



Cumann Genealais na hÉireann

"Cuimhnigi ar Ár Sinnsir—Remember Our Ancestors"

1990–2025 - 35th Anniversary Year



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 20 No. 8

www.familyhistory.ie

Lúnasa : Augusztus : August 2025

THE GUILDFORD FOUR AND ARCHIVES



It was through hushed conversations over a garden wall that Ireland put itself on to the path to creating the National Archives of Ireland. That was back in the 1970s and the pair talking were a professor and his former student, Robert Dudley Edwards and Garret FitzGerald.

The two found each other again as neighbours in their roles as Director of the UCD Archives Department and Minister for Foreign Affairs, at 82 and 80 St. Stephen's Green. Discussions between them, overheard only by the ivy-clad bricks, resulted in the 1986 Act after the younger man became Taoiseach. But now, although the ivy continues to grow, the archives legislation is in a state of ruin.

Just as Dudley (my grandfather) warned in the last century, our very history is under threat when we throw out our records, and that is currently occurring across the public sector. One of the latest to voice concern is our outgoing President. When donating some of his records to the University of Galway in June, Michael D Higgins recalled being encouraged to shred the documents his constituents had given him when he was in the Senate and the Dáil. There was a difference, he was told, between creating a National Archive and a 'National Attic' — and the end result was potentially, he added, that 'the whole social history of all the TDs or senators is lost'.

This was not an argument President Higgins bought into, and nor should we. 'We need to know the way we were,' he said. Those small documents can change everything — some through technical analysis (the forged signature, perhaps); others because of new interpretations of their contents.

My own remarkable experience, as a journalist, in one such case of a filed document changing history saw four people released from prison, in October 1989 — Paddy Armstrong, Gerry Conlon, Paul Hill and Carole Richardson, eventually freed after 15 years of wrongful incarceration for the Guildford bombings of 1974. A document which had never been shown to their lawyers came to the surface in 1989, and it proved that a confession attributed to Paddy Armstrong had been fabricated by the police and lit linked together their previous versions.

'Why had not this document been destroyed?', I asked Alastair Logan, the local lawyer who represented the Belfast man throughout the 15 years. From some of the top judges down, the British were horrified by the idea that the true story of these four people would discredit the criminal justice system. Logan told me that the document could well have been made to disappear had it not been for the fact that all the Guildford Four papers had been sequentially numbered the year before, making it impossible to screw up one sheet and throw it in the bin. This is a little publicised angle on that shocking story.

The outcry in Ireland over the Guildford Four and other miscarriages of justice was one of horror. But even though its resolution hinged on preservation of archives and the efficiency of an indexing system, we still are allowing our own records — including those of the criminal justice system — to be dumped. By doing this, we deprive all future generations of the ability to trace their roots and precious family stories.

Dudley launched a campaign in 1971 to rescue endangered documents. Do we need to repeat that? The starting point would be to tell TDs that archives statutes need to be overhauled to protect our heritage, not to let it be destroyed.

The OpEd this month is by Neasa MacErlean the author of 'Telling the Truth is Dangerous—how Robert Dudley Edwards changed Irish history forever'. See page 4.

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



AUGUST LECTURE

Tuesday 12th August 2025 at 20.00hrs via Zoom on 'The Making of 'Memorialising Émigré Dignity & its Publication' - The dignity of the emigré and how the emergence of a multi-ethnic identity beyond Gael and Gall, incubated the modern sense of Irishness' by Amb (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI, President of the Society. All Welcome. Free event—access details below:

Zoom ID: 886 7560 0506
Passcode: 48 21 26

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 12 August 2025 —20.00hrs

Tuesday 9 September 2025 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 27 August 2025 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 25 September 2025 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

In this issue.....

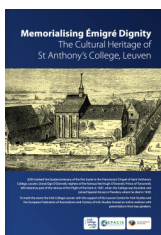
- Medieval Dublin XX
- Genealogical.com
- GSI Board News
- Irish History with Davy
- Annual Journal 2025
- Open Meetings Schedule
- James Scannell Reports..
- Précis of July Lecture
- The Armorial Register
- GSI Board Members

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LEUVEN BOOK LAUNCH



'*Memorialising Émigré Dignity*' - an important collection of seven essays will be launched at the **Royal Irish Academy** in Dublin on 5 September 2025 by the Clans of Ireland, Enecclann, O'Donnell Clan Association and the Genealogical Society of Ireland.

An very impressive range of guest speakers and special guests are due to attend this already fully booked out event. Copies of this book will be available to buy via the Society's online shop on our website www.familyhistory.ie for €20.00 plus postage.

"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.

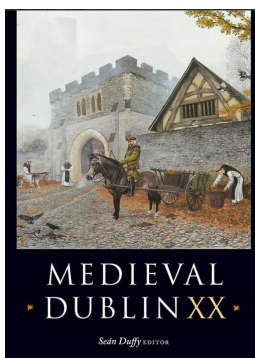
Members can send in their research query in advance to Shane on Web@familyhistory.ie

Zoom Meeting ID: 843 5683 5203
Passcode: 71 87 52

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

MEDIEVAL DUBLIN XX

'*Medieval Dublin XX*' edited by **Seán Duffy** and published by **Four Courts Press** (ISBN: 978-1-80151-126-1: 368pps : Ills. : P/bk : Price €29.95 : Web-Price €26.95)



This, the twentieth volume in the series, is the most ambitious yet. It presents a rich variety of new scholarly explorations of life in medieval Dublin, including an analysis by Bruce Campbell of the occupational profile of medieval Dubliners revealed by records such as the famous Guild Merchant Roll; we also present Valentin Rothaupt's analytical comparison of the spectrum of occupations and the influence of guilds in Dublin with those of Gaffeln in the German city of Cologne; while Sarah Hendriks discusses the records of Dublin's late medieval guild of carpenters.

The volume also contains an examination by Patrick Wadden of Richard Stanishurst's famous claim that Oxmantown began life in the year 1095 following an invasion of Dublin by 'Easterlings'; Caitlin Ellis explores links between Dublin and the medieval earldom of Orkney in the era of the battle of Clontarf; Denis Casey offers a critical re-examination of the story of the elaborate feast held at Dublin by King Henry II at Christmas 1171; Shea Brennan discusses the famous triennial ceremonial procession through the suburbs of the city, known as the 'Riding of the Franchises'; while the volume also hosts Randolph Jones's examination of the career and network of the elusive John Estrete, late fifteenth-century lawyer of the Great Earl of Kildare, Gearóid Mór, and patron of Christ Church cathedral.

Major archaeological excavations have been conducted by Edmond O'Donovan at the site of perhaps Ireland's wealthiest monastery, St Mary's Cistercian abbey, and this volume contains his preliminary report, along with the results of Paul Duffy's dig nearby at the abbey's 'Cemetery Gate' and outer precinct wall. Caitriona Moore discusses an exciting discovery of a substantial thirteenth-century structure along the medieval Liffey shoreline at Strand Street Great and Abbey Street Upper; while Muireann Ni Cheallacháin describes the contents of a medieval dumping ground she found at Chancery Street in Oxmantown. Artefactual studies include John Nicholl's report on an important assemblage of shoes and other leatherwork dating from the late tenth century onwards, excavated at Chancery Lane and Ship Street Great.

Seán Duffy is professor of Medieval Irish and Insular History at Trinity College Dublin and chairman of the Friends of Medieval Dublin.

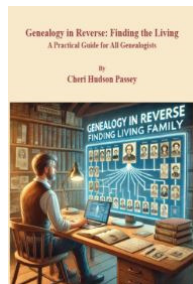
(Information from FCP website)

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!!

NEW FROM GENEALOGICAL.COM

The Society's Archives & Research Centre, **An Daonchartlann**, based at the DLR Leisure Centre, Loughlinstown, Co. Dublin, recently received the following books from the **Genealogical Publishing Company** in Maryland, USA. This kind donation is very much appreciated by the Director of Archival Services & Education, **Fiona Tipple, MA, FGSI**, and by the GSI Members.



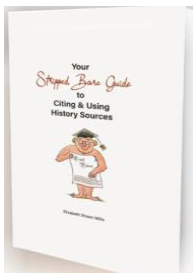
The first one has an intriguing title and, indeed, it concerns something that we all have tried to do in our research—finding living relatives. These are likely to be the descendants of siblings of our grandparents or great grandparents. This helps not only with the direct lineages but also with the collateral ones too. Such research can be enormously rewarding as gaps in our own family history information may be filled by this process known as 'reverse genealogy'.

'*Genealogy in Reverse: Finding the Living—A Practical Guide for All Genealogists*' by **Cheri Hudson Passey** and published by the **Genealogical Publishing Company**, Baltimore, Maryland, USA (ISBN: 978-0-8063-2151-6: P/bk : 54pp : Price US\$19.95 : e/bk US\$13.50)

The second one deals with a subject that should be the concern of all genealogists, local historians and writers generally—how to correctly cite and use history sources. All too often we encounter some interesting article or a piece of research that is either

devoid of referencing or the citations are incomplete or confusing.

Where's the evidence? What are your sources? Where did you get that? All critical questions.



(ISBN: 978-0-8063-2152-3: P/bk : 142pp : Price US\$27.50 : e/bk US\$19.50)

Proper referencing and the correct use of citations are essential when considering whether to publish your family history or any research.

Both publications can be purchased via the following website: www.genealogical.com and they are available in hardcopy or eBook. Both reasonably priced too!

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 Mille Maith Agat

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



Growing up, one of my favourite songs was called '*The Valley of Knockanure*' and on a recent visit to County Kerry, I decided to look into the story behind the great song.

On 12th May 1921, four men - Paddy Dalton, Con Dee, Jerry Lyons, and Paddy Walsh were chatting at a bridge in Gortaglanna, Co. Kerry when they saw three lorries of Black & Tans come driving down the road towards them.

The four men were beaten and then forced on to the lorries. They were driven down the road to a field where now stands a memorial in their memory.

Con Dee was the only survivor, provided accounts of what happened next:

"We were put standing in line facing a fence about forty yards from the road. I was placed first on the right, Jerry Lyons was next, Paddy Dalton next, and Paddy Walsh on the left. Then a Black and Tan with a rifle resting on the fence was put in front of each of us, about five yards distant. There were about ten more Black and Tans standing behind them. I looked straight into the face of the man in front of me. He delayed about twenty seconds as if he would like one of his companions to fire first. The second Black and Tan fired. Jerry Lyons flung up his arms, moaned and fell backwards. I glanced at him and noticed blood coming on his waistcoat; I turned round and ran. I was gone about twelve yards when I got wounded in the right thigh. My leg bent under me, but I held on running although I had to limp. I felt that I was being chased and I heard the bullets whizzing past me."

The murder of these three men has been commemorated in one of my favourite songs of the entire period, '*The Valley of Knockanure*'.

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

ARTICLES SOUGHT

In the February issue we reported that the Board had, once again, established a Select Committee to produce and publish the **Annual Journal of the Genealogical Society of Ireland** for 2025 under **Res: 25/02/1898**.

The **JGSI 2025** will mark the 35th anniversary of the foundation of the Society on 25th October 1990 and the 25th anniversary of the incorporation of the Society under the Companies Acts on 8th November 2000.

The Annual Journal is published electronically and features articles on genealogy, heraldry, vexillology and related subjects. The editor, **Laura Price, FGSI**, seeks contributions of articles on the above from Members and friends of the Society. These articles should be original, that is the author's own work, and ideally not published elsewhere for copyright reasons.

It is a great way to record your own family's story too. Please email: jgsi@familyhistory.ie

GSI BOARD NEWS



The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on **Thursday 4th September 2025** at 19.00hrs. There was no board meeting in August as usual due to vacations, however, the day-to-day management and the delivery of services continued during the month.

The September meeting already has a very full agenda and, as usual, a report on the board meeting will be published next month.

General Secretary

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE

Some Members have reported that occasionally emails from the Society have ended up in their SPAM or JUNK MAIL. Please check to make sure that you receive all of the email messages sent out by our Director of Membership Services and/or our Director of Archival Services & Education.

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 the January issue.

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 August 12th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - SEE bottom page 1.

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

Tuesday September 9th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker & Topic—*TBA*

Wednesday September 24th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday October 14th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker & Topic—*TBA*

Wednesday October 22nd —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday November 11th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: *TBA*.

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

Tuesday December 9th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: *TBA*.

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...

IRISH RAILWAY RECORD SOCIETY

The Society's Hueston Station Library will be closed to members and researchers on all Tuesday nights of August, re-opening in September.

DUBLIN CENTRAL LIBRARY

Jeffrey Jones presented *'The Battle of Salcock Wood, 1534 AD'* at 12.00hrs on Saturday August 9th 2025. Historian in Residence Elizabeth Kehoe will present *'From the Archives - The Grangegorman Archive'* at 11.00hrs on Friday 29 August. Admission free but booking required on www.dublincity.ie

SUMMER LECTURE SERIES 2025

The Rathmichael Historical Society Summer Lecture Series takes place from Monday 11 August to Friday 16 August nightly at 20.00hrs in Rathmichael School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, which this year has *'The Boyne and its Environs'* as the theme. Lectures are: Monday 11 August: *'The Boyne Valley Landscape'* by Stephen Mandal; Tuesday 12 August: *'The Medieval Bridges of the Boyne'* by Rob Goodbody; Wednesday 13 August: Leo Swan Memorial Lecture; *'The Ford of Broe on the Boyne'* by Paul Gosling; Thursday 14 August: *'Historic Trim'* by Michael Potterton, and Friday 15 August: *'Houses of the Boyne'* by Aisling Durcan. These lectures will also take place simultaneously on Zoom. Admission for each lecture is €5.00 See: www.rathmichaelhistoricalsociety.ie for further details on the lectures and on the Society.

CRUMLIN & WALKINSTOWN

Peter A. Daly presented *'Brian O'Looney (1828-1901) of Grove Villa House, Crumlin. Scholar, poet and Gaelic revivalist'* at 18.30hrs on Wednesday 13 August in Walkinstown Library, Percy French Road, Dublin 6.

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL H.S.

By kind permission of the Bray Municipal District, Brian White will give guided tours on *'The Windows of the Town Hall'* as part of the Society's contribution to *Heritage Week 2025*, at 15.00hrs on Saturday 16, at 19.00hrs on Wednesday 20 August, and at 10.00hrs on Saturday 23 August 23rd.

Due to a restriction on the number who can take part in each tour, the Mermaid Theatre, Main Street, Bray, manages a booking system. Bray Cualann Historical Society members and non-members must book with the Mermaid Theatre - call 01-272 4030 or via mermaidartscentre.ie. There is no booking fee. On Thursday 21 August Brian White will present *'The History of Kilbride Church & stories of its parishioners'* at 20.00hrs in Kilbride Church of Ireland, Herbert Road, beside the Herbert Road N11 exit, Bray. All welcome. Admission free. No booking.

WICKLOW TOWN LIBRARY

Therese Hicks will reveal *'Life in Wicklow Town in the late 1600s'* at 14.00hrs on Saturday August 16. All are welcome - admission free and no booking required.

THE OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Olivia Frehill will present *'Women and Work in Dublin, c. 1890-1930s'* at 18.00hrs on Wednesday 20 August in the Conference Room, Dublin City Library & Archive, 139-144 Pearse Street, Dublin 2. All welcome - admission free and no booking is required but seats will be available on a first come-first seated basis.

BALBRIGGAN AND DISTRICT H.S.

Jim Walsh will present *'The Life of John Henry Gaynor - local Republican'* at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 27 August in the Bracken Court Hotel, 3A Bridge Street, Balbriggan, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is free for members and €5.00 for non-members.

CABRA LIBRARY

Jim Kelly will present *'Cabra and Sport 1930s to 2020s'* at 18.30hrs on Monday September 1st in Cabra Library, Dublin 7. Admission is free but booking is required via www.dublincity.ie

PUBLICATIONS

Journal of the Irish Railway Record Society,
Vol. 31, June 2025, No.217



Articles featured in the Society's latest journal include *'Pianos, Gas Lights and Chamber Pots - The Great Southern & Western Railway's Killarney Hotels at the turn of the 20th Century'* by Tim Moriarty, *'The Wexford Opera Train 1956-2007'* by Louis Cullen, *'Burtonport to Baltimore by train in 1939'* by Brendan O'Donovan, *'A Shocking Experience on the Hill of Howth in 1949!'* by Norman Gamble, *'Going North in 1959'* by Michael H. C. Baker, 'Society News', 'Observations and Comments', 'Publications' and 'Irish Railway News.' Details of how to become a member of the Society will be found on its website at www.irrs.ie.

James Scannell, FGSI

AUGUST ISSUE OF THE 'GAZETTE'

Each August the 'Gazette' is normally published a week later than usual due to vacations and therefore, certain events featured may have already taken place. However, we feel that it is important to include such events for publication to record the event, speakers and their subjects for future reference, especially, if there is a publication.

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, FGSI, 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 JULY LECTURE

On **Tuesday 8th 2025** our Guest Speaker, **Neasa McErlean**, delivered a very interesting lecture on the topic **'Genealogy: an alternative route to history? Professor Robert Dudley Edwards and the transformation of historical, archival and genealogical study in the 20th century'**.

How does genealogy operate as an alternative route into history? How might it develop in universities? And why is it flourishing in schools? These were some of the questions discussed on 8 July by journalist Neasa MacErlean, author of *Telling the Truth is Dangerous*, the biography of historian and Ireland's 'father of archives', Professor Robert Dudley Edwards. She is his granddaughter.

Throughout his 35 years in the UCD Chair of Modern Irish History, Edwards conducted a campaign to rebuild and protect Ireland's archives. Motivated initially by the desire to base history on evidence, Edwards increasingly saw that alternative sources enriched historical understanding through their different techniques. Genealogical study illuminated family, business and community aspects of past events. Family history had transformed Ireland in the 1880s, he realised, citing Charles Stewart Parnell's Home Rule movement as an example. 'There is no doubt that the emergence of the middle-class Catholic families were responsible for the new development,' he wrote. His highlighting of new sources of information, from the Poor Law guardians to business records, broadened views of what was acceptable, contributing to the social history movements that resulted in the EPIC migration museum and the Museum of National Remembrance, due to open in 2027 to commemorate residents of Mother and Baby homes and other institutions.

The talk also discussed other aspects including the genealogist-historian Eoin MacNeill, the fisheries cases, Cú Chulainn and 1916, the growing success of family history in schools, and the links between neuroscience, memory and history.

Neasa MacErlean is the author of the biography *Telling the Truth is Dangerous*, an account of how (her grandfather) Professor Robert Dudley Edwards transformed the study of history in Ireland in the 20th century, in collaboration with his Trinity peer, Professor Theo Moody. She is a journalist, formerly of the *Irish Press*, the *London Observer* and the *Lawyer* magazine. A Literature graduate, she founded the *Work pages* on the *Observer*, aimed at helping individuals navigate the workplace, and in 2015 she founded *Robotics Law Journal*. With a mathematical background (through her qualification as a chartered accountant), she is particularly interested in the use of statistics and digital data to understand current events. She is now freelance, writing about finance in her journalism and other historical and literary issues in her other book projects. She lives in Galway.

This lecture will be uploaded to the GSI YouTube channel (see bottom of page 1 for the link). Suggestions for future lecture topics? Please contact **Gerard Corcoran, MGSi, Director, GSI Lecture Series** by email at lectures@familyhistory.ie

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

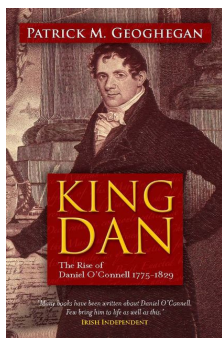
THE ARMORIAL REGISTER

The Armorial Register - International Register of Arms has recently published its *International Register of Armorial Bearings - Volume Four (Registrations 550-732)*. This is a beautifully compiled selection of coats of arms conforming to the laws of heraldry and recorded in the private register held by The Armorial Register Limited. The entries include the names and family biographies of the bearers along with the rationale and history behind the use and design of their coats-of-arms. This is an important cultural and social record, at the core of which, are the issues of identity, family, heredity, affinity, locality and, of course, legacy. The knowledge, skill, imagination and creativity of the heralds and of the heraldic artists is also captured and whilst cultural differences are evident, the heraldic arts and conventions are generally main-

tained to the highest standards. Personal preferences, especially in the self-designed assumed arms, provide an interesting narrative that shines a light on a public perception of heraldry. Each of the four volumes of 'The Register' uniquely contributes to the expansion of our knowledge, appreciation and awareness of our shared heraldic heritage. There are many entries of Irish interest, including arms granted by the Chief Herald of Ireland, that reflect a growing interest in heraldry and its symbolism at home and abroad amongst our diaspora. Fully illustrated and published in A4 (297 x 210 mm) size hardback with 212 pages and 271 full colour images. Copies are deposited in UK Copyright Libraries and in Trinity College Dublin. Compiled and edited by Martin S. J. Goldstraw, FSA Scot. Price UK£65.00 (circa €76.00) plus shipping. See: <https://www.armorialregister.com>

MOORE on Flags & Emblems

Daniel O'Connell was born on 6 August 1775 at Cahersiveen in County Kerry. This year marks the 250th anniversary of his birth. Known as the 'Liberator', King Dan most famously secured 'Catholic Emancipation' in 1829, which removed restrictions on Catholics participating in politics. Least famously, he helped to bring about the birth of the Irish tricolour the following year



in 1830, with the Repeal Movement which aimed remove the 1801 Act of Union with Britain. His famous Dublin monument was unveiled on Sackville Street (now O'Connell Street) on 15 August 1882, 143 year ago. It features the coats of arms of the four provinces of Ireland - Leinster, Munster, Connacht and Ulster. The O'Connell family coat of arms features a deer on a green and white shield with three shamrocks, one in each corner. The

motto '*ciall agus neart*' is Irish for 'reason and strength'. An image of his Arms is available on <https://catalogue.nli.ie/Record/vtla000167518>

'*King Dan*' by Patrick M. Geoghegan was published by Gill Books in April 2010, the cover of which, provides a striking image of the 'Liberator'. **Stan Moore, MA, MGSi**

LEGISLATION—Update

Following on from the report in the April 2025 issue of the 'Gazette' (page 4) on the passage of the *Statute Law Revision Bill, 2024* through Dáil Éireann. As the Bill was initiated in Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate), the amendments agreed in the Dáil go back to the Seanad.

Minister of State, **Emer Higgins, TD**, brought the amended Bill to the Seanad on Wednesday 16th July 2025 and explained the amendments made in Dáil Éireann. These amendments included the revoking of the anachronistic *1685 Proclamation* which the Society had successfully argued, through **Senator Victor Boyhan**, was not required for the provision of Irish heraldic services by the **Chief Herald of Ireland**.

These arguments, set out in 12 points (see March 2025 issue, page 4), were read into the record by Senator Boyhan on 6th March 2025. The Minister promised to examine the 12 points and not only the *1685 Proclamation* was revoked, but circa 40 old instruments relating to the **Ulster King of Arms** were also revoked from the *Statute Law Revision Act, 2015*. These instruments had no purpose in the Statute Book of our Republic.

IRELAND'S GENEALOGICAL GAZETTE

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

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

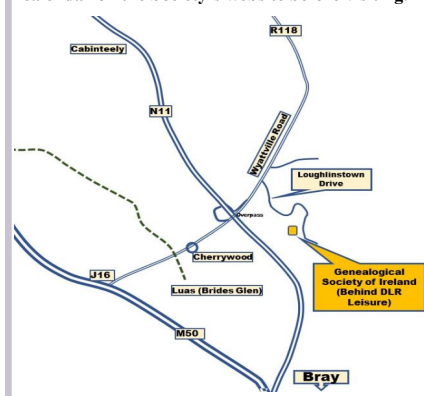
Although we're not members of the **National Union of Journalists (NUJ)**, the team at the "Gazette" always endeavour to operate in accordance with the **NUJ Code of Conduct** www.nuj.org.uk/about/nuj-code/ and in line with the 'National Policy Statement on Ensuring Research Integrity in Ireland' which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

Monthly Newsletter of the Genealogical Society of Ireland