



Cumann Seinealais na hÉireann

Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 7 No. 12

www.familyhistory.ie

December : Nollaig 2012



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



www.eneclann.ie

CONTENTS

Vol. 7 (2012) Contents	2
The Morpeth Roll	2
GSI Lecture Programme	
Weekend Genealogy Courses	2
James Scannell Reports ..	3
Précis of Nov. Lecture	
An Daonchartlann	3
Diary Dates	4
The Otherworld	4
Society Annual Dinner	
Irish DNA Atlas Project	4
FHISO Welcomed	

National Policy on Genealogy

It's the end of another very busy year, in which, this Society most definitely lived up to its longstanding reputation as 'Ireland's most active genealogical organisation' with twenty-three Open Meetings, including twelve superb lectures; publishing a monthly newsletter, an Annual Journal, a history of the Welsh Chapel in Dublin and more memorials on CD; maintaining a web presence; organizing group projects; offering circa 400 hours of archival access and free public research advice; hosting stands at numerous events throughout the country, including at 'The Genealogy Roadshow' BTOP and others; and, of course, maintaining an archive and research centre. We can be justifiably proud of the services provided by the Society, none of which, would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our own members. Indeed, since the provision of genealogical services by voluntary groups in Ireland was last surveyed by Tony McCarthy, MA, and published in 'Irish Roots' magazine in 1996, Irish genealogy has evolved immeasurably with a truly global reach on-line. Whilst, the 1996 survey is an excellent base from which to evaluate the progression of the provision of genealogical services and the expansion of public interest in ancestry matters in Ireland, maybe it is time for a new survey to be commissioned. In September 2011, the Minister



for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, TD, held an all-day seminar in the National Library on the future of Irish genealogy and genealogical services in Ireland. The seminar heard a wide range of views from all sectors of Irish genealogy, commercial and non-commercial. Participants at this seminar were generally hopeful for the future of Irish genealogy and, in particular, welcomed the openness and determination of the Minister who promised to bring forward a policy document on Irish genealogy. In the interim there has been very little, if any, progress on matters in the 'Programme for Government' on the release of the 1926 census and on addressing the serious anomalies in the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997* in respect of heraldry. Nevertheless, it is now time for the Minister to publish his Department's proposals on a *National Policy on Genealogy*. The Minister should seriously consider publishing these proposals in a consultative framework to engage the sector and the general public in the formulation of a *National Policy on Genealogy*.

Indeed, the *History Ireland* 'Hedge School' held at the BTOP event at the RDS in October discussed the possibility of convening a national forum on genealogical services. The forum, under an independent Chairperson, could discuss the Minister's proposals and possibly, agree a unified vision on the future of Irish genealogy, including matters of best practice, access, ethics and sustainable cooperation. To ensure that all sections of the 'genealogical community' and all shades of opinion are included, this forum should avoid the needless confusion caused by 'multi' or 'cross-representation'. Bodies such as the Clans of Ireland (inc. May 25th 1990), Standing Council of Irish Chiefs & Chieftains (est. Oct. 5th 1991), Irish Family History Foundation (inc. May 10th 1990) and the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations (est. July 9th 1994) should represent all of their members. Any other voluntary genealogical or heraldic organisation seeking representation should be, for example, of not less than five years standing, meet regularly and have at least 30 members with a proper governance structure. The commercial sector, educational institutions and genealogical publishers should also be invited to participate. Such an inclusive and transparent process could contribute very significantly to the formulation and implementation of a *National Policy on Genealogy*.

BRATACHA 2013

Bratacha 2013—an international symposium on the history, heritage, culture and identities associated with flags and emblems is the Society's main event for *The Gathering 2013*. Working in partnership with the National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company, European Movement Ireland and a number of local community organisations, this Society is looking forward to an event that is truly a 'first for Ire-

land'. *Bratacha 2013* is centred on Europe Day, May 9th 2013 and will run for three days celebrating Ireland's Presidency of the European Council and the 40th anniversary of Ireland's accession to the EEC. *Bratacha 2013* (Irish: Flags or Emblems) will feature lectures and seminars, exhibitions, displays, a genealogy fair, public displays and a 'Parade of Flags'. The programme of lectures and seminars organised by Ciarán Hurley, MA, MGSI, will also feature the ever popular *History Ireland* 'Hedge School'. Although,

many of the features are still in the planning stages, it is also envisaged to host a 'world premiere' of *'The Fighting Irish—Battle Hymns and Marches of the Irish at War'* in conjunction with Na Píobairí Uilleann and selected musicians. The Chairperson of the *Bratacha 2013* Steering Group, John Paul Durkan of the National Maritime Museum of Ireland, anticipates that *Bratacha 2013* will be one of the 'key events' organised for *The Gathering* next year in the County of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown.

Vol. 7 (2012) Contents

January 2012: Researching the Family History—A Gift for Future Generations / Jewish Ancestry in Northern Ireland / Irish DNA Atlas Project / National Famine Commemoration 2012 / GSI Lecture Programme 2012 / Stock Clearance / Remembrance Sunday / 75 Years of MÉT Éireann / Medieval House Discovered / Soldiers Mark UN Service / Katherine McSharry—'The National Library: Recent Developments & Future Plans' / Dublin Bus 1987-2006 / 1916 Easter Rising & Moore Street / Lt. Peter Leech, 1826-1899. (N.B.—Regular or repeat notices not listed e.g. updates on the Irish DNA Atlas Project etc)

February 2012: Twenty Years Publishing Genealogy / Wrth Angor yn Nulyn / Annual General Meeting / *Miraculous Plenty—Irish Religious Folktales and Legends* / The Hidden History of WW1—Wales / The Irish Aboard Titanic / Pardon for WW2 Deserters / Comdt. Edward Daly / Rob Goodbody—'Quaker Records in Ireland' / Family History Resources / Alice Milligan / National Library Services Improved.

March 2012: 1926 Census Release—Legislation Soon / The GSI on BBC Radio Wales / Annual Report of the GSI Board of Directors / The Society's AGM 2012 / Titanic Event & Family History Day / Trips Northward / Hunt for Missing Cross / Historic Clonmel Building / Indian Images Restored / Fraud During Famine / Declan Heffernan—'The Sinking of the HMS Vanguard off Kish in 1875' / An Online Exhibition—Jacob's Biscuit Factory / Banks in Dublin.

April 2012: 1926 Census & the Decade of Centenaries / Irish DNA Atlas Project / *Galway: politics and society, 1910-23* / Nineteenth-Century Ireland Studies & Family History / Legal Bibliography / GSI On-Line Shop / April in the North / Chair of Advisory Group /

Missing Relics / Addegoole 14 / Pearse Documents to be Sold / Nicky Rackard Statue / John Grenham—'Some Sources for Family History Research in the City Archives' / A Visit to the Military Archives / GSI Board 2012-2013 / New Weekend Courses.

May 2012: Genealogists & the Privacy Bill, 2012 / In Memoriam (Betty Dwyer & Randal Gill, RIP) / *The Friars in Ireland 1224-1540* / GSI Day Trip to Belfast / The Society On-Line / Newry City Fair / Michael Collins Criminal Card / Teaching in the 1940s & 1950s / Centenary of Home Rule Bill / Diary Donated to DCU / Ronnie Wallace—'St. Bride's Church of Ireland Parish Records' / Seanad Éireann & Anniversaries / GSI Day Trip to Belfast.

June 2012: Philanthropy and our Archival Heritage / New Venue for Morning Meeting / *Economy, Trade and Irish Merchants at Home and Abroad, 1600-1988* / A Sad Anniversary / History Festival of Ireland / Guinness Workers & WW1 / Elizabethan Fort Opened / NLI's Lawrence Collection / Drimnagh Castle's History / James Scannell—'Dublin Metropolitan Police—DMP Casualties during the War of Independence' / New Genealogy Advisory Service.

July 2012: Much Debate and No Decision / Family History Research Advice / *Colonial Ireland 1169-1369* / Out & About / Philanthropy / Joan Logan, MGSI—RIP / A Narrow Escape / 'Dissidents' / Pardon for IDF Deserters / Powerscourt School / Back Issues of the Gazette / Dr. James Ryan—'Understanding Church Records and their value to Family History' / Who Are The Irish?

August 2012: Europe's Shame 20 Years On / Heritage Week 2012 & Other Events / *The Inishkea Journals* / Military Archives / Cemetery Project 2012 / Ombudsman's Report on the GRO / Maritime Heritage / Silver Bullion Recovered / Cork Honours Activist / Bray

Unknown / Aud's Anchors Recovered / Edmund Ross—'The Care and Restoration of old Family Photographs' / Oral History Seminar / Bratacha 2013 / 20th Anniversary Appeal.

September 2012: The Gathering 2013 / Irish Lives Remembered / Heritage Week—A Great Success! / Real Gems for 'The Gathering' from NUIM / Irish Jewish Ancestry / Commissioning Ancestry Research in Ireland / Plaque to Horticulturalist / Tales of Medieval Dublin / New Police Museum / Centenary of Train Crash / Forgotten Policemen / Dublin Fire Brigade Lecture / Dr. Norman E. Gamble—'The Records of the Irish Railway Record Society (IRRS)' / All Hallows College /GRO 'Historic Records' / Cemetery Projects.

October 2012: Family History Month & BTOP / Genealogy & the 'New Irish' / *Danish Troops in the Williamite Army in Ireland, 1689-91* / Gaps in the Irish DNA Atlas / Privacy Bill & Genealogy / Adopted Illegally-Ireland / Book on Martello Towers / Recording Dublin's Cottages / Heritage Week 2012 / Ulster Covenant / Links to Mexican War / Tralee Honours Astronaut / Siobhán FitzPatrick—'The Records of the Royal Irish Academy as a Resource for the Family History Researcher' / 1926 Census Campaign / James Byrne 1877-1913.

November 2012: A Pyrrhic Victory? / Private Investment & the 1926 Census / *Irish Provincial Cultures in the Long Eighteenth Century* / New Website Launched / A History of Ireland in 250 Episodes / Irish Lives Remembered / Congo Soldier Remembered / Ulster Covenant Centenary / New Book on Dublin's Famous Moore Street / Founder of Irish Christian Brothers Honoured / Daire Guidera & Emly Moore—'The Registry of Deeds as an aide to the Genealogist' / Minister Donates Atlas / Sligo & Westmeath / Sarajevo University / Weekend Courses.

The Morpeth Roll

One of the great attractions of a day-long study organised by the Department of History at NUI Maynooth on Saturday, November 24 was the opportunity to view the Morpeth Roll. All the participants got the opportunity to examine this gigantic "farewell card" addressed to the departing Chief Secretary, George William Fredrick Howard, Viscount Morpeth in 1841. George Howard (1802-1864), of Castle Howard in Yorkshire, entered politics in 1826 and was returned as an MP for the family borough of Morpeth, Northumberland. He later served in the Melbourne administration as Chief Secretary for Ireland from 1835 to 1841 when he lost his seat and had to retire from active politics. The Howard family never owned land in Ireland and Viscount Morpeth was seen as one of the reforming politicians of his time. The Testi-

monial was created in about a month in 1841 at the instigation of the Duke of Leinster, Daniel O'Connell and other notable figures in Irish public life and signed by individuals from Thomas Davis to Charles Bianconi. Over 650 large sheets of paper filled with signatures were glued together and wrapped around a gigantic bobbin which was then housed in a hardwood box specially created for that purpose. It is estimated that there are around 300,000 signatures from most parts of the country and most walks of life. The roll is about 420 metres in length; if it were laid out in Croke Park, for instance, only about a third of the roll would be on display. This Farewell Testimonial lay in the basement of Castle Howard for many years until its importance for pre-Famine Ireland was understood; it was then taken to the Russell Library in Maynooth for restoration; the digitisation and indexing of the roll's name list has been undertaken by Ancestry and is due to go online next spring. The Morpeth

Roll itself will be taken on a tour of Ireland in the course of next year and will be the centrepiece of an exhibition which is currently being organised in Maynooth. The importance of the Morpeth Roll is that it gives us a census substitute for the year when the population of Ireland reached its peak of 8.1 million people. The names on the roll represent between 3 to 4% of the population. And for some time to come, local historians will have to grapple with what is essentially a name list, with few place names thrown in, and try to bring the Morpeth Roll to life. *Aiden Feerick, MAPGI, MGSI.*

IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

The December 2012 issue (No. 7) of the excellent produced e-magazine 'Irish Lives Remembered' is available free to read or download on www.irishlivesremembered.ie

WEEKEND GENEALOGY COURSES

The Weekend Genealogy Courses will recommence on Saturday **January 19th 2013**. These courses are provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.** and are specially designed to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. Ancestor Network Ltd. is the 'Official Provider' of Genealogy Advisory Services for the **National Library of Ireland** and the **National Archives of Ireland**. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other centres of research. Learn how to be your own researcher. 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 GSI Archives 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 further information please contact John Hamrock by phone on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

Past issues of this newsletter are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

GSILECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. **Dec, 11th** - *The Archives of the Royal Dublin Society – some Recent Developments* by **Natasha Serne**. Tues. **8th Jan, 2013**—'Irish Army Records' by **Comdt. Pádraic Kennedy**. Tues. **12th Feb.**—'Dún Laoghaire Harbour and its Board' by **Gráinne Shaffrey**. Tues. **12th March** (Annual General Meeting)—'Rental Sources as a Resource for the Genealogist' by **Dr. James Ryan**. Tues. **9th April**—'Ancestry.com as an archival resource for the geologist—present and future plans' by **Eric Booth**. Tues. **14th May**—'The Preservation of Old Documents' by **Christine Deakin**. **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland St, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions on www.familyhistory.ie

James Scannell Reports...

NATIONAL ARMY CENSUS

In 1922 the Army Council of the newly created National Army of the Irish Free State held a census of military personnel at midnight 12th / 13th November 1922 to ascertain the exact strength of the National Army by location for administration, logistical and operational purposes. Images of the census are now available on the website of the Irish Military Archives – www.militaryarchives.ie.

HISTORIANS DIFFER AND....

Historians have differed over a claim contained in a memoir written by Lance Bombardier Percy Creek, Royal Field Artillery, held in the Imperial War Museum in London. According to Open University academic William Sheehan, Creek claims that he was a member of a detachment sent in secret from Co. Fermanagh to Dublin in June 1922 which fired two heavy artillery rounds at republican forces occupying the Four Courts before returning to their unit. In response to rumours circulating at that time that the British Army had fired on the Four Courts, the National Army denied that any British personnel had been involved. While some historians have doubted the accuracy of Creek's statement, they admit that what he alleges could have happened. General Michael Collins was

offered British military assistance by General Neville Macready to dislodge republicans occupying the Four Courts. Gen. Collins refused all offers of British assistance for except artillery pieces, which he lacked, and when provided, were manned and fired by the National Army.

BLACK & TAN WAR IN GALWAY

"*Blood for Blood: the Black and Tan War in Galway*" by William Henry (Mercier Press). This is a vivid account of the events during the War of Independence in Galway, for which, the author has trawled the archives to produce this meticulous account of the Galway IRA during the War of Independence, known locally as the "Black and Tan War". Henry describes the many raids, ambushes, murders and reprisals that took place during the 1919-21 period, and the stories of the men who were involved. He details the activities of the dreaded Black and Tans, and the role played by the RIC and the British Army stationed there. Henry also looks at how everyday life was affected by the ongoing war and how the attitude of the people changed as the brutality of the Tans intensified. Including hunger strikes in Galway jail and the general strike in the city and the boycotts of the British forces throughout the county. The author brings this period to life with fascinating and sometimes horrific details.

ARKLOW 1885-1892

'*Split Personalities: Arklow 1885-1892*' is the latest book by the Arklow based local historian Jim Rees. In this new book Rees chronicles events in Arklow, County Wicklow, between 1885 and 1892 at a time when Ireland was undergoing social and political upheaval. Two national campaigns came to the fore during this period, land reform and Home Rule. Both of these movements impacted on every community in Ireland, including Arklow, where local people often took differing sides on these issues. Complicating matters further was the effects of the Charles Stewart Parnell-Katherine O'Shea divorce scandal in 1890. This generated further divisions within the town following the ousting of Parnell leader of the Home Ruler Party into Pro and Anti-Parnell factions. Added to the tensions was the evangelical preaching of the local Church of Ireland minister and the differences between two men in the town Dr. Michael Molony, the Medical Officer of Health and Fr. James Dunphy PP, whose stances on various issues came to represent the various mindsets within the town. But what was happening in Arklow was being replicated in other Irish towns, but for this book, Jim Rees has focussed on Arklow and the eventual outcome of the many issues that arose between 1885 and 1892.

Précis of the November Lecture

On Tuesday November 13th 2012 members were delighted that the Society invited back **Dr. Patrick N Wyse Jackson** to give a talk on an extraordinary individual '*Richard Griffith (1784-1878), Public Servant, Valuator and Geologist*'. Dr. Wyse Jackson spoke to the Society some years ago on a portrait in oils of Sir Richard John Griffith by Stephen Catterson Smith (1806-1872) and certain questions arising there from. This time he concentrated on his quest for information on the family of Richard Griffith and in particular, his eldest daughter who seems to have become estranged from the family. Dr. Wyse-Jackson outlined the work of Griffith—surveying the coal-fields of Leinster in 1808 and appointed as the chief engineer to the Commission on Irish Bogs from 1809-12. Irish genealogists are much in debt to the enormous achievements of Richard Griffith from his

pioneering work on the Boundary Commission from 1825 and with the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. Many know of his work as the Commissioner of Valuation from 1827 which produced the monumental '*Griffith's Valuation*' which was published between 1847 and 1864. The running theme of this very interesting lecture was 'the man and his family'. In this respect, his treatment of his daughter Sarah who eloped to Canada and then to the United States, seems to portray a man more concerned with his own public persona and lacking compassion. Dr. Wyse Jackson would welcome any information on this daughter. Dr. Wyse Jackson is currently working on the life and work of the geophysicist John Joly (1857-1933) and may be contacted at Trinity College Dublin by e-mail: wysjcknp@tcd.ie **Nota Bene:** The GSI Archives has a file on the Griffith family.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archives and Research Centre in Dún Laoghaire, will be open on Wednesday 10th December from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs and on Saturday December 15th 2012 from 14.00hrs to 18.00hrs. The closure period for **Christmas and New Year** will be from 18.00hrs on Saturday December 15th 2012 until 10.30hrs on Wednesday January 5th 2013. Thereafter, the opening times will be as follows: Wednesdays 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open at 13.00hrs) and Saturdays 14.00hrs to 18.00hrs. Members are on hand on those days to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors to the facility, however, the use of the resources of the GSI Archives & Research Centre is reserved for members of the Society. Day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. For directions please see www.familyhistory.ie

GSI MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 1st, 2012. It was agreed under **Res: 12/11/952** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2013 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2013 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household adult member (18 years or over) 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 pro-

jects; 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 2013 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. Apply on-line at www.familyhistory.ie or if you prefer, download the form and send it to **Mr. Billy Saunderson, MGSJ**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members always welcome!*

WILL YOUR RECORDS WELL

In the course of our research over many years we naturally amass a huge amount of paper and computer records. 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 have you made provision for the preservation of your records, files and notes after we die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or all of your books be sold off after you've gone. Please make provision in your Will to donate them to the Society's Archives for future generations.

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine of these countries? Check out the Medal Society of Ireland on www.msou.ie

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 2012-2013**

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**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Dec. 11th 2012 & Jan. 8th 2013

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Jan. 23rd & Feb. 27th 2013

Morning Open Meeting

Hardy's Bar, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €4.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

The Otherworld—Music & Song from Irish Tradition

Just in time for your Christmas gift to the lover of Irish music and folklore, Four Courts Press in conjunction with Comhairle Bhéaloideas Éireann at University College Dublin, have just launched *'The Otherworld—Music & Song from Irish Tradition'* edited by **Ríonach Uí Ógáin** and **Tom Sherlock**. (ISBN: 978-0-9565628-3-8 : 160pp : illustrated : p/bk and with 2 CDs : Price €25.00). This is not just another collection of Irish traditional tunes, it is a truly wonderful social history narrative which draws the reader back to a period and place in Ireland that, arguably, no longer exists except in music and story. Yet, for many of us in search of that elusive family history narrative, in this unique collection we have the voices of an Ireland, long washed away by modernity, that must surely echo that spiritual and cultural space once inhabited by our own ancestors not too long ago. The songs, verses and tunes all have real meaning for their custodians who value and honour their inheritance and cherish the memory of the very day when they first learned the piece and, especially from whom. The editors have selected the pieces carefully as examples of particular social or spiritual narratives because 'the otherworld' is cultural phenomenon in Ireland existing alongside the 'world of mortals'. Boundaries between this world and the 'unworldly' are often features in the landscape, rivers, bridges or standing stones. Tunes or songs learned from encounters with 'the otherworld' are often seen as harbingers of calamitous portents, the signifiers of which, are manifest only to the few. Listening to the CDs and simultaneously reading the account of the acquisition and rendering of the piece is a captivating experience as one is transported from the academic world of the folklorist to a bygone world of myth, legend, demons, fairies and places sacred and otherwise. The editors point out that this phenomenon is not confined to rural Ireland—it was found in the heart of old Dublin communities like Ringsend as narrated by Mag Doyle (Mrs. Bill Higgins) on the CD. One of the songs, *'Cruel Willie'* sung by Stephen Murphy, would, rather surprisingly, perfectly suit inclusion in the repertoire of the likes of Nick Cave or Shane McGowan with its eerily tragic tale. The editors provide short biographical notes on the contributors that, along with the social and cultural narrative, creates a wonderfully rich resource for the folklorist, cultural historian and local historian. The publication is beautifully illustrated with black and white photographs that capture the essence of this passage from 'the Otherworld' of the past through modernity to 'cultural curiosity'. *MM*

FOUR COURTS PRESS*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*www.fourcourtspress.ie*Checkout the New Titles and Catalogue on-line***IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT**

The Irish DNA Atlas is a collaborative academic research project undertaken by **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the University of Leicester in the UK and the Society. The main objectives of the project are (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants continue to be 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. Participants are requested to present a Birth Brief (Pedigree Chart) and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Our Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly**, FGSI, has mapped the genealogical data received while the team are the RCSI analyses the DNA samples. Séamus will accept suitable participants, male or female, with ancestry from any part of Ireland meeting the criteria regarding their eight great-grandparents. Members are asked to assist the project by inviting friends and colleagues to participate in this unique All-Ireland important academic research project. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please don't hesitate to contact Séamus by e-mail on Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS
by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The Society strongly recommends that for anyone embarking on their family history quest one essential piece of kit must be John Grenham's *'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'*. Checkout: www.gillmacmillan.com Price €22.99 [RRP]

Society Annual Dinner

The Society's Director of Research Information Services, Eddie Gahan, MGSI, has organised the inaugural Society Annual Dinner for **Friday March 1st 2013** at the National Yacht Club, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Eddie had long advocated the hosting of an annual social function for Members, their families and friends of the Society. The venue is simply wonderful and with a four-course meal and live music it's exceptionally good value at only €40.00 per person. For further information on this exceptional venue please see: www.nyc.ie In the meantime, should you wish to reserve your place for this special event, please contact Eddie by e-mail on eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com

SARAJEVO UNIVERSITY

Calling all bibliophiles, academics and authors. Twenty years ago over two million volumes, including priceless manuscripts, were destroyed in the fire that engulfed the National & University Library in Sarajevo on August 26th 1992 during the Bosnian civil war. This Society is proactively supporting a group of Bosnian students seeking donations of contemporary academic works in any discipline to restock their university's library which was totally destroyed in August 1992. Have you any books that you could donate? Please forward donated volumes to: **Mrs Fuada Muslic**, Senior Officer for Publishing, University of Sarajevo, Obala Kulina Bana 7/2, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tel: 00 387 3322 1946 : E-mail izdavacka.djelatnost@unsa.ba **NOTA BENE:** Please e-mail Ms. Muslic when items are put in the mail to her and include details of sender and contents. An example of what is required by the Bosnian authorities on the Society's website. It's a simple declaration of the contents etc. Please share this appeal with your friends and colleagues. For further information see: www.books4vjecnica.com

FHISO WELCOMED

The recent establishment of FHISO—Family History Information Standards Organisation is certainly a welcome development in the world of genealogy. This newly-formed international organisation was established to develop standards for the digital representation and sharing of family history and genealogical information. FHISO's standards will, it states, solve today's interoperability issues independently of technology platforms, genealogy products or services. They will provide opportunities for innovation and will address robust user requirements such as search, capture and research administration. FHISO is a non-profit, community-owned organisation which will operate democratically, and membership will be available to all who participate in the global family history and genealogical community. See: www.fhiso.org

*WHO ARE
THE IRISH?***STUDENT MEMBERSHIP**

To encourage students and young people to take up family history research, the Society offers a 50% reduction for persons under 25 years of age. Also, persons who take up adult education courses in genealogy can avail of a similar 50% reduction on the standard membership rate—that's right, Student Membership for just €20.00. See GSI website for further details.