



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

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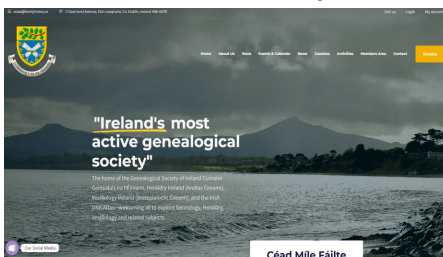
Aibreán : Jerrey-arree : April 2025

Totally New Website for the Society

The Society's newly designed website had its "soft launch" on 26 March 2025 and the feedback has been extremely positive. Not only is it seen as a vast improvement on its replacement, its content is updated, considerably increased and enhanced by new information, modern graphics, new images and, most importantly, functionality.

Shane Wilson, MGSJ, the Society's *Director of Internet Services*, had advised the Board that attempting to revamp the old website was not really a viable option and that a completely new website was required. In January the long overdue decision to proceed was finally made by the Board and **Señor Pedro Antonio Torres Vera** of AV WEB SHIELD—Web Design & Cybersecurity Solutions was commissioned to design and build a totally new website for the Society.

Over a period of eight weeks from 18 January 2025,



the Director of Finance and the General Secretary worked with the Web Designer providing content and reviewing each page, facility and function.

The text for each section was updated, expanded or, in most cases, completely rewritten to provide new information in a clear and precise format. There was a lot of work involved, which wasn't surprising given the Society's range of activities and projects.

New pages were provided for the *Irish DNA Atlas*, *National Heraldic Survey*, *An Daonchartlann—Archive and Research Centre*, Open Meetings, Monthly Lectures (many on the Society's YouTube Channel) and, of course, a *Members Only Area*.

The Members Only Area has a newly designed electronic voting system for use at our Annual General Meeting. This facility uses the *Single Transferrable Vote* system of *Proportional Representation*.

Access to the Society's monthly newsletters from 1997 to the current issue has been greatly improved with a specially designed search facility. This is an excellent resource for the study of the growth of genealogical research in Ireland over the past nearly thirty years. Indeed, the *history section* covers all of the past *thirty-five years*.

We've included the *Society's Armorial* and new pages for the Specialist Branches of the Society *Heraldry Ireland* and *Vexillology Ireland*.

www.familyhistory.ie



BADGE OF THE HONORARY HERALD



Designed by **Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSI**, *Honorary Herald of the Genealogical Society of Ireland*, in accordance with *Res: 22/12/1712* of the Board of the Society. Registered with **The Armorial Register**—www.armorialregister.com

REPORT OF THE AGM

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Tuesday 11th March 2025 via Zoom. This was the fifth incorporeal AGM held since the Covid-19 pandemic and, although, the "in-person" meetings were always enjoyable, many Members outside greater Dublin couldn't attend.

The *Annual Report of the GSI Board* and the *Draft Annual Accounts* were both adopted by the Members. The final accounts were not back from the auditors in time for presentation at the AGM.

The Members endorsed a resolution of the Board (*Res: 25/03/1901*) amending and updating the *Social Inclusion Policy* to strengthen our Society's commitment to *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion* across all of our actions.

There were no changes in personnel in the election for the Board of Directors for 2025-2026. (see page 4).

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 8 April 2025 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 13 May 2025 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 23 April 2025 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 28 May 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



In this issue.....

- Laois—1912-23
- Irish History with Davy
- GSI Board News
- Na Cúig Cúige
- Open Meetings Schedule
- James Scannell Reports..
- Précis of March Lecture
- National Heraldic Survey
- Statute Law Revision
- GSI Board Members



@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/GenerologicalSocietyOffirelandGSI

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.

"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 52

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



The United States has won more Olympic medals than any other country in the world, and in the early days, the Irish people actually had a crucial role to play in this. This story stems from Sunnyside, Queens. In the late 1800's, amateur athletics in New York was dominated by the mostly Protestant, New York Athletic

Club. At the time, amateur athletics was viewed as a well-to-do man's game - which left no chance for the poor, working class immigrants. So, a group of Irish lads in New York founded the Irish-American Athletic Club. They built a stadium in Sunnyside, Queens, and named it Celtic Park, and it became a venue for Gaelic football, Hurling, greyhound racing and track-and-field. At a time when the working-class immigrants were discriminated against, the Irishmen decided to differ themselves from The New York Athletic Club. And even though it was founded as an Irish-American organisation, they opened their doors and welcomed people of all religious and ethnic backgrounds - and some of these immigrants would go on to become some of the world's greatest athletes, and dominate the Olympics. In fact, the first Black-American (John Baxter Taylor), the first Jewish-American (Myer Prinstein), and first Irish-American (John J. Flanagan) athletes to ever win an Olympic Gold Medal for the United States, were all members of the Irish-American Athletic Club. Throughout its existence, the club won a total of 53 Olympic medals for the United States. The club's emblem was the Winged Fist with the Irish slogan 'Láim Láimh Láidir Abú' meaning 'Strong Hand Forever'. The stadium was demolished and, in its place, today is an apartment block honouring the name 'Celtic Park'. And in honour of the Irish-American Athletic Club, the street in Sunnyside is known as 'Winged Fist Way'.

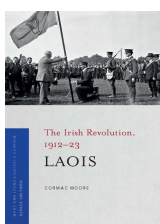
Check out my short videos on various aspects of Irish history, as featured on 'Nationwide' on RTE television available on my Instagram account below:

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

Laois—The Irish Revolution, 1912-23

'Laois—The Irish Revolution, 1912-23' by Cormac Moore and published by Four Courts Press. (ISBN: 978-1-80151-113-1 : P/bk : 189pp : B+W photographs : Price: €24.95 : Web-Price: €22.45.



Here is yet another excellent volume in the county-based series on the Irish revolutionary period edited by Mary Ann Lyons and Daithí Ó Corráin—the seventeenth and for those with Laois (formerly Queen's County) ancestry or connections, it is well worth the wait. These county-based volumes are a gem for the local historian and, of course, the genealogist, because the research undertaken by the various authors includes local sources, some in private custody, that are rarely accessed by other historians or simply not available to the public. Local knowledge is essential when it comes to researching this period of Irish history at a county level, for without such, access to individuals who knew the local actors, be they combatants or otherwise, would be nearly impossible. This period of turmoil, communal strife, hardship, loss or shame has, in many cases, cast an intergenerational shadow over communities and families that fades painfully slowly even after over a century has passed since the Civil War. In that time since the Civil War the former combatants and their families generally aligned politically

with the parties on either side of that short, yet brutal and deeply damaging, Civil War.

It has been noted by several historians that have looked in-depth at the period 1919 to 1923, that locally it wasn't only a "War of Independence" or even a "Civil War", it was many local wars, personal, familial, communal and inter-communal fuelled by issues that may have festered over decades, if not, centuries. It must be remembered that we today are at a greater remove from the events of the revolutionary period than our ancestors, who lived through such times, were away from the Tithe Wars, Great Famine, Fenian Rebellion, Land Wars and the many hundreds of local incidents of violence, evictions, brutal atrocities and reprisals. It is precisely because of the need to be able to mine this invaluable local knowledge with objectivity that, given the potential rawness of an inherited prejudice or hurt, a requirement for sensitivity, trust and respect is ever present. This is where local knowledge and local connections are essential and this is a huge strength of these county-based works, especially, this one on Laois in the turbulent period from 1912 to 1923. The county was badly impacted politically, socially and economically and indeed, it experienced far more bloodshed during the Civil War than during the War of Independence and the reasons for this are explored.

Cormac Moore, a Laois native, has a PhD from De Montfort University, Leicester, and is an historian-in-residence with Dublin City Council. A columnist with the *Irish News*, he edits its 'On This Day' segment.

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 April 3rd 2025** at 11.00hrs with all of the nine directors in attendance.



The Company Secretary opened the first meeting of the Board held after the AGM with the official confirmation of those elected at the AGM. The handed the meeting over to An Cathaoirleach.

The Society has 'cabinet-style' governance framework, therefore, each year the General Secretary presents a draft *Allocation of Portfolios* formulated by An Cathaoirleach, General Secretary and Director of Finance, for consideration by the Board.

There were a few minor changes to the portfolios, including the moving the GSI Lecture Programme to the *Director of Digitisation & Genetic Genealogy*; and the moving of Buildings, Utilities and Health & Safety to the *Director of the Outreach Programme* who also assumes responsibility for *Na Cúig Cúige* programme. Allocation adopted (*Res: 25/04/1913*).

Two Non-Executive Officers were appointed (*Res: 25/04/1914*) - Séamus O'Reilly, FGSI, (Irish DNA Atlas) and Stan Moore, MA, MGSI, (Heraldry and Vexillology); and in particular, the *National Heraldic Survey*). A third Non-Executive Officer was appointed to assist the *Director of Internet Services* and to advise on cybersecurity—Pedro Antonio Torres Vera, MGSI. (*Res: 25/04/1920*)

It was agreed that the May and June Board meetings be at 19.00hrs and not 11.00hrs. (*Res: 25/04/1915*)

The General Secretary advised the Board on the Second Stage of the *Statute Law Revision Bill, 2024*, in Dáil Éireann on 26 March 2025. Minister

Emer Higgins, TD, announced that the 1685 Proclamation will be revoked and following a review by the Law Reform Commission, forty items in the *Statute Law Revision Act, 2015*, will also be revoked by amendment. The position presented on behalf of this Society by **Senator Victor Boyhan** in Seanad Éireann on 6 March 2025 was fully accepted by the government.

As usual **Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSI, Director of Finance**, delivered the **Monthly Accounts** for the period ending 31.03.2025. He also advised the Board on the work required to have the **Monthly Member's Draw** operative and to finalise the preparations for the rollout of the **Members Only WhatsApp Group**.

The "soft launch" of the new website, designed by **Pedro Antonio Torres Vera** of **AV Web Shield, Web Design and Cybersecurity**, on 26 March 2025 was very successful with excellent feedback from Members and friends. The Board suggested some minor issues to be addressed and the Director of Finance advised on unacceptable delays we encountered with our server which was very frustrating.

Gerard Corcoran, MGSI, Director of Digitisation, Genetic Genealogy & GSI Lecture Programme, reported on recent meetings of the **DLR PPN** and the Strategic Policy Committee on Climate Action of **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**.

Next Board Meeting: **Thursday 1st May 2025** at 19.00hrs 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

Na Cúig Cúige (The Five Provinces)

The new proposal for the **Outreach Programme** adopted by the Board (*Res: 25/03/1909*) which is aimed at bringing the Society to cities and towns around the country on an annual schedule is set to be rolled out over the coming months.

The programme is called "**Na Cúig Cúige**" - the five provinces in Irish, which is actually a play on the number 5 or "*a fifth*" which is the Irish for province; the number of generations most Irish people can easily trace back on civil registration and therefore, the degree of cousins Irish people could easily discover.

Unfortunately this item was deferred at the Board Meeting until next month due to a very full agenda.

Months in Newsletter Masthead

Recently a reader asked why the Society uses three languages for the month of publication shown on the masthead of the 'Gazette'.

This was the first time this question was ever asked and the answer is simple. The Genealogical Society of Ireland promotes the study of genealogy, heraldry, vexillology and related subjects as being available to all in the community, irrespective of one's social, ethnic, national, religious or cultural background.

Although the Society is an Irish organisation based in Ireland, it is not only concerned with Irish genealogy. Through our activities we encourage everyone to discover their own ancestry no matter where that exciting quest may take you around the world.

Our masthead reflects this diversity, equity and inclusion by using a different language along with Irish and English each month since Vol. 15, No. 1 published in January 2020. This month we feature Gaelg or Manx Gaelic—a sister language of Scottish Gaelic and Irish.

Errata - The **Zoom Passcode** for the Morning Meeting in the March issue the last digit was incorrect. Apologies for any inconvenience caused to those wishing to attend that meeting. Also, just for clarification, **Res: 25/01/1901** on page 2 of last month's issue in the piece on the **GSI Board News**, should have read **Res: 25/03/1901**. This is the resolution on **Diversity, Equity and Inclusion**. **Editor**

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 April 8th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Cauvery Madhavan—topic *'Mining History for Fiction—a novelist's account of researching and sifting through a variety of sources'*.

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—'Heraldic Collections from Medieval Times to the Digital Age'

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.

Tuesday August 12th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker & Topic—*TBA*

Wednesday August 28th—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://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI>



www.eneclann.ie



Some of the Archival Collections in An Daonchartlann, Loughlinstown. (Photo: Lua Ó Scolaí)

James Scannell Reports...

SKERRIES HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Jim Walsh present *'Balscaddan, Past and Present'* at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 8 April in The Bowling Club, Skerries, Co. Dublin. All welcome.

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Alyson Gavin Lysaght will present *'The High Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist, Sandymount'* on Wednesday 9 April and Dr Angela Byrne *'The Irish (including Dubliners) in Imperial Russia'*. 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 required. Back issues of the *'Dublin Historical Record'* will be on sale.

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

Sam McGrath will present *'Kilmacud's Revolutionary Residents: Exploring the Military Service Pensions Collection (1916-1923)'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 10 April in St. Lawrence's Parish Centre, Lower Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. Members free - visitors €3.00 Car parking €1.00 per hour - coin payment only.

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR

Margaret Burke will present *'A History of the Inchicore Railway Works'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 10 April in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members are free - visitors are €5.00 - The Swan Car Park Evening Rate: €4.00 from 19.00hrs to Midnight.

CLONTARF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Noel Carolan will present *'The 1925 food supply shortage and the challenge to the new Irish state'* at 19.30hrs on Mon 14 April St. John's Pastoral Centre, Clontarf Rd, Clontarf, Dublin 3. All welcome. Admission €5.00.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Philip Lecane will present the long talk on *'A Forgotten Irish Author: Cornelius Ryan, author of 'The Longest Day' and 'A Bridge Too Far''* at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 15 April in Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. Carmel Kelly will give a short talk on *'Wicklow Gaol'*. All welcome. Admission €5.00

DUBLIN CENTRAL LIBRARY

Elizabeth Kehoe will present *'Statues of O'Connell Street'* at 13.15hrs on Wednesday 16 April. Admission free. Booking required at www.onedublincnbook.ie.

DLR - SPRING INTO HERITAGE

Rob Goodbody will present *'Fernhill Park and Gardens'* on Wednesday 16 April, and Peadar Curran *'Eivie Hone - Stained Glass Artist of Marlay'* on Wednesday 30 April. Both take place at 19.00hrs in Marlay House, Marlay Park, Rathfarnham, Co. Dublin. Admission free. Booking required via webcloud.com/dlrheritage events.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

The Society's AGM followed by the annual *'Treasure Night'* takes place at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 16 April in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00. Free car parking for attendees. Society's journal will be on sale.

BRAY CUALANN HIST SOC

Joseph E. A. Connell, Jr. will present *'The making of the Irish Free State'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 17 April in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome. Admission €8.00 for non-members.

THE BLACKROCK SOCIETY

Joseph E. A. Connell, Jr., will present *'Was Michael Collins a Dictator & other questions'* at 20.00hrs on Mon 28 April Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, Belgrave Sq. Monkstown, Co. Dublin. All welcome. £5.00 for non-members.

CLONDALKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Cathy Scuffil will present *'Down by the River Poddle'* at 20.00hrs on Monday 28 April in Aras Chrónáin - Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00.

BALBRIGGAN AND DISTRICT HIST SOC

Joseph E. A. Connell, Jr. will recall *'The Treatment of Women during the Rebellion Period and After the Free State'* on Wednesday 30 April, and Cora McDonagh *'Castle, Churches and Cobblestones - the built heritage of Balbriggan'* on Wednesday 7 May. Both take place at 20.00hrs in Bracken Court Hotel, 3A Bridge Street, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission free for members & €5.00 for non-members.

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Frank Cogan will present *'Judge 'Long Jack' Doherty of Seamount (St. Helen's) - Nemesis of Martello Towers'* at 20.00hrs on Thursday 1 May in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. Admission €5.00/Students €2.00.

MEDAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND

A *'Medals, Militaria, and Collectables Fair'* takes place 10.00hrs to 14.00hrs on Sat. 3 May in the Knox Memorial Hall, Monkstown Village, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €2.00 for members & €4.00 for non-members.

KILLINEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Des Burke-Kennedy will present *'Dalkey WW2 Coast Watchers and EIRE'* at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 6 May in the Druid's Chair Pub upstairs lounge, Killiney Hill Road, Killiney, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00

THE EDWARD WORTH LIBRARY

Dr Jason McElligott will recall *'Rialto Buildings - the place and the people in 1929'* at 15.00hrs on Wednesday 7 May in Dr. Steeven's Hospital, Dublin 8. Admission free. Booking essential info@edwardworthlibrary.ie.

BALLSBRIDGE, D'BROOK SANDYMOUNT

Joseph E. A. Connell, Jr. will present *'The transition from the 'Decade of Centenaries' to the first years of the new Irish Free State'* at 13.00hrs Weds 23 April in Pembroke Library, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. All welcome. Free. Booking required 01-2228450 pembroke.library@dublincity.ie.

PUBLICATION

Journal of the Irish Railway Record Society, February 2025, No. 216.

Articles featured in the latest issue of the include 'Fáilte - Salvete - Welcome' by the Hon. Editor Tim Moriarty, 'Translink Business Update and Belfast Central Station' by Ian Campbell, 'The Pre & Post Covid IRRS' by the Hon. Editor, 'Luck of the Draw - The Architecture Drawings of the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) in the IRRS Archive' by Siobhan Osgood, 'The Inchicore Locomotive Staff Fines Book, 1889-1910' by N.E. Gamble, 'Publications' which looks at the reprint of the 1970s book 'Dublin's Buses'. 'The Holly Bough 2024', 'Ireland's Eye Christmas Annual 2024', and 'Ireland's Own - January 31st 2025' issue, 'Observations and Comments', 'Táilte Tours', 'Society News', 'The New Irish Rail Timetable - October 21st 2024' by Barry Carse, 'The "American Tramcar" Mystery' by Clifton Flewitt, 'The Mallow Railway Shootings of 1921 - Effects on British Policy in Ireland' by Peter Rigney, 'Irish Railway News', and 'Meeting Programmes' for Dublin, Munster, and London.

Those wishing to join the Irish Railway Record Society see the website www.irrs.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 MARCH LECTURE

On Tuesday 11th March 2025 at the Society's Monthly Evening Open Meeting, we were absolutely delighted to host the renowned police historian, genealogist, author, and longtime Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, **Jim Herlihy, FGSI**, on *'Savannah—A fight for a fortune of mystery'*.

Jim's talk refers to the highlights of a work in progress of a book that he is finalising concerning an intestacy case of the daughter of an Irish-born policeman who died in 1983 in Savannah, Georgia. As an amateur genealogist he found himself accepted as an expert witness at a hearing to determine heirs in Chatham County Probate Court, Savannah, Georgia on 18 December 1989, the Court of Appeals, Atlanta and the Supreme Court of the State of Georgia. Jim outlined and explained the bizarre happenings surrounding the case, which included the exhumation of a body in Savannah & Ireland; a settlement offer to a claimant in advance of a court hearing; the sudden death of a genealogist involved in the case, whose critical report was withheld from the court, her husband committing suicide and her son was murdered and the jailing of the Probate Court judge and clerk involved in the case following a federal investigation. The case was decided upon by an unproven letter from Ireland, which Jim can now prove through expert analysis the alleged writer was not the author of the letter. The illustrated talk included excerpts from a Canadian television documentary on the case. The sizeable audience was kept enthralled as Jim retold this horrific and yet, fascinating story.



Unfortunately due to some copyright concerns, at the request of the speaker, the lecture was not recorded and therefore, it couldn't 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

CLÓSCAPE & the National Heraldic Survey

At the beginning of the month, a report from **RTÉ News** about historians at **Trinity College Dublin (TCD)** seeking the assistance of the public to document and preserve Dublin's old bilingual street signs with their unique Gaelic typeface – An Cló Gaelach. These rather beautiful signs, some handcrafted and painted, are fast disappearing from the streets of Dublin and other areas.

The distinctive green-and-white street signs date from circa 1901 when Dublin Corporation voted to install signs in both English and Irish with the Irish language version written in traditional Irish script—*An Cló Gaelach*.

CLÓSCAPE will collect photographic evidence of the signs and the photos will be published as part of the Irish Historic Street Signs Archive on the Digital Repository of Ireland, making this important and unique cultural heritage freely available to the public and researchers.

See: <http://www.nicolevolmering.ie/closcape/>
Commenting on the CLÓSCAPE project, the *Honorary Herald*, **Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSI**, said "the idea is similar to our National Heraldic Survey.

We are working on the recording of coats of arms in public places, and it really helps when people collaborate with the project by sending photos and descriptions. Our scope is broader, covering different locations, various types of use, both private and public arms, whether in official places, businesses, or institutions.

They have a similar approach, also asking for photos to support their project, although their focus seems more limited, initially to the city of Dublin, especially the old green signs with a specific Irish-language font that characterises them. Preserving heritage is the goal of both projects."

Indeed, the *"mapping of heritage features in the streetscape or landscape"* is an objective of many County Heritage Plans in Ireland.

The **National Heraldic Survey** is currently undergoing a "soft launch" on the Society's website and people can submit photographs and details of the locations of coats-of-arms on signs, buildings or in use locally by schools, clubs, businesses or other organisations.

The project will be coordinated by **Stan Moore, MA, MGSI**, recently appointed as a Non-Executive Officer of the Society.

STATUTE LAW REVISION BILL, 2024

As reported in last month's issue, the *Statute Law Revision Bill, 2024*, completed its passage through Seanad Éireann on 6th March 2025. **Senator Victor Boyhan** read into the record of **Seanad Éireann** the Society's twelve-point argument against the proposed retention of an anachronistic **1685 Proclamation** appertaining to the **Ulster King of Arms**.

Minister Emer Higgins, TD, stated that it was retained on the office of the **Chief Herald of Ireland**. However, she undertook to have her officials and the **Law Reform Commission** investigate the matter further.

The Second Stage debate on the Bill was held on 26th March 2025 in **Dáil Éireann**.

Introducing the Bill in **Dáil Éireann** at Second Stage, Minister Emer Higgins, TD, said "In the course of the debate in the Seanad a number of concerns were raised regarding item 1 in Schedule 1, namely, the Genealogical Office Order of 1685. I am happy to inform the House that following engagement by my Department and the Law Reform Commission with the Senator who raised this, Senator Boyhan, as well as the Genealogical Society of Ireland and the director of the National Library, these concerns have been addressed. I will be bringing amendments on Committee Stage to revoke the 1685 order. I thank Senator Boyhan for his work on the Bill as well as those who engaged with me in the Seanad on this. We had

a real example of meaningful engagement with both me and officials in my Department as well as the Law Reform Commission regarding the appropriateness of retaining this order on the Statute Book. It is a really good example of practical and respectful engagement between Ministers and Members of the Oireachtas to address concerns and strengthen the legislative process."

Earlier in her introduction, the Minister confirmed that she will be bringing forward amendments to the *Statute Law Revision Act 2015*. Forty instruments retained in the 2015 Act were names and arms instruments. The Minister said "the Law Reform Commission conducted further research in recent weeks which revealed that these names and arms instruments did not in fact require retention and these are now being revoked". No doubt, this also may have flowed from the Society's twelve-points raised in Seanad Éireann.

The Society's position was strongly supported by **Aengus Ó Snodaigh, TD**, (Sinn Féin), who thanked the Minister for taking onboard the concerns expressed by Senator Boyhan and this Society.

Whilst, thanking the Minister for taking such decisive action on this issue, questions now arise as to how the legislative status of Irish heraldic services could have been so misunderstood by those advising the Law Reform Commission. This is a serious matter that needs to be addressed by the **National Library of Ireland**.

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"HALL'S INDEX"

The "Gazette" is Ireland's longest running monthly genealogical newsletter and it is read by thousands each month around the world.

The past issues of the Society's newsletter from 1996 to 2016 had been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGSI**. The "Hall's Index" now includes all issues up to date—please see www.familyhistory.ie

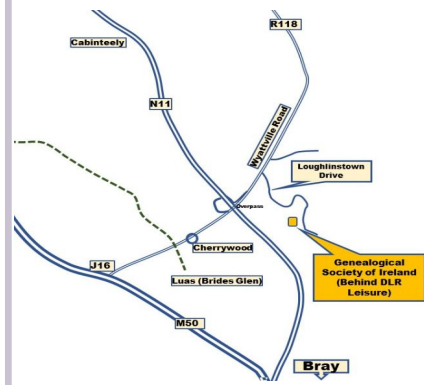
Although we're not members of the **National Union of Journalists (NUJ)**, the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the **NUJ Code of Conduct** www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/ and in line with the *'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland'* which was endorsed by the Genealogical Society of Ireland back in June 2014 soon after its launch at the **Royal Irish Academy**. (see the June 2014 issue of the "Gazette" at www.familyhistory.ie)

GENEALOGY HELP CENTRE

An Daonchartlann, the Society's Archive and Research Centre is located at the **DLR Leisure Centre, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin**.

The use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members, however, day research membership is always available on request.

The facility is normally open each Wednesday from 11.00hrs to 15.00hrs contact the GSI Archivist on Archivist@familyhistory.ie



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

Monthly Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Ireland