



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 9 No. 2

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

February : Feabhra 2014



**GENEALOGY**

**HERALDRY**

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**SOCIAL HISTORY**

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## Good News from GRO & None from CSO

The recent hearings by the Oireachtas Joint Committee into 'Developing a Plan to Capture the Full Value of our Genealogical Heritage' have demonstrated the diverse nature of the delivery of genealogical services in Ireland. The commercial, state and voluntary sectors each set out their stalls on how they view the future of Irish genealogy at hearings held in December. On Tuesday January 28<sup>th</sup> Mr. Kieran Feely, Director General of the General Register Office (GRO) and Mr. Pádraig Dalton, Director General of the Central Statistics Office (CSO) appeared before the Committee to a decidedly mixed reception from the Teachtaí Dála and Senators. Firstly Mr. Feely outlined the history and function of civil registration in Ireland and then provided the Joint Committee with an update on the GRO modernisation programme and the project to capture all of the manual records dating back to 1845 in electronic format. Mr. Feely explained that the project entailed the conversion of 27 million index records from manual and older electronic database sources to a single,

comprehensive database of index records; the microfilming and scanning of 5 million register pages and creation of a quality electronic image of each page. All of these records are now available in electronic format. The last phase of the project was the conversion of these data to the live CRCS environment. To date, all births from 1864 have been converted to the live environment. Marriages from 1903 to date and deaths from 1924 to date have also been converted. There are significant gaps and Mr. Feely estimated that it will take approximately three years to complete the conversion. Arrangements have been made for the provision of all index data relating to marriages from 1845, births and deaths from 1864 and civil partnerships from 2011 for the purpose of making the data available on [irishgenealogy.ie](http://irishgenealogy.ie). He concluded by advising the Committee that "all of the requisite data has been provided by GRO to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and it is my understanding that the online search facility will go live on the [irishgenealogy.ie](http://irishgenealogy.ie) website within a matter of months" and that the forthcoming *Civil Regis-*

*tration (Amendment) Bill* will provide for certain historic records to be made available through an online search facility. Making available records of births more than 100 years old, marriages more than 75 years old and deaths more than 50 years old. In stark contrast to the welcome information supplied by the GRO, the evidence provided by the CSO in respect of the release of the 1926 Census was unconvincing. Mr. Dalton maintained that "the *Statistics Act 1993* brought a change and a compromise that records could be put into the public domain 100 years after the date of the census" and, that he was "concerned about the signal that a second retrospective change to the legislation could have on the broader statistical system". The claim by the CSO that the early release of the 1926 "would negatively impact" on the collection of statistical data from households and businesses was not supported by any research or evidence by the CSO. Making such unsubstantiated claims damages the image and reputation of the CSO. The Committee was clearly not impressed at all.

## 1926 Census—Political Leadership Required

The evidence provided by the Central Statistics Office to the Joint Oireachtas Committee last month in respect of the proposed early release of the 1926 Census was unconvincing and unsubstantiated. The CSO claimed that the early release would impact on the quality of the statistical information collected on an ongoing basis from businesses and households. Referring to the legislative amendment necessary to facilitate an early release of the 1926 Census, Mr. Pádraig Dalton, Director General of the CSO, stated that "a

legislative change would have implications, not just for the census area, but right across the range of statistical data that we provide. Therefore, we need to be very careful about undertaking any initiative that could undermine the quality or integrity of the system. To change the law retrospectively once could be classified as an event but to change it twice could be seen as a pattern or track record. That is the major concern about the second proposal to retrospectively change the law. That is why we have adopted the position to hold to the 100-year rule and want to

provide access to the 1926 census records in 2026". The position taken by the CSO is clearly at odds with the government's commitment in the 'Programme for Government'. The excuses given by the CSO for its objection to any change in the *Statistics Act, 1993* are simply not credible. Political leadership on this issue is urgently required and is long overdue. The CSO must be instructed to desist in its attempts to derail government policy and to accept the public commitment made by the government on the 1926 Census.

## Medieval Dublin XIII

*'Medieval Dublin XIII - Proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin Symposium 2011'* edited by **Seán Duffy** and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-390-9 : 332pp : illustrations : Hardback Price €50.00 : Paperback Price €24.95) is a wonderful collection of important studies on the political, social and literary history of Dublin from the Viking Age to the dawn of the modern era. The essays will appeal to both the academic historian and the ordinary reader with an interest in the early years of our capital city. Eoin O'Flynn reconstructs the relationship between the Vikings of Dublin and the Clann Cholmáin kings of the Southern Uí Néill. This relationship was a complex web of intermarriage, betrayal, brutality, shifting alliances and, of course, dynastic warfare. The provision of genealogical tables would have greatly assisted the reader, however, this essay does set the scene of an early 'city state' within a wider context of Gaelic Ireland. Denis Casey explores Viking Dublin's ruling elite that included an official called the 'airlabraid' and indeed, his research surely raises the question of whether Viking Dublin should, in fact, be referred to as a Hiberno-Norse (or more appropriately, 'Gaelic-Norse') city. It is possible that its inhabitants spoke a language akin to Manx Gaelic with its many loanwords from Old Norse. Andrew Woods examines the use of coins in Hiberno-Scandinavian Dublin and the coin finds, which rather surprisingly, are more

numerous than those of York, Winchester and Trondheim. Interestingly the various finds suggest that the area of coin usage in the period 900-1170 stretched beyond the borders of the Kingdom of Dublin into Gaelic Leinster. Lenore Fischer's essay is certainly timely as we commemorate the Battle of Clontarf (1014) as she discovers later Dublin traditions about the battle. Paul MacCotter's research is of particular interest to local historians as he reconstructs the lands of the medieval archdiocese of Dublin. The essay includes the old names of the religious establishments and their associations with either Irish or continental saints. Niall Ó Súilleabháin explores the development of the system of municipal government in Anglo-Norman Dublin and challenges the 'older view' that the original inhabitants were excluded from the city or its citizens body. Grace O'Keeffe discusses the connections between Dublin and Bristol in the Middle Ages and the various Bristolian families who settled in Dublin or traded between the two cities. Declan Johnston examines the 'Black Monday' massacre of the citizens by the O'Byrne and O'Toole septs, said to have occurred in 1209 at Cullenswood, and which became an annual pageant for centuries afterwards. Bernadette Williams reassesses the evidence for the arrival of the Dominicans in 1224 and claims that both Dublin and Drogheda friaries were established in that year. Caoimhe Whelan looks at the career of the Dubliner

James Yonge, an important figure in the literary circles in late medieval Ireland and one of the few named writers in Hiberno-Middle English. The next two essays explore the possible use of mid-eighteenth cartography and modern archaeological evidence to map the medieval city. Firstly, John Montague shows how John Rocque's 'Exact Survey' (1756) can be used to shed light on the medieval city. Then Linzi Simpson details the archaeological excavations in the Front Square of Trinity College that unearthed the earliest college buildings and the earlier priory of All Hallows. Finally, Niall McCullough outlines an architectural and urban design framework plan for the Ship Street-Werburgh Street area. As with the earlier volumes in this series there is much to interest the ordinary reader, the academic and especially, Dubliners or those with connections to our capital city. **MM**

### LOCKOUT MEMORIAL

The Society has been presented with a copy of the memorial plaque commissioned the Dún Laoghaire & Bray Lockout Commemoration Committee. The original has been erected at the George IV memorial on Queen's Road in Dún Laoghaire. Our member, **John Comiskey**, who researched the family history of the 1913 Lockout hero, James Byrne of Clarence Street, will also receive a copy of the memorial in recognition of his research services to the commemoration committee.

## Tracing Your Limerick Ancestors

Another wonderful publication from Flyleaf Press in Dublin has been donated to the Society's Archives recently. *'Tracing Your Limerick Ancestors'* by Margaret Franklin is an essential guide for anyone researching ancestors from the city and county of Limerick. Although, there is an earlier publication of the same name, this is a completely new and expanded edition of this valuable guide, launched in November 2013. This 160 page guide has many black and white illustrations of the types of records available and it outlines the range of information that each set of records has for the genealogist and local historian. Indeed, the author is a recently retired librarian who specialised in local history at the Limerick Public Library. The publication of this excellent guide is very timely as the Society is looking for participants from Limerick for the Irish DNA

Atlas Project—see page 3. Limerick city, like all cities, drew in its population from the surrounding counties of Clare and Tipperary. Co. Clare is also covered by one of Flyleaf's guides. Limerick is a pleasant, largely rural county with prosperous farms centred around the historic city of Limerick, and the market towns of Askeaton, Abbeyfeale, Kilmallock, Newcastle West, Raheen and Rathkeale. The city of Limerick is also world famous for its rugby. Popular Limerick surnames include Ahern, Bourke, Cussen, Hayes, Keane, Dundon, Collopy, McCarthy, O'Brien, O'Connor, O'Donnell, O'Shaughnessy, McEnery, McNamara, Madigan, Murphy, Ryan, Walsh and Woulfe. Many of its people have emigrated, particularly in the aftermath of the Great Famine. Its population dwindled from 330,000 before the Famine to 158,000 in 1891. The listing of all of the available records

and the published research on various Limerick families is of exceptional value to genealogists and local historians. *'Tracing Your Limerick Ancestors'* (ISBN: 978-1-907990-06-9) is available from [www.flyleaf.ie](http://www.flyleaf.ie) for €13.00 plus p+p. Prices including airmail are US\$22.00, CAN\$23.00, UK£13.90 and AUD25.00.

### CARE FOR YOUR RECORDS

In the course of our research we 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 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 them donated to the care of the Society's Archives for future generations of researchers. *Will Your Society Well!!*

## GENEALOGY COURSES 2014

The Weekend Genealogy Courses provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd** recommenced on Sat. Jan. 18th 2014. 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. Contact John Hamrock on 087 050 5296 or by email 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 February 2014 issue (No. 21) 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...

## RELATIVES OF WW1 SOLDIER

The UK's Department of Defence is currently trying to trace the Irish relatives World War One soldier Pte. James Rowan who was killed near the Belgian village of Comines-Warneton and whose remains were discovered about four years ago. It's believed that Pte. Rowan's family moved from Co. Longford to Lancashire in England where he was born in the 1880s. The Department of Defence believes that it can obtain conclusive proof of his identity through a DNA sample from a Irish relative as it is believed that his family later moved back to Co. Longford.

## CROSS OF SACRIFICE

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the UK has revealed that later this year it will erect a *Cross of Sacrifice* in Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, to honour all the Irish men and women, from the North and South who lost their lives in the World War One.

## PAVING STONES FOR VCS

During World War One 27 Irish soldiers won the *Victoria Cross* and each of these will now have a paving stone laid in the centenary of the day that they won this most prestigious military award for gallantry on the battlefield. This proposal, originally advanced by the

British Government last August, was intended to apply only to those born in what is now the U.K., but following objections, the scheme has been extended to cover the Republic of Ireland.

## TALK ON TB IN IRELAND

On Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> Alan Carthy will present his talk on 'TB in Ireland and Sanatoriums' at 8 p.m. to the Bray Cualann Historical Society in Bray Chamber of Commerce House, 10 Prince of Wales Tce., Quinsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Admission €4.

## WOMEN OF THE REVOLUTION

Ms. Liz Gillis is working on a photo-book about the women of the Irish Revolution in an attempt to acknowledge the lesser-known female participants in events between 1913–1923. Ms. Gillis hopes to include women from all over the country who had a direct role to play, whether fighting, undertaking intelligence gathering work, first aid, or transport arms as these were as active as their male counterparts and suffered as though they had been fighting themselves and is a story that needs to be told. Ms. Gillis would like to hear from those who have such stories and photographs for their female - full credit for the use of photographs will be acknowledged and copyright will rest with the original owners. Scans of images can be e-mailed to Liz on

[editorial@mercierpress.ie](mailto:editorial@mercierpress.ie). Ms. Gillis can be contacted at Mercier Press, Unit 3b Oak House, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Co. Cork.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Minister for Environment Phil Hogan, T.D. has signed into a law a number of orders establishing the boundaries for the new electoral areas in advance of the May 23rd local elections. He has also signed a number of orders to govern the new local government structures which will come into effect from June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## 1916 RISING VISITOR CENTRE

An Post has submitted a planning application to Dublin City Council for a 1916 Rising Exhibition and Visitor Centre in the GPO, Dublin. The facility will cost in the region of €5M and will consist of a cafe and 'sculptured' court and a two-storey exhibition centre. Location for this proposed facility will be a courtyard behind the main hall of the GPO which is not open to the public but are not within the historic portion of this building are will be confined to the 20<sup>th</sup> century complex.

**Editor:** Many thanks to **Brendan Hall** for compiling a complete index to the articles published in 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' from 2006 to 2013. See the Society's website.

## Précis of the January Lecture

On Tuesday Jan. 14th 2014, members were treated to a wonderfully researched lecture by **Charles Callan, MGSi** on the controversial subject of 'Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire) and the 1913 Lockout—Week by Week'. With the centenary of the Dublin Lockout drawing to a close, Charles Callan, examined the many narratives that emerged on the involvement of the Kingstown workers in the events of 1913. His research called into question a number of key points concerning the main players, including James Connolly and, of course, the local hero, James Byrne of Clarence Street, Kingstown. Interrogating the past and how we attempt to explain and understand the events of over a hundred years ago is never an easy task, however, Charles Callan, went further to challenge the 'accepted narrative' and especially, the one being commemorated in Dún Laoghaire. By carefully re-examining the

prison and court records, newspaper reports and the minutes of the Kingstown Urban District Council, he raised a number of queries, some of which, have the potential to completely unravel the prevailing narrative. Hopefully, Charles Callan's insightful lecture will appear in print in the Society's 2014 Journal.

## MEMBERS DISCOUNTS

Members of the Society are entitled to the following discounts on on-line genealogical products. Whilst access to these resources is free to members at *An Daonchartlann*, it is also recommended that members avail of these discounts to have access from their own homes. **Findmypast Ireland** [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie) offer a huge 50% discount and the **Irish Newspaper Archives** [www.irishnewspaperarchive.com](http://www.irishnewspaperarchive.com) offer an excellent 25% discount to GSI members. The British based **flatcapsandbonnets.com** provide a 20% discount on their range of DVDs. A system is being put in place to avail of these exclusive discounts directly, in the meantime please contact Barry O'Connor, Director of Membership, on [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)

## 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 Sauderson, 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**  
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 2013-2014

**Pádraic Ingoldsby** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Building Mgr.); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications & pro tem Archive); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Internet Services); **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**  
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### DIARY DATES

Tuesday February 11th & March 11th (AGM) 2014

#### Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute  
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire  
20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday February 26th & March 26th 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)

## The War of Independence in Kildare

A new book by James Durney contradicts the view expressed by some historians and others that County Kildare did not do as much as it could have done during the War of Independence with the part played by the county rarely mentioned in any studies of this conflict until Durney's previous work *'On the One Road, Political Unrest in Kildare 1913 – 1994'* (2001). *'The War of Independence in Kildare'* reappraises the county's role in this conflict. What happened in County Kildare was influenced by the location of its four military centres with a third of the British military strength in Ireland being based in the Curragh alone. The Kildare IRA Forces were heavily outnumbered by crown forces and lacked the manpower and necessary weapons to seriously challenge the military or police. Although there were 300 activists in the county, only about 100 were ready to go into action at any one time to confront 6000 troops, hundreds of police and Black and Tans, with a large population of ex-servicemen and their families tied to the military. Volunteers were also acutely aware that attacks could bring retaliations on their communities as happened in Greenhills, Maynooth and Barrowhouse. The fascinating and engrossing book opens with a chapter devoted to 'Republicanism and Nationalism 1795–1913' providing the reader with an overview of political development in the county during this period followed by a chapter 'Kildare Rising' which looks at the county from 1913 to 1916, including the contribution made to the Easter Week 1916 Rising. Other chapters deal with post 1916 up to the commencement of the War of Independence followed by chapters on Cumann na mBan in Kildare, the Intelligence War covering the collection of vital information on the activities of Crown forces, in particular intercepting mail. Also covered is the Rath Internment Camp and the period between the signing of the Anglo-Irish Peace Treaty and the outbreak of the Civil War. The war in Kildare resulted in the deaths of 11 persons, large scale raids by the IRA and the Crown forces, hundreds of arrests, the destruction of vast quantities of material and buildings. The level of activity in Kildare may appear moderate when compared to that in Cork, Tipperary or Dublin City, but given the many obstacles and difficulties it was still a impressive record of activity. The book contains a large amount biographic information on many of those featured in the text. James Durney is the author of *'The Civil War in Kildare'* published in 2011 by Mercier Press, and is a historical tour guide, works in the Local Studies Department of Kildare Library, and gives several talks per year to local history groups on a diverse range of subjects.

**James Scannell.**

### FOUR COURTS PRESS

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### LECTURE PROGRAMME

The following are the monthly lectures for the next five months. **Tues. Feb. 11th**—*'19th Century Property Tax and Griffith's Valuation'* by Aiden Feerick, MGSI, MAPGI. **Tues. Mar. 11th**—*'Dublin City Library & Archive as a resource for the family history researcher'* by Dr. Máire Kennedy. **Tues. Apr. 8**—*'Maritime Matters'* by Brian Scott. **Tues. May 13th**—*'Technology and genealogy from a layperson's point of view'* by Maura Flood, MGSI. **Tues. June 10th**—*'Clans of Ireland—a case study of the O'Donnell Clan'* by Francis M. O'Donnell. **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education**, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) The programme of monthly lectures is varied to meet the needs of all levels of research experience. **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI Director, GSI Lecture Programme, is always interested to receive feedback on the lecture programme or indeed, suggestions for future lectures. E-mail: Séamus Moriarty on [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

### CAR PARKING AT COLLEGE

Members are advised that car-parking facilities at the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute (formerly the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education) on Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, 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 to the college—Lower George's Street, York Road, Clarence Street. The DART (suburban rail) services to Salthill & Monkstown is only a short walk from the college. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members—why not 'car pool' for each month's meeting?

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday March 11th 2014** at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire Institute of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The members will be presented with the Annual Report of the Board of Directors, Audited Annual Accounts and elect the members of the Board for the coming year. Members will also be asked to endorse a procedural matter by ballot. Only fully paid-up members are entitled to vote or to stand for election and participate in the proceedings of the AGM. If you are unsure of your current membership status please contact Barry O'Connor on [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie) As always, the monthly lecture is open to all.

### LOCAL ELECTIONS 2014

The General Secretary advised the Board of Directors at its monthly meeting on Thursday 6th February 2014 that he intends to contest the Local Elections in May as an Independent Community Candidate for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Michael Merrigan previously contested the General Election for Seanad Éireann as an Independent in 2007 as the nominee of the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

### 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](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) Price €22.99 [RRP].

### RESEARCH CENTRE

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archives and Research Centre located at the historic 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 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. Resources freely available to GSI members at the facility, as part of their membership package (see page 3), include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records and the Irish Newspaper Archives. Two new web resources will be added to the collection over the next month—the British Newspaper Archives and the very useful American website, Genealogybank.com which has access to a vast collection of American newspapers which is an excellent resource for Irish people tracing the American branches of their families. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as Dublin Bus (nos. 7, 7A, 8, 46A and 75) and the DART (suburban rail) are nearby. Pay-n-display parking is available in the Dún Laoghaire Town and Harbour areas. The Pavilion Complex car park is just across the street. See: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

### STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

The Society offers a 50% reduction on the standard membership rate for students and young researchers under 25 years of age. Persons taking adult education courses in genealogy can avail of a similar 50% reduction—that's right, for just €20.00. See GSI website.