



Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

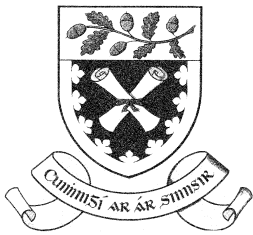
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 7 No. 9

www.familyhistory.ie

September : Meán Fómhair 2012



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



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## The Gathering 2013

The great successes of our Olympians and Paralympians provide an excellent backdrop for the recent launch of 'The Gathering 2013'. Over the past few weeks we have seen how 'Team Ireland' can perform with passion, drive and sheer commitment to get the job done for Ireland. In these recessionary times we build upon the legacy of resilience shown by our parents and grandparents faced with similarly dire economic circumstances. The "Is Féidir Linn" [Yes, We Can] spirit, of which, President Barack Obama spoke so eloquently on his visit to Dublin last year, is certainly alive and kicking as local communities all around Ireland play their part in the preparations for our largest homecoming party ever 'The Gathering 2013'. Drawing on our deep and ancient ancestral ties with the land, home-place and local parish, communities are reaching out to Ireland's vast diaspora to invite the descendants of our emigrants to visit us in 2013. Local groups are doing their research, poring over parish and school registers, checking

memorial inscriptions and reading-up on local history—the pride of place, people and the past is a central theme of 'The Gathering 2013'. Besides organising its own events, the Society offers advice and guidance to local groups planning events based on genealogy, heraldry or local history. The Society's main event for 'The Gathering 2013' is being organised in conjunction with the **National Maritime Museum of Ireland** and the County Heritage Officer of **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**, Mr. Tim Carey. 'Bratacha 2013' will be an international symposium on the history, heritage, culture and identities associated with flags and emblems. 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. Authors with Ireland's premier academic publisher in this field, **Four Courts Press**, will be amongst those providing lectures. Coinciding with Ireland's presidency of the European Union the symposium will delve into the history and meaning of the flags and emblems.

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 exploration of the flags and emblems associated with Irish military history will involve veterans' organisations, military historians, commemorative organisations and the Irish Defence Forces. 'Bratacha 2013' will culminate with a **History Ireland** Hedge School. This inaugural event to be held as part of 'The Gathering 2013' will be Ireland's first interdisciplinary exploration of the history, heritage and culture of the flags and emblems of the Irish at home and overseas.

### Irish Lives Remembered

The Society warmly congratulates Eileen Munnely of Dundalk on the production of Ireland's latest genealogical e-magazine. It's **free** on [www.irishlivesremembered.ie](http://www.irishlivesremembered.ie)

## Heritage Week—A Great Success!

The Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan**, **MGSI**, wishes to thank all the members and volunteers who helped to make National Heritage Week this year an enormously successful one for the Society. In his report to the Board at its September meeting he praised the professionalism and commitment of the six alumni of the **UCD Adult Education** course in genealogy who assisted the Society with the many queries from members of the public who visited the

Society's Archives & Research Centre in Dún Laoghaire. The Board of the Society also wishes to publicly thank the officers and members of the **Mount Merrion Historical Society** and of the **Kilmacud and Stillorgan Historical Society** for inviting the Society to give presentations to their members during Heritage Week and for the wonderful welcome and hospitality received. Following on from Heritage Week other events in the Society's calendar include **Culture Night** on September 21st in the Dublin City Li-

brary & Archives; **Social Inclusion Week** 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. Looking forward to next year, besides **Bratacha 2013**, the GSI is planning further events during **The Gathering** and is actively participating in the planning for the centenary of the **Dublin Lockout of 1913**. GSI Member, **John Comiskey**, is researching the genealogy of James Byrne, one of the 'martyrs' of the Lockout 1913.

## Real Gems for 'The Gathering' from NUIM

Just as we were going to press, along came some real gems from Maynooth. Indeed, with over 100 titles now in the **Maynooth Studies in Local History** series, we have a wealth of local history information available to the local organising committees of 'The Gathering' throughout the country. Published by **Four Courts Press**, Ireland's premier academic publisher in the field, a full listing of the titles in the Maynooth series is available on [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie). The latest editions to the series include: '**William Steuart Trench and his management of the Digby Estate, King's County, 1857-71**' by **Mary Delaney** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-353-4 : 56pp : p/bk : Price: €9.95 : Web Price: €8.95) This book deals with the Digby estate in King's County (Co. Offaly) from 1857 to 1871, when this, the largest estate in the county, was under the management of William Steuart Trench. The author charts the many improvements in the architecture of the village and in the topography of the landscape, which he says, 'gained both national and indeed international recognition for Lord Digby and earned Trench the legacy of an improver who was well ahead of his time'. Typically, in the Irish story, not all benefited and bitterness over his real tactics of broken leases, levelling of people's homes and the banishment the poor have been overlooked. Maybe, the descendants of the Digby tenants could be sought for 'The Gathering'. Also covering Co. Offaly we have '**John Plunket Joly and the Great Famine in King's County**' by **Ciarán Reilly** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-355-8 : 56pp : p/bk : Price: €9.95 : Web Price: €8.95) which deals with the impact of the Great Famine in a county not generally associated in the public mind with the calamity. As the author points out that 'most Famine studies (if not all) highlight poverty, distress, disease, death, eviction and emigration', this work explores a surprising aspect of the

Famine years, the social life of the landed classes. John Plunket Joly (1826-58) and his family lived an almost charmed existence in the midst of widespread hardship. It's almost the stuff of a romantic period drama with daily activities of music, dancing and other pastimes. The diaries of John Plunket Joly, provides one of the few first-hand accounts from people who actually lived through the Famine. Their almost unreal world contrasts greatly with the plight of the inhabitants of the parish of Clonsast in King's County (Co. Offaly) which includes Clonbullogue. As with the book on the Digby estate, Reilly too provides much information for those with ancestral links to this part of the country. Dealing with Co. Kildare we have '**The transportation of women from Kildare to Van Diemen's Land in 1849**' by **Catherine Fleming** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-356-5 : 56pp : p/bk : Price: €9.95 : Web Price: €8.95) which is a fascinating account of one of the women convicts that were transported to Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania) from Ireland in 1849 at the height of the Great Famine. Though, Fleming concentrates on cases from Co. Kildare, the experience seems to have been widespread. Many were first-time offenders which contradicted their stereotype as fallen women and hardened criminals. For many transportation, despite its hardships, presented the opportunity to make a new life, emancipated from the poverty and economic deprivation of a famine-ridden Ireland. Indeed, with numerous Australian studies on the convict women, Fleming's study provides an excellent subject for an Irish-Australia link during 'The Gathering'. Moving on to Cos. Cavan and Meath we have '**The changing fortunes of the Headfort estates, 1870-1928**' by **Joe Mooney** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-354-1 : 72pp : p/bk : Price: €9.95 : Web Price: €8.95) In 1870, with a study of the Headfort estates of over 20,000 acres. Given the

years covered by this work, much of the lore surrounding the Taylor landlords and their approaches to the Irish land question may remain in the communities concerned. Mooney charts the economic circumstances and political realities facing the landlords and their tenants as each managed inevitable change. Finally, to Co. Sligo and '**The Ranch War in Riverstown, Co. Sligo, 1908**' by **Patrick Cosgrove** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-357-2 : 64pp : p/bk : Price €9.95 : Web Price: €8.95) which deals with the anti-grazing agitation known as the Ranch War, 1906-9, and the activities of the local United Irish League branch. Cosgrove explores the debate over law and order; the importation and distribution of guns; the tensions created in the nationalist movement by the Ranch War agitation; the emergence of a more extreme form of nationalism; unionist concerns over the fate of the loyal Protestant minority in the west of Ireland. These five new publications are an excellent addition to a most important series on local history which are highly recommended reading for the organisers of heritage events planned for 'The Gathering'. **MM**

### IRISH JEWISH ANCESTRY

On Thursday September 6th 2013, the President of the Society, **Rory Stanley, FGSI**, represented the Society at the official presentation by our Vice-President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, of his seventeen volume magnum opus on the archival heritage of the Irish Jewish Community to the Jewish Museum in Dublin. The ceremonies also included the launch of the website [www.irishjewishroots.com](http://www.irishjewishroots.com) and the official launch of Stuart's book '**The Yidiot's Guide to Irish Jewish Ancestry**'. The Society warmly congratulates Stuart on the launches.

## Commissioning Ancestry Research in Ireland

In the November 2011 issue of the 'Gazette' we explained that the Society does not undertake commercial research assignments and therefore, directs such enquiries to the lists provided by the National Library and National Archives of genealogists engaged in such services. We also direct people to the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI) and to the listing provided on <http://24-7genealogist.com>. We advised that, although there is no official accrediting body for genealogists involved in commercial genealogical research in Ireland, many have successfully completed the certificate or diploma courses offered by University College Dublin under the direction of the renowned genealogist, historian and lecturer Seán Murphy, MA. In a letter received from APGI (21.11.11) thanking the GSI for this publicity,

we were advised that '*On a point of information, we would like to state that the Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland (APGI) - quite distinct from APGI Limited—is the only accrediting body for professional genealogists operating throughout the island of Ireland*'. At the time, the Board of the Society duly noted the opinion expressed in this letter on the status and function of APGI. No further comment was required. However, following the publication of a misleading article in '*The Sunday Times*' on Sept. 2nd 2012 with the headline '*Wannabe Irish warned to avoid ancestry amateurs*', further clarification was unfortunately necessary. APGI is a voluntary, non-academic body of around 30 genealogists offering accreditation to its own members. It is not an 'official' or State recognised accreditation body. APGI are not, as

claimed in the above article, 'official genealogists' to *The Gathering*. The emphasis placed on the terms 'professional' and 'amateur' in the article is inappropriate inasmuch as, not all genealogists offering their services for a fee have a recognised qualification in genealogy or in a related discipline. Whereas, many genealogists who have been awarded State recognised qualifications in genealogy, for example, do not engage in research for a fee. Not all genealogists engaged in paid research are members of APGI or seek its 'accreditation'. Without doubt, '*The Sunday Times*' article was ill-advised and potentially very damaging to the reputation of Ireland, especially as hundreds of local voluntary groups around the country are working very hard to ensure that *The Gathering 2013* is a wonderful showcase for Ireland.

## 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, check out the project newsletter on the Society's website.

### NEWSLETTERS ON-LINE

The Society has published monthly newsletters since April 1991 and from 1993, two per month until the end of 1996. Although '*The Genie Gazette*' was first published in 1996, only two issues appeared until it replaced the other monthly newsletters in January 1997. It was published monthly until the end of 2005 when it was incorporated into the Society's current newsletter '*Ireland's Genealogical Gazette*' which is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter. Visitors to the Society's website can access each issue of '*The Genie Gazette*' from 1996 to 2005. This collection of newsletters and indeed, the later issues of '*Ireland's Genealogical Gazette*' provide an invaluable resource for persons researching the history and development of genealogy in Ireland over the past sixteen or so years, including the various campaigns on legislation and public policy issues relating to genealogy, heraldry and general heritage matters.

# James Scannell Reports...

## PLAQUE TO HORTICULTURALIST

Cork's most famous horticulturalist, John Saul, was remembered on Sunday August 12<sup>th</sup> 2012 when a plaque in his honour was unveiled in the village of Castlemartyr, Co. Cork. John Saul was born in 1819 at Careswood, the dower house [house provided for the widow of an estate holder] of the Castlemartyr Estate where his grandfather, Barnabas Saul, and father, James Saul, worked as gardeners. John Saul arrived in Washington, D.C., in 1851 to supervise the improvements of public areas around The Mall, Smithsonian Grounds, the Square south of the Ellipse and Lafayette Square.

## TALES OF MEDIEVAL DUBLIN

William Fitzroger was a Prior of the Order of Knights Hospitaller in Ireland based in Kilmaham in the late 13th century. His conflicting loyalties to his king and order presented him with a difficult choice: to fight in the Holy Land or defend the English colony in Ireland? All will be revealed by Edward Colman at 13.05hrs on Tuesday Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> 2012 in his 40-minute lunchtime lecture 'The Crusader's Tale' in the Civic Offices, Wood Quay, Dublin 8, as part of the monthly lunchtime lectures organised by the Friends of Medieval Dublin and Dublin City Council. Admission free. See: [www.fmd.ie](http://www.fmd.ie)

## NEW POLICE MUSEUM

The UK Government is to provide UK£5.5M for the construction of a new police museum in the grounds of the Police Service of Northern Ireland's headquarters in East Belfast, close to the police memorial garden. The new museum will replace the current one held in a small room with hundreds of artefacts being kept in storage. The new museum aims to tell the story of policing in Ireland from the creating of statutory uniform policing in 1814 right up to the present day and will showcase the extensive collection of policing artefacts assembled over the years including uniforms, medals etc.

## CENTENARY OF TRAIN CRASH

In Sunday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 the north county Cork village of Lombardstown remembered the centenary of a railway crash outside the village in which one person died and ninety were injured, with the unveiling a specially commissioned commemorative stone. On August 5<sup>th</sup> 1912, a train from Killarney to Dublin bringing two hundred and fifty English holiday makers for a ferry connection, crashed was it was entering Lombardstown Station. Most of the seriously injured were passengers in the first carriage in which a number of people were trapped in the wreckage.

## FORGOTTEN POLICEMEN

At Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin on Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> 2012 a ceremony was held to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of disbandment of the Royal Irish Constabulary and to remember members of the force and those from the Dublin Metropolitan Police who lost their lives during the War of Independence. It is estimated that 549 R.I.C. and 14 D.M.P. men were killed between Easter Monday 1916 and the August 1922. The ceremony took place at the communal gravesite where more than 100 RIC members are buried. Wreaths were laid, prayers were recited, and a number of bible readings took place at this ceremony attended by upwards of 150 people, many of whom were related to those who had served in the R.I.C.

## DUBLIN FIRE BRIGADE LECTURE

This year is the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dublin Fire Brigade which has already been marked with the issue by An Post of 4 commemorative stamps and a first day cover. On Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 the Old Dublin Society will hold a special anniversary lecture 'Dublin Fire Brigade: 150 Years of Service' by Tom Geraghty at 18.30hrs in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Admission is free.

## Précis of the August Lecture

On Tuesday August 14<sup>th</sup> 2012 Dr. Norman E. Gamble delivered a lecture on *The Records of the Irish Railway Record Society (IRRS)*. The IRRS was formed in 1946 and at the time, Dr. Gamble explained, Ireland was served by a railway network owned and operated by ten separate private companies and therefore, the type and quality of records kept by each varied considerably. In a lecture, delivered in the traditional manner without PowerPoint, Dr. Gamble brought members through the development of the railway system in Ireland and especially, since independence with nationalization (brought into government ownership) of the systems north and south; elimination of steam traction; passenger and freight rolling stock modernization; complete change in the method of freight operating; the loss of traditional traffics and the gaining of new ones; reduction in the overall length of the railway network through line closures; modernization of signalling systems; and the electrification of the Dublin suburban network. This period was one of rapid decline, followed by consolidation, rationalization and finally, with the aid of

European Funding in the 1980s, the development of a pro-rail agenda in the Republic. The IRRS Journal is an excellent resource on the history of the Irish railway network. Dr. Gamble outlined the types of documents and records collected by the IRRS that may be useful to genealogists. A lively Q+A followed with Dr. Gamble dealing with many questions on the scarcity of staff records. The IRRS Archive and Library at Dublin's Heuston Station and is open on Tuesdays 19.30hrs to 21.45hrs (Sept. to June) except Christmas and Easter periods. For further info. see [www.irrs.ie](http://www.irrs.ie)

## GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

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 Geolo-*

*gist* 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)

## ALL HALLOWS COLLEGE

All Hallows College in Drumcondra is a college of Dublin City University and the degrees it awards are validated and accredited by DCU. The School of Adult & Community Learning at All Hallows offers a BA course in Personal and Professional Development. This Autumn this BA programme is offering an *Introduction to Genealogy* course which will be taught by **John Hamrock, MGSI**, Director of Education and Social Inclusion of the Society. The genealogy lectures at the All Hallows campus run every Monday evening from 17 September through early December. Also included in the programme are two field trips; one to the National Library of Ireland and on to Dublin City Library and Archive. Further info: [www.allhallows.ie](http://www.allhallows.ie)

## GSI MEMBERSHIP

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. Apply on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) or if you prefer, download the form and send it to **Mr. Billy Sanderson, MGSI**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members always welcome!*

## WILL YOUR RECORDS WELL

In the course of our research over many years we naturally amass a huge amount of paper and computer records. We love these records, we've worked hard to collect the information—it is of great value. Books, photographs, charts, interview notes, copy certificates, parish register and census transcripts—all lovingly collected over many years. But have you made provision for the preservation of your records, files and notes after we die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or all of your books be sold off after you've gone. Please make provision in your Will to donate them to the Society's Archives for future generations.

## MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine of these countries? Checkout the Medal Society of Ireland on [www.msou.ie](http://www.msou.ie)

**IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE**  
is published by the  
**Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited**  
11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland  
E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie  
Charity Reference: CHY10672  
*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann*

### Board of Directors 2012-2013

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications & Internet Services); **Billy 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 Sept. 11th & Oct. 9th 2012

#### Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Sept. 26th & Oct. 24th 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)

## GRO 'HISTORIC RECORDS'

Following the publication of the Ombudsman's investigation report '*Hidden History? The Law, the Archives and the General Register Office*' in late July, many members of the Society noted some serious omissions in the historical narrative presented in the report. The Society made its concerns on these issues known to the Office of the Ombudsman and welcomed the commitment by the GRO to engage with other public bodies on the findings of the report. The Society's position on public access to the 'historic records' of the General Register Office (over 70 years of age) dates from 1997. It received a great deal of cross-party political support between 1997 and 2000, including the then Minister Síle de Valera, TD. The proposal was for microfilm copies of the 'historic records' of the GRO to be made available in the National Archives (NAI) and the National Library (NLI) and thereby, allowing the GRO in Dublin to concentrate on its core functions of registration and certification. This very workable proposal was not supported by APGI or CIGO at the time. However, now if there is a willingness on the part of the GRO, the National Archives and the National Library to provide access to these 'historic records' then the Minister could act decisively to enable this wonderful resource to be made available to the public during *The Gathering* next year. The Society would suggest that under *Section 8 (3) of the Civil Registration Act, 2004*, the Minister could permit the GRO to transfer microfilm copies of the 'historic records' of the registers as defined by *Section 13 (1) of the Act as a, (births), d, (deaths) and e, (marriages)*, along with the indexes for public access under *Section 61 (1) a*, however, *without* the facility to certify copies. The matter of the fee, as required by *Section 67* of the Act, could be addressed by *Ministerial Order* and be set at a nominal annual rate to the NAI and NLI. This suggestion, if agreed by the Minister, would avoid the need for legislative change to the 2004 Act. Ombudsman's report on: [www.ombudsman.ie](http://www.ombudsman.ie)

### FOUR COURTS PRESS

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## COURSES STARTING

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 GSI Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. For further info. contact John Hamrock by phone on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

### ARCHIVES & RESEARCH CENTRE

The Society's Archives and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier (Old Mail-Boat Pier) in Dún Laoghaire, will be open until Saturday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013 as follows: **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 providing family history research advice, free of charge, to visitors to the facility. For directions see [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

In order to encourage students and young people to take up family history research, the Society offers a 50% reduction on the annual membership subscription for persons under 25 years of age. The Society also acknowledges the wonderful commitment of those who have decided to take recognised courses in genealogy by offering these students a similar 50% reduction on the standard membership rate—that's right, Student Membership for just €20.00. Checkout the GSI 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)

## CEMETERY PROJECTS

The Director of Cemetery Projects, Barry O'Connor, FGSi, was full of praise at the recent Board meeting for all of the eleven volunteers who turned-out on Saturday Sept. 1st 2012 to transcribe the memorials in the ancient Killadreenan (*Cill Achaidh Draighnigh*) cemetery near Newtown Mountkenedy, Co. Wicklow. Barry's team successfully completed its goal in just 'one-day' transcribing around 200 memorials in sometimes difficult circumstances due to overgrowth. Some of the headstones date from 1691/2. The team was delighted with the visit by the renowned local historian and writer, **Canon Robert Jennings**, who praised their work and kindly presented the Society with one of his publications. Canon Jennings has written extensively on this area of the '*Garden County*' and lectures on local history throughout Co. Wicklow. After such a successful '*Cemetery Day*' Barry is now seeking volunteers to transfer the information from the field books to the computer. If you're interested in helping out with this vital phase of the project please contact Barry O'Connor on [btoc@esatclear.ie](mailto:btoc@esatclear.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]