



# 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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## Genealogy—A National Resource?

The recent launch of the newly revamped and much improved www.irishgenealogy.ie as a 'Genealogy Portal' by the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, **Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD**, has been widely welcomed at home and abroad. This new facility is an exceptionally useful 'one-stop-shop' for family history as it provides access to the main on-line resources and offers advice on their use. Although it contains links to 'pay-for-view' sites, its main website provides access to records of baptisms, marriages and burials *free of charge* from an increasing number of parishes throughout Ireland. Whilst most genealogists, at home and abroad, are rejoicing at the prospect of viewing more and more of these parish registers on-line free of charge, the operators of the heritage centres have reportedly condemned the move as injurious to the financial viability of their centres. The Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) represents the operators of the various IGP heritage centres that provide access to local parish records through the

website www.rootsireland.ie on a 'pay-for-view' basis. These centres were established during the 1980s as part of a nationwide community employment and training programme to provide jobseekers with computer skills. Details of baptisms, marriages and burials from the local parish registers were transcribed onto index cards and later entered into a computer database. The centres were fully funded by the State including staff costs, training, office and computer equipment, utilities and services. They were managed by local companies established for that purpose with, initially at least, voluntary boards of directors. During the first half of the 1990s concern was expressed about the slow pace of the computerisation and following a very critical report in 1996 by the Comptroller and Auditor General into the operation of the Irish Genealogical Project (IGP), a new company, Irish Genealogy Limited (IGL), was established to promote and coordinate the marketing of the centres. During the Celtic Tiger years the numbers of trainees available plummeted and many centres were forced to close or to rely on purely voluntary staff

to operate their services, others were absorbed by the local authorities. The IFHF withdrew from IGL which soon after was dissolved. The IFHF continued to coordinate and to develop the services of the IGP heritage centres and eventually established a central 'pay-for-view' facility rootsireland.ie. During the 1990s questions arose as to the rightful ownership of the databases compiled by the IGP, especially, since this work was largely funded by the taxpayer. As many now appreciate that genealogy is a 'national resource', maybe it is time to re-examine this issue in view of the enormous economic and cultural potential of the 'free-to-view' websites like www.irishgenealogy.ie

### BRATACHA 2013

*"The Fighting Irish..... in Defeat, in Victory, the Music Lives On"*

Pavilion, Dún Laoghaire

Friday May 10th 2013—8pm

Tickets €12 (concessions €10)

www.paviliontheatre.ie

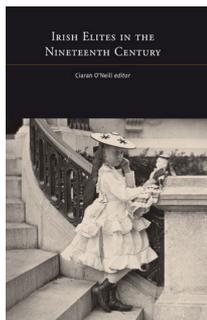
## Bratacha E-magazine & Event Guide

The *Bratacha 2013* Steering Group has just published a full colour e-magazine to promote *Bratacha 2013—Festival of Flags & Emblems*. Produced by Irish Lives Remembered Ltd of Dundalk, this e-magazine is probably the first use of this medium to promote an event in Ireland. The e-magazine has articles on genealogy, heraldry, vexillology, local history, maritime history and a full guide to all the events to be held during *Bratacha 2013* which runs from Thursday May 9th to

Saturday May 11th 2013. This Society is one of the four 'lead organisations' hosting *Bratacha 2013* as part of *The Gathering Ireland*. The others are Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and the National Maritime Institute of Ireland. Amongst the events to be held is a full and varied programme of lectures and seminars, an exhibition, Ireland's first 'Heraldic Colloquium', a 'Military History Colloquium', a world premier concert at the Pavilion Theatre, a 'History &

*Genealogy Village*' and a 'Parade of Flags' through Dún Laoghaire. The e-magazine has a full listing of the topics to be covered by the lectures and seminars, including biographies of the expert speakers from Ireland and overseas. All the lectures and seminars are open to the public and are free of charge. The lectures and seminars will be held at the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. See the website: www.bratacha.com or http://interactivepdf.uniflip.com/2/71043/299167/pub/

## Irish Elites in the Nineteenth Century



A new publication from Four Courts Press deals with an often overlooked and under-researched aspect of the Irish historical narrative—the emergence of elites in Irish society. *'Irish Elites in the Nineteenth Century'* edited by **Ciarán O'Neill** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-3510 : 280pp : H/bk : Price €55.00) published in association with the *Society for the Study of Nineteenth-Century Ireland*

(SSNCI) explores the fascinating story behind the emergence of elites at all levels and for many reasons throughout Irish society, Catholic and Protestant, during the nineteenth century. Nowadays the word 'elites' is widely used derogatively to describe an alleged sinister and cosy relationship between big business, vested interests and the political classes in Ireland and around Europe. Ciarán O'Neill (TCD) in his introduction makes the point that 'we live in an age when 'elite' has become a multi-purpose and no-purpose word' and that a leading British academic, John Scott, has argued that the word 'elite' is one of the 'most misused in the sociological lexicon' leading many scholars to believe that the concept has become 'completely vacuous and without any significant analytical value'. This collection of essays, the first to deal with such in an Irish context, takes up this challenge at it explores this phenomenon at various levels within seven themed areas including, the built environment, the landed estates, associational elites, the ascendancy, the Irish diaspora, political elites and the very

interesting subject of 'blocked mobility'. The challenge for each essayist, from an Irish perspective, was essentially two-fold involving the evaluation and, in many ways, the deconstruction of the prevailing narrative and the exploration of a wider definition of elites in nineteenth-century Ireland. The essays begin with Andrew Tierney (U. Liverpool) exploring the 'architectures of gentility' as expressed in domestic buildings designed in the context of a 'polite culture' as statements of mobility or arrival. Susan Galavan (TCD) looks at the expansion of the city of Dublin and in particular, the buildings erected by Meade & Son. Interestingly they converted Georgian mansions for the poor and erected villas for the rich, indeed, one of the family, Alderman Joseph Meade was elected Lord Mayor was simultaneously a philanthropist and a slum landlord. Kevin Mc Kenna (NUI Maynooth) examines the role of the legitimisation and rituals of one of the most prominent and well-studied relationships in nineteenth-century Ireland, that of landlord and tenant. Maeve O'Riordan (UCC) looks at elite women as household managers in the late nineteenth-century and their relationship with the household servants, most of whom, tended to be of the same religion as their employer. Joanne McEntee (NUIG) explores the world of solicitors as elites in mid-nineteenth century Irish landed society and, in doing so, she explains the multi-layered legal framework in which they operated. Matthew Potter (U Limerick) deals with what he recently dubbed the 'Shannon Estuary Group' of 'improving' landlords including the Perys of Dromore; the Wyndham-Quins of Adare; the Spring Rices of Mount Trenchard; the Monsells of Tervoe; the de Veres of Curragh Chase, the O'Briens of Dromoland and the O'Briens of Cratloe Woods House. Felix M. Larkin (Ind.) takes a very interesting view of two

elites, politicians and journalists, and compares the numbers of journalists and newspapermen connected with the Irish Parliamentary Party and the post-independence position. Pamela Emerson (U Ulster) looks at the influence of the overtly respectable pastime of reading by examining the membership of some of Belfast's book lending institutions, including the Belfast Literary Society and the Belfast Society for Promoting Knowledge, and their impact on Belfast's civic identity. Brian Griffin (Bath Spa U) looks at archery as an elite pursuit and its social trappings from the 1830s to the 1870s. Patrick Maume (RIA) traces the fascinating life and times of Canon Samuel Hayman (1818-86), who wrote for the *Patrician*, a London-based genealogical publication run by Sir Bernard Burke. Anna Pilz (U Liverpool) examines the complexity of Lady Augusta Gregory's status within society, her roles as landlord, widowed mother and cultural nationalist within elite circles on both sides of the Irish Sea. Neil Smith and Mervyn Busted (U Liverpool) explore the elites emerging in the Irish middle class in Manchester and the establishment of Catholic education in the city. Raphaël Ingelbien (U Leuven) illuminates the much neglected phenomenon of tourism amongst the rising Catholic elites and the adoption of distinctively Irish ways of travelling. Timothy G. McMahon (Marquette U) explores Irish Anglican missionary activity in 'the Empire'. Fintan Cullen (U Nottingham) examines the world of political caricatures. Nicola K. Morris (U Chester) explores the life and times of Jeremiah Jordan—Methodist and Nationalist MP. Finally, John Hutchinson (LSE) investigates the dynamics of cultural nationalism and competing elites between 'modernity' and 'Irish-Irelander' attitudes in the run up to the First World War and the Easter Rising. An excellent read!! *MM*

## In Search of the Roscommon Famine Diaspora

Since 2008 the Strokestown Park Archive, Ireland's largest and most informative collection of material relating to the Great Irish Famine, has been deposited on loan in the OPW/NUI Maynooth archive and research centre at Castle-town. Here ongoing restoration and cataloguing of the archive, over 50,000 documents, has facilitated ground breaking research into a variety of aspects about the Great Famine. Chief amongst this research is the details of an estimated 5,000 people who emigrated during the period 1845-1855. Roscommon was amongst the worst affected counties in Ireland during the Famine with a decline of almost thirty-two percent of the population. Naturally those with the means to do so emigrated and settled in England, Scotland, Wales, Canada, United States of America, Argentina, Australia and South Africa. To date research has un-

earthed information on thousands of people who left the Strokestown and wider east Roscommon area during this period. Of particular interest are the 1,432 tenants who were assisted in emigration from Strokestown at the behest of Major Denis Mahon and his agent John Ross Mahon in the summer of 1847. Using the voluminous Strokestown Park Archive, Dr Ciarán Reilly has created a database of those who emigrated from this part of Roscommon during the Famine. Combining this information with a myriad of genealogical resources, Dr Reilly has been successful in establishing where the Roscommon Famine emigrants settled. In Britain they settled chiefly in areas such as Hampshire, Lancashire, Sussex, Kent; Cheshire, Yorkshire. In Australia many settled in emerging cities like Melbourne where the Dwyer's, O'Keefe's and Byrne's from Roscommon lived side by side. In America the

emigrants scattered and many pushed westward as the railways progressed in the second half of the nineteenth-century. Maryland, Wisconsin, Iowa, St Louis, Marin County in California, Passaic County in New Jersey and Ohio were just some of the centres where Strokestown natives settled and in many cases led successful lives. Amongst the names included in the database are Brennan, Feeney, Murray, McGuire, Hogan, Fitzsimons, Gannon, Freeman, Conry, Casserly, Doherty, Burke, Murtagh, Moran, Duffey, Fahey, Kelly, Goodman, Bowens, Doyle, Kenny, Moore, Beirne, Gibbons, Healy, Finnegan, Quinn, Egan, Fallon, Hanly, Tighe, Donnelly, Hunt, Cox, Dempsey, Donegan, Dwyer, McCormick, Glancy, Madden, Lannon, Rush, Duffey, McLaughlin, Conneally, Higgins and Flannigan amongst others. *Dr Ciarán Reilly is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates, Department of History, NUI Maynooth. www.strokestownpark.ie*

## WEEKEND GENEALOGY COURSES

Weekend Genealogy Courses are provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.** These very successful and popular courses are specially designed to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. Classes are small providing better tuition. Ancestor Network Ltd. is the provider of the Genealogy Advisory Services for the **National Library of Ireland** and the **National Archives of Ireland**. The course beginning on Sunday **April 21st 2013** 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*, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. For further information please contact John Hamrock by phone on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

### IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

Past issues of this newsletter are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on the Society's website [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Details of the forthcoming lectures: **Tues. 9th April** 'Ancestry.com by **Eric Booth**. [*late cancellation—replacement—Billy Saunderson, MGSi 'Researching a manor house and the families who lived therein'*] **Tues. 14th May** — 'The Preservation of Old Documents' by **Christine Deakin**. **Tues. 11th June**—'The Ordnance Survey Office as a Genealogical Resource' by TBA. VENUE: **Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland St, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) The Director of the GSI Lecture Programme, Séamus Moriarty, FGSI, will be supplying details of the lectures for the remainder of the year soon. Meanwhile Séamus can be contacted at [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

# James Scannell Reports...

## INFORMER'S LETTER FOR AUCTION

On April 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 leading Dublin auctioneers *Adams and Company* will auction a letter written in 1919 by H. Quinlisk, a former corporal in the Royal Irish Regiment to the Under Secretary in Dublin Castle, offering to betray the Irish leader, Michael Collins, to the British authorities. In the letter with an address of 21 Gardiner Place, Dublin, Quinlisk wrote "I was the man who assisted [Sir Roger] Casement in Germany, and in coming home, I have been connected with the Sinn Féin. I have decided to tell all I know of that organisation and my information would be of use to the authorities. The scoundrel Michael Collins has treated me scurvily." At that time the Irish War of Independence / Anglo-Irish War was in progress with a £10,000 reward on the head of Michael Collins, the most wanted man in the British Empire. Quinlisk's motives or writing the letter are believed to have emanated from Collins' refusal to bankroll his gambling habit but it never reached its intended recipient as it was intercepted by one of Michael Collins's confidential informants within Dublin Castle, Ned Broy, who copied it and passed on it to Collins. Quinlisk was later killed by the I.R.A. and its expected that the letter may sell for as high €3000 at the auction.

## IRISH HISTORY—100 OBJECTS

A book and exhibition which illustrate more than 7000 years of Irish history was launched during March at the Museum of Archaeology and History, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. The exhibition is currently in view in the Museum and the accompanying book, 'A History of Ireland in 100 Objects' can be purchased there - there is also an app available at 100objects.ie.

### DUBLIN LOCKOUT 1913

'A capital in conflict - Dublin city and the 1913 Lockout' by Francis Devine, Editor, published by Dublin City Council to mark the Decade of Commemorations 1913-1923, is a collection of essays which range over a wide number of topics relating to the Lockout and contextualizing it, including the role of women and children; the Gaelic revival; the proposal for a Bridge Gallery to house the Lane collection of pictures; housing, public health and medicine; as well as an overview of the Lockout by Francis Devine and the international context supplied by Colin Whitston. Contributors are Lydia Carroll, Patrick Coughlan, Kate Cowan, John Cunningham, Francis Devine, David Durmin, Karen Hunt, Leeann Lane, Enda Leaney, Ann Matthews, Thomas J. Morrissey, John Newsinger, Séamas Ó Maitiú, Niamh Puirseil, Ciarán Wallace and Colin Whitston.

## 'CELEBRATING SIR EDWARD LOVETT PEARCE'

On Thursday 18 April 2013, Cllr. Tom Joyce, An Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, will launch an exhibition on Sir Edward Lovett Pearce at 18.00hrs in Stillorgan Library, Co. Dublin. This exhibition will be on view in the library during normal library hours until mid-June 2013. On Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 the Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society will hold a Morning Seminar, *Celebrating Sir Edward Lovett Pearce' - Ireland's foremost neo-Palladian architect* from 09.00hrs. to 13.00hrs in the Stillorgan Park Hotel, Stillorgan Road, at which the speakers will be Christine Casey, Eddie McParland, and James Howley. Places at the seminar are limited and must be booked in advance by e-mail on stillorganlocalhistory@gmail.com or call 087-2895653



The April 2013 issue (No. 11) of the excellently produced and very popular e-magazine 'Irish Lives Remembered' is now available to read or to download to your PC, mobile or tablet free of charge on [www.irishlivesremembered.ie](http://www.irishlivesremembered.ie) Checkout the previous issues too!!

## PORTFOLIOS ALLOCATED

The following Members were elected at the AGM held on March 12th 2013 to serve on the Board of Directors for 2013-2014. Besides the Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, General Secretary and the Director of Finance who each receives their main portfolios on election at the AGM, the following portfolios were allocated at the April meeting of the Board of Directors. *Cathaoirleach: Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGS* [Liaison with the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Herald, Honorary Vexillologist and College of Fellows]. *Leas-Chathaoirleach: Gerry Hayden, MGS* [Buildings & Utilities, Liaison with Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company]. *General Secretary: Michael Merrigan, MA, FGS* [Company Secretary, Policy Matters, Gazette, Legislative Matters, Publications, Heraldry]. *Director, Finance: Billy Saunderson, MGS* [Budgets, Financial Control and Grant Applications, Corporate Matters.]. *Director, Sales, Marketing & Membership: Tom Conlon, MSc, MGS* [Marketing & Promotion Strategies, Advertising, Membership Matters, Sales, Bratacha 2013]. *Director, Archival Services: Ciarán M. Hurley, MA, MGS* [Archival Collections, Archival Policy, GSI Files,

Public Office]. *Director, Cemetery Projects: Barry O'Connor, FGS* [Recording & Publication of Memorial Inscriptions, Group Projects]. *Director, Digital Archive: Maura Flood, MGS* [creation of the GSI digital archive to include manuscript collection & publications]. *Director, Education & Social Inclusion: John Hamrock, MGS* [Education Programmes, Outreach & Volunteerism Programmes, Liaison with Educational Establishments & Repositories, Educational & Social Agencies, GSI Rep. at The Wheel]. *Director, Lecture Programme: Séamus Moriarty, FGS* [Evening Meeting Lecture Programme, Liaison with Speakers & Venue]. *Director, Outreach Policy: Eddie Gahan, MGS* [Public Office, Exhibitions & Outreach Programme]. *Director, Internet Services: Tony O'Hara, MGS* [GSI website & on-line resources]. Three new members elected were at the AGM, Ciarán Hurley, Maura Flood and Tony O'Hara. Whilst wishing the new Board every success in the coming year, GSI President, **Rory Stanley, FGS**, praised the excellent work undertaken by **Séamus O'Reilly FGS** at the Society's Archives between 2005 and 2013. Séamus stepped down at the AGM, however, he will still coordinate the genealogical side of the Irish DNA Atlas Project.

## IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT

The Irish DNA Atlas is a collaborative academic research project undertaken by **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI), the University of Leicester in the UK and the Society. The main objectives of the project are (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants continue to be sought from across the island of Ireland and, indeed, from overseas who can trace each of their eight great-grandparents to the same general area of Ireland. Participants are requested to present a Birth Brief (Pedigree Chart) and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Participants are sought, male or female, with ancestry from any part of Ireland meeting the criteria regarding the eight great grandparents. Members are asked to assist the project by inviting friends and colleagues to participate. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please don't hesitate to contact Séamus O'Reilly by e-mail on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

## GSI MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 1st, 2012. It was agreed under **Res: 12/11/952** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2013 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2013 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household adult member (18 years or over) with voting rights; Membership Certificate [**Res: 11/09/859**]; right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter by e-mail; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club, School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group pro-

jects; Members' internet forum (under construction); genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised genealogy courses etc. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2013 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date.

**NOTE:** In accordance with **Res: 10/09/785** all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Certificate. Apply on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) or if you prefer, download the form and send it to **Mr. Billy Saunderson, MGS**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members always welcome!*

## WILL YOUR RECORDS WELL

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

## MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

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

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### Board of Directors 2013-2014

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications); **Billy Sanderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Sales, Marketing & Membership); **Ciarán Hurley** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **John Hamrock** (Education & Social Inclusion); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach Programme); **Maura Flood** (Digital Archive); and **Tony O'Hara** (Internet Services).

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



### DIARY DATES

Tuesday Apr. 9th & May 14th 2013

#### Evening Open Meeting

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

Wednesday Apr. 24th & May 22nd 2013

#### Morning Open Meeting

Hardy's Bar, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire  
10.30hrs—12.30hrs

**Contribution €3.00 p.p. Evening & €4.00 p.p. Morning**  
(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

## Précis of the March Lecture

### 'For a Want of Judgement'

On Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> 2013 following the Society's Annual General Meeting, our guest speaker, **James Scannell**, recalled the 1876 tragedy that befell the Kingstown [now Dún Laoghaire] lifeboat at Bray. With an intriguing title for this lecture 'For a Want of Judgement' he explained how the lifeboat capsized off Bray seafront after rescuing the crew of the brig LEONIE, throwing all the occupants into the water and resulting in the death of one lifeboat member and three of the crew of the LEONIE, due to error of judgement by the lifeboat coxswain Henry Williams. The death occurred of a second crew member several months later as the result of his ordeal. In his presentation James began by providing an outline of the Dublin Bay lifeboat service operated by the Corporation for the Improving the Port of Dublin, forerunner of the present day Dublin Port Company, from 1800 to 1862 when this service was taken over the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, and the sinking of HMS VANGUARD in 1875 which was a indirect contributor to this accident. The captain of the LEONIE mistook the light over this wreck site as the Kish light and plotted an incorrect course which brought him off Bray seafront rather than Scotman's Bay, eight miles further north. Signalling his distress, the coastguards in Bray alerted the lifeboats in Greystones and Kingstown which were called out. The Greystones lifeboat could not be launched due to the prevailing weather conditions and was brought overland to Bray only to discover on arrival that the Kingstown lifeboat was nearing the LEONIE and so was not launched. After this Bray accident, the Kingstown Lifeboat Committee held its own inquiry and censured Henry Williams for an error of judgement on his part. In 1881 Henry Williams was involved in another memorable rescue off the North Dublin coast and mindful of what happened in 1876, exercised greater caution in his handling of the Kingstown lifeboat and was subsequently awarded a medal for his heroism. Williams and his father were members of the Kingstown lifeboat CIVIL SERVICE No. 7 lost with all hands on Christmas Eve 1895 while going to the rescue of the PALME. James Scannell has delivered a number of very fine lectures to the Society on a range of topics including Maritime History, Military History and, of course, Local History.

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## THE FAMINE IRISH: EMIGRATION AND NEW LIVES



A major international Famine conference is just one of the many events which will take place in Strokestown, county Roscommon in July. The third annual International Famine Conference at Strokestown Park is part of the ongoing collaboration between the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses & Estates; the OPW/ NUI Maynooth Archive and Research Centre and Strokestown Park. The *Taste of Strokestown* Festival will run from 19-28 July. For more information see [www.strokestownpark.ie](http://www.strokestownpark.ie). On 19-20 July, the festival begins with the Third Annual International Famine Conference hosted by the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates (CSHIHE) in conjunction with the National Famine Museum at Strokestown Park House. The theme of this international and interdisciplinary conference is aptly *The Famine Irish: Emigration and new lives*. Bringing researchers together with a network of international experts, the conference will approach the above theme from the broadest possible historical perspective. It aims to promote thoughtful and wide-ranging analysis of emigration and diaspora during and after the Great Irish Famine, 1845-1853. The field of international experts includes Dr Ciarán Reilly and Dr Gerard Moran of the Department of History, NUI Maynooth, Dr Patrick Fitzgerald of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh; Prof. Lawrence W. Kennedy, University of Scranton and Prof. James P. Farrell, University of New Hampshire amongst others. This innovative research on the fate of the Famine Irish in a number of locations including Boston, Texas, South Africa, Canada and Britain will be discussed. The conference keynote address will be delivered by Prof. Christine Kinealy, Drew University, New Jersey. A full programme will be made available shortly. For more information see <http://historicalirishhouses.ie/>

## OUTREACH PROGRAMME

**Eddie Gahan**, MGSI, Director of the GSI Outreach Programme, has produced a very busy schedule including a stand at 'The Genealogy Roadshow' in Cork on **Sat. 13<sup>th</sup> April 2013** and in Derry on **Sat. 20<sup>th</sup> April 2013**. If you would like to volunteer to help out at the exhibitions contact Eddie at [eddie\\_gahan\\_snr@hotmail.com](mailto:eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com) Meanwhile, the Director of the GSI Digital Archives, **Maura Flood**, MGSI, will deliver talks on genealogy to the Greenhills Ladies Club, Community Hall, Limekiln Lane, on **Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> April 2013** at 20.30hrs and to the Harold's Cross Ladies Club, Holy Rosary Hall, on **Weds. 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2013** at 20.30hrs.

## SARAJEVO UNIVERSITY

Calling all bibliophiles, academics and authors. Twenty years ago over two million volumes, including priceless manuscripts, were destroyed in the fire that engulfed the National & University Library in Sarajevo on August 26th 1992 during the Bosnian civil war. This Society is proactively supporting a group of Bosnian students seeking donations of contemporary academic works in any discipline to restock their university's library which was totally destroyed in August 1992. Have you any books that you could donate? Please forward donated volumes to: **Mrs Fuada Muslic**, Senior Officer for Publishing, University of Sarajevo, Obala Kulina Bana 7/2, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tel: 00 387 3322 1946 ; E-mail [izdavacka.djelatnost@unsa.ba](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)

## RESEARCH ADVICE

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archives and Research Centre, at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire, is open each Wednesday from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open at 13.00hrs) and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 18.00hrs. Members are on hand on those days to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors to the facility, however, the use of the resources is reserved for members of the Society. Day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as Dublin Bus and the DART are nearby, however, pay-n-display parking is available in the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Area. For directions see: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.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'. Checkout: [www.gillmacmillan.com](http://www.gillmacmillan.com)

## STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

To encourage students and young people to take up family history research, the Society offers a 50% reduction for persons under 25 years of age. Also, persons who take up adult education courses in genealogy can avail of a similar 50% reduction on the standard membership rate—that's right, Student Membership for just €20.00. See GSI website for details.