



Cumann Genealaíis na hÉireann

Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 7 No. 11

www.familyhistory.ie

November : Samhain 2012



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



www.eneclann.ie

CONTENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Irish Provincial Cultures in the Long 18th Century</i> | 2 |
| <i>A History of Ireland in 250 Episodes</i> | 2 |
| <i>Irish DNA Atlas Project</i> | 2 |
| <i>James Byrne 1877-1913</i> | 3 |
| <i>James Scannell Reports ..</i> | 3 |
| <i>Précis of Oct. Lecture</i> | 3 |
| <i>Minister Donates Atlas</i> | 3 |
| <i>Diary Dates</i> | 4 |
| <i>Sligo & Westmeath</i> | 4 |
| <i>Bratacha 2013</i> | 4 |
| <i>An Daonchartlann</i> | 4 |
| <i>Student Membership</i> | |

A Pyrrhic Victory?

Clearly the abandonment of the proposed merger of the National Archives and the Irish Manuscripts Commission into the National Library could be seen as a pyrrhic victory for the archives campaign as it was achieved at the expense of the National Library and the National Museum. Both institutions are about to be 'reabsorbed' into the Department effectively bringing these institutions back to the situation prior to the implementation in May 2005 of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*. This downgrading of the governance structures of these institutions is of particular concern to this Society as it was the only genealogical organisation to deal with the entire Bill during its passage through the Oireachtas in 1996/7 and thereby, in collaboration with Senator Paschal Mooney, securing circa 28 amendments in Seanad Éireann and a further three in Dáil Éireann. In an effort to deal with certain anomalies in the 1997 Act, this Society brought forward the *Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006* and this was followed up with the *National Cultural Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2008*, both demonstrating the Society's deep commitment to our national cultural institutions and the services provided for genealogy and heraldry. The new proposals for the National Library and the National Museum are very worrying as they effectively dis-

mantle the governance structures in the 1997 Act. Many may well ask how and why we arrived at this juncture and, indeed, before attacking the Minister, or anybody else for that matter, the archives campaign group should pause and reflect on its role. For example, matters could have evolved very differently had this Society's proposal to the public meeting held in April 2010 in Trinity College been accepted by the campaign group. The proposal was to allow for 'legislative amalgamation' whilst maintaining the 'separate identities and functions' of each institution and was accepted by the Minister in May 2010. The purpose of the proposal was to move the 'merger issue' away from confrontation to a platform of meaningful consultation with the government on the governance, functions and independence of these institutions. Given this Society's experience in campaigning on legislative matters, it offered to join the campaign group in order to further these objectives, but the offer was not taken up. Unfortunately, the campaign group decided on a completely different strategy, by which, confrontation with government was inevitable. Instead of sticking to public policy and legislative matters, the campaign seemed to have been shackled to staff-centred issues. No doubt, attempting to meet these demands, the campaign group's proposal involved staff increases, more resources and a new building. In the midst of the

worse recession since the 1930s and with a ban on recruitment in the civil service, this very aspirational proposal was unfortunately doomed from the outset. However, it formed the basis of a political campaign that produced a pointless two day debate in Dáil Éireann where many Deputies, from all sides, engaged in a classroom 'show and tell' exercise highlighting the wonderful heritage of their own constituencies with little concern for the 'merger'. Many Deputies also found it necessary to distance themselves from some very negative campaigning and personal attacks on the Minister which were sadly reminiscent of those directed at Michael D. Higgins in 1996/7 while he was bringing the *National Cultural Institutions Bill* through Seanad Éireann. Thankfully, a near simultaneous debate on the same issue in Seanad Éireann was considerably more focussed. Hopefully, Minister Deenihan could be persuaded, even at this late stage, to revisit the Society's proposal for a new *National Cultural & Archival Institutions Bill* to provide for independent governance structures for each institution and to update the *National Archives Act, 1986* and the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*. A newly constituted archives campaign group should proactively pursue this option before draft legislation is produced to amend the 1986 and 1997 Acts.

Private Investment & the 1926 Census

The Board of the Society at its November meeting considered the current situation of the 1926 Census Campaign and what might be required to rescue the campaign from the political cul-de-sac into which it was driven by the redaction proposals. The 'Programme for Government' commits the government to exploring ways of releasing the 1926 Census before the expiry of the 100 year closure period stipulated in the *Statistics Act, 1993*. However, in the current recessionary climate resources are

understandably scarce. Therefore, funding the digitisation of the 1926 Census Returns would be very difficult unless private sector investment can be secured. Meeting a tentative target of 2016 for the release of the Census would be extremely difficult unless the necessary enabling legislative measures to commence digitisation are enacted soon. The identification of a possible private sector partner to digitise and make images of the census returns available on-line is also likely to be a lengthy process. In keeping with the Soci-

ety's longstanding 'Principle of Public Ownership & Right of Access' consideration could be afforded to providing a private sector partner with, for example, exclusive pay-for-view on-line rights for a period of not more than five years with simultaneous free public access to the 1926 Census on-line in Irish public libraries and at the National Archives and National Library. As such arrangements are already in place elsewhere for similar on-line heritage resources, why not here?

Irish Provincial Cultures in the Long Eighteenth Century

Four Courts Press has recently published a wonderful collection of essays which were presented to Professor Toby Barnard on his retirement from university teaching. *'Irish Provincial Cultures in the Long Eighteenth Century'*, (ISBN: 978-1-84682-375-6 : 272pp : h/bk : Price €50.00 : Web Price 45.00) edited by **Raymond Gillespie** and **R. F. Foster** contains essays by fourteen distinguished historians of early modern Ireland. It was Toby Barnard himself that dubbed the 'long' Irish eighteenth century, from the Restoration in 1660 to the collapse of the Protestant Ascendancy in the early nineteenth century. This period in Irish history was one of profound change culturally, economically, architecturally and politically. The latter, for example witnessed the rise and fall of the Protestant state culminating in the emergence of a Catholic political elite supported by the much expanded Catholic mercantile and professional classes. This beautifully illustrated volume is arranged in three sections following a very interesting appraisal of the life and work of Toby Barnard by R.F. Foster and, points out that "Irish history and historiography is immensely in his debt". Part I, *Provincials and the world: consumers and shapers* opens with James Kelly's essay on *'Print and the provision of medical knowledge in eighteenth-century Ireland'*. This essay explores the emergence of a busy medical marketplace in eighteenth-century Ireland based on the expansion in the availability and range of printed material including medical textbooks and commentaries and newspaper articles and advertising. Christine Casey explores the *'Grand tour: the passage of migrant craftsmen from Lake Lugano to Co. Kildare'*. These Italian stuccodores (stuccatori) brought the classical styles of the continent to Ireland and working with local plasterers created some of the masterpieces of ceilings in our great houses. John

Bergin's essay *'The world of Richard Lahy, an Irish law agent in eighteenth-century London'* looks at the increasing socio-economic mobility of Catholics from provincial Ireland pursuing careers in the law, finance and foreign trade in London. Reputations and connections secured, many found ready clients back in Ireland. The essay on *'Irish wine: the import of claret from Bordeaux to provincial Ireland in the eighteenth-century'* by Marie-Louise Legg is a fascinating study of the 'wine geese' - both Catholic and Protestant, that traded with Ireland. So much claret was drunk in eighteenth-century Ireland that Swift called it 'Irish wine' and indeed, the figures presented in the essay show the significance of the trade. D.W. Hayton's essay on *'Thomas Prior, Sir John Rawdon, third baronet, and the mentality and ideology of 'improvement': a question of upbringing'* explores the importance of the idea of 'improvement' and the anxiety over the economic and social condition of Ireland—the backwardness of agriculture and manufacture, the chaotic currency system and endemic poverty. Hayton also supplies information on Rawdon family genealogy. Part II, *Provincial societies: time and place* opens with David Fleming's fascinating exploration of *'Cycles, seasons and the everyday in mid-eighteenth-century provincial Ireland'*. The essay examines a much overlooked aspect of history—the mundane. How ordinary people ordered their lives around the seasons, feast days and how this contrasted with 'official' Ireland. Raymond Gillespie's essay deals with *'Music and song in early eighteenth-century Belfast'* and illuminates the emergence of a 'social scene' and the 'markers of civility' - music and, of course, mastering a musical instrument. Gillespie's essay also explores the role of religious music and psalm singing in that context. Alison Fitzgerald's essay focuses on *'the Cork Gold-*

smith's and their quest for a local assay office' and explores the commercial tensions between the metropolis and the provinces. Bernadette Cunningham's essay *'The Book of O'Lughlen: an unwanted wedding gift?'* looks at this 280-page manuscript in the context of a multilayered and complex relationship between modernity and a lingering Gaelic poetic tradition in Co. Clare. Part III, *Provincial things: buildings and pictures* opens with an essay by Rolf Loeber and Livia Hurley on *'The architecture of Irish country houses, 1691-1739: continuity and innovation'* which looks at building styles and trends over the period. Jane Fenlon's essay *'A good painter may get good bread': Thomas Pooley and Garret Morphy, two gentlemen painters'* looks at the lives, achievements and associates of two artists working in Dublin in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Edward McParland's essay on the building of St. Mary's, Pope's Quay, Cork, provides a wonderful insight into the politics and competition surrounding the building of Catholic churches in the nineteenth century. The bibliography of the major writings of Toby Barnard is a fitting testament to his enormous contribution to Irish history and historiography. *MM*

NEW WEBSITE LAUNCHED

On November 8th 2012, **Jimmy Deenihan TD**, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, launched the new genealogy website hosted by the National Archives of Ireland. From this website, researchers can access the census returns for 1901 and 1911, the Tithes Applotment Books for 1823 to 1837 and the Soldiers' Wills for 1914 to 1917. Further collections will be added in due course. This is an excellent resource - see: www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie

A History of Ireland in 250 Episodes

'A History of Ireland in 250 Episodes' by **Jonathan Bardon** (Gill & Macmillan 2008) ISBN 978-0-7171-4649-9 priced about €12.00. (240 of these episodes are also available as an audio-book (23 hours) entitled *'A short History of Ireland'*) The "episodes" are five-minute scripts broadcast each evening a few years ago on BBC Radio in Northern Ireland. So each episode is two pages (smallish font). Where the topic requires it, a significant historical event is extended to two, three or more episodes. Five minutes seems a short time, but a well-written script can cover quite a lot of ground in five minutes. Bardon's style and the requirements of radio make it an easy read - but it's not soft or sugar-coated. There are many well-chosen gruesome contemporary descriptions of savagery and cruelty on all sides throughout the

book. Perhaps none is more graphic than the execution of Oliver Plunkett - hanged, cut down alive, disembowelled, beheaded, and quartered. All of the political events, battles and wars are well described as one might expect in any history. This book adds great detail on the living conditions and economic circumstances of both cities and rural areas. The Great Frost (1740), the famine of 1741, and Handel's Messiah (1742) are successive episodes providing wonderful descriptions. As one might expect, the opposition of Unionists to the developing Nationalism is well covered, but not at the expense of the other side. Episode 1 is on the Ice Age. Episode 250 is on the O'Neill-Lemass meeting in 1965. This is the sort of history I would like to see on the Leaving Certificate course. Overall, a great read. *Tom Conlon, MGSI*

IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

The November 2012 edition of the popular *'Irish Lives Remembered'* e-magazine is available free-of-charge to read or to download on the link below. Amongst the many fine articles in this issue is a profile of our Vice-President, Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, as he presented the seventeen volumes of his 'magnum opus' on the archival heritage of the Irish Jewish Community to the Jewish Museum in Dublin. The six monthly issues of this very interesting and beautifully produced e-magazine are an excellent and very welcome addition to the range of genealogical publications now available free-of-charge on the internet. The editor and publisher, Eileen Munnally, has certainly raised the benchmark for Irish on-line genealogical publications in both quality and content. Checkout the Irish Lives Remembered website: www.irishlivesremembered.ie

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 analy-

sis. 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, checkout the project newsletter on the website.

JAMES BYRNE 1877 -1913

For the centenary of the *Dublin Lockout of 1913* **John Comiskey**, MGSI, is researching James Byrne, one of the 'martyrs' of the Lockout. James was born on York Rd., Kingstown (Dún Laoghaire) on June 22nd 1877 to James Byrne and Ellen Tyrrell. He married Kate Reddin on Nov. 11th 1900 at St. Michael's RC church. Their children were: Ellen (b. 1901), Hanna (B. 1903), Kathleen (b. 1904), Mary Josephine (b. 1907), Esther (b. 1908) and James (b. 1910). Esther married Thomas Byrne in 1931. James Byrne (b. 1877) died on Nov. 1st 1913 and at his funeral on Nov. 4th 1913, James Connolly delivered the oration. John is seeking to contact descendants of James Byrne & Kate Reddin. Any info. to colas@familyhistory.ie

James Scannell Reports...

CONGO SOLDIER REMEMBERED

On Sunday September 15th 2012, Post 21 of the Irish United Nation Veterans Association held a monument unveiling and wreath laying ceremony in St. Oliver Plunkett's Church, Grangecon, Co. Wicklow, to the memory of Cpl. Michael Nolan, from the Knockadoo area of Grangecon, who was killed in the Congo on September 15th 1961 while on U.N. service with the Irish Defence Forces. Cpl. Nolan was born and raised in the Grangecon area and after working for a spell in England, joined the Irish army in 1958 and was stationed at Plunkett Barracks in the Curragh Camp with the 1st Motor Squadron until his deployment to 35th Battalion to the Congo in July 1961. On September 15th 1961 a patrol en route to radio station in Elizabethville, Congo, came under attack. The armoured car in which Cpl. Nolan was travelling was struck by anti-tank projectile and he and Patrick Mullins were killed. Mullins, whose body was never recovered, was aged 19, and Nolan 22.

ULSTER COVENANT CENTENARY

On Friday September 28th 2012 members of the Democratic Unionist Party and the Ulster Unionist Party jointly hosted a special dinner in the conference room of the Titanic Belfast

building to celebrate Ulster Day - the day in 1912 when 237,368 men signed the Ulster Covenant pledging to "by all means to resist Home Rule" and 234,046 women made a similar declaration. People can check to see if any of their ancestors signed the Ulster Covenant by logging onto the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland website www.proni.gov.uk and then go to the 'Search the Ulster Covenant' link.

NEW BOOK ON DUBLIN'S FAMOUS MOORE STREET

Dublin's Moore Street has long held a special place in the hearts of Irish people. Whether playing host to its local customers, or to the generations of country people who visit the area at Christmas, the market is as synonymous with Dublin as coddle or a pint of porter. Now for the first time, *'Moore Street: The Story of Dublin's Market District - A fully illustrated, behind the scenes look at Dublin's Iconic Market District, including its buildings, people and industry'* by Barry Kennerk, with a foreword by RTE's Joe Duffy, published by Mercier Press, it recounts the history of the entire market area, charting its growth and development since the eighteenth century - the real 'heart of the rowel'. In addition to his detailed research on the area, author Barry Kennerk has also

interviewed many people associated with the market about their experience including, Bill Cullen, P.J. Gallagher and Keith Duffy. During November there will also be an exhibition entitled *'Through Streets Broad and Narrow, The Changing Face of Moore Street Market'* on view from November 19th to November 30th 2012 comprising images used in this book in the Dublin exhibition room, Dublin City Library & Archives, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Author Barry Kennerk is a member of the Genealogical Society of Ireland and a post-graduate student affiliated with St Patrick's College, Drumcondra. His previous book, *'Shadow of the Brotherhood'* was published in 2010 by Mercier Press. He works at the Children's University Hospital, Temple Street, Dublin. He is married with two children and lives in Ashbourne, County Meath

FOUNDER OF IRISH CHRISTIAN BROTHERS HONOURED

Dublin's National Convention Centre was venue on Saturday October 19th 2012 for a special event to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Edmund Rice, founder of the Irish Christian Brothers. The estimated attendance of over 1,000 included Christian Brothers, their past pupils and men who had been in institutions run by the congregation as children.

Précis of the October Lecture

On Tuesday October 9th 2012 **Daire Guidera** and **Emily Moore** of the Registry of Deeds delivered a very interesting lecture on the topic *'The Registry of Deeds as an aide to the Genealogist'*. This lecture was unusual as it was unexpectedly delivered in a seminar style which generated a very enthusiastic interaction from a full house. The speakers explained the range and purpose of the various records held by the Registry of Deeds and, in particular, they outlined the type and level of 'homework' one must do before visiting the Registry of Deeds. The speakers went through the various catalogue and indexation systems employed by the Registry of Deeds since it was established in 1708. Examples of each of the records were available for inspection and a very helpful handout was distributed to all in attendance. A copy of this handout, which outlines the various

resources and finding aides, has been uploaded to the Society's website and may be accessed under **Research Information** listed in the panel to the right on the Home Page. The speakers fielded an assortment of questions from those who were familiar with the resources and from the many others in attendance that have yet to visit this unique repository.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

On **Tuesday November 13th** - *Richard Griffith (1784-1878), Public Servant, Valuator and Geologist* by **Dr. Patrick N Wyse Jackson**. On **Tuesday December 11th** - *The Archives of the Royal Dublin Society - some Recent Developments* by **Natasha Serne**. All the Society's 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

MINISTER DONATES ATLAS

The Board of the Society wish to record its sincere appreciation to the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, **Mr., Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, for his kind donation of a copy of the *'Atlas of the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1852'* (ISBN: 9781859184790 : H/bk : 728pp : Price: €59.00) to the Society's Archives & Research Centre. Published by Cork University Press and edited by John Crowley, William J. Smyth & Mike Murphy of the university's Geography Department, it is simply a wonderful gift to the Society. In his review of this monumental publication, Prof. Kevin Whelan, states it "offers a powerful, unflinching and coherent understanding of the Irish Famine as the defining event in Irish history" and that its "unparalleled assemblage of new maps, old images and extensive documentation offers a brilliant teaching aid for the history of Ireland and of the Irish diaspora". For info. on the Atlas see: <http://corkuniversitypress.com>

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 Sauderson, 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 Nov. 13th & Dec. 11th 2012

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Nov. 28th 2012 & Jan. 23rd 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)

SLIGO & WESTMEATH

Two excellent additions to the county-based research guides produced by FlyLeaf Press were published recently. These county guides provide a level of detailed information on the resources for each county that is difficult to find elsewhere and therefore, they are highly recommended for those with ancestral links to the counties covered by the series. Indeed, for those wishing to research the lives and times of their ancestors to provide that much cherished 'family history narrative' this county based guides are an invaluable resource. The latest in the series are: *'Tracing your Sligo Ancestors'* by **James G. Ryan** and published by **Flyleaf Press** (ISBN13: 978-1-907990-04-5 : 160pp : illustrated (b/w) : p/bk : Price: €13.00). Sligo is a maritime county in the Northwest of Ireland, perhaps most famous for its scenery and as the home of the poet W.B. Yeats. Sligo families are a mixture of native Gaelic families, and of some Cromwellian settlers who arrived in the 17th century. Common names include Scanlon, O'Healy, Brennan, Gallagher, O'Hara, O'Gara, O'Dowd, Kelly, Burke, Boland, McDonnell, McDonagh, Conlon, Breheny, Kelly, Feeney, Gallagher, Gilmartin, McGowan, (O)Hart, Higgins, Connor/ O'Connor, McDonagh, Walsh, Egan and (O)Crian. The main 'gentry' families in the county are Cooper, Crofton, Gore, Nicholson, Ormsby, Parke, Phibbs, Irwin and Wood. It is one of the counties which experienced a high level of emigration to North America and elsewhere, and the port of Sligo was a major port of embarkation during the mass exodus of the famine period. Launched at the same time as the above, *'Tracing your Westmeath Ancestors'* by **Greta Connell** (ISBN13: 978-1-907990-03-8 : 160pp : illustrated (b/w) : p/bk : Price: €13.00) is, yet another, excellent guide. Westmeath, often referred to as the 'Lake County', is a prosperous midland county whose main towns are Athlone and Mullingar. The major Gaelic families in the county include O'Flanagan, MacAuley, MacGeoghegan, Brennan, O'Coffey, O'Mulleady, O'Finlan, O'Growney, O'Melaghlin and O'Daly. Later Norman arrivals included DeLacy, Plunkett, Nugent, Tuite, Petit, Delamar, and Dalton, and later still English adventurer families to arrive included Ledwich, Dardis and Gaynor. The lives and activities of these various peoples of Westmeath have generated a huge variety of records, many of which can be useful to the family historian. These two publications explain what records exist and how to use them to your best advantage in the exploration of the many facets of your family's history in either county. Checkout the website: www.flyleaf.ie

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

Weekend Genealogy Courses will recommence on **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 info. contact John Hamrock by phone on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

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, the wonderful commitment of those who take up adult education courses in genealogy is recognised by a similar 50% reduction on the standard membership rate—that's right, Student Membership for just €20.00. See GSI website.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

At its November 2012 meeting the Board agreed that the Society's Archives and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier (Old Mail-Boat Pier) in Dún Laoghaire, will be open until Saturday December 15th 2012 as follows: **Wednesdays** from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except the 4th Weds. open 13.00hrs) and on **Saturdays** from 14.00hrs 18.00hrs. The Monday evening opening will be most likely restored in the spring. The closure period for **Christmas and New Year** will be as follows: closing at 18.00hrs on December 15th 2012 and reopening at 10.30hrs on Wednesday January 5th 2013. For directions see www.familyhistory.ie

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.books4vijecnica.com

BRATACHA 2013

The Steering Group for *Bratacha 2013* is as follows: Chairperson: **John Paul Durkan**, National Maritime Museum (NMMI); Event Sec.: **Frances Fletcher**, Dún Laoghaire Comm. Assoc.; Financial Controller: **Billy Saunderson**, GSI; Marketing & PR: **Peter Fry**; Programme Manager: **Tom Conlon**, GSI; Harbour Events: **Gerry Dunne**, CEO, Dún Laoghaire Harbour Co.; School/Arts Events: **Veronica Heywood**, Éigse Laoghaire; Lectures Coordinator: **Ciarán M. Hurley**; DLRCoCo Liaison: **Tim Carey**, Heritage Officer; Genealogical Events & County Steering Group Rep., **Michael Merrigan** (GSI); **Fiona Fitzsimons**, Eneclann & Findmypast Ireland; **Neale Richmond**, European Movement Ireland, **Breasal Ó Caollaí**, **Barney Yourell** (NMMI) and **Gary Mooney**, Irish Model Boat Club. See GSI website.

WHO ARE THE IRISH?

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'*. This detailed guide has thorough descriptions of all the relevant sources and very useful county-by-county reference listings—all much expanded, fully updated and indexed. See: www.gillmacmillan.com - Price €22.99 [RRP]