012** with a **Special Discount of 10%** in honour of St. Patrick! 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 information on these courses please contact John Hamrock, MGSI by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto: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.books4vjecnica.com](http://www.books4vjecnica.com)