

Camann Seinealais na hÉireann



"Cuimhnigí ar Ár Sinnsir—Remember Our Ancestors"

Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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Meán Fómhair : September 2016

Accessing our Genealogical Heritage

Nearly twenty years ago, in October 1997 the members of this Society adopted the 'Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access' to a genealogical heritage. At that time, this 'Principle' was considered by many in the genealogical community to be utopian or, at best, wishful thinking. Nevertheless, the Society adopted the 'Principle' as the corner stone of all of its public campaigns for greater access to records and in its many legislative initiatives over the past two decades.

Over the years, hostility towards the 'Principle' and an initial suspicion of its motives softened and eventually dissipated. A clearer understanding and appreciation of its fundamental objective—accessibility to our own genealogical heritage became widely accepted as both reasonable and a public right.

Through an ongoing process of public information and legislative campaigning, 'Principle' became widely accepted by all forward looking and innovative repositories, institutions and others. It had become 'mainstream' and 'fundamental' to the public access policies of public and private custodians of records of a genealogical interest. The 'Principle' clearly informed and strengthened the resolve of successive government Ministers to be proactive in the provision of online services for Irish genealogy. This was not an easy task as many obstacles, some real and difficult, others merely 'kite flying' exercises, were encountered by Ministers in their endeavours to create something new and innovative in Ireland-online free access to our genealogical heritage.

The recent uploading of Irish Civil Records to www.irishegenealogy.ie is a huge addition to the corpus of online genealogical resources and although, full access is only available to images of the registers for Births: 1864-1915; Marriages: 1882-1940 and Deaths: 1891-1965, this is a huge improvement on access to indexes only.

We are assured by the Minister, Leo Varadkar, TD, that the General Register Office is currently working on updating further records of Marriages dating back to 1845 and Deaths dating back to 1864. These will be included in the future updates to the records available on www.irishgenealogy.ie

The expansion of these free online resources for Irish genealogy, including access to the images of the Roman Catholic parish registers held by the National Library of Ireland, is in essence what the 'Principle' is all about—public accessibility to our genealogical heritage at home and overseas for our diaspora.

Promoting this fundamental 'Principle' is still, in many ways, a work in progress as we have yet to see any evidence that the government will move to legislatively provide for the early release of the 1926 Census of Ireland. The 'Programme for Government' of the previous coalition had a commitment to release the 1926 Census, however, that was abandoned under pressure from the Central Statistics Office.

The release of the Irish Civil Records this month demonstrates what can actually be achieved if there is the political will, tenacity and courage to proceed in the public interest.

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

VOLUNTEERS

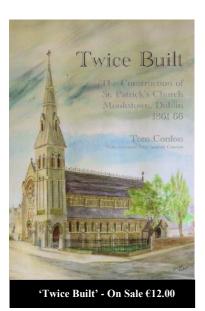
The Society's Director of the Outreach Programme, Eddie Gahan, wish to sincerely thank all the volunteers who helped out during Heritage Week this year.



Eddie says that it was the most successful year to date. He is already working on a busy Outreach Programme including Culture

Night at the **DLR Lexicon** on September 16th—volunteers needed.

If you would like to help out this year, please contact Eddie by email on eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com
Checkout: www.culturenight.ie



OPEN MEETINGS

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 13 September—20.00hrs

Tuesday 11 October —20.00hrs

Royal Marine Hotel Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 28 September—10.30hrs

Wednesday 26 October—10.30hrs

Contribution €3.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)

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YOUR FAMILY HISTORY?

If you are thinking of starting your family history research and just don't know where to start, don't despair as Eddie and his team are on hand to show you the ropes.

Whilst the Society does not undertake commercial research assignments, it does provide research advice to enable you to take a D.I.Y. approach to your research.

See page 4 of this newsletter for the times of opening of the Society's Archive and Research Centre. Also, please note that them will be on-hand at the dlr Lexicon in Dún Laoghaire for Culture Night.



Eddie Gahan and his Team ready to discuss your Family History Research

Researching RIC Ancestors

'The Royal Irish Constabulary—A short history and genealogical guide with a select list of medal awards and casualties' (ISBN: 978-1-84682-615-3: 336pp: illustrations: P/bk: Price €24.95: Web Price €22.45) by Jim Herlihy and published by Four Courts Press. This is a new, revised and expanded edition of his 1997 work of the same title that was eagerly awaited by many researching ancestors who served in the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The RIC was the police force throughout the country with the exception of Dublin city and environs which was covered by the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP).



The history of policing in pre-independence Ireland is inextricably intertwined with the often turbulent political environment, however, for the vast majority of the rank and file police officers it was simply a job. In its structure and as an armed force, arguably it resembled a colonial police force with native constables and a largely British or Anglo-Irish officer class for most of its history. In order to fully understand the development of policing in Ireland, Jim Herlihy, provides an excellent history of the RIC and its predecessors before dealing with the typical career of the ordinary policeman. This is very important part of his research and especially so, for those with ancestral connections to the RIC. Whether it be medals or decorations awarded or disciplinary actions for various misdemeanours, this book may help clarify aspects of your family lore, for example, marriage rules determined where you could or could not serve. This may be the reason that a Cork or Kerry surname, for example, is present in Antrim or Donegal today.

The extensive lists provided contain the names of circa 3,500 men who were decorated by medals, wounded and died on active duty up to 1922 or went on to serve in An Garda Síochána. The book provides the best available guide to researching ancestors in the RIC

and indeed, as with all of Jim Herlihy's publications, he provides a copious bibliography for further research. For anybody with ancestors who served in the RIC this book is absolutely recommended as essential reading.

Jim Herlihy is a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, a retired member of An Garda Síochána and a cofounder of An Garda Síochána Historical Society. His previous publications include: 'The Royal Irish Constabulary: a complete alphabetical list of Officers and Men, 1815-1922 (1999); 'The Dublin Metropolitan Police—A complete alphabetical list of Officers and Men, 1836-1925' (2001); 'The Dublin Metropolitan Police—A Short History and Genealogical Guide' (2001) and 'Royal Irish Constabulary officers: a biographical dictionary and genealogical guide, 1816–1922' (2005).

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the new catalogue and the special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie

Maynooth Studies in Local History

The latest works in the ever popular and hugely respected 'Maynooth Studies in Local History' series have just been published. This series of published academic research papers, edited by Dr. Raymond Gillespie, is of immense value to local and social historians and, of course, especially to genealogists.



As with previous years, the 2016 publications cover research undertaken on events or individuals associated with particular counties. Each of the publications contains extensive research notes.

Many sources are examined for the first time in

the context of the works concerned and it is no wonder, that the 'Maynooth Studies in Local History' series is renowned for bringing this valuable research to the public.

There are now 127 publications in this series—see: www.fourcourtspress.ie and the 2016 publications start with no. 123 and Co. Westmeath with 'The Nugents of Westmeath and

Queen Elizabeth's Irish primer' by David Casey (see page 4 of this newsletter)

This is followed by 'The world of Thomas Ward - Sex and scandal in late-17th century Co. Antrim' by Eamon Darcy and then to Co. Cork with 'The committal of two Mallow children to an industrial school' in 1893 by Martin McCarthy.

Building upon a 2014 publication in this series (no. 113) we now have 'Derry labour in the age of agitation, 1889–1923 - Vol. 2: Larkinism and syndicalism, 1907–23' by Emmet O'Connor and then finally no. 127, to Co. Waterford and 'Sir John Keane and Cappoquin House in time of war and revolution' by Glascott Symes.

These publications unfortunately do not come with an index, possibly due to space restrictions and cost. However, reading down through the copious research notes provided reveals much more about the locality and subject matter than the title of the work may convey. These research notes are a treasure trove for the local historian and the genealogist.

Maybe some philanthropic individual would consider providing the funding for the compilation of an electronic index to the entire series.

Précis of the August Lecture

An occasional historian might have had some skills in sport and the odd one would have dipped their toes into the political field. But for those who attended GSI's August Open Meeting it must surely be a first.

We had a speaker, Teresa O Donnell, who was very knowledgeable about the family and home life of Patrick Pearse, but also turned out to be a talented singer and harpist. She entertained us with the songs and music that would have been well known to the Pearse family. For those of us who are 1916 junkies by now this was one of the most memorable occasions that has graced this centenary year.

Her research into the Pearse family and delivery were also of the highest order. Anyone who came along expecting to see in an unhappy childhood as the key to Pearse's political career, literature and even 1916 Rebellion military strategy came away disappointed. The Pearse children appear to have had an idyllic childhood. Their father James Pearse, an English born sculptor, appears to have had an unhappy first marriage but his subsequent one to Margaret Brady in 1877 was not only a success but had the added bonus of the children from both unions got on well together.

While Patrick was certainly the lead figure that the others respected, he also got on well with all his siblings – Mary Brigid, William and Margaret. Many people might not identify a sense of humour and Patrick Pearse but Mary Brigid later recalled that the children did Macbeth in a makeshift theatre in their front room, with Mary Brigid and Patrick playing the lead roles, it was 'Pat' who would bring the whole show to an end by refusing to take his Macbeth role with the seriousness it warranted.

In fact the only strain within the family was the fraught relationship between Margaret and the often ill Mary Brigid. They were never reconciled and tensions were exacerbated by their mother's will, drafted a few days before her death in 1932 and for which Margaret was the sole executor. Mary Brigid would appear to have had real writing talent but would have very few publications to her name. She was also a skilled musician and arranger of traditional airs. One of these, Róisín Dubh, was played superbly on the harp by the speaker.

While the St Enda's school project consumed the lives of the whole Pearse family, in reality it was a financial milestone until it closed in 1935. Margaret would continue to live in St Enda's until her death in 1968. Her daily newspaper was the Irish Press and her politics staunchly Fianna Fáil.

There was mention however of Mary Brigid arriving at the GPO on Easter Monday and appealing to her brother to 'come away Pat and leave this foolishness'.

The surviving Pearse sisters are an example of a family catapulted into the public sphere by no actions of their own but by those of their brother and in which they had no act or part. It must remain one of the 'what ifs' of history as to whether the Pearse siblings, each with definite talents, would have developed as individuals in their own right had their brother decided that Easter Monday 1916 was a good day to go to the pictures rather than lead a rebellion against the British Empire.

We will never know the answer to that. What is certain however is that anyone who gets a chance to hear this talk, more properly a performance and sometimes in tandem with Teresa O Donnell's sister Mary Louise, should, as they say, cancel all appointments to do so.

Séamus Moriarty, FGSI

In Brief....

GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join this Society on-line at 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 DEEI

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 checkout 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 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 Flatcapsandbonnets.com. To avail of any of these Member discounts, please contact Barry O'Connor, FGSI, by email at membership@familyhistory.ie







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

JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS...

EDWARD LEE EXHIBITION

On Monday 5 September a new exhibition 'Edward Lee and the Lee Family in Dún Laoghaire', curated by Michael Lee opened on Level 5 of the dlr Lexicon, Haigh Terrace, Moran Park, Dún Laoghaire, and will be on view during normal opening hours until 5 November . Edward Lee was a businessman who, in the 1880s built up a chain of drapery shops in Dublin, Rathmines, Bray, and Dún Laoghaire. Recognised for his caring attitude towards his employees, he was credited with introducing the half-day holiday to Ireland in 1889. He also had a strong social conscience and during the 1913 Lockout, he profoundly disagreed with the tactics to break the strike used by William Martin Murphy and other employers against the strikers and was a man of moral courage.

BRAY CUALANN

At 20.00hrs on Thursday 15 September Mark & Dave Murphy will present their lecture 'Bray Town Hall: The Byrne Family Link, 1883 – 2014' in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All Welcome – Visitors €5. The lecture will focus on the Byrne Family and three generations of public service spanning 1920 to 2014, starting with Edward Byrne who served on Bray Urban District Council from 1920 to 1945, followed by his son Edward E. Byrne who served from 1945 to 1974, and his grandson John Byrne who followed Edward E. Byrne from 1974 to 2014.

OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

At 18.00hrs on Wednesday 14 September, Brian Siggins will present his lecture 'Fifty Years in the Old Dublin Society' in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, 138-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free. In this lecture Brian Siggins, a former Programme Secretary and a current member of the Council of the Old Dublin Society will recall numerous people he met and events he took part in over this period. All welcome - admission free. At 18.00hrs on Wednesday 28 September, Ray Bateson will present his lecture 'The Dead of the Easter Rising' in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library & Archive, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free

HIDDEN KINGSTOWN

At 20.00hrs on Wednesday 21 September, Tom Conlon, MGSI, will present his lecture 'The Courts and Small Dwellings of Kingstown, the other side of the story, How the Poor Lived in the 19^{th} Century' to the Dún Laoghaire Borough Historical Society in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire. All welcome – admission $\mathfrak{S}3.50$.

SIR WILLIAM ORPEN

At 14.30hrs on Saturday 17 September, Dominic LKee, AMPA, will present his lecture 'The life and times of Stillorgan Great War Artist Sir William Orpen, R.A., R.H.A.' to the Western Front Association (Dublin Branch) in the lecture theatre of the Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. All welcome - €3 donation appreciated.

JOHN HINDE POSTCARDS

The Foxrock Local History Club meets at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 20 September in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre at the rear Foxrock R.C. Church, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Myles will give a short talk on 'George Petrie – Artist, Antiquary' and will be followed by James Scannell with the main talk on 'The picture postcard legacy of John Hinde'. All welcome – admission €5.00

BATTLE OF THE SOMME

At 15.00hrs on Sunday 25 September Lar Joye will present his lecture 'Five months of failure: the Battle of the Somme and the 10th Royal Dublin Fusiliers' in the Museum of Decorative Arts and History, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. Admission free places allocated on a first-come basis.

GSI LECTURE PROGRAMME

Tues. Sept 13th 'Linking Genealogy and Social History' by Billy Saunderson; Tues. Oct 11th 'Easter 1916 – Rising or Civil War' by Mal Murray; Tues. Nov 8th 'Tracing Irish Police Ancestors' by Jim Herlihy; Tues Dec 13th 'The evolution of the Irish harp emblem' by Stanislav Zamyatin The Board is currently organising the speakers for the coming year. Forward any suggestions for topics or speakers by email to Tony O'Hara, Director of the Society's Lecture Programme at toharadsl@gmail.com

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].

Electoral Registers in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown

Many members were enquiring about the Electoral Registers in the County, in which, the Society is currently based, Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, just south of Dublin City.

At the County Council meeting of Monday September 12th Councillor Michael Merrigan tabled the following question: "To ask the Chief Executive to confirm that copies of the Electoral Registers compiled by this Council and its predecessors back to the *Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898* are held in the Council's Archives and to list the years for which copies are held and to state whether these 'historic' Electoral Registers could be securely bound and made available for public consultation in the dlr Lexicon under Section 80 of the *Local Government Act, 2001*?"

Reply: The Local History Collection in the Lexicon holds a run of bound Registers of Electors from 1942/3 to 1973/4 (with some gaps). They are chiefly covering the Dún Laoghaire Corporation area, with some miscellaneous areas in the early 1970s. · Dun Laoghaire Corporation 1942/3-1972/3 (with 1955/6 missing) · Ballybrack 1971/2 · Dundrum 1972/3 · Sandyford 1973-74 · Milltown 1973-4 · Constituency of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown 1973/4 and 1988/9.

The records are available in hard-copy form, and can be consulted during the normal working hours of the branch. Any person wishing to view the records is advised to contact the branch beforehand to allow time to have them available. Local Authorities' responsibility for maintaining their own Registers only started in the late 1930s. Prior to that, it was done centrally, as Registers were used for both National and Local Elections. Apart from Dublin City, Local Authorities in Ireland did not have responsibility for the Registers of Electors until 1940, consequently the council only holds registers for the Dún Laoghaire area commencing 1942/43. These were compiled for the first elections held in Dún Laoghaire after taking responsibility for the register. The National Archives (which holds State-bodies' archives) holds the fullest set, however even they only hold Registers of Electors for Dublin County from c. 1927 on. These were used for National and local elections including the Dún Laoghaire Borough area. Dublin City had a searchable database holding information from 1937-1964 but this has not been available in the last couple of weeks. It did list some people with properties in Dublin City and 'abodes' in Dún Laoghaire and other places outside the city. (Thanks to Tom Mahon for reply)

Checkout the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

BUNTÚS CAINTE FOR A TUDOR QUEEN

The Nugents of Westmeath and Queen Elizabeth's Irish Primer' by Denis Casey (ISBN: 978-1-84682-608-5: 60pp: P/bk: Price €9.95: Web Price €8.95) has just been published by Four Courts Press as part of the 'Maynooth Studies in Local History' series. This work is of particular importance because it is the first in-depth study undertaken on, what is reputed to be, the oldest surviving beginner's Irish language phrasebook. It was compiled by a member of the 'Old English' planter families, the Nugents of Co. Westmeath. The history of the Nugent family provided will be of considerable interest to the genealogist and local historian as it is accompanied by copious notes. Christopher Nugent, baron of Delvin, presented Queen Elizabeth I with an Irish language primer in 1564. The author's examination of the attitudes towards Irish in the sixteenth century is of particular interest as the next two centuries were ones of accelerating language shift from Irish to English. Although, much of this work will appeal to the linguist and the linguistic historian, especially in the author's examination of the medieval Irish grammatical tradition, Renaissance second-language teaching, links with contemporary works, mostly devotional, and the analysis of the contents of the primer itself. Nevertheless, there is much here for those interested in the Tudor period in Ireland.

"A Glorious Gallimaufry"

There has been nothing other than rave reports on the fantastic 'Summer Talks Programme' at the National Library of Ireland. The talks were held in the Genealogy Room in Kildare Street at 13.00hrs every Tuesday and Thursday from Tuesday 26th July to Thursday 8th September. This allowed for those working in the city and visitors to enjoy, what has been described as "a glorious gallimaufry of guest speakers exploring aspects of Irish Family History". The programme was curated by Fiona Fitzsimons, MA, of the Irish Family History Centre at the CHQ Building. The talks were designed to appeal to a wide audience and not only genealogists or local historians. The list of guest speakers read like the ideal 'wish list' for a very significant genealogical conference and therefore, the public having free access to such talent and expertise was a real bonus. Indeed, there was enormous interest in the final lecture 'Adventures in DNA: Who were the First Irish' by Prof. Dan Bradley of Trinity College Dublin and, of course, this can be expected with the surge of interest in 'genetic genealogy'. Fiona Fitzsimons and her husband, Brian Donovan, have built up Ireland's largest and most suc-

cessful indigenous genealogical research and services company, formally known as Eneclann, and now rebranded as the 'Irish Family History Centre' since the move to the docklands site. On behalf of the Members of this Society, congratulations Fiona on an excellent 'Summer Talks Programme' at the National Library. We're already looking forward to next year.

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, Dr. 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, FGSI by e-mail Irish.dna@familyhistory.ie Please checkout the project newsletter on the GSI website.

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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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, MGSI and they are available in pdf format to read or to download free of charge on www.familyhistory.ie we're not members of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the NUJ Code of Conduct www.nuj.org.uk/ about/nuj-code/ and in line with the 'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland' which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the Royal Irish Academy. (see the June 2014 issue at 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 autumn/winter 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