



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

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Lúnasa : 팔월 : August 2024

SPANISH-IRISH ASSOCIATIONS

The **First International Gathering of Spanish-Irish Associations** will be held on Friday 13th September 2024 at the renowned **University of Valladolid** in Spain.

Valladolid was where archaeologists tried to recover the remains of **Red Hugh O'Donnell** who was buried in the now demolished Franciscan Monastery at Valladolid in September 1602. He was only 29 years of age and died at Simancas Castle attended by the Archbishop of Tuam and friars from his native Donegal. Unfortunately, despite extensive excavations the remains of this Prince of Tir Chonaill were not found. A commemorative plaque was unveiled and the city of Valladolid hosts an annual festival in his honour including a re-enactment of the funeral of Red Hugh which was that of a royal prince.

The O'Donnells and other Irish chiefly families married into the Spanish nobility or were accorded such status by Spanish monarchs over the past four centuries. These ennobled Spanish families are represented by the **Real Asociación de Hidalgos de**

España and include, the **Duke of Tetuán, Grande de España, Don Hugo O'Donnell**, a lawyer and historian. The title was first granted to his illustrious ancestor Don Leopoldo O'Donnell, Count of Lucena, back in April 1860. He was the President of the Council of Ministers (Prime Minister). By the way, the O'Neill's are also well represented amongst the current Spanish nobility, the **Marqués de la Granja, Don Carlos O'Neill y Orueta**, an economist.



The Society's President **Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGS**, (left) has been heavily involved with those, including the Duke of Tetuán, seeking to both recover Red Hugh O'Donnell's remains and to have them returned for burial in Donegal.

According to **Carlos Burgos**, who works tirelessly to promote Irish-Spanish cooperation, this event next month aims to bring together groups involved in various sectors, including music, history, dance, literature, business, languages, Camino de Santiago, maritime, cultural, recreational and sports organisations.

This Society's representative in Spain, **Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGS**, *Honorary Herald of the Genealogical Society of Ireland*, (right) has been in contact with Señor Burgos regarding this event.



It would be great to have the Society and its Specialist Branch, **Heraldry Ireland**, represented at this very important event. Indeed, the Honorary Herald noted that an exhibition of Irish heraldry and the heraldry of the Spanish of Irish ancestry could be an excellent addition to the programme of events. Some examples of which can be seen on <https://www.blason.es>

Further information on this important inaugural event will be posted on the Society's Facebook page.



1r ENCUESTRO INTERNACIONAL

DE ASOCIACIONES DE LA

HERMANDAD HISPANO-IRLANDESA

VALLADOLID 13 SEPT. 2024

IN MEMORIAM

The President of the Society, **Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGS**, on behalf of the Members, extends his deepest sympathies to the families of **Mrs Mary Guthrie (née Hanifin)** of Ballina, Co. Mayo, who died on 19th July 2024 and **Mrs Paulette Moran (née McGovern)** of Celbridge Co. Kildare, (formerly of *Sallynoggin and Clondalkin*) who died on 27th July 2024.

Mary was the mother of our longtime printer of this newsletter and other GSI publications, **Mr Keith Guthrie**, of *ProPrint*, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin.

Paulette, event organiser at the annual *Holiday World Shows* in Dublin and Belfast, greatly assisted the GSI Outreach Team, led by **Eddie Gahan, FGS**, at each of these events for many years.

Our prayers and thoughts are with their families at this very difficult time. **RIP**

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 13 August 2024 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 10 September 2024 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 22 August 2024 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 25 September 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

FESTSCHRIFT : FÉIL-SCRÍBHÍN

Invitation to our Readers

The Board of the Society invites Members and friends of the Society to submit newly composed essays on any aspect of genealogy, heraldry, vexillology, genetic genealogy, local history or historical event or a biography for a new publication. Authors only please.

These essays will be compiled as a “festschrift” to be published in honour of former President **Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, and presented to him by our Society’s new President **Amb (ret) Francis M. O’Donnell, FGSI**.

Interested? Please email colas@familyhistory.ie

“ARCHIVE DROP-INS”

The weekly “Drop-Ins” hosted by the Society are hugely popular with our Members in Ireland and around the world.

These weekly “Drop-Ins” have been opened up to non-members for the summer period and are designed to allow you to join via **Zoom** 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 please see the link and passcode at bottom of this page Members can send in their research query in advance to Archivist@familyhistory.ie

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



I recently completed my family tree, and for the past few months, I have been researching some family history. While browsing through various genealogy websites online, I came across a picture with the caption: ‘**Thomas McCormack and Josephine**

O’Donohue’, which were the names of my great, great grandparents on my mother’s side. I immediately sent the picture to my mother and auntie asking them if this was my great-great grandparents, to which they replied; “I’m not sure. I have never seen a picture of them before”. I noticed that the picture was uploaded by a McCormack in the United States, so I got in contact with her and after some chatting back and forth, it was confirmed. After receiving confirmation, my mother sent the picture to her family group chat, where only one person had ever seen this picture before. What an amazing discovery and an absolute stroke of luck on my behalf. My great-great grandfather, Thomas, was from Corofin, Co. Clare, and his wife, Josephine, from New Ross, Co. Wexford. They settled in Rosmuc, Galway, an area which was in the Gaeltacht region of Connemara. Thomas worked as a national school teacher, and in his spare time, he would travel to various small islands off the south coast of Connemara to teach English to people who were planning on emigrating. One Saturday, in October 1905, Thomas and five others were sailing towards the island of Illauneeragh on a boat, known locally as a ‘pookaun’. The boat was struck by a squall and capsized. All the occupants of the pookaun were left struggling in the water, leaving only one survivor. My 28-year-old great-great grandfather’s body was never found, and he left behind his wife and five children. His wife, Josephine, moved back to New Ross where she had family to help her raise the kids, one of whom, my great grandmother, Lily McCormack. If I had not built my family tree, a story like this would have been easily lost.

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

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

THE CATHAOIRLEACH’S CHAIN

The Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of the Society, **John Goggins, MGSI**, will be officially representing the Society at the **36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences** which will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA from September 24th to 28th 2024. See: <https://www.americanancestors.com>

The Cathaoirleach’s Chain of Office is being engraved, cleaned and polished for use at this prestigious event. Did you know that originally the cathaoirleach (chairpersons) of the Society wore a sash? In 1999, one of the four co-founders of the Society, the late **Mrs. Joan Merrigan**, presented this chain of office with an engraved medallion to the Society in memory of her husband who died five years earlier.

In 2002, **Mr. Pat Shannon**, of **Facet Jewellers** in Dún Laoghaire, presented the Society with a new medallion for the chain of office. The medallion was specially designed with the Society’s arms in gold mounted on a silver disc engraved with the Society’s name.

Although it was originally intended to attach the 1999 medallion to the chain, possibly at the back, this was unfortunately overlooked until now. The 1999 medallion will be affixed to the chain of office by Facet Jewellers during the engraving and cleaning process.

See: <https://www.facetjewellers.ie>

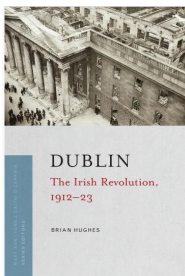
AUGUST ISSUE OF THE ‘GAZETTE’

As advised last month, Members and readers please note that, the August issue of ‘**Ireland’s Genealogical Gazette**’ will be published approximately one week later than usual due to annual vacations. Publication date 19th August 2024. **Editor.**

We’ll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

DUBLIN—The Irish Revolution, 1912-23

Another excellent volume in the county-based series on the Irish revolution edited by Mary Ann Lyons and Daithí Ó Corráin—the sixteenth and, for Dubliners, it was well worth the wait. ‘**Dublin—The Irish Revolution, 1912-23**’ by **Brian Hughes** published this month by **Four Courts Press** (ISBN: 978-1-80151-119-3 : P/bk : 203pps : illustrations & b+w photographs : Price: €24.95 : Web. Price: €22.45).



Dublin, Ireland’s capital city and prior to independence in 1922, the administrative centre for the governance of Ireland under the Westminster parliament since 1801, was naturally the epicentre of the struggle for independence in the early twentieth century. After the Act of Union came into force in 1801 and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland was established, the city with all the trappings of a capital city—parliament building, superior law courts, established church, resident gentry etc—rapidly lost the grandeur and status, although sometimes referred to as “the second city of the Empire”, in reality it became a mere provincial city with some of the worst slums in western Europe by 1900.

But, as the author points out, there were many different ‘Dublins’, including the city borough and its suburban townships, picturesque seaside settlements and the Dublin and Wicklow mountains to the south, and a rural hinterland to the north and west. These different “Dublins” were not defined simply by geography but also by demographic, social, religious, and increasingly by ethnic factors as political allegiances coalesced around more convenient labels through either othering or ascription. The city was a hub for the development of the suffrage and republican movements. It also witnessed the largest industrial dispute in the history of the island in 1913, the Easter Rising 1916, and some of the most famous (and infamous) moments of the War of Independence and Civil War. There was also a relatively large and well-organized unionist minority, chiefly centred around the more affluent southside townships. The north and west of the county, meanwhile, shared more in common with neighbouring counties than with the city.

This book provides a rounded and original overview of revolution in both Dublin city and county. It highlights the sometimes-vast differences in experience in urban and rural Dublin. In particular, the book focusses on ‘ordinary’ or rank-and-file participants alongside those who took no part at all but witnessed events as they unfolded around them. This is an important point for the genealogist and local historian seeking to understand the impacts, if any, of these events on their own ancestors or within their own locality. This book is very likely to be quickly sold out and therefore, early purchasing is strongly advised. The absence of any reference to James Brady’s work ‘*With the Sixth Battalion – South County Dublin and the War for Irish Independence: 1916-21*’ (Litter Press, 2020) is surprising, nevertheless, the author deals extensively with Kingstown and Dún Laoghaire in the period under consideration. **Brian Hughes** is a native of west Dublin and he lectures in the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick.

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 OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Photo below: members of the Outreach Team (**Eddie Gahan, Fiona Tipple, Gerard White & Fionnuala White**) packing up after the very busy ‘**Genealogy Day**’ hosted by **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** in the historic Cabinteely House on Saturday 20th July 2024.



The event was an enormous success and indeed, the Director of the Outreach Programme, **Eddie Gahan, FGSI**, noted that the numbers had to be curtailed and the sessions shortened due to its popularity.

A great credit to **James O’Sullivan** of the Heritage Office at Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and the staff at Cabinteely House.

Next up, Eddie is planning visits to various

repositories and museums starting with the very interesting **Dublin Print Museum** on a Thursday in September. The cost will be only €20 to include a light lunch and a tour of the museum and the adjacent Labour Court buildings.

A full itinerary is in preparation and therefore, Eddie invites those interested in joining this day tour to make contact with him by email on Archivist@familyhistory.ie

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

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 August 13th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: James Scannell, FGSI—*A Dangerous Occupation—Working on the Railways in the Bray Area.*

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

Tuesday September 10th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Ashwini Shanmugam (RCSI) - *Demographic History of Ireland & Britain.*

Wednesday September 26th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday October 8th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: TBA

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

Tuesday November 12th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: TBA

Wednesday November 28th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday December 10th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: TBA

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 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 videos and lectures on the *Irish DNA Atlas* project on **YouTube**

<https://https://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI>



www.eneclann.ie



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

James Scannell Reports...

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Brian White will lead a Heritage Week Walk 'From Promenade Bandstand to Bray Harbour' at 11.00hrs on Monday 19 August 19th, at 15.00hrs on Wednesday 21 August, and at 19.00hrs on Friday 23 August. Participants take part at their own risk and should dress appropriately for each day's prevailing weather conditions. Assembly point: bandstand on Bray Esplanade.

CLONDALKIN LIBRARY

Liz Gillis will present 'Women in post-revolutionary Ireland' at 18.30hrs on Monday 19 August. Admission is free but booking is required via Eventbrite at Heritage -Week-Women-in-post-revolutionary-Ireland-Liz-Gillis.

RAHENY LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Katie Blackwood will present 'Four Holy Wells in North Dublin' at 18.30hrs on Monday 19 August. Admission is free but prior booking is essential - please phone Raheny Library at 01-222 8322 or rahenylibrary@dublincity.ie, to reserve a place.

DALKEY CASTLE & HERITAGE CENTRE

Michael McShane will present 'The Earliest Railways of Dalkey and Killiney' at 19.30hrs on Monday 19 August, and Peter Pearson 'The Granite Coast' at 19.30hrs on Thursday 22 August. Admission is free but booking is required via www.dalkeycastle.com/

ST. JAMES' CHURCH CRINKEN

Brian White will give a 'Tour and Talk: Mrs. Hannah Gordon and Mrs. James Clarke -Two ladies who spearheaded the building of St. James' Church, Crinken' at 15.00hrs on Tuesday 20 August, followed afterwards by tea, coffee, and treats. All are welcome.

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Rathmichael Historical Society Summer Lecture Series 2024 takes place from Monday 19 August to Friday 23 August at 20.00hrs nightly in Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, which has 'Monastic Midlands' as the theme this year. Lectures are: Monday 19 August: 'The Monumental Landscape of the Midland Monasteries' by Caimin O'Brien; Tuesday 20 August: 'A Modern Scholar Explores the Monastic Midlands, Past and Present' by George Cunningham; Wednesday 21 August: 'Leo Swan Memorial Lecture; 'Clonmacnoise and its Churches' by Con Manning; Thursday 22 August: 'King Turlough O'Connor, Clonmacnoise and the Lemanaghan Shrine' by Griffin Murray; and Friday 23 August: 'St. Mochua of Timahoe, Co. Laois' by Charles Doherty. These lectures will also take place simultaneously on Zoom. The admission for each lecture is €5.00, tea and coffee included. See www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie for further details on these lectures and the Society.

NATIONAL HERITAGE WEEK

Ita Boyle will hold a 'Family History Clinic' from 13.30hrs to 16.30hrs on Tuesday 20 August in Rathdrum Library - booking essential - 0404-43232 or Rathdrumlib@wicklowcoco.ie to reserve a place; Therese Hicks will present 'A Book Lost in Time - Rediscovered! - Life in Wicklow Town in the 1600s' at 19.00hrs in Wicklow Town Library, admission is free but to book 0404 67025 or wicklib@wicklowcoco.ie. Kieran Gillen will present 'Out There Somewhere: The Graves of The National Army, 1922-24' at 19.30hrs on Tuesday 20 August in Greystones Library - admission is free but to 01 2873548 or email greylib@wicklowcoco.ie. Therese Hicks will present 'Who were the Kennedys of Mount Kennedy?' at 15.00hrs on Wednesday 21 August in Greystones Library, Mill Road, Greystones, Co. Wicklow - admission is free but booking is required. Ita Boyle will hold a 'Family History Clinic' from 16.00hrs to 19.00hrs on Thursday

22 August in Arklow Library - booking is essential, 0402 -39977 or email: arklowlibrary@wicklowcoco.ie to reserve a place; Frank Hopkins will present 'In the Belly of the Beast - Tales from Wicklow's Historic Gaol' at 7pm in Wicklow Town Library. Admission is free and but booking is required wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie to reserve a place. On Friday 23 August there will be a talk and workshop on 'Wicklow Historic Graveyard's: Connecting Our Communities' from 11.00hrs to 13.00hrs in the Community Room of Wicklow Town Library with Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Gerlanda Maniglia, Local Studies Librarian, and Yvonne Whitty, Community Archaeologist. All are welcome; Ita Boyle will hold a 'Family History Clinic' from 13.30hrs to 16.30hrs in Blessington Library, - booking is essential, 045-891740 or email: blessingtonlib@wicklowcoco.ie to reserve a place. From 17 August to 25 August the 'Wicklow Gaol Comrades Exhibition' will be on view in Tinahely Library during normal opening hours, and the 'Wicklow War of Independence Exhibition' will be on view in Carnw Library during normal opening hours.

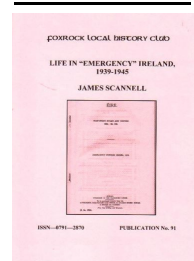
THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

John Fitzgerald will present 'Good News a Heritage Council grant for cataloguing work on the Old Dublin Society book collection in the R.D.S.' 18.00hrs on Wednesday 21 August, Conference Room, Dublin City Library and Archive and followed at 18.15hrs with 'John Spicer's bakery and shop, Balbriggan, (1904-1999) and his links with Dublin City' presented by Frank Whearity. Admission is free - seats allocated on a first-come basis.

DONAGHMEDE LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Katie Blackwood will present 'Four Holy Wells in North Dublin' at 18.30hrs on Thursday 22 August. Admission is free but prior booking is essential - please phone Donaghmede Library at 01-222 8311 or donaghmedelibrary@dublincity.ie

PUBLICATIONS



Foxrock Local History Club Publication No. 91 - 'Life in "Emergency" Ireland, 1939-1945' by James Scannell - ISSN - 0791-2870. This publication looks at life in Ireland during the 1939-45 period known as the 'The Emergency' under a variety of headings including day to day life, rationing, the role and serving with the voluntary services such as the Local Security Force (LSF), Local Defence Force (LDF) and Air Raid Precautions (ARP), espionage in south County Dublin, the Rosmeen Park air raid, censorship, Anglo-Irish relations employment, defence and the role of mariners. Copies, price €5.00 plus postage can be ordered from the Foxrock Local Club website - www.foxrocklocalhistory.ie or at the meetings of the Club when they resume in September.

James Scannell, FGSI

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].

PRÉCIS OF THE JULY LECTURE

On Tuesday July 9th 2024 at our Evening Open Meeting we were delighted to welcome as our Guest Speaker, **Patrick Abbott**, who delivered a very personal talk on a subject that has been much in the news of late—the Irish *'Mother & Baby Homes'*. Indeed, in many ways it was a very timely talk as a resolution to some outstanding issues regarding the government's redress scheme had recently been announced, however, reports of files and records found stored and forgotten in derelict buildings formerly occupied by such institutions caused an outcry for the tightening of the legislation.



Patrick's illustrated talk, entitled *'Outcast—A Mother & Baby Home Survivor'* could be considered both as a narration of a journey of discovery and, very movingly, one of liberation and vindication, without recrimination. His own personal experiences with the care system were supportive, loving and generally filled with happy memories of those, with whom, he shared the early years of his life and his childhood.

The reasons that Patrick sought to know more about his past are heartwarming and his eventual quest was a fascinating jaunt along a very bumpy road with very few signposts, although with some surprising hints leading to discoveries in places far from home like the west coast of the United States, England and to far off Australia.

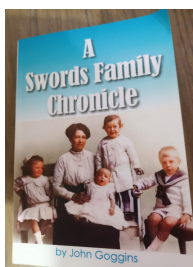
In the end, Patrick's determination brought a long-awaited and yet, unexpected, solace to his mother, with whom, he gently shared his discoveries. At his mother's funeral in her home parish, this quest was quietly triumphant.

This very interesting presentation on a difficult and often very painful topic has been uploaded to the Society's YouTube Channel (see 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 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

A SWORDS FAMILY CHRONICLE



The importance of the publication of family history research has always been promoted by this Society as the ultimate objective of any serious genealogist.

However, sadly not many of us actually achieve this goal and, for whatever reasons, must rely on the rather sterile printouts from our family history computer programs. These we hand around to family members

and, no matter how good the program printouts may look, they can never replace the family story as more naturally narrated and recorded in book form.

Our very popular and highly respected Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGSi**, has recently donated a copy of *'A Swords Family Chronicle'* by John Goggins (ISBN: 979 8326362803—P/bk : 228pps), to the Society's Archives and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, in Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin.

By the way, this book has nothing to do with the ancient village of Swords in north Co. Dublin. The village name derives from *Sord Cholmcille* or St. Colmcille's well or spring.

John was born in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, and has lived in south Co. Wexford since 1973 where he had a business, raised a family with his late wife, Corrine, and became very active in the local community, especially sports and youth activities, in and around the

village of Rosslare Harbour, Co. Wexford.

A love for family history, John says, was inspired by his mother's story-telling and sense of adventure that drove many of his relatives. This flair for story-telling was certainly inherited as this family narrative goes beyond the "so and so begat so and so begat..." that is all too often the manner in which family history is presented.

John provides the reader with a real sense of the character of each of the family members. In many ways, this is the true nature of the folk narrative at the heart of Irish people's love of genealogy.

The structure of the narrative is important for the reader, especially one not too familiar with the family, and John clearly understood this point and provided, maybe unwittingly, an excellent template for others to follow.

Dún Laoghaire readers will greatly appreciate the references to the Irish Lights, the "Corpo", local businesses and events, some amusing and others tragic. Including two "near misses" in December 1940—in Sandycove and off the Wexford coast.

However, not only the Irish based family members are included in this narrative, but also those who ventured abroad, whether serving at sea, or in the armed forces, or emigrating.

From exotic Bermuda to the hustle and bustle of 1930's Flushing, New York City or the WWII RAF bases in the English midlands, this family history will be cherished by family members for many generations to come. Congratulations John!

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

SECTIONS 48, 49 & 50

The discoveries of the files and records of some state and non-state institutions being stored in derelict pigeon-infested buildings on the former sites of these institutions has shocked many, not least, the former residents of these institutions and their advocates.

Whilst interim solutions can be immediately put in place to secure these invaluable records and to move them temporarily to more suitable locations, the issues of custody, preservation, prevention of export and/or destruction and state acquisition must be addressed legislatively.

In the July issue of this newsletter we highlighted the need to incorporate the *'Principle of Public Ownership and Right of Access'* into legislation governing records of a genealogical potential, including school register, institutional registers and files etc.

Although, time could be spent on the drafting of completely new legislation, it may well be easier to examine Sections 48, 49 & 50 of the *National*

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.**

Cultural Institutions Act, 1997, with a view to strengthening these provisions by amending the 1997 Act. This has the advantage of an already existing legislative framework and process avoiding needless duplication or the creation of any new authority or agency. Nevertheless, increased powers of inspection, acquisition and enforcement may well be required.

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/c/GeneraleologicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI

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

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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 up to date—please see 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)

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

