



Ireland's Genealogical Gazette

(incorporating "The Genie Gazette")

Vol. 19 No. 3

www.familyhistory.ie

Márta : Merth : March 2024

Annual Report of the GSI Board

Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig Oraibh go léir

The following is the Annual Report of the Board of Directors of the Genealogical Society of Ireland CLG adopted by the Board at its meeting of March 7th, 2024, under *Res: 24/03/1814*.

As usual the Annual Report covers the period from AGM to AGM, however, the Annual Financial Report is for P.E. 31.12.2023.

The 2023 Annual General Meeting elected nine Directors to the Board. There was one co-option and no resignations in the past year.

As with the 2023 AGM, this year the draft Annual Accounts were delivered to the Society's auditor in February, however, due a backlog at our auditors we are unlikely to have the Audited Financial Report back in time for presentation at the AGM on March 12th 2024.

There were no resolutions, other than the normal business resolutions, presented or adopted at the Annual General Meeting in 2023.

The Board elected at the AGM in 2023 met eleven times incorporeally throughout the year, commencing in April 2023 where the various portfolios were allocated. Each newly elected director signed the 'Director's Code of Conduct' and the documents for the Companies Registration Office which were forwarded to each in advance of the meeting. This is a mandatory requirement for membership of the Board.

The meetings of the Board of the Society deal with the day-to-day business of the Society, policy matters, planning, corporate governance, and finance. In addition to these meetings each of the directors undertook duties associated with their various portfolios. A database of all the resolutions adopted by the Board since incorporation in 2000 is fully operational offering a fully indexed resource to the current Board on previous decisions of the Board.

The Board continues to operate under, and be guided by, the *GSI Development Plan, 2022-2027* which is a comprehensive and strategic plan covering all aspects of the work of the Society and our future objectives.

The Open Meeting schedule was delivered, once again, via Zoom and included, twelve Evening Open Meetings with lectures and from April 2023, forty-three weekly "Archive Drop-In" Zoom meetings – all open to the public. The "Archive Drop-Ins" provide weekly family history research advice.

The May 2023 Evening Open Meeting hosted the inaugural 'Annual Heraldry Ireland Lecture' with special guest, Mr. Martin Goldstraw of *The Armorial Register*. The monthly lectures are uploaded to the Society's YouTube channel, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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

The Society's Outreach Programme was very busy throughout the past year with visits to various voluntary and community organisations offering either talks or workshop-style presentations.

This year began with GSI Stands at the *Holiday World Shows* in Belfast and at the RDS in Dublin in January 2024.

The Society is very grateful to **Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council** for the level of grant aid provided to the Society to assist with running costs of the Society.

The Society is in touch with the County Council regarding the possible relocation of our Archives & Research Centre to a more suitable premises. The Board continues its campaign for the establishment of an 'Irish Institute of Genealogical and Heraldic Studies – incorporating a Centre for Migration and Diaspora Studies' in Dún Laoghaire in conjunction with the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council.

The Cathaoirleach of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, **Cllr. Denis O'Callaghan**, visited *An Daonchartlann* in Loughlinstown in August 2023.

The Society's Annual Journal was produced by a Select Committee for the third time in 2023 and as this collaborative method of productions was so successful, a Select Committee was established for the 2024 Annual Journal.

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GENEALOGY

HERALDRY

VEXILLOLOGY

SOCIAL HISTORY

Heritage Matters

Book Reviews

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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



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 20.00hrs

AGENDA

1. Opening 20.00hrs via Zoom
2. Introduction of our new President
3. Appointment of Tellers (two)
4. Minutes of the 2023 AGM
5. Matters Arising, if any.
6. Annual Report of the GSI Board
7. Annual Financial Statement PE 31/12/23
8. Election of New Board (2024-2025) **
9. Special Resolution
10. Guest Speaker (see page 3)
11. Q+A
12. Close at 22.00hrs

Officers to be Elected under Item 8 above

1. Cathaoirleach (Chair)
2. Leas-Chathaoirleach (Vice-Chair)
3. General Secretary
4. Director of Finance
5. Up to Six other Directors
6. External Auditor

NOTE: ** Only fully paid-up Members & the Fellows can propose or second items, stand for election or participate in the electronic voting.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

EVENING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Tuesday 12 March 2024 (AGM) —20.00hrs

Tuesday 9 April 2024 —20.00hrs

MORNING OPEN MEETING

(via Zoom)

Wednesday 27 March 2024 —11.00hrs

Wednesday 25 April 2024 —11.00hrs

Free of Charge—Donations Welcome!

(Donations via www.familyhistory.ie)

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President Elect visits *An Daonchartlann* on Wednesday on February 28th 2024. From left—Eddie Gahan, Fiona Tipple, President Elect Frank O'Donnell and behind, Lua Ó Scolaí and Séamus O'Reilly.

Photo by Konstantin O'Donnell

“ARCHIVE DROP-INS”

The weekly “Drop-Ins” hosted by Gerard White, MGSJ, Director of the GSI Open Meetings, are hugely popular with our Members around the world.

These informal weekly “Drop-Ins” have been opened up to non-members for the summer period and are designed to allow you to join the Zoom meeting at any time between 11.00hrs and 12.00hrs on Wednesdays.

Previously only the “Drop-In” on the 4th Wednesday was publicly accessible for Members and visitors alike.

For the link to this “Drop-In” meeting see page 1.

Members receive an email from the Director of Membership Services each week with access details.

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

IRISH HISTORY with Davy Holden



As St. Patrick's Day approaches, cities all around the world are getting ready to paint the town green in celebration of Irish culture and heritage. When the river runs green in the city of Chicago, and marching bands steam through the streets of Buenos Aires,

I can't help but to look back and reflect on how such a small nation has impacted this world so greatly. It's quite easy to get lost in all the amazing festivities and disregard our history, but the 17th March marks yet another huge anniversary that tends to be forgotten about. On St. Patrick's Day, 1858, in a timber yard on Lombard Street, Dublin, a Kilkenny man by the name of James Stephens founded a secret Irish revolutionary organisation known as the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB). The objective of the IRB was to establish an independent, self-governing Irish republic. The initial group was small, and Stephens needed to recruit men and raise funds for his new organisation to flourish. With the mass emigration of Irish people to the United States during the years of the Great Hunger, the USA seemed like a prime location for potential recruits. Stephens travelled across the pond and appointed his previous Young Irelander comrade, John O'Mahony, as the head of the United States branch of the IRB. In the following year, this branch became known as the Fenian Brotherhood. Throughout the 19th century, the Fenians became known for events such as the invasions of Canada from 1866-1870, the Fenian Rising of 1867 and the Manchester Martyrs, just to name a few. Throughout the 1860's, Stephens promised for a rebellion to take place in Ireland, which under his leadership, never came to fruition. In 1866, for his lack-of-action style leadership, he was overthrown as the head of the movement. The last thirty years of Stephens' life was a rather sorrowful account. After leading the IRB and the Fenian Brotherhood for nearly a decade, he fled to France, where lived in extreme poverty before finally returning to Ireland in 1891. He resided in Blackrock, Dublin, and passed away on 29th April 1901. He may not have been the leader that the Fenian movement wanted at the time, yet he will always remain a crucial figure in the foundation of the Ireland we know, love, and celebrate today.

Check out my short videos on various aspects of Irish history on my Instagram account below:

https://www.instagram.com/davy_holden

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 check out:

www.YouTube.com/c/GeneraleologicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI

GSI ON INSTAGRAM

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

www.instagram.com/GenSocIreland



**36th International
Congress of Genealogical
and Heraldic Sciences**
Boston | 2024

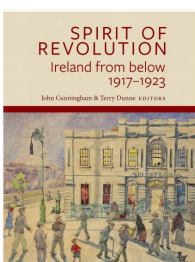
September 24-28
Boston, MA

<https://www.americanancestors.org/icghs-2024>

We'll All Stay Connected Each Week via Zoom

Spirit of Revolution—Ireland from Below

'Spirit of Revolution -Ireland from below, 1917-1923' – edited by John Cunningham and Terry Dunne and published by Four Courts Press (ISBN: 978-1-80151-118-6 : 288 pps. Ills. Price: €24.95 : Web Price: €22.45) this



month. Coming at the end of the 'Decade of Centenaries' which, despite initial doubts by some commentators, did capture the interest, curiosity, and imagination of the Irish public, this very timely book goes to the heart of what this Society has been promoting throughout this state sponsored nationwide period of remembrance, reflection, and commemoration – the involvement of ordinary people in these events that shaped our nation's destiny.

This collection of thirteen essays covers a wide range of essentially interconnected topics, although, not necessarily concerning linked events or shared objectives, however, the interconnectivity is manifest in the popular or community involvement. Anne Boran takes us to the Co. Kilkenny with the first essay on "The change was not to be in symbol only but also in substance": contested freedoms in the Castlecomer coalfield. Johnny Burke on 'A "bolshie spirit"? Agrarian mobilizations in Co. Galway in 1920' and staying in Co. Galway, John Cunningham with 'A "soviet at Galway"? William J. Larkin, Stephen Cremen and the town tenant mobilization of May 1922. These events took place in the precarious transitional period under the Irish Provisional Government established to

implement the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 which brought the Irish Free State into operation on December 6th 1922.

The following two essays explore a thorny and always controversial issue in Irish revolutionary politics in rural Ireland – land, land ownership and the landless. Terry Dunne on "Strike out for yourselves": land and labour from the Boyne to the Barrow' and Mary Forrest on "Eager to produce food": the United Irish Ploughers' Union'.

Brian Hanley explores an issue that many with ancestors who worked in, and lived around, Dublin docklands, have encountered in their own family histories – "The only Irish people who would take a risk": maritime workers and the Irish revolution' while Dominic Haugh in his essay "The "dreaded menace of the Red Flag": the Munster societies of 1922' explores a controversial aspect of the Irish revolutionary period and its immediate aftermath, the social and political conservatism of the emerging state and its attitude to socialism and, of course, communism.

Liam Alex Heffron takes us to northwest of Co. Mayo during the War of Independence with his essay "Famous only as far as the wanders of a lame dog": the Volunteers of Moygownagh C Company' and staying in the province of Connacht with Moira Leyden's essay "They were the coming men - Ireland's hope": the mobilization of agricultural labourers in Maugerow, Co. Sligo, 1917-20'.

During the revolutionary period, and for decades thereafter, Belfast was Ireland's only city with a significant heavy manufacturing and industrial base with shipyards, textile factories and foundries. The history of the labour movement in Belfast is fascinating given the sectarian political backdrop dividing workers, often against their own best interests. These issues are explored by Fearghal Mac Bhloscaidh in his essay on "No such sight has been seen in Belfast since Dissenter and Catholic united in 1791": the Workers' Union and the Belfast Labour Party'.

Another aspect of the revolutionary period that had been largely neglected until the 'Decade of Centenaries' was the radicalism of many of the women involved in the political movements. The essay by Kieran McNulty on "More militant than the men": women's activism, class and revolution in Kerry' interestingly explores this subject in rural Ireland, while Theresa Moriarty in her essay on "They felt it was their duty to stimulate that discontent": women at the Irish Trade Union Congress, 1916-23' looks at the activism of women in the labour movement at a national level. Staying with the labour movement, the essay by Gerry Watts on "Welcome back Jim": the mobilization of Dublin workers on the return of James Larkin in 1923' focusses on activism at the birth of the newly independent Irish Free State. The "spirit of revolution" was indeed widespread in Ireland from 1917 to 1923.

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Irish History, Genealogy, Local History and much more. Checkout the extensive online catalogue for 2024 and the wonderful special offers at www.fourcourtspress.ie—note the "back-in-prints" too!!

GSI BOARD NEWS

The final meeting (before the AGM) of the current Board of Directors was held on Thursday March 7th 2024 at 11.00hrs via Zoom. The meeting was chaired by the Cathaoirleach, John Goggins, MGSJ, will all ten directors in attendance.

Although in occasional use by the GSI since 2010, the Board, under Res: 24/03/1809, formally created the honorific and ceremonial designation 'President Emeritus' and, in doing so, it also formally recognised the current holders of this designation as Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI and Rory Stanley, FGSI.

Later in the meeting the Board recorded its sincere thanks to our outgoing President, Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI, for his ten years of service and officially conferred the designation of 'President Emeritus' on Stuart under Res: 24/03/1815. Members at the AGM will be invited to endorse this resolution by ballot.

The General Secretary / Company Secretary presented the Annual Report of the GSI Board for consideration and adopted. The Annual Report was adopted and its published in this 'Gazette' (Res: 24/03/1814).

Lua Ó Scolaí, MGSJ, Director of Finance, presented the Monthly Accounts for the period ending 29

February 2024. He also advised the Board that the annual audited accounts will not be back in time for the AGM and therefore, the Board agreed to present the unaudited accounts at the AGM. (Res: 24/03/1816)

The Board appointed Shane Wilson, MGSJ and Barry O'Connor, FGSI, as "tellers" for the AGM votes.

The Board, in accordance with Res: 24/03/1810, agreed to update to the GSI's entry on The Armorial Register to include the Arms of the new President.

A new YouTube video was produced by the GSI on the 'Arms of the Presidents of the Society and Heraldry Ireland News' available on the GSI YouTube channel.

The next Board Meeting will be held on Thursday 4th April 2024 at 11.00hrs via Zoom. General Secretary

WEEKLY RESEARCH ADVICE

WEDNESDAY at 11.00hrs (UTC+0) (Irish Time) via Zoom. (see page 2)

Zoom - Meeting ID: 830 9870 7989

Passcode: 670945

Right of Admission Strictly Reserved

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* were published in the November 2022 issue of this newsletter. For back issues of the 'Gazette' please see the Society's website.

Barry O'Connor, FGSI,
Director of Membership Services.
Email: membership@familyhistory.ie

GSI OPEN MEETINGS

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

Tuesday March 12th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - **Annual General Meeting.** Speaker: Shane Wilson—'Searching Civil BMD Records—Tips & Tricks'.

Wednesday March 27th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday April 9th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Paula Jones—'Living in a Dublin Docklands Community in 1911'.

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

Tuesday May 14th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - 'Heraldry Ireland Annual Lecture - GSI National Heraldic Survey.'

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

Tuesday June 11th—Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Davy Holden—'Irish History & the Genealogist—Topic 'TBA'.

Wednesday June 27th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Tuesday July 9th —Evening Open Meeting—20.00hrs (Zoom) - Speaker: Patrick Abbott—Title of topic—TBA

Wednesday July 25th —Morning Open Meeting—11.00hrs (Zoom)—Informal discussion on family history and related matters.

Talks will be posted on YouTube.

ZOOM MEETINGS

Membership Director, Barry O'Connor, FGSI, will email Members to log in to Zoom for the Open Meetings.

The lectures are open to the public and the access details are available on request by email 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 short video and lectures on the *Irish DNA Atlas* project on YouTube <https://https://www.youtube.com/c/GenealogicalSocietyOfIrelandGSI>



www.eneclann.ie



Some of the Archival Collections in An Daonchartlann, Loughlinstown. (Photo: Tom Conlon)

James Scannell Reports...

MARITIME INSTITUTE OF IRELAND

Cormac F. Lowth will present 'A History of Lifeboats in Dublin Bay' at 13.30hrs on Tuesday 12 March in the Maritime Museum of Ireland, Haigh Terrace, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All are welcome.

MALAHIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Christopher Heavey will present 'The Explosive Life of Paddy Walsh' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 12 March in St. Sylvester's Church Parish Centre, Malahide, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission €5.00

OLD DUBLIN SOCIETY

Dermot O'Riordan will present 'Dublin 'On War Service' Lapel Badges during WWI' at 18.00hrs on Wednesday 13 March and Stephen Ferguson 'Miniature masterpieces—a century of Irish stamps and a window on the Irish soul' at 18.00hrs on Wednesday 27 March at Dublin City Library & Archive, 139-144 Pearse St, Dublin 2. All welcome. Admission free.

PHIBSBORO LIBRARY

Historian in Residence Elizabeth Kehoe will present 'Curfews in Dublin 1920-21' at 18.30hrs on Wednesday 13 March. Admission is free but booking is required - book in-branch, call 01-222 8333 or email: phibsborolibrary@dublincity.ie.

CLONTARF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Aidan Giblin will present 'Corr Castle, Sutton - History & Archaeological Finds' at 19.30hrs on Wednesday 13 March in St. John's Parish Centre, Clontarf Road, Dublin 3. All are welcome - admission is €5.00

DLR LIBRARIES - DALKEY LIBRARY

John Martin will present 'Dalkey's local churches, and schools in Dalkey' at 17.30hrs on Thursday 14 March. Admission is free but booking is required - book in branch, call 01-2855277 or email: dalkeylib@dlrco.ie

KILMACUD-STILLORGAN LHS

Cathy Scuffil will present 'Weaving in the Liberties' at 20.00hrs on Thurs 14 March in St. Raphaela's Primary School Hall, St. Raphaela's Rd., Upper Kilmacud Road, Stillorgan, Co. Dublin. All welcome - admission €3.00

FOXROCK LOCAL HISTORY CLUB

James Scannell will present 'Life in 'Emergency' Ireland, 1939-1945' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 19 March in Foxrock Parish Pastoral Centre, Foxrock, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5.00 for visitors.

ROUNDWOOD & DIST. HIST. FOLKLORE & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Emma Lyons on 'The Horse in Co. Wicklow - Work and Play' 20.00hrs Tues. 19 March - Roundwood Parish Hall, Roundwood, Co. Wicklow. All welcome.

GREYSTONES ARCH. & HIST. SOC.

AGM at 19.30hrs Weds 20 March and will be followed by 'The Curry Houses of Dublin' by Dr. Michael Kennedy in Kilian Family Centre, beside Holy Rosary Church, Greystones. All Welcome - admission is €3.00

DUN LAOGHAIRE BORO HIST SOC

Professor Séamas Ó Siocháin will present 'Sir Roger Casement and Ireland' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 20 March in the Royal Marine Hotel, Marine Road, Dún Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. All welcome. Admission €5.00

DUBLIN CITY LIBRARIES - PEARSE ST.

Dr. Cormac Moore will present 'Partition and Irish Sport' at 18.00hrs on Thursday 21 March. Admission is free but booking is required - call 01-222 8431 or email: Pearsesstreetlibrary@dublincity.ie.

BRAY CUALANN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Margaret McGuirk will present 'The History of the Phoenix Park, Dublin' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 21 March in the Royal Hotel, Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow. All welcome. Non-members €8.00

RATHMINES, RANELAGH & RATHGAR HS

Dr. Angela Byrne will present 'John Lee's Visits to Dublin in 1806 and 1807' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 21 March in Rathmines Town Hall, Rathmines Road, Dublin 6. Members are free / visitors €4.00 - Swan Car Park Evening Rate: €3.00 from 17.00hrs to Midnight.

MILITARY HISTORY SOCIETY

Dr. Harman Murtagh will present '75 Years of Military History in Ireland' celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Society (1949-2024) at 20.00hrs on Friday 22 March in Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8. All are welcome. Professor Ian Speller will present 'The Future of Naval Warfare: Lessons from the Past' at 20.00hrs on Friday 05 April in Griffith College. All are welcome.

CLONDALKIN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Liz Gillis will present 'Women in 19th Century Ireland' at 20.00hrs on Monday 25 March in Áras Chrónáin Irish Cultural Centre, Watery Lane, Clondalkin, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5.00 for non-members.

WICKLOW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Pat Power will present 'The Parnell Family and Avondale' at 20.00hrs on Tuesday 26 March in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Wicklow Town. All are welcome - voluntary donation.

RATHMICHAEL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Matthew Stout will present 'Ringforts' at 20.00hrs on Wednesday 03 April in Rathmichael National School, Stonebridge Road, Shankill, Co. Dublin. All are welcome - admission is €5.00 for non-members

MOUNT MERRION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Conal Hooper will present 'Dublin anatomy 1600-1900' at 20.00hrs on Thursday 04 April in The Fitzwilliam Rooms, Mount Merrion Community Centre, Mount Merrion, Co. Dublin. Admission is €4.00 / Students €2.00

PUBLICATIONS

March / April 2024 issue of 'History Ireland' magazine, Editor **Tommy Graham**, published by Wordwell Ltd.

Featured articles in the latest issue of this excellent Irish history magazine are -Edel Breathnach looks at 'St. Brigit - Who Was She?'; Ray O'Connor recalls 'Rev. John Reade and Ireland's First Saving Banks'; Stephen Collins looks at 'The 1836 Longford By-Election'; Peter W. Halligan recalls 'Teresa (Annie) McGrath - Forgotten Irish Heroine of the Battle of Fort Gullistan, India, 1897'; John O'Brien looks at 'Women and Early Irish Lawn Tennis'; Owen O'Shea in 'Foully Butchered in a Manner so Treacherous' recalls the execution of a National Army Officer following two shocking killings in rural Kerry in the months after the end of the Civil War; Aindrias O Cathasaigh in 'Neither King Nor Kaiser' tells the story of a slogan (and a photograph); Martin Tyrrell tells the story of 'Máirín Mitchell and the Spanish Civil War'; John Mulqueen looks at 'Accidental Nazis? - The Irishmen who joined the Waffen-SS'; Brian Girvin remembers 'Owen Sheehy Skeffington and the Birth of Liberal Ireland.'

Also included are the regular features of 'Letters', 'Kindred Lines', 'Artefacts', 'Gems of Architecture', 'The Big Book', Book Reviews, 'Book-worm', 'Museum Eye', 'Seen on TV', 'History in the News', 'On This Day' and 'Bite-Sized History'.

James Scannell, FGSI

TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

by John Grenham, MA, MAGI, FIGRS, FGSI

The Society strongly recommends to anyone embarking on their family history quest that one essential piece of kit must be, without doubt, a copy of the *FIFTH* edition of 'Tracing Your Irish Ancestors'. Please checkout the website www.gillmacmillan.com Price €24.99 [RRP].

PRÉCIS OF THE FEBRUARY LECTURE

The Monthly Lecture via Zoom on Tuesday 13th February 2024 was delivered by **Francis O'Donnell, FGSI**, President Elect of the Society, on a very appropriate theme for the eve of St. Valentine's Day— '*An O'Donnell in Egypt? - an unfortunate romantic*'. We are extremely grateful to the President Elect for accepting our invitation to speak at such short notice as the advertised talk had to be cancelled at the last moment.



Amb. Francis M. O'Donnell told us of a researcher in Egypt who had contacted him about a possible O'Donnell saga. She had stumbled across the fascinating tale of a Captain O'Donald (O'Donnell?) whose sister, Lucie O'Donald had served as governess for the favourite daughter of the founder of the last Egyptian royal dynasty, Muhammad Ali Pasha (1769-1849), who was of Albanian origin, sent by the Ottoman Sultan to defeat Napoleon who invaded in 1798-1801. Much before then, in 1779, the Sultan wanted to prohibit transit trade by Christians through his Ottoman Empire.

An earlier Captain John O'Donnell (1749-1805) of Truagh Castle, Limerick was arrested by the Ottoman Bey in Egypt, but eventually released. He settled in Baltimore, USA in 1785, and later traded with India and China, specifically Guangzhou, called Canton which became the name of his estate and railway in Baltimore. Some of his descendants married French aristocrats. But the present later tale, a half-century later, is about a Captain O'Donald and Princess Zohra Pasha, also known as Nazli. They had a romance, around 1840-1850, but he fell foul of her jealous nephew, Abbas, who had him killed. Captain O'Donald ended up buried head first with his feet exposed upright to be scavenged by jackals, in Abbas' revenge for O'Donald struggling against his assassins, and kicking Abbas in the shin. Lucie and her brother had been brought up in Paris, and we have not yet found out who they were, but this intriguing research has caught our eye too, and we hope that with the Egyptian lady researching on the Cairo end we may soon know more!

The talk will be uploaded to the Society's YouTube Channel (see 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

Checkout the Society's website www.familyhistory.ie

ANNUAL REPORT ... Continued

Continued from page 1

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

In June 2023, the Society published '*Irish Genealogical Sources No. 33 – The Dominican Family of Hartwell, Kill, County Kildare*' by Noel Dominican, as an electronic publication (ISBN: 978-1-898471-77-6) and further electronic publications in this series are under consideration.

Work is ongoing to perfect the App that will be used for Ireland's first '*National Heraldic Survey*' which, it is planned to launch at the 2nd '*Annual Heraldry Ireland Lecture*' in May 2024. The '*Constitution of Heraldry Ireland*' was updated in November 2023 with amendments to bring the concept of '*intangible cultural heritage*' into the remit of the Society.

The Board nominated our two Vice Presidents of the Society, **Ms. Fiona Fitzsimons, MA, FGSI**, and **Amb. (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI**, for the election for President of the Society as our current **President, Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, will complete an extended term of ten years as President this year. The Board asked the **College of Fellows** to endorse **Res: 23/11/1779** which facilitated a sharing of the presidential eight-year term between the two nominees and the College of Fellows voted to endorse the resolution in an electronic ballot. The Board, in consultation with the nominees, declared **Amb. (ret) Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI**, to be "*President Elect*" and he will assume the role at the Annual General Meeting on 12th March 2024. Mr. O'Donnell will serve for four years to be succeeded by Ms. Fitzsimons.

On legislative matters, the Society continued its endeavours to have section 13 of the '*National Cultural Institutions Act, 1997*' amended to regularise the position of heraldic grants made in Ireland prior to May 2005. While the Irish heraldic office dates from April 1943, its legislative heraldic authority only dates from May 2005 with the belated commencement of the 1997 Act. No progress has been made on having a bill tabled in **Seanad Éireann** primarily due to other pressing issues and a rather crowded schedule. In July 2023, the main article in the '*Gazette*' asked whether it was '*Time to Review*'

DONATIONS This Society is a **Registered Charity in Ireland** and it is funded largely by its Membership Fees and the very kind donations received from Members and friends at home and overseas. The Society simply couldn't exist without such help from our Members and friends. If you would like to make a donation to help the Society with its work, please visit the Society's website on <https://www.familyhistory.ie> **Thank You Very Much.**

'*Heritage Legislation*?' in an era of digitisation and recognising the wonderful work undertaken by the **Digital Repository of Ireland**. (<https://www.dri.ie>)

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

Work is continuing to provide an exciting "*Members Only Section*" on the Society's website and to greatly expand the range of archival holdings available online. **Digitisation** of the Society's publications is nearing completion, and the archival collections will be next.

As reported last year, **electronic voting** for the **Annual General Meeting** was added to our website and will be in use for the 2024 AGM. The Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts continue to be valuable components in the promotion of the activities of the Society, its legislative campaigns and of Irish genealogy in general. The **Irish DNA Atlas Project**, operated in conjunction with the **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)**, continues to provide very exciting and groundbreaking data from this unique academic genetic genealogy research project, including the study on **Newfoundland** genetic ancestry published in '*Nature*' (<https://rdocu.be/daX8Q>) in 2023.

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

The Society's President, **Mr. Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI**, will retire at the Annual General Meeting after ten years at the helm. We thank Stuart most sincerely for his dedicated service to the Society since 2014 as our fourth President, he now becomes our third '*President Emeritus*' joining his predecessors, **Tony McCarthy, MA, FGSI** and **Rory Stanley, FGSI**.

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

Michael Merrigan, MA, FGSI, General Secretary

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The Society is a Nominating Body for
Seanad Éireann (Irish Senate)

President

Stuart Rosenblatt, PC, FGSI

Vice-Presidents

Fiona Fitzsimons, MA, FGSI

Amb. Francis M. O'Donnell, FGSI (President Elect)

Honorary Herald

Dr Antonio Salmerón Cabañas, SHA, FGSI

Board of Directors (2023-2024)

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

"HALL'S INDEX"

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

The past issues of the Society's newsletter from 1996 to 2016 had been fully indexed by the late **Brendan Hall, MGSI**. The "*Hall's Index*" now includes all issues right up to date and is available on 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

