



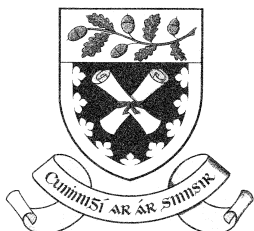
## Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News &amp; Events



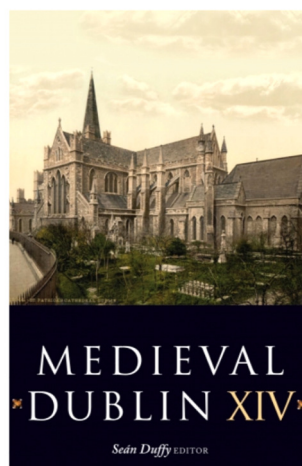
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## Medieval Dublin XIV

What better way to wish a 'Happy St. Patrick's Day' to all of our readers at home and overseas than to introduce the latest edition of 'Medieval Dublin' edited by Seán Duffy. Very fittingly, the current edition has a photograph of Dublin's majestic St. Patrick's Cathedral taken circa 1900. This is one of Dublin's two cathedrals, both in the ownership of the Church of Ireland. The Roman Catholic Church has St. Mary's Church on Marlborough Street as its Pro-Cathedral. These church buildings are extremely important examples of the ecclesiastical architectural heritage of our capital city. St. Patrick's dates from 1220 and it's the National Cathedral of the Church of Ireland, which is a member of the international Anglican communion of churches. Dublin has an older cathedral, Christ Church, founded around 1028 when King Sitric Silkenbeard, the Hiberno-Norse king of Dublin, made a pilgrimage to Rome. Indeed, Gwendolyn Sheldon explores the subject of the conversion of the Vikings of Dublin in the latest issue of 'Medieval Dublin', which is described as follows by the publishers: 'This volume contains reports on a



number of important archaeological excavations in the Dublin area in recent years, including Claire Walsh's discovery of a medieval property plot at Back Lane, which contained the remains of Hiberno-Norse and Anglo-Norman houses; Alan Hayden's investigation of the medieval riverine environment in Temple Bar with vital insights into the depth and course of the Liffey in centuries gone by; and Linzi Simpson's works on the grounds of St Patrick's Cathedral, which uncovered parts of the medieval nave, including the south wall and original floor.

Also of note: Matthew Stout reconsiders the evidence for Dublin's situation vis-à-vis the road network of ancient Ireland; Patrick Wallace discusses the role of women in Viking-Age Dublin; Ian Riddler and Nicola Trzaska-Nartowski reassess the significance of a very early comb excavated in Temple Bar, examining its significance for the early settlement of Dublin; Lenore Fischer explores a little-known literary source for the Battle of Clontarf; and Geraldine Stout analyses the role of Dublin's great Cistercian abbey, St Mary's in Oxmantown, in the market economy of the Fingal area in particular'. By the way, the appendices are of particular interest to the genealogist and those with Dublin roots. **Happy St. Patrick's Day to All Lovers of Medieval Dublin!**

'Medieval Dublin XIV - Proceedings of the Friends of Medieval Dublin symposium 2012' edited by Seán Duffy ISBN: 978-1-84682-499-9 : 312pp : ill. : Price €22.45. (Four Courts Press, Dublin, 2014).

## NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday March 10th 2015** at 20.00hrs in the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute, Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire. AGM. Please see over leaf.

## National Diaspora Centre

Last month's *Gazette* stressed this Society's support for the bid by Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company to have the long promised National Diaspora Centre located in Dún Laoghaire. On February 17th the Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, TD, announced that he had advised the Government that he does not propose to proceed with the development of a National Diaspora Centre as a tourism project. He highlighted the importance and value of engaging local communities across the country. A single National Diaspora Centre was not

considered by the Minister to be 'the most appropriate way to present the history and legacy of Ireland's diaspora over the centuries'. Meanwhile, it has been reported (*Irish Times* 5th March 2015) that the Co. Tyrone born former Chief Executive of Coca Cola, Mr. Neville Isdell, plans to invest €12 million in his CHQ complex in Dublin to build 'Epic Ireland' an interactive, emigration-themed museum which he hopes will attract 400,000 visitors annually. The government's announcement came a bitter disappointment for those involved in the Harbour Company's bid. Such a facility would

have been a welcome boost to the heritage assets of Dún Laoghaire. However, this Society presented a detailed proposal to Dún Laoghaire Rathdown 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'. Contrary to some reports, the County Council has not made any decision as to the future use of the old Carnegie Library. The government's announcement may well bring a new focus to the Council's decision.

## Annual Report of the Board of Directors

The following is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited adopted by the Board at its meeting of March 5<sup>th</sup> 2015 under *Res: 15/03/1174*. As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM, however, the Annual Financial Report is for the period ending December 31, 2014. The Board of the Society met twelve times during the year to deal with the day-to-day business of the Society. In addition to attending these meetings each of the directors undertook duties associated with their various portfolios including organising eleven Morning Open Meetings and twelve Evening Open Meetings, the latter with guest speakers arranged by the Director of the GSI Lecture Programme. In addition to the Annual Journal for 2014 (the 2015 issue will be out in April 2015) the Society published twelve issues of its newsletter 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' and its readership figures continued to be very strong throughout the year especially on-line where it was available in pdf format. The newsletter has been central to all the Society's legislative campaigns. The Society's Archives and Research Centre – *An Daonchartlann* – located at the Carlisle Pier, Dún Laoghaire, was extremely busy throughout the year providing access to the Society's collections and assisting visitors with family history research queries. The facility was open on Wednesdays from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs with the exception of the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month when it opened at 13.00hrs and each Saturday from 14.00hrs to 17.30hrs. It was open all through Heritage Week. The Society continues to campaign for the establishment of an 'Irish Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies – incorporating a Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies' in Dún Laoghaire, however, the news that the Government has decided not to proceed with the building of a state funded 'National Diaspora Centre' was disappointing. The Society will continue to work with the Dún Laoghaire Harbour Company and the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council on its own

proposal. The Society's Outreach Policy involved the Society's participation in a number of exhibitions, including the *Back to Our Past* event at the RDS and several others around the country, both in Northern Ireland and in the Republic. The Society has stands at various community festivals and local history events. The Society is a member of FIAV – the *International Federation of Vexillological Associations* and the Society's Director of Genealogical and Heraldic Services attended conferences in Poland and visited the Czech Republic. The Society's two branches, Vexillology Ireland and Heraldry Ireland, continue to deal with these specific aspects of the Society's many and varied activities. Vexillology Ireland, through a donation of a collection of flags from Charles Ashburner in Wales, provided a donation of flags for erection throughout the town of Dún Laoghaire with the assistance of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council in preparation for the World Cup and the tourist season. The Society's website, our Facebook page and Twitter account continue to be valuable components in the promotion of the activities of the Society, its legislative campaigns and Irish genealogy in general. The Society's website now provides indexes to the Society's Journals from 1992 to 2014 and to 'Ireland's Genealogical Gazette' from 2006 to 2014 and, although work is continuing on the provision of a Digital Archive, the Society's monthly newsletters from 1996. The on-line resources available at the Society's Archives and Research Centre have been greatly expanded. The work is on-going to fully catalogue the Society's collections and indexes to a number of these collections have been made available on-line. The *Irish DNA Atlas Project*, operated in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland has continued to produce very interesting and promising data for this unique academic genetic genealogy research project. With the assistance of Science Foundation Ireland a PhD student has been recruited by the RCSI for the project. The Society welcomed and endorsed the

*National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland* in June 2014 and adopted a 'Genealogy in Schools' programme in December 2014. The Society inaugurated a new President in December 2014, Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, who succeeded Mr. Rory Stanley, FGSI, following the expiry of his five year term of office. A new coat of arms for the President has been ordered from the International Association of Amateur Heraldry. In November 2014, the Society adopted a new *Development Plan* covering the period January 2015 to December 2020 to replace the plan adopted in 2010. The new plan has many exciting and challenging features. As part of the new plan the Members will be asked at the 2015 Annual General Meeting to place a cap of ten on the numbers of persons that can be Directors of the Society at any one time. In addition to the above, the outgoing Board dealt with matters relating to the Society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies; The Wheel; Integrating Ireland and such matters relating to the Society's Sectoral Representation on the Strategic Policy Committee on the Environment, Culture and Community of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. The Board also complied with its statutory obligations in respect of the *Companies Acts 1963-2013*, its position as a Registered Charity and as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann. *Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI, General Secretary / Company Secretary*

### AGENDA

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Matters Arising
3. Directors' Annual Report (*published above*)
4. Annual Financial Report
5. Resolution (*see page 3*)
6. Election of the Board for 2015/2016
7. Installation of Cathaoirleach
8. Guest Speaker followed by Q & A.

## Précis of the February Lecture—*The Comerfords*

Former journalist with *The People* newspaper, Wexford and the Foreign Desk at the *Irish Times*, but currently a lecturer at the Church of Ireland Theological Institute, spoke at our open meeting held on Tuesday 10th February. The title of his talk was '*The Comerfords in Ireland: Disentangling Myths and Legends to Find True Origins*'. It was an excellent lecture and for those not fortunate enough to be present there is a transcript of this talk on Google by keying in Patrick Comerford and the lecture title. From his experiences separating myth from reality in the Comerford family history he makes a chastening comment which genealogists would be well advised to remember: 'There is a good rule for historians: seek primary sources. And it is a good rule for genealogists to seek to trace your family tree for yourself. Do not accept as fact anything you have been told without seeking to test and verify it'. He arrived at this conclusion when seeking to test a history of the Comer-

fords published privately in 1902 by his great grandfather which had claimed a link with the town of Comerford, near Lichfield in Staffordshire. This theory had no basis in evidence and another suggestion that that they were of Norman origin, arriving in England with William the Conqueror in 1066 and to Ireland in 1189 was equally fanciful. These he considered romantic legends embellished over the centuries with no supporting evidence. Fanciful genealogies were common among the old English in the south east. Kilkenny to this day is the heart land of the Comerford name, among them is the Kilkenny hurler Martin Comerford. He notes that early sources in Co Kilkenny refer to a Quemerford name, only becoming Comerford in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. He has identified Quemerford in Wiltshire as most likely for the origins of the Comerfords and notes that it may not be coincidental that the name died out in England at the same time as it was first recorded in Kilkenny in

the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Initially involved as managers and administrators for the Butlers the family prospered and branches were to be found from Galway to Cork, as well as Dublin. An important element in their success could well be that they managed to straddle the religious divide with representatives in the Catholic and Protestant camps. The talk was followed by a question and answers session and among the audience was former government minister Martin Mansergh, whose own family have Comerford connections. *Seamus Moriarty, FGSI*

### 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## Tom Conlon Elected



Congratulations to our Director of Internet Services, Tom Conlon, MSc, MGSi, (left) who was elected to serve on the Community Development, Culture & Positive Ageing Strategic Policy Committee of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Tom will serve on this important local government policy committee until 2019 and his election builds on this Society's sixteen years of service to the community on the County Council's SPCs. Tom was first elected to the Board of the Gene-

alogical Society of Ireland in 2010 and has served as Director of Finance and currently as Director of Internet Services. Tom, along with Stanislav Zamyatin, represented the Society in 2013 at the *25th International Congress of Vexillology* in Rotterdam where the Society was elected to membership of the prestigious international body, FIAV. Tom has a great interest in local history and is currently undertaking research on the history of Dún Laoghaire (formerly Kingstown) which he intends publishing. Later this month Tom will represent the Society at meetings in Brussels. We wish Tom every success on the SPC over the next four and a half years.

### 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](http://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...

### THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

On Wednesday March 11<sup>th</sup> James Scannell will present his lecture 'Too Many Bags in the Boat: the 1876 Kingstown Lifeboat Accident' at 18.30hrs to the Old Dublin Society in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Admission free – all welcome. This will be followed on Wednesday March 25<sup>th</sup> by a 18.30hrs lecture in the same venue Dr. Thomas Morrissey S.J. on 'Laurence O'Neill, Lord Mayor of Dublin from 1917 to 1924: Patriot and Man of Peace'. All welcome – admission free. This is the final lecture in the Old Dublin Society Spring programme.

### CABINTEELY HOUSE

As part of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council *Spring Into Heritage* programme, free guided tours of Cabinteely House, Cabinteely Park, Cabinteely, Co. Dublin, will take place on Tuesdays from Tuesday March 10<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. Tours are 60 minutes and take place on the hour from 11.00hrs to 14.00hrs 30 people maximum per tour. Limited wheelchair access – please phone 087-2265013 in

advance if you require wheelchair access. Meet at the front of Cabinteely House.

### HISTORY OF DUBLIN BAY

On Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> the Dublin Port Company will host 'Dublin Bay – History and Environment' a one day conference to mark the 300<sup>th</sup> 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 on-line at [www.dublinbayconference.org](http://www.dublinbayconference.org) – places are limited and allocated on a first-come basis.

### BRAY CUALANN HIST. SOC.

On Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup>, Arklow local historian and author Jim Rees will present his lecture 'The Life and Times of Robert Halpin, a Mariner from Wicklow' at 20.00hrs to the Bray Cualann Historical Society in Bray Chamber of Commerce House, 10 Quinsboro Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome – admission €4.

### MARLAY HOUSE

As part of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council *Spring Into Heritage* pro-

gramme, free guided tours of Marlay House, Marlay Park, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin, will take place on Thursdays from Thursday March 12<sup>th</sup> to Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup>. Tours are 60 minutes and take place on the hour from 11.00hrs to 14.00hrs. 30 people maximum per tour. Limited wheelchair access – please phone 087-2265013 in advance if you require wheelchair access. Meet on the front steps of Marlay House.

### MONKSTOWN CASTLE

On Wednesday March 18<sup>th</sup> Dr. Séamus Cannon & Emlyn Cullen will present their lecture at 20.00hrs on 'The History of Monkstown Castle to the Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Admission €3.50 / Retired €2.

### 1913 LOCKOUT TAPESTRY

The 1913 Lockout Tapestry will be on view until March 28<sup>th</sup> in the Dublin Room at Dublin City Library and Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin, Monday to Thursday 10.00hrs to 20.00hrs and on Friday and Saturday 10.00hrs to 17.00hrs Admission free.

## Resolution for the Annual General Meeting

In November 2014, the Society adopted a new *Development Plan* covering the period January 2015 to December 2020 to replace the plan adopted in 2010. As part of the new plan the Members will be asked at the AGM to place a cap of ten on the numbers of persons that can be Directors of the Society at any one time. To facilitate this reduction and to ensure that there would be no impact on the level of services provided by the Society, the plan envisages a greater use of non-executive positions whereby, officeholders would report through designated Directors to the Board. This has worked very successfully in the past for the positions of Genealogical Director of the *Irish DNA Atlas Project*, Chief Librarian and the Joint Editors of the Society's Annual Journal. The Board believes that this new structure will enhance the opportunities for Members to participate in the running of the Society. It also streamlines the organisational structures of the Society in a manner that provides for a greater efficiencies

and a more focussed strategic management of the Society. This is very important as several key challenges exist for the Board, not least the securing of a suitable premises for the Society and the funding of the organisation. The text of Motion is as follows: "That, this Annual General Meeting endorses the proposal by the Board of Directors of the Society to cap the numbers of persons that can be elected or appointed to serve on the Board of Directors at ten persons at any one time, including the four designated positions of Cathaoirleach, Leas-Chathaoirleach, General Secretary and Director of Finance and up to six other Directors who shall receive their portfolios at the first meeting of the newly elected Board. In addition, this Annual General Meeting agrees to establish six as the number of Directors required to constitute a quorum and that Standing Orders shall be amended accordingly." This will be decided by a ballot of the Members present at the AGM and entitled to vote (fully paid up only).

## 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. Darren McGettigan, 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](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Also, check-out the project newsletter on the GSI website.

## GSI MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Review of the Membership Package was undertaken by the Board of Directors at its meeting on Thursday November 6<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://www.heraldryireland.com) or for *Vexillology Ireland* checkout the following website: [www.flagsireland.wordpress.com](http://www.flagsireland.wordpress.com)

**GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND****Board of Directors 2014-2015**

**John Hamrock** (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson); **Maura Flood** (Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice-Chair & Education Services); **Michael Merrigan** (General Secretary, Company Secretary, & pro tem Archival Services); **Billy Saunderson** (Finance); **Pádraic Ingoldsby** (An Daonchartlann Foundation & Philanthropy); **Gerry Hayden** (Building & Utilities, Health & Safety Officer); **Tom Conlon** (Internet Services); **Bary O'Connor** (Cemetery Projects & Membership Services); **Séamus Moriarty** (Lecture Programme); **Ingrid McLwaine** (Social Inclusion & GSI Social Club); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach Programme & GSI Exhibitions); **Caitlín Ní Chonghaile** (Publications & Oifigeach na Gaeilge—Irish Language Officer); **Stanislav Zamyatin** (Vexillological & Heraldic Services) and **Tony O'Hara** (Sales & Marketing).

**JOIN ON-LINE**  
[www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

**DIARY DATES**

**Tuesday March 10th (AGM) & April 14th 2015**  
*Evening Open Meeting*

**Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**  
**Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire**  
**20.00hrs—22.00hrs**  
[www.dfei.ie](http://www.dfei.ie)

**Wednesday March 25th & April 22nd 2015**  
*Morning Open Meeting*

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

**Dalton and the Dublin Brigade**

*'With the Dublin Brigade: Espionage and Assassination with Michael Collins' Intelligence Unit* by Charles Dalton, published by Mercier Press. Charles Dalton was born in Drumcondra, Dublin, in 1904, and in December 1917 joined F Company 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers and took part in the War of Independence. In 1929 he published this account of his activities while many of the events he took part in were still fresh in his mind, and this re-publication of his original account is supplemented with his 1950 Statement to the Bureau of Military History which in some cases provides names omitted or disguised in the original 1929 text. Dalton begins his book with an overview of the situation in Ireland between 1916 and 1921 and on the organisation of the IRA in Dublin at that time. Dalton states that he formally joined the Irish Volunteers on December 6<sup>th</sup> 1917 in a disused garage near Clonliffe College and later using a solitary .22 rifle, this group learned the basic elements of musketry. His first minor operation was in April 1918 and later became the possessor of a German firearm which his brother brought home as a war souvenir which he refused to surrender to his unit on the basis that if they wanted to use it on operations, he would bring it with him. Dalton's first active operation was a failed attempt to rescue Robert Barton while on the way to a court hearing. Dalton provides an insight into the events leading up to Bloody Sunday 1920, his own role in that event, the intelligence and counter intelligence war in Dublin as various elements of the crown forces sought out members of the IRA and the actions taken to combat them and those providing them with information. Uniquely he describes his own feelings about shooting British agents in their home rather than during a military engagement. Another operation he took part in was the ill fated attack on the Customs House and he also provides his experiences of hiding out while 'on the run'. One of the more interesting operations was an ambush on a British troop train to the Curragh at Drumcondra on June 16<sup>th</sup> 1921 in which two Thompson sub-machine guns were used. Dalton and the other firer did not get off as many shots as planned due to their unfamiliarity with the mechanism of these weapons but a number of casualties were inflicted on the troops inside the train who were unaware that they had been fired upon by these weapons which the first time that these were used in Ireland. Other incidents recalled are the unsuccessful operation to rescue Seán Mac Eóin from Mountjoy Gaol, his escape from being recognized as a member of the IRA by the 'Igoe Gang' after he and a companion were stopped by them – his companion was beaten so severely by them that he was crippled for life, and operations to try and kill the hangman sent over to execute Volunteers sentenced to death. All in all, this is really a gem of a book as Dalton was at the centre of many actions and recorded the events in it while they were fresh in his mind. The book provides the reader with a very graphic account of an IRA Service Unit in Dublin during the War of Independence when at times it was hard to distinguish friend from foe and the risk of being picked up by the various and numerous elements of the crown forces operating in the city. This book ties into incidents and events featured in other books published on the War of Independence by Mercier Press.

**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 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](http://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.

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**LECTURE PROGRAMME**

**Tues March 10<sup>th</sup> 2015**, *American Records* by Maura Flood. **Tues April 14<sup>th</sup> 2015** – TBA. **Tues May 12<sup>th</sup> 2015** '*Family Crests*' by Tom Mullins. **Tues. June 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie) **Séamus Moriarty, FGSI**, Director, GSI Lecture Programme, welcomes feedback on these lectures. Also see: [www.dfei.ie](http://www.dfei.ie)

**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](http://www.findmypast.ie) offer a huge 50% discount and the **Irish Newspaper Archives** [www.irishnewspaperarchive.com](http://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](mailto: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](http://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 17.30hrs. 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

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