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(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

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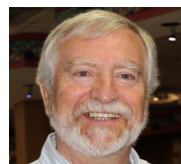
Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences



Our good friends at the world renowned **New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS)**, founded in 1845, will host the **36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences** in Boston, Massachusetts, USA, between 24th and 28th September 2024.

This prestigious event attracts professionals in these related fields from all around the world and the workshops and lectures are usually of an unrivalled quality, often based on new or yet to published research.

Many here in Ireland will remember when the event was hosted in Dublin Castle back in 2002. That event was an enormous success and a huge credit for the organisation of the Dublin congress must go to the staff of the office of the **Chief Herald of Ireland**. It was at this event that this Society's arms were first displayed following the receipt of the grant in 2001 from the Chief Herald, Brendan O'Donoghue, at an official reception held at County Hall in Dún Laoghaire hosted by **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**.



The Genealogical Society of Ireland will be officially represented at the Congress in Boston, Massachusetts, by our Cathaoirleach (Chairperson), **Mr John Goggins, MGSi**.

This event provides a great opportunity for us to promote the Society and to network with similar organisations, indeed, this Society is one of possibly only two non-governmental

organisation in Ireland that actively promote an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our on nation's heraldic heritage, the other being, of course, our good friends and colleagues at the **Clans of Ireland**.

The lectures, exhibitions and workshops are open to the public and hopefully, the lectures will be either live-streamed or uploaded to YouTube for all to enjoy.

For further information, please visit the website on www.americanancestors.org/icghs-2024

O'DONNELL CLAN ASSOCIATION



The O'Donnell Clan Association (ODCA) gathering will take place in Donegal Town on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June 2024.

The ODCA was originally established in 1954 during the nationwide cultural and tourism festival of 'An Tóstal' which was held annually from 1953 to 1958. The event in Co. Donegal marks the 70th anniversary of the ODCA's first meeting. This important cultural and heritage event brings together O'Donnells from Ireland, UK, mainland Europe and north America. Other clans from Donegal and surrounding counties are expected to attend, hopefully, with their banners flying high in celebration.

A very interesting programme of events has been organised by **Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI**, (above) and includes visits to sites associated with the clan, presentations and a formal banquet.

Hopefully, this event will become a regular feature of the Donegal county calendar over the coming years.

For anyone with O'Donnell ancestry or connections **'The O'Donnells of Tyrconnell—A Hidden History'** by Francis M. O'Donnell and published by the Academica Press is highly recommended.

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



INTERNATIONAL HERALDRY DAY 2004

Tuesday 11th June 2024 has been designated by various heraldic organisations across the world as **'International Heraldry Day'** - a day to celebrate and to promote our heraldic heritage.

Heraldry Ireland, this Society's Specialist Branch will mark the event on **Facebook**: <https://www.facebook.com/heraldry.ireland>

June is also **'Pride Month'** for the LGBTQ+ community in Ireland and around the world and while this community is colourfully represented vexillologically (flags), why not heraldically?

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 11 June 2024 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 9 July 2024 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 27 June 2024 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 25 July 2024 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

In this issue.....

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GDPR & GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

The Icelandic Data Protection Authority rejected a complaint of a data subject who demanded the enforcement of the data subject's right to erasure against a controller's genealogical database.

The DPA decided the controller's processing was justified pursuant to Article 6(1)(f) GDPR and that it was within its rights to refuse the erasure request pursuant to Article 17(3) GDPR.

For the full details on this very interesting case see <https://gdprhub.eu—Persónuvernd - Case no. 2021010248> of December 5th 2022.

“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



The month of June marks the 180th anniversary of the imprisonment of Daniel O’Connell. Born in Kerry in 1775, Daniel O’Connell was educated in France. After witnessing the violence of the French Revolution, he developed a detestation of violence for the rest of his life. When he returned to Ireland, he developed a large

practise as a barrister, and after witnessing the violence of the Irish Rebellion of 1798, he confirmed his pacifism. In 1823, O’Connell founded the Catholic Association, whose objective was to secure civil rights for Catholics. He turned this into a mass movement where he campaigned and rallied around the country during the 1820’s. In 1828, O’Connell was elected to the British Parliament, but as he was a Catholic, he could not take his seat. The following year, in 1829, the Catholic Relief Act was passed. O’Connell was victorious in a by-election in Clare and now, was finally able to sit in Westminster. He now decided to devote his life to politics and to campaign throughout the 1830’s and 1840’s to repeal the Act of Union. Supported by the Young Irelanders, the Repeal Movement began organising ‘monster meetings’ throughout Ireland. Some of these meetings had an estimated attendance of 750,000 to one million people. In 1843, the liberal government banned a scheduled meeting to be held in Clontarf, Dublin. O’Connell was arrested, charged with conspiracy and sentenced to a year’s imprisonment along with a fine of £2,000. After three months, he was released early and continued his repeal campaign however, it was clear that it had failed, and the Young Irelanders had split from the Repeal Association. Knowing that the movement had been unsuccessful, he left Ireland in 1847 and died in Genoa later that year

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

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

DEMOGRAPHIC HISTORY OF IRELAND AND BRITAIN

The demographic histories of the subtle but discrete genetic communities within Ireland and Britain are largely unclear, however, a new paper is due to be published based on research undertaken by **Ashwini Shanmugam**, a PhD student at **Prof. Gianpiero Cavalleri’s** lab at the **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)** has provided very interesting findings.

The study finds evidence of recent population bottlenecks in the Orcadian, Manx and Welsh communities while trajectories of Irish communities indicate their similar demographic histories. The researchers observed changes in north-south genetic migration barriers in Ireland and Britain over time while migration corridors between north-east Ireland and south-west Scotland persist.

European ancestry analysis demonstrates a strong historical signal from north-west France and a more recent north-west Norwegian signal in Irish communities while the British communities have strong Germanic contributions.

The researchers used the data provided by the **Irish DNA Atlas**, amongst others, to produce some very interesting findings: using haplotype data, we show time-based changes in (a) genetic affinities between Irish and British genetic communities, (b) effective population sizes of these communities and therefore identify signals of isolation, and (c) migration patterns in Ireland and Britain.

The study also predicted regional ancestries of Irish participants in the UK Biobank using their well-characterised Irish and British reference genotypes. This research built on existing evidence of fine-scale population structure in Ireland and Britain with new insights into changes in their regional recent effective population sizes and migration surfaces over time.

Through this, the researchers can understand the driving forces of rare allele frequencies and disease risk association within these populations.

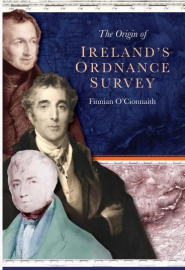
This is an excellent paper that, without doubt, will be of considerable interest to historians of early and medieval Ireland and, indeed, geographers looking at later settlement and/or migration patterns across Ireland, Great Britain and its islands.

It could and should possibly form the basis for an international interdisciplinary conference involving geneticists, medievalists, archaeologists and others?

We’ll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

The Origin of Ireland’s Ordnance Survey

‘The Origin of Ireland’s Ordnance Survey by **Finnian O’Cionnaith** and published by **Four Courts Press** (ISBN: 978-1-80151-122-3 : H/b : 196 pps. Colour Ills. Price: €35.05 : Web Price: €31.50) in May 2024, is certainly one that will be of enormous interest and assistance to local historians and genealogists.



Ordnance Survey maps and especially, the detailed information contained therein, are essential to any understanding of the history of localities and communities throughout Ireland. Whether it be an academic study on population settlement, land use, toponymics or topography, geography or as a means of archaeologically interpreting the landscape, a knowledge and appreciation of the origins of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland is essential to each discipline.

Indeed, for genealogists and local historians to fully exploit, for example, the wonderful resource being compiled by volunteers at the **Registry of Deeds Indexing Project**, the ability to properly locate or cross-reference the details with an ordnance survey map brings this information to life, so to speak. To be able to identify on a map structures, boundaries or features that are in the descriptions captured in the transcription of these deeds is extremely useful to our research.

Linguists or more specifically, onomasticians and etymologists, are hugely appreciative of the detailed information collected by the surveys and transposed by the cartographers onto

beautiful maps which, for many, are rightly considered art in themselves. Indeed, for this aesthetic reason alone that many choose to have framed originals or, more likely, reproductions of these wonderful works displayed in our homes or places of work. But unfortunately, few of us, know much about the origin of the Ordnance Survey.

Since 1824, the Ordnance Survey (now **Tailte Éireann** and **OSNI**) has become the essence of cartographic accuracy in Ireland, documenting the ever-changing relationship between people and the environment. Though it has left a detailed and invaluable historical record in its wake, the story of its foundation is, however, less well-known.

This book brings to life the fascinating primordial days of the Ordnance Survey of Ireland. In doing so, it delves into the politics, technical logic and complex post-Union social issues that shaped the survey. Initially called upon to aid land-based tax reform, its specifics soon became a source of disagreement between Irish MPs and the imposing figure of Arthur Wellesley, the duke of Wellington. In finding the survey’s most suitable path, the island’s colourful and often painful history with mapping was exposed, and a new course was set for its cartographic future.

Finnian Ó Cionnaith is a qualified land surveyor with a strong interest in the early history of the profession. He completed his PhD in History at Maynooth University in 2011 and has written several books on the history of land measurement in early-modern Ireland.

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 meeting of the Board of Directors was held on **Thursday June 6th 2024** at 11.00hrs via Zoom. The meeting was chaired by the Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGSI**, with all directors in attendance.

The General Secretary, as the Company Secretary, confirmed that the **Annual Accounts** were submitted to the **Companies Registration Office** on 7th May 2024 and now available to view on www.cro.ie

Lua Ó Scoláí, MGSI, Director of Finance, presented the **Monthly Accounts** for P.E. 31.05.2024. The Director of Finance and the Director in charge of stock control, **Barry O’Connor, FGSI**, reviewed the existing stock of unsold publications and provided a more realistic value of such for accounting purposes.

The above, under **Res: 24/06/1840**, included offering certain publications at a special rate for the Outreach Programme events; at a reduced rate via the GSI website and others free of charge to fully paid-up Members. For further information contact **Barry O’Connor, FGSI**, on membership@familyhistory.ie

The Board considered various options for regular Fund Raising to support the activities of the Society and more detailed proposals will be tabled at the Board Meeting on July 4th 2024.

The Board agreed, under **Res: 24/06/1841**, that An Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGSI**, should represent the Society at the **36th International Congress of Genealogical & Heraldic Sciences** to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, in September 2024.

Gerard Corcoran, MGSI, Director of Digitization & Genetic Genealogy, advised the Board on upcoming **Dargan Forum** in Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin, to be

held on Thursday 4th July 2024. The GSI will have a stand at this event and the **Director of the Outreach Programme, Eddie Gahan, FGSI**, will be in attendance. Further info. see www.darganinstitute.ie/dargan-forum

The Society will be participating in **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council’s ‘Genealogy Day’** to be held next month at Cabinteely House,

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th July 2024 at 11.00hrs via Zoom. **General Secretary**

DRAFT HERALDRY LEGISLATION

The Society’s draft **National Cultural Institutions (Heraldic Services Amendment) Bill, 2024**, including an **Explanatory Memorandum**, is being considered by some opposition Senators with a view to having it published on the Order Paper of Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate). Hopefully, it will attract cross-party support.

The provisions of the draft Bill are largely technical aimed at rectifying the well known flaws in Section 13 of the **National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997**, which came into force (commenced) by the Minister in May 2005 and govern the State’s heraldic services.

This will be the third attempt at rectifying these issues.

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

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—*Outcast—A Mother & Baby Home Survivor.*

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: 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 September 24th —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 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...

TERENURE LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Dr. Cormac Moore will present *'Gaining international recognition: joining the League of Nations'* at 18.30hrs on Monday 10 June. All are welcome – no booking is required – seats allocated on a first come basis.

CLONTARF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Collette Gill will present *'The artist Patrick Leonard and his Clontarf connection'* at 19.30hrs on Monday 10 June in St. John's Parish Centre, Clontarf Road, Dublin 3. All are welcome – admission is €5.00.

PEMBROKE LIBRARY

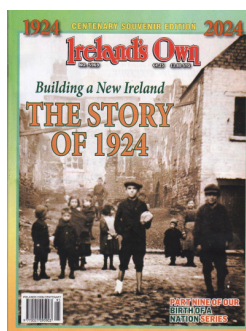
Historian in Residence Dr. Cormac Moore will present *'The life of Frank O'Connor: Pembroke Library's first librarian'* at 13.00hrs on Wednesday June 12th. All are welcome but booking is required – call 01-222 8450 or email: pembroke.library@dublincity.ie.

DALKEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

James Scannell will recall *'The Last Tram to Dalkey – 9 July 1949'* at 19.30hrs on Tuesday 9 July in Our Lady's Hall, Castle Street, Dalkey, Co. Dublin. All are welcome.

PUBLICATION

Ireland's Own 1924 – Centenary Souvenir Issue - 2024: Building a New Ireland - The Story of 1924 – Part 9 in the Birth of a Nation series, Editors Seán Nolan and Shea Tomkins, published by Ireland's Own.



Articles featured in the latest issue, No. 9, of this excellent annual 'Birth of a Nation' magazine, with this issue devoted to 1924, which opens with 'The Free State Comes of Age' include – The World in 1924; They Were Born in 1924; Every Day Life in 1924; The

Boundary Commission of 1924; An ill-fated attempt to redraw the Border; A new and controversial approach to the Irish Language; Cricketer Kumar Shri Ranjitsinhji visits Ireland; The Free State and the Rest of the World: The Establishment of a Foreign Policy; Garda Murdered in Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow; The Sporting Year, 1924; The Army Mutiny and Inquiry; Devlin's Pub in Dublin and the Army Mutiny; Gaelic Games in 1924: Dublin and Kerry crowned champions; Arts and Literature in 1924; One Day in September – Events at home and abroad on Monday September 22nd 1924; Kevin O'Higgins and the Intoxicating Liquor Act, 1924; The Scott Medal; Juno and the Paycock; Anach

Tailteann – The Irish Olympics of 1924; The Courts of Justice Act, 1924; The emergence of the Irish Courts System; The Residency Rule: the controversial Waterford county hurling final of 1924; The Parish Olympics of 1924: The Free State takes its place on the world's sporting stage; Dev Jailed for Last Time: a Year of Lows and Highs; The Closure of Kilmainham Gaol; The Sinking of the SS *Lismore*; A shilling off the old age pension; Ernest Blythe's 'Cruel' Cut; Stan Laurel's 1924 movie 'Near Dublin'; The Struggles of Millie Figgis, wife of Darrell Figgis; The Death of Cardinal Michael Logue; The Travels of the SS *Knockfierna*; The Short Chaotic Life of actress Eva May; Observations on the Social and Economic Fabric of the Country; The Freeman's Journal – The Last Word: the success and demise of the nation's leading newspaper of the time; Lady Mary Heath: one of the world's famous women in both athletics and aviation; The Died in 1924. Article contributors to the above list of fascinating items, all supported with some excellent illustrations, which provides the reader with an overview of events in the world and Ireland in 1924, are Eamonn Duggan, Éamon Ó Buadhcháin, Cian Manning, Dr. Richard McElligott, Seán Beattie, Eoin Swithin Walsh, Brian McCabe, Seán Ryan, Michael Dwyer, Ray Cleere, and John Healy.

Copies of this excellent special issue are available from newsagents or can be ordered from Ireland's Own at www.irelandsown.ie.

ASSISTANCE SOUGHT

Declan Dunne [declanpdunne@yahoo.co.uk] is attempting to find out about the **Ryan** family who ran the Silver Tassie in Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin, up until at least 1953.

When I say "ran" they appear not to have been the licence-holders. A man called Pinkerton owned the pub and was in dispute with bar staff in the mid-1950s, a story that received attention in the national newspapers. Unfortunately, despite extensive trawling, I have been unable to find the name Ryan associated with this dispute. My knowledge of the Ryans is scant.

The only other information I have is that of Chrissie Ryan (female) who was running the Silver Tassie in 1953 and perhaps for some time after. The family lived in a house behind the pub. She was single and had a brother, who was married with children, and lived in County Wicklow. Chrissie's parents ran the pub before her in the 1940s and were quite elderly in 1953. The family had relatives, the Keans, in Liverpool who visited them in the 1950s. Any information would be appreciated.

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 MAY LECTURE

On Tuesday May 14th 2024, the Society hosted the *Second Heraldry Ireland Annual Lecture*. *Heraldry Ireland* is a Specialist Branch of the Society, through which, the Society promotes an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of our heraldic heritage. Last year **Martin Goldstraw, JP, FSA, Scot.**, Director of *The Armorial Register* delivered the inaugural lecture on how to design, assume and register a coat-of-arms.



This year An Cathaoirleach, **John Goggins, MGS**, opened this special meeting on behalf of our Honorary Herald, **Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FCSI**, and introduced our speaker, **Amb. (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FCSI**, President of the Genealogical Society of Ireland and convener of the **O'Donnell Clan Association** gathering in Donegal on the 8th and 9th June 2024. The intriguing title of President's talk '*Heraldic Heritage: Heuristics or Hermeneutics*' was explained by An Cathaoirleach as he reminded us of the definitions of 'heuristics' (*mental shortcuts for solving problems and to make judgements quickly and efficiently*) and 'hermeneutics' (*methods or theories of interpretation*).

In his opening remarks, the President outlined the scope of his talk in reference to its title and, in doing so, he explained the purpose or objective of heraldry, its language, symbolism, meaning and, of course, noting some popular misconceptions. The President expanded the theme of his talk by reference to the various coats-of-arms used by the O'Donnells in Ireland and across Europe, pointing to styles, symbolism, continuity and identity etc.

Before getting into the detail of the subject of his presentation, he outlined the present position of Irish heraldry and referenced the flawed clauses of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, which govern the delivery of the State's heraldic services. He emphasised the need to change the current position of copyright subsisting in arms granted or confirmed by the Chief Herald of Ireland. This very interesting and thought-provoking presentation 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 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

IRISH MILITARY ARCHIVES RELEASE

Sent to the 'Gazette' by **Senator Victor Boyhan**.

In a press release issued by the Department of Defence on 29th May 2024, An Tánaiste and Minister for Defence, **Micheál Martin, TD**, announced the latest release of material from the Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection (MSPC) online. This release of records, containing approximately 2,350 new files, is the sixteenth release of material under the MSPC Project and the first in 2024.

The archives contained within the Military Service Pensions Collection were once active administrative files generated through legislation enacted by the newly formed Saorstát Éireann (Irish Free State) from June 1923. In post-conflict conditions, various legal acts were sanctioned to compensate members of certain organisations and their widows, children and dependents. Over time, legislation was enhanced and broadened to include more veterans, including the members of Cumann na mBan.

Two streams of legislation are relevant for the Military Service Pensions Collection:

- (1) The Army Pensions Acts, from 1923 to 1953: dealing with the wounded participants and deceased participants' dependents.
- (2) The Military Service Pensions Acts, 1924, 1934, 1949: dealing with the surviving participants who could prove active service.

Applicants were assessed by the Army Pensions Board, a Board of Assessors and later by a Referee and an Advisory Committee. The files are the result of the verification process and contain material

submitted by the applicants in respect of their claims.

MSPC publications '*Guide to the Military Service Pensions Collection*', a guide to the '*Brigade Activity Reports*', and '*A Very Hard Struggle - Lives in the Military Service Pensions Collection*' are available to download on the Military Archives website.

The files relate to claims lodged by 967 individuals/veterans or their dependents and contain new information on the War of Independence and the Civil War. They also provide substantial insights into post-conflict lives.

Among the 967 whose files are being released, 205 had an address in Cork, 181 in Dublin and 89 in Northern Ireland. A further 49 individuals had an address in England, 51 in the USA, 8 in Scotland, 2 in Canada and 2 in Australia.

This release sees 742 applications lodged under the *Military Pensions Act 1934*, and 101 applications for service pensions under the *Military Service Pensions Act, 1924* (National Army applicants). In addition to this, a further 188 applications including 14 applications by dependents (widows, mothers and siblings) were lodged under the Army Pensions Acts (Special Allowances, wounds, disability and dependents).

All in all, the MSPC file series, over 124,250 files have now been catalogued and approximately 84,100 have been digitised.

The material is available to view, free of charge, on the website www.militaryarchives.ie

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

A Roll of Arms

The Heraldry Committee of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEGHS) was established on 3rd February 1864 to collect and preserve information in regard to heraldry in the USA.

In 1874, the Committee adopted a proposal "to receive and file or record, calendar or index such descriptions of arms as families here or in other places may consider their own... together with pedigrees on lineal ancestors".

The '*Roll of Arms*' project was begun in 1914 and it provided a published register for armigerous US citizens and for newly arrived immigrants with coats-of-arms. These were either granted or assumed according to the customs and practices of their countries of origin, American citizens could also be armigerous by inheritance or by assuming arms.

In 2013, the Committee published the first ten parts of the '*Roll of Arms*' containing a total of 741 coats-of-arms in a single volume and with illustrations for

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.**

each from parts 1 to 9. Part 10 was published without the illustrations which was a pity. The *Eleventh Part*, edited by **Nathaniel Lane Taylor**, Registrar was published this year and contains 72 entries registered between 1983 and 1998 each excellently illustrated by **Matthew Alderman**, Artist to the Committee.

Further info. please see: www.americanancestors.org

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/GeneraleSocietyOfIrelandGSI

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, MGS**. 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

