Collaboration in Genealogy on the Internet

The world-wide-web has revolutionised genealogy by providing easy access to databases which were previously remote and hard to search. Social media are wonderful for exchange of snippets, but generally regarded as fleeting and unstructured – and are frequently polluted with interjections and irrelevant information. Family tree sites of various types offer facilities to construct trees or tables of one’s ancestry, and to link to trees created by others – some such sites are great for building a tree, but genealogy is more than just names and dates. Many sites offer an opportunity to attach text and photographs to a tree, but so far I have not found one which I personally like, and which can be followed with ease by my descendants who might have only a passing interest in genealogy. Usually, the difficulty is that they are far too structured.

Personally, I think that every family should publish its genealogy in a book – it is the most enduring medium. The book does not prescribe a structure – the author creates his/her own structure and narrative as he chooses. Inevitably, when published, other family members will add more information, so that the second edition becomes a collaboration.

So, is there a facility on the ‘net which could provide a form of publication which is easy to create and to edit, which offers the opportunity for text and pictures in any structure of the author’s choosing, which allows for linking between articles by the same or different authors, and which facilitates collaboration among authors? A wiki can provide all of these.

A wiki is a tool that allows users to collaborate in the creation of web pages. Generally, any user is allowed to create new pages and all users are allowed to edit any page. Typically, each user can add to, modify or even delete the work of any previous author. Wikipedia is the best known wiki, and covers an extraordinary range of topics. Wikitree is a form of wiki for genealogy, but much too structured for my liking. Much less well known is a wiki I recently created for the Dún Laoghaire area at www.localwiki.net/dl. Initially, this wiki is being used to identify and describe every location listed in the 1911 census, including the many addresses which have disappeared. Later it will be expanded for other uses.

Then I got to thinking “what if the Society set up an Irish Genealogy Wiki?”. Like the Dún Laoghaire wiki, it could be free-format, allowing the writer to create his/her own structure, or it could be formatted using templates. Would members use it to publish their own family histories, individually or by collaboration? To publish requests for family information? To publish articles? To publish small databases? To advertise upcoming genealogy events? To review books? Would it encourage young people to research genealogy?

Please let me have your views on the above by e-mail to web@familyhistory.ie.

County Cavan—New Publication

A new publication entitled: Remembering the Dead: Burial Records and Gravestone Inscriptions in the Parishes of Ballymacaugh and Drumloman, Co. Cavan, containing both Catholic and Church of Ireland records, was launched recently and, no doubt, will be of great interest to anyone who was born in these parishes or whose ancestors originated in this beautifully scenic area of south Cavan on Lough Sheelin’s shore. It will be of particular interest to those who are researching their roots in this area. Edited by James Plunkett-Coble, BA, MA, FRSAI, this exceptionally useful and very well researched work was published by this Society on behalf of the editor. The Society commends all involved. Copies at €15 each (plus postage: within Ireland €6.50; UK and mainland Europe €7.50; USA €10.75) may be ordered from: The Parochial House, Carrick, Finea, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath.

Tom Conlon, MSc, MGSI, Director of Internet Services

www.eneclann.ie
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Monthly Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Ireland
Ireland in the Medieval World AD 400-1000

‘Ireland in the Medieval World AD 400-1000, Landscape, kingship and religion’ by Edel Bowe/Bowes and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN 978-1-84718-422-8: €50.00 : pbk€24.95) is another work of interest to genealogists, local historians and clan/sept historians.

The work covers the period in which Ireland was effectively ‘claimed’ and ‘named’ in a manner still vividly recognisable today. As Ireland emerged from a world of antiquity with its oral learning and through the coming of Christianity entered the dawn of our recorded history, the rural, urban, ecclesiastical and mythological landscapes of Ireland anchor the history of early Irish society. This is the period in which a great number of our place-names and family names in our narrative over a thousands years ago. Understanding the complexities of early Irish society and presenting such coherently to a general audience is the achievement of the current edition, which has allowed us to free up more space for research, rather than ‘signposting’ articles. This is an excellent development as it creates another fine on-line genealogical product. Whilst it is often difficult to explain the natural environment and its relationship to early Christianity to form a distinctively Irish or Celtic Christianity. The position of the land and sea, and the influence of Church and regional dynastic Gaelic societal structures is explored with wonderful clarity and beautiful illustrations. As a work of history, Edel Brehnach has not only revealed much of Medieval Ireland, but has also made Medieval Ireland readily identifiable in our modern landscapes, place-names, family names and, of course, in our archaeological and architectural heritage. An excellent read. Highly recommended.

BEYOND HISTORICAL NARRATIVES

The current edition ‘May 2014’ is 342 pages, full colour and published by the Irish Genealogical Society of Ireland in association with the National Library of Ireland, and sponsored by the Department of Heritage.

EXCLUSIVE 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 www.irishlivesremembered.com, members are entitled to receive these discounts. For more information please contact Barry O’Connor, Membership Director, by e-mail membership@familyhistory.ie. It is hoped to expand the various offers available to Members over the coming months and to explore other options aimed at increasing the benefits of membership.

Irish Lives Remembered

Ireland’s FREElife e-Magazine ‘Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy e-Magazine’ dedicated to helping people trace their Irish ancestry will now be published ‘bi-monthly’ going forward. The current edition ‘May-June’ issue is available to read or to be downloaded absolutely FREE OF CHARGE from www.irishlivesremembered.com. Publisher Eileen Munnelly said that ‘we believe that moving over to a bi-monthly publication will allow us to free up more time to enhance the service and success of Ireland’s leading Irish Genealogy e-Magazine. The bi-monthly e-Magazine has a new look and feel to the publication together with more specialist features and supplements of interest for around 20,000 dedicated readers globally research their Irish ancestry’. Eileen said that ‘We are proud to have this huge part in “raising the bar” to promote Irish genealogy/family history businesses and services in both Ireland and overseas’ and that she looks forward to ‘reaching out’ to new readers and advertisers. On moving to the new bi-monthly format Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy e-Magazine has certainly facilitated the inclusion of more actually research rather than ‘signposting’ articles. This is an excellent development as it creates another fine on-line resource for Irish genealogy. As more and more of us choose to source our information and news on-line, Eileen’s decision to move to a bimonthly publication schedule brings it into line with other quality publications like ‘History Ireland’ and ‘Archaeology Ireland’ which have found a new audience.

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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 www.irishlivesremembered.com, members are entitled to receive these 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 www.irishlivesremembered.com, members are entitled to receive these discounts. For more information please contact Barry O’Connor, Membership Director, by e-mail membership@familyhistory.ie. It is hoped to expand the various offers available to Members over the coming months and to explore other options aimed at increasing the benefits of membership.

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 transcriptions. 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!!!

Weekend Genealogy Courses

Weekend genealogy courses operated in conjunction with Ancestor Network Limited are an excellent way to improve your research skills, learn about new sources, manage your files and research, produce professional genealogical reports and much more besides. The Society issues certificates to those who successfully complete the course. For further information please contact John Hanrock on 087 050 5296 by e-mail: info@familyhistory.ie.

Regional Genealogy Gazette

All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor are available in pdf format to read online or to download or to read. Find them all on the Society’s website www.familyhistory.ie.

Monthly Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Ireland
BRIAN BORU EXHIBITION

‘Clontarf 1014 – Brian Boru and the Battle of Clontarf’ which will run until Dec. 31st 2014 at the Museum of Archaeology and History, Dún Laoghaire, Dublin 2. This ground breaking exhibition will explore myths and present the evidence available for what actually happened at Clontarf, what led up to the battle and what resulted from it. Viking and Irish weapons, typical of those used in the battle, will feature alongside hoards of precious silver objects and religious treasures. Historical artefacts will bring the story of Brian Boru and Clontarf right into modern times. Not wheelchair accessible.

BOOKLET SPECIAL OFFER

The Tourist Information Office in the foyer of the County Hall, Dún Laoghaire has copies of the booklet ‘Dún Laoghaire 1913 – 2013’ featuring contributions from Martina Devlin, Joe Duffy, Myles Dungan, Peter Pearson and Padraig Laffan with the Introduction by John Douglas – President ICTU, at the reduced price of €5.

PRESERVING THE PEACE

‘Preserving the Peace: Two centuries of Policing and Punishment in Ireland (1814–2014)’ will be on view until April 3rd 2015 in the Mu- seum of Gough Park, Cool- bar, Co. Mayo. The Peace Preservation Act of 1814 allowed for the creation of a force which is seen by many as the precursor to the modern police service on the island of Ireland.

PRÉCIS OF THE MAY LECTURE

On Tues. May 13th our own Director of Educa- tion, Maura Flood, delivered a very interesting talk on ‘Technology and genealogy from a layperson’s point of view’. Smartphones can be used to take digital photographs, for mapping, carrying your genealogy database, audio, as a reader and of course, internet access. Tablets can also be used with a keyboard, have a bigger screen but are lighter than a lap- top. Evernote is useful for taking research notes which can be synced to all devices. An important email can also be forwarded to Evernote. The Evernote Clipper clips an article, books a website to your Evernote Notebook tells a story through a presentation and shows the corresponding places on Google Earth e.g. where an ancestor emigrated or travelled to or perhaps was posted overseas as part of military service. Flipboard collects content from social media and other websites. All the material can be read in one place instead of trawling through your favourite websites one by one. Twitter is useful for keeping up with all the genealogy news. Facebook allows you to share your family history and photographs, helps to identify people in old photos and to keep in touch with your family abroad. Perhaps there is a FB page for the village your ancestors came from. There are many other uses of technology in genealogy which could lead to another presentation in the near future.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

The monthly lecture on Tues. June 10th will be on the topic ‘Clans of O’Donnell: the ‘O’Donnell Clan’ by Francis M. O’Donnell. Details of the lectures for the next six months will be published in July. VENUE: Brunel Library, the National Educational Insti- tute (formerly the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education), Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Travel directions to the venue are provided on the Society’s website www.familyhistory.ie The pro- gramme of monthly lectures is varied to meet the needs of all levels of research experience. Seánna Muirti, FGSi Director, GSI Lecture Programme, is always interested to receive feedback on the lecture pro- gramme by e-mail on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT

The Irish DNA Atlas is a collaborative academic research project undertaken by Dr. Giannopoulous of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and the Society. The main objectives are (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Whilst the scientific data is provided by Dr. Cavalleri’s team at the RCSi, the project also has an academic historian, Dr. Darren McGettigan, who specialises in Irish medieval history. This academic collaboration ensures that the scientific data provided by the RCSi is interpreted in a manner that properly places it in a historical context based on extant sources and relates it to historical events and broad research. Participants are sought from across the island of Ireland and 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 (kits provided) for analysis. Those who are male or female with ancestry from any part of Ireland. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please contact Séamus O’Reilly, FGSi by e-mail on Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie. Check out the project newsletter on the GSI-website.

MEMBERSHIP OF GSI BRANCHES

The Board of Directors has set the Annual Subscription rates for membership (associate) of either GSI Limerick 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 female with ancestry from any part of Ireland. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please contact Séamus O’Reilly, FGSi by e-mail on Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie. Check out the project newsletter on the GSI-website.

MEMBERSHIP OF GSI BRANCHES

The Board of Directors at its meeting on Tuesday 7th November 2013 agreed to set the Annual Subscription rates for membership of the GSI Branches as follows: GSI Limerick is €20.00 per annum to include a biannual electronic newsletter and the free registration of Arms in respect of Heraldry Ireland and of female with ancestry from any part of Ireland. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please contact Séamus O’Reilly, FGSi by e-mail on Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie. Check out the project newsletter on the GSI-website.
The Genealogical Society of Ireland offers a 50% reduction on the standard membership rate for students and young researchers under 25 years of age and over) to avail of the resource facilities at the Society’s Archives & Research Centre.  This offer also applies to persons taking adult education courses in genealogy as ‘mature students’ in any college on institute in Ireland. This special student rate of just €20.00 per annum is available via the Society’s website.  The Society’s Membership Director, Barry O’Connor, MGS, reserves the right to request written confirmation of enrolment as a student or mature student.  Researching one’s family history can and does enhance a student or mature student. Researching one’s family history can and does enhance one’s family history can and does enhance a student or mature student.  Researching one’s family history can and does enhance a student or mature student.  Researching one’s family history can and does enhance a student or mature student.  Researching one’s family history can and does enhance a student or mature student. Researching one’s family history can and does enhance a student or mature student.

Student Membership

The Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited 11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland

E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie
Charity Reference: CHY 10672 : Co. Reg. No. 334884

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 check out the website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €22.99 [RRP].

AON SCÉAL

Níl aon amhras ach gurbh é ceann de na himeachtaí ba saothair i stair na hÉireann ná an Gorta Mór in Éirinn ídir ná blianta 1845-1849. Fuaire níos mó ná milliúin daoine báis leis an ocraí agus ar a lathair milliúin eile a d’imigh ar imire air i dthoirta eile, ar nó Stáit Dontaithe Mheiríc, An Áir, An Athair agus Ceilteí. Cuireadh in bhfadóireadh ná ndéanfaidh a focal é a bheith inneoin. D’oibrigh na tionóntaí go cruin faoi chéarsan ná dtiarnaí talún. Bhi an cios ar aithne agus maruna rian ar an t-aidrefteach agus ach an cios a lóisc, dítheas/braduchad ladb is an teacht ag an t-achais agus an talún. Thug sé is seachtar do Prostataisínigh. Bhí i lár an tiarnán tírthe imi gceol i Sasana agus náirí ghráireachtaí sa saol is a bhi aon duine sa talún as an méid feithidí leo a bhí fáil a raon áit inniu. D’oibrigh na tionóntaí go cruin faoi chéarsan ná dtiarnaí talún. Bhi an cios ar aithne agus maruna rian ar an t-aidrefteach agus ach an cios a lóisc, dítheas/braduchad ladb is an teacht ag an t-achais agus an talún. Thug sé is seachtar do Prostataisínigh. Bhí i lár an tiarnán tírthe imi gceol i Sasana agus náirí ghráireachtaí sa saol is a bhi aon duine sa talún as an méid feithidí leo a bhí fáil a raon áit inniu.