



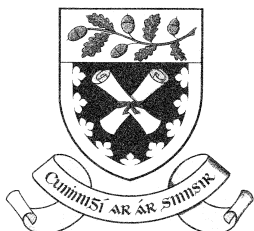
Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

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Oireachtas Report Published

The Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Environment, Culture and the Gaeltacht on April 2nd 2015 published its report on 'Maximising our Cultural and Genealogical Heritage'. This very welcome report was written by the Oireachtas Committee's special Rapporteur, Catherine Murphy, TD, who has a long-standing personal interest in genealogical research. The report makes 37 recommendations concerning the provision of a first-class system of genealogical research opportunities for Ireland. It outlines submissions made to the Committee during a series of hearings and makes key policy recommendations on maximising the opportunities to increase the availability and public accessibility of genealogical and cultural records. Amongst its recommendations is the appointment of a Chief State Genealogical Officer as a matter of urgency and the recommended establishment of a national inventory of our genealogical resources. Both of these very important recommendations were contained in the 'Genealogy & Heraldry Bill, 2006' which was researched, written and presented by this Society to Senators back in 2005. Indeed, a great number of the recommendations are in line with those contained in or intended as outcomes of that Bill which, unfortunately was not enacted by the Oireachtas despite a very spirited two hour debate in December 2006. The 'Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access'



Catherine Murphy, TD
Oireachtas Joint Committee
Rapporteur

to a genealogical heritage is a significant theme running right through this report which, given the ongoing opposition to this fundamental principle by some vested interests, is a testament to the tenacity, in-depth knowledge and political skill of the Rapporteur. So nearly a decade later, this Society's unique and innovative vision for the future of Irish genealogy has, once again, been fully vindicated and supported by yet another Oireachtas (Irish Parliament) Committee. At the launch in the Houses of the Oireachtas, the Chairperson of the Joint Committee, Michael McCarthy, TD, said: "Today the world is more globalized and interconnected than ever before. For this reason, it is vital that we, as legislators, remain cognisant of the importance of our cultural and historical ties". He said that it was the Committee's hope that "this report encourages people, both at home and abroad, to engage with Irish cultural and genealogical resources" and that it believes "that the 37 recommenda-

tions contained in the report can assist in supporting genealogical innovation and research in Ireland." On behalf of the Joint Committee he thanked all those who appeared before the Committee and he encouraged the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to consider this report and its recommendations carefully for future genealogy policy. The Rapporteur for the Committee, Deputy Catherine Murphy said "this report follows a significant consultation process between the committee members and a wide cross section of representatives from interested parties within the cultural & genealogical sector." Deputy Murphy significantly pointed out that "one of the fundamental points within the report is that public records must be seen as public goods and we should therefore be making them more easily available by simplifying access for the end user – whether that person chooses to pursue their research alone or through a commercial entity." Turing to the critical need for investment Deputy Murphy said "one point that was universally raised from all sides of the debate, and which is emphasised in this report, is the urgent need for investment in our cultural institutions and that will be critical if we are to maximise our cultural and genealogical heritage." The report is available to read or to download on the Oireachtas website www.oireachtas.ie and a link to the report is also available on the Society's website.

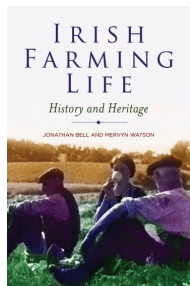
GSI Archives & Research Centre

The launch of the Joint Oireachtas Committee's report 'Maximising our Cultural and Genealogical Heritage' is an important milestone in the development of genealogical services in Ireland. The report supported the proposal for a 'National Diaspora & Genealogy Centre', however, the government has since abandoned such plans. Although this came as a great disappointment to many, not least, to those who supported the plans by Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company for such a national centre. Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, which will soon

take over the governance of the Harbour, also supported this wonderful proposal, however, in the absence of government funding there is uncertainty about the viability of the proposal. The Harbour Company and the County Council are fortunate to already have Dún Laoghaire firmly placed on the map internationally as a location with a vibrant publicly accessible genealogical research facility at the Carlisle Pier. This facility operated by this Society, provides the essential elements which offer unrivalled potential to the area to establish a diaspora and genealogy centre in Dún

Laoghaire. Indeed, this Society presented a detailed proposal to the County Council in November 2013 for the use of the old Carnegie Library as a site for an 'Irish Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies incorporating a Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies'. With no decision yet on the future use of the old Carnegie Library and the prospect of Dún Laoghaire welcoming around 100,000 cruise visitors this year, the Society stands ready to work with the Harbour Company and the County Council in the establishment of the above facility.

Irish Farming Life—*History and Heritage*



'*Irish Farming Life - History and Heritage*' by **Jonathan Bell** and **Mervyn Watson** published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-531-6 : 224pp : p/bk : Price €22.45 on-line) examines Irish rural society and in particular, its basic social unit, the family farm. This is a social history of Irish rural life over the past 250

years or so and, as such, its importance to the genealogist and local historian is clearly evident. Although the numbers involved in agriculture and indeed, the rural population in general, have been declining all through the past 150 years, we all trace our roots back firmly to the land. Whether this be Patrick Kavanagh's stony grey soil of Monaghan, the rugged wilderness of Connemara or the lush rolling plains of Meath, it's all the same, as they say, it's in the blood. Understanding rural life and, especially its interwoven and often complex, social networks and contested spaces, is difficult for the outsider irrespective of our ancestral links to its people, places and their past. Bell and Watson have shone a light into this past, researched its history and revealed its heritage in a very accessible and wonderfully engaging manner. The authors draw on the extensive research undertaken by folklorists, anthropologists, social historians

and, of course, local historians. They also used the uniquely personal and wonderfully revealing observations of writers, poets, painters, photographers and filmmakers who crafted a special narrative of Irish country life. The tone is clearly set in the title of the opening chapter 'Country People Talking' which is essentially an examination of the oral history of rural Ireland collected professionally by folklorists, but not exclusively so as is shown by their quotation from Quentin Crisp on the Irish lads he met in London. Chapter two studies the most complex of units, the 'Irish family' and its relationship with place and neighbours. The structure of the family through patriarchy, matriarchy, marriage, work and social obligations is explored with empathy and occasionally humour. Chapter three deals with 'The neighbours' and explores the tensions, conflicts, social supports, mutual dependency, socialising and, interestingly exposes the rivalries and class structures that would be otherwise oblivious to the outsider. Chapter four is of particular interest to the social historian as it looks at the world of servants and farm labourers, the latter could be casual or seasonal and thus precariously low in the social hierarchy of rural Ireland. The working relationship between farmers and their labourers, especially migrant labourer, is examined with a clarity that is very telling of a world of exploitation, bitterness and often, open conflict. But that is not to say that it was the only narrative, friendships, loyalty and much more besides often marked the rural employer / employee

relationship, especially when it came to house servants of the more substantial landowners. Chapter five explores the uniquely rural sense of belonging and the search for authenticity in the narrative of the 'real Irish' community, the bedrock of the nation. The authors treat this subject, as they do with the other chapters throughout the book, by examining philosophical approaches to our understanding of anthropological questions. This undoubtedly is one of the great strengths of this book. Chapter six looks at horse ploughing matches as important communal events, forging and strengthening local identities. Chapter seven explores our attempts to hold onto the rural identities, traditions and lore as a vitally important aspect of our heritage to be celebrated, studied and, where appropriate, exploited to the benefit of our modern rural economy through tourism. The establishment of heritage centres, interpretative centres and agricultural or country life museums may bring a sense of rural life to the city dweller or overseas visitor, however, the authors of this book have gone much further. Through this extremely well researched and highly readable study, Bell and Watson, open up the history and heritage of Irish rural life not as a mere rustic journey tinged with nostalgia but by revealing its complexities, its contradictions, its strengths and, unfortunately, the fragility of its narrative. The book is lavishly illustrated throughout with wonderful photographs, and to assist further study, copious notes and an excellent bibliography. **MM**

Précis of the March Lecture—*American Records*

The March 2015 lecture by **Maura Flood, MGSi**, on the topic '*Researching Irish emigrants in the USA*' certainly opened up scores of new avenues for research. It was emphasised in the talk the importance of being familiar with the main records of our diaspora particularly for those who are involved in genealogy research and advice. This talk went some way in fulfilling this need discussing US records. Approximately 33.3 million reported Irish ancestry in the US in 2013. A brief outline of the US Censuses was given with sample forms particularly those which give details of citizenship and naturalisation and where the Censuses can be accessed. Details in births, marriages and deaths (BMDs) and the years covered varies from State to State. There are some newspaper notices for BMDs but these tend to be from the higher social classes. Church records usually start earlier than BMDs but again it is necessary to determine the

church and where the records are currently kept. Passenger Lists were discussed and it was recommended that Ancestry.com should be the first port of call when looking up these lists. Passenger Lists from UK Ports are on FindMyPast. Naturalisation records should not be overlooked even though an ancestor may not have been naturalised. The three step process of naturalisation was explained and how to identify where the records are kept. The best websites for Irish American newspapers were briefly outlined. The applications for headstones could be used to determine if an ancestor's headstone has been recorded. The websites for historical maps were mentioned and how to find out if street names and boundaries have changed and also using historical maps with Google Earth. Other records were also mentioned and in particular the Emigrant Savings Bank in New York and the Information Wanted Advertisements. Message Boards should not be over-

looked particularly on Ancestry.com. The various books, guides, blogs and magazines should be referred to in undertaking research in the US. The talk ended demonstrating the important links with our diaspora and how such a small country as ours should be proud to have these connections with so many people particularly coming up to St Patrick's Day. The lecture was followed by a lively Q&A session where Members shared their research experiences. Maura Flood, GSI Education Officer, may be contacted at: magzerflood@eircom.net

INDEX TO THE GAZETTE

All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor back to 1996 have been fully indexed by **Brendan Hall, MGSi** and they are available in pdf format to read or to download or to read *free of charge* on the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

Operational Plan Adopted



Following on from a very successful information gathering trip to the HQ of the European Union by Tom Conlon (pictured left) and Tony O'Hara, Tom prepared and presented a detailed 'Operational Plan' to the Board at its April Meeting. The plan aims to position the Society to achieve its many goals set out in the '*GSI Development Plan, 2015-2020*' which was adopted in November 2014 and came into operation on January 1st 2015. Although, the main objective of the Society is to secure a suitable and permanent home for its expanding Archive and Research Centre, the '*Operational*

Plan (No. 1), 2015-2020' (Res: 15/04/1163) also sets out goals for increasing the membership, greatly enhancing our profile nationally and internationally and, very importantly, sustaining this growth into the future. Drawing upon his extensive business and professional experience in the financial services sector, Tom presented a challenging and ambitious plan that seeks to harness the wealth of expertise available to the Society at Board level and throughout the Society. Recognising the potential of this type of detailed forward planning, the Board now envisages similar 'operational plans' being developed for other areas of the Society's many activities. Indeed, the new governance structure under the '*GSI Development Plan 2020-2015*' envisages a much more effective and efficient delivery of the Society's many services.

IRISH LIVES REMEMBERED

The current issue of Ireland's FREE digital e-Magazine '*Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy*' which is dedicated to helping people trace their Irish Ancestry globally is available free of charge to read or to download on www.irishlivesremembered.com There is a small charge to read past issues.



CARE FOR YOUR RECORDS

In the course of our research we amass a huge amount of paper and computer records. We love these records, we've worked hard to collect them. Books, photographs, charts, notes, certificates, parish register and census transcripts. Have you made provision for the preservation of your records after you die? Don't let your hard work end up as landfill or your books to be sold off. **PLEASE** make provision in your Will to have them donated to the care of the Society's Archives for future generations of researchers. *Please Will Your Society Well—add that codicil today. Thanks!*

James Scannell Reports...

EXHIBITION

Midland - Lár Tire: Cycling the MGWR from Past to Present, is the third and most comprehensive in a series of exhibitions, which involved the artist cycling the entire route of the old railway network, the former Midland Great Western Railway (MGWR). This multimedia installation, which runs until 24th May, is in the National Photographic Archive in Meeting House Square, Temple Bar, Dublin 2. It consists of photographs, audio clips, maps, video, notebooks and sculptural work.

PLUNKETTS OF PORTMARNOCK

On Tuesday April 28th Alan Costello will present a lecture on 'The Plunketts of Portmarnock', the story of a local family of long, most famous for their brickworks represented in many Portmarnock structures, at 20.00hrs to the Howth Peninsula Heritage Society in the Howth Angling Centre, West Pier, Howth, Co. Dublin. All welcome – visitors €5.

THE ULSTER CANAL

Work is expected to commence this month on a 2.5km stretch of the Ulster Canal from the Shannon-erne waterway to the International Scout Centre near Belturbet, Co. Cavan. This is the first stage in a cross border project aimed at revitalising this abandoned 74kn waterway. The canal which runs through counties Armagh, Tyrone, Fermanagh and Monaghan. It was built in the 19th century by landowners to connect

Lough Neagh, the Erne basin and the Shannon system. But it was a commercial failure due to a combination of navigation problems and water supply and this led to the collapse of the Lagan Navigation Company. The canal was closed in 1931.

COUNTDOWN TO 1916

On Thursday April 16th Dr. Fearghal McGarry will present his lecture 'Countdown to 1916' at 8 p.m. to the Bray Cualann Historical Society in the Bray Chamber of Commerce House, 10 Prince of Wales Tce., Quinsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome – admission €4.

DUBLIN BAY – HISTORY AND ENVIRONMENT

On Wednesday April 29th the Dublin Port Company will host 'Dublin Bay – History and Environment', a one day conference to mark the 300th anniversary of Dublin Port, from 08.45hrs to 16.00hrs in The Gibson Hotel, Point Village, Dublin 1. Tickets are €25 / €20 Students/ Senior Citizens/ Unwaged. Book online at www.dublinbayconference.org – places are limited and allocated on a first-come basis.

RMS LUSITANIA SINKING

On Thursday May 7th James Scannell will present an RMS Lusitania Centenary lecture – 'The Last Voyage of the RMS Lusitania' at 11.30hrs in Bray Library, Eglinton Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome – admission free.

KATE O'BRIEN

On Thursday May 7th Dr. Eibhear Walsh will present a lecture on 'The Embrace of Love: the censoring of Kate O'Brien' at 18.30hrs in The National Print Museum, Garrison Chapel, Beggars Bush Barracks, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Admission free, booking essential by email on info@nationalprintmuseum.ie.

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY GROUP DAY

Between 10.00hrs and 13.00hrs on Saturday May 9th Dublin City Library and Archive, 138 –144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2, will hold its annual Local History Society Group Day during which four lectures will be presented. All welcome – admission free.

GSJ ANNUAL JOURNAL

The Editor of the Society's Annual Journal, Ms. Caitlín Ní Chonghaile is currently finalising this year's volume which is due out this month. Fully paid up Members will receive copies by mail as part of the Membership Package, however, if you would like to pick up your copy at the GSI Archives & Research Centre instead, please advise Barry O'Connor on Membership@familyhistory.ie

New Cathaoirleach Elected



Mr. Gerry Hayden, MGSI, the newly elected Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of the Society received his Chain of Office from the President of the Society, Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, at the Society's AGM held on 10th March 2015. Gerry Hayden succeeds Mr. John Hamrock, MGSI, who stepped down after five years on the Board. (Pictured from left, John Hamrock, Gerry Hayden and the Society's President, Stuart Rosenblatt. Photo by

Aiden Feerick). Gerry takes the helm at a time of great challenges and opportunities for the Society, however, with an experienced and hugely energetic Board, this offers enormous potential for development. The Board structure has changed to facilitate a greater use of non-executive officers to deliver specific services and functions. It is envisaged that each of the Directors, with the exception of the Cathaoirleach and the Director of Finance, will have an oversight and reporting function for an area covered by a non-executive officer. Currently the non-executive officers include: Séamus O'Reilly (Irish DNA Atlas), Fiona Tipple (Senior Librarian), Maura Flood (Education), Stan Zamyatin (Heraldry & Vexillology), Ingrid McIlwain (Social Inclusion & GSI Social Club); Caitlín Ní Chonghaile (GSI Journal & Oifigeach na Gaeilge), John Hamrock (Irish Diaspora) and Gerard Corcoran (Genetic Genealogy Conference). We wish Gerry and his team every success.

IRISH DNA ATLAS PROJECT

The Irish DNA Atlas is a collaborative academic research project undertaken by Dr. Gianpiero Cavalleri of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI) and the Society. The main objectives are (1) to further our knowledge of the population history of Ireland and (2) to help us understand how genes influence health in Ireland. Whilst the scientific data is provided by Dr. Cavalleri's team at the RCSI, the project also has an academic historian, Dr. Daren McGuffigan, who specialises in Irish medieval history. This academic collaboration ensures that the scientific data provided by the RCSI is interpreted in a manner that properly places it in a historical context based on extant sources and in relation to historical or archaeological published research. Participants are sought from across the island of Ireland and from overseas who can trace each of their eight great-grandparents to the same general area of Ireland. Participants are requested to present a Birth Brief (Pedigree Chart) and to provide a DNA sample (kit provided) for analysis. Participants may be male or female with ancestry from any part of Ireland. If you are interested in participating or have a query about participating, please contact Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI by e-mail on Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

GSJ MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 6th 2014. It was agreed under Res: 14/11/126 to keep the cost of the Annual Subscription for 2015 for Irish and Overseas Members at €40.00. The Membership Package for 2014 includes the following: Member voting rights; optional second household adult member (18 years or over); Membership Certificate [Res: 11/09/859]; right to use GSI post-nominal; copy of the Annual Journal; monthly newsletter by e-mail; use of the Society's Archive; monthly meetings/lectures; special prices of up to 50% off selected Society publications; right to register your own assumed Arms or emblems with the Society free of charge; right to have your Club, School or Institutions assumed Arms or emblems registered with the Society free of charge to a maximum of ten registrations; occasional group projects; Members' internet forum (under construction); genealogical, heraldic and vexillological advice; and the facility to publish your

research in the GSI Journal. Special Membership concessions on products and services obtained, from time to time, by the Society. The Board also agreed to provide a number of concessionary rates at €20.00 for persons under 25 years of age and persons attending recognised genealogy courses etc. For mature students evidence of enrolment on such courses may be required, at any stage, by the Director of Membership Services, Mr. Barry O'Connor, FGSI. This Membership Package shall be applied as and from January 1st 2015 and be subject to annual review, however, existing Membership Packages shall be honored until their annual renewal date. NOTE: In accordance with Res: 10/09/785 all Membership Packages fall due for renewal on the anniversary of joining—please check your Membership Certificate. Apply for membership on-line at www.familyhistory.ie or if you prefer, download the membership application form and forward it with the required remittance to:

Mr. Billy Saunderson, MGSI, Director of Finance, 'Suzkar', Killiney Avenue, Killiney, Co. Dublin, Ireland. *New Members are always very welcome!*

MEMBERSHIP OF GSI BRANCHES

The Board of Directors has set the Annual Subscription rates for membership (associate) of either *Heraldry Ireland* or *Vexillology Ireland* is €20.00 per annum to include a biannual electronic newsletter and the free registration of Arms in respect of *Heraldry Ireland* and of flags or emblems in respect of *Vexillology Ireland*. Members of the following organisations shall be entitled to a 50% reduction in the Annual Subscription to each (i) Genealogical Society of Ireland; (ii) National Maritime Institute of Ireland and (iii) individual members of Clan/Sept Associations registered with Clans of Ireland and, in the case of *Vexillology Ireland*, individual members of the registered member organisations of FIAV—the International Federation of Vexillological Associations which represents fifty similar organisations in around thirty countries.

For further details on these new GSI branches see the following websites: www.heraldryireland.com or for *Vexillology Ireland* checkout the following website: www.flagsireland.wordpress.com

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND**Board of Directors 2015-2016**

Gerry Hayden (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Tony O'Hara** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice-Chair, Archival Services, RF:- *Education Services*); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary, Company Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor, RF:- *Oifigeach na Gaeilge*); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (An Daonchartlann Foundation, Philanthropy, RF:- *Social Inclusion and GSI Social Club*); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach Programme, GSI Exhibitions, Building & Utilities, Health & Safety Officer); **Tom Conlon** (Internet Services, Sales and Marketing); **Barry O'Connor** (Membership Services and Cemetery Projects, RF:- *Vexillological & Heraldic Services*); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme, RF:- *Publications, including the Annual Journal*). [Note: 'RF' signifies a 'reporting function' for a Non-Executive Officer assigned to this function].

JOIN ON-LINE
www.familyhistory.ie

**DIARY DATES**

Tuesday April 14th 2015 & May 12th 2015
Evening Open Meeting

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute
Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire
20.00hrs—22.00hrs
www.dfei.ie

Wednesday April 22nd 2015 & May 27th 2015
Morning Open Meeting

Hardy's Bar, Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire
10.30hrs—12.30hrs
www.royalmarine.ie
Contribution €3.00 p.p.
(Coffee/Tea included at Morning Meetings)

The Irish Citizen Army

'*The Irish Citizen Army*' by **Ann Mathews**, published by Mercier Press. When one talks about the 1916 Easter Rising in Dublin, it's easy to forget that the Irish Volunteers was not the only organisation that took part as it was augmented by the Irish Citizen Army which had been created in 1913 during the 1913 Lockout to defend the workers taking part in the wake of the infamous Sackville Street baton charge. This book is a compressive and balanced account of the Irish Citizen Army from its formation in 1913 to its importance in the 1916 Rising and its continued existence up to the 1940s when it ceased to exist. The initial role of the Irish Citizen Army was that of a defence corps during the 1913 Lockout but under the leadership of James Connolly, it became far more militant and republican in outlook with Connolly actively making plans for a revolution at a time when the Irish Republican Brotherhood was also making its own plans for the Easter Rising. Fearful that Connolly would pre-empt the IRB plans, the IRB opted to invite to take part in the Rising and it was during five days in January 1916 when Connolly was nowhere to be found, he was in fact engaged in discussions with the IRB who convinced him to join with the Irish Volunteers and was there afterwards actively involved in the planning of the Rising. During the Rising itself, the Irish Citizen Army was actively engaged in three locations – St. Stephen's Green, the Royal College of Surgeons, and City Hall with the author providing an in-depth account of their activities at them. Author Ann Mathews also challenges some tradition details of the Rising by providing alternative sources which claim that the 1916 Proclamation was not printed in Liberty Hall but in a building beside it, that the Proclamation was read out in front of the GRP by Tom Clarke and not Patrick Pearse and that the last headquarters of the rebels was not 16 Moore Street but somewhere between Nos. 21 and 25. The book also comes complete with a number of detail lists including – Irish Citizen Army Membership 1916, with 363 members listed by Army No., Surname, First Name, Address, and Position during 1916 Rising (where known); and the following lists in a similar format, ICA Boy Scouts 1916; Women's Section ICA, 1916; Female Members of the South Dublin Unit, 1920–1923; Members from the War of Independence Period to the Civil War - 123 members listed and Where Imprisoned during the Civil War; Women in the ICA - Post 1916 the Irish Citizens Army admitted women to the army on an equal basis and this table indicates the years that women were full members of the army and the position they worked after the fall of the Four Courts, Dublin, in July 1922. This list compiled in the late 1930s, is an indication of how, when women married, their former identities almost disappeared. Women in this table are listed by Name, Maiden Name, Membership Dates, and Where Located between 28 June 1922 – 5 July 1922. The decline of the ICA began in the years after the 1916 Rising and although kept alive by veterans in the 1920 and 1930s, the organisation finally ceased to exist in the early 1940s. This book is a fascinating and engrossing history of an organisation which played a significant part in the 1916 Rising and compliments the various titles from other authors published by Mercier Press dealing with different aspects of the 1916 Rising, War of Independence and Civil War. **James Scannell**

PARKING AT DFEI

Members are advised that car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute** are very limited, especially during the college terms. The most convenient 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. It will make parking easier for all. Ask at the meeting. For details on the Institute checkout www.dfei.ie

STUDENT MEMBERSHIP

The Society offers a 50% reduction on the standard membership rate for students and young researchers under 25 years of age. Persons taking adult education courses in genealogy can avail of a similar 50% reduction—that's right, for just €20.00. This is full membership of the Society. Evidence of enrolment for the courses concerned may be requested by the Director of Membership Services. See GSI website.

**FOUR COURTS PRESS**

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Checkout the new catalogue

LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues April 14th 2015 – Sheila O'Donnell; on 'Ancestry.com'. **Tues May 12th 2015** 'Family Crests' by Tom Mullins. **Tues. June 9th 2015** 'DMP Casualties during the War of Independence - Part 2' by James Scannell. **VENUE: Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**, Cumberland St., Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Directions see: www.familyhistory.ie **Séamus Moriarty**, FGSI, Director, GSI Lecture Programme, welcomes feedback on these lectures. Details on future lectures to be published next month.

EXCLUSIVE DISCOUNTS

Members of the Society are entitled to the following discounts on on-line genealogical products. Whilst access to these resources is free to members at *An Daonchartlann*, it is also recommended that members avail of these discounts to have access from their own homes. **Findmypast Ireland** www.findmypast.ie offer a huge 50% discount and the **Irish Newspaper Archives** www.irishnewspaperarchive.com offer an excellent 25% discount to GSI members. The British based **flatcapsandbonnets.com** provide a 20% discount on their range of DVDs. GSI Members get 40% off the first month's subscription for the **Forces War Records** database, which normally costs UK£8.95 for 28 days, for just UK£5.00. To avail of these discounts please contact Barry O'Connor on membership@familyhistory.ie

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 latest edition of 'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'. Please checkout the website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €22.99 [RRP].

FREE RESEARCH ADVICE

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archives and Research Centre at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire, is open each Wednesday from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs (except 4th Weds. open at 13.00hrs) and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 17.00hrs. Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice** to visitors. The use of the Society's extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is available for €5.00 and payable on-line at the GSI website. Resources freely available to GSI members include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records, Newspapers.com, the British Newspaper Archives and the Irish Newspaper Archives. Travelling to the facility is best by public transport as both Dublin Bus (nos. 7, 7A, 8, 46A and 75) and the DART (suburban rail) are nearby. Pay-n-display parking at Dún Laoghaire Harbour area. See: www.familyhistory.ie

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