



Cumann Genealaíais na hÉireann

Thirtieth Anniversary Year 1990–2020

“Cuimhnigí ar Ár Sinnsir—Remember Our Ancestors”



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

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Promises, Promises, Promises!

Ireland may well be facing a General Election within the next two months and given that much of the uncertainty surrounding the date of the exit of the United Kingdom from the European Union has abated, it is clear that Irish politicians are already in election campaign mode. So more promises on the way?

Back in 2011, this Society successfully campaigned to have the release of the 1926 Census inserted into the ‘Programme for Government’ of the then incoming Fine Gael / Labour coalition.

This Society has always concentrated on amending the 1993 legislation to permit the early release of the 1926 Census. This is the only way to release this census and indeed, the Society very nearly achieved this objective during the passage of the *Statistics Bill* through Seanad Éireann in 1992/3. An amendment by Senator Maurice Manning wasn't pressed after Minister Noel Dempsey said he agreed with the reduction of the 100 year closure period and committed to bring an amendment to the Bill in Dáil Éireann. The minister reneged on his commitment and the *Statistics Act, 1993* retained the 100 year closure period for all census returns.

In 2008, this Society proposed that a ‘special heritage status’ be afforded to the 1926 Census to emphasise its importance for historical, social and local historical and genealogical research.

Over the years the Society has drafted and/or collaborated on the drafting of the following Bills: *Statistics (1926 Census Release) Bill 2017* (Seanad Éireann – awaiting Second Stage); *Statistics (1916 Rising Centenary) Bill 2016* (Dáil Éireann – Withdrawn); *Statistics (1926 Census) Bill 2013* (Dáil Éireann – Lapsed); *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill 2011* (Seanad Éireann – Defeated); *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill 2010* (Seanad Éireann – Lapsed) and the earlier *Genealogy and Heraldry Bill 2006* (Seanad Éireann—debated Second Stage – Lapsed).

The amendment to the 1993 Act is simple and straightforward—*Section 35 of the Statistics Act 1993 is amended by inserting “and in the case of the 1926 census of population due to its importance as the first census taken since 1911 and the first taken since the establishment of the State and in recognition, therefore, of its special historical and genealogical significance, sections 32 and 33 shall cease to apply to that census from the date of enactment of this section”, after the words “the date of the relevant census”*

When the *Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill, 2011* was being debated at Second Stage in Seanad Éireann most Senators from all sides of the Seanad spoke in favour of the Bill. Then suddenly, when it looked as if the Bill could pass Second Stage in a vote, the Government Whip in a frenzied rush marshalled the Fine Gael and Labour Senators to vote against the Bill. This was unexpected as the release of the 1926 Census was in the ‘Programme for Government’ of the Fine Gael / Labour coalition. It was farcical and reminiscent of the title of Bernard Farrell's wonderful play ‘*All in Favour Said No!*’

The management at the Central Statistics Office (CSO) is strongly opposed to the early release of the 1926 Census with the unsubstantiated claim that to do so will discourage people from completing current census returns. If it is government policy to release this census early and the amendment to the 1993 Act is adopted, as suggested above, the CSO has nothing to fear from the release of the 1926 Census.

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.

Grants Received

The Society gratefully acknowledges receipt of the following grants from **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**. The residue of the grant for the redevelopment of the GSI website and a grant to facilitate the design and printing of research charts for use by the Outreach Team.

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@GenSocIreland



Genealogical Society Of Ireland

Stand: AF5



Thinking of researching your family history? Members of this Society, some with many decades of research experience, are always on hand to assist and advice you on your research journey. Call by the Society's Archive & Research Centre—directions on page 4.

OPEN MEETINGS

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 14 January—20.00hrs

Tuesday 11 February 2020—20.00hrs

Royal Marine Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 22 January—10.30hrs

Wednesday 26 February—10.30hrs

Contribution €5.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)

Monthly Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Ireland

HOLIDAY WORLD SHOW

Eddie Gahan and his team kick off the 2020 Outreach Programme with another visit to the Belfast Telegraph Holiday World Show at the Titanic Exhibition Centre, 20 Queen's Road Titanic Quarter, Belfast BT3 9DU, from **January 17th to 19th 2020**.

The Genealogical Society of Ireland will be at Stand AF5 (Belfast) with our volunteers ready to assist visitors with their family history research. Please do drop by the stand.

The team will be at the Holiday World Show at the **RDS, Dublin, from January 24th to 26th**—please drop by the GSI Stand.

See: www.holidayworldshowni.com

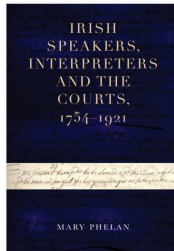
Have you visited An Daonchartlann at the DLR Loughlinstown Leisure Centre?

Irish Speakers, Interpreters and the Courts, 1754-1921



The Northern Ireland Assembly was finally reconvened on Saturday 11th January 2020 after three years with all political parties in Northern Ireland accepting, albeit many with serious reservations, the framework presented by the Irish and British governments in their document *'New Decade New Approach'*. Amongst the most contentious issues in Northern Ireland are 'rights, language and identity' and in particular, the need for official recognition of the Irish language in Northern Ireland through the enactment of specific legislation on the lines already in place in Scotland and Wales. The opening paragraph of the governments' document on these issues states: *"The parties affirm the need to respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law. They also affirm the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. These principles will be reflected in legislation."* (p. 15 – para. 25). The legislative reform is set forth in paragraph 27 (b) *"Legislation to create a Commissioner to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish Language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737."* (p. 15).

A very timely work has been published by Four Courts Press dealing with this 1737 Act which is still on the statute book in Northern Ireland. *'Irish speakers, interpreters and the courts, 1754-1921'* by **Mary Phelan** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-811-9 : 286pp : H/bk : Price: €55.00 : Web-Price €49.50) explores the extent and duration of interpreter provision for Irish speakers appearing in court in the long nineteenth century have long been a conundrum. In 1737 the *Administration of Justice (Language) Act* stipulated that all legal proceedings in Ireland should take place in English, thus placing Irish speakers at a huge disadvantage, obliging them to communicate through others, and treating them as foreigners in their own country. Gradually, over time, legislation was passed to allow the grand juries, forerunners of county councils, to employ salaried interpreters. Drawing on extensive research on grand jury records held at national and local level, supplemented by records of correspondence with the Chief Secretary's Office in Dublin Castle, this book provides definitive answers on where, when, and until when, Irish language court interpreters were employed. Contemporaneous newspaper court reports are used to illustrate how exactly the system worked in practice and to explore official, primarily negative, attitudes towards Irish speakers. The book explains the appointment process for interpreters, discusses ethical issues that arose in court, and includes microhistories of some 90 interpreters. **Mary Phelan** is a lecturer at the School of Applied Language and Intercultural Studies, Dublin City University. Her published works relate mainly to contemporary interpreter provision and translation.



FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the 2019 catalogue and the wonderful special offers at 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

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 sent 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.

Go Raibh Míle Maith Agaibh—Many Thanks!

WHAT DOES THE GSI DO?

The Society's main objective is to promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our genealogical, heraldic and vexillological heritage at home and overseas amongst our diaspora.

The GSI widely acclaimed as being the most active voluntary genealogical organisation in Ireland hosting Monthly Lectures each month throughout the year and eleven Morning Open Meetings from January to November each year. These are open to the public—everyone is welcome!

We publish a Monthly Newsletter, Annual Journal, operates an Archive and Research Centre and promote genealogy, heraldry and vexillology at events around Ireland through our very active 'Outreach Programme' offering *'Free Family History Advice'* to the public, active retirement groups, ladies' clubs and all sorts of community groups.

The Society has a collaborative academic research project with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, RCSI. The *Irish DNA Atlas* project was co-designed by population geneticists at the RCSI and this Society coming together to collect DNA samples from individuals with four generations of ancestry linked to specific areas across the island of Ireland. This research has been funded through an Award from Science Foundation Ireland.

We have two 'specialist branches' one for heraldry and the other for vexillology (flags)—the only organisation in Ireland promoting this aspect of our cultural heritage. We maintain a very active on-line presence promoting sustainable contacts with our diaspora.

We also campaign to obtain better public access to our genealogical heritage and records held by the State or other agencies. However, as a registered charity, none of the above would be possible without the generosity of our Members who, through their Annual Subscriptions and volunteerism, provide these services throughout the year.

The Society is governed by a Board elected by the Members at the Annual General Meeting each year—all of the Society's directors and officers are volunteers.

PLEASE help us to do more by joining the Society—new Members always welcome or by making a donation, no matter how small, to the Society. *Many thanks!*

ANNUAL JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY

As advised last month, the 2020 Journal will be an electronic publication due to the increased cost of printing and especially, postage. Indeed, postage of the Journal to Members in Ireland and overseas last year was over 50% of the actual printing costs. The same problem has been experienced by societies around the world forcing an increasing number to move to electronic publications. The Society's Journal Exchange Programme (JEP) with other societies is now largely receiving only electronic publications.

By the way, you still have time to submit an article for the 2020 (*Thirtieth Anniversary*) issue. Please contact: **Tom Conlon** on web@familyhistory.ie

News from the Board

The monthly meeting of Board of Directors scheduled to be held on Thursday January 9th 2020 at Park House, Library Road, Dún Laoghaire, was put back until **Thursday 16th January 2020**.

The Acting Director of Finance will present a preliminary report on the Annual Accounts for the period ending 31st December 2019 in preparation for the submission of the accounts to the Society's auditors for the statutory audit in accordance with the *Companies Act, 2014*.

The audited accounts will be presented to the Annual General Meeting of the Society to be held on Tuesday March 10th 2020 at the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute. *General Secretary*

In Brief....

GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join on-line at 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.

IDEAL GIFT IDEAS

Genealogists and local historians love books! So if you have a Christmas gift to buy—think books by our Members. Much of the research for these books was undertaken at the Society's Archive & Research Centre—*An Daonchartlann*.

'*Victorian Dún Laoghaire*' by Tom Conlon—excellent local history of the town and the first to deal extensively with the poor and "the courts" where they lived. Price: €20.00

MONTHLY LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tuesday Jan. 14th—'*Townlands, Maps & Directories*' by **Shane Wilson**.

Shane Wilson is the man behind the hugely popular website, swilson.info. This talk is about Town-lands, Maps & Directories and it will address how to navigate and use the website to assist you in your Irish family history research.

Tuesday Feb. 11th—'*Researching your Clan history using DNA & documentary records*' by **Dr. Maurice Gleeson**

Ireland has a rich history of clans/septs, extending back almost 2000 years. There has been renewed interest in Clan research due to the advent of digitisation and the increasing online accessibility of ancient texts and their translations, as well as the availability of Y-DNA testing and the growth in Surname DNA Projects. This talk explores how anyone can use DNA and online texts to research their own particular Irish Clan.

All **WELCOME**—Contribution €5.00
Please note '**Parking at DFEI**' see below.

We welcome comments and suggestions on the lecture programme. Please email **Tony O'Hara**, MGSI, Director of the Society's Monthly Lecture Programme at toharadsl@gmail.com

PARKING AT DFEI

Car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**. The best option is to use public transport. Dublin Bus nos. 7, 7A, 46A and 75 all serve the college or streets adjacent to the college—Lower George's Street, York Road, Clarence Street. The DART (suburban rail) services to Salthill & Monkstown. On street car-parking is usually available in the area also. Members are asked to consider 'car pooling' for each month's open meeting. For details on the Institute and its courses please checkout www.dfei.ie



www.eneclann.ie



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

James Scannell Reports...

DÚN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

Rob Goodbody will speak on '*Shankill, Co. Dublin*' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 15 January in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire. All welcome - entrance €3.00

GREYSTONES ARCH & HIST SOC

Dr. Mary McAuliffe will recall '*Experiences and contributions of women during the War of Independence*' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 15 January in the Holy Rosary Centre, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. All welcome - admission charge.

BRAY CUALANN

James Scannell will present '*The Great Northern Railway (Ireland), 1876 to 1958*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 16 January in The Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome - admission €6.00. The AGM of the Society will precede this presentation.

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Liam Kenny will speak on '*The arrival of fire and manoeuvre on the battlefield: the early battles of the Boer War, 1899*' at 20.00hrs on Friday 17 January in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All welcome - admission free. Wheelchair accessible.

FOXROCK LOCAL HIST CLUB

Sinéad McCoolle will speak on '*Women in the Irish Revolution*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 21 January in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, rear Foxrock R.C. Church, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Brian MacAongusa will give a short talk '*County Dublin*.' All welcome - admission €5.00

RATHMICHAEL HIST SOC

Dominic Lee will recall '*The Life of William Orpen*' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 5 February in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road (Dublin Road end), Shankill, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00

MOUNT MERRION HIST SOC

Des Smyth will cover '*The end of the Fitzwilliam Dynasty*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 06 February in the Community Centre, North Avenue, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €4.00 / Students €2.00.

LOCAL HISTORY PUBLICATIONS

The annual '*Journal of the Wicklow Historical Society, Volume 6 - No.1, Issue 32*', (2019) published by the Wicklow Historical Society.

Variety in article content is the principal feature of this annual journal which contains a fascinating array of articles covering such subjects as 'Life in Wicklow a Century Ago' compiled by John Finlay; 'My First Trip to the Seaside' recalled by John Alvey who provides details of his father's WW2 career with the R.A.F. ; 'The Men

will Talk to Me - Pat McCrea (Part 2)', compiled by Ben Fagan, is a continuation of Pat McCrea's recollections of the 1916-1922 period. Part 1 was published in the Society's 2018 journal - some copies of this issue are still available.

'Good Citizenship' is an essay written in 1911 by a young boy Thomas (Tom) Killoyne in his final year in National School, Wicklow, No 1, whose daughter Irene Parsons brought it to the attention of John Finlay; 'The Men of Wicklow Parish in the Great War 1914-1918' provides biographies of those from the town who lost their lives in this conflict, compiled by John Goodman while 'The Wicklow Town Poisoning Case' by Stan J. O'Reilly recalls a unique 1874 poisoning whose outcome was decided on a legal technicality

'Who's Who? - Wicklow during the Troubles 1916-1923', compiled by John Finlay, contains brief biographies of those from the town who were involved in events between 1916 to 1923 relating to the national struggle while family history is covered with 'The Edwards Family of Oldcourt, Bray and Knockrobin, Wicklow' by Vincent O'Reilly with Folklore covered by Stan J. O'Reilly in 'Wicklow and District in Antiquity and Folklore - Pre-Christian Wicklow and the coming of the Early Irish Saints (Part 1).' Copies, €5 each, of this 132-page journal can be obtained by calling John Finlay at 0404-67887 or Stan J. O'Reilly at 0404-67494.

James Scannell

DUBLIN

Holiday World Show Dublin
24th/26th Jan 2020

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 Price €24.99 [RRP].

Précis of the December Lecture

Tuesday 10th December 2019—'Cemetery management' by Neil Sherrin of Plotbox

Neil started off this lecture with an overview of Plotbox, a company based in Ballymena in Northern Ireland and founded by a husband and wife team Seán and Leona McAllister, who come from nearby Portglenone. Since its inception in 2013, the company has expanded its operations into the USA and have offices in Boston, Austin, San Francisco and are also present in Sydney, Australia.

Plotbox is a cloud based bereavement services management solution delivering to world class standards. It contains all of the requirements needed to run bereavement services like the booking diary, funeral directors portal, memorial safety inspections, scheduling, finance, location maps and burial records for the cemetery, putting them all in the one place. The focus has been on burials but they now include cremations in the list of thing they do.

Mapping has been carried out using drone based surveying technology to quickly bring the records and the maps together in a digital manner. Neil told us that the software has reduced liability of risk and minimises time spent on routine tasks in busy cemeteries.

Plotbox managed to get on the prestigious "500 Startups" programme in the US and this helped establish them on the west coast of the USA. Neil then went on to tell us of the cost benefits of Plotbox and how it deals with inventory management. Citing an example in California whereby the collection and clean-up of legacy data resulted in an unexpected bonus of \$5 million to the cemetery in unexpected additional graves averaging almost three plots per acre. This made the return on investment a great success for the cemetery.

The manner in which business is carried in the US and Australia differs from the traditional way things are handled in this part of the world with a very proactive attitude to sales and business. It was also very interesting to learn that there is a time limit for example 50 years on many plots in countries like Australia and the USA.

The website "Everafter" is the public interface from Plotbox where the information obtained during the acquisition period is made available to the public in the form of an interrogative database with digitised original register available for inspection. As of today it is free to access and is aimed at the genealogy community and from a commercial perspective Neil told us that the availability of these details enables the delivery of flowers to specific plots via the cemetery management system from anywhere in the world. The talk concentrated on Dean's Grange Cemetery and Shanganagh Cemetery which are both owned and managed by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

Neil spent some time giving examples of searches for deceased relatives and the presentation then proceeded into a very enjoyable Q&A section. Many thanks to Neil for making such a long journey and on behalf of the Genealogical Society of Ireland we wish him and Plotbox all the very best in the future.

The full lecture is online: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zzokQ48iVE&feature=youtu.be>
Tony O'Hara, MGSI

Checkout the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

GETTING TO AN DAONCHARTLANN

Travel Information for visitors to the An Daonchartlann, Loughlinstown Leisure Centre, Loughlinstown Drive, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin, A96 XP60.

DART & DUBLIN BUS— Dún Laoghaire DART Station—Bus 111 & 7A from Crofton Road, Bus Stop no. 2036 to Loughlinstown Park, Bus Stop no. 3222

LUAS & DUBLIN BUS—Bride's Glen (Green Line) - Bus 111 from outside the Luas station, Bus Stop no. 7639 to Loughlinstown Park, Bus Stop no. 3222.

DUBLIN BUS from City Centre—O'Connell Bridge, Bus Stop no. 273 or Nassau Street, Bus Stop no. 405—Bus 7A to Loughlinstown Park, Bus stop no. 3222

DRIVING— From the M50 - at Junction 16 follow the signs for Loughlinstown. Straight on through Cherrywood and over the N11 flyover. **Signposted** at the second traffic lights beyond the flyover on Wyattville Road turn right into Loughlinstown Drive. Follow this twisty road for about 1km to Loughlinstown Leisure Centre (very large buildings on right). GSI is behind these buildings. **From N11 southwards** - after Cabinteely junction, and Topaz garage move to left lane and exit left to Wyattville Road. At the second traffic lights on Wyattville Road, turn right into Loughlinstown Drive and follow as above. Checkout www.dlrleisure.ie/Loughlinstown

HISTORICAL NOVEL & FAMILY HISTORY

When looking for new features for 'Gazette' for the coming year, the subject of the influence of the historical novel in the creation of an awareness of our history was considered to be much overlooked in genealogical and local history publications. Whether this is from a fear of mixing fiction and fact or, indeed, the potential contamination of historical fact with a creative narrative, either way, it is happening every day in films and on our TV screens. So why ignore this genre?

It must be understood that the genre is quite clearly defined as "a form of fictional narrative which reconstructs history and re-creates it imaginatively". J. A. Cuddon in his 'Dictionary of Literary Terms & Literary Theory' goes on to say that 'though writing fiction, the good historical novelist researches his or her chosen period thoroughly and strives for verisimilitude' (the appearance of being true or real).

Cuddon explains that Maria Edgeworth's 'Castle Rackrent' (1800) is usually taken to be the first fully fledged historical novel in English. The novel gives us a glimpse into the world of the Anglo-Irish gentry and the fate of an ill-managed estate, mounting debts and absentee landlordism. Although, fiction such works paint pen-pictures of a world that may have been all too familiar to our ancestors, whether they were tenants or landlords.

From the latter part of the twentieth century the public appetite for this genre has largely moved to film

through, what some may disparagingly describe as the "Disneyfication of history" by Hollywood. To many this is an unfair and overly generalized assessment of the film industry's portrayal of historical events and individuals.

Irrespective of how authentic or strictly biographical these films are or, indeed, the novels upon which many are based, they do raise the public's awareness of the historical event or individuals concerned. These films are not public history documentaries, although, the docudrama technique is used by many with varying degrees of success.

So what does this genre have to do with family history? Well, the historical novelist normally undertakes rather extensive family history research on his/her subjects, or on a family on which the subjects are based. This family history is then augmented by local history research or in the case of political or national events, wider research. This research provides the framework, upon which, the fictional narrative is based, explored and developed. This provides the reader with an insight into the life and times of the characters, and in many cases, to that of our own ancestors.

The new series will commence next month looking at 'The Tainted' by Cauvery Madhavan.

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

Board of Directors 2019-2020

Gerry Hayden (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson);
Tony O'Hara (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); & from July 2019 Acting (Finance & pro-tem ADF, Philanthropy); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach & Education); **Barry O'Connor** (Membership Services & Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Building & Utilities, Health & Safety Officer); **Lua Ó Scoláir** (Archive & Research Centre); (Public Relations & Diaspora Outreach) **vacant**. (seven members)

(Publications & Digital Resources—**Tom Conlon** pro tempore as a non-executive officer as and from 11.12.2019).

The Board is limited to ten Members with a quorum of six. [Note: 'RF' signifies a 'reporting function' for a Non-Executive Officer].

"HALL'S INDEX"

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world. All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor back to 1996 have been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGSI** and they are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on 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/ and in line with the 'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland' which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the Royal Irish Academy. (see the June 2014 issue at www.familyhistory.ie)

GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archive and Research Centre is located at the **DLR Leisure Centre at Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin**. OPEN on the following days: Currently:- **Wednesdays**—10.00hrs to 16.00hrs.

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

