



# Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

Vol. 19 No. 9

www.familyhistory.ie

Meán Fómhair : Σεπτέμβριος : September 2024

## MARTELLO TOWER—20th ANNIVERSARY

Twenty years ago on the 15th September 2004, the Society officially opened its Archive and Research Centre, *An Daonchartlann*, at the Martello Tower at Seapoint, Co. Dublin.

Over the previous year and a half, the Society had painstakingly restored this tower, dating from 1804, in association with the officials at **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**.

The Council allocated the Martello Tower to the Society in March 1997 as a ‘*permanent base of operation*’ and to house our archival collections.

Following this allocation the Society spent a number of years fund-raising to restore and refurbish the tower. A full listing of all who contributed to the cost of the restoration project was published in the official booklet prepared for the event. This listing also includes the names of loved ones, in whose memory, these very generous donations were made.

The Martello Tower had been a beach shop around ten years previously, however, by 1997 the interior of the tower was in a very bad state of dereliction and home to several generations of pigeons.

The old ice-cream fridges were balancing rather precariously on a rotten wooden floor weakened and laden with heaps of guano. The stench was awful.

A full photographic record of the state of the tower was created and full survey was conducted by the archaeologist **Christiaan Corlett** in conjunction with the County Council’s Conservation Officer, **Majella Walsh**. Mr. Corlett published this survey.

The restoration and the refurbishment of the tower was undertaken under the direction of the late **Liam Mac Alasdair**, FGSI, with the extensive woodwork undertaken by **Barry O’Connor**, FGSI. The late **Seán Kane**, FGSI, was the quantity surveyor for the project. The contractor for the restorative brickwork was **Shane Breen** of Dún Laoghaire. The official opening was undertaken by the then Cathaoirleach

of the County Council, the late **Cllr. Niamh Bhreathnach**, accompanied by then Cathaoirleach of the Society, **Rory Stanley**, FGSI. There was large attendance from various heritage and cultural organisations at the event. The guests included our Celtic cousins, Councillors from **Holyhead Town Council** and **Anglesey County Council** in Wales / Cymru.

An official reception was held in County Hall after the event at Seapoint and the Society launched its first website at this reception. This website was designed and created by **Iris O’Connor**, BA (Hons).

Unfortunately, four years after the official opening the Society had to vacate the Martello Tower as the measures taken to control the environment within the building, installed with professional advice, proved totally inadequate for our archival collections. While all involved were bitterly disappointed, the project restored the building to a state that greatly assisted a further restoration of the **Seapoint Martello Tower** by the County Council as a popular visitor attraction.

The quest for a permanent home for the Society’s Archive & Research Centre continues to this day.

## CATHAOIRLEACH TO ATTEND BOSTON CONGRESS

The Cathaoirleach (Chairperson) of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, **John Goggins**, MGSI, (left) wearing the newly refurbished *Chain of Office* thanks to **Liam Shannon** of **Facet Jewellers**, Upper Georges Street, Dún Laoghaire. <https://www.facetjewellers.ie>



The Cathaoirleach will be officially representing the Society at the prestigious **36th International Congress of Genealogical and Heraldic Sciences** to be held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA from 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

[www.americanancestors.com](http://www.americanancestors.com)

## 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



## GSJ 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 contact **Laura Price**, MGSI, on [JGSI@familyhistory.ie](mailto:JGSI@familyhistory.ie)

## FESTSCHRIFT : FÉIL-SCRÍBHÍN

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](mailto:colas@familyhistory.ie)

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 10 September 2024 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 8 October 2024 —20.00hrs

### MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 25 September 2024 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 24 October 2024 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie))

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## NEW BOOK ON RIC

'*Royal Irish Constabulary Volunteers 1914-1919—Roll of Honour*' by **Jim Herlihy**, FGSI, and published by Staten House, lists the members of the RIC who lost their lives in World War I.

At the outbreak of the war some seventy British army reservists serving with the RIC were called up. Later following an appeal by the RIC Inspector, Sir Neville Chamberlain for further RIC men to enlist, a total of 752 RIC men of various ranks served in the British army during the war. 179 men never returned. They came from all around Ireland with the majority from Cork, Mayo, Tipperary, and Galway.

The overwhelming majority were Catholic (133) and there was even one Mormon. All the casualties were aged between 21 and 42 years. For further details see: <https://www.statenhouse.com>

## "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](mailto:Archivist@familyhistory.ie)

## IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



When you think of areas in the United States that are steeped in Irish history, Iowa might not be one that comes to mind. At this point in time, you can find Irish links in almost every inch of that country. The Irish that went to Iowa initially settled in the Mississippi River towns like Davenport and Dubuque, and later spread to Iowa City and Des Moines. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Irish people were the second largest immigrant group in the state, behind the Germans. In the same century, a French man called Mathias Loras, who was Bishop of Dubuque, encouraged Irish Catholics to settle in Iowa. In 1849, he even travelled to Mount Melleray Abbey in Waterford, where he met monks and offered them land in Dubuque if they came to his Diocese. Twenty-two monks travelled from Waterford to Iowa and established the New Melleray Abbey, which is about 22 kilometres southwest of Dubuque. As religion was essential to the Irish in Iowa, in 1879, they constructed St. Patrick's Church in Iowa City. As well as farming, the Irish became the backbone of the railroad construction. By the end of the 1850's, they had laid about 500 miles (circa 805kms) of track, and by the end of the century, the railroads had reached almost every corner of the State. In February 1880, Charles Stewart Parnell arrived in Dubuque, Iowa, for a three-day visit during a fundraising trip for the Land League and the Home Rule movement.

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

[https://www.instagram.com/davy\\_holden](https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden)

## THE LAND QUESTION .. Contd.

Four Courts Press describe the upcoming publication as follows.

This volume explores the provenance, mechanisms and impact of land legislation and land reform in Ireland from the 1800 to 2024, one of the dominant issues in Irish politics, society, economy and culture through the whole period. It takes a holistic perspective, including histories of tenant right movements and agitation, the views of landowners, government(s) and the impact of land reform on the landscape, agriculture and built environment of Ireland.

It argues that it is impossible to understand the history of modern Ireland without understanding its relationship to land and land issues. It is structured into three thematic parts, while maintaining a chronological order. Firstly, it examines the drivers for land reform, including tenant right movements and political reform. Secondly, it covers all the principal Land Acts for Ireland from the 1830s to the 1990s and the final part draws in alternative perspectives and questions of the legacies of land reform for Ireland.

**Terence Dooley** is Head of Department, Full Professor of History, and Director of the Centre for the Study of Historic Irish Houses and Estates at the Department of History, Maynooth University.

**Tony McCarthy** is a PhD graduate of Maynooth University and is an independent scholar. After a career spanning over forty years as an accountant, stockbroker and running his own investment business he now focusses on historical research and writing. A regular contributor to various newspapers and journals he is currently working on a book on George Wyndham's time in Ireland.

**Annie Tindley** is Professor of British and Irish Rural History at Newcastle University and since 2020 Head of the School of History, Classics & Archaeology. Her work interrogates land issues in the modern period including ownership, management and reform.

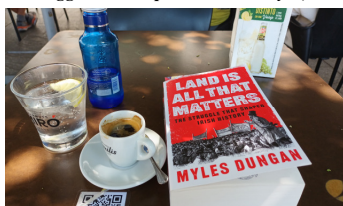
## FIAV & ICV30—BEIJING 2024

The 28th General Assembly of FIAV (*Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques*) was held on 17th August 2024 during the International Congress of Vexillology (ICV30) held in Beijing, China. This Society is the only Irish member of FIAV and we have a Specialist Branch, *Vexillology Ireland*, which promotes the study of flags and emblems in Ireland. Some excellent research papers were presented at the ICV30 and hopefully, they'll be published in due course. As is customary, a number of FIAV Awards, including the prestigious *Whitney Smith Award*, were presented at the wonderful Closing Banquet of the ICV30. Congratulations to all the recipients.

## We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

### THE LAND QUESTION

I choose one or two books to bring with me each time I go abroad for a week or more and this year was no different. However, travelling on Ryanair to Madrid in July means that sometimes only one book makes its way into my luggage. This year it was **Myles Dungan's 'Land is all that Matters—The struggle that shaped Irish History'** (ISBN – 97881035906499 – 644pp : P/bk : London, 2024) which explored the two hundred years of agrarian conflict in Ireland from the famine of 1741 to the beginning of World War Two. Dungan approached this wide-ranging subject of sometimes bewildering complexity in five sections under the following headings: 'Punishment', 'Insurrection', 'Activism', 'Reclamation' and 'Redistribution' and he included a detailed 'Timeline' from 1608 to 1938, the latter being the agreement to end the Anglo-Irish Economic War over the land annuities. The attention to detail, especially with local incidents and those involved, and with the numerous sources listed, in addition to an extensive bibliography, and the provision of copious endnotes for each of its eighteen chapters and the conclusion, the author has created an invaluable reference work for the local historian and, of course, the genealogist. However, the author's writing style may not be to everyone's liking, myself included, but nevertheless it is an undeniably accessible and captivating narrative on a multifaceted subject that is much overlooked in public history, although, it is found in the folk memory, balladry, fictional works and local history publications.



I mention the above book as a prelude to another important work on the same subject, albeit from the nineteenth century rather than the eighteenth century as in Dungan. **'Land reform and legislation in Ireland, 1800-2024'** by **Terence Dooley, Tony McCarthy and Annie Tindley** to be published by *Four Courts Press* in October 2024 (ISBN: 978-1-80151-160-5 : H/bk : Price: €45.00 : Web: €40.50 : 352pps. : Ills.).

The subject of land, its ownership, its control and its acquisition, was absolutely central to the social, political and cultural life of Ireland for centuries and, without doubt, the struggles that brought about the transformation of the agrarian communities and rural life in late nineteenth century Ireland are of enormous interest to the local historian and the genealogist. Most of the Irish people today live in urban Ireland, however, only a minority can claim to have no ancestral connections with rural Ireland in the last two or three generations. Therefore, this story is one that illuminates and explains much about the lives of our own families on the land. **MM**

(Continued in the panel to the right)

## 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](http://www.fourcourtspress.ie)—note the "back-in-prints" too!!*

## GSi BOARD NEWS

The meeting of the Board of Directors was held on **Thursday September 5th 2024** at 11.00hrs via Zoom. The Leas-Chathaoirleach took the meeting with eight of the nine Directors in attendance.

The General Secretary advised the Board that a review of the implementation of the *Society's Development Plan, 2022-2027*, will be undertaken at the October meeting. Each director was requested to read over the plan as it pertains to their portfolio and to report on their progress in implementing the various actions and achieving the objectives etc.

**Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSi, Director of Finance**, presented the **Monthly Accounts** for P.E. 31.07.2024 and the P.E. 31.08.2024. The launch of the **'Members Only Monthly Draw'** (Res: 24/07/1848) has been delayed for technical reasons.

**Eddie Gahan, FGSI Director of the Outreach Programme**, delivered a report on the Society's participation in **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council's 'Genealogy Day'** held on Saturday July 20th 2024 in Cabinteely House. He also provided details on the **Members' Day Trip** he is organising to the **National Print Museum**.

**Gerard Corcoran, MGSi, Director of Digitisation & Genetic Genealogy**, reported on the **Dargan Forum** held in July in Dún Laoghaire. He recently represented the Society at the **Festival InterCeltique de Lorient**, Brittany / Breizh, from 12th to 18th August 2024 and delivered a report on the event. He also advised the Board of upcoming events in Galway and some very interesting initiatives regarding the **'Wild Atlantic Way'** and its possible extension

into Northern Ireland. Gerard suggested options for GSI participation in some of these exciting initiatives.

**Fiona Tiple, FGSI, Director of Archival Services & Education**, raised the issue of the Covid screens in **An Daonchartlann**. Under **Res: 24/09/1855**, it was agreed to dismantle the screens and to hold on to the materials for possible future use or adaptation.

By the way, there was no meeting in August. The next Board Meeting will be held on **Thursday 3rd October 2024** at 11.00hrs via Zoom. **General Secretary**

## PRINT MUSEUM DAY TRIP

**Eddie Gahan, FGSI, Director of the Outreach Programme**, is planning visits to various repositories and museums starting with the very interesting **National 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 Gahan invites those interested in joining this day tour to contact with him on [Archivist@familyhistory.ie](mailto:Archivist@familyhistory.ie)

## WEEKLY RESEARCH ADVICE

**WEDNESDAY** at 11.00hrs (UTC+1) (Irish Time) via Zoom. (see above on 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](http://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](mailto: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 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: John Goggins, MGSI - *'A Swords Family Chronicle' - Writing Your Own Family History*'.

**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: Jim Herlihy, FGSI - *'RIC WWI Casualties & Research Resources'*.

**Tuesday January 14th** —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: *TBA*

**Wednesday January 23rd** —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](mailto:Membership@Familyhistory.ie)

Suggestions on the Monthly Lecture Programme to: [eolas@familyhistory.ie](mailto:eolas@familyhistory.ie)

Members may send their research queries in advance for the Morning Open Meeting by email to [Archivist@familyhistory.ie](mailto: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](http://www.eneclann.ie)



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

## James Scannell Reports...

### THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Rob Goodbody will present *'The Lead Mines of Ballycorus and Glendalough in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century'* on Wednesday 11 September; James Scannell will present *'90 Years of the Old Dublin Society'* on Monday 16 September, and Edward Bourke *'The Battle of Pearse Street'* on Wednesday 25 September. All take place at 18.00hrs in the Conference Room of Dublin City Library and Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All are welcome and admission is free. Nicola Pierce will present *'A Brief History of O'Connell Street, Dublin'* at 18.00hrs on Weds 2 October, Dublin Central Library, Ilac Centre, Henry Street, Dublin 1. Booking is required with [centrallibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:centrallibrary@dublincity.ie) due to limited seating.

### CABRA LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Dr. Mary Muldowney will present *'The 'Contraceptive Train' of 1971'* at 18.30hrs on Thursday 12 September. All are welcome - admission free. Booking required via 01-2228310 or email: [cabralibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:cabralibrary@dublincity.ie).

### KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

Frank Tracey will present *'Gate Lodges around Stillorgan'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 12 September in the new venue of St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Members are free - visitors €3.00. Please note - car parking charge of €1.00 per hour at this venue - coin payment only.

### FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Cathy Scuffill will present *'Rabbit Holes - Local 1916 Stories and the Foxrock Connection with the Property Losses Committee'* at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 17 September in Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00

### DUN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

David Gunning will present *'Shifting Foundations - The Big Houses of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown'* at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 18 September in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00

### BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nigel Kingston will present *'The Meath Road, Bray'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 19 September in The Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All are welcome - Free for members and €8.00 for non-members.

### DUBLIN WOMEN IN HISTORY

Brian White will present *'The Tow Ladies of Crincken'* at 18.30hrs on Thursday 26 September, and *'Josephine Hefferan, a World War 1 Nurse'* at 18.30hrs on Thursday 3 October. Level 3, dlr Lexicon, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Admission free. Booking required 01-2801147 or email: [dlrlexiconlib@dlrcoco.ie](mailto:dlrlexiconlib@dlrcoco.ie).

### RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR

Liz Gillis will present *'We are Black and Tans - children in the Irish Revolution'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 26 September in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members free / visitors €4.00 - Swan Car Park Evening Rate: €4.00—19.00hrs to Midnight.

### DUBLIN CENTRAL LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Katie Blackwood will present *'Memories of O'Connell Street'* at 14.30hrs on Tuesday 1 October in Dublin Central Library, Ilac Centre, Henry Street, Dublin 1. Admission free. Booking essential. 01-222 8300 or email: [centrallibrary@dublincity.ie](mailto:centrallibrary@dublincity.ie).

### RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Caimin O'Brien will present *'Recording our Archaeological Heritage: the Role of the Archaeological Survey in the National Monuments Service'* at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 2 October in Rathmichael National School,

Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin. Admission is €5.00 for non-members.

### MARINO 100 HISTORY TALKS

Mark T. Crowther will present *'The Early History of Fairview/Marino: History of Fairview and Marino before the estate was built'* at 16.00hrs on Saturday 5 October in Carleton Hall (Marino Community Centre), 53A, Shelmartin Avenue, Dublin 3. All are welcome.

### PUBLICATIONS

*History Ireland - September / October 2024*, Editor **Tommy Graham**, published by **Wordwell**.



*'The Death of Wolfe Tone'* by Walter C. Mills, from a December 1897 issue of the 'Irish Weekly Independent' is the striking cover image for this issue which includes the following articles - From the Editor - 'The Olympics, Ireland and me', 'History in the News', 'On This Day', 'Bite-Sized History', 'The Death of Theobald Wolfe Tone - Suicide or Murder?' by Paddy Currian, 'Carnal relations and Church Courts in Tudor Ireland' by Henry A. Jeffries, 'George Petrie - A 'Type' of Genius' by Dermot McGuinne, 'A Murder on the G.A. Thompson?- Thomas Francis Meagher and the Montana Territory, 1865-7' by Ruairi Nolan, 'A Fist Fight With The Feet' by Ruadhán McFadden, 'Death and Retribution' by Arthur Matthews, 'The Sovereignty of Silence - The Carrigan Report (1931) and the rise and fall of professional womanhood in Ireland', 'When Cork's Lord Mayor incurred the wrath of Nazi Germany' by Pat Poland, and 'In Our Man in Moscow' by James Markey, plus all the regular features.

As always this is another excellent issue of this Irish history magazine which can be obtained from newsagents - a good way to ensure never missing an issue is to take out a subscription by calling 01-2933568, email: [carol@wordwell.ie](mailto:carol@wordwell.ie), or [www.historyireland.com](http://www.historyireland.com).

*James Scannell, FGSI*

### PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING

This Society is a **Registered Charity in Ireland** and it is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the very kind donations received from its Members and friends at home and overseas. The Society simply couldn't exist without such help from our Members and friends. The provision of an archive, our online presence, hosting open meetings, publications, outreach activities and administration all require funding.

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 : Go Raibh Mile Maith Agat*

### 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](http://www.gillmacmillan.com) Price €24.99 [RRP].

## PRÉCIS OF THE AUGUST LECTURE

On Tuesday August 13th 2024 at our Evening Open Meeting we were delighted to welcome as our Speaker, **James Scannell, FGSi—A Dangerous Occupation—Working on the Railways**.

This presentation looked at a selection of accidents between 1854 and 1912, many of which were fatal, to railway employees and in some cases passengers, in what was a very unsafe working environment in the absence of Health and Safety legislation. In 1854 John Robinson sustained fatal injuries after his head struck a bridge near Glenageary while leaning out a window, while in September 1872 engine driver Patrick Toolin and his fireman Patrick Smith were killed in Bray Station when their locomotive exploded without warning – it was later determined that the safety valve had been tampered with to give higher steam pressure and that the boiler had not received a proper examination and was in a weakened condition. Richard Hyland sustained fatal crush injuries in August 1888 at Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow, while attempting to board a moving locomotive while in January 1894 Edward Byrne sustained fatal injuries while shunting carriages in Bray Station as did John Kirwan in February 1905 while uncoupling two locomotives. Henry Fawcett was killed by a passing train in March 1905 while in December that year Assistant Guard William Treacy lost a leg when he slipped and fell beneath a moving train he was trying to board in Bray Station, where in February 1908 Timothy Doyle and William Needham were fatally injured while shunting carriages due to their failure to inform a signalman of their actions. Many of the accidents featured in the presentation were due to a lack of safety awareness and the use of un-safe working practices, most of which would not be permitted currently under current Health and Safety. However in 2018 a young woman sustained fatal head injuries in Britain when she stuck her head outside a carriage window, even though there was an instruction 'Do not lean outside of the window when the train is moving' above it and was struck by the branch of a line side tree. Some safety issues have not changed with the passage of time.....

This talk will be 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](http://www.familyhistory.ie)
- ☞ Email: [membership@familyhistory.ie](mailto:membership@familyhistory.ie)

## THE WIGHTMANS

*"We're No Eerish Bot Scootch": The Wightmans of Scotland, County Down and Pittsburgh* by **Bret A. Wightman, M.A. (Oxon.), Ph.D.**, (Masthof Press, 2024, 307pp. \$36.00 p/bk, ISBN 978-1-60126-904-1)

This book focuses on the story of James M. and Martha Smiley Wightman and their immigrant family of ten children in Pittsburgh. This history of the Wightmans begins in 14th-century Scotland and follows the family surname from the Scottish Lowland to Co. Down in Ireland, and then to America. There the family's steam-engine and boiler construction, shipping commerce, banking and glass manufacturing helped to shape the City of Pittsburgh from 1825 to the 1920s. In Scotland, four of the major concentrations of Wightmans are here brought together: Dunkeld in Perthshire; Selkirk and Peebles, both in the Scottish Borders; and Dumfriesshire. Wightmans were recorded in Scotland from at least 1362, and the surname has been in Co Down since circa 1607. James M. Wightman and family then emigrated from Co Down in 1825, preceded by second son and the author's great-grandfather, John Wightman, in 1821

Photographs, period illustrations and newspaper clippings, detailed biographies of the James M. Wightman family members in Pittsburgh and chapters on the family's religious, civic and political activities. Finally, two appendices chronologically cover records of Wightmans in Scotland from 1362 to 1700 and in Ireland from 1633 to 1825. The book will appeal not only Scots and Scots-Irish Wightmans in the United States and across the world, but also to anyone with Scots-Irish ancestry. This book is available to purchase at the Masthof Press website and also on Amazon.

## PERRIN PAPERS AT RCB

**Representative Church Body Library**, Dublin, (Church of Ireland) under MS/1146 *'Miscellaneous Perrin Family Papers relating to Louis Perrin and his sons James and Mark 1835; 1854-1858'*.

Louis Perrin, barrister and Whig MP, who supported Catholic emancipation. He became a judge on the King's Bench in August 1835 (when he resigned his parliamentary seat). He married, in April 1815, Hester Connor Stewart, daughter of Revd Abraham Augustus Stewart, by whom he had seven sons, including James, army major, who fell at Lucknow in 1857; Louis, rector of Garrycloyne, Blarney, Co. Cork; William, chief registrar, Irish Court of Bankruptcy (d 1892); Charles, major, 66th foot regiment; Mark, registrar of judgments in Ireland; and John, of Fortfield House, Terenure, father of the well-known painter Mary Perrin.

The items included: A printed copy of a speech by Mr Sergeant Perrin (1878-1864) MP, concerning the motion of Lord John Russell on education. *That this House do resolve itself into a Committee in order to consider the present state of the Church establishment in Ireland, with a view of applying any surplus of its revenues not required for spiritual care of its members, to the general education of all classes of the people, without distinction of religious persuasion (London, 1835).* (Speech delivered 30 March 1835) Perrin was MP for the borough of Cashel and had previously represented both Dublin and Monaghan.

This random set of papers was found in an oak set of drawers, purchased at auction of a former Bank of Ireland clearance, and transferred to RCB Library in 2023 by **Senator Victor Boyhan**.

Check out the Society's website [www.familyhistory.ie](http://www.familyhistory.ie)

## PARAHERALDRY?

We all understand that heraldry involves customs, rules and conventions that are more commonly known as the "Laws of Arms". An observance of such conventions is considered as absolutely essential for "good heraldry" by those with either a professional or academic interest in the subject. Any divergence from these conventions is considered as almost heresy by the purists. However, some divergence, in reality, is necessary for heraldry to evolve with the times and with the cultural tastes of society.

Heraldry flourishes within two completely different spheres, the regular professional and/or academic and, the quite separate adaptation and utilisation of heraldic devices by the general public without reference to an heraldic authority or to professionals. This has generated, quite understandably, a sense of elitism between "proper heraldry" and "popular heraldry" with the latter often dismissed as "bucket-shop heraldry" or "fake heraldry". We need to move away from such pejorative and dismissive attitudes, irrespective of the quality of the heraldic designs.

A classification is required that captures the essence of both the professional and the popular and there-

fore, "heraldry" and "paraheraldry", as has been previously suggested by some, is more appropriate.

We need to recognise and respect that the public interest in heraldry extends to its application outside the control or influence of official heraldic institutions.

**Draft Definition:** "Paraheraldry" ("paraheraldic") refers to any heraldry practised or heraldic devices designed by those other than professional heralds, accredited or established heraldic artists, heraldic organisations or academics working in the heraldic sciences. This definition deals with source not quality.

## 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/GenSocIrelandGSI](http://www.YouTube.com/c/GenSocIrelandGSI)

## 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](http://www.instagram.com/GenSocIreland)

## IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

is published by the  
Genealogical Society of Ireland  
Company Limited by Guarantee

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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](http://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/](http://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](http://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](mailto:Archivist@familyhistory.ie)

