



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 8 No. 1

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

January : Eanáir 2013



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

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

## CONTENTS

<i>Pathfinders to the Past</i>	2
<i>Amnesty &amp; Pardons for WW2 Deserters</i>	2
<i>Weekend Genealogy Courses</i>	2
<i>James Scannell Reports ..</i>	3
<i>Précis of Dec. Lecture</i>	
<i>An Daonchartlann</i>	3
<i>Diary Dates</i>	4
<i>Donnelly Surname DNA</i>	4
<i>Society Annual Dinner</i>	
<i>St. Brigid's Stillogan Irish DNA Atlas Project</i>	4

## 2013—Eventful Year Ahead!

2013 is certainly going to be a very busy and exciting year in Ireland with events arranged to coincide with Ireland's Presidency of the European Union, our 40th Anniversary of joining the European Economic Community, the 'European Union Year of the Citizen', the nationwide festival of 'The Gathering Ireland 2013' and, of course, 'Bliain na Gaeilge 2013'. Important commemorations will also be held to mark the 100th anniversary of the 1913 Lockout in Dublin, however, it seems that the 70th anniversary of the closing of the last British Crown Office in Dublin in April 1943 will be conveniently overlooked. The office of the Ulster King of Arms, the British Crown's heraldic officer for Ireland, lingered in Dublin Castle after independence in 1922 and arguably operated in an anomalous legal position without the necessary domestic legislative authority from 1936. The delivery of heraldic services by the 'office' of the Chief Herald of Ireland dates from 1943, however, it too had no legislative basis for its operation until May 2005. The 'Programme for Government'



commits the Minister for Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan, TD, to addressing the wholly unsatisfactory legislative position of the State's delivery of heraldic services. Heraldry and the use of coats-of-arms, emblems and flags are deeply rooted in the cultural, social and political history and heritage of the island of Ireland. The on-going controversy in Belfast regarding the flying of the 'Union Flag' over City Hall has reopened the often difficult and fractious debate on identities and contested space in Northern Ireland. Many view this problem as unfinished business from the Belfast Agreements of 1998 which sought to bring about a framework for a shared space and future for both traditions in Northern Ireland. It is clear that the 'flags issue' in Northern Ireland must be ad-

ressed politically, and in civil society, with sensitivity, mutual respect and understanding. This theme of understanding the history, heritage, culture and identities associated with flags and emblems will be explored by 'Bratacha 2013' in Dún Laoghaire between May 9th (Europe Day) and 11th 2013. The event is organised as part of 'The Gathering' by the Genealogical Society of Ireland, National Maritime Institute of Ireland, Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and a number of local organisations. 'Bratacha 2013' will be officially launched on Europe Day, May 9th, at a special ceremony marking Ireland's EU presidency and celebrating our shared European heritage. The event is the first of its kind in Ireland devoted to the symbolism and histories of flags and emblems. It will feature lectures, seminars, exhibitions displays and other events, including a parade. Whether we would admit it or not, flags do matter to us all and not just in the North—we're all either flag wavers or followers, as were our ancestors before us!



Most of us are fully aware of 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' or 'Irish Week' which is organised every year to coincide with the St. Patrick's Day festivities, now this wonderful initiative is extended to the whole year (bliain). *Bliain na Gaeilge* is a nationwide celebration of the Irish language in 2013 providing thousands of opportunities to use the language to the two million people who have Irish,

irrespective of the level of competency, at national events, local events, competitions and new Irish language projects organised throughout the year. The revival of the Irish language started in 1893 with the establishment of Conradh na Gaeilge (Gaelic League) and this year, *Bliain na Gaeilge*, will be recognising the progress made over the last 120 years by Irish language and Gaeltacht organisations, schools and

other groups in preserving, reviving and promoting the language. The overwhelming majority of the people of Ireland have either surnames of Gaelic origin or they are descended from people with native Irish surnames. *Bliain na Gaeilge* is an opportunity for us to rediscover the language of our ancestors which has been spoken here for possibly more than three millennia. See: [www.gaeilge2013.ie](http://www.gaeilge2013.ie)

## Pathfinders to the Past—*The Antiquarian road to Irish historical writing 1640-1960*

'*Pathfinders to the Past—The antiquarian road to Irish historical writing 1640-1960*' edited by **Próinséas Ní Chatháin & Siobhán Fitzpatrick** with **Howard Clark** is published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-345-0 : 208pp : Colour Ills. : H/bk : Price €50.00) See: [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie) '*Pathfinders to the Past*' is a wonderful collection of interdisciplinary essays compiled for the 150th anniversary of foundation of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (RSAI). The essays cover the period from the turbulent seventeenth century – the Ireland of wars, destruction, plantation and dispossession, right through to the mid-twentieth century and the emergence of political and social modernity in Ireland. Charles Doherty, RSAI President, provides an insight into the 'modern antiquary' as 'any member of the public who has an interest in the past'. The editors in their Preface put the foundation, history and work of the RSAI in the context of its aims 'to preserve, examine and illustrate all ancient monuments of the history, manners, customs and arts of our ancestors'. The essays follow a chronological order and each of the essayists provide excellent biographical information. The first essay *Dubhaltach Mac Fhirbhisigh: his life and significance* by Nollaig Ó Muraíle is of particular interest to the genealogist as Mac Fhirbhisigh's '*Leabhar Mór na nGenealach: the Great Book of Irish Genealogies*' which was compiled between 1645 and 1666 is of monumental importance for the study of medieval and early modern Ireland. Diarmaid Ó Catháin's essay deals with another early antiquarian *Walter Harris and The whole works of St. James Ware*. Walter Harris was a fascinatingly industrious and thorough researcher whose writings, even after circa 250 years, are important reference works. The late Michael McCarthy's essay *Extending the grand tour: Dr. Pococke's travels, 1737-41* explores the eighteenth century phenomenon

of the 'grand tour' and in particular that of Dr. Richard Pococke described as 'the dullest man that ever travelled'. McCarthy's essay paints a rather less dull picture of the good Bishop. The essay *James Hardiman, 1782-1855: 'the historian of Galway'* by Marie Boran explores the lesser known aspects of the work of Hardiman including his contribution to Gaelic scholarship. Paul Walsh's essay on *George Petrie: his life and work* deals with 'one of the last of the great Irish polymaths' who pioneered the development of the scientific approach to the humanities. Walsh's essay takes the reader through a fascinating life of a remarkable individual who 'had the enthusiasm and the imaginative power which are essential to the artist: he also possessed the sagacity and calmness of judgement which are commonly supposed to be characteristic of the man of science'. Anraoi de Paor's essay *The life and work of Robert McAdam of Belfast, 1808-95* provides an insight into the cofounder of Cuideacht Gaeilge Uladh and champion of the preservation of the Irish language in Ulster. His interest in ancient Irish trumpets and his depiction of the ancient Irish leather cloak is fascinating. Ann Hamilton's essay on *William Reeves, 1815-92* portrays this clergyman's phenomenal grasp of material, careful use of information and pioneering application of an interdisciplinary approach to his research. Siobhán de hÓir's essay is on *Philip Doyne Vigers: soldier and antiquarian, 1825-1903* and, of course, founder of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland which became by 1937, the Irish Memorials Society, producing some 6,800 pages all within thirteen volumes which are an excellent resource. Elizabeth Shee Twohig's essay on *A.H. Lane Fox Pitt Rivers and Ireland* and although he only spent four years in Ireland his contribution was as the 'Father of Archaeology' he left a legacy of new frameworks for understanding the human past. Aideen

M. Ireland's essay on *Some Cork antiquarians and collectors in the nineteenth century* illustrates how their dedication and simple 'love of the items themselves' contributed enormously to our knowledge of the county's past. Liam Irwin's essay on *Thomas Johnson Westropp, 1860-1922* whose work has an enduring value in that his detailed surveys, with their meticulous notes, accurate plans and detailed sketches provide a unique record of how these sites were over a century ago. His use of material from the Public Records Office which was destroyed in 1922 provides the only access researchers have to this information today. Dorothy Kelly's essay on *Henry Saxton Crawford: quintessential antiquary* provides an insight to a 'rather shadowy figure' for whom, Kelly suspects, 'membership of the RSAI and of the Royal Irish Academy was not just important but central to the life of this middle-aged bachelor' and indeed, his devotion to his work is evident from his articles which Kelly lists. Muiris O'Sullivan's essay on *R.A.S. Macalister*, explores the life and work of a man who was pre-eminent in Irish archaeology in the early part of the twentieth century. He was especially influential in the formulation and development of cultural policy and had considerable success in the enactment of legislation to protect archaeological features. His work for the Irish Text Society, his publications and copious articles has bequeathed an enormous body of work to researchers today. Finally, George L. Huxley's essay on *The antiquarian scholarship of J.J. Tierney* explores the life's work of a man with interests and publications ranging from Greek and Roman comedy to cartography and geography, in particular the works of Ptolemy and others. Indeed, his work on *Dicuil's De mensura*, which famously reports the presence of Irish monks in Iceland at the end of the eight century, is also discussed by Huxley. **MM**

## Amnesty & Pardons for WW2 Deserters

During World War 2 or '*The Emergency*' as it was known in neutral Éire at the time, hundreds of Irish soldiers absented themselves from their units and crossed the border to Northern Ireland or went to Great Britain to join the British Army. According to the law, they were declared to have deserted and those that returned to Ireland after the War found themselves barred from employment by the State and suffered hardships as a result. There has been a campaign to seek some form of acknowledgement by the State that these men were harshly treated which also impacted on their families. Many of the men who deserted from the Irish Army to fight with the British, American or other Allied forces were killed or wounded in the cause of liberating Europe from Nazism and fighting Japanese imperialism in the Far East. Last year

the Minister for Justice, Law Reform & Defence, Alan Shatter, TD, announced that his department was looking at ways of addressing the concerns expressed by the campaigners on behalf of these men. This announcement by Minister Shatter met with some serious opposition from former members of the Irish Defence Forces and others. The Minister published his Bill on December 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 aimed at the granting of an amnesty, and, as appropriate, an immunity from prosecution, to those members of the Defence Forces who served with forces (including the armed forces of a country) fighting on the Allied side during the Second World War and were subsequently found guilty by a military tribunal of, or who were or who still are liable to be prosecuted for, desertion or being absent without leave, or who were dismissed

from the Defence Forces pursuant to the provisions of the Emergency Powers (No. 362) Order 1945 (S. R. & O. 1945. No. 198). The *Defence Forces (Second World War Amnesty and Immunity) Bill, 2012*, will be warmly welcomed by those who have campaigned on behalf of these men and their families for decades. Irrespective of the motives these men had for dissenting during '*The Emergency*' and, it would be naïve to think that all were motivated by a burning desire to fight Nazism, the prospect of better pay and conditions was surely a factor for many. This Bill may well yet have some unintended legal consequences and, no doubt, others may see it as potentially unconstitutional and critically undermining the Irish Defence Forces. A copy of the Bill may be downloaded at [www.oireachtas.ie](http://www.oireachtas.ie) under Bills.

## WEEKEND GENEALOGY COURSES

The Weekend Genealogy Courses will recommence on Saturday **January 19th 2013**. 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 provider of the 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 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)

## GSILECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. **8th Jan, 2013**—'*Irish Army Records*' by **Comdt. Pádraic Kennedy**. Tues. **12th Feb.**—'*Dún Laoghaire Harbour and its Board*' by **Gráinne Shaffrey**. Tues. **12th March** (Annual General Meeting)—'*Rental Sources as a Resource for the Genealogist*' by **Dr. James Ryan**. Tues. **9th April**—'*Ancestry.com as an archival resource for the genealogist—present and future plans*' by **Eric Booth**. 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)

# James Scannell Reports...

## KNIGHT & PETCH LTD

Michael McLoughlin, a final year student in TCD, is seeking information on Knight and Petch Ltd., known as manufacturers of the highest quality shirts and blouses. Up to January 1978 it had an address of Fairgeen Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow, after which it moved to a new factory in Wicklow and later wound up in April 1982. Contact: Michael McLoughlin, 33, Belview Park Ave., Booterstown, Co. Dublin, or michael.mcloughlin098@gmail.com

## McBRIDE MEMORABILIA

During December Ms. Cairtriona Lawlor, who was Seán McBride's assistant for the last eleven years of his life, donated a collection of memorabilia belonging to him and to his father, Major John Bride, to the National Museum of Ireland. Major John McBride, who had been married to Maud Gonne, was a key figure in Jacob's factory during the 1916 Rising and executed on May 5<sup>th</sup> 1916 in Kilmainham Gaol. The material from Major McBride includes a rare numbered 1916 medal in commemoration of his role during the rising, and his pipe and cigarette case. Material from Seán McBride, who played a key role internationally in the development of human rights and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1974, included a War of Independence medal awarded to him. Ms. Lawlor said that she

donated the material for display during the centenary of the 1916 Rising.

## 16<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GILBERT LECTURE

On Weds. Jan. 23<sup>rd</sup> the Dublin City Library & Archive in Pearse Street will hold the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Sir John T. Gilbert Commemorative Lecture at 18.00hrs presented by Dr. Maighread Ní Mhurchadha, Historian, on 'Dublin after dark: Glimpses of life in an early modern city'. Booking essential – call 01 674 4806 or E-mail [dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie](mailto:dublinpubliclibraries@dublincity.ie).

## FINUCANE MEMORIAL UNVEILED

On Saturday December 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 a permanent memorial to RAF WW2 Wing Commander Brendan "Paddy" Finucane, known as "The Ace With the Shamrock" was unveiled in Dublin's O'Connell Schools, North Richmond Street. Finucane was 21 when his aircraft was hit during a raid over northern France on July 15<sup>th</sup> 1942 and after making a perfect landing on the sea off the Belgium coast but was drowned when the aircraft sank suddenly. Dr. Tony O'Connell, President of the O'Connell Schools Past Pupil's Union said that Irish people owed their freedom to people like Finucane as much as they did for those for fought of Irish independence, adding that the visit of Queen Elizabeth II in 2011 had created the atmosphere to

honour Irishmen who fought with the British against fascism. The attendance of eighty included representatives of the Irish Air Corps, the RAF and the Australian Embassy (he commanded an Australian Squadron) with the chief guest being his nephew, Brendan Finucane, Q.C., whose father Raymond Finucane flew with Bomber Command in WW2. Brendan said that his father had quietly revered his older brother whom he considered was an exceptional man and would have been proud of the commemoration. He considered the memorial as a fitting tribute not only to his late uncle but to all the Irishmen who gave their lives in WW2. Finucane attended O'Connell Schools from 1932 to 1936. A 2005 lecture on "The Ace with the Shamrock" by Maurice Byrne to the O.D.S. was published in the *Dublin Historical Record*, Vol. LIX, No. 1, Spring 2006. A limited number of copies are available at €7.50 (incl. post) from The Old Dublin Society, RDS Library, Royal Dublin Society, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4.



The January 2013 issue (No. 8) of the excellently produced and very popular e-magazine 'Irish Lives Remembered' is now available to read or to download to your PC free of charge on [www.irishlivesremembered.ie](http://www.irishlivesremembered.ie)

## Précis of the December Lecture

On Tuesday Dec. 11th 2012 members were treated to a most interesting lecture by **Natasha Serne** on 'The Archives of the Royal Dublin Society – some Recent Developments'. Ms. Serne outlined the history of the foundation of the Society in 1731 and objective to improve Ireland's economic condition by promoting the development of Agriculture, Arts, Science and Industry. The earliest acquisitions include a series of Dutch works published in 1724-6 on machinery and inventions. In 1877, the RDS Library's most prestigious and representative collections were used to set up the National Library. The RDS was also instrumental in setting up National Museum, the Natural History Museum, the Botanic Gardens and the Veterinary Medicine College. The RDS also founded and housed the Irish Radium Institute until the 1950s. The present Library was opened in 1965 by President Éamon de Valera. The Library holds the records of the RDS and a general library of over 100,000 volumes including over 4,000 relating to Ireland. This is a wide ranging collection of printed, manuscript and photographic material on its core subjects and other items ranging from the Society's earliest manuscript minute books

and proceedings, to programmes and photographs. The minute books and membership rolls consist of both manuscript material from 1731 and printed minute books from 1764 to the present day. Historical material relating to activities encouraged or sponsored by the RDS: herd and stud books, scientific, agricultural and environmental publications, details of premiums awarded for art, industry or land reclamation, statistical and population surveys of the whole of the island. For further info. see: [www.rds.ie](http://www.rds.ie)

## PRONI CONFERENCE

January 31st—PRONI, Belfast. Conference on 'The Jewish community in the north of Ireland' 13.30hrs to 16.30hrs. 13.30hrs—**Presentation** by Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, of a copy of *Heritage: The A-Z DNA of Belfast and Northern Irish Jewry* to Carál Ní Chuilín MLA. **Conference:** 14.00hrs-16.30hrs Stuart Rosenblatt on Belfast and Northern Irish Jewry; Leon Litvack (QUB) The Kindertransport; Pamela Linden (QUB) The Belfast Jewish refugee committee in the 1930s; Bethany Sinclair (PRONI) One Letter, One Voice, Multiple Archives: the case of Leopold Pollak. For further information see: <http://www.proni.gov.uk>

## AN DAONCHARTLANN

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archives and Research Centre 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 of the GSI Archives & Research Centre is reserved for members of the Society. Day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. The Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, is currently finalising plans to have various catalogues of the Society's holdings placed on the Society's website. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport, however, pay-n-display parking is available in the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Area. For directions see: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## 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, 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? Check out 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 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-LINE**[www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Jan. 8th &amp; Feb. 12th 2013

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday Jan. 23rd &amp; Feb. 27th 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)

**DONNELLY SURNAME—FREE DNA TEST**

IrelandsDNA is a new company founded with the goal of improving and communicating our understanding of Irish ancestry from the perspective of genetics. There are a number of strands to their research, but much of the work focuses on realising the full potential of the Y chromosome for understanding ancestry. IrelandsDNA is initiating a study of the Donnelly surname. The goal of the study is to see if all Donnelly's descend from one recent progenitor, or whether different branches exist within the surname group. According to historical records the original carrier of the Donnelly surname was Donnghaile Ó Néill (d. 876) who in turn descended from Niall of the Nine Hostages. If all male Donnelly's carry a very similar Y chromosome type, it points to a common founder (in Donnghaile). If several distinct Y chromosome types are observed it suggests independent founder events. Regardless of the number of apparent founders, this project is seeking to shed light on the origins of the Donnelly surname. IrelandsDNA is seeking male carries of the Donnelly surname to participate in this study. All that is required to participate is a saliva sample. Participants will receive a free IrelandsDNA test. Space is limited so please make contact quickly if you are interested in learning more. For further information on this project please e-mail [info@irelandsDNA.com](mailto:info@irelandsDNA.com) noting the Donnelly DNA project.

**SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**

The Society's Director of Research Information Services, Eddie Gahan, MGSI, has organised the inaugural Society Annual Dinner for **Friday March 8th 2013** at the National Yacht Club, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. In addition to proposing that the GSI should establish a 'social club' for its members, Eddie has long advocated the hosting of an annual social function for Members, their families and friends of the Society. The venue is simply wonderful overlooking Dún Laoghaire Harbour and with a four-course meal and live music it is exceptionally good value at only €40.00 per person. Should you wish to reserve your place for this special event you can book and pay on-line via the Society's website or, if you wish, you can do so by contacting Eddie Gahan directly by e-mail on [eddie\\_gahan\\_snr@hotmail.com](mailto:eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com) Early booking is advisable.

**FOUR COURTS PRESS***Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more*[www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)*Checkout the New Titles and Catalogue on-line***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. 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. Séamus will accept suitable participants, male or female, with ancestry from any part of Ireland meeting the criteria regarding their eight great grandparents. Members are asked to assist the project by inviting friends and colleagues to participate in this unique All-Ireland important academic research project. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please don't hesitate to contact Séamus by e-mail on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

**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) Price €22.99 [RRP]

**St. Brigid's Stillorgan**

As part of *The Gathering 2013*, on Saturday 2nd February St Brigid's Church, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin, will host a special day to celebrate its 300 years with guided tours of the church and graveyard from 10.00hrs and a photographic exhibition of the work of Stillorgan's most famous painter William Orpen, photographs of Stillorgan and its people, talks by local historians and the Genealogical Society of Ireland will be on hand with family history research advice. In the evening there will be supper with entertainment at 20.00hrs. Cost of the dinner is €15 (€10 euro concessions) but there is no charge for the guided tour or exhibition. See: [www.stbrigid300.com](http://www.stbrigid300.com)

**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.books4vijecnica.com](http://www.books4vijecnica.com)

**In Memoriam**

The GSI Board sends its sincerest condolences to Martha Smith, MGSI on the sudden death of her mother **Kathleen (Katie) Fisher (née Moloney)** from Sallynoggin, Co. Dublin, on November 27th 2012 at home. Kathleen (Katie) was the dearly beloved wife of the late Patrick (Bud), much loved mother of Martha, Eric, Patrick and William. Katie is very sadly missed by her loving daughter, sons, daughters-in-law, son-in-law, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends. Katie was laid to rest on November 30th 2012 in Deansgrange Cemetery following a Funeral Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church, Sallynoggin. RIP. And also to Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI, on the sudden death of his sister **Elizabeth (Liz) Hughes (née MacAllister)** of Killiney, Co. Dublin, on December 31st 2012 at St. Colmcille's Hospital, Loughlinstown. Elizabeth (Liz) beloved wife of John and devoted mother of Omer and Clodagh. Deeply missed by her husband, son, daughter, son-in-law Gerry, daughter-in-law Nicole, grandchildren Holly, Adam, Seán and Caití, brother Liam, sister-in-law Máire, Aunty Mary relatives and friends. Liz was laid to rest on January 4th 2013 in Deansgrange Cemetery following a Funeral Mass at St. Patrick's Church, Monkstown RIP.

**WHO ARE  
THE IRISH?****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.