



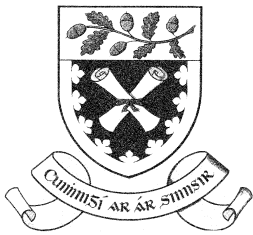
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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



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CONTENTS

The Friars in Ireland 1224-1540	2
GSI Day Trip to Belfast The Society On-Line	2
James Scannell Reports .. Précis of April Lecture	3
GSI Membership Package Diary Dates	3 4
Seanad Éireann and Anniversaries	4
GSI Lectures New Weekend Courses	4
Irish DNA Atlas Project 20th Anniversary Appeal	4

Genealogists & the Privacy Bill, 2012

The headline in the October 2006 issue read 'Continued Access to Certain Records in Danger due to Privacy Bill, 2006'. That article suggested that the *Defamation Bill, 2006* and the *Privacy Bill, 2006* could have unforeseen and possibly, unintended serious implications for genealogists, biographers and social historians. The Defamation Bill was finally enacted in 2009, however, the Privacy Bill was allowed to lapse until it was recently restored to the Order Paper in Seanad Éireann by Senators Seán D. Barrett, David Norris and Feargal Quinn as the *Privacy Bill, 2012*. Back in October 2006, members were concerned about the apparent conflict or confusion between Schedule 1 (10) of the Defamation Bill (now in the 2009 Act) and Section 4 (3) (a) of the Privacy Bill (which is now in the 2012 Bill) in respect of bona fide genealogical research and data obtained from a public register in Ireland. Inasmuch as the *Defamation Act, 2009* appears to allow as a defence any information taken accurately from a Public Register and yet, the *Privacy Bill, 2012* appears to remove such a defence. For example, in the *Defamation Act, 2009* in **Schedule 1** of the Act covering '**Statements having Qualified Privilege**' provides for such a defence in subsection 10 stating 'A fair and accurate copy or extract from any register kept in pursuance of any

law which is open to inspection by the public or of any other document which is required by law to be open to inspection by the public'. However, how does this clause stand in respect of the provisions in **Section 4 (3) of the Privacy Bill, 2012**? This Section states '*The claim of a plaintiff in a privacy action brought in respect of a disclosure shall not be defeated by reason only of the defendant's proving that the disclosure consisted of information— (a) that, at the time of the disclosure, was contained in a register or other similar document to which members of the public or a section of the public had access, (b) that the plaintiff had already disclosed to members of his or her family or to his or her friends, or (c) that, subject to section 6(b), had already been disclosed by a person other than the defendant without the consent of the plaintiff*'. Information contained in Public Registers, for example, registers of Births, Marriages and Deaths are an absolutely essential resource for genealogists, biographers and social historians. In the 2006 article it was suggested that should the Privacy Bill be enacted as published it could impede genealogical and heraldic research and frustrate the publication of such through the threat of litigation. Officials or others charged with the custody of records could avail of this legislation to arbitrarily and unnecessarily restrict or deny access to records currently open to the public on the

grounds that such access could facilitate an opportunity for the infringement of rights and protections afforded by what would become the Privacy Act. Whilst, some will argue as to what constitutes a "public register" others, through fear of litigation, could, if they so wished, arbitrarily broaden its definition and scope to include parish registers, even those on microfilm in the National Library of Ireland. Another, possibly unforeseen, disastrous side-effect of the enactment of Section 4 (3) of this Bill would be to create a climate of fear of litigation amongst publishers, writers and researchers of genealogical or biographical material, especially if such publications contained data obtained from public registers. This is a serious attack on scholarship and ordinary research, indeed, it has also been suggested that a similar threat by a family member may permanently prevent the publication of a lifelong study into one's own family history. This measure could have a devastating effect on the development of Irish genealogical and local history studies. Therefore, the Genealogical Society of Ireland is seeking the inclusion of a clause excluding bona fide genealogical or biographical research from the provisions of the new *Privacy Bill, 2012*, as the minimum required to protect genealogists, biographers, social historians and other researchers.

IN MEMORIAM

It was with great sadness that the Society learned of the death on Thursday April 26th 2012 of our long-time member and dear friend **Betty Dwyer** of Sutton, Co. Dublin. Betty was a very active and popular member of the Society. Indeed, she was recently on the Society's Day Trip to Belfast on Thursday April 19th 2012 when members visited Stormont, the new Titanic Centre and PRONI, where they were met by **Randal Gill**, President of the North of Ireland Family History Society

(NIFHS), who arranged for a tour of PRONI. The news of Randal's untimely death on Sunday April 29th 2012 came as an enormous shock to all of our members. Randal was a great friend of this Society since its foundation in 1990 and was a regular attendee at the Society's Open Meetings over the years. Indeed, Betty and Randal had both been regular attendees at genealogical and historical events throughout the country. Randal travelled extensively, not only on the island of Ireland, but in Great Britain, United

States, Australia and New Zealand to attend genealogical conferences and to meet members of the extended Gill family for his huge one-name study. Betty was a member of a number of genealogical and horticultural organisations and was always a welcome font of knowledge on these two subjects. Undoubtedly, the Irish genealogical community has lost two wonderfully dedicated and highly respected family historians who will be very sadly missed by their colleagues throughout the country.

The Friars in Ireland 1224-1540

'*The Friars in Ireland 1224-1540*' by **Colmán Ó Clabaigh**, OSB (ISBN: 978-1-84682-225-4 : 416pp : 16pp colour illustrations : H/bk Price €60.00 : P/bk Price €29.95) has recently been published by Four Courts Press. This work surveys the history, lifestyle and impact of the friars in Ireland from the arrival of the Dominicans in 1224 to Henry VIII's dissolution of the religious houses in 1540. The surviving references and transcripts indicate that the Irish friars had a keen interest in the history and traditions of their respective institutes. The first three chapters give a chronological overview of the arrival and initial expansion of the friars in the thirteenth century, through the upheavals of the fourteenth century and the emergence of vigorous reform parties within each order in the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. The first Dominican foundation in Ireland was in Dublin in 1224 on land received from the Cistercian monks of St. Mary's Abbey and by 1291 they had established twenty-four priories throughout Ireland in both Anglo-Norman and native Irish lands. The Franciscans, since their arrival sometime between 1214 and 1232, made significant progress in establishing priories in most of Ireland with the exception of north Connacht and most of mid and north Ulster. Other orders, namely the Carmelites, Augustinians and the Friars of the Penitence of Jesus Christ, popularly known as Friars of the Sack from their wearing of sackcloth, also established friaries throughout Ireland, however, mostly outside the province of Ulster. In many ways this expansion of religious houses throughout Ireland brought the country into contact with the wider European cultural and economic sphere. Not surprisingly these various establishments did not exist in isolation from the political intrigue and distrust between the Anglo-Norman lords

and the Gaelic kings and powerful chieftains. The author quotes from a letter from Nicholas Cusack, Franciscan bishop of Kildare (1279-99) to Edward I of England where he reported that trustworthy sources had informed him that 'The peace of the land is frequently disturbed by the secret counsels and poisonous colloquies which certain religious of the Irish tongue, belonging to diverse orders, hold with the Irish and their rulers'. The author chronicles a century (1290-1390) of discord and division amongst the religious establishments which was aggravated by the arrival of the Black Death in Drogheda and Howth (or Dalkey) in August 1348. The progress and devastation wrought by the plague in Ireland was chronicled by Franciscans like John Clyn of Kilkenny. Clyn's accounts are hugely significant for his observations on the ordinary lives of the people. The arrival of the Black Death within a generation after the turmoil and widespread famine associated with the Bruce invasion of Ireland 1315-1318 greatly exacerbated the tensions between the native Gaelic and the Anglo-Irish friars. In the period between the late fourteenth and early sixteenth centuries a remarkable number of friaries were established in what the author terms 'a second flowering'. The patronage of these friaries is of interest to genealogists and local historians. They became the traditional burial places for the Gaelic chieftains and the Anglo-Irish nobility with many of the buildings and tombs having some of our earliest depictions of their coats-of-arms. The author's account of the role of aristocratic women in the foundation and patronage of friaries is very interesting as the power of the wives and, in some cases, the mothers of the local magnates is often overlooked. For example, c. 1252, Basilia, daughter of Miler de Bermingham and wife of Stephen Dexter, lord

of Athleathan, went on hunger strike and secured the expulsion of the Franciscans from her husband's foundation at Strade in favour of the Dominicans whose house at Athenry had been established by her father. Women also feature in the donation of liturgical items and, in some cases, the provision of windows and extensions or annexes to religious houses. Many of these women came from the mercantile and therefore, such references are of particular interest to genealogists and local historians. In a very interesting reference to wills under Canon Law, the author states that the 'law dictated that a testator's parish priest should be present at the making of a will unless the testator died outside the parish'. This was to ensure that the rights of the parish were not infringed as 'secular clergy feared that friars at deathbeds would entice testators to seek burial in friary cemeteries or to leave them bequests that might otherwise go to the parish church'. The architecture of the friaries and the art associated with the manuscripts or devotional objects created for these friaries are covered extensively by the author including drawings and excellent colour photographs. The study also includes an examination of the economy of the friaries and their impact on Irish agriculture and trade and, of course, it naturally deals religious life of the friars. This wonderfully written and extensively researched volume concludes with an epilogue detailing the developments and upheavals in Ireland during the tumultuous decade between 1530 and 1540 when Irish society, religious and secular, Gaelic and Anglo-Irish, polarized under the Henrician reformation and the dissolution of the monasteries in Ireland. This is an excellently produced volume with extremely useful references and an extensive bibliography. **MM**

GSi DAY TRIP TO BELFAST

On Thursday April 19, 2012 a busload of members and friends of the GSI set out for Belfast with Eddie Gahan as our leader and guide for the day. Our first port of call was Stormont, the seat of the Northern Ireland Assembly and Parliament buildings. Our tour guide was Micky McCoy and he gave us an informative and entertaining introduction to the Great Hall with its travertine marble and chandeliers together with the statues and paintings which decorate it. He also gave us a resume of the history of the building of Stormont with its 365 windows and its use during WW2. We were taken into the Assembly Chamber and sat in the seats of the Northern Ireland Assembly members as we listened to Micky tell us about the history of the Chamber. From there we proceeded to the Titanic Quarter, an area of the city now rising up from the ruins of the shipyards. Tickets for the exhibition must be purchased months in advance and we were lucky that Eddie and Padraic's advanced planning was so successful. The building which houses the Titanic Exhibition is a daring and bold modern building in the

shape of four ship prows. Inside, the exhibition itself was visually and acoustically stimulating. The visit starts at the top of the building. Seated inside a buggy, the visitor is taken down through the different phases of the building of the Titanic from the construction of the powerful hull to the riveting of the ship's exterior plates and on to the design and execution of the lavish interior. This exhibition is unique in that it takes the visitor from the design phase through the different stages of its building to where the Titanic eerily lies today. Most people spent about two hours soaking up the atmosphere and absorbing the information before relaxing in one of the two restaurants where good food awaited. A word of praise for the staff; at all times they were very friendly and always willing to help. Our final destination was the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland or PRONI as it is known to genealogists. Here the indefatigable Eddie had also arranged a guided tour with Glenn as our guide. After each person had received their visitor's card, valid for any future visit, we were shown into the Search room. By entering your

card number in any one of the many computer terminals your can search the over 3 million records they have on site and order them from your station. There is an archivist present in case you need help. PRONI also acknowledges the importance of the Internet and there were about half a dozen computers with open Internet access. At the other end of the large Search Room were the standard paper guides and a large folder with their extensive collection of Church records. Beyond were the microfilm readers. A number of computer screens located at strategic places around the room tell you the table number in the large Research Room nearby where what you have just ordered has been delivered. Your card is also an electronic key to enter and exit rooms. In the Research Room there are large research tables where you can carry out your work. Power points are available on every table. It is also possible to make digital copies of any document you may wish to study at home. In a word, research at PRONI is a 21st century experience and a model which could well be copied by our own repositories. A tired but satisfied group returned to Dublin with very positive images of what Belfast has to offer. **Aiden Feerick MGSi, MAPGI**

THE SOCIETY ON-LINE

Over the past month or so, the Society's website had been hacked twice causing the website to go off-line. It was soon discovered that restoring the back-up wouldn't solve the problem and therefore, the latest version of the software package was sourced and the website was rebuilt from scratch. The Board apologises for any inconvenience caused during this period. The new website is still a 'work-in-progress' and improvements will be added over the coming weeks. As reported last month, the on-line shop is being reconstructed at the moment and a secure payment facility for Membership will shortly be available on the home page of the website. At the May 2012 meeting of the Board,

a report on the Society's plan to broaden the accessibility to our publications by establishing a presence on abebooks.com was delivered by **Tom Conlon, MGSi**, Director of Sales, Marketing & Membership. The new facility will be up and running by the end of the month with a direct link from the website. The main objective will be to maximise the commercial value of our publications, many of which are very short print-runs, to assist with the funding of our activities. The popularity of the GSI Facebook page (www.facebook.com/familyhistory.ie) and of our Twitter account continues to grow with followers from all around the world. A Twitter news-feed is now available on the GSI website

NEWRY CITY FAIR

The Society's first outing as an exhibitor in Northern Ireland on Saturday 28th April 2012 at the **Newry City Library Family History Fair** was a wonderful success. The Cathaoirleach, **Pádraic Ingoldsby, MGSi**, headed a very enthusiastic and, as it proved, very busy team at this inaugural event in the new City of Newry. The Guild of One-Name Studies and the Irish Jewish Genealogical Society also accompanied the GSI northward. The Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI**, was exceptionally busy dealing with a range of queries on the **Irish DNA Atlas Project**. The Cathaoirleach is determined to keep the GSI roadshow busy as he is planning to have the GSI host stands at other events throughout the country.

James Scannell Reports...

MICHAEL COLLINS CRIMINAL CARD

One of the documents auctioned in Dublin on April 25th 2012 by Mealy's, rare book and manuscript auctioneers, at their 'Ireland's Struggle' auction of Irish republican and historical memorabilia, was an original Criminal Card for Michael Collins, designed to brief crown forces how to spot Collins and came complete with a photo of him attached to it. The card was issued by British intelligence during the War of Independence (1919-1921) at a time when there was a £10,000 reward on offer for his capture. The card, headed "*MICHAEL COLLINS, Chief of the I.R.A. & organiser of ambushes and murders*", includes the observation that "*Collins, who will stop at nothing, is an expert shot.*" However it does not mention one of the best aliases that he used - Mr. Grace - when he cycled around Dublin in plain sight, though it had the following remarks - "*Often wears the disguise of a priest*". Struck out were the comments "*On these occasions he invariably carries an umbrella*". Other remarks include "*He sometimes wears a black moustache, which is false, and often changed for another colour. Has been known to travel as a nun*". The card was purchased by an anonymous bidder for €4,000.

TEACHING IN THE 1940s & 1950s

Dr. Brendan Walsh, School of Education, DCU, Collins Avenue, Dublin 9, is currently writing a history of post-primary writing in Ireland (1878-2010) and is keen to hear from those who were teaching in the 1940s and 1950s and can be contacted at the above address or by e-mail brendan.walsh@dcu.ie or by phone on 087-6106895.

CENTENARY OF HOME RULE BILL

On Wednesday April 11th 2012, Waterford City Hall was the venue for an event to mark the centenary of the third Home Rule Bill and was the inaugural event in the decade of commemorations to mark the period 1912-1922, which has been prepared under the direction of **Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, T.D.**, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. John Redmond, the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party in the House of Common in 1912, and who obtained the introduction of the third Home Rule Bill as the price for his party to support the Liberal Party in government, was M.P. for Waterford from 1891 to 1918. The special event in Waterford City Hall was opened by Minister Deenihan and **Mr. Hugo Swire, MP**, British Minister for State for Northern Ireland.

DIARY DONATED TO DCU

An Irish Independent news desk diary from 1916 has been donated to the Media History Collection in the library at Dublin City University. The diary records details of assignments to be covered by reporters for each day but for the days of the 1916 Easter Week Rising, the page for Easter Monday is marked "revolution breaks out in the city between 11 and 12 noon" with the subsequent pages left blank except for the comment 'revolution'. **Gerry Murphy**, a descendant of William Martin Murphy, the newspaper proprietor, donated the diary.

FREE FAMILY HISTORY ADVICE

The Society offers Free family history research advice at the GSI Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs on Wednesdays (except 4th Weds. open 13.00hrs). Experienced researchers are on hand to help beginners plan their own research path by setting out clear objectives and by introducing them to the various on-line and other resources. If you're interested in starting your own family history research and want to get some tips on how best to make a start—why not drop by for a chat? You'll be most welcome.

Précis of the April Lecture

On Tuesday 10th April 2012, members were treated to a lecture on a wonderful resource, often overlooked, the vestry records of the old Dublin parishes. **Ronnie Wallace** spoke on '*St Brides Church of Ireland Parish Records*' on which, he has extensively researched and published. The parish of St Bride, united with the parishes of St Michael Le Pole and St Stephen, served an area just outside the Dublin city walls based around Bride Street, Ship Street, Golden Lane, Stephen's Street and Chequer Lane. The church existed from Viking times to 1898 when it was knocked to make way for the now iconic Iveagh Flats complex in Dublin which was built by the Guinness family. The Vestry Records exist from 1662 to 1742 and marriage entries from 1632 to 1800. The lecture dealt with the role of church officers and their interaction with

the city in areas such as poor relief, fire fighting and policing. The records provide invaluable insights into local and ecclesiastical history of inner city Dublin and are a particularly important resource for the 17th century where records are scarce. The records of its vestry reveal at first hand how the parish recovered following the Restoration and developed in the 18th century. Information on the parish church, the clergy and patterns of worship, the role of the parish officers and their interaction with the city in areas such as poor relief, fire fighting and policing, provide valuable insights into local and ecclesiastical history in inner city Dublin. The records survive only because a former pastor published them in 1913 as '*The Parish Register of Dublin, Marriage entries from the Registers of the Parishes of St. Andrew, St. Ann,*

St. Audeon and St. Bride 1632 to 1800' One really depressing point he made during the lecture was that he felt there were most likely similar records for other Dublin churches but all went up in flames in 1922. The vestry records of these parishes provides an excellent resource for the genealogist, local and social historian. As the former established church with official civic duties, the Church of Ireland vestry books deal with all sections of the population, Catholics and Protestants, within the parish boundaries. An excellent book on the subject '*The Vestry Records of the Parishes of St. Bride, St. Michael Le Pole and St. Stephen, Dublin, 1662-1742*' W.J.R. Wallace, editor, was published by Four Courts Press in Oct. 2011. (ISBN: 978-1-84682-285-8 : H/bk : 352pp : Catalogue Price: €50.00 : Web Price: €45.00 - see www.fourcourtspress.ie

GSI Membership Package for 2012

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 3, 2011. It was agreed under **Res: 11/11/689** to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2012 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2012 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household member with voting rights; 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. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2012 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 for details. Membership can be obtained or renewed on www.familyhistory.ie

or if you prefer, simply download the form and send it to **Mr. Billy Saunderson, MGSI**, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members always welcome!*

WILL YOUR RECORDS WELL

As genealogists, heraldists and local historians we naturally amass a huge amount of paper and computer records during our many years of research. We love these records, we've worked hard to collect the information—it is of great value. Books, photographs, charts, interview notes, copy certificates, parish register and census transcripts—all lovingly collected over many years. But how many of us have made provision for the preservation of our own records, files and notes after we die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or your genealogy, heraldry & local history books be sold off piece meal after you've gone. Why not make provision in your Will to donate them to the Society's Archives & Research Centre for future generations?

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*The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann***Board of Directors 2012-2013**

Pádraic Ingoldsby (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary, Publications & Internet Services); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Tom Conlon** (Sales, Marketing & Membership, On-Line Shop); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive, Irish DNA Atlas Project); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme), **John Hamrock** (Education & Social Inclusion) and **Eddie Gahan** (Research Information Services).

JOIN ON-LINEwww.familyhistory.ie**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday May 8th & June 12th 2012

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday May 23rd & June 27th 2012

Morning Open Meeting

Weir's, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

SEANAD ÉIREANN & ANNIVERSARIES

The list of the Nominating Bodies for Seanad Éireann published in the official gazette 'Iris Oifigiúil' of March 23rd 2012 contains some of the most prestigious and well-known academic, cultural and professional bodies in the State. The Education & Cultural Panel alone has organisations like the Royal Irish Academy, The Library Association of Ireland, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, the Bar Council, Irish Georgian Society, the Old Dublin Society, the Law Society of Ireland and a number of organisations representing secondary, vocational and university teachers. The Upper House has a solid reputation as the chamber where thought provoking and considered positions on education, heritage and culture are aired in debates. Indeed, the contributions by Senators on the unfolding decade of centenaries have centred on inclusivity, reflection, and mutual respect in our commemorations. Although Seanad Éireann was established by the 1937 Constitution, it will interesting to see if any commemorative event is planned for the 90th anniversary of the first meeting of the original Senate on Dec. 11th 1922 which was abolished in May 1936. Or indeed, whether the 90th anniversary next month of the destruction of the Public Records Office in Dublin at the start of our Civil War in 1922 will be marked by Seanad Éireann. The destruction of the PRO resulted in the loss of an enormously important archival heritage stretching back nearly a thousand years. This was not only an Irish loss, but in the wider context it was a loss to our shared European archival heritage. Significantly, this year is also the 20th anniversary of the destruction of the National & University Library in Sarajevo in August 1992 during the Bosnian Civil War. Over two million rare volumes and ancient manuscripts were consumed in the flames of the iconic Vijećnica building. These two anniversaries provide a timely opportunity for Seanad Éireann to debate the current state of Ireland's archival resources and to demonstrate its appreciation of our shared European heritage by supporting the **20th Anniversary Appeal** by Bosnian students—see article below.

GSi DAY TRIP TO BELFAST

The Director of Research Information Services, **Eddie Gahan**, MGSi, would like to thank **Mickey McCoy** and the staff at Stormont, the staff at the Titanic Centre and the staff at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, for all their kind assistance and wonderfully warm welcome extended to our Members on the recent Day Trip to Belfast. They made the day very special for all concerned.

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Checkout the exciting 2012 Catalogue on-line

**IRISH DNA ATLAS**

Over the past six months or so, the Irish DNA Atlas Project has generated considerable interest at home and overseas. There were many enquiries regarding participation and indeed, the numbers of participants actually meeting the criteria was surprisingly high. The main objectives of the project are to (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Participants are sought from across the island of Ireland and, indeed, from overseas who can trace each of their eight great-grandparents to the same general area of Ireland to present a Birth Brief and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. The response from certain areas of the country was excellent, however, more participants with roots in the midlands, north Munster and mid-Ulster are particularly sought. Therefore, our Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly**, FGSi, is seeking more participants for the project. He will accept suitable participants with ancestry in any part of Ireland that comply with the criteria. He is particularly interested in participants with ancestry along all coastal areas and the midlands. Séamus can be contacted at Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie Checkout the project newsletter available on the Society's website. Are YOU ready to JOIN?

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

If you're researching ancestors or relatives who served in the Irish, British, Commonwealth, American or other armed forces or in the mercantile marine of these countries you may like to checkout the website and resources of Medal Society of Ireland on www.msos.ie

GSi LECTURES

On **Tuesday 8th May**—*Dublin Metropolitan Police—DMP Casualties during the War of Independence* by **James Scannell**. On **Tuesday 12th June** - *Understanding Church Records and their value to the Family History* by **Dr. Jim Ryan** of Flyleaf Press. All lectures are held at the Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Full directions by car and public transport to the venue on the Society's website: www.familyhistory.ie

20th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL

Calling all bibliophiles, academics and authors. Twenty years ago over two million volumes, including priceless manuscripts, were destroyed in the fire that engulfed the National & University Library in Sarajevo on August 26th 1992 during the Bosnian civil war—just over seventy years after we lost our Public Records Office during our bitter Civil War. We all fully appreciate how much of a loss this was to Ireland's archival heritage ninety years ago next month. That is why this Society is proactively supporting a group of Bosnian students seeking donations of contemporary academic works in any discipline to restock their university's library which was totally destroyed in August 1992. Have you any books that you could donate? Please forward donated volumes to: **Mrs Fuada Muslic**, Senior Officer for Publishing, University of Sarajevo, Obala Kulina Bana 7/2, 71000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Tel: 00 387 3322 1946 : E-mail izdavacka.djelatnost@unsa.ba
NOTA BENE: Please e-mail Ms. Muslic when items are put in the mail to her and include details of sender and contents. An example of what is required by the Bosnian authorities on the Society's website. It's a simple declaration of the contents etc. Please share this appeal with your friends and colleagues. For further information see: www.books4vijećnica.com

NEW WEEKEND COURSES

The next series of the Saturday Morning Genealogy Courses, provided in conjunction with John Hamrock of **Ancestor Network Ltd.**, will commence on Saturday May 19th 2012. The aim of the course is to help beginners unlock the mysteries of their ancestry. The course includes guided tours at the National Library, Dublin City Library and other centres of research. Learn how to be your own researcher. All you need is curiosity and some expert guidance. Topics to be covered include the principles of genealogy, computers and the internet, place names and surnames, location and use of census, vital, valuation, church and other records. Practical advice will be shared with participants as they embark on the quest to trace their ancestors. Courses are held at the Society's Archive and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, where the major on-line genealogy resources will be covered in a 'hands-on' way for best results. For more info. on these courses please contact John Hamrock, MGSi by phone 087 050 5296 or by e-mail at john.hamrock@ancestor.ie

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS*by John Grenham, MA, MAPGI, FIGRS, FGSi*

The Society strongly recommends that for anyone embarking on their family history quest one essential piece of kit must be John Grenham's '**Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**'. This wonderful guide book is now published in its fourth edition and, not surprisingly given the growth of genealogy on the Internet, it embraces online research as an essential part of any Irish family history project. Grenham includes detailed guides to Irish online records throughout the book, discussing the idiosyncrasies of the digital versions of sources and outlining research strategies. John Grenham's well-established and detailed guide has thorough descriptions of all the relevant sources and county-by-county reference lists—all expanded, updated and indexed. See: www.gillmacmillan.com - Price €22.99 [RRP]