



Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

“Cuimhnigh ar Ár Sinnsir—Remember Our Ancestors”

1990–2025 - 35th Anniversary Year



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

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SPANISH HERALDIC ARCHIVE LOST?

On 3 May 2005, Irish heraldic services entered a new era with the commencement of the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*. This brought in a long overdue regularisation of the State's delivery of heraldic services. Sadly this legislation only applied from 2005 and not 1997 when enacted nor, indeed, from 1943 when the State took custody of the contents of the office of Ulster King of Arms.



This year also marks the twentieth anniversary of the death of the last “Chief Herald” of Spain, and the Honorary Herald of the Genealogical Society of Ireland, **Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSi**, (photo above) is engaged in an ongoing quest to find the Certifications Archive of Spain's last **Cronista Rey de Armas**.

This article outlines the current state of an ongoing search: the location of the heraldic certifications archive of **Vicente de Cadenas y Vicent**, the last King of Arms of the Kingdom of Spain. Through a review of documented events, personal conversations, and public sources, it describes the steps taken so far, the evidence gathered, and the open hypotheses concerning an archive which, while not voluminous, holds great historical, cultural, technical, and institutional value.

The death of Vicente de Cadenas y Vicent on 15 December 2005 marked the end of the institution of the Kingdom of Spain's Kings of Arms, established by Ministerial Order in 1951. He was the last to hold that illustrious title. His personal archive of heraldic certifications is a link between Spain's recent heraldic history and its future—and it is currently missing.

Some armigers or their heirs still hold original certifications. Others have been lost or are housed in public or private libraries. But the personal archive of Vicente de Cadenas remains unaccounted for.

After his death, his extensive library of approximately 15,000 volumes was packed into boxes, following the instructions of his will. Vicente de Cadenas bequeathed these books to the **Monastery of Yuste** in homage to Emperor Charles I of Spain and V of Germany, whom he had studied deeply and about whom he had published extensively, and who spent his final days at that monastery.

However, these boxes did not go directly to Yuste. From late 2011, they remained stored at the **Universidad Pontificia de Comillas** in Madrid until their final transfer to the Monastery in 2019.

Once at Yuste, the boxes were opened, the books catalogued, and their titles added to the online catalogue of the **Extremadura Library Network**. They were then re-boxed. Although these books are officially part of the Monastery's library, they are not available for in-person public consultation.

Online searches in the Extremadura Library Network confirm that books from Vicente de Cadenas's library are located at Yuste, but no heraldic certifications are listed.

The **Réal Asociación de Hidalgos de España**, founded by Vicente de Cadenas, was consulted. Its current president confirmed having tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain the archive of certifications for the institution and declared its location unknown.

The widow of Vicente de Cadenas was also contacted. She explained that she did not know where the archive might be and recalled that her late husband managed all his documents personally.

A formal letter was sent to her detailing the motivation for this inquiry. It explained that the author is the Honorary Herald and a Fellow of the Genealogical Society of Ireland (GSI), and that, in Ireland, official heraldic certification had been in an anomalous position prior to its regularisation through legislation (*National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*, commenced 3 May 2005).

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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



THIRD ANNUAL HERALDRY IRELAND LECTURE

Ralf Hartemink, provider of the very extensive online resource *'Heraldry of the World'*, will be our Guest Speaker on **Tuesday 13th May 2025** at 20.00hrs (UTC+1) via Zoom on the topic *'Heraldic Collections from Medieval Times to the Digital Age'*. All Welcome. Free event—access details below:

Zoom ID: 812 8428 5473

Passcode: 87 68 03

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 13 May 2025 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 10 June 2025 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 28 May 2025 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 25 June 2025 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

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Monthly Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Ireland

ROBERT DUDLEY EDWARDS

'Telling the Truth is Dangerous—How Robert Dudley Edwards Changed Irish History Forever' by Neasa MacÉrlean (Printed ISBN: 978-1-83952-917-7; E-Book ISBN: 978-1-83952-918-4; P/bk : £11.99 (c. €15.00) published by Tartaruga Books). Robert Dudley Edwards, UCD Professor of Modern Irish History, was well-known for his life-long endeavours in establishing alternative sources for history, from family and business records to archives, to replace the state records lost in the 1922 fire at the Four Courts. This biography, one of the first of a modern Irish historian, is written by his journalist granddaughter and describes his growing focus on local and social sources, and his beliefs, expressed back in 1972, that genealogical research would fill gaps in the broader historical record.

"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

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

Killester—From Medieval Manor to Garden Suburb

'Killester—From Medieval Manor to Garden Suburb' by Joseph Brady and Ruth McManus and published by Four Courts Press on behalf of Dublin City Council (ISBN: 978-1-80151-193-3; P/bk : 140pp : colour photographs and illustrations : Price: €17.95 : Web-Price: €16.15. Dublin City Council and, indeed, the authors, must be highly commended for the publication of this wonderfully illustrated and beautifully presented book, which, apparently is the first in a series of studies entitled *'Dublin – Shaping the Suburbs'*. Local historians and genealogists and, of course, anyone with connections to these suburbs will greatly cherish these volumes as real gems – treasures for the home library. The quality of production and the copious full colour illustrations are only surpassed in their excellence by the presentation of the comprehensive research undertaken by the authors. Starting with Killester was a very interesting choice as it documents the area over many centuries from a medieval manor established not long after the Anglo-Norman conquest of Dublin in the late twelfth-century right through to today's Dublin suburb containing various examples of urban development spanning the last hundred years from houses for ex-servicemen to modern apartment buildings. **Charles Duggan, Dublin City Heritage Officer**, in his introduction very succinctly sets the goal of this limited series as exploring "Dublin's suburbs as they reach their centenary years, seeing them as layered and complex places, and more than simply the backdrop to the city's twentieth-century expansion, and celebrating them as dynamic places where the past and present converge, revealing how community resilience, urban planning ambition, and socio-political forces have shaped them over time". Any suburb included in this series will have a wonderful local history book that will be cherished by its residents and, indeed, by those with ancestral connections to the area, for generations to come. This publication was commissioned by Dublin City Council as part of the *Dublin City Strategic Heritage Plan 2023-2029*, and was part funded by the **Heritage Council**.

Ruth McManus is an associate professor in Geography and associate dean for Teaching & Learning at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, DCU. Her recent books include the second edition of *'Dublin 1910-1940, shaping the city and suburbs'* (2021), and (with Joseph Brady) *'Building Healthy Homes, Dublin Corporation's first housing schemes 1880-1920'* (2021). **Joseph Brady** is an urban geographer who specializes in the study of the growth and development of Dublin and who has published extensively on the topic. A particular research interest is the provision of social housing in the twentieth century.

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 1st May 2025** at 19.00hrs with eight of the nine directors in attendance. It was agreed at the previous meeting that the May and June meetings would be held at 19.00hrs and not at the usual time of 11.00hrs. (Res: 25/04/1915)



The General Secretary advised the Board of the formal transfers of the portfolio responsibilities of the **GSI Lecture Programme** to the **Gerard Corcoran, MGSI, Director of Digitisation & Genetic Genealogy** on 7th April 2025 and of the **Society's website** to **Shane Wilson, MGSI, Director of Internet Services** on 1st May 2025—now at web@familyhistory.ie

It was noted that some issues regarding access to the Member's Lounge on the website have been reported and these are being investigated by the Director of Internet Services and **Pedro Antonio Torres Vera, MGSI**, the web-developer. Another issue regarding the Society's **Membership Management Program** and the use of the bulk email facility is also being examined by the web team and **Barry O'Connor, FGSI, Director of Membership Services**.

The Board agreed (Res: 25/05/1923) to investigate the possibility of marking the **35th anniversary** of the foundation of the Society with the planting of an oak tree. The Society was founded on **25th October 1990** and to mark its 10th anniversary in 2000 an beautiful oak tree was planted on Killiney Hill in conjunction with **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council**. It was also planted in honour of our first President, **Denis O'Connor Don** (1912-2000). This event would also celebrate three decades of working closely with the County Council and its officials in the promotion of our heritage.

Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSI, Director of Finance, delivered the **Monthly Accounts** for the period ending

30.04.2025. The Grant Applications have been agreed by Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and one has been drawn down with the other awaiting receipts.

The **Annual Accounts** are back from the accountant and will be lodged with the **Companies Registration Office** to meet our ARD of 8th May 2025.

He also advised the Board that the planned **Monthly Member's Draw** will require some further work before it can be launched. He said that the **Members Only WhatsApp Group** will be rolled out shortly via the **Member's Lounge** on the GSI website.

Shane Wilson, MGSI, Director of Internet Services, advised the Board of the continuing success of the **Weekly Drop-ins** with participants coming from all around the world and many becoming regular visitors.

Fiona Tipple, FGSI, Director Archival Services & Education and **Eddie Gahan, FGSI, Director of the Outreach Programme**, updated the Board on a number of events coming up over the month.

Laura Price, MGSI, Director of Special Collections, Research, & Specialist Groups, advised the Board on the ongoing work on the records of **Dún Laoghaire Workmen's Club**—a collection of 88 bound volumes including, membership registers, minute books, accounts and various reports.

The consideration of the first location for the new **Outreach Programme 'Na Cúig Cúige'** (Res: 25/03/1909) aimed at bringing the Society activities to cities and towns around the country has been deferred until next month.

Next Board Meeting: **Thursday 6th June 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 easily made via <https://www.familyhistory.ie>

Thank You Very Much : Go Raibh Míle Maith Agat

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



In the 1860's, Irishmen invaded Canada, and the idea to do so, came from New York City. In 1858, the Fenian Brotherhood was founded by a Limerick man in New York named, John O'Mahony. It was the American branch an Irish revolutionary organisation called the Irish Republican Brotherhood. The humble beginnings of the

Fenian Brotherhood began in a room on Center Street, Manhattan, and then moved to 22 Duane Street in Manhattan. But in 1865, they moved to a much fancier building called the Moffat Mansion which was right on the Northwestern Corner of Union Square, Manhattan. Thousands of these Fenians would fight in the American Civil War while a rebellion was being planned in Ireland. But by the time the American Civil War ended, the British were on to the IRB and a rebellion in Ireland seemed hopeless. Some of the Fenians in America grew impatient - and they took matters into their own hands. But the closest British controlled territory to them wasn't Ireland, it was Canada. The idea of an Irish invasion of Canada came from two Cork lads living in New York, Thomas Sweeny and William Roberts. In 1865, Sweeny wrote a letter to Roberts saying: The Fenians in Ireland are totally unprepared: "The Canadian frontier, extending from the north of the St. Lawrence to Lake Huron, a distance of more than 1,300 miles, is assailable at all points". Shortly after moving to their new fancy premises, the Fenian Brotherhood split into two factions. The original John O'Mahony faction in the Moffat Mansion, and the William Roberts faction with a separate headquarters at 706 Broadway, Manhattan. Believe it or not, a lot of the weapons used by the Fenians in the 1860's were actually sold to them by the President Andrew Johnson administration. Thomas Sweeny, a former Union Army Brigadier General, bought thousands of rifles from the government arsenals in Pennsylvania and Upstate New York. On 31st May 1866, the Fenians made their biggest move. In Buffalo, NY, they crossed the Niagara River into British North America.

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

JOHN JOSEPH GAHAN, RIP

We extend our sincerest condolences to our dear friend and colleague, **Eddie Gahan, FGSI**, on the passing of his brother, **John Joseph Gahan**, on 28th April 2025 in St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin. A resident of Donnybrook and formerly of Clonskeagh, Mr. Gahan was a master millwright with Lance Engineering. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends at this very sad time. RIP.

MEMBER'S LOUNGE

A new and exciting facility on the Society's website is the **Member's Lounge** where features only available to fully paid-up Members are made available. This currently includes access to our **Annual Journals** in electronic format and an ability to place **research queries or requests for assistance**. There will also be access to occasional publications free of charge. The Society's new **WhatsApp Group** will only be fully accessible via the Member's Lounge. It is intended to make our **archival catalogue** searchable with a look-up service for the assistance of Members only. Members are invited to log-in to the Member's Lounge on the Society's website.

NATIONAL HERALDIC SURVEY

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.

This important project, coordinated by **Stan Moore, MA, MGSI**, involves the recording of coats of arms in public places, and indeed, used on uniforms or sports gear and therefore, people are invited to collaborate with the project by sending photos and descriptions. The information will be sorted and collated for the different locations, various types of use, both private and public arms, businesses, or institutions etc..

The *"mapping of heritage features in the streetscape or landscape"* is a significant objective of the **County Heritage Plans** in Ireland. This project aims to assist in the promotion of an awareness, appreciation and knowledge of this aspect of our heritage. Further details on the Society's website.

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 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: Prof. Tibor Fehér on *Irish Surnames* (working title).

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: Dr. Neasa McErléan on *Robert Dudley Edwards, historian*.

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 with details to log into Zoom for the Open Meetings, however, these are also available on the calendar on the website.

All of the Society's lectures are open to the public and the Zoom access details are available on the calendar on the Society's website.

Gerard Corcoran, MGSi, Director of the GSi Lecture Programme always welcomes suggestions for topics or speakers for the Monthly Lecture Programme. Please send your lecture suggestions to: lectures@familyhistory.ie

The Society's Lecture Programme is usually recorded for the GSi YouTube Channel as a free, publicly accessible educational resource. We endeavour to have each lecture uploaded as soon as possible after the date of the lecture.

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: Lua Ó Scolaí)

James Scannell Reports...

CLONTARF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Julie Brooks and Elizabeth Mullins, UCD Archives Department, will present 'The Vernon Collection of Papers' at 19.30hrs on Monday 12 May 2025 in St. John's Pastoral Centre, Clontarf Road, Clontarf, Dublin 3. All are welcome - admission is €5.00

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Brian White will present 'On the Buses' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 15 May 2025 in The Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome - admission €8.00 for non-members.

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

Padraig Laffan will give the Short Talk on 'Iveagh Trust Dublin Baths and Bathhouses' followed by Patricia O'Reilly with the Long Talk on 'James Tissot's muse Kathleen Newton' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 20 May 2025 in the Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €5.00

BALLSBRIDGE, D'BROOK S'MOUNT

Cormac Moore will recall 'Lemon's Sweet Factory' at 13.00hrs on Wednesday 21 May 2025 in Pembroke Library, Anglesea Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4. All welcome - admission free. Booking required 01-2228450 or email: pembroke.library@dublincity.ie

GREYSTONES ARCH & HIST SOC

Cormac Moore will present 'The Root of All Evil, The Irish Boundary Commission' at 19.30hrs on Wednesday 21 May 2025 in the Kilian Family Centre beside Holy Rosary Church, Greystones, Co. Wicklow. All welcome - €3.00 admission.

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Eoin De Bhairduin will present 'Challenging the Narrative: Reclaiming Traveller History in Ireland's National Collections' at 18.00hrs on Wednesday 21 May 2025—Oak Room, The Mansion House, Dublin 2. Admission free. Booking required via Eventbrite.

DUN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

James Brady will present '6th Battalion - South County Dublin and the War of Independence' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 21 May 2025 in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00. Free hotel parking for attendees.

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR

Ged Walsh will present 'Marie De Bizien Du Lézar': The Enigmatic Nun of Rathgar' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 22 May 2025 in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members free. Visitors €5.00 - Swan Car Park Evening Rate: €4.00 19.00hrs to Midnight.

CLONDALKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Liz Gillis will present 'The first decade of the Free State' at 20.00hrs on Monday 26 May 2025 in Áras Chrónáin - Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00

ROUNDWOOD & DISTRICT

Rob Goodbody will present 'The Bridges of County Wicklow' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 27 May 2025 in Roundwood Parish Hall, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. All welcome. €3.00 members. €5.00 non-members

BALBRIGGAN AND DISTRICT HIS

Cora McDonagh will present 'Castle, Churches and Cobblestones - the built heritage of Balbriggan' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 28 May 2025 in the Bracken

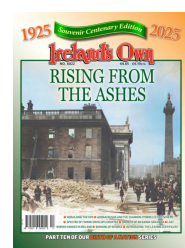
Court Hotel, 3A Bridge Street, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission free for members and €5.00 for non-members.

THE IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

Mark Merrigan will present 'Irish Railway Miscellany - video, audio, and readings - A Multimedia presentation' at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 29 May 2025 in the Society's Dublin Hueston station premises. Strictly members and their guests only.

PUBLICATION

'Ireland's Own - 1925 - Rising from the Ashes' - Part 10 of the *Birth of a Nation* series. Price: €6.50 to €15.00 depending on postage rates.



Articles featured in this issue include - Cian Manning writes on 'The World in 1925', 'They Were Born in 1925', 'Detective in the Dock', 'Mystery Thief at Galway', 'When the soldier seized the umpire's flag', 'Oonah Keogh - Ireland's first female stockbroker', 'An Ode to Ballinode', 'Centenary of "The Informer" - a profile of novelist Liam O'Flaherty' and 'They Died in 1925', Seán

Beattie writes on 'Everyday Life in 1925', and 'Poteen Wars', Eamon Duggan writes on 'The Spectre of Famine Envelops the Country', 'The Birth of a Bitter Rivalry', 'The End of an era in Policing', 'Growing into Statehood', 'The Boundary Commission - a Constitutional Crisis', 'The Banning of Divorce in the Irish Free State', 'Observations on the Social and Economic Fabric of the Country', and 'Tuam Mother and Baby Home - A House of Infamy', Éamon Ó Budhacháin writes on 'Rebuilding the GPO', 'Euro Police arrest Dutch fugitive in Ireland', 'What was on in the cinema?', 'The Killing of Honor Bright', 'Testing Times for Ireland's new radio station', and 'The Sporting Year of 1925', Michael Dwyer writes on 'Annie Walsh: Last Woman hanged in Ireland', Brian McCabe writes on 'Gaelic Games in 1925', and 'Art and Literature in 1925', Pauline Murphy writes on 'Passing of a Groundbreaking Scientist - George Sigerson', Dr. Richard McElligott writes on 'The 1925 Shannon Hydroelectric Scheme', Eoin Swithin Walsh writes on 'James Stephens', 'The Leaving Certificate - a lasting impression', and 'The 1925 Nationwide Seanad Election', Maolsheachlann Ó Ceallaigh writes on 'Death of the "Patron Saint of Alcoholics" - Matt Talbot', Eugene Dunphy recalls 'The Songs of 1925', Thomas Mohr writes on 'Last Shadow of Dáil Courts Disappears', Seán Ryan profiles 'George Bernard Shaw' and writes on 'Homes Fit for Heroes - Killester Garden Village.'

Copies of this excellent publication are on sale from newsagents or can be ordered directly from Ireland's Own website: www.irelandsown.ie **James Scannell, FGSI**

VISITING AN DAONCHARTLANN

Members and visitors to the Society's Archive & Research Centre—An Daonchartlann—are advised to check the calendar on the Society's website.

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAGI, FGFRS, 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 APRIL LECTURE

On Tuesday 8th April 2025 at the Monthly Evening Open Meeting, we were absolutely delighted to host, Cauvery Madhavan, for the second time. Her books *Paddy Indian* and *The Uncoupling* were published to critical acclaim. Her novel, *The Tainted*, was chosen by Laureate Sebastian Barry for his *Laureate Picks 2020*. It was one of *An Post Irish Book Awards' Top Summer Reads*. Her new book, *The Inheritance*, has been widely hailed as a sumptuous, moving evocation of landscape, history and the human spirit. Cauvery's topic '*Mining History for Fiction—a novelist's account of researching and sifting through a variety of sources*' explored the rigorous research undertaken by a novelist, often over several months or even years, to fully understand, feel and really know the story they are about to write. Cauvery went through her various sources from newspapers, photographs, local histories, military histories and, surprisingly, catalogues and almanacs. These old catalogues from stores in Great Britain, with hundreds of advertisements for household goods, personal items, clothing and all sorts of implements, provided an invaluable window into the world of her subjects. For her novels concerning life in the "Indian Raj" there advertisements spoke to the aspirations, identities, cultural tastes and social priorities of the settler colonial community and the imperial officials, including military families. Cauvery explained how the different strata of society, including the British officials and military, Anglo-Indians and the wider populations, coexisted with limited and highly controlled interaction. The etymology of the word "doolally" derived from the Deolali transit camp for British soldiers and its subsequent colloquial usage was explained revealing some of the harsh realities of colonial oppression and exploitation. For genealogists researching links to the "Raj" this lecture was highly informative. The lecture will be uploaded to YouTube (see bottom of page 1 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

LEGISLATIVE BASIS—20th ANNIVERSARY

This Society was heavily involved in the debate on the Bill that eventually became the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*. We achieved circa thirty three amendments to the Bill with the very able assistance of Senator Paschal Mooney and liaising with the late Colm Ó Briain, BL, the adviser to the then Minister, Michael D. Higgins (now President of Ireland).

Unfortunately, with the change of government in 1997, this important piece of legislation gathered dust on the ministerial shelf for nearly eight years. During which time the Society received its grant of arms from the Chief Herald of Ireland in 2001.

In October 2000, this Society advocated for a comprehensive *Irish Genealogy & Heraldry Bill* to deal with the many issues that remained unresolved with the enactment of the legislation in 1997, - see: '*The Genie Gazette*' October 2000 available on the GSI website. The official response was that such a Bill was unnecessary as the 1997 Act was already in place. This was also the view of the then Chief Herald of Ireland, Brendan O'Donoghue, in 2001.

On May 3rd 2005, the then Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism, John O'Donoghue, TD, finally commenced the *National Institutions Act, 1997*. This Act gave Irish heraldic services a legislative basis for the first time since April 1943 when all of the contents of the office of Ulster King of Arms came into the

custody of the State and the title and its heraldic functions went to the College of Arms in London.

Although, Chief Heralds of Ireland have been granting and confirming coats of arms since 1943, a proper legislative basis for such only dates from May 2005. Up to 3rd May 2005, the State had not given itself the power to provide this service. This was the legal opinion expressed by successive attorneys general and constitutional experts for many decades.

However, a seemingly very persistent "flat earther view" of Irish heraldic services inheriting an authority based on a British royal prerogative still holds sway in some circles. Unfortunately, this utterly fanciful and nonsensical notion had to be debunked, once again, in Seanad Éireann some twenty-nine years after it was totally trashed during the debate on the Bill that became the *National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*.

Thankfully, Minister Emer Higgins, TD, very wisely ordered an in-depth review of the advice received by her department and the Law Reform Commission in respect of an item in the *Statute Law Revision Bill, 2024* and, consequently, concerning some forty items in the *Statute Law Revision Act, 2015*.

No doubt, all would agree, that it is now time to move on to address real issues with the State's delivery of heraldic services, including legacy issues from 1943.

SPANISH HERALDIC ARCHIVE LOST? (continued)

Questions are frequently raised from Ireland about whether Spain could follow a similar path. The letter highlighted three reasons for the search: to enable armigers or their descendants to recover lost certifications; to support historical research; and to provide a potential documentary foundation for the future establishment of an official **Spanish Registry of Heraldic Certification**. The letter emphasized the archive's intellectual and historical value.



Unable to provide further detail, his widow referred us to her sister, who had worked for the **Réal Asociación de Hidalgos** and had been in charge of packing the library, located in the office of Vicente de Cadenas within the Association's headquarters. She

confirmed with certainty that no certification archive was included in the packing process, as no such documents were present at the time. This would explain why no certifications appear in online searches—although it is still possible they were catalogued under a different format or stored elsewhere.

We estimate that the archive might have included between 700 and 900 certifications, mostly short, typewritten documents of three to five pages, in keeping with Spanish style—though undoubtedly some would be longer. These certifications were endorsed by the Ministry of Justice, which merely authenticated the signature and role of Vicente de Cadenas, without retaining copies. According to

Spanish regulations, legal responsibility for the content rested with the certifying officer, not the government.

Unlike his monumental library, the certifications archive would have been small—just a few thousand pages, fitting into a few boxes—making it vulnerable to loss, misplacement, or accidental disposal.

Several hypotheses remain: the archive might be in private hands, deliberately withheld, forgotten during a move, misplaced during institutional reorganization, still stored in **Comillas University**, or already at Yuste but uncatalogued.

The archive's value is threefold: it could provide copies for those who have lost their certifications, it holds significant relevance for historical research, and it may serve as a foundation for rebuilding a formal heraldic registry in Spain.

The next steps in this search will include renewed efforts at the **Monastery of Yuste** and further inquiries in Italy, a country with which Vicente de Cadenas had close ties—he founded the **Istituto Araldico Genealogico Italiano** there in 1993. This connection is further reinforced by the fact that his first wife, who predeceased him, was Italian.

The fate of this archive remains unresolved. There is no clear evidence of its destruction, nor sufficient proof of its preservation. Its recovery would not only represent a major archival discovery, but—if the right legal and institutional conditions were met—could also support the revival of a function currently absent in Spain: the official certification of coats of arms.



ASC

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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

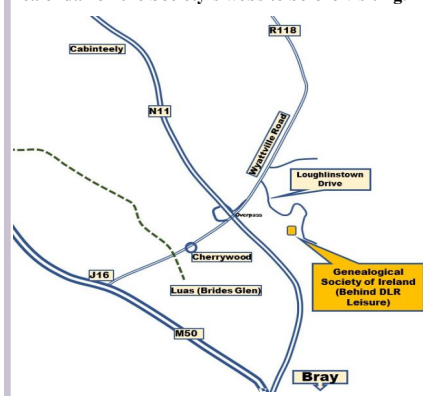
Although we're not members of the **National Union of Journalists (NUJ)**, the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the **NUJ Code of Conduct** www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/ and in line with the 'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland' which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

Use of our extensive archival resources is reserved for fully paid-up GSI members. Day Membership is available via the website for visiting researchers.

The facility is normally open each Wednesday from 11.00hrs to 15.00hrs, however, **please check the calendar on the Society's website before visiting**.



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

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