



Cumann Genealaíis na hÉireann

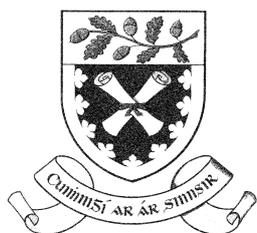
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**

**HERALDRY**

**VEXILLOLOGY**

**SOCIAL HISTORY**

**Heritage Matters**

**Book Reviews**

**Open Meetings**

**News & Queries**



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## Europe's Shame 20 Years On

On Sunday August 26th 2012, the last day of our nationwide celebration of Heritage Week in Ireland, our fellow Europeans in the ancient city of Sarajevo will recall the day when they lost an enormous part of their archival heritage. During the four-year long siege of Sarajevo (1992-95) the Vijećnica building, which housed the National and University Library in Sarajevo, was repeatedly shelled by the Yugoslav and afterwards by the Serbian army. In late August 1992 Serbian forces targeted the National Library building which housed invaluable collections brought together in 1945 from a number of older institutions throughout the city of Sarajevo. On August 26th 1992 around two million publications and more than six thousand invaluable and extremely rare manuscripts, books and documents were completely destroyed in the fire. The sight of the burning of the National and University Library in Sarajevo horrified the civilised world and indeed, it was reminiscent of the Nazi public book burnings of the 1930s. The renowned British journalist, broadcaster and political scientist, Dr. Robert Fisk, writing in *The Independent* (London) on June 20th 1994 described the systematic destruction of the architectural and cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina as 'a cultural catastrophe for

Europe'. He quoted Professor Branka Sulc of the Croatian Museum in Zagreb who used the term 'culturecide' to describe what happened in this part of the former Yugoslavia. Churches, mosques, monasteries and libraries were razed to the ground during the bitter civil war that followed the break-up of Yugoslavia. These included the Oriental Institute with its priceless collection of Jewish and Islamic manuscripts and the National and University Library of Sarajevo. Brave staff at the Library and ordinary citizens only managed to save circa 10% of the collection. The staff working in the Vijećnica evacuated parts of the remaining book collection to various locations in the city, including bomb shelters, basement rooms, university buildings or other cultural centres. This is not just an enormous loss to Bosnia and Herzegovina it is undoubtedly a war crime under the Hague Convention of 1954 which states that the deliberate destruction of cultural monuments is a war crime. The terrible sight of the historic Vijećnica building engulfed in flames brought home to many Europeans the urgent need to protect our shared cultural heritage. In Ireland this catastrophic loss in Sarajevo was painfully reminiscent of the burning of our Public Records Office in Dublin in 1922 at the start of the Irish Civil War (1922-23). Manuscripts and documents, some dating back to the twelfth century,

and the census returns for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, were all lost forever. The fundamental principle of inclusivity and diversity is at the heart of the European project and indeed, it is hard to forget that this principle was wrought from the shared experience of the horror and destruction of successive European wars, the last of which, is yet to be fully resolved in the Balkans. The terrible disaster that befell the peoples of the Balkans was greatly exacerbated by the shameful failure of Europe to respond in a timely and coherent manner to a crisis unfolding on our own doorstep. The 20th anniversary of the burning of the National & University Library in Sarajevo offers the European Union a unique opportunity to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our shared European archival heritage through an act of atonement and solidarity by assisting with the restocking of the National & University Library at Sarajevo (see page 4). As Ireland assumes the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union in January 2013, and noting our own experience in 1922, promoting greater public accessibility and awareness of our shared European archival heritage and its preservation must surely be firmly on the agenda for Minister Jimmy Deenihan during his term as President of the Council of Culture Ministers.

## Heritage Week 2012 & Other Events

The motto for **National Heritage Week** is 'Bí i do chuid de!' or in English 'Be part of it. It's part of you!' is certainly very apt for genealogy. Therefore, during National Heritage Week, which runs from **August 18th to 26th 2012**, the Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan**, MGSI, has arranged for the GSI Archives and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier (Old Mail-Boat Pier) in Dún Laoghaire, be open from 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs each day providing family history

research advice, free of charge, to the visitors to the facility. Currently it is open on **Monday** evenings from 18.00hrs to 21.00hrs (except Bank Holidays); on **Wednesdays** from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except the 4th Weds. open 13.00hrs) and on **Saturdays** from 14.00hrs 18.00hrs. Also, as part of the Society's **Outreach Programme**, the GSI Director of Education & Social Inclusion, **John Hamrock**, MGSI, will deliver a talk at the **Mount Merrion Historical Society** meeting on **August 21st** at 19.30hrs and our Senior Librarian,

**Fiona Tipple**, MA, MGSI, will deliver a talk at the **Kilmacud and Stillorgan Historical Society** on **August 24th** at 1930hrs during National Heritage Week. See: www.heritageweek.ie Other events in the Society's calendar include **Culture Night** on September 21st in the Dublin City Library & Archives; **Social Inclusion Week** in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown from October 13th to 20th and a much expanded stand for the **Back To Our Past** event at the RDS, Dublin, from Oct. 12th to 14th 2012.

## The Inishkea Journals

Few will have heard of the remote islands of Inishkea (*Inis Gé*, Thuaidh agus Theas—Inishkea, North and South) off the County Mayo coast. The islands are named for the large numbers of Barnacle Geese (Irish *Gé* 'goose') that winter on the islands after their sojourn in Greenland during the spring and summer months. Fewer still will know anything of their rich archaeological heritage or of their once thriving communities. However, the chance discovery of a selection of diaries in the archives of the Royal Irish Academy has provided a surprisingly vivid and unique window into a bygone world off Ireland's rugged Atlantic coast. What is even more intriguing is the authorship of these seven diaries or personal notebooks which date from 1937-8, 1946 and 1950. French art historian, Françoise Henry, was one of the most important twentieth-century historians of Irish art, especially early medieval Irish art, an interest that was heavily influenced by her mentors at the *École du Louve* and the Sorbonne in Paris. The first four larger notebooks are written almost entirely in French with the others primarily in English. They have been carefully translated and notated as *'Françoise Henry in Co. Mayo—The Inishkea Journals'* edited by Janet T. Marquardt and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-374-9 : 176pp : Colour Ills. : P/bk Price €14.95). Marquardt describes the discovery of these notebooks as 'a serendipitous find' given Henry's primary purpose for visiting Inishkea was archaeological. Surprisingly, along with technical notes on the archaeology, the contents of these notebooks could also be described as anthropological, cultural, linguistic, environmental and social observations and commentaries. The form of these wonderful journals is, according to Marquardt, 'unstructured' as they record, for example, amongst other things, the

people Henry met and the things they said; the appearance of the striking landscapes and seascapes; her impressions attending a wake and a burial; and, in many cases, intimate details on a world so distant and so different from her own. Many of the people Henry met on Inishkea only spoke Irish and therefore, she relied on her friend, Máirín Bean Uí Dhálaigh, who accompanied her for translations. She is perplexed to see fisherman taking about their catch and that 'they can read the English papers and yet do not speak English'. Marquardt notes that 'some of Henry's characterizations of people can be read as unflattering' employing 'a very metaphorical and descriptive prose that borders upon exaggeration and caricature at times' but nevertheless 'shows a great deal of affection for the people'. This certainly comes to the fore when she describes the personalities of each of the islanders she met or, indeed, employed on her archaeological excavations. In what we would describe today as remarkably detailed 'pen pictures' we are introduced to the islanders and their world as if Henry was setting the scene for a novel, intriguing, captivating and yet, we are conscious of the prism, through which, Henry discovers and observes a 'simpler', even 'primitive' community. Nevertheless warmth and humour abound as she describes, for example, a political tussle over the tricolour between north and south Inishkea, the former for Dev and the latter for Cosgrave, or when one of her workers 'asked for a morning off... to claim his unemployment allowance at Blacksod'. Marquardt's research brought together many photographs she believes are associated with the text of the journals and, indeed, invites readers to identify many of the people in them. Without doubt, Marquardt's 'serendipitous find' in the RIA is a wonderful resource for many studies, not least, for those researching Inishkea ancestry. *MM*

## MILITARY ARCHIVES

A new on-line resource was officially launched on Tuesday August 7th 2012 by Minister Jimmy Deenihan. The Bureau of Military History files provide an enormous resource for genealogists, social and local historians. Once only accessible to academic researchers by appointment, this important collection covering the turbulent period of 1913 to 1921 is now publicly accessible on-line. It includes 1773 witness statements, 334 sets of contemporary documents (diaries, pamphlets, photographs, letters, dispatches, drawings and sketches, posters, legal documents, newspaper clippings, commemorative publications and ephemera), 42 individual photograph collections, 210 photographs of action sites during Easter Week taken subsequently by the Air Corps, 12 voice recordings, and a collection of press cuttings. For further info. see: [www.militaryarchives.ie](http://www.militaryarchives.ie)

## CEMETERY PROJECT 2012

The Director of Cemetery Projects, Barry O'Connor, FGSI, is seeking volunteers for a 'one-day' transcription project in the ancient County Wicklow cemetery of Killadreenan (*Cill Achaidh Draighnigh*) near Newtown Mountkenedy. Barry is planning to have the transcription of the memorials in this cemetery completed in the same day and he has chosen Saturday September 1st 2012 as 'project day'. Volunteers are asked to bring garden gloves and shears with them to access some of the headstones. Interested in helping out? Please contact Barry on [btoc@esatclear.ie](mailto:btoc@esatclear.ie)

## BACK ISSUES OF THE GAZETTE

All issues of 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' from 2006 onwards are available on the Society's website

## OMBUDSMAN'S REPORT ON THE GRO

The Ombudsman's investigation report *'Hidden History? The Law, the Archives and the General Register Office'* has been welcomed by the Society. It appears that the GRO is now committed to engaging with other public bodies to explore options for facilitating the public's right to inspect certain of its records. The report arose from a complaint by a member of the public relating to difficulties in accessing historical records of the GRO. The primary concern of the Ombudsman's office was to examine the actions of the GRO in relation to its administration of the law and to clarify whether a right of public access existed to births, deaths and marriage records held by the GRO. Although, the Ombudsman's office examined the historical background, it is important that any historical narrative presented in such a report is

complete. There is no mention of this Society's 1997 innovative proposal on the 'historic records' of the GRO which was published in detail in January 2000. It also raised at a Public Meeting held in Dublin on August 7th 1999. This proposal simply sought to have microfilm copies of the 'historic records' of the GRO (over 70 years of age) made available to the public, *free of charge*, in the National Library (NLI) *and* the National Archives (NAI). The objective of the proposal was to free up space in the GRO to allow that office deal with its core functions while, at the same time, widening access to the GRO records for genealogical research. This Society's proposal was not supported by the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI). Likewise there is no mention in the Ombudsman's report of the Heritage Coun-

cil's (HC) proposal *'The Provision of Genealogical Services in Ireland'* (ISBN 1-901137-21-x) which was finally published in February 2000, although it was presented to the Minister in 1998. The HC's proposal sought to have copies of the census records held in the NAI and the microfilms of the parish registers held in the NLI, both which were accessible *free of charge* in these repositories, and the 'historic records' of the GRO transferred to a new *'pay-for-view'* facility in Dublin (p.86) with APGI included on its Management Board (p.83, 8.3). Public access was to cost Ir£10 per day or Ir£5 per half day (p.100, 7.1). The HC's proposal was rejected by the Directors of the NLI and NAI. It was also rejected in Dáil Éireann by the Minister Síle de Valera. For the text of the Ombudsman's report see: [www.ombudsman.ie](http://www.ombudsman.ie)

## Irish DNA Atlas Project

The interest in this joint academic research project undertaken by Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and the Society continues to grow. 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 and provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. The response from certain areas of the country

was excellent, however, the project is particularly interested in people with ancestry along all coastal areas and the midlands. 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. Even though matters are progressing well Séamus seeks more participants for the project. He will accept suitable participants, male or female, with ancestry from any part of Ireland meeting the criteria regarding their eight great grandparents. If you're interested in participating in this unique research project please contact Séamus on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, checkout the project newsletter on the Society's website.

## MARITIME HERITAGE

The National Maritime Institute of Ireland will host a Heritage Week seminar on **Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> 2012** starting at 12.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire Club, Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Special Guest, Dr. Luis Gorrochatequi Santos from Spain, will speak on 'The greatest naval catastrophe in England's history'. Other speakers include Dr. Michael Kennedy, Royal Irish Academy; Garda Diver Peter Brady; Auriel Robinson DAHG and Terry Cummins of the Irish Naval Association. Topics include: *'The Kowloon Bridge and her sisters'*, *'The Battle of the Atlantic from a West of Ireland view'*, *'Early navigation in Ireland'*, *'Maritime archaeology of Sligo Harbour and Bay'* and *'Captain Bligh and Dublin Bay'*.

# James Scannell Reports...

## SILVER BULLION RECOVERED

During July 2012 Odyssey Marine Exploration, pioneers in the field of deep-ocean exploration, announced that it had successfully recovered approximately 48 tons of silver bullion (1203 bars of silver weighing 1.4M troy ounces) from the British cargo ship *SS Gairsoppa*, torpedoed by a German submarine in 1941, and now lying in 3 miles of water under the North Atlantic about 100 miles off the Irish coast. The salvage operation is being carried out in accordance with a contract awarded by the UK's Department of Transport under which Odyssey Marine Exploration bears the risk of search and recovery and retains 80% of the net salvaged value of the *SS Gairsoppa's* silver cargo and after recovering its expenses. The quantity of silver bars recovered so far amounts to 43% of the insured silver bars or approximately 20% of the total silver cargo which research has indicated may be on board. The recovery of silver from the vessel's cargo area is still continuing.

## CORK HONOURS ACTIVIST

At the end of July 2012 a series of events were held in Cork to honour Mary Harris, born 1837, and known in the USA as 'Mother Jones' where, when she was aged 60, became involved the U.S. labour movement and was one of the

co-founders of the Industrial Workers of the World Trades Union and was active in organising union campaigns in a number of states and was dubbed 'the most dangerous woman in America'. The events included the unveiling of special memorial plaque to her in John Redmond Street near Shandon in Cork City.

## BRAY UNKNOWNNS

In the 1930s and 1940s the 'Bray Unknownns' was a very successful football team in north Co. Wicklow and south Co. Dublin. Brian Kenna (Tel: +353.1. 286 8495) is currently collecting information on this team and in particular on Paddy Montgomery who was capped for Ireland in the 1930s.

## AUD'S ANCHORS RECOVERED

On Tuesday June 20th 2012 two anchors were recovered from the wreck of the German vessel *Liblau* which has been disguised as the Norwegian vessel *Aud* to smuggle 20,000 rifles, machine guns and ammunition from imperial Germany to Ireland for use by the Irish Volunteers during the Easter Week 1916 Rising. The anchors were recovered from 36 metres of water in Cork Harbour by a team of divers led by Eoin McGarry from Dungarvan, Co. Waterford, and Laurence Dunne from Tralee, Co.

Kerry. It was originally the British vessel *SS Castro* and it was sailing through the Kiel Canal in August 1914 when the United Kingdom declared war on Germany and was seized by the Germans authorities and subsequently renamed *Liblau*. On April 9<sup>th</sup> 1917 *Liblau* disguised as the neutral Norwegian *Aud* sailed from Lubeck in Germany with a concealed consignment of 20,000 rifles, 10 machine-guns and 5M rounds of ammunition for Ireland but lacked a radio so was unaware of various changes to the operation while at sea. The [British] Admiralty were aware of the voyage of this gun running ship and monitoring its activities. When it arrived off the Co. Kerry coast on April 21st 2012 it was unable to unload its cargo as intended. The vessel was arrested the following day by two Royal Navy warships, it was brought under escort to Cork Harbour for a thorough examination in the port. Before entering the harbour, the captain, realizing that the concealed cargo would be discovered, hoisted the German naval battle ensign and then scuttled the ship. The lifting of the anchors took about two hours and once out of the water were lowered on the *Ron Corrig* which brought them ashore where they were placed in special tanks and transported to Kerry where they will undergo a three-year conservation process and will be ready for public display for the centenary of the Easter Rising in 2016.

## Précis of the July Lecture

On Tuesday July 10<sup>th</sup> 2012 members were treated to a wonderfully illuminating talk by **Edmond Ross** on 'The Care and Restoration of old Family Photographs'. Family photographs are enormously important to the genealogist as they provide much more than a simple image of an ancestor as they tell a story in themselves. Information not gleaned from any of the usual documentary records can become apparent in a photograph. Social standing or aspiration, cherish possessions or important life events are recorded in old photographs. Chances are that many of our old photographs are cracked, faded, scratched or even torn and very delicate to handle. Edmund Ross explained the process of restoration and assured members that nothing actually happens to the original image. The original image is photographed using specialised techniques, under very special conditions

in his studios. After the photography, the post-production process, according to Mr. Ross, plays an absolutely essential part in the final result. He explained the delicate processes, including matching the original tones and using archival photographic paper for use in the new prints. Mr. Ross explained that each client gets back their original photograph as received together with the new prints looking just as they did when photographed, in some cases, over a century ago. To explain his techniques, Mr. Ross brought the meeting through the process using examples of commissions his firm undertook over many years. He pointed out the many other pieces of information that may be hidden in an old faded or badly damaged photograph, for example, the style of clothes, background images, pictures and ornaments etc. According to Mr. Ross these elements can help to more

accurately date the photo and provide further information on the subjects. It was an excellent talk and a lively and very informative Q+A followed. For further information on Edmond Ross photography see: [www.edmundross.com](http://www.edmundross.com)

## ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR

An Oral History Training Seminar will be held at the Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2 on **Saturday August 18th 2012** between 10.00hrs and 16.30hrs. It will be delivered by the Oral History Network of Ireland in partnership with the DCLA. It aims to equip participants with methodological skills in structuring and carrying out their own oral history projects. Participants will be introduced to the main elements in the design and implementation of oral history projects including ethical issues and use of recording equipment, and will receive practical 'hands on' training in interviewing techniques. Suitable for those interested in folklore, local and family history. Booking required: telephone (01) 674 4806 or E-mail [dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie](mailto:dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie)

## GSI Membership Package for 2012

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 3, 2011. It was agreed under **Res: 11/11/689** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2012 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2012 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household member with voting rights; Membership Certificate [**Res: 11/09/859**]; right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter by e-mail; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club, School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations;

occasional group projects; Members' internet forum (under construction); genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised genealogy courses etc. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2012 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date. **NOTE:** In accordance with **Res: 10/09/785** all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Certificate for details. Membership can be obtained or renewed on [www.familyhistory.ie](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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### **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 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).

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[www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)



### **DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Aug. 14th & Sept. 11th 2012

#### **Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday Aug. 22nd & Sept. 26th 2012

#### **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)

## **BRATACHA 2013**

The Society in conjunction with the National Maritime Museum of Ireland and Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council will host an international symposium on the history, heritage and culture of flags and emblems next year as part of the nationwide celebration of 'The Gathering'. The event will centre on **Europe Day**, Thurs. May 9th and run until Sat. May 11th 2013 and feature lectures, workshops, exhibitions, family history stands and public displays. Coinciding with Ireland's presidency of the European Union, *Bratacha 2013*, ['bratacha' Irish for flags or banners] will delve into the history and meaning of the flags and emblems of the member states of the European Union and of the Council of Europe. This inaugural event will explore Ireland's heraldic heritage and the use of coats-of-arms today by sporting bodies, schools, colleges, professional bodies, local authorities, clan associations, organisations and companies throughout Ireland. Themes such as 'Flags & Insignia of Battle', 'Trades Unions – Banners & Flags of Protest & Syndication', and aspects of our political history in 'Flags of Aggression, Rebellion, Dissent, Unity and Reconciliation' will be explored. The theme 'Flag Wavers & Followers' will examine ways of researching genealogical links with historical events and movements. The flags and emblems associated with our rich and varied military history will, hopefully, involve veterans' organisations, military historians, commemorative organisations and the Irish Defence Forces. *Bratacha 2013* will be an opportunity for the development of an interdisciplinary exploration of the history, heritage and culture of flags and emblems involving academics, students, historical societies, trades unions, heraldists, genealogists and our national cultural institutions. *Bratacha 2013* aims to bring the fascinatingly colourful and skilful artistry associated with the design, creation and formal use of flags and emblems to the public. Further info. will be posted on the GSI website and on [www.facebook.com/bratacha.2013](http://www.facebook.com/bratacha.2013)

### **FOUR COURTS PRESS**

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## **NEW WEEKEND COURSES ANNOUNCED**

A brand new series of the very successful Weekend Genealogy Courses will commence on **September 22nd 2012**. 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 Society's 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](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

### **MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND**

If you're researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine of these countries you may find it useful to your family history research to checkout the website and resources of Medal Society of Ireland on [www.msos.ie](http://www.msos.ie)

## **OUR ON-LINE SHOP**

The Society's on-line shop is hosted on the very popular **ABEBOOKS** offering many titles that are unavailable elsewhere. The Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership, **Tom Conlon**, **MGSI**, is currently expanding the range to include journals, memorial inscriptions and the Irish Genealogical Sources series, some of which, will be downloadable pdf versions of out-of-print publications. Please take a moment to checkout Society's on-line shop on the Society's website.

### **20th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL**

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—just over seventy years after we lost our Public Records Office during our bitter Civil War. We all fully appreciate how much of a loss this was to Ireland's archival heritage ninety years ago this month. That is why 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@uns.ba](mailto:izdavacka.djelatnost@uns.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.books4vijeknica.com](http://www.books4vijeknica.com)

## **GSI LECTURES 2012**

On **Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup>** - *The Records of the Irish Railway Records Society* by **Norman E. Gamble**. On **Tuesday September 11<sup>th</sup>** - *The Records of the Royal Irish Academy as a Resource for the Family History Researcher* by **Siobhán Fitzpatrick**. On **Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup>** - *The Registry of Deeds as Aide for the Genealogist* by **Dara Guidera** and **Emily Moore**. On **Tuesday November 13<sup>th</sup>** - *Richard Griffith (1784-1878), Public Servant, Valuator and Geologist* by **Dr. Patrick N Wyse Jackson**. On **Tuesday December 11<sup>th</sup>** - *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](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

**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](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) - Price €22.99 [RRP]