



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

Vol. 15 No. 5

www.familyhistory.ie

May : Maggio : Bealtaine 2020

Time for Action on the 1926 Census

As we go to print with this issue of the ‘Gazette’ teams from **Fine Gael**, **Fianna Fáil** and the **Green Party** are intensifying their negotiations on the formation of a coalition government following the General Election back in February.

Whether these negotiations will be successful or not remains to be seen. Ideally these talks produce a draft ‘Programme for Government’ that is then sent for endorsement by the membership of the participating parties in accordance with their own rules.

Once again, and for the third time since 2011, genealogists at home and overseas will hope that the release of the 1926 Census of Ireland is included in the ‘Programme for Government’.

A Census of Ireland is held every five years and therefore, the next census is due to be taken in April 2021, ironically the 100th anniversary of a national census that was cancelled in Ireland by the United Kingdom government due to the ongoing hostilities during the War of Independence.

Next year in the same month, State ceremonies marking the 1916 Rising will be held on Easter Sunday April 4th 2021 in keeping with the commemorative tradition that evolved over the last century although the actual date of the start of the Easter Rising was Monday April 24th 1916.

The importance of the census taken every five years was understood as far back as the Roman Empire and indeed, in Ireland we have done so, with some exceptions, from 1926 when the first census was taken after independence in 1922. As mentioned above, the census of 1921 had to be abandoned due to the War of Independence (1919-1921) and the previous census was taken in 1911, three years before World War 1.

The 1901 and 1911 census returns were opened to the public in the 1960s and are an invaluable genealogical resource. With the completion of the digitization project by the National Archives in August 2009 these census returns have been available online to the public internationally.

CORONAVIRUS—COVID-19

The President of the Society, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC**, **FGSI**, and the Cathaoirleach, **Gerry Hayden, MGSI** and members of the Board of Directors, extend their deepest sympathies to the families, friends and colleagues of those who have been very sadly taken by COVID-19.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved and with the many thousands of people fighting this terrible disease in hospitals, care facilities and in their own homes around the world.

The commitment, expertise and care provided by all the first responders, emergency services and hospital staff gives us all the much needed courage to get through these very difficult times—*Go Raibh Mile Maith Agaibh.*

Between the taking of the 1911 census under the United Kingdom authorities and that of 1926 by the newly independent State, we have some of the most turbulent years and important ‘founding events’ in the modern history of Ireland. To list but a few: World War One (1914-1918); Easter Rising (1916); First Dáil (1919); War of Independence (1919-1921); Northern Ireland Parliament established (1921); Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921); Foundation of the Irish Free State (1922) and the Irish Civil War (1922–1923).

Our understanding of these events and the impact they had on families, communities and the country generally would be greatly enhanced by the release of the 1926 Census. This Society has campaigned for the release of the 1926 Census since before the enactment of the *Statistics Act, 1993*, which imposed a 100 year rule. No fewer than six Bills were drafted by the Society to achieve this aim and although, the release of this census was included in the *Programme for Government* in 2011 and vaguely promised again in 2016, absolutely nothing happened. The Fine Gael led coalition government from 2011 to 2016 effectively capitulated in the face of strong opposition from the Central Statistics Office based on dubious and poorly evidenced assumptions that were met with utter incredulity by most Teachtaí Dála and Senators.

The availability of the 1901 and 1911 census returns online has seen them accessed by millions of people across the globe reconnecting with their Irish roots. The release of the 1926 census would afford the incoming government with a phenomenal and unique opportunity to promote Ireland and her heritage throughout the world to the Irish diaspora and beyond.

Now, once again, this Society calls on the political parties to ensure that legislation, along the lines of the *Statistics (1926 Census) Bill, 2013* or the 2017 Bill, will be enacted to release of the 1926 Census and to do so expeditiously to provide a much needed boost to the tourism sector and the marketing of Ireland’s cultural heritage internationally in order to assist the recovery of the economy following the Covid-19 pandemic.

OPEN MEETINGS

Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute

Cumberland Street, Dún Laoghaire

Tuesday 12 May (*Cancelled*)—20.00hrs

Tuesday 9 June (*Cancelled*)—20.00hrs

Royal Marine Hotel

Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire

Wednesday 27 May (*Cancelled*)—10.30hrs

Wednesday 24 June (*Provisional*)—10.30hrs

Contribution €5.00 p.p.

(including Tea/Coffee at the Morning Meeting)

GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Events

DATA PROTECTION

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on **May 25th 2018**. The Board, under *Res: 18/05/1380*, advises Members that the Society holds the following records on its Members (1) Name; (2) Address; (3) Telephone Number; (4) Email Address and (5) the name of the Associate Member, if applicable, and that such records are **only used** for the purpose of contacting Members on Society matters and for the dispatch of the Monthly Newsletter and the Annual Journal and furthermore, that these records are **only held** by the Director of Membership Services and are **inaccessible to all other persons** and that, the **Society does not share this information** with any other individual or organisation. Records are also held for **contractual necessity** to deliver paid services.

SOCIETY JOURNAL 2020

The *Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland* will be published this month in its new electronic format.

Members will receive notification by email with a link to read the Journal online.

In this issue.....

- Law & Revolution
- #LockdownGenealogy and Family History Projects
- James Scannell Reports..
- Coronavirus—COVID-19
- Board Elected 2020-2021
- Journal of the Society
- Historical Fiction—Review
- News from the GSI Board



@GenSocIreland

PROGRAMME SUSPENDED

The Society's Outreach Programme team headed **Eddie Gahan**, MGSi is currently awaiting the lifting of the COVID-19 restrictions before reassessing its plans to travel the country again this year promoting genealogy.

Eddie was in discussions with various groups and event organisers, including the Irish Active Retirement Association, on the inclusion of GSI Stands at events in the Republic and Northern Ireland, but these are on hold at the moment. Update next month.

If you wish to join Eddie's team, please email him at eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com

WE'RE STILL HERE TO HELP

This Society normally operates a "Help Centre" for those researching their family history.

Family history need not be a lonely pilgrimage of discovery with many bumps in a very twisty road of pitfalls. Many of these research problems appear as impenetrable "brick walls" but they are rarely new problems. Many have overcome such and progressed their research with the help and advice of others.

The "Help Centre" is currently not open to the public but you can still discuss your research problems with our experienced researchers and get advice by emailing our Outreach Team members via Eddie Gahan on eddie_gahan_snr@hotmail.com

STUCK AT HOME?

TIME TO REFLECT—TIME TO CONNECT—TIME TO RESEARCH

The Covid-19 pandemic has considerably disrupted our daily lives and left us pondering on what to do to keep ourselves busy during the lockdown and restricted movements. Many have rediscovered or rekindled passions for particular hobbies or ventured to embrace completely new ones like breadmaking, gardening or household DIY with varying degrees of success and satisfaction.

Finding activities that can include all family members can be challenging especially if social distancing restricts physical contact. These times can be particularly hard for individuals or couples that are required to "cocoon" in accordance with public health advice. This separation from community and social life can be seriously detrimental to the mental and physical health of our "cocooners" - family members, friends or colleagues.

It's time to reflect on what we can do to assist our "cocooners" get through these trying times using the phone, internet and, of course, the ordinary mail. Why not consider a family history project for the entire family? It's perfect time to connect our "cocooners" with family at home and overseas. It's time to explore the many online research resources for family history. What are you waiting for?

#LockDownGenealogy

Since we launched our #LockDownGenealogy campaign on **Facebook** and **Twitter** early last month, it is gratifying to see that significant online resources have relaxed paywalls or have reduced subscription rates to help out researchers during this Covid-19 pandemic.

We can all now find the time to do some family history research that we've been meaning to do for possibly years. This Society has an email helpline for Members and others who have research queries or just need some tips on how to get the best information from various websites. (see panel at the top of the page) Remember **Facebook** genealogical research groups dedicated to specific regions and/or historical events are particularly popular for those seeking advice and wishing to share research problems and tips.

Family members wishing to involve other branches of their family in their research and to share information have set up specific **Facebook Family Group** pages or **Instagram Accounts** to facilitate and encourage a collective research environment.

The sharing of copy certificates, photographs, family lore, memorabilia and other aspects of their research is an extremely important contribution to genealogy and, hopefully, some family members will collate and peruse this research in a comprehensible narrative for future generations. So why not get started by checking out www.irishgenealogy.ie

PHILANTHROPY

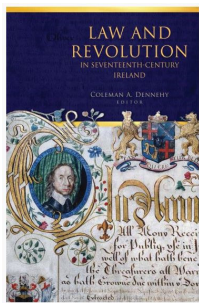
As governments around the world move to reopening their economies after the Covid-19 pandemic, it is likely "soft targets" such as arts, heritage and culture will be the first to see funding cuts.

A nationwide philanthropy strategy could greatly assist heritage organisations with a registered charitable status, like this Society, to provide for expanded services and an increased public accessibility to such heritage, educational and/or cultural resources. In 2017 an excellent report—'An Invitation to Innovate—Local Government & Philanthropists—Shaping a New Funding Model' was published by cooperatingireland.org which advocated an 'All-Island Philanthropy Strategy'. The recommendations in this report must be urgently considered by the incoming government to provide a further funding stream for the arts, heritage and cultural sectors.

Have you visited An Daonchartlann at the DLR Loughlinstown Leisure Centre?

Law and Revolution in Seventeenth-Century Ireland

'*Law and Revolution in Seventeenth-Century Ireland*' edited by **Coleman A. Dennehy** (ISBN: 978-1-84682-813-3 : H/bk : 384pp : Price €55.00 Web-Price €49.50). When asked, most Irish people would probably point to the Great Famine of the mid nineteenth century as the most traumatic period in modern Irish history. However, two centuries earlier during what is considered the "early modern period", seventeenth century Ireland was convulsed in wars, famines and dispossessions as the conquest of Ireland was brought to the bloodiest of conclusions. The Gaelic Irish and their allies amongst the Catholic "Old English", descendants of the Anglo-Normans and pre-Tudor English settlers, although still representing the overwhelming majority of the population were defeated militarily, legislatively deprived of their religious freedom and property rights, and finally dispossessed, reduced to tenants on their own land, transplanted or exiled.



The major events of the period are well known in Ireland from the Battle of Kinsale in 1601; Flight of the Earls; Ulster Plantation; Rebellion of 1641; Confederation of Kilkenny; Cromwell in Ireland in 1649; Cromwellian Plantation; Transplantation, 1652-60 ("To Hell or Connaught"); James II in Ireland in 1689; Battle of the Boyne, 1690; Treaty of Limerick, 1691; Wild Geese exiles; Williamite plantations and right down to the introduction of the *Penal Laws* ending a century of turmoil and devastation.

Viewing the century as one of war, defeat and dispossession may fit the standard colonial narrative, however, the part played by legal system in the consolidation of the conquest is frequently overlooked. The legislators and the lawyers, as with all colonial enterprises, played a pivotal role in the origins and the development of the conflict through the provision of the legal expression of state policy and overseeing its implementation. The legal system and the legal community, in respect of the conquest, were essential to its completion and maintenance of its security and, in many ways, its profitability.

This collection of thirteen essays considers how the law and the legal community were part of this process and to what extent it was shaped by the revolutionary developments of the period. These essays arise from a conference held in 2014 in the House of Lords at the Bank of Ireland, Dublin, under the auspices of the Irish Legal History Society, although not all were presented at the conference.

For the general reader, including the genealogist and local historian, these essays provide not only an intriguing insight into the use of the law, martial and civil, as the machinery of conquest, subjugation, confiscation and, of course, reward. They are not dry accounts of legal proceedings, far from it, as each essay explores its subject matter in a very accessible, readable and, in many instances, captivating manner. Indeed, not unlike an excellent detective story with all the shady characters, likeable rogues, double-crossing relatives and devious lawyers. The copious footnotes and, for the genealogist, the hundreds of names included, secures this collection of essays as an important resource for future research and a source of encouragement to students of the period to explore matters further.

This collection of essays is highly recommended for all students of the history of seventeenth-century Ireland, the century that shaped and defined the conflicted identities of modern Ireland.

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the 2020 catalogue and the wonderful special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie

MOBILE PHONE DEALS FOR MEMBERS

The Board agreed a new mobile phone deal for GSI members similar to the one that brought considerable savings on phones and calls in the past.

This offer is Sim only for First Time Customers: €20 per month inc vat. ☛ 300 off net local ,national and domestic calls. ☛ 300 off net texts. ☛ Unlimited Data. ☛ Unlimited Three to Three Talk & Text.

Are you more of a talker and texter then this is the plan for you: €28.91 per month inc vat. ☛ Unlimited calls to any network in ROI ☛ Unlimited calls to all landlines in ROI ☛ Unlimited Texts to any network in ROI ☛ 100 international minutes & 100 international texts ☛ 13GB of mobile data of which up to 11Gb can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☛ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☛ 24 month Contract

Are you more of a data/internet user, then this is the plan for you: €27 per month inc vat. ☛ Unlimited Three/Three calls in ROI ☛ Unlimited Three/Three texts in ROI ☛ 300 Minutes for off net mobile calls including domestic/national landlines in ROI ☛ 300 Texts to off net Irish mobiles. ☛ Unlimited mobile data of which up to 8GB's can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☛ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☛ 24 month Contract.

Do you need unlimited national usage for talk text

and data then this is the plan for you: €40.50 per month inc vat. ☛ Unlimited calls to any network in ROI ☛ Unlimited calls to all landlines in ROI ☛ Unlimited Texts to any network in ROI ☛ Unlimited mobile data of which up to 15GB's can be used within the EU for data roaming. ☛ Smart Phones at subsidised rates. ☛ 24 month Contract. Call today to discuss the best plan for you. Ph: 01 6876021 or email Conor.Spencer@threegovstaff.com

DONATIONS TO THE SOCIETY

This Society is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the kind donations received from Members and friends at home and overseas.



The Society is a Registered Charity in Ireland and always considers options for fund raising and grant applications.

The possibility of crowdfunding for specific projects is being considered. However, in the meantime it was decided to appeal to our Members and friends. Donations can be made on-line via the Society's website or by cheque payable to the *Genealogical Society of Ireland* and forwarded to the General Secretary at: **11, Desmond Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, Ireland, A96 AD76.**

The Board would like to sincerely thank the Members and friends of the Society who have already donated.



In Brief....

GSI MEMBERSHIP

Join 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.

IDEAL GIFT IDEAS

Genealogists and local historians love books! So if you have a 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

MONTHLY LECTURE PROGRAMME

Due to the restrictions imposed by the Irish government during the COVID-19 pandemic the Society's Open Meeting schedule has been suspended until further notice.

The schedule of lectures is currently under review to rearrange the slots in line with the availability of the guest speakers.

The Board very much appreciates the wonderful cooperation and encouragement received from the guest speakers as we endeavour to reschedule talks over the coming months.

The next issue of this newsletter will have more information on the rescheduled lecture programme.

We welcome comments and suggestions on the lecture programme. Please contact **Tony O'Hara, MGSi**, Coordinator of the Society's Monthly Lecture Programme by email at toharadsl@gmail.com

CHECKOUT our YouTube Channel for past lectures. www.youtube.com

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



www.eneclann.ie



Some of the Archival Collections in An Daonchartlann, Loughlinstown. (Photo: Tom Conlon)

James Scannell Reports...

MAY LECTURE PROGRAMME

Due to the restrictions announced by the Government on Thursday March 12th to prevent the spread of Covid-19 by restricting public meetings and gatherings, the introduction of social distancing, and the closing of schools, colleges, museums and galleries, all lectures and meetings of local history societies have been cancelled and will not resume until permitted to do so.

Publications:

'*1920 - 2020 Centenary Souvenir Editor of Ireland's Own magazine - A Bloody Conflict*' - Part 5 of the 'Birth of a Nation' Series, Editors **Seán Nolan** and **Shea Tomkins**, published by Ireland's Own.

Now out on newsstands is the latest issue of this special annual 'Birth of a Nation' series of publications covering events in Ireland between 1916 and 1922 with this issue looking at Ireland in 1920 as the War of Independence increased in intensity. Articles featured include -

'1920: A Year of Cruel Conflict - Some of the people and events that helped shape the country in 1920' and 'The Died in 1920 - Celebrities who lost their lives in 1920' by Gerry Breen.

'They Were Born in 1920' - Notable Irish names born in 1920' by Colm Power.

'Establishing the IRA as an effective fighting force in 1920' and 'British Army's Battleplan' by Dominic Price.

'Everyday Life 100 Years Ago (1920)', 'Guerrilla Warfare - The Last Days of the RIC', and 'Hamar Greenwood' by Seán Beattie.

'Ireland in 1920 - An Overview: A tumultuous year of disruption and conflict', The Government of Ireland Act', 'Violence erupts in Ulster', 'Blood Sunday - A Day of Terror and Death in Dublin', 'Kevin Barry - From medical student to Republican hero' and 'Observations on the Social and Economic of the Country - An analysis of the Report if the Registrar General for 1920' by Eamonn Duggan.

'British Struggle to get Messages Across', 'The Bank- ing Crisis of 1920',

'Assassinating Alan Bell', 'Films Showing in the Cinemas of Cork in 1920' and 'Pubs were dangerous places to be in 1920.....' by Éamón Ó Buadhacháin.

'The murder of Tomás MacCurtain' by T. Ryle Dwyer.

'The Making of Hand Grenades' by Jim Fitzgerald.

'Demons - The Black and Tans in Memory' by Tomás Mac Conmara.

'The First R.I.C. Barracks Capture in Leinster - Hug- ginstown, March 1920', 'The Michael Collins Papers', 'The Capture of Ernie O'Malley' and Margaret Ryan - the pregnant Kilkenny woman shot during a funeral procession' by Eoin Swithin Walsh.

'Law and Order: Terrible things were done by both sides.....', by Paul Craven.

'Guerrilla Warfare - The Last Days of the RIC' 'The Bond Drive - De Valera's crowd funding projects in America' and 'The War of Independence in the North West' by Seán Beattie.

'Literature in 1920' and 'Gaelic Football 100 Years Ago' by Brian McCabe.

'The Killing of Constable King' by Michael Dwyer.

'Songs of Defiance' by Pauline Murphy.

'General Frank Crozier', 'James Daly and the Munity of the Connaught Rangers' and 'Seán Treacy - Hero of Knocklong' by Seán Ua Cearnaigh.

'We make Butter not Profits - The Munster Soviets of 1920' by John Dowling.

'Terence MacSwiney - Death on Hunger Strike' by Tom O'Neill.

Two articles which have no author's name are 'Ambush at Kilmichael - An iconic Republican victory' and 'The Burning of Cork City'.

Copies of this excellent 96-page publication are only €4.25 - details of how to obtain copies of the first four parts of the 'Birth of a Nation' series are on page 27 or can be ordered via the Ireland's Own website - www.irelandsown.ie; email - iosubs@irelandsown.ie or call 05391-401040. **James Scannell**

CORONAVIRUS—COVID-19

The national containment measures introduced by the government, health authorities or the local authority currently prevent the Board from meeting as scheduled in order to conduct the normal day-to-day running of the Society, however, the Board agreed to the following under **Res: 20/03/1497** at its meeting on March 5th 2020.

The Company Secretary shall be **authorised to process payments** that would normally be submitted to the Board Meetings for approval and processing.

The Company Secretary, in consultation with An Cathaoirleach, shall liaise with the managements of the following venues in respect of the **Open Meetings – Royal Marine Hotel and the Dún Laoghaire Further Education Institute** – in order to be in a position to advise our Members in the event of either venue being rendered unavailable due to the current situation with COVID-19.

The Company Secretary, in conjunction with An Cathaoirleach, shall liaise with the managements of **Park House and the DLR Leisure Centre at Loughlinstown** in respect of the availability of these premises.

The Company Secretary, in conjunction with An Cathaoirleach, shall be **authorised to cancel any scheduled meeting, event or service provision** in line with the professional advice received in respect of COVID-19.

These measures shall remain at the disposal of the Company Secretary for the duration of the current containment period in respect of COVID-19, however, the Board shall be required to give effect to their continuance by a simple resolution at each subsequent Board Meeting following the adoption of this resolution. Also see: www.hse.ie

BOARD ELECTED FOR 2020-2021

The **Annual General Meeting** was held on Tuesday March 10th 2020 which elected the new Board of Directors of the Society for 2020-2021.

An Cathaoirleach (Chair), **Gerard Hayden**; Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair), **James Walsh**; General Secretary, **Michael Merrigan** and Director of Finance, **Lua Ó Scoláí** and the following without portfolio: **Barry O'Connor**, **Seamus Moriarty**, **Eddie Gahan** and **Shane Wilson**. The portfolios will be allocated at the first Board Meeting after the Annual General Meeting. (see page 4)

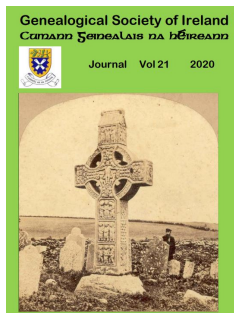
TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

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 **FIFTH** edition of '*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*'. Please checkout the website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €24.99 [RRP].

Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland

There is a distinct international and particularly Australian flavour to the Journal. Families of Dwyers, and related families of Gaffneys, Donaldsons, Commons, are followed across Australia by Karen Mather. The Bourke family who originated in Doonass, Co. Clare and became prominent in the Melbourne area is documented by Norm Darwin. Another Clareman, Michael Mangan, who joined the Australian Imperial Force in 1918, was honoured for his heroism in Gallipoli. Thanks to Dairde Carroll and Liz Caffery for documenting Mangan's life.



Not all international stories end well. The very sad story of James Suttle who emigrated from Cork to the United States provides a detailed insight into what life is like if you are down and out in New York in 1874. The story of Alexander Whitcroft Jnr, documented by Michael Nelson is that of his enlistment in the Royal Irish Rifles (Infantry Battalion) in 1907, his wartime record in WW1, and his death in action in 1915.

There are stories about families who originated outside the country. The Palmer family, who were prominent in Co. Mayo, Sligo, and Palmerstown, Co. Dublin were of Norman origin, and are traced through the generations by Anthony O'Hara. The Squires family of Tipperary and Dublin were immigrants from Liverpool, and are documented by John Goodwillie.

Two separate articles detail the plight of the less fortunate in Ireland in the 1800s. Laura Price describes how founding children from Offaly and other places were treated in the Dublin Foundling Hospital. James Scannell describes life in the Rathdown Union Workhouse, and how the buildings and site transformed over the years to become St Colmcille's Hospital in Loughlinstown.

Our thanks to all who contributed.

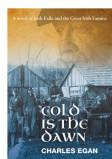
Tom Conlon MGSi

Newsletter Editor: The JGSI will be forwarded by email to each Member this month and to the overseas societies participating in the Journal Exchange Programme with this Society. The copy-right libraries will receive copies in the format required.

Checkout the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

HISTORICAL FICTION

Historical fiction is now a regular feature in the 'Gazette' and we continue with the review by of the trilogy by **Charles Egan, MGSi**. These are based on his extensive research undertaken on a box of very old documents and told an incredible story of suffering, love and courage. This story is set in 1846 during the Great Famine in Ireland and during the terrible snows of 1847.



John Brady says "Having read the trilogy, I realised that I was actually hooked from the start as was disappointed when the last page of the third book was read. I was horrified by the description of the hunger, hardship and miserable death from famine related diseases. I was appalled by the indifference of the landlords to the plight of their tenants. However, if you could get passed all of that despair and that was truly difficult, there was a great story running in the background with Luke, Danny, Murty Beg and their families – I was enthralled with the whole story – a real page turner like one of my favourite authors, Jeffrey Archer, would write.

Luke mainly carried the story, but the other members of the family were just as interesting. However, I thought it finished with a lot of unanswered questions, especially regarding Luke and Murty Beg. Luke went to Canada and worked in the forestry before going to the States where he worked in the coalmines – because there was no work on the railways. He would have been more familiar with the railway work. In due course, his wife Winnie joined him with their newly born son. However, there was hunger and hardship in America too and as things were just getting interesting for Luke and Winnie, the story ended. I think that there is definitely another book in there featuring Luke and Murty Beg's story. There is certainly a terrific Netflix movie to be made out of this trilogy."

This trilogy is highly recommended reading for all with an interest in An Gorta Mór—checkout: www.charlesegan.ie Many thanks to our guest reviewers John and June Brady.

NEWS FROM THE BOARD

As reported last month, although the AGM elected a **new Board of Directors** on Tuesday March 10th 2020, due to the current restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the new Board has been unable to have its first meeting.

The Board must meet to complete the registration of the new Directors and for each to sign of the 'Director's Declaration'. The statutory forms for the **Companies Registration Office** must be signed by the two newly elected Directors, **Shane Wilson** and **James Walsh** and, of course, no options can be made without the Board actually meeting.

Although a number of suggestions have been received regarding the hosting of an incorporeal meeting, possibly using Zoom (or similar technology), such is not permissible at this stage under Standing Orders. However, at the first meeting of the new Board an amendment to **Res: 20/03/1497** (see page 3) may be considered to facilitate incorporeal meetings in exceptional circumstances.

In these extraordinary circumstances the current Board (see panel above right) remains in place in a caretaker capacity until the first meeting of the new Board.

The "lockdown" has resulted in the suspension of the **Open Meetings** and the **Outreach Programme** until further notice. Indeed, it is difficult to say at this stage when these are likely to resume, although, the guidelines issued by the government could point to late July

or August. However, as the Society operates over four separate venues it is subject to the conditions applied by the management of each venue.

We have received the new ISSN for the 'Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland' to be published in an electronic format. The Journal will be forwarded by email to all Members over the next week or so.

The Society's **Archive & Research Centre** remains closed until the national restrictions are lifted by the government and again, this looks like August with the required social distancing to be put in place.

In the meantime, the Society has increased the number of daily postings to the Society's Facebook page—www.facebook.com/familyhistory.ie and Members are encouraged to follow the Society on **Facebook** and **Twitter**—@GenSocIreland. The Board couldn't meet as scheduled on Thursday May 7th and it is very likely that the next meeting scheduled for Thursday June 4th will go ahead.

But as reported last month, the day-to-day administrative functions are covered by **Res: 20/03/1497** (see page 3) and this **newsletter** will be published albeit in an electronic format only.

General Secretary

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

Board of Directors (caretaker**)

Gerry Hayden (Cathaoirleach : Chairperson);
Tony O'Hara (pro tem Leas-Chathaoirleach : Vice-Chairperson & Open Meetings Convener);
Michael Merrigan (General Secretary, Company Secretary, 'Gazette' Editor, RF:- Oifigeach na Gaeilge, Vexillological & Heraldic Services, & Irish DNA Atlas); **Lua Ó Scolaí** (Finance & pro-tem ADF, Philanthropy) and pro tem (Archive & Research Centre); **Eddie Gahan** (Outreach & Education); **Barry O'Connor** (Membership Services & Cemetery Projects); **Séamus Moriarty** (Building & Utilities, Health & Safety Officer); **Vacant** (Public Relations & Diaspora Outreach) (seven members)

** SEE: 'News from the Board' below. **

(Journal Editor & Video Production—**Tom Conlon** as a non-executive officer as and from 06.02.2020 under Res; 20/02/1490)

Board limited to ten Members with a quorum of six.

"HALL'S INDEX"

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 the late **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)

GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

An **Daonchartlann**, the Society's Archive and Research Centre is located at the **DLR Leisure Centre, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin**.

CLOSED due to the COVID-19 situation.

The use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is always available on request.

