



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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New President of the Society



The new President of the Society, **Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI**, took up office at the Annual General Meeting of the Society held on Tuesday 12th March 2024.

After introducing our new President at the AGM, the Cathaoirleach (Chair) **John Goggins, MGSI**, read an address to the President from his predecessor, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, wishing him the very best for his term of

office. The new President will serve a four-year term and will be succeeded thereafter by our Vice-President, **Fiona Fitzsimons, MA, FGSI**, for the next four years.

Our former President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, was conferred with the designation of **'President Emeritus'** by the Board and Members at the AGM unanimously endorsed this resolution by ballot.

The new President is armigerous having received a grant of arms from the **Chief Herald of Ireland** in 2009 (Vol. Z, Folio 87) and supporters in 2015 (Vol. Ae, Folio 72).

President O'Donnell has written and published extensively on the genealogical and heraldic heritage of his O'Donnell ancestors in County Donegal (Tyrconnell) and across Europe



WILLIAM E. HOGG, RIP

The Board was advised at its April monthly meeting of the passing on 19th March 2024 of a former Member of the Society, **Bill Hogg**, who was a very active member of the Executive Committee during the 1990s.

Bill was a meticulous researcher who brought his considerable business skills to the organisation and supervision of group projects for the members. He was passionate about the need to write your family history, not to just collect dates and names. To this end he hosted meetings of the Society's Writers' Group at his home. He enthusiastically encouraged members to write pieces for the Society's journals.

Bill stepped down from the Executive Committee in 1997 to concentrate on his own research into the mills of Ireland and, in particular, the surviving Mill Books. Bill eventually compiled and privately published between 1997 and 2015 several works of detailed listings of mills and millers in Ireland over several centuries. Copies are available in the National Library of Ireland.

Our sincerest condolences to Bill's family and friends in Ireland and overseas.

May he Rest in Peace.

and beyond. His magisterial work *'The O'Donnells of Tyrconnell—A Hidden History'* published by **Academica Press**, is a very comprehensive study of the history of this ancient Irish clan and a wonderful resource for the study of the continental O'Donnells.

Currently President O'Donnell is spearheading the revitalisation of the **O'Donnell Clan Association** and its development within the **Clans of Ireland** movement. A busy four years ahead, Mr. President.

CLARE TUOHY, FGSI, RIP

Clare Tuohy, FGSI, (d. 24th March 2024) was very well known by all in the Society for her wealth of knowledge of genealogical resources, both online and in repositories, and her willingness to assist and advise other Members on their



own research. Whether it was at the Monthly Morning Open Meetings or in *An Daonchartlann*, the Society's Archive & Research Centre, or indeed, at GSI Stands at various events around the country, Clare was always on hand to offer guidance and encouragement, especially to the many who thought that they had hit a "brick wall" only to discover other avenues of research after talking with Clare. Visitors to *An Daonchartlann* greatly appreciated the advice provided by Clare who was always very thorough in her research methodology and, indeed, this determination and attention to detail was enormously helpful to the research required to confirm the information provided by participants in the *'Irish DNA Atlas'* project. Her rigorous research, assisting Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI, ensured the accuracy and integrity of the genealogical data underpinning the *'Irish DNA Atlas'* project. Clare was elected to the College of Fellows of the Society in 2022 for her services to the Society. Above all else, Clare was a friend and a very much respected and well liked Member of this Society for over twenty-five years. Clare will be very sadly missed by all Members of the Society. Our sincerest condolences to her family and friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam dlí

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 9 April 2024 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 14 May 2024 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 25 April 2024 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 23 May 2024 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

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.

Donate



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@GenSocIreland

NEW CATEGORY REGISTERED

Mr. Martin Goldstraw, JP, FRSA, Scot., the Director of *The Armorial Register—International Register of Arms* registered the arms of newlyweds **Darryn Carlo** and **Roberto Luchoro** as 'Matrimonial and Family Arms'.



The arms were designed and emblazoned by **Dr. Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSI** (<https://www.blason.es>).

The beautifully designed and very meaningful arms were assumed by the couple on March 19th 2024 following their civil marriage in Madrid on March 11th 2024.

The full description of the arms and the symbolism employed is available on *The Armorial Register*—see <https://www.armorialregister.com> (entry No. 0693)

“ARCHIVE DROP-INS”

The weekly “Drop-Ins” hosted by **Gerard White, MGSI**, Director of the *GSI Open Meetings*, are hugely popular with our Members around the world.

These informal weekly “Drop-Ins” have been opened up to non-members for the summer period and are designed to allow you to join the Zoom meeting at any time between 11.00hrs and 12.00hrs on Wednesdays.

Previously only the “Drop-In” on the 4th Wednesday was publicly accessible for Members and visitors alike.

For the link to this “Drop-In” meeting see page 1.

Members receive an email from the Director of Membership Services each week with access details.

Members can send in their research query in advance to Archivist@familyhistory.ie

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



Background to the 1916 Easter Rising which commenced on Monday 24th April 1916.

In 1801, under the Act of Union, the Irish parliament was abolished, and Ireland was fully absorbed into a new state called the ‘United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland’. In 1870, Isaac Butt founded the Irish Home Government Association,

which later became the Home Rule League and eventually became the Irish Parliamentary Party (IPP). Throughout the next four decades, three Home Rule bills were introduced. In 1886 and 1893, the bills were defeated by the House of Lords. In September 1914, finally the Home Rule Act was passed. However, in the early stages of WWI, Britain declared war on Germany, therefore the Home Rule Act was suspended until after the war. Meanwhile, a republican minority in Ireland were not willing to wait for Home Rule and felt that a parliament in Dublin wasn't enough. They wanted complete freedom and independence from Britain. Thomas Clarke and Seán MacDiarmada revived the secret Irish revolutionary organisation that was founded back in 1858, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). The two men began to swear-in some new, young, and motivated advocates of the movement, like Patrick Pearse, Joseph Plunkett and Thomas MacDonagh. Amongst these oath-bound republicans, were also some socialist republicans, like the Scottish-born James Connolly. Connolly's involvement in the movement was huge as it resulted in the Irish Citizen Army supporting the cause. The IRB's largest group of supporters were Oglaiha na hÉireann (Irish Volunteers). The Irish Volunteers were founded in 1913 as a counterforce to the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), who were formed to militantly resist Home Rule. As WWI had begun, the majority of the Ulster and Irish Volunteers joined the British Army and went to fight in Europe. The remaining Irish Volunteers in Ireland were led by Eoin MacNeill, who was one of the founding members of the Gaelic League. Cumann na mBan was founded in Dublin on 2 April 1914 as a women's section of the Irish Volunteers. Cumann na mBan was an armed militant army but also trained in first aid. These exceptional women would not only play a key role in the upcoming rising but were an absolutely crucial force in Ireland's fight for freedom from 1919-1921. These women are often overlooked in Irish history, but as they carried out their activities such as intelligence gathering, delivering messages, couriers of arms, organising of safehouses, and nursing, these women risked their lives, showed remarkable courage and without them, the missions of their male counterparts would not have been anywhere near as effective, or even possible. The IRB feared that if Home Rule was to come into effect after the war, the days of Irish republicanism were over. In their minds, as the Great War progressed, England's difficulty was Ireland's opportunity, and this could be Ireland's last chance to strike. On Easter week, 1916, the Irish republican minority rose.

Check out my short videos on various aspects of Irish history on my Instagram account below:

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

GSI ANNUAL JOURNAL

Articles are now sought for the Society's Annual Journal 2024 which will be published electronically in October 2024. Subjects include genealogical research or resources, heraldry, vexillology, local, social or family history, biographies etc. Articles may be in English or Irish and ideally they should not have been published previously. It is also a great way to record your own family history. For further information please contact **Laura Price, MGSI**, on JGSI@familyhistory.ie



**36th International
Congress of Genealogical
and Heraldic Sciences**

Boston | 2024

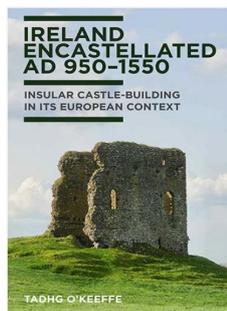
September 24-28
Boston, MA

<https://www.americanancestors.org/icghs-2024>

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

Ireland Encastellated AD 950-1550

When one thinks of the many tourism promotional campaigns launched over the past two decades by Fáilte Ireland and previously by Bord Fáilte and the emphasis placed on the numbers of castles, of all types and sizes, in our landscape, we can appreciate how



Appreciating the aesthetic beauty of these historic structures in our landscape and, of course, understanding that many also provide the source of local placenames, is about as far as most people think of Irish castles. We may have a name of the person who built a particular castle, possibly preserved in its name, or indeed, who later obtained the structure through conquest, transplantation or plantation, but know little else about the building of the structure.

A new book traces the history of castle-building in Ireland and it's not all about the Anglo-Normans, as the popular narrative would have us believe, it is much more fascinating story. *'Ireland's Encastellated AD 950—1550—Insular castle-building in its European Context'* by **Tadhg O'Keefe** and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-84682-863-8 : H/b : 240 pps. Ills. Price: €45.00 : Web Price: €17.50) in February 2024 and is now available at a discounted price on the FCP website

Despite an ever-expanding literature on Irish castles, the relationships between the castle-building tradition in Ireland and those of contemporary Europe have attracted very little attention among Irish scholars. This book seeks to remedy this by approaching the corpus of Irish castles as a non-Irish scholar might do.

Is there a case for dating the first castles in Ireland to the later tenth century in line with the chronology of castle-building on the Continent? Are castles in Ireland typical of their periods by contemporary standards in England and France in particular? Are any castles in Ireland genuinely innovative or radical by those contemporary standards? What inferences about Ireland's place in medieval Europe can be drawn from the evidence of its castles and their forms?

Tadhg O'Keefe is Full Professor of Archaeology, University College Dublin. His earlier books include *Romanesque Ireland: architecture and ideology in the twelfth century* (Dublin, 2003), *Medieval Irish buildings, 1100–1600* (Dublin, 2015), and *Tristernagh Priory, Co. Westmeath: colonial monasticism in medieval Ireland* (Dublin, 2018).

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the extensive online catalogue for 2024 and the wonderful special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie—note the “back-in-prints” too!!

GSI BOARD NEWS

The first meeting, after the AGM, of the Board of Directors was held on **Thursday April 4th 2024** at 11.00hrs via Zoom. The meeting was chaired by the Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGSI**, with all nine directors in attendance.

As is customary for the first meeting of a new Board, the Company Secretary, **Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI**, opened the meeting and formally listed all those elected at the AGM to serve on the Board for the next twelve months. He then handed the meeting over to the Cathaoirleach.

The Board was deeply saddened by the passing of **Clare Tuohy, FGSI**, a very active Member for over twenty-five years and hugely respected for her wealth of knowledge on research resources. The Board also learned with sadness the passing of a former Member, **William E. “Bill” Hogg**, who was an Executive Committee member during the 1990s and was very active in group projects, including encouraging and assisting Members to write their family histories and have them published by the Society.

The **allocation of portfolios** involved only very slight changes as all but one of the members of the previous Board were re-elected.

The position of **Deputy General Secretary** is vacant and the Board is anxious to co-opt a Member with the required skillset as a matter of urgency.

The General Secretary presented a newly formulated definition of ‘*Matrimonial and Family Arms*’ and outlined the various reasons why such was required.

Following a lengthy discussion which considered the current position in relation to heraldic conventions,

commonly known as the “*Laws of Arms*” and the issues of “heraldic authority” and “assumed arms”, the Board endorsed and adopted the definition under **Res: 24/04/1822**. (see page 4)

Lua Ó Scoláí, MGSI, Director of Finance, presented the **Monthly Accounts** for P.E. 31.03.2024. The **annual audited accounts** are back from the auditors and will be submitted to the **Companies Registration Office**.

Fiona Tipple, MA, FGSI, *Leas-Cathaoirleach and Director of Archival Services & Education*, advised the Board on ongoing attempts with **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** to identify and secure a new premises for the Society. Fiona also advised the Board of the nineteen boxes of books bequeathed by the late **Enid Meyers** to the Society's Archives and Research Centre.

Gerard Corcoran, MGSI, Director of Digitization & Genetic Genealogy, advised the Board on various upcoming events at home and overseas.

Eddie Gahan, FGSI, Director, Outreach Programme, updated the Board on his discussions with various event organisers and the possibilities for GSI Stands etc.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2024 at 11.00hrs via Zoom. **General Secretary**

WEEKLY RESEARCH ADVICE

WEDNESDAY at 11.00hrs (UTC+0) (Irish Time) via Zoom. (see page 2)

Zoom - Meeting ID: 830 9870 7989

Passcode: 670945

Right of Admission Strictly Reserved

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. (proof required) Full details on the *Membership Package* were published in the November 2022 issue of this newsletter. For back issues of the 'Gazette' please see the Society's website.

Barry O'Connor, FGSI,
Director of Membership Services.
Email: membership@familyhistory.ie

GSI OPEN MEETINGS

Society's Monthly Open Meetings are held via **ZOOM** to allow the fullest access by Members from Ireland and overseas.

Tuesday April 9th —Evening Open Meeting— 20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Paula Jones— *'Living in a Dublin Docklands Community in 1911'*

Wednesday April 24th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday May 14th—Evening Open Meeting— 20.00hrs (Zoom) - *'Heraldry Ireland Annual Lecture - GSI National Heraldic Survey.'*

Wednesday May 23rd —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday June 11th—Evening Open Meeting— 20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Davy Holden— *'Irish History & the Genealogist—Topic 'TBA'.*

Wednesday June 27th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday July 9th —Evening Open Meeting— 20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Patrick Abbott— Title of topic—*TBA*

Wednesday July 25th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday August 13th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: TBA

Wednesday August 22nd —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Talks will be posted on YouTube.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Membership Director, Barry O'Connor, FGSI, will email Members to log in to Zoom for the Open Meetings.

The lectures are open to the public and the access details are available on request by email from Membership@FamilyHistory.ie

Suggestions on the Monthly Lecture Programme to: eolas@familyhistory.ie

Members may send their research queries in advance for the Morning Open Meeting by email to Archivist@familyhistory.ie

The Lecture Programme is recorded for the GSI YouTube Channel as a free, publicly accessible educational resource. We endeavour to have each lecture up as soon as possible.

IRISH DNA ATLAS

Check out the short video and lectures on the *Irish DNA Atlas* project on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI>



www.eneclann.ie



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

James Scannell Reports...

ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY

Dr. Angela Byrne will present *'Cynthia Longfield and the St. George expedition of 1924: the making of an entomologist'* at 13.00hrs Tues 09 April in 19 Dawson Street, Dublin 2. Free but booking required – call 01-609 0600 or email: info@rai.ie.

RAHENY LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Elizabeth Kehoe will present *'Fleapits, Palaces and Multiplexes – A history of cinemas in Dublin'* 18.30hrs Tues April 09. Free but booking is required – rahenylibrary@dublincity.ie.

DLR SPRING INTO HERITAGE

Rob Goodbody will present *'Lead Mines'* at 19.00hrs on Tuesday April 09; Terence Doorley will present *'Burning the Big Houses, 1920-23'* at 19.00hrs on Tues 16 April; Peadar Curran *'A Walk in Marlay'* at 19.00hrs on Tues 23 April. All take place in Marlay House, Marlay Park, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. Free—but booking required – wecloudone/dlrheritageevents.

MALAHIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Ken McAllister will present *'Malahide RNAS Airship Station'* 20.00hrs Tues 09 April St. Sylvester's Church Parish Centre, Malahide, Co. Dublin. Admission €5.00.

CENTRAL LIBRARY, ILAC CENTRE

Historian in Residence Elizabeth Kehoe will present *'Servants in the Big Houses of Ireland'* at 14.30hrs Weds 10 April. Free but booking required 01-2228300 email: centrallibrary@dublincity.ie

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Michael Brannigan will present *'Dublin Moving East: 1798-1844'* at 18.00hrs on Weds 10 April, and Albert Fenton *'The Most Distinguished Order of the Knights of St. Patrick'* at 18.00hrs on Weds 24 April. Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Free & no booking is required.

EDWARD WORTH LIBRARY SEMINAR

Dr. Iona McCleery will present *'Turtles, oysters, and quails: health and natural history in the fifteenth-century west Africa'* at 16.15hrs on Thurs 11 April in the Trinity Medieval History Research Centre Seminar Room (Room PX2.1, 5-7 South Leinster Street, Dublin 2). Register for the online lecture by contacting Dr. David Ditchburn: email:ditchbud@tcd.ie.

DRUMCONDRA LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Dr. Mary Muldowney will recall *'The 1973 helicopter escape from Mountjoy jail'* at 18.30hrs on Thursday 11 April. Admission is free but booking is required – call 01-222 8344 or email: drumcondralibrary@dublincity.ie.

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

David McCullagh will present *'De Valera Rule: 1932-1975'* at 20.00hrs Thurs 11 April St. Raphaela's Primary School Hall, St. Raphaela's Road, Upper Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Admission €3.00.

RINGSEND LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Dr. Cormac Moore will present *'Trapped on the Wrong Side of the Border'* at 18.30hrs on Monday 15 April. Free but booking is required – call 01-222 8499 or email: ringsendlibrary@dublincity.ie.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Donal O'Sullivan will present *'New research notes on the building of Dún Laoghaire Harbour'* at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 16 April in Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Admission is €5.00 for visitors.

MARINO LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Elizabeth Kehoe will present *'Fleapits, Palaces and Multiplexes – A history of cinemas in Dublin'* at 18.30hrs on Weds 17 April. Free but booking is required—marinolibrary@dublincity.ie.

GREYSTONES ARCH & HIST SOC

L. McLoughlin will present *'Wicklow County Council Archives'* 19.30hrs Weds 17 April Kilian Family Centre, beside Holy Rosary Church, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. Admission €3.00.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BOROUGH HIST SOC

The AGM & Annual Treasure Night will take place at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 17 April in the Royal Marine Hotel, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Admission €5.00

BRAY CUALANNE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Peadar Curran will present *'The Ice Houses of Dublin and Wicklow'* at 20.00hrs Thurs 18 April Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. Admission €8.00.

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION

John O'Brien will present *'The Machine Gun Corps'* at 14.00hrs on Sat. 20 April in the Conference Room, Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin 2. Free. Donation appreciated.

CHARLEVILLE MALL LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Elizabeth Kehoe will present *'Servants in the Big Houses of Ireland'* at 14.30hrs on Sat 20 April. Free but booking required on charlevillmalllibrary@dublincity.ie.

ROUNDWOOD & DISTRICT HISTORICAL

Martin Timmons will present *'A History of Schools in the Roundwood Area'* at 20.00hrs on Tues. 23 April in Roundwood Parish Hall, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. Admission charge.

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

Paul Hendrick will present *'DART & Programme'* at 19.30hrs on Thursday 25 April; John O'Brien will present *'Harristown Station – A History'* at 19.30hrs on Thursday 09 May. Society's Dublin Huston Station premises - strictly members and their guests only.

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR HS

Séamas Ó Maitiú will present *'Handel in Dublin and the First Performance of Messiah 1742'* 20.00hrs Thurs 25 April in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Visitors €4.00 - Swan Car Park Evening Rate: €4.00 from 19.00hrs to Midnight.

BALLYMUN LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Dr. Mary Muldowney will hold a *'School Day Reminiscences Session'* at 14.00hrs on Monday 29 April. Admission is free and all are welcome.

CLONDALKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Scuffil will present *'One Picture, Many Stories'* at 20.00hrs on Monday 29 April in Áras Chronáin Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. Admission €5.00 for non-members.

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

David Ryan will present *'Buck Whaley'* at 20.00hrs on Thurs 02 May in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. Adults €4.00 / Students €2.00.

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

A *'Medal, Militaria and Collectables Fair'* will take place from 10.00hrs to 14.00hrs on Saturday 04 May in the Knox Memorial Hall, Monkstown Village, Co. Dublin. Admission: €2.00 members and €4.00 non-members.

James Scannell, FGSI

Continued on page 4 for publication review

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAGI, 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].

AGM REPORT & INFORMATION ON THE MARCH LECTURE

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 20.00hrs via Zoom with Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGSi**, presiding. Following the adoption of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM, the Cathaoirleach introduced our new President, **Amb. Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSi**, and read a message from the outgoing President, **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSi**.

Getting to the business of the AGM, the members adopted the *Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland* for the period March 2023 to March 2024.

The Director of Finance, **Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSi**, delivered the *Annual Financial Report* for the period ending 31st December 2023 and although, the accounts were presented in an unaudited form, they were adopted by the AGM. The accounts were still with the auditors at the time of the AGM.

An Cathaoirleach requested the Company Secretary to proceed with the election of the new Board of Directors and the following were duly elected: Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGSi**; Leas-Chathaoirleach, **Fiona Tipple, MA, FGSi**; General Secretary, **Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSi**; Director of Finance, **Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSi** and the following without portfolio: **Barry O'Connor, FGSi**, **Shane Wilson, MGSi**, **Laura Price, MGSi**, **Gerard Corcoran, MGSi**, **Eddie Gahan, FGSi** and the final place was left for co-optation at a later stage.

The AGM also endorsed *Res: 24/03/1809*, formally creating the honorific and ceremonial designation '*President Emeritus*' and confirming the outgoing President in that position alongside the current holders of this designation **Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSi** and **Rory Stanley, FGSi**, who have heretofore held such by convention.

The Monthly Lecture following the completion of the business of the AGM was delivered by **Shane Wilson, MGSi**, *Director of Internet Services*, on '*Searching Civil BMD Records—Tips & Tricks*'. It wouldn't be doing justice to the excellent advice given by Shane to attempt a short précis of his presentation here. In anticipation of that difficulty, Shane prepared a handout on the various tips and tricks and this is available on the Society's website. The talk will be uploaded to the Society's YouTube Channel (*see the bottom of this page for the link*).

MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY—DID YOU KNOW?

- ☞ Did you know that Membership of this Society is open to all with an interest in family history, heraldry, vexillology (study of flags and emblems) and related subjects?
- ☞ Did you know that Membership is open to anyone living in Ireland or overseas and with Irish ancestry or with ancestors from anywhere in the world? All are most welcome.
- ☞ Did you know that Student Membership is also available at 50% off the subscription?
- ☞ Please checkout: www.familyhistory.ie ☞ Email: membership@familyhistory.ie

MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY ARMS

The Society became the first organisation to officially endorse under *Res: 24/04/1822* the definition of '*Matrimonial and Family Arms*' formulated by Spanish heraldist and heraldic artist, **Dr. Antonio Samerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSi**, the GSI Honorary Herald; **Martin Goldstraw, JP, FRSA, Scot.**, the Director of *The Armorial Register*, and **Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSi**, our General Secretary.

Marriage equality is recognised in law in most western democracies, including many that have State heraldic authorities or indeed, have a long tradition of heraldry. Some of these national heraldic authorities have moved quickly to provide for same sex couples applying for arms, however, in practice it has been an adaptation of the existing procedure for arms for a husband and a wife (impaled arms).

The convention ("*Laws of Arms*") applied provides for the husband's arms (dexter/right) to be placed alongside the arms of his wife (sinister/left) and for the arms to be inheritable in the male line etc. But this convention is hardly appropriate for same sex couples and therefore, for assumed arms, a new definition was formulated as follows:

"Matrimonial and Family Arms" recognises heraldically "marriage equality" as defined by law as a union between persons of the opposite sex or persons of the same sex and, in doing so, the arms are jointly owned by the parties to the marriage, and, depending on the jurisdiction and any legal obligations, they are inheritable

in the normal manner of arms or may be assigned or bequeathed by the surviving party as their personal property to whom they so wish, noting at all times, that such a transfer should be recorded in any register or roll of arms concerned, however, in the case of a dissolution of a marriage, the arms may be assigned or lapsed as agreed by the parties and again, such should be recorded in any register or roll of arms concerned.

While some heraldic purists will, no doubt, utterly dismiss this very reasonable attempt to provide an appropriate recognition of marriage equality in the provision of heraldic services.

Hopefully, there is a majority in the heraldic community that fully understands that heraldry has never been fossilised in the conventions commonly known as the "*Laws of Arms*", but instead evolved to meet the needs of society.

The endorsement of this definition of '*Matrimonial and Family Arms*' (*cited as the MGS Definition 2024*) by the Board of Directors of the Society on Thursday 4th April 2024 may encourage other heraldic and genealogical organisations throughout the world to do likewise.

The national heraldic authorities have responded to the introduction of marriage equality, but in reality a new category of arms is what is required. Heraldry must move with the times, as it has done so in the past, to meet the needs of a changing society.

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"HALL'S INDEX"

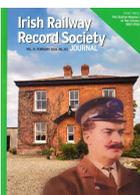
The "*Gazette*" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world.

The past issues of the Society's newsletter from 1996 to 2016 had been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGSi**. The "*Hall's Index*" now includes all issues right up to date and is available 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 of the "*Gazette*" at www.familyhistory.ie)

Check out the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

Continued from page 3



February 2024 issue of '*Irish Railway Record Society Journal*', Vol.31 No.213, **Tim Moriarty**, Hon. Editor, published by the **Irish Railway Record Society**.

Articles featured in this issue of this excellent Irish railway history magazine include –

- ☞ 'The Station Masters of Harristown 1883-1938' by John O'Brien
- ☞ 'William Dargan's English Railways – Part 2' by Robert Hartley
- ☞ 'From Dining Car to Food Trolley' by Louis Cullen
- ☞ 'The Irish Pullman Experiment 1926-1936' by Tim Moriarty
- ☞ 'Irish Rail 2024 Timetable' by Barry Carse
- ☞ 'Society News'
- ☞ 'Obituaries'
- ☞ 'Observations and Comments'
- ☞ 'Publications'
- ☞ 'Paddy O'Brien Photo Miscellany'
- ☞ 'Irish Railway News'
- ☞ 'Outing to Mallo Level Crossing Control Centre & Lartigue Monorail and

DONATIONS This Society is a **Registered Charity in Ireland** and it is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the very kind donations received from Members and friends at home and overseas. The Society simply couldn't exist without such help from our Members and friends. If you would like to make a donation to help the Society with its work, please visit the Society's website on <https://www.familyhistory.ie> **Thank You Very Much.**

Museum ☞ 'Time Arrow' Raitour ☞ 'Meeting Programme' and finally ☞ Subscriptions and how to join the Irish Railway Record Society.

Shane Scannell, FGSi

GSi ON YOUTUBE

The Society's lectures and some informational short videos were uploaded to our YouTube Channel. To view the videos and hopefully, to '*Like*' and '*Share*' them, and to '*Subscribe*' to our YouTube channel—please checkout:

www.YouTube.com/GenSocIreland

GSi ON INSTAGRAM

The Society has been expanding its presence across all social media platforms and we're on Instagram! Please checkout this link:

www.instagram.com/GenSocIreland

GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

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

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

The facility is normally open each Wednesday from 11.00hrs to 15.00hrs contact the GSI Archivist on Archivist@familyhistory.ie

