



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 19 No. 12

www.familyhistory.ie

Nollaig : Grudzięń : December 2024

THE SOCIETY'S ANNUAL JOURNAL 2024

The Society's Annual Journal 2024 was published electronically this month and it's a bumper 185 page issue with seventeen articles. Subjects included in this issue are genealogical research and resources, heraldry, vexillology, genetic genealogy, nobility, biographical essays, local history, social history and, of course, family history. Something for everyone!



Cumann Genealais na hÉireann
www.familyhistory.ie
Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland

The editor, **Laura Price, MGSi**, and her team must be congratulated on the production of such a high quality journal. A full listing of the contents has been posted on the GSI Facebook page.

These journals will, without doubt, be a wonderful resource for future research in a range of subjects.

Publishing in the annual journal is a great way to record

your own family history or something from your family lore on that innovative, talented, revolutionary, brave, adventurous, unfortunate, infamous, mysterious or just plain peculiar, ancestor for future generations. If your story or your family lore is not recorded it will inevitably be lost or, at the very least, the chance to have it published in the lifetime of somebody connected in a special way to the story will be gone forever. It could also be the way a photograph or set of photographs could be preserved with a narrative that illuminates the real story behind a fading image.

Although, the majority of the articles submitted for the Society's journal are in English, the Society welcomes articles in the Irish language. Ideally the articles should not have been published previously elsewhere. They must be submitted by the authors.

This Society, like so many others, was forced by soaring printing and postage costs to move to an electronic publication in 2020, however, the Board is currently exploring a print-on-demand option.

In the meantime, copies will be sent out by email to all fully paid-up Members and to the various copy-right libraries in Ireland and in the United Kingdom.

The Journal is also despatched by email to the many organisations participating in the Society's worldwide Journal Exchange Programme (JEP).

CLAN FLAGS & EMBLEMS

This Society is the only Irish member of FIAV (*International Federation of Vexillological Associations*) and through this membership **The Flag Institute** invited the GSI's Specialist Branch, *Vexillology Ireland*, to present a paper at its Winter Conference which was held on 16 Nov. 2024. See: <https://www.flaginstitute.org>

GSI President, **Francis O'Donnell, FGSI**, introduced **Michael O'Crowley** of the Clans of Ireland as *Vexillology Ireland's* Guest Speaker. This was a double honour for the Society, the invitation received from The Flag Institute and the wonderful participation of the Clans of Ireland.

Mr. O'Crowley's very interesting presentation was on '*The Flags and Emblems of the Clans of Ireland*' - a first for a vexillological conference.

The Flag Institute is one of the foremost organisations in the world promoting the study of flags and emblems. The Flag Institute is an adviser to the **UK Parliamentary Flags and Heraldry Committee**.

The President of the Society, Amb (ret) Francis O'Donnell, FGSI, sincerely thanks The Flag Institute and, especially, its Chief Executive, **Mr. Leigh Wetherall**, for this invitation to participate in this important vexillological conference.

HOLIDAY WORLD SHOWS

The Director of the Outreach Programme, **Eddie Gahan, FGSI**, is seeking volunteers for the Society's stands at the Holiday World Shows to be held in **Belfast 10-12 January 2025** and in **Dublin 24-26 January 2025**. Eddie is particularly looking for those who will be available to assist in Belfast. Please contact Eddie on Archivist@familyhistory.ie

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.

Donate



MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 10 December 2024 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 14 January 2025 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 22 January 2025 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 26 February 2025 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

In this issue.....

- Diasporan Studies
- WWI Roll of Honour
- Irish History with Davy
- GSI Board News
- Seanad Éireann Election
- Open Meetings Schedule
- James Scannell Reports..
- Précis of Nov. Lecture
- Membership Package
- Rialtas Nua : New Govt.
- GSI Board Members

Find us on:
facebook

twitter

@GenSocIreland

Nollaig Shona is
Achbhliam faoi
Mhaise dár mDaill,
dár sCuid Cairde is
dár sCuid leantóirí
uilig ar fad an
dombain.

Happy Christmas
and New Year to
our Members, our
friends and to all
of our followers
around the world.

DIASPORAN STUDIES

The Board invites Members and friends of the Society to submit newly composed essays on any aspect of genealogy, heraldry, vexillology, genetic genealogy, social history, migration etc as it relates to *Diasporan Studies* for a new publication. Submissions by authors only.

This new collection of themed essays will form a "festschrift" to be published in honour of former President **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, and presented to him by our Society's President **Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI**.

If you're interested in submitting an essay please email us eolas@familyhistory.ie with an outline of the topic of your essay. *Go Raibh Maith Agat*

"ARCHIVE DROP-INS"

The weekly "Drop-Ins" hosted by the Society are hugely popular with our Members in Ireland and around the world.

The "Drop-ins" are held via **Zoom** between 11.00hrs and 12.00hrs on Wednesdays, *except during the month of December* where only the Evening Open Meeting is held. (see page 3)

Non-members may also attend these weekly "Drop-Ins" and they are especially useful for those just beginning the family history research.

For the link to this "Drop-In" meeting please see the link and passcode at bottom of this page Members can send in their research query in advance to Archivist@familyhistory.ie

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



I made my first ever trip to New York back when I was about 13 years old. During that trip, myself and my family visited St. Patrick's Cathedral in Midtown Manhattan. It was only during my current visit to New York, 17 years later, that I realised there is an 'Old St. Patrick's Cathedral'. Saint Patrick's Old Cathedral was the

seat of the Archdiocese of New York, until the establishment of the new St. Patrick's Cathedral in Midtown Manhattan. It was established in 1815, and was originally frequented by the Irish community of New York. In the next 25 years, Catholics in New York increased from 15,000 to over 200,000, which resulted in a severe shortage of priests. Most of the new Catholics were poor Irish immigrants, as well as Germans and French. During the mass immigration of 1845-1865, the number of Catholics in this diocese jumped from 200,000 to 400,000, making Catholics the single largest religious group in the city, and most of those Catholics in New York City were Irish. Then, National parishes were formed to meet the needs of German and French speaking Catholics, and later for Italian and Slavic immigrants. At the end of the American Civil War in 1865 there were 32 parishes in Manhattan, 23 were territorial (and mainly Irish), 8 were German, and 1 was French. From 1850, the Archbishop of New York, was a Tyrone man, named John Hughes. He was responsible for the establishment of 61 new parishes in the Archdiocese of New York, and was responsible for the construction of the new St. Patrick's Cathedral in Midtown Manhattan. When John was born in County Tyrone in 1797, there were less than 1,000 Catholics in NYC. In 1864, the year of his death, after the mass immigration into the city, about 400,000 (or 50% of the population) were Catholics. After John's death, in October and November 1879, a fair was held to raise funds for the opening of the new St. Patrick's Cathedral, and this was the largest religious fair ever held in the history of the United States. And because of an Irishman from Aughter, in County Tyrone, St. Patrick's Cathedral is one of the top tourist destinations here, but much more important than that, St. Patrick's Cathedral stands as a landmark in Midtown Manhattan, which commemorates the millions of Irish that left our island and settled in New York City.

Check out my short videos on various aspects of Irish history on my Instagram account below:

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

An Daoncharlann—the Society's Archive & Research Centre will be closed from Wednesday 18 December 2024 until Wednesday 8 January 2025.

The **Weekly Drop-Ins** will recommence on Wednesday 15 January 2025.

The **Board of Directors** will meet on the second Thursday in January instead of the first Thursday.

The first **Evening Open Meeting** of 2025 will be held on Tuesday 14 January 2025 and our newsletter **'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette'** will be published in the week ending 12 January 2025.

SEANAD ÉIREANN

The Genealogical Society of Ireland is a registered **'Nominating Body'** for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate). This means that the Society can choose a candidate to contest the Senate General Election.

The Board agreed, under **Res: 20/03/1503**, to extend voting rights to all Members to choose the Society's candidate. This was endorsed by the Members at the Annual General Meeting on 10 March 2020.

A secure, anonymity assured, electronic voting using the **Single Transferable Vote form of Proportional Representation (PR-STV)** was developed.

The Society produced an **information video** and placed **notices across all of its social media platforms** seeking applications for consideration on 18 November 2024 with a **deadline of noon (UTC+0) on 3 December 2024** for the receipt of applications.

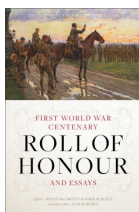
Unfortunately, **not a single application was received** by the deadline which was set for administrative purposes for the Board Meeting on 5 December 2024.

Therefore, regrettably the Board was not in a position to proceed with choosing a nominee to contest the upcoming Seanad Éireann General Election.

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

WWI Centenary Roll of Honour and Essays

'National University of Ireland First World War Centenary Roll of Honour and Essays' - Editors **Ronan McGreevy** and **Emer Purcell**, Associate Editor, **Tom Burnell** and published by **Four Courts Press**. (ISBN: 978-0-9015109-9-0; P/bk : 428pps : Ills. : Price: €30.00 : Web Price: €27.00).



The State sponsored nationwide commemoration of the 'Decade of Centenaries' was designed to be explorative, reflective, educational, and inclusive to encourage widespread participation based on equity, respect, and shared memory. The emphasis was not so much on healing divisions or reconciling conflicting narratives, but on creating a shared space for commemoration and thereby, acknowledging, appreciating, and understanding other perspectives and listening to other voices, both from the past and in the now.

Commemoration, especially when such is facilitated, encouraged, or organised by a State, usually comes well-polished and suitably packaged to fit a particular narrative carefully crafted to reflect national aspirations, reaffirm allegiances, and reinforce identities. In some countries these state-sponsored commemorations are occasions of solemnised national grieving, communal remembrance, religious services, wreath-laying and military honours. The binarism and religiosity of the language, imagery and symbolism associated with such events has its origins in the politics of the First World War era. This posed a challenge to the organisers of our 'Decade of Centenaries' and, thankfully, with care, consideration, imagination, and honesty they, and the overwhelming majority of the event organisers throughout the country, went that extra kilometre to ensure inclusivity and to value shared memories. Honesty was evident in both word and deed which facilitated many projects, publications, and events – we commemorate together.

This new book encapsulates each of the above considerations, dealing as it does, with one of the most difficult and divisive issues of the 'Decade of Centenaries' the commemoration of the many thousands of Irishmen, Catholic and Protestant, nationalist and unionist, trades' unionist and professional – all casualties of a terrible war. Volunteers, not conscripts, and their reasons for enlisting were varied, conflicting, complex, and mundane.

In 1919, the National University of Ireland compiled a war list of all students, graduates, and staff of University College Cork, University College Dublin, and University College Galway, who had died or served in the Great War. As part of the NUI's Decade of Centenary programme, the original Honour Roll is reprinted in this book along with a collection of explanatory essays. A selection of individual personal profiles brings the men recorded in the roll to life. The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland's Honour Roll is also reproduced along with an essay on NUI doctors who served during the war. For the first time, a list of the chaplains from St Patrick's College Maynooth is presented and their lives examined. NUI's women students, graduates, and staff and the ways in which they contributed to the war effort is also explored. The 1919 NUI Honour Roll preserved their names; over one hundred years later, this book shines a light on the men and women who gave their lives or made a huge personal sacrifice during WWI.

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the extensive online catalogue for 2024 and the wonderful special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie—note the "back-in-prints" too!!

GSJ BOARD NEWS

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held on **Thursday December 5th 2024** at 11.00hrs via Zoom. We had a full attendance (nine).

The Cathaoirleach delivered a report on his attendance at the **36th International Congress of Genealogical & Heraldic Sciences**, Boston, MA, USA.

Laura Price, MGSI, Journal Editor, was warmly congratulated by the Board on the 2024 issue which was emailed to Members on 4 December 2024.

Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSI, Director of Finance, delivered the **Monthly Accounts** for P.E. 30.11.2024 and addressed several "end of year" and budgetary matters. A new archival cataloguing system and a new website will be included in the 2025 budget.

The Director of Finance took delivery this week of the new metallic **Membership Badges** featuring the **"Mungovan Badge"**. These will be despatched to Members as they renew their membership and to new Members on joining the Society.

The Board was bitterly disappointed that no application for the Society's nominee for candidature for the **Seanad Éireann General Election** was received by the deadline of noon on 3 December 2024. The matter was considered at length, however, given the time constraints, reopening the process was not considered to be feasible. Therefore, the **Society will not be nominating a candidate** this time around.

Eddie Gahan, FGSI, Director of the Outreach Programme, reported on the **Holiday World Shows** to be held in Belfast and Dublin in January 2025 and the **need for volunteers** for the GSI Stands.

The Christmas and New Year arrangements were

agreed (see panel to the right). The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 9th January 2025 at 11.00hrs via Zoom. **General Secretary**

BILLY LAWLESS, RIP

It is with great sadness that we heard of the passing of former Senator Billy Lawless on 8 November 2024 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. A very successful businessman in the hospitality industry owning a chain of pubs and restaurants and a great immigration rights activist. He worked tirelessly to reform a system that seemed dauntingly unforgiving, immovable and hostile to immigrants, refugees and the undocumented Irish.

Billy was nominated as Ireland's first overseas senator by Taoiseach Enda Kenny in 2016. He became a very prominent and valued member of the ten-strong independent group. My good friends and colleagues **Senator Michael McDowell S.C.** and **Senator Gerard Craughwell** were in the "City of the Tribes" on Thursday 5 December 2024 to attend a memorial Mass celebrating the life of Senator Billy Lawless.

Huge crowds turned up to express their condolences to Billy's wife, Anne, and his family. The Mass was attended by the Mayor of Galway and councillors in full robes as a mark of respect to this great Galway man. Senator McDowell summed it up well "He was a political force who made a difference in Irish and American politics over many years, and the service was a fitting tribute and warm homecoming for him." His work is done on this earth, his big heart and generosity of spirit made a difference to so many people. May he rest in peace. **Senator Victor Boyhan**

In Brief....

GSJ 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. (proof required) Full details on the *Membership Package* on PAGE 4 of this newsletter.

For back issues of the 'Gazette' please see the Society's website.

Barry O'Connor, FGSI,
Director of Membership Services.
Email: membership@familyhistory.ie

GSJ OPEN MEETINGS

Society's Monthly Open Meetings are held via **ZOOM** to allow the fullest access by Members from Ireland and overseas.

Tuesday December 10th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Jim Herlihy, FGSI - '*RIC WWI Casualties & Research Resources*'.

Tuesday January 14th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Craig Morrissey (FHSNL)—'*Across the Pond: Resources in Newfoundland & Labrador for Your Family History Research*'.

Wednesday January 23rd —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday February 11th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - *TBA*

Wednesday February 26th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday March 11th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - AGM - Speaker: Jim Herlihy, FGSI, - '*Savannah - A fight for a fortune of mystery*'.

Wednesday March 26th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday April 8th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Cauvery Madhavan—topic *TBA*

Wednesday April 23rd —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Talks will be posted on YouTube.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Membership Director, **Barry O'Connor, FGSI**, will email Members to log in to Zoom for the Open Meetings. The lectures are open to the public and the access details are available on request from Membership@familyhistory.ie

Suggestions on the Monthly Lecture Programme to: eolas@familyhistory.ie

Members may send their research queries in advance for the Morning Open Meeting by email to Archivist@familyhistory.ie

The Lecture Programme is recorded for the GSI YouTube Channel as a free, publicly accessible educational resource. We endeavour to have each lecture up as soon as possible.

IRISH DNA ATLAS

Check out the short videos and lectures on the *Irish DNA Atlas* project on YouTube

<https://https://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI>



www.eneclann.ie



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

James Scannell Reports...

CLONTARF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Scuffil will present '*Down the Poddle: Tracing the River from the source to the Liffey*' at 19.30hrs on Monday 09 December in St. John's Pastoral Centre, Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. All Welcome - admission is €5.00

THE BLACKROCK SOCIETY

Dr. Deirdre Nuttall will present '*Protestant Folk - Different and the Same*' at 20.00hrs on Monday 09 December in Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00 for non-members.

TALLAGHT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cormac F. Lowth will present the Leo Swan Memorial Lecture '*The Sailing Trawlers of Ringsend*' at 19.00hrs on Tuesday 10 December in the County Hall Library, Tallaght. All Welcome.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

An evening devoted to '*Christmas Items*' organised by Pdraig Laffan takes place at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 10 December in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Members and their friends only.

MALAHIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Members of the Society will present '*The History of the Grand Hotel, Malahide*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 10 December in St. Sylvester's Church Parish Centre, Malahide, Co. Dublin. All Welcome - admission €5.00

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bill Kee will present will '*Paintings in the archive*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 10 December in The Bowling Club, Skerries, Co. Dublin. All Welcome.

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

John Lennon will present '*Main Street: The Heart of Dundrum*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 12 December and Michael Traynor '*Peticoat Pilots*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 09 January 2025. St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Members free - visitors €3.00. Car parking charge of €1.00 per hour at venue - coins only.

WICKLOW TOWN LIBRARY

James Scannell, FGSI, will present '*Christmas 1963 in Wicklow*' at 11.30hrs on Wednesday 18 December. All welcome, admission free. Booking required please email: wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie or call 0404-67025 to reserve. Refreshment served and a selection of historical newspapers will be on display.

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

Barry Carse will present '*50 Years of Irish Photography - a selection of photos from Ireland and the UK*' at 19.30hrs on Thursday 19 December in the Society's Heuston Station, Dublin 8, premises. Strictly members and their guests only

KILLINEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Bill Saunderson will present '*The journey of researching a family history*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 07 January 2025 in Druid's Chair Pub upstairs lounge, Killiney, Co. Dublin. All Welcome. Admission is €5.00.

MARINO 100 HISTORY TALKS

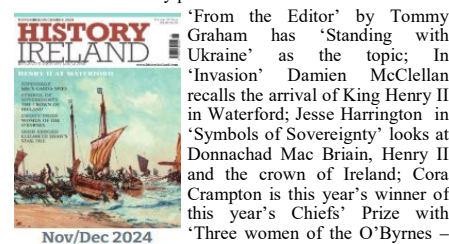
Sam McGrath will present '*The IRA in Fairview/Drumcondra 1916-1923: Including the veterans who moved into Marino after the Civil War*', at 19.00hrs on Friday 10 Jan. 2025 Carleton Hall (Marino Community Ctr.), 53A Shelmartin Avenue, Dublin 3. All Welcome.

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Michael Barr will present '*24 Shipwrecks on the Irish Coast: The Spanish Armada and Ireland*' at 20.00hrs on Friday 10 January 2025. All Welcome.

PUBLICATION

'*History Ireland*' magazine, November/December 2024, Vol. 32 No. 6, Editor **Tommy Graham**, published by **Wordwell Ltd.** With a cover image of a detail from '*The Landing of William the Conqueror*' at Hasting on 28 September 1066' by Charles Dixon (1910), articles in the excellent Irish history publication include:



'From the Editor' by Tommy Graham has 'Standing with Ukraine' as the topic; In 'Invasion' Damien McClellan recalls the arrival of King Henry II in Waterford; Jesse Harrington in 'Symbols of Sovereignty' looks at Donnachad Mac Briain, Henry II and the crown of Ireland; Cora Crampton is this year's winner of this year's Chiefs' Prize with 'Three women of the O'Byrnes - perspectives on Gaelic political marriage in the sixteenth century; In 'Centenary' Cormac Moore recalls the convening of the Irish Boundary Commission; In 'Emmet's unwritten epitaph - a recurring theme in Dublin Opinion magazine's political cartoon.

Felix Larkin reminds us how this was a regular topic which surfaced at intervals; In the 'Irish Abroad', Fergal Lenehan discusses 'Belfast woman Elizabeth Shaw's Stasi file'; In 'Espionage' David Burke discusses 'MI6's spies in Garda intelligence - new evidence'; For 'The Troubles' Michael Flavin looks at 'The 1974 pub bombings and the Irish Birmingham'.

For 'History in the News' Lar Joye looks at 'The Military History Society of Ireland' after 75 years'; Brian Smyth looks at 'Arthur Leared (1822-1879) commemorated while in 'On this Day' Aodhán Crealey recalls a number of events that occurred during November and December down through the centuries.

In 'Platform' Michael Byrne discusses 'Durrrow High Cross and the ongoing saga of public access', for 'Gems of Architecture' Damian Murphy looks at 'Newbridge House, Donabate, Co. Dublin'.

The 'Ordnance Survey Memoirs' are explored by Fiona Fitzsimons in 'Kindred Lines', 'Ireland's first (partly wooden) jet plane' is recalled by Lar Joye in 'Artefacts'; Anna Rose Garvey in 'FI Film Eye' recalls 'Christmas traditions alive today', Martin Morris highlights 'The papers of John E. Keenan' held by Longford County Archives' in the Local Archives feature, while for Ireland 100 Years ago, Joseph E. A. Connell Jr recalls the 'Merger of Irish railways into the Great Southern Railway Company. Other features include 'Seen on TV', 'Film Watch', 'What's on Stage', 'Museum Eye', 'Bookworm', 'Letters', 'The Big Book' review, and the individual book reviews.

James Scannell, FGSI

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING

This Society is a **Registered Charity in Ireland** and it is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the very kind donations received. The provision of an archive, our online presence, hosting open meetings, publications, outreach activities and administration all require funding. If you would like to make a donation please visit the Society's website on <https://www.familyhistory.ie>

Thank You Very Much : Go Raibh Míle Maith Agat

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAGI, 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 NOVEMBER LECTURE

On Tuesday 12th November 2024 at our Evening Open Meeting we were delighted to welcome as our Speaker, our own Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins**, MGS, on the topic '*A Swords Family Chronicle—Writing Your Own Family History*'.

John delivered a very personal talk about his own research this year, which has culminated in the publication of a book entitled '*A Swords Family Chronicle*'. This is the history of his mother's family and is the result of many years of research and has completed a long-term goal for John. He began by questioning the many reasons why people do family history research, which ranged from a desire to discover their roots, to revealing family medical histories and secret accounts that had been protected by codes of silence over the years. He noted that much of the interest in family history comes from older rather than younger people and that a more mature generation have more time to look into these matters. Nowadays they have been liberated by access to online sources and also by the removal of old-fashioned taboos about illegitimacy and various other 'skeletons-in-the-closet'.

John mentioned a cousin with whom he has been working for thirty years to unravel the intricacies of his parentage and their location and which led to the publication of another book written by his cousin, as part of his cathartic investigations. The most important avenue to be followed is to question those older relatives who may remember specific events and to gather any family photos that may be available. This forms basis for online investigation and adds to the readability of a book. The question of the archiving of data is important, and a book may last much longer than anticipated and still be available to future generations. Nobody should be daunted by the thought of being published, nor is it out of reach of most people in this digital age. A lively question and answer session ensued and most family historians could talk at length about their various interests in this field. John concluded his talk by stating that he no longer feels obliged to write his father's family history, *ach sin scéal eile!*

This talk will be uploaded to the Society's YouTube Channel (see bottom of this page for the link).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY—DID YOU KNOW?

- ☞ Did you know that Membership of this Society is open to all with an interest in family history, heraldry, vexillology (study of flags and emblems) and related subjects?
- ☞ Did you know that Membership is open to anyone living in Ireland or overseas and with Irish ancestry or with ancestors from anywhere in the world? All are most welcome.
- ☞ Did you know that Student Membership is also available at 50% off the subscription?
- ☞ Please checkout: www.familyhistory.ie Email: membership@familyhistory.ie

GSI MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE 2025-2026

The following proposal was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors on Thursday 7th November 2024 under **Res: 24/11/1866**.



That, the Board agrees to the implementation of the following as part of the **Membership Package as and from January 1st 2025**, and that all existing fully paid-up Members on that date will have their Membership Packages updated to

include all the elements of the new package until the expiry date of their membership.

Understanding that the Society provides Monthly Open Meetings, operates an Archive and Research Centre, publishes newsletters and an annual journal, has Zoom meetings, website and a presence across the social media platforms, the following are the benefits of Membership.

Membership of the Society shall entitle the Member attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting and any general meeting of the Society; stand for election to the Board of the Society; to nominate a family member to be an "Associate Member" of the Society; receive the Monthly Newsletter and the Annual Journal electronically; free use of the Society's Archive and Research Centre; use of the Members' Only facilities on the Society's website; receive a free copy of any new electronic publication by

the Society; automatic simultaneous membership of the Society's Specialist Branches, *Heraldry Ireland and Vexillology Ireland*; weekly research advice Zoom sessions (except for the month of December), including one each month for new Members and beginners; monthly evening lectures; monthly morning meeting discussion group meetings; optional members of the GSI Members WhatsApp Group; opportunities to volunteer at the Society's Archive and Research Centre and at occasional events around Ireland; and to participate in group projects and research initiatives. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote (*Single Transferrable Vote form of Proportional Representation*) in the Electronic Ballot to choose the Society's nominee for candidature in Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) General Elections. Members shall be entitled to purchase tickets to participate in the Members Only Monthly Draw organised by the Society.

The cost of this Membership Package will be €40.00 per annum (based on the date of joining) and a 50% reduction will be offered to persons under 25 years of age and to students of any age attending a recognised genealogical, heraldic, vexillological or local history course. Proof of attendance and/or course registration may be requested.

A metallic Membership Badge (see above) shall be sent to each paid-up Member, however, any replacement Membership Badge shall be charged at €5.00 plus postage & packing.

Barry O'Connor, FGSI, Membership Director

Check out the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

RIALTAS NUA : NEW GOVERNMENT

As we go to print the dust is beginning to settle after the General Election held on Friday 29 November 2024 and the task of forming a coalition government is underway. This is where a detailed 'programme for government' is negotiated between the parties. This usually takes time as compromise and necessity quietly and very subtly fade or blur many a red line. Regular readers of this newsletter will be well aware of the legislative issues raised by this Society. Hopefully, the new government will include the following objectives in its programme for government.

- (1) Amend the *National Archives Act, 1986*, to fully capture the digital archival and publication environment to ensure the preservation of these records; and to widen its remit to include semi-state and certain state funded bodies providing public services, including housing.
- (2) Amend the *National Archives Act, 1986*, and *Tailte Éireann Act, 2022*, to provide for the digitisation and public access to the records of the *Irish Land Commission*.
- (3) Amend the *Heritage Act, 1995*, to provide a statutory basis for *County Heritage Plans*; include our *Intangible Cultural Heritage*; and to adequately include the promotion of our

genealogical and heraldic heritage.

- (4) Amend the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, to rectify Section 13 dealing with heraldry; establish a new *National Heraldic Register* to include all grants made since 1943 and by Ulster from 1552; and to deal with the copyright issue.
- (5) Amend the *Charities Act, 2009*, and *Companies Act, 2014* to provide for a single online annual reporting process for charities to end the current duplicate reporting to several state agencies.

GSI ON YOUTUBE

The Society's lectures and some informational short videos were uploaded to our YouTube Channel. To view the videos and hopefully, to 'Like' and 'Share' them, and to 'Subscribe' to our YouTube channel—please checkout:

www.YouTube.com/GenSocIrelandGSI

GSI ON INSTAGRAM

The Society has been expanding its presence across all social media platforms and we're on Instagram! Please checkout this link:

www.instagram.com/GenSocIreland

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

is published by the
Genealogical Society of Ireland
Company Limited by Guarantee

11, Desmond Avenue,
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin,
A96 AD76, Ireland

E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie

Charity Ref: CHY 10672 : No: 20027551
Company Registration (CRO): 334884

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

President

Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI

Vice-President

Fiona Fitzsimons, MA, FGSI

Honorary Herald

Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSI

Presidents Emeriti

Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI

Rory J. Stanley, FGSI

Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI

Board of Directors (2024-2025)

John Goggins (*Cathaoirleach* : Chairperson; *Oifigeach na Gaeilge*) **Fiona Tipple** (*Leas-Chathaoirleach* : Vice-Chairperson; *Director Archives Services & Education*); **Michael Merrigan** (*General Secretary, Company Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor; & Irish DNA Atlas*); **Lua Ó Scolaí** (*Finance & ADF, Philanthropy*); **Eddie Gahan** (*Outreach Programme*); **Shane Wilson** (*Internet Services*); **Barry O'Connor** (*Membership Services & Cemetery Projects; Building & Utilities, Health & Safety*); **Gerard Corcoran** (*Digitization & Genetic Genealogy*) and **Laura Price** (*Special Collections, Research & Specialist Groups, Vexillology & Heraldry, and pro tem Deputy General Secretary*). **Non-Executive:** Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI

"HALL'S INDEX"

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world.

The past issues of the Society's newsletter from 1996 to 2016 had been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGS**. The "Hall's Index" now includes all issues up to date—please see 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 of the "Gazette" at www.familyhistory.ie)

GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

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

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

The facility is normally open each Wednesday from 11.00hrs to 15.00hrs contact the GSI Archivist on Archivist@familyhistory.ie

