



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

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Bealtaine : May 2016

## GSI Member Elected to Seanad Éireann

Seanad Éireann now consists of many Senators that have more than just a passing interest in genealogy. Indeed, a Member of this Society has been elected to the Upper House.

**Senator Victor Boyhan** was elected on the Agricultural Panel and became the first Independent Senator to be elected to this Seanad. As a County Councillor, Victor Boyhan had previously been the nominee for this Society in 2011, however, this year he secured the nomination by parliamentarians. Commenting on the activities of the Society, Senator Boyhan said “I am committed to promoting the objectives of the Society; the nation’s ancestral heritage needs to be fully supported and resourced by government.”

He strongly believes that new opportunities are within the grasp of the Irish genealogical community stressing that “a collaborative approach to documenting and showcasing the nation’s genealogy and Irish diaspora is long overdue, the potential to reap many benefits nationally and internationally awaits us.” Pointing to the importance of genealogy, Senator Boyhan said “genealogy helps substantiate historical accuracy; the Society through its own research, archives and publications has proven this to me time and time again.”

Senator Boyhan has long supported the Society’s campaign for a new premises saying that “it is clearly evident that the Society needs a new and permanent home for its rich and diverse archive and to further its research and

educational plans. I want to play my part in achieving this key objective.” Quoting Edmund Bourke, Senator Boyhan said “*People will not look forward to posterity, who never look backward to their ancestors.*” - What a noble cause, I wish the Society continued success with this mission.”

The nominee of Genealogical Society of Ireland, Cllr. Fintan Warfield, on the Cultural and Educational Panel, became the first Senator to be elected to the 25th Seanad. On his election **Senator Fintan Warfield** said “having sought the nomination of the Society to contest election to the 25<sup>th</sup> Seanad Éireann, it was with immense pride to be deemed elected on the first count of the cultural and educational panel.”

Senator Warfield said “I place enormous value on that nomination and I look forward to working alongside the Society in building an awareness and appreciation of our genealogical and ancestral heritage both here at home and throughout the Irish diaspora across the globe.”

“I have had the pleasure of performing our cultural heritage of song and music throughout the United States and I learned to place a great value on the needs of our global family in researching their lineage. The phenomenal worldwide success and popularity of the 1901 and 1911 census returns, which are freely available online, can be matched many times over by the release of the 1926 census, and I look forward to campaigning to do just that alongside the Genealogical Society of Ireland” - Senator Warfield said.

GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

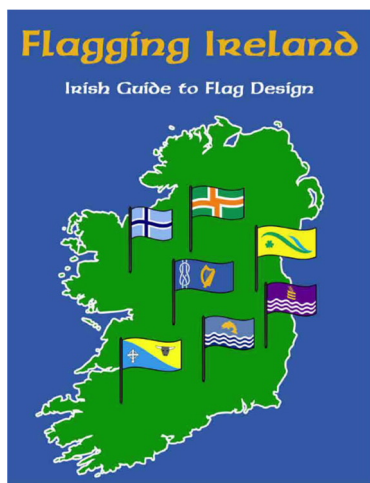
Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Events

### DIRECTORS CO-OPTED

In accordance with the decision of the Annual General Meeting held on March 8th 2016, the Board of Directors has co-opted two Members to the Board bringing the total number of Directors to the maximum of ten. **Mrs. Anne Brophy, MGSI**, was co-opted at the April meeting and **Mr. Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSI**, was co-opted at the May meeting. Both have been duly registered with the Companies Registration Office. The new Directors received their portfolios at the May meeting of the Board. An Cathaoirleach, **Mr. Gerry Hayden, MGSI**, on behalf of the Board, wished Anne and Lua every success in their new roles within the Society.



Stan Zamyatin  
Editor

‘Flagging Ireland’ - On Sale €10.00

## OPEN MEETINGS

### Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 10 May—20.00hrs

Tuesday 14 June—20.00hrs

Royal Marine Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 25 May—10.30hrs

Wednesday 22 June—10.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)

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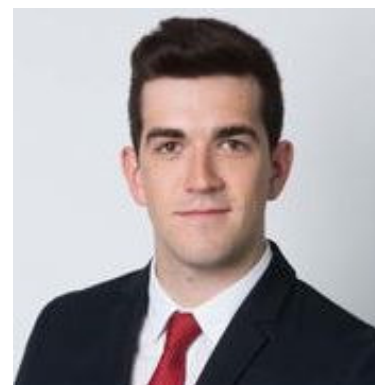
- GSI Journal 2016
- Three Castles of Dublin
- Seanad Éireann
- The Belfast Blitz
- James Scannell Reports
- Ireland's Aviator Heroes
- Victorian Dún Laoghaire
- Précis of April Lecture



@GenSocIreland

## Seanad Éireann

The Society is a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) enabling the Board to nominate a person to contest the Seanad Éireann Election this month for the Cultural & Educational Panel. In March the Board nominated Cllr. Fintan Warfield (pictured below) a former Mayor of South Dublin County Council, to contest the Seanad Election. The Society warmly congratulates **Senator Fintan Warfield** who became the first Senator to be elected to the 25th Seanad.



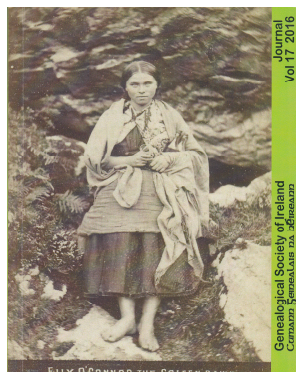
Following on from the successful election of the Society's nominee, Members were delighted with the news that a Member of the Society, Cllr. Victor Boyhan, was also elected to Seanad Éireann.

**Senator Victor Boyhan** (pictured below) is well known for his strong



commitment to the protection of our architectural and natural heritage and the promotion of its conservation and an awareness of the fragility of many aspects of our heritage.

Speaking on the news of the election of Senators Warfield and Boyhan, the Society's President, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, welcomed the election of Senators with an interest and understanding of our genealogical heritage and the enormous potential, both culturally and economically, in the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of this unique heritage amongst our nation's far-flung diaspora. Congratulations and very best wishes to Fintan and Victor.

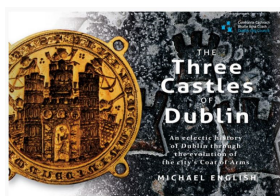


GSI Journal 2016

This year's journal is dominated by family history and local and national history. There are no book reviews, no descriptions of recently launched databases, no new techniques or technologies, no lists, no directories. As befits a genealogical journal, there are people describing their quests for information about ancestors, and the findings of those searches. The contributors in general have regular Irish names like Burke, Murray, Costello, but noticeably, many of the ancestors described have Anglo-Irish, Scottish-Irish or foreign names like Longworth, Fortescue, Ivers, Swords, Teeling. In his article appropriate to the 1916 centenary Aidan Feerick describes the schooling of Padraic Pearse who achieved much distinction while at Westland Row CBS. The gory details of DMP casualties in the War of Independence are examined by James Scannell. The cover reproduces an early CDV (carte-de-visite) of The Coleen Bawn which dates from the 1860s or 1870s. This type of image was widely sold to the Irish diaspora on the East coast of the US to remind them of the homeland they had left. Other CDVs of Muckross Abbey and the river Dargle at Bray are also included.

## Three Castles of Dublin

*'The Three Castles of Dublin—An eclectic history of Dublin through the evolution of the city's Coat of Arms'* (ISBN: 978-1-907002-26-7 : 272pp : H/bk : Price €26.95) by **Michael English** is a wonderful new book on Irish heraldry, published by Four Courts Press, that was briefly flagged in last month's issue of this newsletter. Although it may be of considerable interest to heraldry enthusiasts in Ireland and around the world, this book is an exceptionally well researched history on a much overlooked aspect of the heritage and culture of our capital city.



Symbols of the civic authority of Dublin are not only reserved for important municipal documents and buildings of high status, they appear on all sorts of buildings, structures, flags, cap-badges, vehicles, public utilities, stained glass windows and, of course, on water hydrant pavement covers and litter bins. Given the range of objects to which the city's coat-of-arms has been attached and the purpose of stamping or displaying the civic authority on such, surprisingly there is no uniformity to the designs. Some designs are very limited

in their ornamentation, possibly due to the medium, but others are wonderfully diverse, creative and, in some cases, displaying a whimsical freedom of expression. All are based on the essential elements of the "three castles" but thankfully artistic license has been employed down through the centuries. While this may not please the "heraldic purists", the author has provided hundreds of colour plates showing the diversity and creativity that brings a vibrancy to the various to which the city's coat-of-arms has been applied. Michael English has not just produced a hugely important pictorial record of the use of the Dublin coat-of-arms, he has researched and provided brief histories on the buildings, companies, institutions and bodies that used the coat-of-arms. In fact, this wonderful book is a history of the administration of Dublin city and not only a lavishly illustrated publication on its heraldry.

### FOUR COURTS PRESS

*Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the new catalogue and the special offers at [www.fourcourtspress.ie](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)*

## 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BELFAST BLITZ

On Friday 15 April the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1941 Belfast Blitz in which over 800 people lost their lives and 1500 were injured, many seriously, in an air raid by over 200 Luftwaffe aircraft on Tuesday 15 April 1941, was commemorated in the city by a number of events including the unveiling of a plaque by Lord Mayor Arder Carson at St. George's Market, which was used as a temporary morgue for victims. Plaques will also be erected at the Falls and Peter's Hill Baths which were also used as mortuaries as will other plaques at more than a dozen locations through the city with the details of the loss of life at each location they are erected at. Belfast suffered four air raids in all, the first on the night of 7/8 April, followed by another much heavier one on 15/16 April (when the majority of the fatalities occurred), another serious attack on 4/5 May, and a final small raid on 5/6 May. On Friday 15 April between 12 Noon and 3 p.m. a ceremony took place at the Northern Ireland War Memorial in Talbot Street, Belfast, at which a minute's silence was observed, during which the names of 960 civilians killed in the Blitz were displayed followed by the laying of a wreath. The

attendance included representatives of the Republic of Ireland's fire service, which dispatched men and equipment to aid Belfast's firefighters during the air raids. Later that Friday evening, Dr Brian Barton, author of *'The Belfast Blitz: The City in the War Years'*, presented a sell-out lecture in the Bobbin coffee shop to the rear of City Hall from 6.30 p.m. to 8 p.m., recalling the Belfast air raids in course of which he suggested that the lights of Dublin might have been used by some German aircraft to find their way to Belfast on 15 April 1941 even though crews were under orders not to violate Irish air space, and that the German bombing of Dublin on 31 May 31<sup>st</sup> 1941 which resulted in the deaths of 28 people, was in retaliation for the Irish government sending fire crews to Belfast after the 15 April 1941 air raid. Dr. Barton has called for a special memorial to be created on the grounds of City Hall that would feature all the known names – more than 900 – of the people who died in the attacks, something which is currently under consideration by Belfast City Council. Events concluded on the afternoon of Sunday 17 April with an inter-denominational church service in St. Anne's Cathedral, Belfast.

*James Scannell*



## In Brief....

### GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join this Society on-line at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) Please note that GSI Membership is open to all interested in genealogy and related subjects. Discounted membership rates are available for those under 25 years and students at recognised genealogy courses.

### OVERSEAS JOURNALS

The Society's Archive & Research Centre has one of the largest collections of journals published by genealogical societies overseas. These family history journals contain a wealth of very useful information on the history and emigration experiences of the Irish diaspora throughout the world. Why not check them out?

### PARKING AT DFEI

Car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**. 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. For details on the Institute and its courses please check-out [www.dfei.ie](http://www.dfei.ie)

### E-MAGAZINE

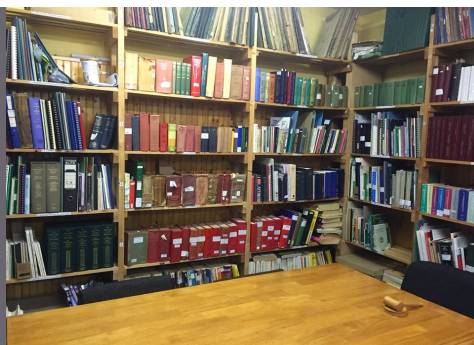
The current issue of Ireland's FREE digital e-Magazine *'Irish Lives Remembered Genealogy'* which is dedicated to helping people trace their Irish Ancestry globally is available free of charge to read or to download on [irishlivesremembered.com](http://irishlivesremembered.com) There is a small charge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

### DISCOUNTS

Exclusive discounts for the Members of the Society are available for online genealogical services and publications, including, **Findmypast**, **Irish Newspaper Archives**, **Forces War Records** and from **Flatecapsandbonnets.com**. To avail of any of these Member discounts, please contact **Barry O'Connor**, FGSI, by email at [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)



[www.eneclann.ie](http://www.eneclann.ie)



Inside the Society's Archive & Research Centre in Dún Laoghaire

## JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS...

### DANIEL O'CONNELL LECTURE

On Wednesday 18 May at 20.00hrs Vincent Ruddy will present his lecture *'Dublin, 1834, O'Connell's Repeal Meetings'* to the Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome – admission €3.50.

### REVOLT IN COUNTY WICKLOW.

On Thursday 12 May at 19.15hrs Arklow local historian Jim Rees will launch *'Revolt in Co. Wicklow: A History of County Wicklow 1913 to 1913'* in Bray Town Hall, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Published by the Old Bray Society with funding assistance from 1916-2016 Fund and Wicklow County Council, this publication includes articles contributed by Jim Rees, Dr. Ruan O'Donnell, Henry Cairns, John Finlay, James Scannell, Eva O Cathaoir and Robert Butler. Copies will be on sale on the launch and from the Town Hall Book Shop, Florence Road, Bray, Co. Wicklow.

### DUBLIN FUSILIERS AT GALLIPOLI

On Saturday 21 May at 14.30hrs Philip Lecane will present his lecture *'Beneath an Irish Sky: The Royal Dublin Fusiliers and the Assault on Gallipoli'* to the Western Front Association (Dublin Branch) in The Museum of Decorative Arts & History Lecture Theatre, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. All welcome - €3 donation appreciated.

### HOLDEN STODART REMEMBERED

On Tuesday 26 April the St. John Ambulance Brigade in Ireland held a ceremony in Mount Jerome Cemetery, Dublin, at the grave of Superintendent Holden Stodart of that organization who was killed on 26 April 1916 by a sniper near Northumberland Road, Dublin, while going to the aid of a wounded soldier, the only member of the St. John Ambulance Brigade killed during the Rising through other members were wounded.

### NATIONAL MARITIME MUSEUM

On Thursday 12 May at 19.30hrs David Snook will present his lecture *'Working Conditions of Seamen in 1916'* in the National Maritime Museum of Ireland, Haig Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin; on Thursday 26 May Tom Conlon will present his lecture *'Kingstown: A Divided Seafaring Town'*, while on Thursday 09 June John Ellis will present a lecture on *'Dr. John de Courcy Ireland: A Tribute to a Maritime Historian'*, all of which take place at 19.30hrs.

### TALK ON TUKE FUND

On Saturday 14 May at 14.00hrs Rosemarie Geraghty, Ionad Deirbhile Heritage Centre Eachléim, will present a 60-minute talk on *'Blacksod Bay Assisted Emigration: The Tuke Fund'* in the Museum of Country Life, Turlough

Park, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. Admission free but booking required – call 094-9031498 or Email: [educationtph@museum.ie](mailto:educationtph@museum.ie). Between 1883-84 over 3500 people left on 15 sailings from Blacksod Bay to the US and Canada. These families from Erris, Achill and Newport West, left in search of a brighter future and were assisted by Tuke Fund. This talk will reveal how they fared, where they travelled to and what became of them.

### GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tuesday May 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Forgotten but not gone – Experiences of Returning Ex-Servicemen in the Irish Free State* by Declan F. Brady. Tuesday Jun 14<sup>th</sup> 2016 - *Yitzhak Herzog – the Sinn Féin Rabbi* by Stuart Rosenblatt. The Board is currently organising the speakers for the period July to December. Forward any suggestions by email to [Gazette@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Gazette@familyhistory.ie)

### Senator Visits GSI Archive



Senator **Victor Boyhan**, MGSI, visited the Society's Archive and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, on Saturday May 7th 2016 and is pictured above (second from the right) with fellow Members, **Charles Dempsey**, **John Traynor** and **Frances Collins**. Later he met with the Society's new Director of Archival Services, **Mr. Lua Ó Scolai**, MGSI.

### 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].

## Ireland's Aviator Heroes of WW2

'Ireland's Aviator Heroes of World War 2 - Part 2' by John C. Hewitt, published by Mercier Press. (ISBN 978 1 78117 388 6) On Thursday 21 April Air Vice Marshall Niven launched this book by John C. Hewitt at a reception in Waterstone's, Belfast, and is a sequel to his 1994 work celebrating Irish aviators who served in the RAF during World War 2, many of whom were not old enough to hold a driving licence yet flew fighters or crewed bombers to defeat Germany and her allies. For this new 288-page volume he has selected a further 23 men from the Republic and Northern Ireland, revealing their stories for the first time. By far the largest entry, 81 pages, is devoted to Dublin born Wing Commander Brendan Finucane, DSO, DFC and two Bars, who is perhaps the best known of the Irish 'Aces' of WW2, who was killed in action on 15 July 1942, and such is the wealth of detailed information provided about him, must surely be the definitive biography of this aviator.

The next largest entry, 39-pages, is devoted to Belfast born Squadron Leader Eric Esler, DFC, AE, who took part in anti-submarine patrols during the Battle of Atlantic, and survived ditching in the Atlantic in 1941 when the Whitley aircraft he was piloting developed mechanical problems, forcing them to land on the sea, take to life-rafts and then wait for several hours until rescued by a surface vessel. Esler then went to training duties, became a RAF test pilot, and continued in this activity after demobilisation in 1945 until killed in an aviation accident in 1949 while working with A.V. Roe and Company.

The great power and strength of this book is the amount of information that the author has painstakingly collected over the years through interviews with some of those featured in this book, family members, friends, former crew members, and information from flying log books, service records etc. The stories of many those featured in this book are being told for the first time and a common thread running through all is the great courage that all displayed, some of whom made the ultimate sacrifice with their lives. A truly engrossing book and highly recommended.

*James Scannell*

Checkout the Society's website for further information [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

### Victorian Dún Laoghaire: A Divided Society by Tom Conlon, MGS

For publication later this month, this book initially presents a history of the town for the Facebook generation; in small doses with lots of pictures, many previously unpublished. It was a proud town, a preferred suburb for the wealthy and middle class.

Then, in a contrasting style, and without pictures (because appropriate pictures cannot be found), it delves into the various sources which present the largely untold story of extensive poverty, deprivation, disease and unsanitary conditions in the very many hidden "courts" scattered throughout the town. A 1900 government report, for example, details over 1,000 dwellings, mostly lean-to, back to back structures each occupied by a family, and over 300 tenements each having multiple families. The poor lived "invisibly" in the extensive cul-de-sacs and courts and were unnoticed by many visitors to the town.

Two towns – Visible town and Invisible town - enmeshed in one another, their citizens each having different physical conditions, aspirations, opportunities, and frequently divided in terms of religion and political affiliations and aspirations. The Visible town remains to this day and is the foundation for the future. The Invisible town has been both physically removed and largely removed from the urban memory. Even the very addresses of the Invisible town are gone.

## Précis of the April Lecture

On Tuesday April 12<sup>th</sup> 2016 Members were treated to a very informative illustrated talk on 'Quaker Family Records' by Noel Jenkins. Although the Quaker (*The Religious Society of Friends*) numbers in Ireland were never very large, members of this community contributed hugely to the social, cultural, educational and, even more significantly, to the industrial and commercial life of the country. Notwithstanding the contributions of individual Quaker families to the development of certain industries and products in Ireland, the general population would know very little about Quakerism, its origins, beliefs and practices. To address this point Mr. Jenkins brought the Members through the history of the Quaker communities in Ireland. Originally founded in England, the first recorded Friends Meetings for Worship in Ireland were held in 1654 at the home of William Edmundson in Lurgan, Co. Armagh. There are now approximately 1,600 Quakers in Ireland. Mr. Jenkins explained the beliefs and the structures of Quakerism as a prelude to exploring the types of records created by the community which would be of use to those researching ancestors amongst the Quakers in Ireland and,

indeed, amongst the communities founded by Irish Quakers overseas. He outlined the records available in the archives at Quaker House, Stocking Lane, Rathfarnham, Dublin. A lively Q&A followed a very well researched and presented lecture. For further information on the Quakers in Ireland please see: [www.quakers-in-ireland.ie](http://www.quakers-in-ireland.ie) or email: [office@quakers.ie](mailto:office@quakers.ie)

### IRISH DNA ATLAS

The Irish DNA Atlas is collaborative academic project undertaken by Prof Gianpiero Cavalleri and Edmund Gilbert of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and Séamus O'Reilly, Michael Merrigan, Darren McGettigan from the Genealogical Society of Ireland. The main objectives of the project are 1) to further our understanding of the population history of Ireland, and 2) to help us understand how genes influence disease within Ireland. Contact **Séamus O'Reilly**, FGS by e-mail on [Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie) Please checkout the project newsletter on the GSI website.

### IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

### Board of Directors 2016-2017

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

### INDEX TO TEN VOLUMES

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world. All the past issues of this newsletter and its predecessor back to 1996 have been fully indexed by **Brendan Hall, MGS** and they are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie) Although we're not members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the **NUJ Code of Conduct** [www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/](http://www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/) and in line with the **'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland'** which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the Royal Irish Academy. (see the June 2014 issue at [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie))

### FREE RESEARCH ADVICE

*An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archive and Research Centre at the historic Carlisle Pier in Dún Laoghaire is open, as per the Society's **spring schedule**, for two days a week as follows: each **Wednesday** from 10.30hrs to 16.30hrs and each **Saturday** from 14.00hrs to 17.00hrs.

With around **twelve hours of archival time** available each week new volunteers are always needed and very welcome. Our Members are on hand to provide **free family history research advice**.

The use of our 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 Members include a number of excellent pay-for-view websites including Ancestry.com, Findmypast, Forces War Records, Newspapers.com, British Newspaper Archives and 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.

Please note: **Pay-and-Display Parking** is available at the Harbour. See: [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)