



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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Feabhra : Chwefror : February 2025

COUNTY ARMS & FLAGS OF IRELAND

The **Inaugural Annual Vexillology Ireland Lecture** will be held via Zoom on **Tuesday 11th February 2025** at 20.00hrs (UTC+0) (Irish Time).



The guest speaker will be the renowned vexillologist and author of Ireland's only guide to flag design, **'Flagging Ireland'**, Stan Zamyatin-Moore, MA.

Stan has delivered presentations on Irish vexillology around the world, including as far away as Sydney, Australia, where he represented **Vexillology Ireland** and this Society at the **International Congress of Vexillology** and at the General Meeting of the **International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV)**. Attendance at these two events was very generously sponsored by **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** in 2015.



Stan had previously represented the Society at the ICV at Rotterdam with Tom Conlon in 2013, and attended the **1st National Conference of Vexillology and Heraldry** held in Tbilisi, the capital city of the Republic of Georgia, in 2016. Attendance again with the assistance of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council. Over the years he has attended and delivered papers on the history, symbolism and usage of flags at venues around mainland Europe and in Great Britain.

During the **'Bratacha—International Festival of Flags & Emblems'** held in Dún Laoghaire in 2013, held as part of the nationwide tourism initiative of **'The Gathering Ireland'**, Stan curated Ireland's first exhibition of flags and emblems.

This exhibition was held in the **National Maritime Museum of Ireland** in Dún Laoghaire and it was so popular a visitor attraction that it continued beyond the end of the festival for a further five weeks.

Stan was very ably assisted in this endeavour by

John Paul Durkan, then a Community Garda based at Dún Laoghaire, and currently a County Councillor on Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The topic Stan has chosen for this **Inaugural Annual Vexillology Ireland Lecture** is the **'The County Arms & Flags of Ireland'**. Free event. All welcome. Meeting ID: 863 2163 3963 Passcode: 08 30 11



Speaking of **"County Flags"** it was on Europe Day, May 9th 2013, that the **'Mountains to the Sea Flag'** was officially unfurled at in Cabinteely Park at the launch of the **'Bratacha International Festival of Flags & Emblems'**. Designed by the late **Andrew Gerard Ball**, this flag flew over the County Hall in Dún Laoghaire each weekend for the following six years. Maybe it should be flown again?

NEW WEBSITE ON THE WAY

The Board has contracted Pedro Antonio Torres Vera of **AV WEB SHIELD—Web Design & Cybersecurity Solutions** to completely redesign the Society's website and to expand the Society's online services to Members and the public.

The Society's existing website is now extremely out-dated in style and lacks basic functionality across all the various platforms. The day-to-day maintenance of the website, dating from 2018, became increasingly difficult and time-consuming. This resulted in serious and unavoidable delays in the provision of several planned services for our Members.

Therefore, on the advice of our Director of Internet Services, **Shane Wilson, MGSi**, the decision to immediately go for a complete redesign was taken by the Board.

The website may be down during this redesign and therefore, **membership queries** should be emailed directly to the Director of Membership Services, **Barry O'Connor, FGSI**, on membership@familyhistory.ie Any **archive** and **research queries** please email archivist@familyhistory.ie and for **general queries** and **administrative correspondence** email the General Secretary at colas@familyhistory.ie

We apologise for any inconvenience caused during this absolutely essential redevelopment of the Society's website. It is hoped to have the new website ready to launch around the Annual General Meeting on March 11th, 2025.

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



NOTICE OF AGM

Members are advised that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday 11th March 2025** at 20.00hrs (UTC+0) via Zoom. Link will be sent to each Member.

The AGM will receive the Annual Report of the Board, the Annual Accounts and elect the Board members to serve for 2025-2026.

Only Fellows of the Society and fully paid-up Members may participate in the business of the AGM or stand for election to the Board.

If you are uncertain about your membership status, please contact **Barry O'Connor, FGSI**, Director of Membership Services by email on membership@familyhistory.ie

HOLIDAY WORLD SHOWS

The Director of the GSI Outreach Programme, **Eddie Gahan, FGSI**, would like to thank all those who volunteered to assist the operation of the Society's stands at the Holiday World Shows in **Belfast** and **Dublin**.

The Society is extremely grateful, once again, for the opportunity to host these stands. Eddie's team praised the hardworking staff at both venues and the organisers for their kindness and wonderfully attentive assistance throughout.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 11 February 2025 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 11 March 2025 (AGM)—20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 26 February 2025 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 26 March 2025 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

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NORROY AND ULSTER KING OF ARMS

On behalf of the Board and Members of the Society, our President, **Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell**, FGSI, and the Society's Honorary Herald, **Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas**, SHA, FGSI, send their warmest congratulations to **Clive Cheesman, MA, PhD**, who was appointed to the office of Norroy and Ulster King of Arms and Principal Herald of the North Part of England and of Northern Ireland by King Charles III.

The office of Norroy & Ulster King of Arms is based at the College of Arms in London and was created in March 1943 following the removal of the Ulster King of Arms to London from Dublin Castle. Dr Cheesman becomes the 78th King of Arms of the northern province which, according to the '*College of Arms Newsletter*' (Jan. 2025, No. 77), was first recorded in 1276.

"ARCHIVE DROP-INS"

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

The "*Drop-ins*" are held via **Zoom** between 11.00hrs and 12.00hrs every Wednesday. So, why not grab a coffee and let's talk genealogy.

Non-members may also attend these weekly "*Drop-Ins*" and they are especially useful for those just beginning the family history research.

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

Zoom Meeting ID: 843 5683 5203

Passcode: 71 87 50

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



In keeping with the theme of this month's *Inaugural Annual Vexillology Ireland Lecture*, let's look at Thomas Francis Meagher.

In 1823, Thomas Francis Meagher was born in what is now the Granville Hotel in Waterford City. But shortly after he was born, his family moved just down the road, to

19, The Mall, Waterford City.

After graduating from college, he became heavily involved in the movement for Irish independence alongside the Young Irelanders and the Irish Confederation.

In 1848, Meagher travelled to Paris to research the revolutionary events there. When he returned to Ireland, he brought with him a gift he received from the French - a green, white and orange tricolour flag (not the national flag of Ireland) and this flag was first flown at 33, The Mall, Waterford City, on 7th March 1848.

Months later, after the 1848 rebellion, he was arrested, tried, and sentenced to death. However, his sentence was commuted to transportation for life to Van Diemen's Land. He spent two and a half years on the island before making his escape and travelling back to the other side of the world again. However, he would not land in Ireland, he would land in the United States and settle in New York City.

When the American Civil War began in 1861, Meagher took the role of Captain with the 69th Regiment (Fighting 69th), but when Michael Corcoran was captured at the First Battle of Bull Run, Meagher took his position as Colonel. He then founded an Irish Brigade and was commissioned as Brigadier-General.

After the war, he became Acting Governor of Montana Territory but on 1st July 1867, he was travelling on a steamboat along the Missouri River heading for Fort Benton in Montana and he went overboard, with his body never being found.

Although he doesn't have a grave, there are multiple transatlantic memorials commemorating Thomas Francis Meagher, like Waterford City, Helena, Montana and Green-Wood Cemetery, Brooklyn - just to name a few.

Check out my short videos on various aspects of Irish history, as featured on '*Nationwide*' on RTÉ television, available on my Instagram account below:

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

CONGRATULATIONS

The Board of Directors of the Society conveyed its warmest congratulations to **Patrick O'Donovan, TD**, on his appointment as the *Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht and Media* and **Neale Richmond, TD**, on his appointment to the position of Minister of State at the Department of Foreign Affairs with special responsibility for the Irish diaspora. While wishing both every success in their new roles, the Society looks forward to engaging with them on a range of public policy issues relating to their respective areas of responsibility over the next five years.

SEANAD ELECTION 2025

The Society is a registered '*Nominating Body*' for Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) and, as such, it may nominate a candidate to contest the Senate Election.

The Board agreed at the Special Meeting held on Thursday 12th December 2024 (*Res: 24/12/1880*), by a majority vote of the members present, to nominate **Ms. Sabina Purcell**, of Kilmacud, Co. Dublin, as the Society's nominee for candidature in the Seanad Éireann General Election.

Ms. Purcell, a solicitor and member of the **Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society**, contested the election on the **Cultural & Educational Panel**.

However, after a well organised, targeted and highly professional campaign conducted by Ms. Purcell, unfortunately luck wasn't with her on the day.

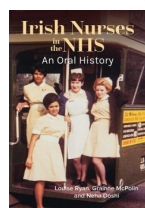
A previous nominee of this Society, **Cllr. Joe Conway** from County Waterford was elected on the Cultural & Educational Panel. Cllr Conway was nominated this time by **Údarás na Gaeltacha**.

Another candidate in the Seanad Éireann General Election was **Senator Victor Boyhan**, MGSI, who was re-elected on the **Agricultural Panel**.

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

'Irish Nurses in the NHS—An oral history'

'*Irish Nurses in the NHS - An oral history*' by **Louise Ryan, Gráinne McPolin and Neha Doshi** (ISBN: 978-1-80151-163-6 : 232pp : Ills. P/bk : Price: €19.95 : Web-Price: €17.95) published by **Four Courts Press** this month.



Many Irish people in their sixties and over may have spent time working in Great Britain or most certainly, had close friends or members of their families working across the Irish Sea. Many who went over during the fifties and sixties found work in the sectors of the economy that became almost synonymous with the Irish in Britain like construction, transport and factory work. These were hard times in Ireland, especially in rural Ireland, and although, by the late 1960s Ireland was beginning to emerge from an economic slump that had bedevilled the country since de Valera's economic war with Britain in the 1930s. Emigration was high, initially to work in the war industries during WW2 and then in the post-war reconstruction of British cities. It was in this era of reconstruction that the newly elected Labour Party government in London under Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, MP, that the National Health Service was introduced by the Health Minister, Aneurin Bevan, MP, on 5th July 1948. The core principles of the NHS were that it had to be comprehensive, universal and free at the point of delivery. The Irish in Britain had access to the NHS services from the beginning and with its expansion, new opportunities for employment in the NHS opened for Irish women and men to train for various roles, especially in nursing and care-providers. By the 1960s approximately 30,000 Irish-born nurses were working across the NHS, constituting around 12% of all nursing staff. While many Irish families produced at least one nurse and many of those emigrated, so far there has been little recognition of the enormous contribution of Irish nurses to health care in Britain over the decades. This is certainly something that should be addressed by the authorities in the UK and possibly, on the initiative of the unions representing the nursing and midwifery sectors, a suitable manner of permanent recognition could be considered.

This book is based on forty-five interviews and tells the stories of Irish nurses in their own words using rich oral history and photographs – a treasure trove for the family historian. The stories cover the rigours of training in the hospitals to the fun and excitement of the dancehalls free from the stifling conservatism of rural Ireland at the time. These Irish dancehalls were a sort of home from home for young Irish nurses and indeed, many met their future spouses at these venues. This wonderful social study explores their life experiences as nurses and as Irish migrants in British society which, was generally welcoming and accommodating, but certainly not without its challenges.

Louise Ryan is a Senior Professor of Sociology and director of the Global Diversities and Inequalities research centre, London Metropolitan University, and has extensively researched Irish migration to Britain. **Gráinne McPolin** is a radio producer and podcaster. She is a former nurse having spent many years of her career working in Britain's National Health Service hospitals. **Neha Doshi** is a PhD researcher and Associate Lecturer at London Metropolitan University. Her research focuses on race and media. (Text informed by FCP website)

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GSJ BOARD NEWS

The Cathaoirleach convened a Special Meeting of the Board on **Thursday February 6th 2025** at 11.00hrs with six of the nine directors in attendance.

The Board considered the Society's continued use of the **Twitter/X** social media platform and decided with the adoption of *Res: 25/02/1891* to move to **Bluesky** over the coming month.

As usual **Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSI, Director of Finance**, delivered the **Monthly Accounts** for the period ending 31.01.2025 and provided an update on the Society's Annual Accounts.

The report of the **Select Committee on the Website** was considered and adopted (*Res: 25/02/1895*). The **Director of Internet Services, Shane Wilson, MGSI**, had long advised on the need for a total rebuild of the website to meet the needs of the Society across all platforms and devices.

A newly designed website is currently under construction by **Pedro Antonio Torres Vera** of **AV Web Shield, Web Design and Cybersecurity**. It is hoped to have the new website operational by the AGM next month.

The Board conducted the annual review of the **Open Meetings** based on a report presented by the General Secretary. It was then agreed (*Res: 25/02/1896*) to continue with incorporeal meetings, however, with possibly occasional in-person informal gatherings such as "coffee mornings". Hopefully, we'll have more on this proposal next month.

The first Review of the **Society's Development Plan** was undertaken and although, progress in some areas was noticeable, all agreed that we must do

more to advance the circa 60 objectives in the plan. The report presented by the General Secretary on the actions to date was adopted (*Res: 25/02/1897*).

With the adoption of *Res: 25/02/1898* the Board, once again, established a **JGSI Select Committee** to produce and published the **Annual Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland** for 2025. The JGSI 2025 will mark the **35th anniversary** of the foundation of the Society and the **25th anniversary** of the incorporation of the Society under the Companies Act.

Fiona Tipple FGSI, Director of Archival Services & Education, on behalf of **Eddie Gahan, FGSI, Director of the Outreach Programme**, delivered a report on the hugely successful GSI Stands at the **Holiday World Shows** in Belfast and Dublin last month. The stands were extremely busy and the need for more volunteers was very evident.

Barry O'Connor, FGSI, Director of Membership Services, advised the Board that all the Members should have received the new metal **Membership Badge** by mail. If you haven't received yours, please contact Barry on membership@familyhistory.ie

Next Board Meeting: **Thursday 6th March 2025** at 11.00hrs via Zoom. **General Secretary**

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING

This Society is a **Registered Charity in Ireland** funded largely by its Membership Fees and some kind donations. The provision of an archive, hosting open meetings, publications and our outreach activities all require funding. Donations, of any amount, can be made via the GSI website <https://www.familyhistory.ie>
Thank You Very Much : Go Raibh Mile Maith Agat

In Brief....

GSJ 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* on PAGE 4 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

GSJ OPEN MEETINGS

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

Tuesday February 11th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - (see page 1)

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

Tuesday March 11th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - **Annual General Meeting** - Speaker: Jim Herlihy, FGSI, - '*Savannah - A fight for a fortune of mystery*'.

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

Tuesday April 8th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Cauvery Madhavan—topic *TBA*

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

Tuesday May 13th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - *3rd Annual Heraldry Ireland Lecture*— Ralf Hartemink of '*Heraldry of the World*' on the topic—*TBA*

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

Tuesday June 10th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker & Topic—*TBA*

Wednesday June 25th —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 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...

CLONTARF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The AGM takes place at 19.30hrs on Monday 10 Feb. in St. John's Pastoral Centre, Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3, and feature a talk on '*Factories in Coolock*' by Katie Blackwood - all welcome - admission €5.00

THE BLACKROCK SOCIETY

Des Geraghty will present '*The Human Behans*' at 20.00hrs on Monday 10 February in Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00 for non-members.

KILMACANOGUE HISTORY SOCIETY

Karl Brady will present '*Lost to the Sea: Mapping, Documenting and preserving ship-wrecks off the Wicklow Coast*' at 20.00hrs on Monday 10 February in Kilmacanogue Parish Hall, adjacent to St. Mochoonog's R.C. Church, Kilmacanogue, Co. Wicklow. All welcome - admission €3.00 members. €5.00 non-members.

MALAHIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jessica Fahy will recall '*The Works of Nathaniel Hone and Sarah Purser*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 11 February in St. Sylvester's Church Parish Centre, Malahide, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Kevin O'Sullivan will recall '*Big Dream, Little Boat*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 11 February in The Bowling Club, Skerries, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Peadar Curran will present '*Evie Hone: Stained Glass Artist of Marlay*' on Wednesday 12 February, and Brian Hughes '*Dublin: The Irish Revolution 1912-1923*' on Wednesday 26 February at 18.00hrs in The Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free.

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

Ann Lane will present '*Public Art in Ireland*' on Thursday February 13th at 8 p.m. in St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Members are free - visitors €3.00. Car parking charge of €1.00 per hour at this venue - coin payment only.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Martin McCarthy will give the short talk '*The Lindsay family and their connection with Deansgrange*' and Lindie Naughton the long talk on '*Herbert Simms - An Architect for the People*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 18 February. All welcome - admission €5.00.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

Frank Delaney will recall '*Dunleary before the Royal Harbour*' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 19 February in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00. Free car parking is available for those who attend this lecture. Copies of the Society's journal will be on sale at this meeting

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Isolda Moylan will recall '*William J. Moylan, a filmmaker in India, Pakistan and Ireland*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 20 February in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome. Admission €8.00 non-members. AGM will precede this lecture.

WICKLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

John Goodman will present '*Wicklow Men and Women in World War 2*' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 25 February in the De La Salle Parish Centre, Wicklow Town. All welcome - donation appreciated.

WICKLOW COUNTY LIBRARIES

Michael Fewer will present '*Tales from a Wicklow Tearoom*' at 19.00hrs on Thursday 27 February in Wicklow Library, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow Town, Admission free, but Booking required - limited capacity - wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie or 0404-67025.

KILLINEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society will host an Open Night, presented by members and friends of the Society, at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 4 March in the Druid's Chair Pub upstairs lounge, Killiney Hill Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00. The Society's journal will be on sale.

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thomas O'Connor will present '*Irish Colleges on the Continent*' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 5 March in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin. Admission is €5.00 for non-members.

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Declan Kerney will present '*Ireland's Revolutionary Diplomat: Leopold Kerney*' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 6 March in the Fitzwilliam Rooms, Community Centre, North Avenue, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00 for non-members and €2.00 for students. The car park is 24hour Pay and Display.

MARINO 100 HISTORY TALKS

John Healy will present '*Liam Devlin - Irish Revolutionary: Revolutionary, Publican, Industrialist (with a Marino connection)*' at 19.00hrs on Friday 7 March in Carleton Hall (Marino Community Centre), 53A, Shelmartin Avenue, Dublin 3. All are welcome.

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Dr. Macdara Dwyer will present '*An Empire in search of subjects: Catholic Irish and the British Army in the 18th century*' at 20.00hrs Friday 7 March in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All are welcome.

THE EBLANA CLUB

Dr. Colum Kenny will present '*Arthur Griffith - an advanced nationalist, not a conservative*' at 19.30hrs on Thursday 13 February The Eblana Lodge, 3 Eblana Avenue, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission is by voluntary donation.

BALLSBRIDGE, DONNYBROOK & SANDYMOUNT

Des Geraghty will present '*Brendan Behan, Human Behan*' on Wednesday 12 February, and James Scannell '*Rough Justice: Crime and Punishment in 1800s Dublin*' on Wednesday 05 March at 13.00hrs in Pembroke Library, Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. All welcome. Admission free. Booking required 01-2228450 or pembroke.library@dublincity.ie.

CABRA LIBRARY

Jeffrey Jones will present '*The Battle of Salcock Wood*' at 18.30hrs on Thursday 27 February. Admission free. Booking required 01-222 8310 cabralibrary@dublincity.ie

James Scannell, FGSI

Editor: For this month's publication review see page 4

DIASPORAN STUDIES

Members and friends of the Society are invited to submit newly composed essays on any aspect of genealogy, heraldry, vexillology, genetic genealogy, social history, migration etc as it relates to *Diasporan Studies* for a new publication. This new collection of themed essays will form a "festschrift" to be published in honour of former President Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, and presented by GSI President Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI. Interested in submitting an essay? Please email us on eolas@familyhistory.ie Go Raibh Míle 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 Price €24.99 [RRP].

PRÉCIS OF THE JANUARY LECTURE

On Tuesday 14th January 2025 at our Monthly Evening Open Meeting we were delighted to welcome from Talamh an Éisc / Newfoundland, **Craig Morrissey** of the **Family History Society of Newfoundland and Labrador** (FHSNL). Craig delivered a very interesting and hugely informative presentation ‘*Across the Pond: Resources in Newfoundland & Labrador for Your Family History Research*’ which has been updated to the Society’s YouTube Channel (see bottom of this page for the link).



He opened his presentation with a brief history of Newfoundland and Labrador from the indigenous people through the Vikings to the arrival of Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) in 1497. The island of Newfoundland was settled seasonally at first as workers from south west England and south east Ireland were brought over to fish or to process the fish for shipment back across the Atlantic. These workers tended to go back home following each season until the late seventeenth century when more permanent settlement began to be the norm and indeed, as Craig explained, the majority of the Irish population traces its roots to the eighteenth and very early nineteenth century arrivals. The majority of the Irish population of Newfoundland is a pre-famine diasporic group unlike those in other parts of Canada.

Craig then explained the various records that are available for researching family history in Newfoundland and Labrador going through the types of records, their location, accessibility and crucially, what sort of information is available in each. This was extremely informative and, indeed, Craig’s style of delivery and careful attention to detail was greatly appreciated by his audience in this Zoom session from Ireland and overseas. As a professional genealogist, Craig guided us through the various repositories as if we were there in his home beautiful city of St. John’s and, of course, he explained the geography of the island pointing out the various settlements and especially, those with Newfoundland Irish communities. He ended his presentation with a plug for the **Genealogy Conference** to be held in St. John’s from **July 25th to 27th 2025**. A lively Q+A followed.

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

GSI MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE 2025-2026

The following proposal was unanimously adopted by the Board of Directors on Thursday 7th November 2024 under **Res: 24/11/1866**.



That, the Board agrees to the implementation of the following as part of the **Membership Package as and from January 1st 2025**, and that all existing fully paid-up Members on that date will have their Membership Packages updated to

include all the elements of the new package until the expiry date of their membership.

Understanding that the Society provides Monthly Open Meetings, operates an Archive and Research Centre, publishes newsletters and an annual journal, has Zoom meetings, website and a presence across the social media platforms, the following are the benefits of Membership.

Membership of the Society shall entitle the Member attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting and any general meeting of the Society; stand for election to the Board of the Society; to nominate a family member to be an “Associate Member” of the Society; receive the Monthly Newsletter and the Annual Journal electronically; free use of the Society’s Archive and Research Centre; use of the Members’ Only facilities on the Society’s website; receive a free copy of any new electronic publication by

the Society; automatic simultaneous membership of the Society’s Specialist Branches, *Heraldry Ireland* and *Vexillology Ireland*; weekly research advice Zoom sessions (except for the month of December), including one each month for new Members and beginners; monthly evening lectures; monthly morning meeting discussion group meetings; optional members of the GSI Members WhatsApp Group; opportunities to volunteer at the Society’s Archive and Research Centre and at occasional events around Ireland; and to participate in group projects and research initiatives. Each Member shall be entitled to one vote (*Single Transferrable Vote form of Proportional Representation*) in the Electronic Ballot to choose the Society’s nominee for candidature in Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate) General Elections. Members shall be entitled to purchase tickets to participate in the Members Only Monthly Draw organised by the Society.

The cost of this Membership Package will be €40.00 per annum (based on the date of joining) and a 50% reduction will be offered to persons under 25 years of age and to students of any age attending a recognised genealogical, heraldic, vexillological or local history course. Proof of attendance and/or course registration may be requested.

A metallic Membership Badge (see above) shall be sent to each paid-up Member, however, any replacement Membership Badge shall be charged at €5.00 plus postage & packing.

Barry O’Connor, FGSI, Membership Director

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

Local History Journal—‘Obelisk 2025’

Obelisk 2025 - Journal of the Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society. Articles featured in the 160 page ‘*Obelisk 2025*’ includes ‘A Free-Range Childhood in Rural Kilmacud’ by Liam Collins; ‘Mary Louisa Whately of Redesdale and Cairo’ by Bryan Mac Mahon; ‘Pye Factory Dundrum: Before and After’ by Margaret Smith; ‘The South County Dublin Battalion FCA 1946-1959’ by James Scannell; ‘Sandyford Road: A Journey in 1850’ by Michael Van Turnhour; ‘Jarlath Hayes: Stillorgan Designer, Typographer and Wood-Worker’ by Susan Waine; ‘The Way to Dundrum’ by Matt Cahill; ‘Ireland Soccer Shirts Museum visits St Laurence’s BNS, Kilmacud’ by Clive O’Connor; ‘Dundrum Carnegie Library since 1914’ by John Lennon; ‘The Chimney on the Hill’ by Aiden Feerick; ‘Major Denis J. Coulson, Stillorgan: Sportsman and Soldier’ by Peter Sobolewski; ‘Memories of the Way Things Were in Stillorgan 1950 to 1958’ by Cyril Dunne; ‘History of the Dodder Anglers’ Association’ by Redmond O’Hanlon; ‘Stillorgan Snapshots’ by Aiden Traynor; ‘The Love Family of Marlay’ by Sean Magee; ‘De Valera’s Rule: Different Perspectives’ by Emer O’Neill, and ‘Wildflowers of Stillorgan, Mount

Merrion and Dundrum’ by Paula O’Regan. The cover features the Pilkington family coat of arms which appears on a window on the main staircase of Westbury House, now part of the campus of St Raphaela’s schools in Kilmacud. Copies of *Obelisk 2025* and some previous editions are available from the Society’s online shop at www.kilmacudstillorganhistory.ie and at their monthly talks.

James Scannell, FGSI

GSI ON YOUTUBE

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

www.YouTube.com/c/GenealogicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI

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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Board of Directors (2024-2025)

John Goggins (*Cathaoirleach* : Chairperson; *Oifigeach na Gaeilge*) **Fiona Tipple** (*Leas-Chathaoirleach* : Vice-Chairperson; *Director Archives Services & Education*); **Michael Merrigan** (*General Secretary, Company Secretary, ‘Gazette’ Editor; & Irish DNA Atlas*); **Lua Ó Scolaí** (*Finance & ADF, Philanthropy*); **Eddie Gahan** (*Outreach Programme*); **Shane Wilson** (*Internet Services*); **Barry O’Connor** (*Membership Services & Cemetery Projects; Building & Utilities, Health & Safety*); **Gerard Corcoran** (*Digitization & Genetic Genealogy*) and **Laura Price** (*Special Collections, Research & Specialist Groups, Vexillology & Heraldry, and pro tem Deputy General Secretary*). **Non-Executive:** Séamus O’Reilly, FGSI

“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, MGSJ**. 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

