



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating “The Genie Gazette”)

Vol. 20 No. 3

www.familyhistory.ie

Márta : Mis Merth : March 2025

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GSI BOARD

Deannachtaí na Fáile Pádrais Oráibh go Léir

The following is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland CLG adopted by the Board at its meeting of 6th March 2025, under *Res: 25/03/1907*. As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM, however, the Annual Financial Report is for period ending 31st December 2024.

The 2024 AGM elected nine Directors to the Board. There were no co-options or resignations in the past year. As with the 2024 AGM, this year the draft Annual Accounts were delivered to the Society's auditor in February, however, due a backlog at our auditors we are unlikely to have the Audited Financial Report back in time for presentation at the AGM on 11th March 2025.

There was one resolution adopted at the AGM in 2024 on the formal designation and recognitions of **Presidents Emeriti** of the Society.

The Board elected at the AGM in 2024 met twelve times incorporeally throughout the year, commencing in April 2024 where the various portfolios were allocated. All those elected had previously signed the ‘Director's Code of Conduct’ which is mandatory for membership of the Board.

The meetings of the Board deal with the day-to-day business of the Society, policy matters, planning, corporate governance, and finance. In addition to these meetings each of the directors undertook duties associated with their various portfolios.

The Board continues to operate under, and be guided by, the *GSI Development Plan, 2022-2027* which is a comprehensive and strategic plan covering all aspects of the work of the Society and our future objectives. The first review of the Development Plan was undertaken at the Board Meeting held on 6th February 2025 involving an assessment of the implementation of the sixty objectives in the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on **Tuesday 11th March 2025** at 20.00hrs (UTC+0) via Zoom. Link to be sent to each Member. Check your membership status by contacting the Director of Membership Services on membership@familyhistory.ie

AGENDA

- Minutes of the last AGM
- Matters Arising
- Annual Report of the GSI Board
- Annual Accounts P.E. 31 Dec. 2024
- Resolution on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. (Social Inclusion)
- Election of the GSI Board
- Election of Auditor
- Guest Speaker & Q+A

plan. A more focused approach to the implementation of these objectives and a dedicated oversight function were cited as requirements for coming year.

The Open Meeting schedule was delivered, once again, via Zoom and included, twelve Evening Open Meetings with lectures and weekly “Archive Drop-In” Zoom meetings – all open to the public. The “Archive Drop-Ins” provide weekly family history research advice. The February 2025 Evening Open Meeting hosted the inaugural ‘Annual Vexillology Ireland Lecture’ with special guest, Stan Zamyatin-Moore, MA, a renowned vexillologist and author of Ireland's only guide to flag design, ‘Flagging Ireland’ published by the GSI in 2015. The monthly lectures are uploaded to the GSI's YouTube channel, Facebook, Bluesky, and Instagram.

The Society's Archives and Research Centre – *An Daonchartlann* – at the DLR Leisure Centre at Loughlinstown, continued to provide services to Members and the public each Wednesday except for the Christmas / New Year holiday period. *An Daonchartlann* also received significant donations of books and personal research papers during the year.

The Society's *Outreach Programme* was very busy throughout the past year with visits to various voluntary and community organisations offering either talks or workshop-style presentations. This year began with GSI Stands at the *Holiday World Shows* in Belfast and at the RDS in Dublin in January 2025.

The Society is very grateful to **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** for the level of grant aid provided to the Society to assist with running costs of the Society. The Society is in constant touch with the County Council regarding the possible relocation of our Archives & Research Centre to a more suitable premises. The Board continues its campaign for the establishment of an ‘Irish Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies – incorporating a Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies’ in Dún Laoghaire in conjunction with the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 11 March (AGM) 2025 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 8 April 2025 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 26 March 2025 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 23 April 2025 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

Open Meetings

News & Events

DATA PROTECTION

The European Union's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into force on **May 25th 2018**. The Board, under *Res: 18/05/1380*, advises Members that the Society holds the following records on its Members (1) Name; (2) Address; (3) Telephone Number; (4) Email Address and (5) the name of the Associate Member, if applicable, and that such records are **only used** for the purpose of contacting Members on Society matters and for the dispatch of the Monthly Newsletter and the Annual Journal and furthermore, that these records are **only held** by the Director of Membership Services and are **inaccessible to all other persons** and that, the **Society does not share this information** with any other individual or organisation. Records are also held for **contractual necessity** to deliver paid services.

Donate



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@GenSocIreland

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/GenSocIreland

GSi ON INSTAGRAM

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

www.instagram.com/GenSocIreland

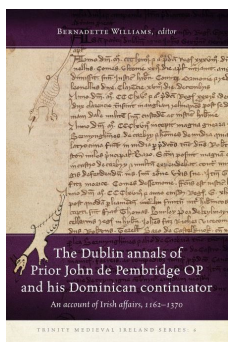
WHATSAPP GROUP

Technical difficulties have delayed the launch of the Members' WhatsApp Group. Apologies for any inconvenience caused. We hope to resolve the issue soon.

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

An Account of Irish Affairs 1162-1370

'The Dublin Annals of Prior John de Pembridge OP and his Dominican continuator - An account of Irish affairs, 1162-1370' edited by **Bernadette Williams** and published by **Four Courts Press**. (ISBN: 978-1-84682-965-9 / Hbk : 316pp : Colour Ills. : Price: €55.00 : Web-Price: €49.50)



When the Dominicans arrived in Dublin in 1224, they established a house on the north bank of the river Liffey next to the bridge where the Four Courts are situated today. Anyone who wanted to enter the city of Dublin from the north, or leave across the bridge, had to pass the gate of the priory. It was in this priory in the mid-fourteenth century that a Dominican friar named Prior John de Pembridge wrote these Latin annals. This is the first modern edition of the annals of Pembridge (1162–1348), together with those of his anonymous Dominican continuator (1348–70). In 1884, in a two-volume work entitled *The chartularies of St Mary's Abbey, Dublin*, Sir John Gilbert printed these Latin annals without an English translation. Gilbert's was a rudimentary edition that did not make use of all available manuscripts. In this new edition, Bernadette Williams, the foremost expert on the Latin annals of Anglo-Norman Ireland, presents an authoritative modern edition of these manuscripts with facing translation. The annals, which cover the period 1162–1370, provide a unique window into the political, religious and social character of the city of Dublin, and Ireland more generally, at a pivotal moment in their history. The editor has provided a detailed textual analysis and commentary on the annals and their significance. The joy of these annals lies not only in the serious news recorded by John de Pembridge, but also in the vivid portrait of medieval life he offers – from the bakers of Dublin

drawn at horses' tails through the city's streets for selling below-weight bread, to the mayor of Dublin who used his own money to build a marble cistern supplying water to the city, and the 500 whales washed up at the mouth of the Dodder that fed Dubliners during the famine of 1331.

Bernadette Williams holds a PhD from TCD, where she lectured in medieval Latin and the history of women in the Middle Ages. She is editor and translator of *The Annals of Ireland by Friar John Clyn* (2007) and *The 'Annals of Multyfarnham': Roscommon and Connacht provenance* (2012), both published by Four Courts Press. (*FCP website*)

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the extensive online catalogue and especially, 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 March 6th 2025** at 11.00hrs with seven of the nine directors in attendance.



The General Secretary presented an updated text for the Society's **Social Inclusion Policy** to replace that of the 2003 and 2005 resolutions. The new policy statement reaffirms this Society's strong commitment to uphold **Diversity, Equity**

and **Inclusion** in its activities and its policies. The Members will be asked to endorse **Res: 25/01/1901** at the Annual General Meeting.

As usual **Lua Ó Scolaí**, **MGSI, Director of Finance**, delivered the **Monthly Accounts** for the period ending 28.02.2025 and provided an update on the Annual Accounts which, he confirmed, will not be back from the auditor in time for the AGM. Therefore, as per **Res: 25/03/1908**, draft annual accounts will be presented for endorsement at the AGM.

Fiona Tipple FGSI, Director of Archival Services & Education, delivered the final report of the Select Committee on the **George's Place/Kelly's Avenue** application for a permanent base of operation in the town centre of Dún Laoghaire.

The Society was unsuccessful in its application to **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** on this occasion, but contacts are to be maintained as other options can be explored. The Board adopted the report (**Res: 25/03/1905**) and the Select Committee was automatically stood down.

The **Annual Report of the Board of Directors** was presented by the General Secretary, including the attendance record for each director. The report was

"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

ANNUAL REPORT continued..

Continued from page 1.

The Society's **Annual Journal** was produced by a Select Committee for the third time in 2024 and as this collaborative method of productions was so successful, a Select Committee was established for the 2025 Annual Journal.

In addition to the Annual Journal, which is published in electronic format, the Society published twelve issues of its newsletter '*Ireland's Genealogical Gazette*' and its readership figures continued to be very strong throughout the year especially on-line where it was available in pdf format. It is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is fully indexed online in the "*Hall's Index*" on the Society's website.

With the launch later this year of the new '*An Daonchartlann – Monographic Series*' the Society will be expanding its occasional electronic publications programme.

Ireland's first '*National Heraldic Survey*' (**Res: 13/10/1051**) will be launched at the **Third 'Annual Heraldry Ireland Lecture'** in May 2025 however, trial runs of the App will be held throughout March and April 2025.

On legislative matters, the Society continued its endeavours to have section 13 of the **National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997** amended to regularise the position of heraldic grants made in Ireland prior to May 2005. While the Irish heraldic office dates from April 1943, its legislative heraldic authority only dates from May 2005 with the belated commencement of the 1997 Act. Unfortunately, no progress has been made on having a bill tabled in Seanad Éireann primarily due to other pressing issues and a rather crowded schedule.

The Society nominated **Sabina Purcell**, a member of the **Kilmacud-Stillorgan Local History Society**, to contest the General Election for **Seanad Éireann**. Ms. Purcell conducted a very good and targeted campaign over several months, however, luck wasn't with her on the day.

The Society's two specialist branches, **Vexillology Ireland** and **Heraldry Ireland**, continue to deal with these specific aspects of the Society's many and varied activities. The Society is Ireland's only member of **FIAV – the International Federation of Vexillological Associations**.

The Society's has a completely **newly designed website** which provides a **Members Only Section**; electronic voting system (STV-PR); access to all our newsletters from 1997 with a search facility; and eventually the website will greatly expand the range of archival holdings available online. Digitisation of the Society's publications and archival collections is ongoing.

The Society will roll out its new nationwide outreach programme called "*Na Cúig Cúige*" (*Irish: "The Five Provinces"*) (**Res: 25/03/1909**) over the coming year. This programme will see informal meet and greet sessions held in various parts of the country and in the Greater Dublin Region in combination with "*Research Day Trips*" from Dublin.

The Facebook and Instagram accounts continue to be valuable components in the promotion of the activities of the Society, its legislative campaigns and of Irish genealogy in general. The Board decided in February to cease to post on Twitter/X and to open a Bluesky account. The **Irish DNA Atlas Project**, operated in conjunction with the **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)**, continues to provide very exciting and ground-breaking data from this unique academic genetic genealogy research project, including the recently published study on the **Demographic History of Britain and Ireland**.

In addition to the above, the Board dealt with matters relating to the Society's membership of the Federation of Family History Societies, The Wheel, DLR PPN, INAR and FIAV. The Board also complied with its statutory obligations in respect of the **Companies Act, 2014**, **Register of Beneficial Ownership (SI 110/2019)**, the **Charities Act, 2009**, the Charities Regulatory Authority, the EU GDPR and as a Nominating Body for Seanad Éireann.

Finally, our thoughts are with the families of Members and friends of the Society who passed away since our last Annual General Meeting.

Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI, General Secretary

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* 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

GSI OPEN MEETINGS

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

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.

Tuesday July 8th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker & Topic—*TBA*

Wednesday July 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

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

Bryan McMahon will present 'The Adventures of Richard Crosbie, Pioneer of Balloon Flight 1785' at 19.30hrs on Monday 10 March in St. John's Pastoral Centre, Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. All welcome - admission is €5.00

THE BLACKROCK SOCIETY

Peadar Curran will present 'Eve Hone: Stained Glass Artist' at 20.00hrs on Monday 10 March in Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, 32 Belgrave Square, Monkstown, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission is €5.00 for non-members.

MALAHIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Noel Carolan will present 'The Government v Irish Nationalists: Food Controls in Wartime Ireland 1917/1918' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 11 March in St. Sylvester's Church Parish Centre, Malahide, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00.

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Brendan Grimes, Jean Harris, Bernadette McKenna, and Oona Roycroft will present 'Items from the archive' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 11 February in The Bowling Club, Skerries, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Donal Fallon will present 'The Lamplighters of the Phoenix Park' on Wednesday 12 March and Eamon Delaney 'The Old Tenements and the New Suburbs' on Wednesday 26 March. Both take place at 18.00hrs in The Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free. No booking is required.

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

Jane Nolan will present 'Local History through Maps' on Thursday March 13th at 20.00hrs in St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Members free - visitors €3.00. Please note - car parking charge of €1.00 per hour. - coin payment only.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Christiaan Corlett will give a talk on 'New Thoughts on St. Kevin and Glendalough' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 18 March in Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission is €5.00

DUN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

Rob Goodbody will present 'Richard Toucher - Father of Dun Laoghaire's Asylum Harbour' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 19 March in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5. Free car parking for attendees. Copies of the Society's journal on sale at this meeting.

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Brian White will present 'A History of Bray Main Street' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 20 March in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome - admission €8.00 for non-members.

CABRA LIBRARY, DUBLIN

Dr. Mary Muldowney will present 'Defending the interests of Dublin's poor: Sarah Cecilia Harrison' at 14.30hrs on Sat. 22 March. Admission free. Booking required 01-2228310 email: cabralibrary@dublincity.ie

WICKLOW COUNTY LIBRARIES

Dr. Patrick Wadden will present 'The Real St. Patrick: Separating the Man from the Myth' at 19.00hrs on Thurs 13 March in Wicklow Library, The Mall, Main Street, Wicklow. Admission free. No booking required. Joan Kavanagh will present 'The Grangegorman Penitentiary' at 19.00hrs on Thurs 20 March in the same venue. Admission free. Booking required email: wicklowlocalstudies@wicklowcoco.ie or 0404-67025.

WICKLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Brian White will present 'Wicklow Town through the Ages' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 25 March in the De La Salle Parish Centre, beside St. Patrick's R.C. Church, Wicklow Town. All welcome - donation.

THE EDWARD WORTH LIBRARY

Dr. Jason McElligott will present 'The libraries of the Royal Hospital, Kilmalham, 1684-1929' at 15.00hrs on Thursday 27 March in Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin 8. Admission is free. Booking essential - email: info@edwardworthlibrary.ie.

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR

Ronan Kelly will present 'Every Branch of the Healing Art': A History of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 27 March in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members free / visitors €5.00. The Swan Car Park Evening Rate: €4.00 from 19.00hrs to Midnight.

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Dr. Gerry O'Keeffe will present 'Bravery Deserving of a Better Cause'. The East India Company's Irish Soldiers 1830-1860' at 20.00hrs in Friday 28 March in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All welcome.

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Michael Earley will present 'Earley Studies in Stained Glass' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 02 April in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin. Admission is €5.00 for non-members

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Rob Goodbody will present 'Martello Towers' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 03 April in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. Admission is €4.00 / Students €2.00.

PUBLICATION

History Ireland magazine, March / April 2025, Editor: Tommy Graham, published by Wordwell Ltd.

Articles featured in the latest issue of this excellent publication include - 'From the Editor - Living memory' by Tommy Graham; 'Methodist responses to the Great Hunger' by Danny Ó Seachnasaigh; 'St. Vincent's Church and the Vincentians in Cork' by Antóin O'Callaghan; 'My enemy's enemy... the 1861 Trent Affair in The Nation' by Charles Tyner; 'On arrive! - the Irish in the Franco-Prussian War' by Isadore Ryan; 'I did the work I was fit for' - Seán O'Faolain's pension application' by John Grant; 'Lilian Lancasters's folkloric portraits of the Irishman and St. Patrick' by Kieran Rankin; 'The general and his drivers - Eoin O'Duffy's chauffeurs' by Jack Traynor; 'Éamon de Valera, the Irish diaspora and war-time hate mail' by Tim Ellis-Dale; 'The Labour government, the Army and the crisis of the British state over Northern Ireland, 1972-6' by Paul Dixon.

Regular features: 'Bite-Sized History' by Donal Fallon, 'Gems of Architecture' by Damien Murphy, 'Kindred Lines' by Fiona Fitzsimons, 'Artefacts' by Lar Joye, 'IFI Film Eye' by Anna Rose Garvey, 'Local Archives' by Patricia Fallon, and '100 Years Ago' by Joseph E. A. Connell, Jr. Best way never to miss an issue is to take out a subscription 01-2933568 or email: carol@wordwell.ie

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 FEBRUARY LECTURE

On Tuesday 11th February 2025 at the Society's Monthly Evening Open Meeting, we were absolutely delighted to host the *Inaugural Annual Vexillology Ireland Lecture* via Zoom with our very special guest, **Stan Zamyatin-Moore, MA**, on the topic '*County Arms and Flags of Ireland*'. Stan is a renowned vexillologist and author of Ireland's only guide to flag design, '*Flagging Ireland*' which was published by the Society in 2015 with the generous assistance of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.



The lecture explored the links between the county arms and the flags adopted by each county, mostly in response to the foundation of the Gaelic Athletic Association on 1st November 1884 and the subsequent organisation of the games of hurling and Gaelic football on a county basis. Some of the "county colours"



have associations with the tinctures in the coats-of-arms, however, as Stan pointed out, this link is tenuous in most cases. The colours of the County Flags predominately emerged or evolved from those of successful local clubs or some compromise over time with little or no reference to heraldry. However, as many of the County Arms came later, the influence in the reverse, as Stan pointed out, was more likely the case. This talk brought together several interesting historical strands that may have influenced the design of Irish emblems and flags including, the origin of the various County Arms, mostly containing references to the indigenous Gaelic clans or to Anglo-Norman, Anglo-Irish or seventeenth-century plantation families, and the ancient heritage associated with the county or, more usually, important sites or features in the landscape. This was a very interesting lecture, and you never know, there may yet be a follow-up to '*Flagging Ireland*' dealing with coats-of-arms, however, given the current environment an obvious title may need to be avoided. This lecture will be uploaded to the Society's YouTube Channel (see top of page 2 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

SEANAD ÉIREANN & HERALDRY

In the *Statute Law Revision Bill, 2024*, a **1685 Proclamation** authorising *Ulster King of Arms to prevent the improper use of arms, style of esquire or gentleman, etc.* was scheduled for retention. In the November 2024 issue of the '*Gazette*', **Professor Noel Cox** outlined the position of this late seventeenth-century royal proclamation in respect of the heraldic services delivered by the Chief Herald of Ireland in accordance with Sections 12 and 13 of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*.

The Committee Stage of this Bill was held on 27th February 2025 where **Senator Victor Boyhan (IND)** tabled an amendment to remove this proclamation from Schedule 1 (items for retention) to Schedule 2 (items to be revoked). The Minister in reply said she was advised by the Chief Herald's office that this proclamation was required for the operation of its functions and that the Administrative Orders issued in 1943 allocating the contents of the former office of Ulster King of Arms to the National Library, were a "*mechanism to fold the office into the Irish state*" and that the Chief Herald's office was empowered to carry out its functions through both the *1685 Act [proclamation]* and the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*". She said the Chief Herald was the "*lawful successor*" in the state to the Ulster King of Arms and that Section 13 (2) of the 1997 Act could be "*construed as a regulatory function*".

This rather novel approach to the issue was firmly refuted by Senator Boyhan as not reflecting the legal advice on this issue provided by successive Attorney's General. However, he didn't press the amendment and therefore, he was able to raise the matter again at Report Stage on 6th March 2025.

Senator Boyhan read the following into the record of Seanad Éireann. **The powers in this Proclamation of 1685 to be assigned to the Genealogical Office cannot be so assigned for the following reasons:**

1. The 1685 Proclamation is based on a royal prerogative that has not been inherited by the State. Supreme Court in *Byrne v Ireland* [1972] I.R. 241, established that the State did not inherit the royal prerogative.
2. The 1685 Proclamation provided a regulatory authority to an individual who received a personal Royal Warrant of Appointment from the king to act as an officer of the royal household and that individual operated as a "corporation sole" using the appellation 'Ulster King of Arms'.
3. The application of this 1685 Proclamation within the State could not have survived the enactment of the *Executive Authority (External Relations) Act, 1936*, without the expressed consent, upon request, by the government of the Irish Free State up to 1937 (*Bunreacht na hÉireann*) and Ireland between 1937 & 1949 (*Republic of Ireland Act, 1948*).
4. Ulster King of Arms operated as a crown officer in the State between 1922 and 1936 for and on behalf of the King of Ireland and following the enactment of the 1936 Act, his operation within the State was legally anomalous (acting after 1936 as a crown officer for and behalf of the king of the United Kingdom) because the Irish government made no request to the monarch for such services to be provided by an officer of the royal household within the State. This effectively removed the authority and application of the 1685 Proclamation within the State.
5. The retention of the 1685 Proclamation in the *Statute Law Revision Act, 2015*, was in error as the authority for this proclamation was based on the royal prerogative which the Supreme Court in *Byrne v Ireland* [1972] I.R. 241, established that the State did not inherit and therefore, was it was non-existent in the State in 2015.
6. The argument that the Genealogical Office is the "lawful successor" in the State to the "corporation sole" known as Ulster King of Arms is contrary to the legal opinions expressed by successive Attorneys General, upon which, Ministers have advised both Houses of the Oireachtas over nearly three decades.
7. The argument that the Genealogical Office is the "lawful successor" of the "corporation sole" known as Ulster King of Arms is without foundation as the necessary documentation explicitly providing for such does not exist.
8. The argument that the 1685 Proclamation and the Administrative Orders that facilitated the transfer of the contents of the office vacated by Ulster King of Arms to the State (National Library of Ireland) in 1943 are foundational documents for the Genealogical Office is without any basis in law and has never been supported by any of the legal opinions expressed by successive Attorneys General.
9. The legal authority for the State's heraldic services is found in Sections 12 and 13 of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, which was commenced in May 2005. This has been the opinion of successive Attorneys General.
10. The retention of the 1685 Proclamation, an authority based on a royal prerogative, in the Irish Statute Book is contrary to the expressed purpose of the Statute Law Revision process whereby, legislative and regulatory authority would be sourced in post-independence legislation.
11. The intent and purpose of the 1685 Proclamation and its retention in the Irish Statute Book is not compatible with the equality provisions of *Bunreacht na hÉireann* or the Equal Status Acts.
12. Any additional regulatory powers or functions that may, from time to time, be required by the Board of the National Library of Ireland for the delivery of heraldic services in accordance with Sections 12 and 13 of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, can be requested under Section 7 of the Act.

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

11, Desmond Avenue,
Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin,
A96 AD76, Ireland

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Charity Ref: CHY 10672 : No: 20027551
Company Registration (CRO): 334884

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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, MGSJ**. The "*Hall's Index*" now includes all issues up to date—please see www.familyhistory.ie

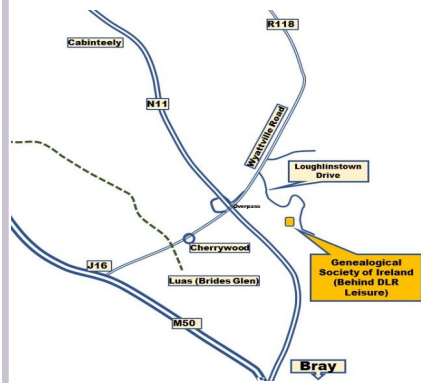
Although we're not members of the **National Union of Journalists (NUJ)**, the team at the "*Gazette*" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the **NUJ Code of Conduct** www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/ and in line with the '*National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland*' 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



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

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