



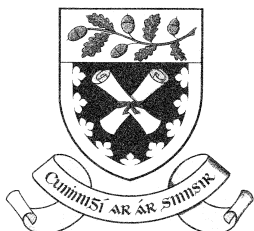
# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 10 No. 8

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

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## 'Flagging Ireland' in Sydney, Australia

Once again, the Society will be representing Ireland at a major international conference and this time it will be Sydney, NSW, Australia. The 26<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Vexillology will run from August 31st to September 4th 2015. The Chief Executive Officer of *Vexillology Ireland*, Stan Zamyatin, will be 'flying the flag for Ireland' at this hugely prestigious conference with over seventy delegates from right across the world in attendance. The Society was elected to membership of the *International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV)* in 2013 at the last Congress held in Rotterdam. 'Flagging Ireland' is a new publication by the Society, edited by Stan Zamyatin, on the design and use of flags in Ireland, north and south. It is intended for use by schools, colleges, sporting clubs and local communities to assist them in the design, manufacture and use of flags. This guide takes the reader through each of the steps to create a wonderfully vibrant and visible representation of the unique local identities of communities and groups. This publication is, like so many of the Society's other initiatives,



a first for Ireland. In Sydney Stan Zamyatin will be a 'conference ambassador' for Ireland. The emphasis on heritage and culture at international vexillological events creates a wonderful opportunity to promote the Genealogical Society of Ireland and, of course, the study of genealogy, heraldry and vexillology and, most importantly, promoting Ireland as a 'roots tourism' destination. At Sydney Stan will be seeking the support from amongst the seventy or so delegates from all around the world as he presents the Society's bid to host a FIAV congress in Dún Laoghaire in

2021. The year 2021 marks the centenary of the change of the name of town from Kingstown to the Irish version of its original name 'Dunleary'. The name of the Council had already been changed in 1920 to Dún Laoghaire Urban District Council in support of Dáil Éireann and the 'Declaration of Independence' of January 21st 1919. This Council decision was at the height of the *War of Independence* which ended with the Truce of July 11th 1921. As a cross-channel transportation hub the renaming of the town couldn't happen before 1921. Renaming the town's iconic and world famous manmade Harbour had to await legislation passed in 1924. The 1921-2021 centenary offers many interesting themes for the study of flags and emblems in a period marking the start of a transition from a world of empires to independent nation states beginning with the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 and the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922. Attendance at Sydney is part-funded by sponsorship received from **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**. Hopefully, we will be welcoming FIAV to Ireland in 2021—the Town's centenary year.

## Celebrating Heritage Week 2015

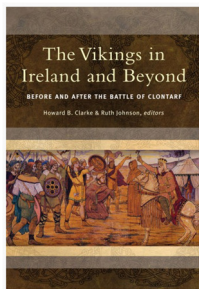


We're all gearing up for the celebration of **HERITAGE WEEK 2015**. The Director of the Society's Outreach Programme, **Eddie Gahan, MGS**, (pictured above) has arranged for the Society's Archives and Research Centre at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire to be open for the whole of Heritage Week. The Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, will provide free family history research advice to members of the

public visiting the Centre. Experienced members of the Society will be on hand to guide visitors through the use of the various resources available for genealogical research. Undoubtedly the launch last month by the National Library of the digitised microfilms of the Catholic Parish Registers has created an enormous interest in family history. The publicity surrounding the launch and use of this wonderful resource will, it is expected, generate an increased visitor rate over to the Society's HQ over Heritage Week. Eddie is still seeking more volunteers from the membership to assist

with his very much expanded schedule this year for Heritage Week. We will be open from 10.30hrs to 18.00hrs from Saturday August 22nd to Sunday August 30th and, indeed, open to 20.30hrs on Monday 24th, Wednesday 26th and Friday 28th August to facilitate people who may be unable to attend during the day. Eddie says that the experience gained through helping others in their research is very rewarding and most enjoyable. Please join Eddie Gahan for Heritage Week by contacting him by e-mail at [eddie\\_gahan\\_snr@hotmail.com](mailto:eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com)

## The Vikings in Ireland and Beyond—Before and After the Battle of Clontarf



The popular interest in all things 'Viking' may be attributed to the hit TV series of the name. However, for those seeking a more historically accurate account a number of fine works are now readily available. For example, in June of this year *'The Vikings in Ireland and Beyond—before and after the Battle of Clontarf'* edited by Howard B. Clarke and Ruth Johnson (ISBN: 978-1-84682-495-1 @ 564pp : ills : H/bk : Price €36.00) was published by **Four Courts Press** in conjunction with the **Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (RSAI)** and **Dublin City Council**. Described by the publishers as a 'landmark' publication in the field of Viking studies covering c.795 to 1170. With twenty-nine contributors to this collection of essays, each providing a chapter of exceptional value to the study of the Vikings, it is truly a monumental work of scholarship. The preface provided by **Rachel Moss (TCD)** and **Charles Doherty (RSAI)** succinctly outlines the scope and objective of the volume and its contributors. The book itself is divided into five parts. In the first of which, *'In prospect'* the editors, **Howard B. Clarke** and **Ruth Johnson** set the scene for the reader with an exploration of Ireland in the 'Viking Age' and outlining the historiography of the period is critically important to our understanding of 'Viking Age' Ireland. Part II—*'Before the Battle'* commences with **Signe Hom Fuglesang (U Oslo)** exploring the written sources for the pre-Christian sanctuaries in northern Europe, especially those which have not previously been critically reviewed. The 'first generation' in Ireland from 795 to 812 and the archaeological evidence is examined by **Emer Purcell (ind.)**. The

archaeological evidence for the 'longphort' is explored by **Eamonn P. Kelly (NMI)** and deals with coastal, estuarial and inland river sites. This essay is accompanied by excellent drawings. This subject of trade and commerce in 9th century Britain and Ireland is explored by **Gareth Williams (British Museum)** in an essay on numismatics (coinage). **Colmán Etchingham (MU)** looks at the exciting recent substantial new evidence (2010) from the important Viking site at Linn Duichail near Annagassan, Co. Louth and reassesses the annalistic evidence in the light of recent archaeological discoveries. **Linzi Simpson (ind.)** examines the findings of a Viking furnished grave, probably of a warrior, found at south Great George's Street, Dublin. Her description of the personal possessions provide these skeletal remains with a 'personality'. In his essay on the 'Ballinderry bow' **Andy Halpin (NMI)** challenges the accepted narrative on the use archery in Ireland prior to the Cambro-Norman invasion. The Woodstown assemblage of silver finds from the Co. Waterford site and its relationship with silver hoard sites throughout Munster is explored by **John Sheehan (UCC)**. **Dunmore Cave** in Co. Kilkenny and the finds of seven Viking glass beads there is examined by **Joanne O'Sullivan (ind.)** while **Brian Hodkinson (Limerick Museum)** looks at Viking Limerick and its hinterland. The rise of the 'Gallgoidil' or 'Foreign-Gaels' in the islands of Scotland and their interaction with the Gaels and Vikings is examined by **Clare Downham (U Liverpool)** and the final essay in Part II by **Ruth Johnson (Dublin City Council)** explores the complexity of the 'supposed hiatus in Irish art of the tenth century'. Part III—*'During the Battle'* **Máire Ní Mhaonaigh (U Cambridge)** examines **Máel Sechnaill mac Domnaill** while **Howard B. Clarke (RSAI)** deals with King Sitricu Silkenbeard, intriguingly described as 'a great survivor' and as 'a king with a difference'. Part IV—*'After the Battle'* opens with an essay of considerable importance to genealogists and local historians, the Viking influence on personal and

place-names in Ireland by **Gillian Fellows-Jensen (U Copenhagen)**. *'Costumes and contact: evidence for Scandinavian women in the Irish Sea region'* is the subject of the essay by **Christina Lee (U Nottingham)** looking at trade, intermarriage and 'involuntary trafficking' as influencers of dress and identity. The environment of a 'Viking World' stretching from Ireland to Russia is the subject of the essay by **Eileen Reilly (UCD)**, while **Rebecca Boyd (ind.)** examines the archaeological evidence for Ireland's Viking-age buildings. **Martin Byrne (Byrne Mullins & Associates)** deals with the archaeological excavations of a Viking-age domestic settlement at 26-29, Castle Street, Dublin. Numismatics is the subject of the essay by **Andrew Woods (York Museums Trust)** and in particular, the Castle Street and Werburgh Street hoards of Hiberno-Scandinavian coinage. **Uaininn Ó Meadhra (U Stockholm)** looks at some shared elements in Hiberno-Norse and Scandinavian artwork with particular attention to the depiction of stylized beasts and this theme is further developed by **Jessica L. McGraw (ind.)** who examines 'motif-pieces' as tools of communication and exchange of tacit artistic knowledge. **Griffin Murray (UCC)** explores the zoomorphic art style used in the decoration of the Cross of Cong. **Christian Corlett (Dept. of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)** revisits the accepted narrative on the 'Rathdown Slabs' and proffers an interesting interpretation on these unique grave-slabs. In her essay on *'Hiberno-Scandinavian military culture in Middle Irish literature'* **Catherine Swift (U Limerick)** contextualises the various narratives and loan-word evidence. Finally, Part V—*'In Retrospect'* **David Griffiths (U Oxford)** and **Donnchadh Ó Corráin (UCC)** in their respective essays challenge academia to revisit long accepted narratives on the subject of 'Ireland's Viking-age' and to envision new avenues of research based on the potential of DNA analysis, new archaeological evidence and further interdisciplinary research. An excellent read! **MM**

## Parish Registers Online—Interdisciplinary Resource

It is now just over a month since access to the digital images of the microfilms Catholic Parish Registers was made available online free of charge. This wonderful new resource provided by the National Library of Ireland has been an enormous success and already, there has been a marked increase in the numbers researching Irish family history. Now researchers from around the world can have access to digital images of the original registers and for the first time, this hugely important corpus can be studied as a single resource which could be of interest to many academic disciplines. This was not possible before due to the cumbersome method of storage and retrieval (microfilms) and, of course, because researchers had to visit the National Library to access the resource. Many of these registers contain information other than just baptisms, marriages and, in some cases, burials. A number of the early registers dating from the mid to late eighteenth and early nine-

teenth centuries contain jottings, memoirs, comments on local conditions and, crucially information on their localities such as place-names, especially Townlands. The register for Vallemount, Co. Wicklow, for example, contained intriguing advice on the killing of mice and a cure for gout. Others have details on the building of chapels and school houses. The development of the current renditions of our summaries and an indication as to their pronunciation is also recorded in the spellings employed by the priest or sacristan. In the register for Ballymore Eustace the entry recording the marriage of James Holyday in 1784 has the notation in brackets that his surname was 'Saory' in Irish (modern Seery from *Ó Saoraidhe*). The same priest seems to have had an interest in the local place-names as many are recorded in Irish. Indeed, the accepted narrative for the spread of the English language across the country could be seriously challenged by an analysis of the entries

for areas not too far from Dublin. This could, for example, build on the research undertaken by **Nicholas M. Wolf ('An Irish-Speaking Island—State, Religion, Community and the Linguistic Landscape in Ireland, 1770-1870')**. In order to promote a greater understanding and appreciation of the wealth of potential research possibilities afforded by this new online resource, the National Library could consider convening a seminar on the potential for new and exciting interdisciplinary studies based on the parish registers. Historians, geographers, linguists, social/cultural anthropologists, folklorists and others could be invited to explore the topic in an interdisciplinary manner. In the meantime, maybe **Tommy Graham**, editor of *'History Ireland'* could be encouraged to host a *'Hedge School'* focussing on this issue. Exploring the potential of this newly accessible resource is hugely important and not just for genealogy. See [registers.nli.ie](http://registers.nli.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) 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 in relation to historical or archaeological 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 Pedigree Chart and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Participants may be either male or female with ancestry from any part of Ireland. If you're interested in participating or have a query about participating, please do contact **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI** by e-mail on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, please check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

### IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED



The current issue of Ireland's FREE digital e-Magazine *'Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy'* which is dedicated to helping people trace their Irish Ancestry globally is available free of charge to read or to download on [www.irishlivesremembered.com](http://www.irishlivesremembered.com) There is a small charge to read past issues.

### MEMBER DISCOUNTS

Exclusive discounts for Members of the Society are available for online genealogical services and publications, including, **Findmypast**, **Irish Newspaper Archives**, **Forces War Records** and from **Flatcapsandbonnets.com**. To avail of any of these discounts, please contact **Barry O'Connor, FGSI**, by email at [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)

### 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. *Please Will Your Society Well—add that codicil today. Thanks!*

# James Scannell Reports...

## RHS SUMMER SCHOOL

The 2015 Rathmichael Historical Society's Summer series of Evening Lectures on the theme of 'What Have History and Archaeology Even Done for Us?' will take place nightly at 20.00hrs at Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road (Dublin Road end), Shankill. On Mon. Aug. 17<sup>th</sup>: 'History: has it become a *funeral parade of yawning facts*? - Ciarán Brady, TCD; Tues. Aug. 18<sup>th</sup>: 'Archaeology: is it useful?' - Franc Myles, consultant archaeologist; Weds Aug. 19<sup>th</sup>: The Leo Swan Memorial Lecture: 'History, archaeology and the past: what Donegal has taught me' - Brian Lacey, early medieval archaeologist / historian; Thurs Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>: 'Experimental archaeology: science, art or Disneyland?' - Aidan O'Sullivan, UCD; Fri. Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>: The Rathmichael Summer School / History Ireland/Archaeology Ireland Hedge School - 'History versus archaeology: is it like Neanderthal versus Homo sapiens?' Tommy Graham, Editor of 'History Ireland' with Franc Myles, Tom Condit, Seán Duffy and Robert Chapple, will discuss 'the difference between history and archaeology is the difference between Neanderthal and *Homo sapiens*. The latter is more technical advanced, and the former, although casually misunderstood, nevertheless boasts a bigger brain. Yet it is hard to imagine one without the other. All welcome. Further info. 01-2853960. Admission is €4 per lecture. Highly recommended!

## FREE LUNCHTIME LECTURES

Thurs. Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> Bruce Durie, University of Strathclyde, at 13.00hrs on 'Heraldry: obscure medieval mumbo-jumbo, or valid genealogical technique?' in the Seminar Room of the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. At 13.00hrs on Thurs. Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> Andy Bielenberg on 'Social geography: Was there a Protestant exodus from the south of Ireland 1919-1923?' All welcome - admission free.

## BRAY & HERITAGE WEEK

On Sat. Aug. 22<sup>nd</sup>, James Scannell will present a free lecture 'The Week That Was in Bray - Aug 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sun. Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> 1915' at 11.30hrs at Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray. All welcome; Mon. Aug. 24<sup>th</sup> - Brian White will lead a First World War Trail from 19.00hrs to 20.30hrs. Assembly point: Christ Church, Church Road and ending at the War Memorial on Quinsboro Road. Weds. Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> - First Guided Tour of St James' Church & Crypt, Crinken, Bray Road, Shankill, from 10.30hrs to 11.30hrs. Lecture: 'The Week That Was in Co. Wicklow - August 22<sup>nd</sup> to Sun. Aug. 30<sup>th</sup> 1915' by James Scannell at 18.45hrs in Ballywaltrim Library, Boghall Road, Bray. Thurs. Aug. 27<sup>th</sup> - Historic Guided Tour of Bray Seafront, from 19.00hrs to 20.30hrs led by Brian White. Assembly point and Finish: The Boat House on the Seafront—15 Stops on route; Sat. Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> - Second Guided Tour of St. James'

Church & Crypt, Crinken, from 14.30hrs to 15.30hrs All welcome - admission free.

## DUBLIN HISTORICAL RECORD

Articles featured in 'The Dublin Historical Record - Spring 2015', editor Séamas Ó Maitiú, published by the Old Dublin Society, include:- From the Editor, Notes on the Contributors, Around the Town, Patrons and architects and the creation of Roman Catholic church architecture in nineteenth-century Dublin - by Brendan Grimes; Dublin 1160 - 1200. Part One: Political Change and Community - by Noel E. French. Part Two will appear in the Autumn 2015 issue of the DHR; Dublin Fruit and Vegetable Market - by John Conroy; Manning Robertson, Dublin, and the Early Years of Town Planning in Ireland - by Michael Cregan; Dublin 1843: O'Connell's Repeal Meetings - by Vincent P. Ruddy; From Meath of the Pastures to Smithfield - by Mary O'Connell; Gone but not Forgotten - the Church of Ireland graveyards of the City of Dublin - by Raymond Refaussé; Robert Tressell, Dubliner: Author of *The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists* - by Bryan MacMahon; Sweetman breweries in eighteenth-century Dublin - by Seán Magee; Society News; Addendum; Book Notices and Reviews. Copies of the Spring 2015 issue of the Dublin Historical Record can be obtained at the postpaid price of €14.50 from The Old Dublin Society (DHR), 19 Hazelwood, Shankill, Dublin D18 ND 79.

## Précis of the July Lecture— *Genetic Genealogy*

On Tuesday July 14<sup>th</sup> 2015 members were treated to a wide-ranging and very informative introduction to the increasingly popular world of 'Genetic Genealogy' by GSI Member and ISOGG Ireland Rep., **Gerard Corcoran**. Besides explaining the nature of 'genetic genealogy' and how it can assist more traditional genealogical research, Gerard brought his audience through the services provided by the various companies offering DNA testing. By placing each of these services together the audience was able to see the variety of products on offer. The comparative analysis provided by each for its participants was shown as a means to connect with others with whom you share ancestors sometimes back to six or seven generations. Gerard also outlined a number of the specific DNA Project Groups that are hosted by FTDNA allowing persons sharing the same surname or from the same locality to interact with each other. Going back much further through our DNA to a distant past beyond rec-

ords into prehistory was also covered. The origin of the Irish and other western European peoples was discussed and Gerard pointed to several specific studies undertaken on ancient DNA which could unravel many conundrums that exist regarding the origin our Gaelic speaking ancestors. Such studies are ongoing amongst a number of Clan Associations and One-Name Study groups around the world. The popularity of the subject was clear by the very lively and wonderfully interactive discussion that followed Gerard's presentation. Finally he invited his audience to the range of lectures to be given at the 'Genetic Genealogy Ireland' event at *Back To Our Past* in the RDS in October. **EDITOR:** Meanwhile on Tuesday August 5<sup>th</sup> 2015, **Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri** of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland delivered a lunchtime lecture at the National Library on the *Irish DNA Atlas Project*. There wasn't even standing room so great was the attendance and we've some new recruits for the project too!

## GSJ LECTURE PROGRAMME

**Tuesday August 11<sup>th</sup>** - 'After the Ball is Over' by Frank Tracy; **Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup>**— 'Dublin Dock Records' by Declan Byrne; **Tuesday October 13<sup>th</sup>** - 'Famine Roads and Ghost Villages of County Mayo' by Charles Egan; **Tuesday November 10<sup>th</sup>** - 'The National Archives as a resource for the genealogist' by Gregory O Connor; **Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>** - 'Using Simple Tools to Document your Family History Better - a Demonstration' by Tom Conlon **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.** The Director of the GSI Lecture Programme, **Séamus Moriarty, FGSI**, always welcomes feedback on these lectures.

## GSJ ANNUAL JOURNAL

The Annual Journal was published last month having been delayed by three months due to some technical difficulties. An omission caused by these page-making difficulties was discovered on page 95 and an adhesive label with the information has been provided for same. We apologise for this error.

## GSJ MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> 2014. It was agreed under **Res: 14/11/126** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2015 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. For mature students evidence of enrolment on such courses may be required, at any stage, by the Director of Membership Services, **Mr. Barry O'Connor, FGSI**. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2015 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 for membership on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) or if you prefer, download the membership application form and forward it with the required remittance to:

**Mr. Billy Saunderson, MGSI**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. **New Members are always very 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* checkout the following website: [www.flagsireland.wordpress.com](http://www.flagsireland.wordpress.com)



**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND****Board of Directors 2015-2016**

**Gerry Hayden** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Tony O'Hara** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice-Chair, Archival Services, RF:- *Education Services*); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary, Company Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor, RF:- *Oifigeach na Gaeilge*); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (An Daonchartlann Foundation, Philanthropy, RF:- *Social Inclusion and GSI Social Club*); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach Programme, GSI Exhibitions, Building & Utilities, Health & Safety Officer); **Tom Conlon** (Internet Services, Sales and Marketing); **Barry O'Connor** (Membership Services and Cemetery Projects, RF:- *Vexillological & Heraldic Services*); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme, RF:- *Publications, including the Annual Journal*). [Note: 'RF' signifies a 'reporting function' for a Non-Executive Officer assigned to this function].

JOIN ON-LINE  
www.familyhistory.ie

**DIARY DATES**

**Tuesday August 11th & September 8th 2015**  
**Evening Open Meeting**

**Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**  
**Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire**  
**20.00hrs—22.00hrs**  
**www.dfei.ie**

**Wednesday August 26th & September 23rd 2015**  
**Morning Open Meeting**  
**Hardy's Bar, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire**  
**10.30hrs—12.30hrs**  
**www.royalmarine.ie**  
**Contribution €3.00 p.p.**  
**(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)**

**Wicklow Historical Society Journal**

This annual publication appears at the end of June each year without fail but this year opens with a tribute to its Editor-in-Chief Jimmy Cleary, who died earlier in the year, and contributed many notable articles to it down through the years especially on maritime topics and was co-author in 2001 with the late Andrew O'Brien, who predeceased him, of *'Wicklow Harbour – A History'*. Variety of content has always been a feature of this excellent journal and this year's selection includes the following – The late Jimmy Cleary writes on *'Wicklow Sea Fencibles, 1798-1808'* recalling a militia formed for the protection of the coast, either shore or afloat, comprising all fishermen and other persons employed in ports, who from their occupation, were not be press-ganged for service with the Royal Navy. The Sea Fencibles were expected to act as an 'anti-invasionary' force drawn from fishermen and local coastal residents, and were commanded by serving or retired naval officers. Stan J. O'Reilly contributes *'It Said in the Papers Wicklow Miscellany – Part 1'* which looks at events, people, and places and the surrounding areas as reported in the local papers between 1857 and 1913. Stephen Brennan writes on *'Dunganstown, Co. Wicklow'* with illustrations provided by the pupils and staff of Brittas Bay National School. Noel Ó Cléirigh contributes a biography of *'Major Conn MacSweeney: Principal of Aughrim National School, Teacher, Union Activist, Soldier and Scholar'* who died in Aughrim, Co. Wicklow, on March 18<sup>th</sup> 1955. *'A Fire in Wicklow Presbytery, May 1928'* is recalled by Ben Fagan, and includes two photographs of the fire fighting operations. *'Life in Wicklow a Century Ago – 1915'* is recalled by John Finlay through people and events as recalled in that year's local newspapers. *'Transportation from Wicklow Gaol – Part 4'* by Stan J. O'Reilly continues the story of those held in Wicklow Gaol who were sentenced to transportation to Australia in an era when that country was used as a penal colony. Ken Hammigan recalls *'Strange Sermons 1840-41: A Turbulent Priest (Fr. Daly) in Barnardarrig and Kilbride during a time of religious animosity'*. In *'A Fitting Tribute to Captain Halpin'*, Vincent O'Reilly recalls how Captain Halpin was allowed to bring the new cable laying ship *S.S. Britannia* on a courtesy call to his home town of Wicklow in 1885 before it entered full time service. All in all, another excellent issue of this Journal with a great array of articles and supporting illustrations, can be obtained at the post paid price of €7 per copy from – The Wicklow Historical Society, 32 St. Patrick's Avenue, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow, A67 V270, Ireland. **James Scannell EDITOR:** This review of the *'Journal of the Wicklow Historical Society 2015'* (Vol.5 No.2) has been held over from last month due to space restrictions.

**PRESENTATION TO DUBLIN CITY LIBRARY & ARCHIVE**

On Tuesday August 25th 2015 at 17.00hrs, the Society's President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, will present specially bound volumes of his extensive research on the archival history of the Irish Jewish community stretching over a period of nearly three hundred years. This will make the Dublin City Library and Archive on Dublin's Pease Street only the fourth repository, including this Society, to hold this valuable collection.

**'FLAGGING IRELAND'**

Copies of this new 52 page, full colour publication may be ordered through the Society's website price €10.00 plus postage and packing. GSI Members can avail of the **Special Discounted** price of €7.00 plus postage and packing. As this guide is a first for Ireland, it is recommended for all with an interest in developing distinctive and effective ways of promoting their sports clubs, schools, colleges, scout troop or girl guides, local communities, parishes, senior citizen groups or even businesses. Checkout: www.familyhistory.ie

**COMMISSIONING RESEARCH**

The Society regularly receives many requests, mostly from overseas, regarding the possibility of commissioning genealogical research. However, the Society as an educational charity does **not** undertake commercial research assignments for individuals and, as a matter of policy, persons making such enquiries are directed to consult the list of researchers provided by the National Library of Ireland at www.nli.ie As there are several commercial genealogical research service providers operating in Ireland, it is not the policy of the Society to make any recommendations or to provide endorsements in respect of such research services.



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**FREE RESEARCH ADVICE**

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archives and Research Centre at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire is open to three days a week as follows: each **Monday** (except Bank Holidays) from 17.30hrs to 20.30hrs, each **Wednesday** from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs and each **Saturday** from 10.30hrs to 17.00hrs. With around **sixteen hours of archival time** available each week volunteers are always welcome. Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors. The use of the Society's extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up 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 include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records, Newspapers.com, the British Newspaper Archives and the Irish Newspaper Archives. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as both Dublin Bus (nos. 7, 7A, 8, 46A and 75) and the DART (suburban rail) are nearby. Pay-n-display parking at Dún Laoghaire Harbour area. Please see the Society's website: www.familyhistory.ie

**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].

**INDEX TO THE "GAZETTE"**

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world. All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor back to 1996 have been fully indexed by **Brendan Hall, MGSI** and they are available in pdf format to read or to download *free of charge* on www.familyhistory.ie Although not members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the *NUJ Code of Conduct* [www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/](http://www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/) and in line with the *'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland'* which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the Royal Irish Academy. (see the June 2014 issue at 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. This is full membership of the Society. Evidence of enrolment for the courses concerned may be requested by the Director of Membership Services. See GSI website.

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