



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

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Feabhra : February 2016

## 1616-1916—The Road to the Rising

All over Ireland events are being held or planned to mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising. The events range from exhibitions, talks, civic ceremonies, publications and tours of the main areas associated with the rebellion.

The Society's main event to mark the centenary of the 1916 Easter Rising is a specially commissioned concert featuring the multi-award winning young band *The Bonny Men* and guests. Sometimes considered as the ‘new Chieftains’ because of the exceptionally talented musicians and vocalists in the band.

The band is comprised of seven individuals, each masters of their own instruments and multi-award winners. It is directed by uilleann piper, Máitiú Ó Casaide, who was a recipient of the prestigious TG4 ‘Young Musician of the Year’

Formed in January 2011, *The Bonny Men* played at some of the most prestigious festivals across the globe delighting audiences across Ireland, France, U.K., Denmark, India, Indonesia, Italy and Zambia.

In 2013, the Society commissioned *The Bonny Men* to perform a major concert as part of nationwide *The Gathering Ireland Festival*. The 2013 concert featured music and songs associated with ‘*The Fighting Irish*’ over several centuries.

In 2015 the band released its second album “*Moyne Road*” which reached no. 1 in



the Irish Music Charts and receiving rave reviews from critics. No wonder many television appearances followed wonderfully showcasing the band's exceptional talent and musical versatility.

The focus of this specially commissioned will be on the culture, music and songs that inspired the struggle for Irish freedom over the 300 years leading up to the Easter Rising of 1916.

**Pavilion Theatre** in Dún Laoghaire on **Wednesday February 17th at 20.00hrs.** Tickets €20.00/€15.00. Free online booking at [www.paviliontheatre.ie](http://www.paviliontheatre.ie) or by phone at (01) 2312929. This concert is supported by **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** as part of its programme of events to mark the centenary of 1916 Easter Rising.

## OPEN MEETINGS

### Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 9 February—20.00hrs

Tuesday 8 March —20.00hrs (AGM)

### Royal Marine Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 24 February—10.30hrs

Wednesday 23 March —10.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)



Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI. (1931-2016)

GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Events

## NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Ireland will take place on **Tuesday 8th March 2016** at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Members who are fully paid-up are entitled to participate in the proceedings at the AGM and to vote or be elected to the Board of Directors. If you are uncertain of your membership standing please contact Barry O'Connor by email at [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie) or enquire at the meeting.

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@GenSocIreland



GSI Outreach Programme

**Eddie Gahan**, Director of the Society's Outreach Programme, pictured left with Tom Burke and Cathaoirleach, Gerry Hayden, at the Society's Stand at the RDS. Eddie and his team, including former Cathaoirleach, **Pádraic Ingoldsby**, have brought the GSI Stand to many events throughout Ireland promoting the study of genealogy. Recently back from the hosting the GSI Stand at the *Holiday World Show* in Belfast, Eddie is looking for more volunteers for future events. If you are interested in helping out at an Outreach Event please contact Eddie by email at [eddie\\_gahan\\_snr@hotmail.com](mailto:eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com)

## The Little Book of Dublin

'*The Little Book of Dublin*' by Brendan Nolan, published by The History Press Ireland. For this title author opens with a brief history of Dublin commencing with the arrival of the Norsemen in the 9<sup>th</sup> century to the present time before looking at the city under chapters covering 'Saints and Sinners', 'Folklore and Customs', 'Strange but True', 'Sports and Games', 'Leisure and Entertainment', 'Crime and Punishment', 'Buildings and Places', 'Transport, Work and Commerce', 'Battles and Wars', 'Natural History' and 'Story and Page'.

There is a fascinating array of interesting facts about Dublin such as that the gallows for Dublin County stood on the site of the present day Courts of Criminal Justice in Parkgate Street, that last man hanged in Ireland was Michael Manning in Mountjoy Gaol in 1954, and that each year about 200 U.S. citizens report their passports as lost as stolen in Dublin. A very useful and innovative feature of the 'Buildings and Places' and 'Leisure and Entertainment' chapters is that the telephone nos. and web-site address are provided for each of the locations featured. It is the wealth of minor details that makes this book most interesting such as – Lansdowne Road, now the Aviva Stadium, is the oldest international rugby test ground in the world or that Adolf Hitler's sister-in-law grew up in Clondalkin, Co.Dublin. The Dublin Evening Mail launched in 1823 and which ceased publication in 1962, was Dublin's longest running evening newspaper.

All the books since 2007 which have been featured in the annual 'One City – One Book' are listed. Can you name the Dublin Olympians? – all these are listed by name and event in the 'Sports and Leisure' chapter. Can you name the Bridges of Dublin? – all these listed in the 'Story and Page' chapter. Brendan Nolan assembled a remarkable array of facts and information, past and present, some serious, some quirky, others truly strange, and the lesser known ones that could slip by unnoticed, on Dublin. This is one of those books that can be dipped into from time to time to reveal something new about the every changing face of Dublin.

*James Scannell*

### FOUR COURTS PRESS

*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the new catalogue and the special offers at [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.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), with the assistance of PhD candidate, **Edmund Gilbert**, 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 over-

seas 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) Please checkout the project newsletter on the GSI website.

### 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].

### LIAM MAC ALASDAIR, FGSI

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing on Weds. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016 of our dear friend, former Board Member and Fellow of the Society, Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI.

Liam was a Member of the Executive Committee of the Society from 1991 and from 2000 to 2008 a Member of the Board of Directors of the Society. He founded the Society Journal and was its Editor from 1992 until 2000. Liam also spearheaded the Society publication programme in 1993 with the production of the volumes of Memorial Inscriptions followed by the Irish Genealogical Sources Series and in later years the publications on CD and DVD.

In addition to the above, he also directed the restoration of the Martello Tower at Seapoint between 2002 and 2004. With his keen interest in computers and technology Liam was both a teacher and an inspiration to many as they ventured into the world of electronic media and the Internet in the mid-1990s.

A lover of the Irish language, Liam ensured that the Society proactively promoted the language through its activities. Always soft spoken, Liam had a wealth of experience, upon which, many of his friends and colleagues frequently relied as his sound and reassuring advice was freely given.

An example of the great esteem, in which, Liam was held was the presentation by the Society to him in 2009 of a publication in his honour, a Festschrift of Essays.

A vote of condolence and a Minute Silence was observed at the February meeting of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

He will be very sadly missed by his huge circle of friends and especially, by the President, Vice-Presidents, Fellows, Board and Members of the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

Our sincerest condolence to his wife Máire and family.

*Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam uasal*

### GSI LECTURE SERIES

The monthly lectures until June 2016 are as follows: Tuesday Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Walter Carpenter (1872-1926) – a Kingstown Denizen of the 1900s* by Charles Callan. Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Church of Ireland Family Records* by Derek Neilson. Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Quaker Family Records* by Noel Jenkins. Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Forgotten but not gone – Experiences of Returning Ex-Servicemen in the Irish Free State* by Declan F. Brady. Tuesday Jun 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Yitzhak Herzog – the Sinn Féin Rabbi* by Stuart Rosenblatt.

The current Director of the GSI Lecture Programme, **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI, has advised the Board that he intends to retire at the AGM. Séamus delivered an excellent lecture programme since May 2006 and, given that the Society has monthly lectures right throughout the year, this was no easy task. We sincerely thank Séamus for this enormous contribution to the promotion of genealogy in Ireland.

## In Brief....

### GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join this Society on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) Please note that GSI Membership is open to all interested in genealogy and related subjects. Discounted membership rates are available for those under 25 years and students at recognised genealogy courses.

### PARKING AT DFEI

Car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**. 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. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members are asked to consider 'car pooling' for each month's open meeting. For details on the Institute and its courses please check-out [www.dfei.ie](http://www.dfei.ie)

### E-MAGAZINE

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 the website [irishlivesremembered.com](http://irishlivesremembered.com) There is a small charge to read past issues.

### DISCOUNTS

Exclusive discounts for the 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 Member discounts, please contact **Barry O'Connor**, FGSi, by email at [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)



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



Kill O' The Grange Cemetery, Co. Dublin c.1863 (Photo: National Library of Ireland)

## JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS...

### JIM LYNCH, R.I.P.

It was great sadness and regret that the committee and members of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, the local history society for Bray and North Wicklow, learned of the death on Friday 29 January of the Society's Hon. Treasurer, Jim Lynch, after a sudden illness. A retired RTÉ Newsroom administrator, in addition to being a long serving committee of the Bray Cualann Historical Society, and Hon. Treasurer of the Society, was also an accomplished horticulturist and was a member of the Delgany and District Horticultural Society. Following his funeral Mass on Tuesday 02 February in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Bray, Co. Wicklow, he was laid to rest in Redford Cemetery, Greystones, Co. Wicklow.

### THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

On Wednesday 24 February at 18.00hrs, Bernard Neary will present his lecture *'Rathborne Tallow Chandlers'* to the Old Dublin Society in The Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138 – 144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome – admission free.

### CUMANN NA mBAN LECTURE

On Tuesday 8 March at 20.00hrs, Ms. Marie Bashford Synnott will present her lecture *'Skerries Women of Cumann na mBan'* to the Skerries Historical Society in Keane's Bus Bar, Strand Street, Skerries, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

### MOORE STREET 1916

On Thursday 03 March at 13.00hrs Franc Myles will present his lecture *'Beating the Retreat? The final hours of the Rising in Moore Street'* in The Museum of Archaeology & History, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. Admission free, to book call 01-6486334, email: [educationarch@museum.ie](mailto:educationarch@museum.ie). Not wheelchair accessible.

### DLR 1916 RISING TALKS

The following free talks will take place in dlr Lexicon, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, at 19.00hrs - Thursday 11 February: *'Patrick Moran, Irish Volunteer and Trade Unionist'* – May Moran; Thursday 18 February: *'The Sherwood Foresters*

*from Dún Laoghaire to the Battle of Mount Street'* – Billy Campbell; Thursday 25 February: *'Roger Casement'* – Angus Mitchell; Thursday 03 March: *'Captain Jack White'* – Dr. Leo Keohane.

### WESLEY BURROUGHS, R.I.P.

The death took place on New Year's Eve of screenwriter Wesley Burroughs in a Bray nursing home. Best known for his work on the RTE series *'Tolka Row'*, *'The Riordans'*, *'Bracken'*, and *'Glenroe'*, there was a large attendance of cast members from the various series that he series that he worked on at the 6th January funeral service.

### COMMEMORATIVE LECTURE

On Thursday 18 February at 20.00hrs Rob Goodbody will present the Deirdre Kelly Commemorative Lecture on the subject *'Dublin Schools prior to 1831'* to the Rathmines, Ranelagh & Rathgar Historical Society in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6. All welcome admission €3. Parking at the evening rate of €2 (Total) available in the Swan Centre Car Park from 19.00hrs to 24.00hrs.

### RATHMINES LIBRARY LECTURE

At 13.00hrs on Wednesday 02 March Capt Claire Mortimer will present her lecture *'Researching family history in Military Archives, a focus on 1916'* in Rathmines Library, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Admission free booking recommended – call 4973539 or email: [rathmineslibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:rathmineslibrary@dublincity.ie)

### CATHOLIC PARISH REGISTERS

Great news from our friends at **Findmypast**. The leading family history website announced at the Rootstech convention in the United States that it will launch 10 million Irish Catholic Parish Registers, one of the most important Irish record collections, in March 2016. Covering over 200 years from 1671-1900 and over 1,000 parishes,

Findmypast has worked to transcribe the National Library of Ireland's online image collection of 3,500 baptism and marriage registers. This is the first time that the collection has been indexed with the images linked online, making the search much easier and the records more accessible.

As a result, family historians will now be able to make all important links between generations with the baptism records and between families with the marriage registers. These essential records cover the entire island of Ireland.

# 1926 Census of Ireland

The 'Programme for Government' agreed between Fine Gael and the Labour Party following the General Election in 2011 included a promise by the newly elected government to have the 1926 Census released prior to the expiry of the 100 year closure rule.

The 1926 Census was the first taken after independence in 1922 and the period between the 1911 census and the 1926 census was, without doubt, the most turbulent period of modern Irish history. During that fifteen year period we had the 1913 Lockout, the First World War, the Easter Rising of 1916, the General Election of 1918, the meeting of the first Dail in 1919 and the Declaration of Independence, the establishment of the Irish Free State in 1922, the Irish Civil War 1922-23 and, of course, huge emigration and economic difficulties.

The GSI was the first genealogical organisation in Ireland to campaign for its release and indeed, in 1993 the Society alone successfully campaigned to have the closure period for census returns reduced from 100 years to 70 years in the *Statistics Bill*, however, despite assurances from the then Minister [Noel Dempsey, TD] in the Seanad, this was not included in the final text of the Bill when it later passed all stages in Dáil Éireann. Therefore, the *Statistics Act, 1993* became law on July 14th 1993 with the 100 year rule intact.

The Society kept up the campaign since 1993 with Parliamentary Questions, four Bills and lobbying. The Society urges the government to be elected in this month's General Election to commit to deliver on the promise to release this Census. It is also vitally important that the Irish 'genealogical community' and our friends overseas create and maintain a platform of solidarity on this important issue and that all would support the restoration of *Statistics (1926 Census) Bill, 2013* to the Order Paper for Dáil Éireann.

The release of the 1926 Census would be a hugely significant gesture in this the centenary year of the 1916 Easter Rising. It has an enormous potential for the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of Ireland and our shared genealogical heritage. Therefore, it must be a deliverable in the next 'Programme for Government'.

Checkout the Society's website for further information [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## Index to Ten Volumes

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, MGS** and they are available in pdf format to read or to download *free of charge* on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) Although we're 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie)).

## Précis of the January Lecture

Tuesday January 13th—'An Irish Australian in WW1' by **Maura Flood, MGS**.

The lecture followed an Irish Australian in WW1. Joseph Leslie Curley was born in 1898 in Cundle Plains, Cundletown, NSW the son of an immigrant from County Galway and whose maternal grandmother came from County Down earlier in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Les enlisted in Nov 1917 in the Australian Imperial Force.

Extracts from his military record were shown from his enlistment to his medical record and subsequent training in England to his arrival in France in July 1918. Les' letter to his parents showed how little was known to him about the war before he left and how proud he was that the Australians had no conscription. An extract from *First World War Official Histories* gave details of how his Brigade was attacked by machine gunfire from the Germans on the

31 August 1918. Les is buried in Hem Farm Military Cemetery by the River Somme.

There are still strong connections between this area of the Somme and Australia and a high regard is shown for the Australians to this day.

The War Diaries can be viewed on <https://www.awm.gov.au> and the Australian service records on [www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au](http://www.discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au)

**Maura Flood** holds a Certificate in Genealogy (UCD) and a Certificate in Mastering Genealogical Proof from the Gen Proof Study Group of the Association of Professional Genealogists, USA. She undertakes genealogy research and has been part of the Genealogy Advisory Service of the National Library of Ireland over the past three summers.

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The Society is a Nominating Body for  
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## Board of Directors 2015-2016

**Gerry Hayden** (*Cathaoirleach* : Chairperson); **Tony O'Hara** (*Leas-Chathaoirleach* : Vice-Chairperson, Archival Services, RF:- Education Services); **Michael Merrigan** (*General Secretary, Company Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor, RF:- Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Social Inclusion, GSI Social Club & Irish DNA Atlas*); **Billy Saunderson** (*Finance and pro tem An Daonchartlann Foundation, Philanthropy*); **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].

## FREE RESEARCH ADVICE

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archive and Research Centre at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire is open, as per its **winter schedule**, for two days a week as follows: each **Wednesday** from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs and each **Saturday** from 14.00hrs to 17.00hrs.

With around **nine hours of archival time** available each week new volunteers are always needed and very welcome. Our Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice**.

The use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable online at the GSI website.

Resources freely available to Members include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records, Newspapers.com, British Newspaper Archives and 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 the Harbour. See: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)