



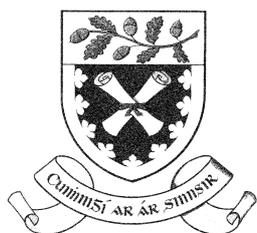
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(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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Philanthropy and our Archival Heritage

At the end of this month we have the 90th anniversary of the needless destruction of the Irish Public Records Office at the start of our Civil War in 1922 when over a thousand years of our nation's archival heritage went up in flames. This loss was not only Ireland's but, in fact, it was a huge section of our corpus of a wider and shared European archival heritage that was destroyed. Another event, this time in living memory, that brought home the fragility of our shared European archival heritage was the shelling in August 1992 of the National and University Library in Sarajevo during the Bosnian Civil War. Over two million ancient manuscripts and rare books were destroyed in Sarajevo. On Wednesday May 9th, our shared European archival heritage was discussed at an Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) Joint Committee where **Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, spoke on the European Union's 'Europeana Project'. The Minister described it as "one of the most prestigious initiatives endorsed by the European Commission". Europeana is an Internet portal acting as a single access point to millions of books, paintings, films, museum objects and archival records that have been digitised throughout Europe. The material comes from European cultural and scientific institutions. Europeana holds

20 million items from 1,500 institutions in 32 countries, of which almost one million are Irish. It offers arts and cultural institutions the opportunity to reach out to more users, increase their web traffic, enhance their users' experience and build new partnerships. Through Europeana, people can discover texts, images and audiovisual material, regardless of the country or institution in which they are held. (www.europeana.eu) All this is excellent, however, in these recessionary times how are such archival and heritage initiatives going to be funded nationally? The Minister explained that the [EU] Culture Fund provided €400 million between 2007 and 2013, of which Ireland received €2.2 million. The fund was available to 37 countries, member states and contiguous countries. In addition the Minister said that "we may get the money from business and philanthropy" and that he was about to launch "a small pilot programme intended to encourage people and to attract more philanthropy". A great deal of emphasis has been placed by the government on 'attracting philanthropy'. However, is the current emphasis on the potential availability of such funding overly ambitious or unrealistic? The Irish understanding of philanthropy may require considerable reassessment based not on an envy of the levels of philanthropy in the United States or attempts to emulate such, but aimed at creating a sustainable

home-grown philanthropic culture, in which, our diaspora can participate. Consideration should also be afforded to the question of how our Republic can officially recognize meritorious citizens and members of our diaspora for exceptional services to the State or for philanthropic actions benefiting the arts, heritage, education and other sectors of Irish life. A novel proposal by this Society to utilize the State's heraldic services was contained in its 'Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006, maybe, Minister Deenihan should consider this proposal as part of his plan to attract philanthropy. The Minister also advised the Joint Committee of a major event that he planned for Dublin Castle during the EU Presidency. It will show the influence of the Wild Geese in Europe. Dr. Declan Downey of UCD is organising the event and will bring together experts from all over Europe. Not alone will it show the influence of the Wild Geese in the political, military, medical, business and commercial spheres but also of Irish monasticism in Europe. For too long we have ignored the work of Irish monks and how they saved western civilisation, according to the Minister. This event will certainly be of interest to many genealogists and historians and hopefully, it will also strive to engage the general public in this discourse on Ireland and our shared European heritage.

NEW VENUE FOR MORNING MEETING

After six wonderfully successful and enjoyable years at Weir's of George's Street, Dún Laoghaire, the Society's Monthly Morning Open Meeting has moved to a new venue. Following the sale and subsequent unexpected closure of Weir's on Friday May 18th 2012, the Board moved quickly to identify a suitable premises for this very popular monthly event as the next date was just the following Wednesday May 23rd. The Board was absolutely delighted when an approach to the Royal Marine

Hotel in Dún Laoghaire was greeted enthusiastically by a management that fully understood and appreciated the importance of genealogy and heritage to tourism in the area. The Society held its first meeting in the historic **Royal Marine Hotel** on Wednesday May 23rd and the members present were full of praise for the venue and for its very attentive staff. Hardy's Bar in the hotel was the setting for the meeting as it will be on the fourth Wednesday of each month with the exception of December. The location of this landmark

hotel right in the centre of Dún Laoghaire makes it readily accessible by car or public transport. Pedestrian entrances are located on the Seafront, directly across from the Society's Archives & Research Centre; on Haigh Terrace across from the National Maritime Museum and on Upper George's Street at the AIB bank and Brian S. Nolan store. The Royal Marine Hotel has a fascinating history and it was totally restored and refurbished just five years ago. Please checkout: www.royalmarine.ie

Economy, Trade and Irish Merchants at Home and Abroad, 1600-1988

'Economy, Trade and Irish Merchants at Home and Abroad, 1600-1988' by L.M. Cullen and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-319-0 : 320pp : h/bk : Price €55.00) is essential reading for anybody interested in the growth of the Irish mercantile class over the past three centuries. In setting the scene for many of the essays, the author clarifies aspects of Irish economic history, especially that of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and challenges many of the accepted narratives of the impact of land tenure laws, population growth and, of course, the dependence on the potato diet. Many of these narratives, Cullen argues, have much to do with political aspirations seeking a constitutional cause for the economic difficulties. In the essay on *'the social and cultural modernization of rural Ireland, 1600-1900'* the issue of population growth in Ireland, which doubled in the period 1600 and 1712, is contrasted with 'long-term stagnation in France in the seventeenth century, relatively slow growth in England, and probably little growth in Scotland'. After 1750 continued Irish population growth corresponds with that in neighbouring counties, however, interestingly he notes that 'while immigration was substantial' in the seventeenth century, 'it was bunched within recurrent relatively short periods and within those periods within well-defined areas'. Therefore, according to the author this 'suggests that circumstances favouring expansion of the indigenous population must have over the seventeenth century as a whole have played on balance the more important role in accounting for the general rise in population'. This is certainly at odds with the more popular narratives and indeed, this chapter in its examination of the social conditions of rural Ireland is of exceptional value to the genealogist and local historian. Given the general theme of the essays, it is not surprising that some of

information provided in a number of the essays is technical and statistical and, no doubt, of particular interest to the economist or the economic historian. Nevertheless, essays such as the one on *'Malthus, Ireland and famine'* are illuminating given the, often erroneous, narratives on such topics that dominate 'public history' discourses. Cullen argues that 'Malthus' concept has often been questioned, usually on practical or emotional grounds, sometimes laced with a spurious ethical quality'. Another essay of particular interest is on the topic *'Wealth, wills and inheritance, 1700-1900'* as the 'culture' surrounding succession rights, maintenance and legal frameworks concerned is examined. For example, the will of Henry Agar, a Co. Carlow farmer, leaving his farm to a nephew, 'stipulated in 1862 that the nephew had to maintain the testator's two sisters and to give them the use of a jaunting car to take them to religious service on Sundays'. The chapter on *'Humphrey O'Sullivan's Callan: before and after'* provides a valuable insight into the cultural and economic life of communities with shifting linguistic borders, albeit at the time in one direction, between Irish and English. The chapter on *'colonial and exotic products'* explores the development of trade resulting from the establishment of new-world settlements. The role of the humble potato in this trade is remarkable, for example, the fondness for potatoes was evident amongst the Irish brandy merchants who settled in Cognac in France as they exchanged small caskets of old brandy for baskets of Irish potatoes, which the author notes, 'to modern eyes would appear to be a rather one sided exchange'. The essay on *'smugglers in the Irish Sea in the eighteenth century'* and the following essay on *'the smugglers of Rush'* provide wonderfully interesting accounts of a much neglected subject in the Irish context. Eighteenth

century privateering, swashbuckling stuff, had an Irish context too which the author explores with references to the many Irishmen serving on foreign privateers and, indeed, to the Irish captains and owners of privateers based at French ports. The essays on the merchant classes of Galway (1650-1800) and of Dublin in the eighteenth century provide copious references to individuals and families that make these essays essential reading for anybody researching ancestry in either of these cities during the periods covered. Their international connections are surprisingly diverse as is the range of their commercial activities. The essay on Dublin's financial history opens with the illuminating line 'Money in Ireland is about as old as the capital city itself, almost to the year in fact'. This essay and the following on *'politics and institutions, 1731-1835'* explore the foundations of the commercial and trading environment that, in many ways, shaped nineteenth-century Ireland. Two overseas institutions are also explored in essays, mainly because of the involvement of the Irish merchant classes, these are Luthy's *La banque protestante en France* and the *Scottish Exchange on London, 1673-1778*. Sticking with the financial theme, the essay on 'the pound – from harp to snake' is an intriguing history of the *Irish Pound* and its relationship with sterling up to entry into the EMS in 1979. A modern contemporary context is achieved in the chapter on *Trends (articles from a series, edited by Ken O'Brien) in the Irish Times*. The author includes an essay on what he believes is a much neglected subject in modern Irish historiography, religion, with an examination of the *Dominicans in the eighteenth-century Irish Church* – a review of Hugh Fenning's *'The Irish Dominican Province, 1698-1797'* (Dublin, 1990). This is an excellent collection of essays! **MM**

A Sad Anniversary

The 90th anniversary of the destruction of the Public Records Office occurs at end of this month. The Four Courts was taken over by the Anti-Treaty forces in April 1922 and towards the end of June of that year General Michael Collins ordered the National Army to launch an all-out attack on the building commencing on the 28 and 29 of June. On June 30, just as the anti-Treaty forces were surrendering and evacuating the building, a massive explosion destroyed the West Wing of the Four Courts which housed the Public Records Office. It has been said that the insurgents deliberately mined the Archive but this has always been strenuously denied though they did use the Archive and the basement of the Four Courts to store their ammunition. In his book, *The Singing Flame*, Ernie O'Malley describes what happened in the immediate aftermath of the munitions store being hit. *A thick black cloud floated up from the buildings and drifted slowly away. Fluttering up and down against the black mass were leaves of white paper; they looked like hovering white birds. A half-burnt volume fell at my*

feet. I picked it up. An account of the Secret Service money paid by Dublin Castle to informers in the year 1798. (Anvil Books, Dublin 1978, page 114) And the graphic description goes on. On that fateful day, 30 June 1922, a thousand years of Irish cultural history literally went up in smoke, vanished without trace. Or did it? One group of administrative documents from the mid-13th to the early 16th centuries, namely, the Chancery letters, perished in that destructive fire. These letters were basically in-house copies of administrative or chancery documents issued under the Great Seal of England issued in response to events or petitions and were recorded in rolls of parchment. On May 10, 2012, Prof. Robin Frame, launched CIRCLE (Calendar of Irish Chancery Letters circa 1244-1509) with a stimulating and thought-provoking lecture entitled *Rediscovering Medieval Ireland*. Making a distinction between the concept of colony (an area like the Pale which was under English law) and that of lordship (cities and other areas where English law impinged indirectly), he placed the Ireland of the time firmly within a wider European and Plantagenet context. Using a selection of texts, he illustrated aspects of the English government in Ireland such as its recognition of the clan system, the

emphasis on local consent and the many legal fictions involved in trying to hold on to land. Over 200,000 of these 'lost' records are now on-line on the website (www.chancery.tcd.ie). The aim of the CIRCLE project is to advance our understanding of a very formative period in the history of this country, namely, the period between the mid-13th century and the early 16th century. To this end, it has made the administrative records of the period more user-friendly, first of all by translating them from Chancery Latin into English and secondly by collating all known transcripts, copies and facsimiles in the various repositories in Ireland and abroad. Although they are mostly administrative documents, hundreds of personal and family names are mentioned as well as a wider than expected number of place names. The inspiration behind the original project was Prof. Jocelyn Otway-Ruthven who circumvented the government of the day by going outside the country to obtain the initial funding. The project was brought to a conclusion by funding from the Irish Research Council. A word of congratulations to Dr Peter Crooks and his team for a job well done in more than compensating for the loss of the originals in the 1922 debacle. **Aiden Feerick, MGSI, MAPGI**

The 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 Also, checkout the project newsletter on the Society's website.

History Festival of Ireland

The inaugural History Festival of Ireland, curated by author and historian **Turtle Bunbury**, was held at the historic Lisnavagh House, Rathvilly, Co. Carlow on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th June 2012. This rather novel event sought to bring together "some of the most learned minds of our generation a veritable feast of high-octane historical banter, embracing topics from the impact of Brian Boru's victory at Clontarf a thousand years ago to the treatment of Irish soldiers who served in the British Army after the Second World War". Themes explored included the historical legacies of Catholicism and the [British] Empire; Slavery and Sport; and War and Peace. GSI Cathaoirleach, **Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGSI**, represented the Society at the event, whilst our Vice-President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, spoke on his enormous project to record the archival heritage of the Irish-Jewish community – now comprising seventeen volumes.

James Scannell Reports...

GUINNESS WORKERS & WW1

Ms. Anne Maddock O'Reilly is an MA student in the School of History and Archives, UCD Dublin, and is researching for her dissertation the participation by Guinness Brewery employees at St. James's Gate, Dublin, in the First World War and would like to meet their descendants. She would like to hear their stories, read their letters from the Front Line and record any other personal anecdotes which their families may wish to share. Any information or personal memorabilia will be treated with confidence and respect and will only be used for the purpose of academic research. She can be contacted at: anne.maddock@ucd.ie

ELIZABETHAN FORT OPENED

The star shaped Elizabeth Fort located on Barrack Street in Cork will be opened to the public this summer as the result of a campaign by a local heritage group. Named after Queen Elizabeth I, the fort was built in 1601 to protect the walled town of Cork from attacks by the native Irish and foreign invaders. The fort was demolished by the citizens of Cork in 1603 who were later compelled to rebuild it at their own expense. The structure was later replaced in 1624 by a much larger fortification. Jumping forward to 1835, it was used as a female prison, then a

military base and finally as a police barracks. During the Civil War the barracks buildings were damaged by fire but were later restored. Cork City Council has undertaken to assist the Elizabeth Fort Heritage Group in developing events there during this summer. The fort is a key component of the South Parish walking trail and will offer visitors spectacular views of Cork city from the ramparts.

NLI'S LAWRENCE COLLECTION

The Lawrence Collection of photographs held by the National Library of Ireland is one of the finest collections for 19th century Ireland recording places and people in between 1885 and 1914. In 1989 the Federation of Local History Societies and Federation of Local Studies, with sponsorship from Fuji, re-photographed a selection of the Lawrence views as they appeared in 1889 and the new images were then archived with the National Library. In January trained volunteers from both local history organisations, working under the direction and assistance of the National Library staff, catalogued all the 1989 images, linked them to the Lawrence images and the finished project now makes it possible for viewers to see these 'then and now' images. The images can be viewed on-line via the National Library of Ireland website www.nli.ie

DRIMNAGH CASTLE'S HISTORY

Michael O'Flanagan from Walkinstown has written a history of Drimnagh Castle, one of Dublin's most intact Anglo-Norman castles. Built in 1212, it was given to Barnwell Family by King John and was the western outpost of Norman Dublin. It acted as an important warning post when Dublin was attacked by the native Irish. The castle was continuously occupied from 1212 up to 1953 when a family called Hatch last lived in it. In 1986 prominent An Taisce member Peter Pearson initiated the restoration of the castle which was completed in 1996 and currently the castle is open to the public and available for hire for weddings.

SOCIETY'S ON-LINE SHOP

The Society's on-line shop is now up and running on www.abebooks.com offering many of our titles that are unavailable elsewhere. The Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership, **Tom Conlon, MGSI**, is planning to expand the range to include journals, memorial inscriptions and the many titles published in the Irish Genealogical Sources series. A new feature of the on-line shop will be downloadable pdf versions of selected out-of-print GSI publications. Please checkout the shop on the Society's website.

Précis of the May Lecture

On Tuesday 8th May 2012 members were treated to a very interesting lecture on the topic—'*Dublin Metropolitan Police—DMP Casualties during the War of Independence*' by **James Scannell** who has addressed the Society on a number of previous occasions. James concentrated on the year 1919 as the first part of a two or three part presentation dealing with attacks on members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, mainly members of the G Division, during the War of Independence, 1919–1921. James began by covering the background to the establishment of the **Dublin Metropolitan Police**, which covered Dublin City, and the Rathmines, Pembroke, Blackrock, Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire), and Dalkey townships, and the **Royal Irish Constabulary** which provided policing nationally outside the Dublin Metropolitan Police operational area. He then progressed to deal specifically with those members of the Dublin Metropolitan Police killed or wounded during the 1916 Easter Week Rising; the 1917 death of Inspector Mills Mills as the result of injuries received at a fracas in Beresford

Place; and the decision in 1919 by Michael Collins to take action against members of the G Division whose members posed the greatest threat to him and his organisation. Collins was fortunate that he had three intelligence gatherers working within G Division, Eamon "Ned" Brody, David Nelligan and James McNamara, each of whom were unknown to the other. With the assistance of Brody, Collins gained overnight access to the Central Police Station, now Pearse Street Garda Station, where he had the opportunity to examine files and learned what was known about him and his activities and who posed the greatest threat. Warning letters were sent to members of the G Division advising them to desist in taking action against members of Sinn Féin (politicians, activists, officials etc) or the IRA and those who failed to heed these letters were then targeted. Using a dedicated small squad of volunteers, Detective Sergeant Patrick Smyth was the first G Division member selected for elimination and was seriously wounded outside his home in Drumcondra on July 30th 1919, dying from complications on Septem-

ber 8th 1919. Detective Constable Daniel Hoey was shot dead outside the back entrance of the Central Police Station on September 12th 1919, Detective Constable Thomas Wharton was seriously wounded on November 10th 1919 at the St. Stephens Green end of Harcourt Street, and Detective Sergeant John Barton was shot dead as he approached the Central Police Station from College Green on November 28th 1919. Barton had made it known publicly that he was not afraid of Collins. Three two-man shooter teams, each operating independently of each other, were involved in this operation. James also covered the shooting dead, for no apparent reason, in the early hours of October 19th 1919, of uniformed Constable Michael Downing while on foot patrol in the High Street area by one of a three-man group while he was approaching them and who then quickly vanished from the scene. In his treatment of these tragic events and of the people involved on both sides, James brought the often forgotten or overlooked personal and family circumstances of each to the fore. James, we look forward to Part Two soon!

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

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 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 June 12th & July 10th 2012

Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday June 27th & July 25th 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)

NEW GENEALOGY ADVISORY SERVICE

Visitors to two of our most important national cultural institutions will be thrilled to learn that a new enhanced genealogy service is now available at the National Archives and at the National Library of Ireland. The two institutions have awarded the tender for the provision of these services to a new consortium. The joint consortium of **Eneclann** and **Ancestor Network** will provide genealogy services in the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland in the coming year, following a competitive tendering process. The consortium has increased the number of genealogy experts delivering the service, to provide a wide and comprehensive range of expertise to anyone looking for help and advice in tracing their family history. "We look forward to assisting Irish people and overseas visitors alike in tracing their roots especially in the coming year of *The Gathering*," said **Fiona Fitzsimons**, Research Director of Eneclann. "We are delighted to partner with Ancestor Network, in our new role - promoting Irish genealogy from within the national cultural institutions". **Aiden Feerick**, **MGSI**, **MAPGI**, Head of Research at Ancestor Network added, "It is a great privilege to have been selected with Eneclann by the National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland. We can provide a world class genealogy advisory service and we will share our expertise and knowledge to those tracing their Irish ancestors. We also look forward to working with the staff of the archives and library in adding value to their genealogical services." Approximately half of the project team in the consortium are members of the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI). The remainder of the team are graduates of the University College Dublin certificate/diploma in genealogy and/or MA graduates of the University of Limerick's History of the Family. **Fiona Ross**, Director of the National Library responded to the news saying: "We are delighted to announce that Eneclann and Ancestor Network have been awarded the contract for providing the genealogy advisory service. They offer an enhanced family history service at a significantly reduced cost to the taxpayer. We look forward to working with them in the coming year". The new genealogy service will be available to all visitors to the NAI and the NLI **free of charge** commencing Monday June 11th 2012 as follows:- **NAI**: Monday to Friday, 10.00hrs to 13.30hrs and **NLI**: Monday to Friday, 09.30hrs to 13.00hrs, 14.00hrs-to 17.00hrs and on Saturday 09.15hrs to 12.45hrs.

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Checkout the exciting 2012 Catalogue on-line

**GSI LECTURES 2012**

On **Tuesday 12th June** - *Understanding Church Records and their value to the Family History* by **Dr. Jim Ryan** of Flyleaf Press. On **Tuesday, July 10th** - *The Care and Restoration of old Family Photographs* by **Edmund Ross**. On **Tuesday August 14th** - *The Records of the Irish Railway Records Society* by **Norman E. Gamble**. On **Tuesday September 11th** - *The Records of the Royal Irish Academy as a Resource for the Family History Researcher* by **Siobhán Fitzpatrick**. On **Tuesday October 9th** - *The Registry of Deeds as Aide for the Genealogist* by **Dara Guidera** and **Emily Moore**. 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. 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 Also, on the Society's website is a précis of each of the lectures in the 2011 programme and it is hoped, to have such for the first six months of this year included shortly.

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 like to checkout the website and resources of Medal Society of Ireland on www.msos.ie

FAMILY HISTORY ADVICE

The Society offers Free family history research advice at the GSI Archives and Research Centre, **An Daonchartlann**, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs on Wednesdays (except 4th Weds. open 13.00hrs). Experienced researchers are on hand to help beginners plan their own research path by setting out clear objectives and by introducing them to the various on-line and other resources—why not drop by for a chat on your own research plan? You'll be most welcome.

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
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

WEEKEND COURSES

The current series of the Saturday Morning Genealogy Courses, provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.**, commenced on Saturday May 19th 2012. The aim of the course is to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other centres of research. Learn how to be your own researcher. All you need is curiosity and some expert guidance. Topics to be covered include the principles of genealogy, computers and the internet, place names and surnames, location and use of census, vital, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared with participants as they embark on the quest to trace their ancestors. Courses are held at the Society's Archive and Research Centre, **An Daonchartlann**, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. For more info. on these courses please contact John Hamrock, MGSI by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORSby *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 - Price €22.99 [RRP]