



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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## President Awards Two Fellowships



The President of the Society, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, following in the footsteps of his predecessors, **Mr. Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI**, in 2005 and **Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI** in 2009, has awarded two special fellowships marking his term in office.

In his choice of nominees, the president was keen to emphasise the importance of the promotion of an awareness, appreciate and knowledge of our genealogical heritage in Ireland and amongst our diaspora around the world.

The President's passion and boundless enthusiasm for the promotion of the study of genealogy as an educational leisure activity available to all in the community is shared by the two recipients of his Fellowship awards, the renowned professional genealogist, **Fiona Fitzsimons** and the Director of the Society's Outreach Programme, **Eddie Gahan**.

**Fiona Fitzsimons, MA, FGSI**, is a Director, Research & PR Director of the Irish Family History Centre. Fiona is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin, a historical expert and entrepreneur. Fiona and her team at Eneclann have provided research and historical consultancy for television and film production, including the Irish research for multiple episodes of *Who Do You Think You Are*; *Faces of America*; *Finding Your Roots*; and the *Genealogy Roadshow (USA)* and the Irish heritage of US President Obama.

Fiona has carved out a role as a writer and educator in Irish Public History. Indeed, this is one aspect of Fiona's contribution to the promotion of Irish genealogy which the GSI President particularly noted with Fiona's weekly Facebook podcast providing a research lifeline to many undertaking "Lockdown Genealogy". Fiona has taught at the Innovation Academy, Trinity College Dublin; Ancestral Connections Summer School in N.U.I. Cork; the British Institute, SLC and hosted the Summer Talks series in the

National Library of Ireland, the Expert Workshop @NLireland series and, of course, with Findmypast.ie Fiona writes a column, Kindred Lines, in *History Ireland*; is a feature writer for online magazine *Irish Lives Remembered*; and contributes regularly to specialist journals, magazines and newspapers.

**Eddie Gahan, FGSI**, was elected to the Board of the Genealogical Society of Ireland in March 2011 and was allocated the Outreach Programme portfolio, including the operation of the front office at An Daonchartlann at the Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire. He continued in these roles when the facility moved to the DLR Leisure Centre in Loughlinstown.

Eddie was determined to expand the Outreach Programme to eventually include the hosting of GSI Stands at events throughout the island of Ireland. These included, *Back to Our Past* at Dublin and Belfast; Genealogy Roadshows in Cork, Limerick, Galway and other centres; Active Retirement Association events; and talks to events organised by the Irish Countrywomen Association, Local Historical Societies & social clubs; Genealogy Help Desks during Heritage Week, on Culture Night, Festivals and events hosted by City and County Librarians.

As a former rugby player and a keen supporter of Leinster, Eddie is a wonderful team player and brought those skills on board to create a very able and successful Outreach Team to promote the study of genealogy.

The *College of Fellows of the Genealogical Society of Ireland* is governed by a Constitution adopted by the Board (*Res: 12/03/894*) and endorsed by the Members at the Annual General Meeting held on March 13th 2012. Under the Constitution, there can be no more than twenty Fellows at any one time and, indeed, there has been no Fellowship awarded since 2010. There are now fifteen Fellows of the Society—see page 3.

In normal circumstances, the Society would host a special ceremony to award these Fellowships, however, this has to await the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. In the meantime, *congratulations to Fiona and Eddie*.

GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Events

### DATA PROTECTION

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on May 25th 2018. The Board, under *Res: 18/05/1380*, advises Members that the Society holds the following records on its Members (1) Name; (2) Address; (3) Telephone Number; (4) Email Address and (5) the name of the Associate Member, if applicable, and that such records are **only used** for the purpose of contacting Members on Society matters and for the dispatch of the Monthly Newsletter and the Annual Journal and furthermore, that these records are **only held** by the Director of Membership Services and are **inaccessible to all other persons** and that, the Society does not share this information with any other individual or organisation. Records are also held for contractual necessity to deliver paid services.

### ARCHIVE—TEMPORARY CLOSURE

'An Daonchartlann' the Society's Archive & Research Centre based at the DLR Leisure Centre in Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin, will remain **CLOSED** until further notice due to Covid-19 restrictions.

### NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Ireland will be held on **Tuesday 9th March 2021 at 20.00hrs** as an incorporeal meeting due to the Irish Government's Covid-19 restrictions.

Members will receive an invitation by email to join the Annual General Meeting online through the use of **Zoom**.

The *Annual Report of the Board of Directors* and the *Annual Financial Accounts* will be presented to the AGM.

The Members will also be asked to consider endorsing a resolution of the Board of Directors in respect of term limits for certain office holders, including the President, Vice-Presidents, Honorary Positions and the Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach.

The Members will elect a new Board for the year 2021-2022. All voting shall be by a "show of hands". **General Secretary**

## OPEN MEETINGS

### Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute (or Zoom)

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 9 February 2021 (Zoom) —20.00hrs

Tuesday 9 March 2021 AGM (Zoom)—20.00hrs

### Royal Marine Hotel (or Zoom)

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 24 February (Zoom) —11.00hrs

Wednesday 24 March (Zoom)—11.00hrs

Contribution €5.00 p.p.

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

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@GenSocIreland

## OUTREACH PROGRAMME

The necessary imposition of restrictions due to Covid-19 in Ireland has caused havoc with the plans for the resumption of activities by the voluntary and community sectors.

The Society's Outreach Programme team headed by **Eddie Gahan**, FGSI has suspended its operations since March 2020 and it is extremely unlikely that they will resume this year.

Eddie's Outreach Programme team is looking forward to the day when they can get out on the road again with their information stand and help desk. If you would like to help please email him at [eddie\\_gahan\\_snr@hotmail.com](mailto:eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com)

## JGSI 2021 SELECT COMMITTEE

The Society's Director of Internet Services & Publications, **Shane Wilson**, MGSI, will shortly convene a meeting of the Select Committee established under *Res: 21/01/1541* tasked with seeking, collecting and collating suitable items for publication in the **Society's Annual Journal** which will be published in a digital format.

GSI Members are encouraged to contribute items for publication. Articles on specific research, particular resources, family histories or, indeed, photographs of the Society's activities over the past thirty years for a photomontage.

Please e-mail your items for publication to [JGSI2021@familyhistory.ie](mailto:JGSI2021@familyhistory.ie) **Thank You!**

## An Daonchartlann & Covid-19

**An Daonchartlann** - Archive & Research Centre is normally open each Wednesday between **10.00hrs to 14.30hrs**. However, under the **Level 5 Covid-19 Restrictions**, it is **CLOSED** until further notice.

When we can open, the system for operating the archive due to Covid-19, is as follows.

- (1) All visits to the archive, for members and non-members, is by **appointment only**. All appointments to be made, in advance, to [Archivist@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Archivist@familyhistory.ie).
- (2) Maximum time for each visit, is 1 hour for non-members and 2 hours for paid up members. Maximum number of visitors per appointment is one person.
- (3) Gloves supplied in the archive, must always be used while in the archive.
- (4) Face mask/covering (not supplied) must always be worn while in the archive. You will be refused admission to the archive without a face mask/covering.
- (5) A name and contact phone number will be required from each person visiting.
- (6) All visitors, members and non-members must leave the archive as soon as their allocated time has finished.

Please do **not** visit the archive, if you are feeling unwell or have been in contact with someone, who has been confirmed as having Covid-19 or are waiting for test results.

*(The Archive cannot be a drop-in centre under the current Covid-19 regulations and we hope to be able to revert at a later stage).*

## ZOOM MEETINGS

The GSI Archive & Research Centre is currently closed to visitors, however, the Director of Archival Services & Education, **Gerard White**, MGSI, is considering arranging occasional informal archive meetings using **Zoom**. Meanwhile the Membership Director, **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI, will email Members to log in to **Zoom** for the two Open Meetings on Page 1 of this newsletter.

Members may send their queries in advance for the Morning Open Meeting by email to [Archivist@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Archivist@familyhistory.ie)

## JAMES DAVIDSON, FGSI



*James Davidson - A Remembrance*

The passing of Jim Davidson will leave a vacuum which will not be filled.

Besides being the Society's longest serving Vice-President, he was a person of congeniality and presence and always a delight to be in his company and to appreciate his particular sense of humour.

His talks were always peppered with humorous anecdotes and the remaining impression to me was his talk *'The Oldest Profession in the World'* delivered to the Society some years ago.

Although our meetings were spasmodic it was always good to know he was at the other end of the phone when advice was needed and more importantly for a pleasant chat.

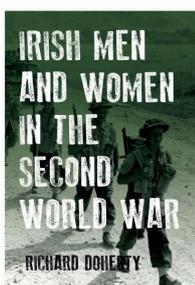
Now the Great Architect above has called him no doubt he will be kept busy searching for all the relatives he missed here.

He will be missed by many yet he will live on in our memory.

**Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**  
*President*

Please Stay Safe—We'll Stay Connected via Zoom & Teams

## Irish Men & Irish Women in WW2



Just hot off the press as the *'Gazette'* was going to print - **'Irish Men and Women in the Second World War'** by **Richard Doherty** published by **Four Courts Press** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-959-8 : P/bk : 352pps : Ills. Price €29.95. New publication offer: 20% discount €23.95. This offer expires 30 April 2021) - a long anticipated updated edition of the much acclaimed 1999 work.

The publication of this book in 1999 provided the first detailed examination of the many Irish men and women, all volunteers, who served in the Second World War. It led the way for further study and the author has continued to research the subject, especially the numbers of Irish who served.

In this updated edition, new sources and careful examination show the numbers of Irish in the UK forces - at over 133,000 - to be higher than hitherto believed. That figure includes over 66,000 personnel from Éire (remained neutral) and some 64,000 from Northern Ireland (UK). They served in every

service and every theatre of war as their stories show. Irish soldiers fought in France and Norway in 1940, in the Middle East and Burma, Italy and in the campaign to liberate Europe.

Irish sailors hunted the *'Admiral Graf Spee'* which was a Deutschland-class *"Panzerschiff"* (armored ship), nicknamed a "pocket battleship" by the British and the *'Bismarck'* which was the first of a pair of the powerful Bismarck-class battleships. They served on vessels protecting the convoys from North America and those playing the treacherous Norwegian Sea supplying the Russians through the Arctic port of Murmansk from U-boats. Irish airmen in the RAF protected the UK in 1940 and took the war to the skies over Europe, the Middle East and Far East. Irish women served in roles critical to the UK and Allied war effort in the armed services, intelligence, nursing, administrative and other vital roles.

Richard Doherty tells their stories using a wide array of sources including personal interviews, contemporary documents, citations for gallantry awards - among them the Victoria Cross - published accounts and memoirs. The first edition of *'Irish Men and Women in the Second World War'* was the first of three volumes on the subject by the author. Eighty years on from the early days of the war, the book is again available with its most important elements updated.

**Richard Doherty**, historian, author and broadcaster, has written thirty books and numerous articles and presented radio and television programmes on military history. Chairman of the **Irish Regiments Historical Society**, he has lectured in Ireland, the UK, Italy, France and the USA. He also leads battle-field studies, lectures on cruise ships and is a popular guest speaker.

## FOUR COURTS PRESS

*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the online catalogue and the wonderful special offers at [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)*

## MOBILE PHONE DEALS FOR MEMBERS

The Board agreed a new mobile phone deal for GSI members similar to the one that brought considerable savings on phones and calls in the past.

**This offer is Sim only for First Time Customers: €20 per month inc vat.** ☺ 300 off net local, national and domestic calls. ☺ 300 off net texts. ☺ Unlimited Data. ☺ Unlimited Three to Three Talk & Text.

**Are you more of a talker and texter then this is the plan for you: €28.91 per month inc vat.** ☺ Unlimited calls to any network in ROI ☺ Unlimited calls to all landlines in ROI ☺ Unlimited Texts to any network in ROI ☺ 100 international minutes & 100 international texts ☺ 13GB of mobile data of which up to 11Gb can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☺ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☺ 24 month Contract

**Are you more of a data/internet user, then this is the plan for you: €27 per month inc vat.** ☺ Unlimited Three/Three calls in ROI ☺ Unlimited Three/Three texts in ROI ☺ 300 Minutes for off net mobile calls including domestic/national landlines in ROI ☺ 300 Texts to off net Irish mobiles. ☺ Unlimited mobile data of which up to 8GB's can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☺ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☺ 24 month Contract.

**Do you need unlimited national usage for talk text and data then this is the plan for you: €40.50 per month inc vat.** ☺ Unlimited calls to any network in ROI ☺ Unlimited calls to all landlines in ROI ☺ Unlimited Texts to any network in ROI ☺ Unlimited mobile data of which up to 15GB's can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☺ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☺ 24 month Contract. Call today to discuss the best plan for you. Ph: 01 6876021 or email [Conor.Spencer@threegovstaff.com](mailto:Conor.Spencer@threegovstaff.com)

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## DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

This Society is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the kind donations received from Members and friends at home and overseas.



The Society is a Registered Charity in Ireland and always considers options for fund raising and grant applications.

The possibility of crowdfunding for specific projects is being considered. However, in the meantime it was decided to appeal to our Members and friends. Donations can be made on-line via the Society's website or by cheque payable to the **Genealogical Society of Ireland** and forwarded to the General Secretary at: **11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland, A96 AD76.**

The Board would like to sincerely thank the Members and friends of the Society who have already donated.

## In Brief....

### GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join 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 available for under 25s and students at recognised genealogy courses.

### MONTHLY LECTURE PROGRAMME

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Irish government during the COVID-19 pandemic the Society's Open Meetings are now held virtually. CHECKOUT our YouTube Channel for past lectures. [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

### FEBRUARY LECTURES

*James Scannell* advises that due to the measures announced by the Government to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by restricting public meetings and gatherings, the introduction of social distancing, and the closing of schools, colleges, museums and galleries, all lectures and meetings of local history societies have been cancelled or are now hosted on-line like the ones listed opposite. Check the websites of the societies or institutions for further information.

### FELLOWS : COMHALTAÍ

#### Current Fellows

- 1990 - Frieda Carroll (Dublin) (Co-Founder)
- 1990 - Michael Merrigan (Dublin) (Co-Founder)
- 1992 - Anthony Daly (Dublin)
- 1997 - Barry O'Connor (Dublin)
- 2001 - Rory Stanley (Dublin) (3rd President & First Dean)
- 2005 - Stuart Rosenblatt (London, UK) (4th President & 2nd Dean of the College of Fellows)
- 2005 - Tony McCarthy (Cork) (2nd President)
- 2005 - Jim Herlihy (Cork)
- 2005 - Brian Mitchell (Derry)
- 2009 - Séamus Moriarty (Dublin)
- 2009 - Séamus O'Reilly (Dublin)
- 2009 - Andrew Tully (RSA / Australia)
- 2010 - John Grenham (Dublin)
- 2021 - Fiona Fitzsimons (Dublin)
- 2021 - Eddie Gahan (Dublin)

#### Deceased Fellows

- 1991-2000 - Denis, O Conor Don (Dublin) (First President)
- 1990-2011 - Jean Reddin (Dublin) (Co-Founder)
- 2001-2015 - Seán Kane (Dublin)
- 1992-2016 - Liam Mac Alasdair (Dublin)
- 1990-2016 - Joan Merrigan (Dublin) (Co-Founder)
- 2009-2019 - David, The O Morchoe (Wexford) (Vice-President)
- 2001-2020 - James Davidson (Northern Ireland) (Vice-President)

*Nota Bene:* Sr. Bernadette de Lourdes, OCarroll (USA) who was elected Vice President of the Society on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2002 was due to be appointed to Fellowship in 2005, however, Sr. Bernadette became very ill and died on 13 September 2005. Before incorporation, William E. Hogg was a Trustee of the Society between 1994 and 1998, however, as he resigned as a Trustee in 1998, he is not included in the above list.



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



Some of the Archival Collections in An Daonchartlann, Loughlinstown. (Photo: Tom Conlon)

## James Scannell Reports...

### FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Declan Ryan will give a short talk '*Lennox Robinson, Man of the Theatre, and Foxrock Resident*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 09 February. Rob Goodbody will give a long talk '*Ballycorus Lead Mines*' or on another topic he has available at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 16 February. Email: [info@foxrocklocalhistory.ie](mailto:info@foxrocklocalhistory.ie) for access.

### THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Maria O'Reilly will present her lecture '*Warrenmount House Through Time*' at 19.30hrs Weds. 10 February. Members only. Cathy Scuffill will present '*Dublin's Housing Crisis in Revolutionary Times 1915-1923*' at 19.30hrs on Weds. 24 February, Members only.

### MILITARY HISTORY SOC. OF IRELAND

Dr. Pádraig Lenihan will present '*Felinn Rua O'Neill, 1603-1653 - the forgotten leader of the Confederate Wars*' at 20.00hrs on Friday 19 February. Details from: [admin@mhsi.ie](mailto:admin@mhsi.ie).

### RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John Healy will present the Deirdre Kelly Commemorative Lecture - '*Tough Times, Toffee and Textiles*' at 19.00hrs on Thursday 25 February. Members only.

### DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL—CITY HALL

Professor Paula Murphy will present '*Public Sculpture in Dublin: The Practice*' at 13.00hrs on Friday 26 February. Register via [www.sculpturedublin.ie](http://www.sculpturedublin.ie).

### RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fergus Cleary will present '*Kilbarron Conservation Project - A Project in Progress*' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 3 March. Details from [www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie](http://www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie).

### MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOC.

Jennifer Goff will present '*Eileen Gray - Her work and her world*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 4 March. See: [www.mountmerriohistorical.com](http://www.mountmerriohistorical.com)

### PUBLICATION

*'A Bloody Summer: The Irish at the Battle of Britain'* by Dan Harvey, published by Merrion Press, pb, 112 pages, ISBN 978 1 78537 325 1.

The Battle of Britain from July 10<sup>th</sup> 1940 to October 31<sup>st</sup> 1940, was one of the greatest air battles in warfare history and one in which air power came of age and was an early turning point in the Second World War. Occupying most of Europe by June 1940 the Germans then prepared to invade Britain but had to cross the English Channel with air supremacy being the key component for a successful crossing. The Luftwaffe (German Air Force) was anxious to claim victory over an outnumbered Royal Air Force (RAF) and clear them from the skies in advance of the amphibious invasion of Britain and so embarked on an epic four month campaign. Sitting in the cockpits of the RAF Spitfires engaging German fighters and the Hurricanes engaging German bombers, were a great number of Irishmen, from the North and the South whose contribution to the Allies victory in the Battle of Britain is now told for the first time. This book is divided into a number of very concise and precise chapters which cover British and German tactics, the aircraft in service with both air forces, and the phases of the air battle.

The RAF had two advantages which the Germans were unaware of - radar which gave advance warning of approaching Luftwaffe aircraft at both high and low level, and the Observer Corps which tracked Luftwaffe

aircraft after they had crossed the English coast and were over England, supported by a very effective anti-aircraft gun system directed by Dublin born General Sir Frederick Pile, and Fighter Sector Controllers such as Squadron Leader Bill Igoe from Nenagh, Co. Tipperary, who directed RAF aircraft towards the incoming Luftwaffe ones. The Battle of Britain was divided into five phases - Phase One from June 26<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup> of scattered limited Luftwaffe day and night attacks on British shipping and towns followed by a more intensive Phase Two from July 17<sup>th</sup> to August 12<sup>th</sup> with larger and more frequent attacks were mounted against shipping in the English Channel, on ports along the east and south coast, RAF facilities, and towns with aircraft factories. Phase Three from August 13<sup>th</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup> consisted of large daylight attacks against RAF airfields in south-east England with 'The Hardest Day' taking place on August 18<sup>th</sup> with specific attacks on 11 Group airfields which were serious damaged. As these attacks began to wear down the resources of the RAF, the accidental bombing of London by a lone Luftwaffe aircraft on August 24<sup>th</sup> resulted in the RAF bombing Berlin the following night. Luftwaffe attacks against the RAF continued but on September 5<sup>th</sup> the Germans took the decision to bomb London. The fourth phase from September 7<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> commenced with a major Luftwaffe air raid on the London Docks which continued for several days with the 'Greatest Day' taking place on September 15<sup>th</sup> when the Luftwaffe mounted a massive 'all or nothing attack' to destroy the RAF but failed by the end of that day which is now observed every year by the RAF as 'Battle of Britain Day.' Having failed to destroy the RAF, Adolf Hitler postponed Operation Sea Lion indefinitely two days later and began planning Operation Barbarossa, the invasion of the USSR which took place in June 1941. Luftwaffe air raids on Britain in the meantime continued with fighter-bombers being used for daytime raids and bombers for night ones while the fifth and final phase from October 3<sup>rd</sup> to October 31<sup>st</sup> saw out small scale daylight attacks and larger scale night time attacks carried out mainly against London. In all these phases Irishmen took a leading part and played a leading role. 544 RAF pilots were killed during this battle with many other seriously injured, severe burns being a frequent one and of the 2938 RAF aircrew who took part in the Battle of Britain, 1339 were subsequently lost in operations during World War Two.

Many will be aware of Wing Commander Brendan 'Paddy' Finucane, the 'Ace with the Shamrock' but this book looks at all the other Irishmen who flew in this conflict - who they were, where they came from, what they did, and what happened to them afterwards e.g. Hill Harkness from Belfast who destroyed at least two aircraft during the battle, survived it and the war, and died in 2002; 22-year Oliver Morrough-Ryan, born in Meath, survived the battle but was killed in May 1941 while conducting searchlight operations, or 26-year old Cecil Montgomery from Lisnakea, County Fermanagh, shot down over the English Channel on August 14<sup>th</sup> 1940 and whose body was later washed up in the French coast. Just three of the numerous Irishmen mentioned in the text.

Appendices provide a Chronology of the Battle, List of Accredited Battle of Britain Squadrons, Location of RAF Fighter Command, 31 July 1940, R/T Codes, Glossary of Terms, Bibliography and Index. *James Scannell*

### 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 FIFTH edition of '*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*'. Please checkout the website [www.gillmacmillan.com](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) Price €24.99 [RRP].

## Thirtieth Annual General Meeting

Next month on Tuesday March 9th 2021, the Society will convene its thirtieth Annual General Meeting since its first in October 1991 and although, in October last we were unable due to the Covid-19 pandemic to properly celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of the foundation of the Society on October 25th 1990, this AGM is a significant milestone in the history of the Society.

The Members at this AGM will be tasked, once again, with electing a new Board for the coming year and now, with all of the Board meetings held via Zoom, it is hoped that this will encourage more Members to come forward and to seek election to the Board. *No need to travel to meetings!*

The Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of each month, except in January when it meets on the second Thursday, and the current scheduled time is 15.00hrs UTC for approximately two hours. The Board operates a "cabinet style" governance system with each Director holding a particular portfolio, for which, they are responsible to the Board. This system recognises ability, strengthens commitment and rewards initiative where operational matters are devolved, allowing policy, planning and finances to be the main areas considered at the monthly meetings of the Board.

The Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland has always prided itself on its commitment to openness, transparency and accountability in its governance of the Society and in its execution of its functions and duties across all aspects of the Society's activities. This is what is now required of all registered charities in Ireland (*Charities Act, 2009*) where high standards of corporate governance are expected and, ideally, underpinned by an adherence to a 'Code of Conduct' for all Directors and officeholders.

The main governing instruments of this Society are (1) the *Constitution of the Genealogical Society CLG* adopted in 2016 (*Res: 16/10/1262*) in accordance with the *Companies Act, 2014*; (2) *Standing Orders* adopted in October 2000 and last amended on July 16th 2020 (*Res: 20/07/1511*) to facilitate incorporeal meetings and, finally (3) the *Code of Conduct for the Board of Directors and Officers of the Genealogical Society of Ireland* adopted on November 7th 2019 (*Res: 19/11/1466*).

As this AGM will be our first incorporeal AGM, the Board adopted *Res: 21/02/1554* to facilitate voting as follows: "That, the Board proceeds to organise and convene the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021 as an incorporeal meeting utilising Zoom technology and that the "wave facility" be used to indicate voting by a "show of hands" in respect of such matters as may require a vote of the Members. To facilitate such, the Board shall appoint a 'Meeting Electronic Controller' and a 'Deputy Meeting Electronic Controller' who shall be responsible for counting of votes and ensuring the correct use of the technology. The names of the Controller and Deputy Controller shall be announced at the beginning of the Annual General Meeting and a vote, by a "show of hands" to endorse these appointments shall be held as Item 2 of the Agenda. Nominations for the various positions shall be conducted in the normal manner and any vote required shall be conducted as described above." The Electronic Controllers, in effect, replace the Tellers at this AGM.

Hopefully, more Members will consider coming forward for election to the new Board next month.

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

### PROPOSED TERM LIMITS FOR CERTAIN OFFICE HOLDERS

At its February 4th meeting, the Board of Directors adopted a proposal which would introduce term limits for certain office holders in the Society. Although, term limits for the President and the Cathaoirleach were first recommended in 2010, this proposal amends the original provisions and extends term limits to other officeholders.

Under *Res: 21/02/1555/G1 - Term Limits for Certain Office Holders*—the Board agrees to amend the following section of the *Society's Development Plan, 2015 -2020* – adopted under *Res: 14/11/1127/G1* and currently remaining in force under *Res: 21/01/1540 - Section 2 - Volunteerism & Gender Equality / Representation Policy - Positive Actions and Recommendations: Clause 5 (page 27)* – (Consider the fixing of maximum terms of office for the President and the Cathaoirleach to ensure rotation of the most high profile positions in the Society, for example, one five year term for the former and a maximum of two one year terms for the latter.) to include,

☼ a single eight-year term of office for the President and Vice-Presidents; ☼ two three-year terms for any Honorary Position (Herald, Vexillologist etc); and ☼ four one-year terms for the positions of Cathaoirleach and Leas-Chathaoirleach; and, ☼ that, for existing office holders, the length of time currently in office shall be reckonable in respect of the above term limits; and, ☼ that, the Board shall seek the endorsement of these amendments by the Membership at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday March 9<sup>th</sup> 2021. ☼ Note: the amendments, once endorsed by the AGM on March 9th 2021 will become 'governing instruments' of the Society.

## PUBLICATIONS €5.00 EACH TO CLEAR

The Society published a range of titles since 1992 and although these were all in hardcopy or on CD, times have changed. Costs of publishing small print runs in that format are now prohibitive. Therefore, like many similar societies around the world, publishing online or in a digital format is the only practical option.

The following is a list of the current hardcopy stock. None of these titles will be reprinted so we have a special price reduction to clear.

### Irish Genealogical Sources (IGS)

**IGS 9.** 'Petitioners against the closure of Kill of the Grange Cemetery, Dublin'

**IGS 16.** 'Kilcoole County Wicklow, School registers from 1854—1876'

**IGS 17.** 'Index to the 1821 Census of Crosserlough, Co. Cavan'

**IGS 22.** '1901 Census Index for Blackrock Urban District Area, Co. Dublin'

**IGS 26.** 'Families of Newlands, Co. Dublin—A Genealogical Study'

**IGS 28.** 'Howth, Sutton, Kilbarrack & Baldoyle, Co. Dublin, 1901 Census Index'

### Deansgrange Memorial Inscriptions

**Vol 1** (2 copies left) - South West Section

**Vol 2** (1 copies left) - Lower North Section

**Vol 3** (SOLD OUT) - Upper North Section

**Vol 4** (1 copy left) - South Section

### Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Cemeteries

**Vol. 2.** (24 copies left) - 'Friends Burial Ground, Temple Hill, Blackrock'

**Vol. 3.** 'Carmelite Monastery, Carrickbrennan Cemetery, Kill of the Grange graveyard and Sion Hill Cemetery'

### Other Items

**Memorial Inscriptions of Grangegorman Military Cemetery** (3 copies left).

**Memorial Inscriptions of Ireland on CD**

All publication just €5.00 each with postage Ireland €2.50 and Overseas €4.50 please email Barry O'Connor, FGSI at [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)

## IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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The Society is a Nominating Body for  
Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate)

### Board of Directors (2020-2021)

**Gerry Hayden** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson);  
**James Walsh** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice-Chairperson & Open Meetings Convener);  
**Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary, Company Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor, RF:- Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Vexillological & Heraldic Services, & Irish DNA Atlas);  
**Lua Ó Scolai** (Finance & pro-tem ADF, Philanthropy);  
**Gerard White** (Archival Services & Education);  
**Eddie Gahan** (Outreach);  
**Shane Wilson** (Publications & Website, Public Relations & Diaspora Outreach);  
**Barry O'Connor** (Membership Services & Cemetery Projects);  
**Séamus Moriarty** (Building & Utilities, Health & Safety Officer, COVID-19 Officer). [RF = Reporting function]

### "HALL'S INDEX"

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world. The past issues of the Society's newsletter from 1996 to 2016 had been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGSI**. The "Hall's Index" now includes all issues right up to date and is available 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 of the "Gazette" at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie))

### GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archive and Research Centre is located at the **DLR Leisure Centre, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin**.

The facility will, when Covid-19 restrictions permit, be open each Wednesday from 10.00hrs to 14.30hrs with **prior booking**.

The use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is always available on request.

