

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 the Eddie and his team travel around the country promoting the study of genealogy.



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

Richard II and the Irish Kings

'*Richard II and the Irish kings*' by Dr Darren McGettigan (ISBN 978-1-84682-602-3 : 232pp : 16pp colour ill. : P/bk : Price €19.95 : Web Price €17.95) and published by **Four Courts Press** explores the Ireland of the late fourteenth century, a place claimed but hardly conquered by English monarchs. Dr McGettigan notes that outside the world of historians who specialise in late-medieval Irish history, little if anything is known of Gaelic Ireland at this time and even less about the main native potentates of the island. The vast majority of the Irish (Gaelic) kingdoms were small and the chieftains themselves of little importance, however, the kingdom of Tyrone was large covering much of the present day counties of Derry, Tyrone and Armagh. This was the vast territory of the Uí Néill (Ó Néill) hereditary kings of Ulster and formerly of much of the northern half of the country known as Leath Cuinn (Conn's Half). During the late-fourteenth century this was the domain of Niall Mór and Niall Óg Ó Néill, kings of Tir Eoghain (Tyrone) and provincial-kings of Ulster.

At the other end of the country in Leinster the most prominent Gaelic ruler was Art Mac Murchadha Caomhánach, king of the Leinster Mountains, which is an excellent description of his territory given, as the author explains, that the English colonists were mainly confined to the coastal and lowland areas of eastern Ireland stretching from Coleraine in the north to Kinsale in the south. Dr. McGettigan sets the scene of late medieval Ireland with its myriad of Gaelic kingdoms and chieftaincies, Anglo-Norman lordships and a scattering of colonial towns and settlements where the rule of the "Lord of Ireland" (Kings of England) was confined to an ever shrinking area around Dublin and some port towns. Intermarriage with the native Irish, no doubt, increased the pace of the Gaelicisation of the peripheral areas of the "colony" resulting in the passage of the *Statute of Kilkenny* in 1366.

Dr. McGettigan points out that most late-medieval kings of England showed little interest in their lordship of Ireland. They showed even less interest in the Gaelic Irish population of the island. Richard II, however, was different. This English monarch led two expeditions to Ireland, in 1394-5 and 1399. Once across the Irish Sea, Richard encountered a group of Gaelic Irish kings who, according to the author, were probably the most capable and talented of the entire late-medieval period. Richard II ended up largely out-negotiated after his first expedition to the island, and unexpectedly outfought during his second. Returning to his English kingdom, Richard was deposed by his cousin, Henry, Duke of Hereford, who became King Henry IV. In many ways his story was immortalised by William Shakespeare's eponymous play 'King Richard the Second' written circa 1595. This book is the story of these remarkable encounters between a late medieval English monarch and his reluctant Gaelic Irish vassals at the close of the fourteenth century. The author has included genealogical tables to assist the reader, especially those unfamiliar with Gaelic names and the interrelationships of the various clans/septs. Dr. McGettigan has also provided an excellent and extensive bibliography. This book is highly recommended for those with an interest in the development of Gaelic surnames and the history of the Irish Gaelic families. **Dr Darren McGettigan** is currently a tutor in School of History, UCD. He is the author of *Red Hugh O'Donnell and the Nine Years War* (2005) and *The Battle of Clontarf, Good Friday 1014* (2013). He is also a member of the Society's protect team for the '*Irish DNA Atlas*' where he provides a professional historical analysis on the interpretation of the DNA results.

FOUR COURTS PRESS

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

In Memoriam

The Society sends its condolences to the family of our General Secretary, Michael Merrigan, on the death of his mother **Joan Merrigan, FGSI** (née MacMahon) who died on December 22nd 2016 the loving mother of Michael, Joan (McCarthy), Angela (Doyle), Francis, Dermot and Paul. Joan was one of the four co-founders of the Society along with Michael, Frieda Carroll, FGSI and the late Jean Reddin, FGSI. Joan stepped down from the Executive Committee at the AGM in 1991 due to the pressure of commitments to her many other charitable and voluntary activities and organisation. In October last, Joan received the Benemerenti Medal from Pope Francis at a concelebrated Mass, at which, the Papal Nuncio to Ireland, His Excellency, Archbishop, Charles John Brown, was the chief celebrant. Joan was laid to rest on December 28th 2016, with her late husband Michael (d. 1994), in Shanganagh Cemetery following a concelebrated Mass, with the Bishop of Elphin, Dr. Kevin Doran and seven priests, at the church of Our Lady of Victories, Sallynoggin/Glenageary. Deeply missed by her family, friends, relatives and neighbours. RIP

The Society also sends its condolences to the family and friends of **Tom Delaney, MGSI**, who was originally from Loon in County Kilkenny. In his 71st year, formerly of the Physics Department of University College Dublin and Lake Communications. Tom died unexpectedly after a short illness. Beloved and devoted husband of the late Breda and dear father of Emer. Loving brother of John, Owen, and the late Kieran. Tom had a great interest in the Castlecomer area of Co. Kilkenny. In 2000 the Society published '*Irish Genealogical Sources No. 19 - Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny, 1901 Census*' which was compiled by Tom and was one of the Society's most popular publications as orders poured in from the Castlecomer area and from those with ancestral connections to this area. Tom's funeral Mass was celebrated at St. John the Baptist church in Blackrock, Co. Dublin on December 30th 2016 followed by burial at St. Patrick's Church, Clogh, Co. Kilkenny. Deeply missed by his daughter and her partner, his brothers, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law, cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, friends, colleagues, and neighbours. RIP

December Lecture

The title of the December 2016 lecture was "The Evolution of the Irish Harp" by Stanislav Zamyatin, CEO of Vexillology Ireland. This lecture was a first for the Society in that it was recorded and will be available on YouTube very soon.

Stan took us on a journey of the evolution of the harp and how it has been associated with Ireland for so long. From beginnings in Ur in the Arabian Gulf in 2600BC up to the present, Stan provided detailed and amazing examples of where the harp is displayed. He showed examples from the past in Durrow, Monasterboice, Castledermot and Clonmacnoise where the harp in engraved amongst detailed stone carvings.



Vexillology Ireland flag in Australia

Covering the illustrations of harpists from Topographia Hibernica by Geraldus Cambrensis to the Westminster Psalter, Stan displayed many examples of the harp by way of historical illustrations.

Ireland is the only country in the world that has a musical instrument as its national emblem.

Two of the most successful Irish companies Guinness and Ryanair use the harp as their logo. We learned that the harp was orientated left to right and that this is attributed to the way the west reads and writes left to right. In the official harp image for the Irish State the soundbox is on the right whereas the Guinness logo the soundbox is on the left. Guinness trademarked the harp as far back as 1876.

Only two GAA counties use the harp in their logo and they are both northern i.e. Armagh and Down.

Leinster Rugby use the harp as a logo.

The term "heads or harps" came about by way of Irish coinage in 1928, known as the barmyard collection. This collection was designed by Percy Metcalfe and was the first time an independent Irish government issued its own coins with horses, rabbits, pigs and even fish on the front or heads side with the reverse side containing the harp with Saorstát Éireann and the year of the coin.

In recent years there have been many variations in design all using the harp as the core image. Official government departments like Agriculture, Transport, Children to name just a few, all use their own logo which incorporates the harp. Stan commented at the lack of uniformity in both harp shape and the background colour. The presidential seal is a golden harp with a blue background and many believe that this should be the standard for all government departments.

This was a very detailed lecture and there was lots of information to process. All in all it was a fascinating lecture - well done Stan!

Tony O'Hara, MGSI

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 available for under 25s and students at recognised genealogy courses.

PARKING AT DFEI

Car-parking facilities at the **Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute**. The best 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

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

IDEAL GIFT IDEAS

Genealogists and local historians are relatively easy souls to please when it comes to gifts—books! So if you have a birthday gift to buy—think books by our Members. Much of the research for these books was undertaken at the Society's Archive & Research Centre—*An Daonchartlann*.

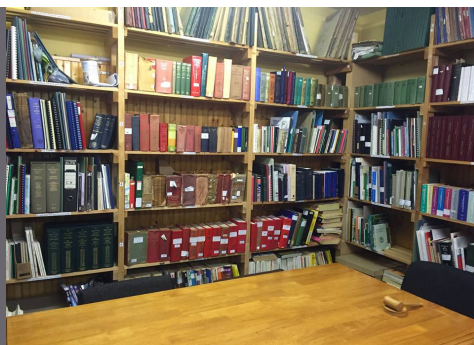
'*Victorian Dún Laoghaire*' by Tom Conlon—excellent local history of the town and the first to deal extensively with the poor and "the courts" where they lived. Price: €20.00

'*Labour in Kingstown, 1890-1920*' by Charlie Callan—explores a much neglected subject—the working class of Kingstown (now Dún Laoghaire and the development of organised labour and its political representation. Price: €10.00 (published privately contact: chascallan@gmail.com)

'*Twice Built—The Construction of St. Patrick's Church, Monkstown, Co. Dublin, 1861-66*' by Tom Conlon. An intriguing story of "church politics" surrounding the building of a parish church in Dublin. Price €12.00



www.eneclann.ie



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

JAMES SCANNELL REPORTS...

DUBLIN'S GPO

At 20.00hrs on Thursday 12 January Stephen Ferguson will present his lecture '*Letters, Lives and Liberty: Dublin's GPO*' to the Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society in the Glendalough Sports Club, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. All welcome – Contribution €3.00

DÚN LAOGHAIRE BOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At 20.00hrs on Wednesday 11 January Tom Conlon, MGSI will present his lecture '*The Courts and Small Dwellings of Kingstown, how the authorities in Kingstown, Dublin, and London responded - Part Two*' to the Society in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome – entrance €3.00

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY OF IRELAND

At 20.00hrs on Friday 13 January Dr. Ciaran McDonnell will present his lecture '*Unshaken loyalty: the Catholic Irish Brigade in British service, 1793-1798*' to the Military History Society of Ireland in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All welcome – wheelchair access available.

TRADITIONAL IRISH MUSIC AND SONG

At 20.00hrs on Tuesday 17 January Ms. Siobhan Ní Chonoraín will present her lecture '*History of the development of Traditional Irish music and song*' to the Foxrock Local History Club in Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, rere Foxrock R.C. Church, Foxrock, Co. Dublin.. All welcome – admission €5.00

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION (DUBLIN BRANCH)

At 14.30hrs on Saturday 21 January Marcin Hasik will present his lecture '*Polish Legions on the Eastern Front in World War 1 – History and Legacy*' to the Association in the Museum of Decorative Arts & History Lecture Theatre, Collins Barracks, Benburb Street, Dublin 7. All welcome - €3.00 donation appreciated.

GLASNEVIN TRUST & TRINITY COLLEGE DUBLIN

At 19.00hrs on Thursday 26 January Brian Hanley will present his lecture '*The Rising and its aftermath in Phibsboro and Glasnevin*' in Glasnevin Milestone Museum, Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin 11. Admission €10.00

RICHMOND BARRACKS

At 20.00hrs on Monday 30 January Liam O'Meara will present his lecture '*Richmond Barracks*' to the Clondalkin Historical Society in Arás Chronáin, Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

HISTORIC 1916 FLAG RETURNS

On Sunday 11 December the largest known remnant of the tricolour flag hoisted over Jacob's Biscuit Factory during the 1916 Rising was donated to Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin, after 100 years in Jersey.

The flag had been in the Channel Islands since 1916 where it had been sent by John Le Provost, a member of the Jersey Pals Battalion who fought in Dublin during the Rising.

The flag was returned to Ireland by John Le Provost's great-grandson, David Blake, after he learned exactly what his family had been handed down. At the hand-over ceremony Mr. Blake said that it was only correct and necessary that the Jacob's Tricolour came back home, adding - "I feel as if I had it for a reason; as if the family had been caring for the flag so when the appropriate time came, it should go back. This year is the appropriate time."

In accepting the flag, John Green, chairman of the Glasnevin Trust, said: - "By having this flag presented to us we can tell this story more completely and hopefully encourage people to go away and learn a bit more about this complicated part of our history and that its donation has brought the centenary celebrations at Glasnevin Cemetery to a worthy conclusion."

He stated that the flag would go on permanent display beside the original print of the 1916 Proclamation. The event was also attended by Chief Minister of Jersey Government, Senator Ian Gorst who said:- "We are only small, but those decisions of Jersey men show that these islands are bound together and have been bound together through history. We see today as a day of reconciliation, a day of reunion."

The Jacob's Tricolour was made up following on the destruction of the General Post Office flag which had either been shot or burned down after the GPO came under fire and was fashioned by Thomas Meldon, George Ward, and Dery Connell, using bunting, and was then nailed to a flagpole above the factory. Meldon and Ward are now buried in Glasnevin Cemetery.

The flag will be put on display in Glasnevin Museum and will be available for public viewing in early January 2017.

EDITOR: For those interested in flags and emblems, including coats-of-arms, please checkout the Facebook pages of Vexillology Ireland and Heraldry Ireland, both specialist branches of the Society. See December Lecture on page 2.

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].

Sentenced to Death—Saved from the Gallows

'Sentenced To Death – Saved from the Gallows' by Colm Wallace, published by The Somerville Press. Between 1922 and 1954, the Irish state hanged twenty-eight men and one woman for 'common murder', including Harry Gleeson, hanged in April 1941, who always protested his innocence, and who in 2015 had his conviction quashed following a case review which vindicated his innocence, the first and only hanged man in Irish history to receive a pardon, with author Colm Wallace dedicating this book to him as 'an innocent man hanged by his own country.'

When the Irish Free State was established, initially when the draft constitution was being drawn up, it was intended that the death penalty would be abolished as down through the centuries it had been liberally and freely applied to execute patriots and those opposed British rule in Ireland. Even in the years 1900 to 1922, very few of those sentenced to death for 'common murder' were hanged with most having their sentences commuted to terms of imprisonment. For those unlucky enough to be hanged, to add insult to injury, there was no official state hangman so British ones were used instead, a situation that prevailed up to 1954 when Michael Manning had the unique distinction of the last man to be hanged in the Irish Republic.

The last man hanged in Northern Ireland was Robert McGladdery in December 1961. Colm Wallace presents the readers with thirty cases of 'common murder' arising from greed, lust, jealous, hatred, jealousy, or the need to dispose of an infant born out of wedlock, or issues arising of tensions still in the country after the War of Independence and Civil War. One case of poisoning, it was never clear who the intended victim was or the motive. In some of the cases featured in this book, juries recommended mercy but judges still imposed the death sentence. In the cases of women sentenced to death, only Annie Walsh was hanged in 1925, because of the cold bloodedness of her crime and perhaps the moral indignation it created as all the rest were reprieved. Colm Wallace also reminds the reader that infanticide was no longer classed as 'common murder' after 1949 following legislative changes.

One intriguing point made by Colm Wallace is that sometimes in the case of similar crimes where defendants were sentenced to death, one defendant might be hanged while the other might be reprieved but why this is so is buried in the archives as the grounds for granting a reprieve were never stated. Some of those reprieved, one or two who had to wait until nearly the last minute, served relatively short sentences while other served longer terms of imprisonment, and on release either went into institutional care, back to the families, and vanished into the shadows never to be heard of again.

Another interesting fact is that the Irish state opted to use English hangmen, most notably the Pierpoints, when it came to carrying out executions, the only attempt to train and have a state hangman failed miserably so the government opted to import hangmen from Britain where their services were always in demand. This is a fascinating and interesting book looking at some murder cases in Ireland between 1922 and 1985, when the last death sentences were imposed.

Although capital punishment for all crimes except treason, offences under military law, and the murder of Gardaí, diplomats and prison officers, been abolished in 1964, it remained on the statute books for the former offences until 1990 when the death penalty was abolished for all offences and removed from the constitution in 2001 following a referendum on this issue.

An essential acquisition for those interested in Irish history and crime.

James Scannell

Checkout the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

DEANSGRANGE AND SHANGANAGH CEMETERIES



At the meeting of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council held on Monday 9th 2017, Councillor Denis O'Callaghan (Labour, Killiney/Shankill LEA) tabled the following question: "To ask the Chief Executive to report on the digitising of Burial records at Deansgrange and Shanganagh Cemeteries and to also outline if there are plans to continue the process for older cemeteries in the County?"

In a written reply, Mr. Ian Smalley, Administrative Officer, Municipal Services, said: "The process of digitising the burial records from Deansgrange and Shanganagh cemeteries is continuing and it is hoped

that an internet portal to allow the public to view these records online will be available in early 2017. This Council does not hold records for any of the closed cemeteries within the County with the exception of Kilgobbin Cemetery. These records have been found to be incomplete and inaccurate and it is not planned at this time to have them digitised."

GSI Lecture Programme

On **Tuesday January 10th 2017**, the topic will be '**Databases for Genealogical Research at Dublin City Library & Archive**' by Dr. Mary Clarke of the Dublin City Library and Archive.

Dublin City Library & Archive has a range of original source materials relating to Irish family history. Over the past ten years, these materials have been systematically digitised and ingested into a comprehensive database which is held on the website www.databases.dublincity.ie Each source can also be searched independently of the others and all sources can be searched free of charge. Dublin City Archivist Dr Mary Clark will speak about the project and the sources.

On **Tuesday February 14th 2017**, the topic will be '**Defence Forces: Developments at the Military Archives 2017**' by Captain Daniel Ayiotis of the Military Archives, Dublin.

On **Tuesday March 14th 2017**, the topic will be '**National Library Ireland : The Manuscript Collections of the Genealogical Office**' by

Ciara Kerrigan of the National Library of Ireland.

Please note the advice regarding '**Parking at DFEI**' on page 3.

Forward any suggestions you may have for topics or speakers by email to Tony O'Hara, MGSI, Director of the Society's Lecture Programme at toharadsl@gmail.com

IRISH DNA ATLAS

The Irish DNA Atlas is collaborative academic project undertaken by Prof. Gianpiero Cavalleri and Edmund Gilbert, PhD student, 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 on 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 Gaelige, 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); **Lua Ó Scoláir** (Archival Services, RF:- Education Services)

INDEX TO 11 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 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/ 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