



# 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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## CONTENTS

Sir Frederick Hamilton 1590-1647	2
Précis of Oct. Lecture	2
Genealogy Courses 2014	
James Scannell Reports .. Monumental Arms	3
Irish DNA Atlas Project	3
Ballykinlar Camp	4
Diary Dates	4
Maynooth Studies	
Free Research Advice	4
Care for your records	
GSI Lecture Programme	4
Car-parking at Lectures	

## Most Spoke in Favour & the Majority Voted No

The *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2011* was debated at second stage in Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) on Wednesday October 16th 2013. The Bill was drafted by the Society and kindly sponsored by **Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú**. The Senator opened the debate explaining that "the Bill is essentially a technical proposal to amend the *Statistics Act 1993* in order to assign special heritage status to the 1926 census of population. If enacted, it will enable the Minister to continue to make regulations as to how the archived material would be accessed by the public. The 1926 census was the first following the foundation of the State. The censuses of 1901 and 1911, which were digitized and made available online in recent years, have been accessed by millions of people throughout the world. This is an indication of the huge interest there is in tracing one's roots." Senator after senator from all sides of the House spoke in favour of the Bill and thanked Senator Ó Murchú for introducing such a simple and straightforward measure to provide public access to the 1926 Census. However, possibly noting that only one government senator, **Eamonn Coghlan**, spoke against the Bill, **Minister of State, Paul Kehoe, TD**, indicated that he wished to respond before the end of the debate. Whilst welcoming the opportunity to discuss the Bill, he said that "the question of publish-

ing the 1926 census ahead of schedule is a complex legal and technical one. The Government is of the view that early publication, before vital preparatory work has been undertaken, is premature and that there are a number of issues requiring further consideration before a decision to publish could be made". The Minister of State then informed Senators that **Minister Jimmy Deenihan** "has established a 1926 census working group, which comprises officials from his Department, the National Archives and the CSO [Central Statistics Office] to consider how best to enable the publication of the 1926 census. The CSO and National Archives have agreed to facilitate the preparatory work on the census records." Then the Minister of State, to the astonishment of the House, went on to effectively undermine the establishment of the "1926 working group" by insisting that "releasing the 1926 forms might be seen as reneging on the guarantee given to the significant number of persons still alive today." He alluded to the 'redaction proposals' saying that "some have suggested releasing only information for those born prior to 1912" but then explained that the 100 years rule refers to the census forms in question and not the age of the individuals recorded. Minister Kehoe suggested that any change to the 100 years rule would damage the reputation of the CSO which has as its "core values" independence, objectivity and the guarantee of confidentiality. In his response to the

Minister Senator Ó Murchú certainly articulated the thoughts of anyone listening to the Minister Kehoe's opposition to the Bill, saying "sometimes when there is a counter-view - as with the counter-view to the Bill before the House - it relates to a single issue. However, when I see a multiplicity of reasons put forward as to why something cannot be done, little alarm bells start to go off in my head. In other words if the issue was merely one of confidentiality, we would discuss confidentiality." It appeared that Minister Kehoe's opposition to the Bill came as a surprise to many on the government benches. Clearly suggestions that the Bill, if enacted, would impede the work of the CSO only exposed the weakness of the Minister's arguments. In his defence of the 100 years rule in respect of the 1926 census, Minister of State, Paul Kehoe, TD, effectively signalled another Government U-turn on a promise in the *Programme for Government*. What's next?

## FOI BILL, 2013

The Society's proposed amendments to the *Freedom of Information Bill, 2013*, will be presented by **Mr. Stephen Donnelly, TD** at the Committee Stage of the Bill which is due to commence on Wednesday November 13th 2013. The amendments follow those put forward by the Joint Oireachtas Committee in its report on the Bill and, if adopted, they will bring clarity to the issue of continued public access to the records of the General Register Office.

## BOOKS FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

Several hundred academic books collected by the Society for the library of the University of Sarajevo are due for shipment this month. The university's entire library collection was destroyed in August 1992 in the shelling and subsequent fire at the National & University Library in Sarajevo during the Bosnian Civil War. A few years ago students at the university led by **Jasmin Hasic** and his colleagues launched an international appeal for donations of academic books to restore the university's library collections.

This Society was delighted to assist with this campaign as the people of Ireland can readily empathise with our Bosnian friends as we too lost an enormous part of our archival heritage in 1922 with the destruction of the Public Records Office at the start of our Civil War. Again, like the Bosnians we too lost over a thousand years of our nation's archival heritage. With wonderful donations from Trinity College Dublin and others, the Society is delighted with the support it has received for this important European heritage and educational initiative. The books

were stored by Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company and on Tuesday November 5th 2013, **Mr. Gerry Dunne**, CEO of the Harbour Company offered to sponsor the shipment of the books to Sarajevo. With the assistance of **Alan Reid** of DSV in Kildare and **Tim Ryan** of the Harbour Company the pallet load of books left Dún Laoghaire on Friday November 8th 2013 for the DSV depot to be prepared for shipment. The Society is extremely grateful to the CEO of the Harbour Company for the very kind sponsorship of this shipment.

## The Life and Times of Sir Frederick Hamilton 1590-1647

For those with connections to Co. Leitrim and surrounding areas, *'The Life and Times of Sir Frederick Hamilton 1590-1647'* by **Dominic Rooney** and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-424-1 : 267pp : illustrated : p/bk : Price €22.45) should certainly be on the Christmas list. This is an exceptionally well researched book by a Leitrim native with a lifelong interest in local history. This may explain why this book is presented, as any genealogist or local historian would wish, with plenty of genealogical tables. Sir Frederick Hamilton was a seventeenth century Scottish nobleman who secured a grant of land during the plantation of Co. Leitrim in 1620. However, unlike many of his contemporaries Hamilton took up residence and began improving and enlarging his holding through purchase and mortgaging from his British and Irish neighbours. From the outset, Rooney paints a picture of Hamilton's character traits especially "his tendency to exaggerate both his own importance and his achievements"—in other words a 'bragger'. Indeed, he wrote in 1645 that his enemies called him a 'bragger'. Already we have the essence of a likeable rogue, but in many ways, this would only serve to underestimate the man in his much troubled times. The Hamiltons were closely related to the royal house of Stewart/Stuart and were very sizeable landowners in Scotland. Rooney outlines Hamilton's formative years in his early twen-

ties at the court of James I / VI in London, where he rose quickly to join the privy chamber in 1615. He was now at the heart of government in London where in 'three royal letters written in 1623, all indicate James's personal acquaintance with, and appreciation of, the young Frederick Hamilton.' With the unity of the crowns of Scotland and England, James I / VI and his regime actively promoted 'Britishness' and the new 'united' nationality of 'British subject'. This was a project fully embraced by Hamilton and at a time of plantation in Ireland, Scottish and English settlers found a common identity as British subjects in a 'barbarous land'. Rooney's research details the complexities of the relationship between the planter and the native Irish during the plantation of Leitrim in 1620. In 1583, following the submission of Brian O'Rourke of the Ramparts, the lands of the O'Rourkes were designated as the county of Leitrim comprising six baronies. Hamilton first arrived in Leitrim in 1622 and set about the enterprise of plantation and the expansion of his estate with remarkable zeal. The detailed account of the expansion of his estates is of exceptional value to local history and genealogy. His involvement in the various military campaigns on the European mainland in the regiment of his first cousin, James, Marquis of Hamilton, where Sir Frederick Hamilton received a commission from Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden to fight in Germany, provides an insight into Europe's

bitter religious wars of the seventeenth century. Unfortunately for Hamilton war was a constant interruption in his estate building enterprise and none more so, that the 1641 rebellion and the early Confederate Wars in Ireland. Once again, Rooney's account of this period is detailed, however, still very accessible to the general reader. The final years of his life were extremely difficult as, like most Scottish planters, Hamilton as a Presbyterian found himself at odds with Charles I and sided with the parliamentarians. It is in this period of his life his character is laid bare as he becomes increasingly disillusioned with the English parliament through the failure of his many attempts at self promotion and advancement. Rooney deals not only with the life and times of this enigmatic individual, but also with his legacy in Co. Leitrim and especially, in the Manorhamilton area right up to the present. Excellent! **MM**

### OUTREACH PROGRAMME

**Eddie Gahan**, Director of the GSI Outreach Programme, wishes to thank all those who assisted with the GSI Stand at the RDS last month. It was a very successful event and plans are already in hand to have GSI Stands at even more events throughout Ireland in 2014. Eddie and his team will be at the **Fermanagh Family and Local History Fair** on Saturday Nov. 16<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 11.00hrs at the Killyhelvin Hotel in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, Northern Ireland.

## Précis of the October Lecture

On Tuesday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2013 we were treated to a wonderful lecture by **Dr. James Ryan** of Flyleaf Press on *'Rental Records as a Genealogical Source'*. Rentals are the private records of landlords or their agents. They are particularly important in Ireland where land ownership was restricted, and tenancy was the norm. Although hugely variable in format, almost all contain at least names, places and dates of tenancies. Their format usually varies according to (a) size of estate, (b) who is making the record, and (c) nature of tenancy. In short, large estates kept detailed records, whereas smaller landlords knew their tenants and details were not needed. Many large estates were owned by 'absentee landlords' who lived in England, and rarely visited Ireland. These estates were managed by Estate Agents who sent regular rental reports to the landlord. These contain what an estate owner would wish to know; i.e. tenants,

rental income, reasons for non-payment, actions taken, issues affecting future income etc. Finally, there were different forms of tenancy ranging from the 'tenant at will' status, to rental for a period of years, to tenant for 'lives', i.e. held for as long as defined persons survived. The latter status is sometimes defined within a rental. They are valuable as the lives are often of family members, particularly children. This talk explored the nature and range of rentals, their historical background and evolution during the 1600s to 1900; type of information they contain, and where they can be found. It was fully illustrated with examples of records and their content. By the way, **Flyleaf Press have 'got a little list!'** A dilemma which is regularly presented to us when we are researching new guides is: how big does a source have to be before we include it? A rental with 80 names (particularly pre-1840s) is definitely worth a

mention, but what about a list of a list of 12 people who were given permission to cut turf, or a 17 servants in some big house? These people are undoubtedly of interest to someone's research, but in practice, we cannot highlight all of them. So what we have been doing is to include them in our blog for anyone to access. So far we have posted nine such sources: including schoolchildren in Kerry; tradesmen and workers in Wexford and Limerick, and tenants in Carlow, Galway and Waterford. More will follow and if you have a connection with these, please let Flyleaf know. See [www.flyleaf.ie/blog](http://www.flyleaf.ie/blog)

### WEBSITE REDEVELOPMENT

**Tom Conlon**, Director of Internet Services, is currently redesigning the Society's website to make it more user-friendly and to expand its resources. The redesign *'work-in-progress'* can be viewed at [www.familyhistory.ie/wp](http://www.familyhistory.ie/wp)

## GENEALOGY COURSES 2014

The Weekend Genealogy Courses provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd** will recommence in the New Year. It is intended to expand these very successful and popular courses to include the many advances in genealogy, heraldry and vexillology. The courses are specially designed to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. Classes are small providing better tuition. Ancestor Network Ltd. provided the Genealogy Advisory Services for the **National Library of Ireland** during the summer. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other repositories; the standard principles of genealogy; internet resources; place-names and surnames; research-

ing census, civil, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared enabling participants to achieve the best results tracing 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 info. contact John Hamrock on 087 050 5296 or by e-mail on [john.hamrock@ancestor.ie](mailto:john.hamrock@ancestor.ie)

### IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

### IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

The November 2013 issue (No. 18) of the excellently produced and very popular e-magazine *'Irish Lives Remembered'* is now available to read or to download to your PC, mobile device or tablet absolutely *free of charge* on [www.irishlivesremembered.ie](http://www.irishlivesremembered.ie)

Why not checkout previous issues of this wonderful Genealogy E-magazine on the website above?. The various articles on the resources for researching your ancestors in particular counties provide an exceptionally useful guide for those wishing to further their knowledge of the genealogical, archival and local history resources of these counties.



## James Scannell Reports...

### REGISTER OF OVERSEAS DEATHS

The Government is currently considering preparing an amendment to the Civil Registration Act, 2004 to make it possible to record the deaths of Irish citizens who died overseas on holiday, working on short term contracts of employment, or during business trips. Currently there is no legal requirement for such deaths to be registered in Ireland as death certificates issued by the civil authorities in the country where the death took place are considered sufficient for administrative purposes. When the register is established, it will be maintained separately to the one maintained by the Registrar General. To be placed on the Register, a qualified informant, normally a relative of the deceased, will have to produce the original or certified copy of the death certificate with evidence that the deceased was an Irish citizen ordinarily resident within the State within two years of their death.

### MEDIEVAL KILKENNY

An Taisce has called upon Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, TD., Minister for Arts and Heritage, to spare the remains of a late medieval manse house located opposite St. Canice's Cathedral in Kilkenny City as it stands in the way of a major road scheme. At the end of September 1000 people marched through Kilkenny protesting against this road scheme – the march

was organised by the campaign 'Complete Kilkenny Ring Road' which wants priority to be given to this route rather than the central access route which this site is in the way of. Plans in July to demolish the three Victorian houses in Vicar Street were put on hold following the submission of a letter from An Taisce's solicitor indicating that these houses were part of the medieval complex of St. Canice's Cathedral and therefore likely to hold earlier remains. Kilkenny City Council has pointed out that the central access route was approved by An Bord Pleanála and that archaeological investigations are being continued the direction and supervision of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

### GLASNEVIN 1916 CHAPEL

Glasnevin Cemetery Trust, Dublin, and the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland, have launched a major international architectural design competition for a chapel to commemorate the 232 people who died during the 1916 Rising. The chapel, which is due to be completed in time for the Easter 2016 centenary commemorations, will be built on the site of a mass grave where the 232 people were buried in the St. Paul's area of the cemetery. The cost of the chapel is estimated to be between €2.5M and €3M and will partly be funded by the Dublin Cemeteries Committee. Government funding is also being sought in addition to

fundraising activities. The winner of the competition will receive €10,000.

### SKERRIES MEMORIAL UNVEILED

During September President Michael D. Higgins unveiled a memorial to many ships and lives lost at sea off the North Dublin coast at Skerries, Co. Dublin. The memorial is in the form of a totem pole that had been used by the Coast Guard service as a viewing platform but it fell into disrepair and was removed about 10 years ago by Fingal County Council. A community campaign led to its reinstatement at Red Island and the pole now lists the names of people and ships lost at sea and forms one of Ireland's largest registers of marine victims listing ships, fishermen, U-boats, sailors, swimmers, rescuers, and wartime maritime casualties from twelve nations over 250 years.

### BRIDGES OF DUBLIN

There are 23 bridges spanning Dublin's River Liffey and full information on these structures can now be found at [www.bridgesofdublin.ie](http://www.bridgesofdublin.ie) a new website provided by Dublin City Council dedicated to Dublin's bridges and their history. This digital archive contains over 900 images from the historical to the modern, some of which have never been seen before, drawn from a variety of sources such as the National Archives, National Library of Ireland, Dublin City Archive and The Irish Times.

## MONUMENTAL ARMS

Last month we reported that the GSI Board had established the *Irish Heraldic Atlas Project* as a new national and international heraldic project for *Heraldry Ireland* aimed at promoting an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of Ireland's heraldic heritage. It will create an on-line photographic database on the use of heraldry on public monuments, funerary monuments, buildings and other structures throughout Ireland and on the use of heraldry by civil society including corporations, institutions, tradespersons, sporting organisations, clubs and associations. It will create an on-line map of the locations of heraldic monuments and facilitate the collection of data from overseas on monumental heraldry with associations to Ireland. Finally, it aims to create photographic exhibition of Irish monumental heraldry as an educational and cultural resource to inform and in-

spire the design of new heraldic achievements to be registered with the Society. Another project in the pipeline is the collection of images and information on the thousands of school and college coats-of-arms that are largely created and assumed by the institutions without reference to any heraldic authority, which of course, is perfectly in order in Ireland. This project will provide Ireland's first study undertaken on such coats-of-arms. See: [www.heraldryireland.com](http://www.heraldryireland.com)

### CIGO on the FOI Bill

The Society is pleased to report that following the publication of this newsletter on October 7th that the notice placed on the CIGO website on October 4th (see page 3, October 'Gazette') was very substantially amended on October 8th to remove an astonishingly disingenuous statement criticising those campaigning for amendments to the *Freedom of Information Bill, 2013* of allegedly circulating unfounded rumours. The Society warmly commends the members of CIGO's executive for their very swift and decisive action in removing the offensive statements from this notice.

## 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 7th 2013. It was agreed under **Res: 13/11/1060** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2014 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2014 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household adult member (18 years or over); 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 2014 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!*

### MEMBERSHIP OF GSI BRANCHES

The Board of Directors has set the Annual Subscription rates for membership (associate) of either *Heraldry Ireland* or *Vexillology Ireland* is €20.00 per annum to include a biannual electronic newsletter and the free registration of Arms in respect of *Heraldry Ireland* and of flags or emblems in respect of *Vexillology Ireland*. Members of the following organisations shall be entitled to a 50% reduction in the Annual Subscription to each (i) Genealogical Society of Ireland; (ii) National Maritime Institute of Ireland and (iii) individual members of Clan/Sept Associations registered with Clans of Ireland and, in the case of *Vexillology Ireland*, individual members of the registered member organisations of FIAV—the International Federation of Vexillological Associations which represents fifty similar organisations in around thirty countries. For further details on these new GSI branches see the following websites: [www.heraldryireland.com](http://www.heraldryireland.com) or for *Vexillology Ireland* see: [www.flagsireland.wordpress.com](http://www.flagsireland.wordpress.com)

## IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

## JOIN ON-LINE

www.familyhistory.ie

**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday November 12th &amp; December 10th 2013

**Evening Open Meeting**

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

Wednesday November 27th 2013 &amp; January 22nd 2014

**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)

**BALLYKINLAR CAMP**

*'Prisoners of War: Ballykinlar Internment Camp 1920 – 1921'* by Liam Ó Duibhir, published by Mercier Press. As the War of Independence intensified during 1920 with a dramatic escalation in attacks on members of the Crown forces, the British administration in Ireland interned members of Sinn Féin and the IRA under the *Restoration of Order in Ireland Act, 1920*. but was not fully exercised until after November 21<sup>st</sup> 1920 in the wake of that day's assassination operation by Michael Collins in Dublin. On November 22<sup>nd</sup> 1920 the mass round up of suspects took place and as in any operation of this nature, many people who were totally innocent, were arrested. Many of those arrested were transported to Belfast on the open decks of British destroyers with no protection from the elements during their voyages and then had to run the gauntlet of loyalists mobs in Belfast while being brought to their transport or moving through the city. Their final destination was Ballykinlar Camp, Co. Down, where they were held for over a year and not released until the Anglo-Irish Treaty was signed in December 1921. While in the camp, internees had to endure appalling brutal treatment, indifference from officialdom, terrible food which at times was inedible, poor quality drinking water, and very basic medical treatment and facilities, as the authorities attempted to break them both mentally and physically. Early in their detention, internees discovered eaves dropping devices planted under their huts which were neutralised or used to convey useless and bogus conversations to those listening, attempted to dig an escape tunnel which was discovered by accident when truck broke through its roof, and established secret means to get messages out of the camp to bypass the official censor. During the camp's existence, three men were shot dead for no apparent reasons by sentries who were not penalised or held accountable for their actions, five died from maltreatment and others suffered severe mental illnesses. But instead of breaking the spirits of the internees, the heavy handed action of the authorities simply encouraged them to create greater resistance to them with the men using the time to establishing a community, to network and to perfect various skills. On release in December 1921 the internees returned to a very volatile situation in Ireland once the full terms of the Treaty were released. Appendices 1 & 2, compiled from a number of sources, list the names and addresses of the internees in Compound 1 & 2 by county. A truly fascinating and engrossing book, excellently told, with the tremendous amount of detail testifying to the excellent research by the author.

James Scannell

**FOUR COURTS PRESS**

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**MAYNOOTH STUDIES**

Last month **James Scannell** reviewed five of the latest titles in the Maynooth Studies in Local History series published by Four Courts Press. Here is the sixth. *'Women, architecture and building in the east of Ireland, c.1790–1840'* by Ruth Thorpe. Until the advent of the 20th century, the world of architecture and building was considered a male domain, but long before this, women of the landed class in Ireland were designing, commissioning and supervising projects. Focusing on several women in the eastern counties, this study discovers how they came to develop an interest in architecture and the skills to express it. It investigates the relationship between the publication of an architectural pattern book by Lady Helena Domville and her rebuilding of Santry village, Co. Dublin. We trace the fortunes of Anna Maria Dawson through her architectural sketches, from the planning of her brother's neoclassical house, Townley Hall, Co. Louth, to her patronage of its architect, Francis Johnston, and her own designs for more modest homes in counties Armagh and Down. Many elite women combined a sense of moral, social and religious duty with a passion for designing and building, resulting in philanthropic projects such as schools, cottages and almshouses. Recovering their role as architectural amateurs allows us a greater understanding of their lives and the buildings of this period. **James Scannell**

**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.msoui.eu

**FREE RESEARCH ADVICE**

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archives and Research Centre, at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire, is open each Weds from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open at 13.00hrs) and each Sat. from 14.00hrs to 17.30hrs. Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors. The use of the resources is reserved for GSI members, however, day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. The facility will close over the **Christmas and New Year** period from 17.00hrs on **Saturday December 22nd 2013** to reopen again at 10.30hrs on **Wednesday 8th January 2014**. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as Dublin Bus and the DART. Pay-n-display parking is available in the Dún Laoghaire area. See: www.familyhistory.ie

**CARE FOR YOUR RECORDS**

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 them. Books, photographs, charts, notes, certificates, parish register and census transcripts. Have you made provision for the preservation of your records, files and notes after you die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or your books to be sold off. **PLEASE** make provision in your Will to have your records donated to the care of the Society's Archives for future generations.

**TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS**

by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The Society strongly recommends to anyone embarking on their family history quest that one essential piece of kit must be, without doubt, a copy of the latest edition of *'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'*. Please checkout the website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €22.99 [RRP].

**LECTURE PROGRAMME**

**Tues. November 12<sup>th</sup>** – *'Children in Care – Records of Pre-1952 Adoptions'* by Fiona Fitzsimons; **Tues. December 10<sup>th</sup>** – *'The resources of Ancestry.com as a support for the Genealogist'* by Eric Booth. **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions on www.familyhistory.ie As the only genealogical organisation providing monthly lectures throughout the year, the programme is varied to meet the needs of all levels of research experience. **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI Director, GSI Lecture Programme, is currently assembling the list of guest speakers for next year. E-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie

**CAR PARKING AT COLLEGE**

Members are advised that car-parking facilities at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education are very limited, especially during the college terms. Therefore, the Society advises all attending the lectures that the most convenient option is to use public transport. Dublin Bus nos. 7, 7A, 46A and 75 all serve the college or streets adjacent. DART services to Salthill & Monkstown are only a short walk from the college. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. *Please plan your trip!*

**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, for just €20.00.