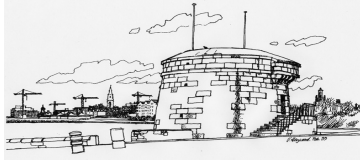


- New Chief Herald Appointed
- Crestfallen in “Dún Logo”
- Celebrating Fifteen Years – 25th October 2005

Editor: E-mail: Gazette@familyhistory.ie



The Gene Gazette

The Newsletter of
the **Genealogical
Society of Ireland**
Volume 10 • Issue 9
September 2005



NEW CHIEF HERALD OF IRELAND APPOINTED

Appointment of Fergus Gillespie a Welcome Development for the Future of Irish Heraldry

The Chairperson of the Board of the National Library of Ireland, **Mr Gerard Danaher SC**, announced the appointment of **Mr Fergus Gillespie** as the new Chief Herald of Ireland. Appointed on August 31st 2005, Mr. Gillespie succeeds **Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue** who retired in September 2003. The appointment brings to an end to some of the uncertainties surrounding the future of Irish heraldry as the two year vacancy left Ireland with a heraldic authority in name only.

Ideal Candidate Chosen

Mr. Fergus Gillespie was Deputy Chief Herald and Keeper in the National Library's Genealogical Office. As an internationally recognised expert on Irish heraldry, Mr. Gillespie's appointment is warmly welcomed by this Society. A native of County Donegal, Mr. Gillespie is a graduate of University College Dublin, from which he holds a Masters Degree in Celtic Studies. Mr. Gillespie's keen interest and proven expertise in Irish heraldry, language, culture and history has undoubtedly strengthened the Office of the Chief Herald. Indeed, the appointment has, in many ways, restored and enhanced the status of Ireland's heraldic authority. The Society's wishes Mr. Gillespie every success in his new position at the helm of Irish heraldry and genealogy.

Challenges Remain

Though, this appointment is warmly welcomed, it would be foolish to underestimate the problems facing Irish heraldry in the wake of the implementation of Section 13 of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. The appointment of the Chief Herald and the establishment of the Committee on Genealogy & Heraldry may be viewed as a good housekeeping exercise by the Board of the National Library of Ireland, but the actual legislative framework for Irish heraldry remains fundamentally flawed. Whilst, it is understood that the intentions of all concerned are firmly supportive of Irish heraldry, the failure to amend existing legislation or bring in

new legislation in the form of a Genealogy & Heraldry Bill has greatly damaged the image and prestige of Irish heraldry internationally. In this respect, Mr. Gillespie's appointment as Chief Herald will be viewed internationally as a very positive development which will greatly facilitate an informed debate on the future of Ireland's heraldic authority.

Committee Established

The Chairman of the Board of the National Library of Ireland, Mr. Danaher, also announced the establishment of the Committee on Genealogy and Heraldry as provided for in section 13(4) (a) of the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997. This Committee was first advocated by this Society in its submissions during the debate on the National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997 in the Seanad (Irish Senate). The Committee, it is reported, will be chaired by **Mr. Patrick Clyne**, a member of the Board of the National Library. Two other Board members have been appointed to serve on the Committee, **Mr. Brendan O'Donoghue**, the former Director of the National Library and the last Chief Herald and **Ms Máire MacConghail**, a professional genealogist. The Director of the National Library of Ireland **Mr. Aongus Ó hAonghusa** and the Chief Herald, **Mr Fergus Gillespie** are *ex officio* members of the Committee. According to the Chairman, the Board may in the future appoint further members of the committee. However, it is hoped that such a committee will be truly representative of Irish genealogy and heraldry. Indeed, any failure in this respect would most certainly and unfortunately raise questions of propriety and possible conflicts of interest.

A Bright Future for Heraldry?

The Committee and the new Chief Herald must urgently consider establishing an outreach programme to promote Irish heraldry and to inform the public on this important part of our heritage. Indeed, an opportunity to launch such an initiative

exists in October and December with the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the European flag designed by one of Mr. Gillespie's predecessors, the Cork born Gerard Slevin. Cork City Council has decided to mark the occasion and it is hoped that the Office of the Chief Herald will do likewise. The appointment of a Chief Herald and the establishment of this Committee offer a hope for a bright future for Irish heraldry and genealogy. The Board of this Society most certainly welcomes this positive development whilst still calling for legislative change to underpin the legal position of the State's delivery of heraldic services.

CRESTFALLEN IN “DÚN LOGO”



A storm is brewing in Dún Laoghaire over the County Council's decision to replace the County Arms with a new logo. The logo was adopted earlier this year to coincide, it is claimed, with the County Council's obligations under the Official Languages Act, 2003. This Act requires that each government department, local authority and public body must use both the Irish and English languages on letterheads and stationery etc. As this Society aims to promote the study of heraldry and the preservation of our heraldic heritage, this development was a matter of considerable concern. The issue was raised at the June meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) on Culture, Community Development & Amenities but deferred until the September meeting. A lively debate followed a motion tabled by Michael Merrigan seeking to restore the primacy of the County's Arms over the newly adopted commercially driven “logo” which represents a mountain being hit by a wave. During the debate it emerged that the elected

County Councillors were not consulted by the officials on the introduction of a logo and its replacement of the Arms. The County's Arms were designed by **Mr. Fergus Gillespie** after much consultation with County Councillors in 1994. **Cllr. Dónal Marren** stressed the unique heritage of the County of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown as represented by the Arms. He was very strongly supported by **Cllr. Jane Dillon-Byrne** who also recollected the exhaustive consultations on the design of the Arms. These Arms became the heraldic symbol of local governance in the newly established County of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. Indeed, like other heraldic symbols of cities and towns throughout Ireland and the European Union, these Arms also ultimately declare the primacy of the citizenry of this County who elect their County Council. Under legislation, the County Council is charged with certain responsibilities and functions, amongst which, are the provision of certain services to the citizenry of the County. The stated reason for the introduction of a new corporate logo was to "reflect the modern, professional approach of the local authority". "The corporate logo emphasises the county's natural boundaries, from the harbour and the sea on the Dún Laoghaire side to the Dublin Mountains on the Rathdown side of the county. It consists of a simple and effective graphic representation of the green mountains and the blue seas, allowing the public to immediately identify with Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown", it was claimed. The Manager's reply insisted that the "O Chuan go Sliabh crest remains the Council's official crest to be used for legal and historical purposes and there are no proposals to alter its status". Whilst, it is clear that the Arms represented a locally elected democratic institution of governance and this "corporate logo" is meant to highlight the delivery of services by its employees. A fundamental shift of primacy has most certainly occurred in the manner and stated reasons for the introduction of this corporate logo. Corporatism has its place, but it sits uncomfortably in these circumstances where, it appears, that the primacy of the citizenry, their local government and their elected representatives have been overlooked. The shift from "citizen" to "customer" or "client" as advocated by corporatism requires some in depth analysis and public debate. The Arms once adopted as the heraldic symbol of the County by the elected representatives should only be altered, replaced or whatever with the full consent and authority of the elected public representatives of the citizens of the County. The argument proffered by officials for the introduction of the logo found little support and therefore, the motion tabled by Michael Merrigan was overwhelmingly adopted by the Strategic Policy Committee. It will now go forward to a full meeting of the elected County Council for consideration. Given

that in most other counties the county Arms are used by the Gaelic Athletic Association for the county's hurlers and footballers, such a move to replace the Arms with a mere "logo" would hardly be tolerated or even contemplated in these counties. Whether, this logo and the Arms can or should coexist only time will tell, in the meantime, a full and open public consultative process should be established. This process should easily determine whether the public has any appetite for a "corporate logo". As representing the County's heritage, the Arms in its wonderfully crafted symbolism declares the public ownership of this heritage vested in the citizenry of the County alone by right.

AN DAONCHARTLANN

The opening times of the Society's Archive are subject to alteration. And wholly dependant on the numbers of volunteers available. Therefore, members and visitors are advised to phone ahead to ascertain the current opening times. Telephone **+353.1. 204 0464**, for info. When travelling to the Martello Tower at Seapoint it is always advisable to do so by public transport as follows: **DART** (suburban rail) to **SEAPOINT** station – turn left on exit and left again to small laneway over railway on to Brighton Vale and then right – approx. 3 to 4 minutes walk. **DUBLIN BUS** – route no. 7 to **MONKSTOWN ROAD** getting off at Monkstown Valley and walking through Belgrave Square East and Belgrave Place to the seafront – approx. 4 minutes walk.

JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS....

THE ENDURANCE – Shackleton's Legendary Antarctic Expedition. The fascinating exhibition which is on view in the Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Dublin 7, until October 21st and is on loan from the American Museum of Natural History and in Europe for the first time, documents one of the greatest tales of survival in expedition history, the dramatic near-fatal expedition to Antarctica led by Sir Ernest **Shackleton** in 1914. When the ship *Endurance* became trapped in pack ice on the Weddell sea and was eventually crushed, the crew was stranded on the ice for 18 months. **Tom Crean**, the Kerry born Antarctic explorer, was one of the crew selected by Shackleton to sail to the whaling station of South Georgia in a bid to mount a rescue. What followed was a miracle of navigation a seaman ship and is widely regarded as one of the greatest boat journeys and rescues ever accomplished. The exhibition features the photography of **James Hurley** who accompanied Shackleton and is a unique opportunity that should not be missed. Admission to the Exhibition is free with late night opening on Tuesdays. **RARE RAILWAY LOCOMOTIVE DAMAGED** Over a period of time, a rare

diesel locomotive used to pull the last train out Cahirsiveen nearly 50 years has been vandalised beyond repair and it is now likely that it will be scrapped as it would too expensive to restore it. The locomotive was returned to Cahirsiveen in 1997 as a centre piece of tourist attractions including a barracks heritage centre and marina. The locomotive was to commemorate the end of the railway in Cahirsiveen, Co. Kerry. (1893–1960). **PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION** In November 2004, Independent Newspapers (Ireland) donated its entire photographic collection of more than 30,000 images, consisting of glass plates, plastic negatives and a small number of prints, spanning 84 years to the National Library of Ireland which will be housed in the National Photographic Archive in Dublin's Temple Bar. The material is considered of immense historical value and will help to fill gaps in the Library's existing collection of photographs, particularly in the areas of politics and sport. Sorting and cataloguing is in progress and it is hoped to make some of the material available to the public by the end of this year. An exhibition to mark the donation and to celebrate the centenary of the Irish Independent will take place in the National Photographic Archive later this year.

JOHN HAYES-HATTON Local historian and *Bray Cualann Historical Society* Hon Secretary **Brian White**, 27 Ardmore Crescent, Bray, Co. Wicklow, is seeking info on John **Hayes-Hatton**, born in Newcastle, Co. Wicklow, and who was appointed 1st Chief Constable East Sussex Police in 1840 and later to the Staffordshire Police Force in 1842. **MARITIME MUSEUM** The National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Haig Terrace, Dún Laoghaire will be open between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday September 3rd 10th 17th and 24th and on Sunday September 4th 11th 18th and 25th Certainly well worth a visit. **LOCAL HISTORY DAY** Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 –144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, will hold a Local History Day 'Pathways to the Past' on Saturday September 24th commencing with registration of participants at 10 a.m. Speakers and their topics will be:- 'Roger Outlaw and the Priory of Kilmainham' - Ms **Eithne Massey, M.A.**; 'Smithfield: a case study' - **Brendan Twomey, M.A.**; 'Visual material in Local History' **Dr. Seamas Ó Maitiu**; 'Richard Whately; eccentric Archbishop of Dublin' – **Bryan McMahon, M.Ed.**; 'Using Maps for Local History' – **Dr. Jacinta Prunty**. The event will close at 4.30 p.m. with the exhibition launch of "St. Doulagh's: The photographs of **Stephen G. Berry**." Admission is free but booking is essential. Tel. 01-674 4873 **MEDAL SOCIETY** Articles featured in the August 2005 (No 70) Journal of the Medal Society of Ireland include the following:- Boer War – Dublin Yeomen by Liam Dodd; Irish Victoria Cross Winner Disappeared by Liam Dodd; Kilgobbin Old Graveyard, Kilgobbin,

Co. Dublin by Connor and Liam Dodd. (This article contains information on those whose names are inscribed on Kilgobbin War Memorial); The Sinking of the SS Isolda – "a hell of an experience" by Richard Butler (this includes the names of all the crew); Soldier's Extraordinary Behaviour – "Too Much Whiskey" by Liam Dodd; The North Irish Horse and the Hitler Line by Oliver Breen; An Irish V.C.; Lawrence "Fats" McCarthy by Liam Dodd; Major-General Sir (Michael) Thomas Yarr, F.R.C.S.I. by Liam Dodd; "Oh, we don't want to lose you" by J. Morton; The Emergency Service Medals; Major Lane M.C. by Liam Dodd. Copies of this journal, price €3, available by post from Patrick Casey, 1, The Hill, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin.

MICHAEL COLLINS "The Squad and the intelligence operations of Michael Collins" by T. Ryle Dwyer, published by The Mercier Press, €12.95 In 1919, Michael Collins conceived a scheme to eliminate the eyes and ears of the British Administration in Dublin Castle by undermining and terrorizing the police so that the British would react blindly and drive the Irish people into the arms of the Irish Republican Army. As part of this operation, Collins had a special assassination squad, sometimes known as 'The Twelve Apostles' to deal those who posed a specific threat to Collins and to the republican movement. Collins also had several well placed informers within the police and Dublin Castle who were able to provide him with a steady stream of information. In the 1950's, the Bureau of Military History interviewed all those involved in this operation and received a vast amount of information on the basis that this information would not be published during their lifetimes and it is only in recent years that these interviews have been released after cataloguing and indexing by Military Archives which currently holds these depositions. This is the first book to make use of these interviews in which men speak candidly about their personal involvement in the killing at close range of those selected for "elimination" during the darker days of this bitterly fought war of Irish Independence.

ROYAL DUBLIN FUSILIERS Liam Dodd is currently researching ex-members of the British Army's Royal Dublin Fusiliers and is looking for any information on them when they returned home after the Great War 1914-1918. Any info on the burial place of any ex Royal Dublin Fusiliers or any items (photo's, certificates, medals or documents), please contact **Liam Dodd** at 5 Meadow Vale, Blackrock, Co. Dublin. Tel. 01. 289 5085

USD & UKP CURRENCY RATES

The exchange rate for persons paying by check /cheque or cash in US dollars **€1.00 = US\$1.20** and similarly for those wish to pay in British pounds **€1.00 = 0.68p**. Alternatively why not pay by Credit Card – MasterCard or VISA via the Website?



**NEW
MEMBERS
ALWAYS
WELCOME**

**JOIN ON LINE @
www.familyhistory.ie/shop**

TAX RELIEF FOR DONATIONS

The Society has been approved by the Revenue Commissioners in Ireland for the Scheme of Tax Relief for Donations to Eligible Charities under Section 848A of the *Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997*. This scheme applies only to donations to the Society made by taxpayers in amounts exceeding €250.00 p.a. For further info contact the Hon. Secretary at the address below or by e-mail: eolas@familyhistory.ie

QUERIES RECEIVED

EILEEN McCARRICK 72, Carrington Road, Chorley, Lancs. PR7 2DQ, England E-mail:- eileen@mccarrick611.freeserve.co.uk Wrote:- Looking for info. on Peter **Boyle** born Donegal about 1850 parents William Boyle & Margaret Boyle (née **Sweeny**). Bridget **Curran** born about 1853. parents Patrick Curran & Bridget Curran (née **Warran**). Bridget Curran married Peter Boyle 1872 in Glasgow. They had 4 children:- Margaret Boyle b. Glasgow 1873; Mary Boyle b. Ballymore, Teelin Co. Donegal 1874; twins William James and Bridget Alice born Glasgow 1876. This family travelled back and forth between Glasgow, Greenock and Donegal. Bridget Boyle died age 28 in 1881 in Greenock she was buried in common ground in Greenock. Bridget Alice Boyle died in 1882 in St Mary's Industrial School, Glasgow. Peter Boyle married again in December 1882 to Mary **Beggen**. Mary Boyle married her cousin Patrick **Ward** in 1808 in Greenock. I would like to know if Bridget Curran and Peter Boyle had any siblings. On Bridget and Peter's marriage certificate Patrick Curran and William Boyle are recorded as farmers

BRIAN F. ROSS-MURPHY, 19, Tudor Grove, Feilding 5600 New Zealand. E-mail:- brian.rossmurphy@xtra.co.nz Wrote:- I was born in Ireland but now live in NZ. I am trying to find any earlier links on the **Ross Murphy's**. In a book, "*British Campaign Furniture*" by **Nicholas A Brawer**, there is a reference to the founding in early 1800s of a furniture manufacturing business by James **Ross Murphy** and his brother Patrick **Murphy**. What we have is James (we think) marrying a Miss **Ross** (could be Mary) in 1842 as I have the silver tea service given as a wedding present. They had several sons one of whom was Joseph born c. 1848. He married an Emily (?) and was a second marriage no issue from the first. She was born in 1850 and died in Dublin in 1922. Because of the use of both

Ross and Murphy on their own and combined (on my birth certificate it's unhyphenated) it's quite difficult to trace. Joseph and Emily had a number of children one of whom, Clement Pius, is my Grandfather. Any assistance welcome and all responses will be acknowledged. The 1901 census lists Ross Murphy's as living at 9-10 Ellis Quay, Dublin which is where the business was located.

MERRIE SODDER, PO Box 492, Republic, WA USA 99166-0492 E-mail mmsodder@bossig.com. Wrote:- I am looking for any information at all concerning Nancy **McDonald**, born May 1837 in Fermoy, County Cork. The name was spelled O'Donnell in one document, but all the other documents had the name as McDonald. According to the book "*Hartwells of America*" Nancy McDonald's parents were John McDonald and Catherine **Roach**. According to the family story, Nancy McDonald's mother passed away when Nancy was young. Her father either remarried in Ireland or not long after immigrating to the USA. Nancy said she was sent for later, when she was 13-15 years old and travelled by ship alone to join her father, stepmother, and a half-sibling. I don't know where the John McDonald entered the US/Canada, but Nancy McDonald was in Michigan when she met my grandfather James Cyrus **Goddard Rice**; they travelled west by wagon and were married in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They moved on to Breckenridge, Minnesota where they stayed.

PATRICIA NICHOLSON, 148 Lynette Drive, Hamilton, Ontario L9B 2P7 CANADA E-mail:- taybear_forever@hotmail.com I'm seeking any info on John Carson **Kearns** born in Enniskillen, Fermanagh, Ireland. He married Alice **Muldoon** and had 2 children, Mary **Kearns** and Carson John Kearns. Any Info on this family would be greatly appreciated. John is my 3G Grandfather. **WILLIAM RUSSELL JONES**, 31 Heol Y Plas, Cefn Mawr, Wrexham, LL14 3PP, Wales E-mail:- williamjonesjonqms@supanet.com Wrote:- I am seeking information on a Margaret A **Dickson** who according to the 1881 British Census was born in Dublin in c 1868. She is listed as the Granddaughter of Charles and Margaret **Judson**, who are living in Chester, Cheshire, England. However Charles and Margaret Judson were both in the Overton area of Flintshire Wales. I have yet to find any children of Charles and Margaret Judson so I am keen to learn who Margaret Dickson's Mother was. Margaret Judson incidentally was born Margaret Griffiths in Overton Flintshire Wales in c 1816, and was the sister of my Great x2 Grandfather Samuel **Griffiths** also born in Overton in c 1815. Any information most gratefully received

MARK TRAINOR, 4085 Bellington Court, Tallahassee, Florida 32317, USA. E-mail:- mctrainor@comcast.net Wrote:- Looking for any information regarding James and Sally **Trainor** & family who left the port of Belfast in 1833 on the ship John and Mary to St. John,

New Brunswick. May have been related to the **Donnelly** family also aboard the same ship. Possibly from Co. Tyrone.

ELIZABETH GORMLEY, 12 Blackthorn Rd, Welwyn Garden City, Herts AL7 3JS, England E-mail:- emgormley@yahoo.co.uk
Wrote:- **I am looking for James Gormley and Mary Gibbons**, born in Ireland around the 1850's (possibly in the region of Connacht) they married in Ireland and had moved to Port Glasgow, Scotland by 1870 when their son John Gormley was born. James was a Railway and Farm Labourer, his Father was John Gormley- who was still alive in 1870. Any help appreciated.

ELIZABETH BAGG, 3720 N. Pennsylvania St. #31 Indianapolis, IN 46205 U.S.A. Email: herbiej@bitchy.co.uk OR lbagg@iupui.edu Wrote:- I am looking for information on a woman named Margaret **Merideth** or **Meredeth** she had a son born in Dublin Jan. 23 1949 named Frederick Charles Merideth, who was given up for adoption. He was adopted out of Dún Laoghaire very young by the **Bagg** family. I have heard that the Dún Laoghaire orphanage where he lived has long since burned down, but was hoping for any public records on Margaret or the father of Frederick. Margaret Merideth was my grandmother and I was hoping to find ANY information on my unknown family.

COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY

Tuesday 25th October 2005 is a special day in the history of this Society as it marks the 15th anniversary of the first meeting of the Founders' Committee establishing the Society in 1990 under the chairpersonship of **Frieda Carroll, FGSI**. The date also coincides with the 50th anniversary of the decision of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe to adopt the **European Flag** designed by the then Chief Herald of Ireland, **Mr. Gerard Slevin** in 1955. Detailed plans have been formulated for the event marking these anniversaries and the inauguration of our new President. As reported last month, the Board has decided to host an **Inter-Faith Memorial Service** as part of this ceremony to mark the election of our new President, **Mr. Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI**. Included in the ceremony is the presentation of beautifully designed personal Arms by the **International Association of Amateur Heralds** for the Society's new President. Invitations to participate have been sent to representatives of the various Christian denominations and the Islamic and Jewish faiths. The venue will be the Church of Ireland (Anglican) Parish Church of Monkstown, Co. Dublin where **Sir William Betham** – former Ulster King of Arms, was a churchwarden and where a stained glass window has been dedicated to him depicting his coat-of-arms. The European dimension of these ceremonies brings the **European Union** ideal of a common history

and shared destiny to the fore in peace and reconciliation. All our Members and friends of the Society will be invited to attend this special service and the Society is sincerely grateful to **Rev. Kevin Dalton** for permitting the Society the use of this stunningly beautiful church of exceptional architectural quality. Further details in the October issue.

NEW PUBLICATION

Just published *'A handbook for Irish War Graves in India Burma & Beyond 1914-1945* compiled by **Eileen Hewson, MGSI** and published by **Kabristan Archives**, 19, Foxleigh Grove, Wem, SY4 5BS, England. As this is the 60th Anniversary of VJ day, the author did not want the above joining the ranks of the *'Forgotten Irish'*. Intended as a genealogical guide, biographical details are included. 650 memorial inscriptions, 92 pages, 5 illustrations, A5, pb. Special price for GSI members €12 (price including post).

DIARY DATES

Tuesday September 13th 2005

Evening Open Meeting, 20.00hrs

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education,

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Bus: 7, 7A, 46A, and 75.

DART Monkstown/Salthill Station.

Speaker: **Jimmy Robinson**

Topic: *"Pilot Officer Norman Robinson 1917-1943 – Killed in Action WW II"*

Tuesday October 11th 2005

Speaker: **Colin Scudds**

Topic: *"Martello Towers of Ireland"*

Weds. Sep. 28th & Oct. 26th 2005

Morning Open Meeting 10.30hrs

The Port View Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Discussion Group on Family History

*Contribution of €3.00 at each meeting
Coffee/Tea served at Morning Meetings*

ANOTHER CEMETERY RECORDED

Barry O'Connor, FGSI and his team must be congratulated, once again, on their sterling work to record the memorial inscriptions in various graveyards and for preparing such for publication. On Saturday September 3rd 2005 the team of fourteen or so volunteers travelled to the Military Cemetery at Blackhorse Avenue in Dublin and recorded circa 1,600 inscriptions during the day. Whilst, details of the names and dates of death of many of those interred in this cemetery has been recorded before, little of the other important information for the genealogist and military historian has been published. Barry is considering other graveyards for attention and in the meantime he is seeking volunteers for the input of the data on to discs for printing. Please contact Barry at E-mail:- cemetery@familyhistory.ie if you would like to assist this very worthwhile project.

COURSES IN GENEALOGY

Adult Education Classes in Genealogy begin in September. Enrolment commences this month for Adult Education classes in Genealogy in UCD. The ten-week introductory Module 1 course, which is ideal for beginners, commences in late September in Blackrock on Tuesday afternoons, and in Belfield on Tuesday nights. Students who complete Modules 1 and 2 have the option of enrolling in more advanced courses, progressing to Certificate and now Diploma level also. For further information on course content, contact **Seán Murphy** at sjbmurphy@eircom.net, and for enrolment procedures contact UCD Adult Education Centre at adult.education@ucd.ie, or by telephone at +353.1. 7167123.

SOCIETY APPOINTMENTS

The August meeting of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland appointed **Mr. Séamus O'Reilly, MGSI** to the position of Archivist to fill the vacancy following the retirement of Mrs. Frieda Carroll, FGSI earlier in the year. Also, it appointed **Ms. Hilary Byrne, MGSI** to the position of Membership Officer which was vacant since Mrs. Annette McDonnell, MGSI stood down at the last Annual General Meeting. The Board wished Séamus and Hilary every success in their new positions.

WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

The Society's website developer and editor, **Mrs. Iris O'Connor, MGSI** is considering some radical changes to the Society's website aimed at improving its presentation and broadening its content. Iris would welcome comments and suggestions from Members and friends of the Society. Iris can be contacted by E-mail at webmaster@familyhistory.ie

EUROPEAN FLAG

Did you know that it was the Chief Herald of Ireland who designed the European Union Flag? Well, if you didn't know then it's hardly surprising as the 50th anniversary of this remarkable contribution by an Irishman to our European heritage could well be overlooked by the Irish government and the European Union. Following a competition the Parliamentary Assembly of the **Council of Europe** adopted the design by Corkman, **Mr. Gerard Slevin** (1919-1997) on the 25th October 1955 and this decision was endorsed by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on December 8th 1955. In April 1983 the European Parliament agreed that the flag adopted in 1955 should be the flag of the European Community. It now adorns our coins, bank-notes, car registration plates and is the symbol that unites twenty-five nations in the **European Union**. This is truly a triumph of Irish design and a testament to the high esteem in which the Irish Heraldic Authority was held in Europe. Cork City is set to mark the anniversary – but will the nation?