

Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

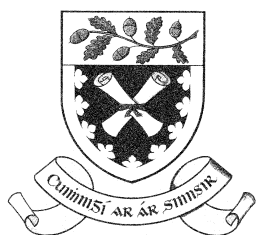
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 5 No. 1

www.familyhistory.ie

January : Eanáir 2010



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



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New President Inaugurated

The Society's third President, **Rory Stanley, FGSI** was duly inaugurated at a ceremony held at the Evening Meeting on Tuesday 8th December 2009. The ceremony also included the investiture of four new Fellows of the Society, including the current Cathaoirleach, **Séamus Moriarty** and the Director of Archival Services, **Séamus O'Reilly** who were both appointed by the President. The Society's new Vice-President, **Maj. Gen. David, The O Morchoe, CBE** (Wexford) and the Society's Honorary Herald, **Andrew Tully, MAPM** (South Africa) were also invested as Fellows. The new President was elected by the **College of Fellows** on May 7th 2009 and though he assumed his position on election, it was decided to host the official inauguration at the end of the year. A former Cathaoirleach, **Rory Stanley, FGSI**, succeeds **Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI**, who held the position from 2005. The Society's first President, **Denis, O Conor Don, FGSI** held the position from 1991 until his death in 2000. Rory received the Presidential Chain-of-Office from Vice-President, **David, The O Morchoe** and then the President invested the new Fellows with their warrants of appointment. Vice-President **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI** accepted the Warrant of Appointment on behalf of **Andrew**



Tully of South Africa. At his inauguration, Rory, like his predecessor, was presented with his own personal Coat-of-Arms by the **International Association of Amateur Heraldry**. The Society is very grateful to the IAAH for this wonderful presentation. The Arms were designed and emblazoned by **Melvyn Jeremiah** of the United Kingdom serving as IAAH President and **Andrew Tully** of South Africa as GSI Honorary Herald. The symbolism of the arms focuses on the Stanley heritage and the armiger's avocation of genealogy, his professional life and his appointment as President of the Society. The design of the President's personal arms incorporates the stag's head cabossed which is a feature of the arms borne by many branches of the wider Stanley

family. The field parted per pale and the partition line dancetty allude to the arms of Rory's mother's family, the Farrelly arms. The golden and blue tincture of the mantling and the ermine fur of shield relates to those often attributed to the Stanley name whilst again recognising his mothers ancestry. The crest holds much symbolism as the scroll acknowledges the armiger's professional life as a newsagent and his genealogical background whilst the shamrock shows his passion for Ireland. Again, the Stanley colours of blue and gold are repeated on the sleeve. The motto incorporates the Gaelic version of the surname and was the version of his name used when Rory was in primary and secondary school. It also encapsulates the historic transition from an English surname of a planter or Cromwellian soldier through intermarriage and assimilation over the centuries to become an Irish surname with a Gaelic rendition. Translated as 'Victory to Stanley', '*de Stainléigh Abú*' symbolises how the surname became Hibernicised as it incorporates the standard Gaelic war-cry and refers to Rory's own extensive One-Name Study of the surname Stanley where he has gathered information from persons of the name from around the world, especially, those with connections to Ireland.

New Criteria for Appointments

With the Irish heraldic services suspended possibly indefinitely, the National Archives (NAD) incapable of receiving the bulk of the State Papers released under the 30 year rule and Land Certificates being destroyed after digitisation—no wonder fears are expressed about the future direction of Irish heritage policy. Good news stories like the near nine million people accessing the 1911 census on-line may give the impression of the existence of a coordinated, well resourced and fully functioning national plan. But sadly this is not the case and indeed, government proposals on the future of the National Library and the National

Archives offer little hope for the foreseeable future. Whilst, the Minister has yet to appoint a new Advisory Committee for the NAI, the five year term of the Board of the National Library (NLI) ends in May 2010. So the Minister has an early opportunity to look afresh at the governance of the NLI and to assess the role of its Genealogy & Heraldry Committee. The March 2009 issue of the *Gazette* urged the Minister to examine the criteria for the appointment of Board and Committee members, especially those with 'sectional interests'. Professional and voluntary heritage bodies with a substantial number of their members using

the services of the NLI should be invited to register an interest in nominating suitable candidates. However, to ensure that 'an adequate level of popular representation is achieved' certain criteria on what actually constitutes a 'nominating body' should be established by the Minister, for example, be in existence for not less than five years with not less than fifty individual members throughout that period. The governance of the NLI should reflect the broad spectrum of the Library users and indeed, include nominees from the third level education sector, professional bodies, voluntary heritage / cultural bodies and the general users.

'Call Me Maurice'

The Life and Times of Lord Fermoy (1885-1955)

'Call me Maurice – The Life and Times of Lord Fermoy (1885-1955)' by **Mary Burke Roche**. (Published by ELSP, 2009, 448pp : ISBN: 978 1906641061 : Price Stg£15.00 p/bk) This is a biography of her father, Maurice Burke Roche, 4th Lord Fermoy, by his eldest daughter Mary. It is based to a large extent on Fermoy's many letters to his brother and other relatives and on a diary he kept during service in World War I. Maurice's grandfather Edmund Burke Roche (1815-1874) of Trabolgan and Kildinan, Co. Cork, having served as MP for the county for 18 years, was elevated to the Peerage as Baron Fermoy. By the time his sons had grown up there was no money to uphold a grandiose lifestyle and his second son Jim, handsome and dashing, spent a period ranching and buffalo-hunting in Wyoming, before going to New York in search of an heiress. He married Fanny Work, daughter of a rich industrialist, and returned with her to London. A daughter, Cynthia, was born, followed by twin sons, Maurice and Frank. There Jim Roche continued a life of dissolution and gambling, squandering his wife's money and constantly demanding more. In 1886 agreement was reached that in return for payment of his debts the children would be handed over to their mother and her family. A divorce followed in 1890 and it was 1911 before the children saw their father again. Growing up in New York, Rhode Island and Harvard, Maurice Roche, in his many letters to his twin brother Frank, gives detailed impressions of the lives of the ultra-rich classes of the time. Despite a neurotic mother, total absence of a father and what seems almost indecent wealth, the young Maurice Roche comes across

as sensitive, caring and unspoiled. The twin brothers were talented sportsmen and had an exceptionally close relationship. These letters will be of interest to social historians. In 1917 Maurice enrolled in the US Army and served with the American Expeditionary Force in France. His *War Diary, 1918-1919*, is reprinted in this book and again, would be of interest to specialists in this period. In 1920, when due to unexpected circumstances Maurice inherited a title, becoming the 4th Lord Fermoy, he seemed uncertain what to do. There was nothing in the disturbed Ireland of that time for such people and, on deciding to take up the title, he moved to England, entered Parliament as Conservative member for King's Lynn in 1924 and married in 1931. From here we have one of those strange 'hinges' of history. By a series of chance events Maurice ended up living in Sandringham and becoming a close friend and shooting companion of King George V. His daughter Frances Roche, sister of Mary the author of this book, married Viscount Althorp. Their daughter Diana married Prince Charles and the eldest son William is heir to the British throne. From farming in east Cork to royalty in three generations! Palace watchers will enjoy the details of life in Sandringham and London among 'the Royals'. For Irish genealogists, however, interest will focus on the chapter about the earlier Roches of Trabolgan and Kildinan, Co. Cork. A Catholic family (with the men converting for financial reasons), they were intermarried with the 'Blackwater Catholic' families – Curtin, Deasy, Nagle, Hennessy and thereby, were cousins of the great Edmund Burke. When Burke's line died out on the premature death of his only

son Richard, the Roches assumed the name, becoming Burke Roche. The early Roches were a feisty lot ... 'Mon' Roche (1740-1823), head of the Imokilly Volunteers, successfully defended himself and his colleagues against a charge of high treason in 1798. With regard to later times, it is good to see reprinted here some of the speeches of Edmund Roche MP in the House of Commons. A keen O'Connellite and ardent Liberal, he spoke eloquently about misrule in Ireland. He was an enlightened landlord, setting up a flax-growing project which gave huge employment in the area. There is an amusing description of the departure of E. B. Roche and family from Cork via Bristol to attend the Commons, bringing carriages, children, tutors, servants and even cows – Roche insisting that you couldn't drink the London milk. Mary Burke Roche's scholarly and well-written book will give pleasure to many people with a variety of interests. More importantly, in writing this book she has fully achieved her main purpose, which was to do honour to her father Maurice Roche – obviously a modest, un pompous, kindly and widely loved man.

Honor Myths, MGSI

EDITOR: Next month we will review an important interdisciplinary study published by Four Courts Press—'*Plantation Ireland—Settlement and Material Culture c. 1550-c. 1700*'. This volume takes a fresh look at this major subject which is of particular interest to local historians and genealogists alike. For further details see www.fourcourtspress.ie **MM**

National Library's Photographic Collections

The National Library of Ireland holds the world's largest collection of photographs relating to Ireland. It is an extremely rich source of primary research material as it provides the means of understanding and engaging with the past through circa 630,000 images. These images of places, people and events provide an insight into the culture, social history, politics, art, landscape and natural history of Ireland. In a move to improve access to the photographic archive collection the Library has introduced a service in which 20,000 images from the Lawrence, Poole and the Independent Newspapers (Ireland) collections from 1912 to 1936. These can now be viewed on its website at www.nli.ie/digital-photographs.aspx and is part of an ongoing digitization project aimed at

increasing access to the Library's photographic collections. There are two additional website links - www.nli.ie/1916/ where the Library's on-line exhibition '*The 1916 Rising: Personalities*' can be viewed and the Library's online catalogue can be accessed. Other photographic collections which can be viewed through the on-line catalogue include the Keogh Collection which covers the 1916 Rising; The Roger Case-ment Collection; the Congested District Boards Collections and the Clonbrock Collection which covers life on a landed estate. Another collection very frequently consulted is the Hogan Collection of photographs relating to the War of Independence and Civil War which were taken by W.D. Hogan, a commercial photographer based in Dublin. His collection of images in-

clude action shots of military activity, photographs of the Black and Tans, portraits of Arthur Griffith, images of Michael Collins addressing meeting at which there were large crowds in attendance, the destruction of the Customs House during the War of Independence and the Four Courts during the Civil War with pictures of civilians and children going about their everyday lives. A total of 219 images from this collection can be viewed in the Library's online catalogue with a further 144 recent acquired images being added to the catalogue shortly. In November an exhibition of images from the Hogan Collection went on view in the National Photographic Archive in Temple Bar, Dublin 2, and will on display until February 2010. **James Scannell**

Busy Year Ahead

Things got off to a rather difficult start to what promises to be a very busy year ahead for the Society and especially, the Board of Directors. Just when we thought all was up and running with the newly designed website disaster struck with a serious hard drive problem and loss of data necessitating the purchase of new equipment by our Director of Internet Services, **Bartosz Kozłowski**, **MGSI** who is currently working to restore the website. At the same time a quite unrelated problem caused the Society's on-line shop to malfunction preventing Members from renewing on-line and stopping all on-line purchases of the Society's publications. Thankfully, **Liam Mac Alasdair**, **FGSI** was on-hand to totally revamp the on-line shop and to clear the problem and to have the shop up and running again on January 10th 2010. Meanwhile, Bartosz is still seeking copies of photographs from Members, past and present, of any meetings, projects or other

events hosted by the Society since its foundation in October 1990, he can be contacted by e-mail at b.k.webdesigner@gmail.com One of the main issues that will be addressed by the Board in the coming months is the securing of a suitable permanent home for the Society's growing archival collections which are housed temporarily at 111, Lower George's Street, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. The Board has delegated the 'house-hunting' functions to our Director of National Projects, **Pádraic Ingoldsby**, **MGSI** who is examining a number of exciting options. Most of the collections are fully catalogued though work is continuing on the manuscript collection. The Director of Archive Services, **Séamus O'Reilly**, **FGSI** is still seeking more volunteers—so please contact Séamus by e-mail on jsoreilly@eircom.net The Society's Archive is open to Members on Mondays (except Bank Holidays) from 10.30hrs to 16.00hrs. The Director of Publications, **Sharon Bofin**, **MGSI** is seeking articles for publication in the Society's annual Journal—contact: sharonbofin@eircom.net The Board of

Directors will kick start the New Year with a number of draft policy documents prepared for consideration, including policies on '*Volunteerism & Gender Equality / Representation*', '*Nomenclature & Protocol*' and, of course, on the Society's '*Outreach Programme*'. The draft policy documents not only aim to streamline and coordinate matters in these areas, but to ensure that the Society is equipped to meet new challenges and to maximise its potential to serve the needs of all of its members. The Society's legislative campaign for the release of the 1926 census will be a priority. The introduction and publication of the Society's draft '*Statistics (Heritage Amendment) Bill*' has been delayed due legislative pressures on fiscal matters over the past three months, however, **Senator Labhrás Ó Murchú**, is delighted with the expressions of support for its introduction that he is receiving from his colleagues. Currently the Board is also preparing for the AGM in March where it hopes to attract 'new talent' on to the Board of the Society. So if you can spare two hours on the first Thursday each month - *why not?*

James Scannell Reports...

BRAY, Co. WICKLOW

'*Pictorial Memories of Bray - Volume 7*' compiled by Henry Cairns and Owen Gallagher, published by the Old Bray Society. When publication of this series of books began several years ago, it was envisaged that it would run to about 4 volumes but such has been the interest in these books and the vast amount of material that has been lent for inclusion in them, that the series has now reached Volume 7 which was launched on Friday December 4th in the Mermaid Arts Centre by Noel Keys of the Heritage Council. In launching this edition, Noel reminded the audience that books like this reflect the true life of the people through the images in them in addition to the notes and other items that are included with them when compared to the traditional photographs of the gentry which showed them standing rigidly all dressed up with their staffs outside their residences. The '*Pictorial History of Bray*' books show the reader the town and its people as they were seen by other people and so essentially captures the true nature of the town and its people through photographs and images for future generations to look back on as all living towns such as Bray are undergoing change and what's here today may be gone tomorrow. As always the compilers of this book have striven to provide a balanced and interesting view of the town by using new material and avoiding repeating material used in previous volumes which at times can be difficult since all the material in it has been lent by the people of Bray who have supported this series of

books. The chapters in this excellent book feature the following - Little Bray; The Heart of the Town; The Vevay; The Strand; Outskirts; Music and Drama; Some Bray Families - Those featured are:- The Cleary Family, The Willoughby Family, The Kearney Family of Wolfe Tone Square, The Doyle Family, The Murphy / O'Connor Families, Wolfe Tone Square North, The Breathnach Family, The Dornin Family, The Mooney Family, The Donnelly Family; Sport; Military, Civil Defence and An Garda Síochána. Copies of this excellent book can be obtained from the Town Hall Book Shop, 23, Florence Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

WICKLOW 1913-1923

'*Aspects of the War on Independence and Civil War in Wicklow, 1913 to 1923*' by Henry Cairns and Owen Gallagher, published by the Old Bray Society. Aspects of the military history of Co. Wicklow has been published piecemeal in a number of books and local history society publications and this volume breaks new ground by providing the military history of the county in one complete volume and covers the three key military events of Irish early 20th century military history - The 1916 Rising, War of Independence 1919-1921 and the Civil War of 1922-1923. The excellent narrative first deals with the formation of the Irish Volunteers in the country following its establishment in Dublin during Nov, 1913, the subsequent training and the quest for arms which climaxed with

the Howth and Kilcoole gun running operations followed within six weeks by the outbreak of the First World War and a split in the organisation in September 1914 following Redmond's Woodenbridge speech into the Redmond Volunteers and the Irish Volunteers. The Irish Volunteers continued training up to the 1916 Rising. But the countermanding of orders created a confused situation preventing a nationwide uprising. The accounts of those involved at that time are quoted from statements given to the Bureau of Military History which in recent years have only been released to researchers. The book then deals with the War of Independence 1919-1921 and the activities that happened in and around the county during this period. In this section there are stories of raids, escapes, ambushes, shootings, arrests, trials and courts martial of some of those arrested for their activities either members of the IRA or Sinn Féin. The final part of this excellent military history deals with the Civil War and has some unique photos of the former Bray Courthouse, now Bray Heritage Centre and Tourist Office, on fire as departing Republicans rendered it unusable for the advancing Free State Forces. This excellent military history is divided into eight well written and expertly researched chapters and, of course, sections covering references, a fine bibliography and appendices on the weapons used by both the IRA and the Crown. Excellently illustrated, this book is essential reading for anyone interested in the military or local history of Wicklow. Copies available from the Town Hall Bookshop, 23 Florence Rd., Bray, Co. Wicklow.

GSI Lecture Programme

At the Evening Open Meeting held on Tuesday Dec. 8, 2009 following the Presidential Inauguration and the other formalities, **Douglas Appleyard**, historian, author and specialist on the author of *Dracula*, gave a fascinating talk on the subject of '*The Bram Stoker family - a typical 19th century Dublin Protestant family*'. Whilst many were expecting Douglas to concentrate on the author's immediate family alone, his lecture covered the history of the Stoker families in Ireland. He examined many variants of the surname too showing that, like many other families, often persons in the same family or very closely related used different versions of the surname. This always produced certain research dilemmas for the family historian, though, much enjoyed by the One-Name specialist. Douglas followed the lines of the various families from their origins, mostly in north east England, down to the first few decades of the last century. These families were surprisingly socially mobile, though not

always upwardly. Douglas identified the families by their professions, trades and locations in Ireland. Each line was carefully researched and explained very thoroughly. Indeed, whilst the *Dracula* fan may have been disappointed by the lack of gory anecdotes, the family historian feasted on a fine genealogical lecture.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. Jan. 12, 2010 - Tim Carey, Heritage Officer, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Co. - '*In Honour and Memory - Memorials of Dun Laoghaire - Rathdown*'
Tues. Feb. 9 - Stuart Rosenblatt, Vice-Pres., GSI - '*From Immigration to Integration of the Jewish Community in Ireland*'.
Tues. March 9 - Risteard Mulcahy - '*The life of Dick Mulcahy*'.
Tues. April 13 - Adam Byrne - '*Dún Laoghaire Public Library as a resource for the genealogist*'.
Tues. May 11 - Mary Beglan - '*On-Line Sources of Irish Genealogy*'.
Tues. June 8 -

James McGuire - '*The Dictionary of Irish Biography*'. Any suggestions on the Society lecture programme please contact **Séamus Moriarty, MGSI** by e-mail on Gazette@familyhistory.ie

OLIVER SMITH, RIP

The Cathaoirleach, Séamus Moriarty, FGSI, on behalf of the Board and the Members of the Society, extends his deepest condolences to our friend and colleague, Brian Smith, on the death of his father Oliver on December 12th 2009. Oliver and his wife Margaret were two of our first Members joining back in 1991. Oliver had a wealth of information on local history and families in the Dún Laoghaire area. As new Members joined, Oliver was always on hand to offer research advice and encouragement. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Society. RIP

Membership Renewals due January 2010

In the annual review of the Membership Packages the Board agreed, under **Res: 09/11/718** to maintain the Annual Subscription for 2010 for Irish and Overseas Members at the level agreed in 2007 of €40.00 to include the following: Member voting rights; optional second household member with voting rights; Membership Card (s); right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter; 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; genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your research in the GSI Journal. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from Jan. 1st 2010 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honoured until their annual renewal date. Also under **Res: 08/11/636** persons under twenty-five years can still avail of 50% reduction on the membership fee. Membership can be renewed on-line or, if you

prefer, simply download the form and forward it with your remittance to the Society's Director of Finance, **Mr. Denis Ryan, MGSI**, 6, St. Thomas Mead, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin, Ireland.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors

by **John Grenham**

Highly recommended by this Society for **EVERYBODY** researching Irish family history at home or overseas.
Doing your Family Tree? You need this book!!

www.gillmacmillan.ie

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

is published by the

Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited

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

E-mail: GAZETTE@familyhistory.ie

Charity Reference: CHY10672

The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann**Board of Directors 2009-2010**

Séamus Moriarty (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Gerry Hayden** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice Chair); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary : Company Secretary); **Denis Ryan** (Finance); **Sharon Bofin** (Publications & Membership); **Séamus O'Reilly** (Archive); **Barry O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects); **Bartosz Kozłowski** (Poland) (Internet Services); **Pádraig Ingoldsby** (National Projects)

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www.familyhistory.ie/shop**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday Jan. 12th & Feb. 9th 2010

Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire College of Further Education

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

20.00hrs—22.00hrs

Wednesday Jan. 27th & Feb. 24th 2010

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)

Féil-Scríbhinn Liam Mhic Alasdair

On Tuesday December 8th 2009, at the inauguration of its third President, Rory Stanley, FGSI, the Genealogical Society of Ireland launched its first ever 'Festschrift' or 'celebration publication' of essays in honour of longstanding Member, Fellow and former Director, Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI. 'Féil-Scríbhinn Liam Mhic Alasdair' edited by Rory Stanley, FGSI, opens with the President Rory J. Stanley detailing Liam Mac Alasdair's enormous contribution to the Society and Irish genealogy since he joined the Society in 1991. Indeed, former President, Tony McCarthy MA, FGSI, goes further in his exploration of 'Eight Decades of Irish Genealogy' by placing Liam's contribution in the context of the development of Irish genealogy since the 1930s. The eminent constitutional lawyer and renowned heraldic authority, Prof. Noel Cox of Auckland, New Zealand, explores 'The principles of international law governing the Sovereign authority for the creation and administration of Orders of Chivalry' and looks at the Order of St. Patrick which was established in 1783. Philip Lecane, author of 'Torpedoed - The Sinking of RMS Leinster' and many articles on the soldiers of the Great War tells the story of 'Marie Martin: An Irish Nurse in the First World War' whilst Seán M. Mac Brádaigh examines 'The Genealogies in the Irish manuscripts'. Caroline McCall asks 'Will the Real Baron of Clonmore Please Stand Up!' while John Hamrock delves into 'The origins and chief locations of the O Gara sept'. Our new Vice-President, The O Morchoe, provides a military history perspective in 'Bringing back the memory' as bother and sister, Michaël Merrigan and Katrijne Merrigan from Belgium look at the Irish Diaspora in 'The name of our father'. Garda Jim Herlihy deals with the belated recognition of a co-founder of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) in 'Thomas St George MacCarthy' who is buried in Deansgrange Cemetery. Róisín Lafferty details 'The tragic incident of WW2 - the Ballymanus mine explosion 1943' as Bartosz Kozłowski addresses another aspect of Irish Diaspora studies in 'Polish-Irish connections are centuries old'. Irish lecturer, historian and renowned genealogist, Seán J. Murphy, provides a study of 'The Gardiner Family, Dublin, and Mountjoy, County Tyrone'. Items in the 'GSI Archive' are explored by Séamus O'Reilly. Michael Merrigan asks 'Is there a Case for Indigenous Ethnic Status in Ireland?' whilst, local historian, James Scannell examines the development 'From Local District Defence Force Command Unit to Reserve Defence Force Infantry Battalion'. Barry O'Connor and his team provide a complete listing of the Memorial Inscriptions of 'St. Canice's Cemetery, Barrack Lane, Finglas'. Biographical Notes on the Contributors are provided just before the 'Closing Message from An Cathaoirleach' by Séamus Moriarty. Copies of this special limited publication 'Féil-Scríbhinn Liam Mhic Alasdair - Essays Presented to Liam Mac Alasdair, FGSI' edited by Rory J. Stanley, FGSI (ISBN 978-1-898471-67-7 : 152pp p/bk) are available, as stocks last, priced €10.00 plus postage €1.35 (Ireland) & €3.00 (overseas).

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**'Travellers' Accounts as Source-Material
for Irish Historians'**

'Travellers' Accounts as Source-Material for Irish Historians' by **C. J. Woods** and published by Four Courts Press (256pp; ill: ISBN: 978-1-84682-132-5 : Price €24.95—Web Price €22.45) is an absolute gem for the local historian and genealogist. Published as part of the *Maynooth Research Guides for Irish Local History*, this volume is of immense importance to the study of Irish local and social history. The sources identified and explained by Woods in this volume were heretofore much neglected by researchers possibly because of the absence of this type of publication. The period covered by the circa 209 accounts annotated by Woods runs from 1635 to 1948 encompassing many momentous and turbulent changes in Irish society, landscape, culture and language. In the opening line of his introduction Woods quotes from 'The journal of John Stevens containing a brief account of the war in Ireland, 1689-1691' with what must be the essence of the source-material—'I received not what I write by hearsay but was an eye-witness'. This must be the foremost value of this source-material for the historian—an actual eye-witness account of the life and times of place, people and country. Some of the accounts are of single journeys from point A to point B, others are actual tours of the country or a part thereof. Woods rightly stresses the caveat that 'Travellers' Accounts' are not an infallible source as the writers could be ill-informed, prejudiced, opinionated or simply, gullible—they could be as blinkered as the horse drawing their coaches and blind to those things historians badly want to know about'. But nevertheless an informed evaluation of the narrative and a knowledge of the identity of the Traveller and the purpose of the journey can be rewarding for the local or social historian. The accounts are arranged chronologically and the information is sorted under Traveller's Name; Account

Published / Source; Date of Travel; Itinerary; Mode of Travel; General description of the content of the account and, importantly for the genealogist and local historian, Persons encountered by the Traveller. One Traveller, Julius Rodenberg, visiting Co. Wicklow in 1858, for example, 'elicits info. nr Devil's Glen' that 'there are only very few old folk left who can talk Irish' while another Traveller, Charles Victor Prévot touring the same county in 1843 comments on the poor he meets at Glendalough—'never had I seen such a luxuriant abundance of rags' and notes that their households had little except a 'wooden Madonna and a portrait of Napoleon'. Another Traveller, Asenath Nicholson (1844-5) who visits the ruins at Glendalough mentions 'old barefooted Kathleen' a guide at the monastic site. Many aspects of the life of the country and its people are recorded and observed by these Travellers from the purely anecdotal and 'touristy' to the social and political realities of the day. This volume brings these underutilised resources to a much wider research community and in doing so we can, no doubt, expect that these wonderful accounts will receive the attention that they rightly deserve. Woods retired from the Royal Irish Academy in 2006 where he was employed since 1969 and worked on a number of important publications including 'A New History of Ireland' and 'A Dictionary of Irish Biography'. **MM**

OPEN MEETING CANCELLED

Due to the adverse weather conditions along the east coast of Ireland the venue at which the Society holds its Evening Open Meeting has been closed for 'health and safety reasons' until January 18th 2010 necessitating the cancellation of the Open Meeting scheduled for January 12th 2010. The next meeting is as scheduled above. **Gen. Sec.**

GSI ARMS REGISTER

The registration process for the Society's new *Register of Arms & Emblems* is currently under construction as it will be essentially an on-line registration process. This will facilitate the uploading of photographs or drawings of Arms and Emblems. The Society is considering systems employed by others especially in the US and the UK. It is expected to have the system fully operative by the end of January 2010, however, Members may, in the interim, indicate their intention to register Arms or Emblems.

**Los descendientes
del Dresden**

Buscamos descendientes de los inmigrantes que
Febrero de 1889, para que nos cueueen su historia.

We are looking for descendants of the immigrants that
came in the SS Dresden to Buenos Aires in February
1889, to tell their story.

Contacto: Juan Pablo Alvarez
e-mail: descendientesdresden@yahoo.com.ar
web site http://descendientesdresden.blogspot.com