



Cumann Seinealais na hÉireann

# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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**GENEALOGY**  
**HERALDRY**  
**VEXILLOLOGY**  
**SOCIAL HISTORY**  
**Heritage Matters**  
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## Much Debate and No Decision

In the week leading up to the 90th anniversary of the needless destruction of the Public Records Office in Dublin at the start of our Civil War, the future of our national cultural institutions was hotly debated in both Houses of the Oireachtas (Irish Parliament). Teachtaí Dála (MPs) and Senators weighed up the pros and cons of the government's proposed merger of the National Archives, Irish Manuscripts Commission and the National Library. The debate, over two evenings on June 26th and 27th, in Dáil Éireann certainly generated more heat than light with charges of 'political opportunism' levied to a chorus of localisms and irrelevancies from some deputies on all sides. This may well have satisfied many in the public gallery who were heard loudly applauding during the debate. In the end the Fianna Fáil motion, which championed 'the status quo but with further investment', was predictably defeated by a government amendment unsurprisingly confirming 'no further investment and no decision yet on status'. Regrettably, in an apparent repeat of the acrimony surrounding the 1996/7 debate on the then *National Cultural Institutions Bill*, unfounded accusations about the Minister's commitment to the arts and to these institutions entered the debate both inside and outside Leinster House. As we did back in 1996/7 in the case of the then

Minister and now President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, this Society totally condemns such negative campaign tactics as unnecessary and possibly, counterproductive. In contrast, the debate on June 27th in Seanad Éireann was a much more balanced and productive use of parliamentary time as Senators from both sides of the House raised important and pertinent questions on the proposed mergers of the national cultural institutions. Senators urged caution and stressed the need for a meaningful consultation process with all stakeholders, including the general public. Many Teachtaí Dála and Senators were unconvinced by the Minister's claim that 'extensive consultation' on the proposed merger had been undertaken by his department. Unfortunately, other than a wide ranging one-day seminar held in the National Library on Sept. 7th 2011, no meaningful public consultation has occurred on the merger. But this is hardly surprising as the government has not published any details on its proposed administrative or governance framework for the merged institutions. Amendments to the *National Archives Act, 1986* and the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, would be required to facilitate any merger, but no legislative proposals have been published by the Minister. The absence of any clear proposals on this issue from the Minister is inevitably fuelling speculation and creating an element of fear amongst the staff

and users of these institutions. The Minister would be well advised to formulate a number of options and to conduct a process of meaningful public consultation on such. Therefore, a clear statement on the rationale for the proposed merger, including a cost benefit analysis, must be issued by the Minister, for without such, the proposal lacks any credibility whatsoever. In April 2010 this Society proposed a pathway that would have effectively removed these institutions from the straightjacket of the original 2008 budgetary decision by focussing on improving and updating the legislation underpinning each institution. This Society proposed exploring the prospect of 'legislative amalgamation' which would provide for the maintenance of the separate identities and functions of each institution. Updating and improving the *National Archives Act, 1986* and the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, would have involved a wide ranging public consultation process involving all stakeholders. A clear vision for the future of these important national cultural institutions is required and should have been formulated before agreeing to proceed with any merger. For example, what about the long-standing issue of a suitable premises for the National Archives? Could not the soon to be vacated Irish Central Bank building on Dame Street be a viable option?

## FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH ADVICE

Thinking of starting to research your own family history? Don't know where to start or what resources are available to you? Never mind, the Society is on hand to help beginners develop a personal family history research plan. The Society offers *free* family history research advice at the GSI Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, at the Carlisle Pier (Old Mail-Boat Pier) in Dún Laoghaire on **Monday** evenings from 18.00hrs to 21.00hrs (except Bank Holidays);

on **Wednesdays** from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open 13.00hrs) and on **Saturdays** from 14.00hrs 18.00hrs during the months of July and August. Indeed, during National Heritage Week which runs from August 18th to 26th 2012, the Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan, MGS**, has arranged for the GSI Archives and Research Centre to be open from 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs each day providing family history research advice, free of charge, to the visitors to the facility. But why wait for Heri-

tage Week? Experienced researchers are on hand at the GSI Archives and Research Centre on the above days during July and August to help beginners plan their own personal research path by setting out clear objectives and by introducing them to the various on-line and other resources. Interested? So why not drop by for a chat on your own family history research plan? You'll always be most welcome. Directions to the GSI Archives and Research Centre are available on the Society's website.

## Colonial Ireland 1169-1369

Originally published in 1981, this new edition of *'Colonial Ireland 1169-1369'* by **Robin Frame** published by Four Courts Press (ISBN 978-1-84682-322-0 : 196pp : p/bk : Price €17.50) is revised and expanded illuminating the processes of conquest and colonisation following the Anglo-Norman invasion of 1169. Interestingly the author, at the outset, makes particular note of nomenclature as the twelfth-century invaders are referred to as 'Anglo-Normans', their late medieval successors are 'English' or in certain contexts, 'the English of Ireland' which is how they described themselves. Frame, however, departs from the current practice in Ireland of using the Gaelic forms of Irish family names which he maintains 'can make medieval Ireland seem impenetrable to the uninitiated' and therefore, he uses the familiar English versions. This rather straightforward concern for the general reader is evident throughout the book with the provision of eight genealogical tables of the main Gaelic and Anglo-Norman families. The period explored by Frame is the first two hundred years of the English *'Lordship of Ireland'*. The Ireland of the period, he explains 'like most medieval societies, was highly regionalised; its political and military history cannot be viewed from Dublin in the way that the history of England is conveniently viewed from Westminster'. However, he clarifies this point by saying that 'we cannot hope to understand this period by gazing upon Ireland alone: the history of the lordship, though distinctive, frequently makes best sense when it is placed in a wider setting'. In this book, Frame devotes a chapter to each of his six central themes starting with the *'Invasion, 1169-1185'* where he challenges the reader to re-examine the traditional narratives and concepts of the 'invasion' or 'conquest' as both terms are, in fact, problematic. Contemporary sources for the period,

Frame argues, must be carefully assessed not merely for content but for purpose and for whom they were compiled. Interestingly he sees the initial invasion enterprise as largely a family affair which had much in common 'not just with eleventh century Norman enterprises is southern Europe, but also with the early infiltration of Norman influences into England and Scotland in the wake of royal marriages'. In his chapter on *'Colonial expansion and Irish resistance, 1185-1315'* Frame exposes the fragility of the initial successes which were largely achieved through localised alliances with Irish kings, in many cases, settling old scores with rivals. However, Frame shows that these alliances frequently came under severe strain through the Irish customs of kingship and inheritance where several claimants existed in contrast to the Anglo-Norman custom based on primogenitor. Nevertheless, the Irish resistance to the expansion of Anglo-Norman power ebbed and flowed over the period and ultimately produced the main Septs/Clans that survived until the collapse of Gaelic order in the seventeenth century. Frame provides an intriguing insight into the political mindset and the role of patronage that shaped events in his chapter on *'Royal policy towards Ireland, King John to Edward I'* where he importantly points out that 'the kings saw Ireland at all times as a detail in a broad and crowded canvas'. In his chapter on *'Settlement'* he explores the significance of the movement of 'lesser men from England and Wales to Ireland' which occurred on 'the heels of the military successes of the invaders' who were, by and large, drawn from an aristocratic elite. This chapter is of exceptional interest to genealogists and local historians as it deals with the ordinary tenant farmers, tradespersons and others that were, centuries later, fully absorbed into the general population. The chapter on *'English institutions'* deals

with the origin, function and development of many of the systems of governance, including law, that shaped early modern Ireland, and in some cases, are still with us today. In his chapter on *'War and society, 1315-1369'* Frame explores a tumultuous period of war, plague, famine, the shrinking of the 'colony' and the process of Gaelicization of the provincial colonial elites. In his *'Postscript'* Frame provides a thought provoking assessment of the legacy of this period and in his section on *'Further reading'* he both assists and encourages further research into many aspects of the history of medieval Ireland. Although this current volume deals with the period 1169-1369, Frame sees the century 1360-1460 as one of the most neglected in all Irish history. Hopefully, this excellent publication will encourage historians to rectify this situation. *MM*

### OUT AND ABOUT

On Tuesday June 5th 2012, the President of Ireland, Mr. Michael D. Higgins, performed the official re-opening of the wonderfully restored Mariner's Church which houses the National Maritime Museum in Dún Laoghaire. The Society was represented at the ceremony by our President, Rory Stanley, FGSI; Leas-Cathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden, MGSI and by other Directors, Fellows and Members. The Museum is now open to the public. For further information see: [www.mariner.ie](http://www.mariner.ie) On Thursday June 21st 2012 the Society was represented by our President, Rory Stanley, FGSI and Mrs. Roz Stanley, MGSI, and by Cathaoirleach, Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGSI and his daughter Niamh, at the celebrations to mark the 5th anniversary of the reopening under new management of the historic Royal Marine Hotel in Dún Laoghaire. For further information see: [www.royalmarine.ie](http://www.royalmarine.ie)

## Philanthropy

Following on from the main article in last month's *Gazette*, the Society is greatly encouraged by the government's commitment to developing and expanding the philanthropic environment in Ireland with the launch of the report by the Forum on Philanthropy and Fundraising on July 4th 2012 in the National Library of Ireland by An Taoiseach, **Enda Kenny TD** and Minister **Phil Hogan TD**. The report contains four main recommendations that will be implemented in the next four years. • A National 'Giving Campaign' aimed at the public, high net worth individuals and corporations in Ireland. • Improving the fiscal environment and incentivising greater giving. • Developing better fundraising capacity, education and training among not-for-profits. • Creating a National Social Innovation fund supported by the Government and the philanthropic sector. Speaking at the launch, the Taoiseach said "The Forum on Philanthropy and Fundraising is very much a public private partnership, bringing together as it does the major philanthropies, Fundrais-

ing groups and the relevant Government Departments and Agencies, to help shape and refine a strategy to develop Philanthropy and Fundraising and increase the investment in good causes in Ireland. While the impetus for this initiative has come from the not-for-profit sector, my Government is more than happy to support and help to drive this important initiative". Minister Phil Hogan added "I believe that Philanthropy and Fundraising can play a critical role in driving increased additional investment in the not-for-profit sector in Ireland. Not-for-profit organisations will play a key role in national renewal and will help to build a better Ireland. That is why I have provided over €1.1million this year to support the Forum's agenda. The full potential of Ireland's tradition of giving will now be realised as the culture and infrastructure of Irish philanthropy and fundraising will be transformed over the next four years." Hopefully, our national cultural institutions, in particular, will be major beneficiaries of these endeavours, however, other sectors such as health, education, heritage and sport all stand to gain from the success of this initiative. At the launch of the report, the Chairman of the Forum, **Frank Flannery** said "We are very fortunate in this country to have

such a strong support for the whole notion of helping and support for worthwhile causes. That support from Government, voluntary organisations and citizens will be vital to our success. Having studied what can be done in other countries and the structures proposed here, we believe this growth is entirely achievable." **Gerry Salone** CEO European Foundation Centre said "The Forum's commitment, in the depth of an economic recession, to establish a national giving campaign, to incentivise and facilitate citizens giving, to improve the skill set of non profits, and especially, the refreshing public-private partnership represented by the national social innovation fund reflects the cutting edge of philanthropic practice. Ireland has raised the bar and is surely setting a marker that should be emulated elsewhere in Europe at this critical time". The Forum noted that only 15% of donors in Ireland give in a regular planned fashion compared to 36% in the UK. The Forum also points to the benefits of this more structured approach, by encouraging a system of planned donations which are on average five times larger than spontaneous donations. Now we must establish a mechanism, by which, philanthropic actions can be officially recognised. [Source: [www.enviro.ie](http://www.enviro.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 has been considerable at home and overseas. There are many enquiries regarding participation and indeed, the numbers of participants actually meeting the criteria is surprisingly high. The main objectives of the project are to (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants are 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

to present a Birth Brief and to 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. Therefore, our Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, is seeking 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.

## JOAN LOGAN, MGSI

It is with great sadness that we learned of the death of our good friend and long-time member of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, Joan Logan, (née McGarry) on Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup> 2012. Joan died peacefully in St. Vincent's Private Hospital after a short illness. Joan was beloved wife of the late Jim and mother of the late Aileen. Joan is very sadly missed by her children, Deirdre, Brian and Siobhán, sons-in-law, daughter-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, her brother Robert, nieces, nephews, relatives and many friends, especially the members of the Society. Joan was laid to rest on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2012 in Deansgrange Cemetery following a funeral Mass at St. Michael's Church, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. RIP.

## James Scannell Reports...

### A NARROW ESCAPE

Historical Drogheda legal books dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth-centuries up to 1922 had a narrow escape from being destroyed by fire after they were moved from the old Carnegie Library in Fair Street in the District Court Clerks Office to the Drogheda Council's Offices only days before the former building where they has been previously stored, was damaged by fire on May 29<sup>th</sup> 2012. The books and other documents are now being examined by the Louth County Archivist who will present a report on them at a later date. It hoped that some of the documents will be on public display at some future time in Drogheda.

### 'DISSIDENTS'

Kilmainham Gaol, Dublin, was the location on Thursday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2012 for the launch of '*Dissidents – Irish Republican Women 1923 – 1941*' by Dr. Ann Matthews, published by Mercier Press. The guest speaker was Professor Vincent Comerford, Professor Emeritus of Modern History, NUI Maynooth. During the War of Independence more than 10,000 women were active in the Irish Republican cause, yet twenty years later by the early 1940s women had all but vanished from the national political landscape. In this sequel to her early highly

acclaimed work '*Renegades*', Ann Matthews examines the involvement of women in the Republican Movement between 1922 and 1941 and exposes how disagreements over the Anglo-Irish Peace Treaty [1921] split the loyalties of female Republicans. Despite the internment of over 600 women during the Civil War, she reveals how the effectiveness and membership of Cumann na mBan constantly declined until by the 1930s, it had become a footnote in Irish history. Ann Matthews, also looks in this remarkable book at how the splintering of the political Republican movement, and the rise of Fianna Fáil to power, effectively sidelined the majority of women in Irish politics with one the questions that she also asks is whether they were responsible for their own demise in the political arena, leaving future generations of Irish women without a foundation to build on.

### PARDONS FOR IDF DESERTERS

Mr. Alan Shatter, TD, Minister for Justice and Defence, has announced that legislation will be laid before Dáil Éireann to grant a pardon to members of the Irish Defence Forces who deserted from their units during 'the Emergency' [1939-45] and enlisted in the British armed forces to fight against the Germans and Japanese. At the end of 'the Emergency' they were banned from employment in the Civil

Service and Public Service under Emergency Powers Order 362 for period of seven years. While the issue of the IDF Emergency deserters has been mentioned in several books, Robert Widders book '*Spitting on a Soldiers Grave*' is one of the few books solely devoted the IDF deserters and contains interviews with several of them.

### POWERSCOURT SCHOOL

A special publication '*Celebrating Powerscourt National School – Old and New*' contains a wide range of articles about the school, its history, its past pupils and their memories over many decades, some of the families who have been associated with the school for three generations or more, plus a wonderful collection of photographs past and present. In May 2012 Powerscourt National School, which dates from the 1830s, relocated to a brand new school building in Enniskerry, Co. Wicklow. Copies of this fascinating book are available from the National School for just €10. For further information please contact the National School by e-mail [powerscourtnationalschool@eircom.net](mailto:powerscourtnationalschool@eircom.net)

### BACK ISSUES OF THE GAZETTE

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

## Précis of the June Lecture

On Tuesday 12th June 2012 members were treated to a very interesting lecture from a long-time friend of this Society, **Dr. James Ryan** of Flyleaf Press, on the topic '*Understanding Church Records and their value to Family History*'. Dr. Ryan's talk outlined the history and records of the main Irish churches—Roman Catholic; Church of Ireland (Anglican Communion); Presbyterian and Methodist, with some references to Quaker; Huguenot; Baptist and Jewish records. In his introduction Dr. Ryan explained that over 97% of the population of Ireland were members of these churches in 1861, with circa 80% of the entire population of the island of Ireland recorded as members of the Roman Catholic Church. Some churches, notably the Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland, are spread throughout the thirty-two counties of

Ireland while others, for example, the Presbyterian, Baptist and Methodist congregations are mainly found in large numbers only in the north-eastern counties of Ulster. Other churches are very local, he explained, Huguenots are mainly in four or five urban locations in the country and Jewish communities are found in only three cities—Dublin, Belfast and Cork. Dr. Ryan gave an overview of records of these churches which are important sources of information on their members. However, their survival and quality is varies considerably between the different churches, mainly due to historical rather than doctrinal reasons. Whether it was the Penal Laws against Roman Catholics or the restrictions on dissenting protestant congregations, it is very clear that the churches and their members were affected in dramatically different

ways by the events of Irish history; and therefore, their administrations differed in regard to the type of records that were maintained. The survival of the records, and their current availability, is also variable. Dr. Ryan briefly, yet quite comprehensive, described the history and administrative organisation of each church and the types of records kept, where they can be accessed and how these records may be best used for family history research. Although, many may feel that ecclesiastic history is far removed from the subject of genealogy, however, a broad knowledge of such is, as Dr. Ryan explained, very useful in our understanding of potential and limitations of church records for family history research. Dr. Ryan's own book on the subject '*Irish Church Records*' is highly recommended. For further information see: [www.flyleaf.ie](http://www.flyleaf.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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*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 Sanderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Sales, Marketing & Membership, On-Line Shop); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive, Irish DNA Atlas Project); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **John Hamrock** (Education & Social Inclusion) and **Eddie Gahan** (Research Information Services).

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

Tuesday July 10th &amp; Aug. 14th 2012

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday July 25th &amp; Aug. 22nd 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)

**WHO ARE THE IRISH?**

Who are the Irish? For many of us this question may appear to be either superficial or incredibly complex involving an examination of many aspects of a people, their culture and their achievements over the past two or three millennia or even more. Until recently researchers in many disciplines had to rely entirely on the historical and archaeological evidence in their attempts to answer this question. Yet, even amongst historians the accepted narratives on the origins of the Irish are being challenged with exciting new possibilities surrounding the arguments proffered by Profs. Barry Cunliffe and John J. Koch in *'Celtic from the West: Alternative Perspectives from Archaeology, Genetics, Language and Literature'* (Oxford, 2010. Oxbow Books : ISBN 978-1-84217-410-4 h/k : 384pp : 127 figs : £40 & US\$80). In his excellent review of this book, Colin Renfrew, makes the crucial point that 'if its principal assertion is upheld, [it] will prove to have significant consequences for the prehistory of Europe' as it 'explores the implications of the realization that the Celtic languages—and much of the accompanying assemblage of features which together constitute 'Celticity' - originated in the Atlantic zone at the western edge of Europe'. This book, according to Renfrew, challenges the long-held accepted narrative of immigrant peoples arriving from central Europe and beyond bringing the Celtic languages to western Europe, including Britain and Ireland, by suggesting that 'the early Celtic language (or languages), and perhaps other features shared by the inhabitants of the West, expanded from the Atlantic seaboard eastwards'. (*Cambridge Archaeological Journal* 21, no. 02 (2011): 327-328) However, the term 'Celtic' remains controversial, not only because its modern application, established by Edward Lhuyd in 1707, only applied to the various related languages spoken in Britain and Ireland, but more so because it became politicized in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with the uncomfortable connotations of 'aboriginal' and 'indigenous' causing concern to the establishment and within certain academics. Cunliffe and Koch may have firmly and confidently thrown down the gauntlet on this thorny issue and in doing so, they acknowledge the vitally important contribution geneticists can make to this debate. Indeed, not only this Society's academic research study on the *Irish DNA Atlas*, but others such as Ireland's DNA (see QR code above) can bring new and exciting evidence to the debate. Remember, inside all of us lies a hidden history, a story that only DNA can unlock. By having our DNA analysed we become part of the sweep of this huge story of 'Who are the Irish?'. Our origins, our ancestors, the people who made each and everyone of us will emerge from the shadows as DNA research reaches back into the darkness of the deep past – our own past, maybe even 'our Celtic past'. From a simple saliva sample scientists can trace our ancestry over many thousands of years and through new and developing technology, we can answer a fundamental question – where do we come from? Interested in participating? Please checkout the Society's website for further information on the *Irish DNA Atlas* project and the link to Ireland's DNA.

**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*[www.fourcourtpress.ie](http://www.fourcourtpress.ie)

Checkout the exciting 2012 Catalogue on-line

**GS I LECTURES 2012**

On **Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>** - *The Care and Restoration of old Family Photographs* by **Edmund Ross**. 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 **Siohán 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. For full directions to the venue by car and public transport (Dublin Bus and DART) are available on the Society's website: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) Also, on the Society's website is a précis of each of the lectures in the 2011 programme and as each of the issues of this *Gazette* are also available on the Society's website, the précis of each of the 2012 lectures may be accessed via the Society's website.

**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.msoui.eu](http://www.msoui.eu)

**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, MGS I**, 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@unsa.ba](mailto: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.books4vijeknica.com](http://www.books4vijeknica.com)

**WEEKEND GENEALOGY COURSES**

The Saturday Morning Genealogy Courses, provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.**, are designed to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other centres of research. Learn how to be your own researcher. All you need is curiosity and some expert guidance. Topics to be covered include the principles of genealogy, computers and the internet, place names and surnames, location and use of census, vital, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared with participants as they embark on the quest to trace their ancestors. Courses are held at the Society's Archive and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. For more info. please contact John Hamrock, MGS I by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

**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 wonderful guide book is now published in its fourth edition and, not surprisingly given the growth of genealogy on the Internet, it embraces online research as an essential part of any Irish family history project. Grenham includes detailed guides to Irish online records throughout the book, discussing the idiosyncrasies of the digital versions of sources and outlining research strategies. John Grenham's well-established and detailed guide has thorough descriptions of all the relevant sources and county-by-county reference lists—all expanded, updated and indexed. See: [www.gillmacmillan.com](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) - Price €22.99 [RRP]