

OFFALY HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

APRIL 2010 NEWSLETTER

Web site: www.offalyhistory.com Email: info@offalyhistory.com

Telephone: 057-9321421

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LECTURE ON MILITARY UNIFORMS FROM DISTINGUISHED EXPERT ON MONDAY 19 APRIL 2010 AT 8PM AT OHAS BURY QUAY TULLMORE

On Monday 19 April 2010 Monday at 8pm at OHAS Bury Quay, Mr Glenn Thompson will speak on army uniforms of soldiers of the midlands together with that of soldiers who fought in the 1798-1803 period.

Glenn Thompson is a military historian and author of numerous articles, many of which have appeared in the *Irish Sword*, *An Cosantóir*, and the *Tipperary Historical Journal*. He is a member of the Military History Society of Ireland. He is the author of *The Uniforms of 1798-1803*

A book detailing (in full colour) the uniforms of soldiers and regiments who fought in Ireland during the period 1796 to 1803. Its 26 full colour plates show the dress and arms of the

Insurgents, the French, the Regulars, Yeomanry, Militia, Fencibles, Artillery, etc. Each drawing is accompanied by a commentary on the origins of the uniforms and other information. A copy can be seen in the OHAS library. Mr Thompson has also prepared a drawing of a local volunteer of 1780s in connection with the formation of local bands at the time including the Tullamore True Blue Rangers (see illustration).

TULLAMORE GRAMAPHONE SOCIETY
15 April 2010 Thursday 8pm His Excellency Dr. Walter Hagg, Austrian ambassador to Ireland will give an illustrated talk on Viennese architecture interspersed with recordings of Austrian music.

The Offaly War Dead was successfully launched on Sunday 28 February at 3pm at OHAS Research Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore. The book of some 300 pp by Tom Burnell, Holycross, Tipperary is published by the History Press and is available at OHAS. It has some 600 biographies of those who died from this county in the First World War and is available from OHAS at €20. Our thanks to Tom and his friends at the launch. The book has some 600 biographies and is a good read and reference work.

REDISCOVER THE GEMS IN THE OFFALY
COUNTY LIBRARY LOCAL HISTORY C
OLLECTION

The new local history reading room at the county library O'Connor Square, Tullamore is now open. A special introduction is planned for Tuesday 27 April between 6.30pm and 8pm on that evening. This is a great opportunity to get an overview of the collection. Admission is free.

**The diary of an Offaly Schoolboy, 1858-59
By William Davis (edited by Sandra
Robinson). Hardback €25 and softback €15.**

This new book of some 200 pages is being published by the Society in late April or early May and you will be advised of the launch.

In this diary of rural life we glimpse the lives of the Davis family and their neighbours near Birr in the mid 1800s. The diary details family and local rivalries, chaotic schooling, the scourge of TB and ill health, local and family scandals, violence and intimidation at election time, a few narrow escapes, friendship and loyalty, tales of army life and endless money worries. All seen through the eyes of a candid seventeen year old boy.

Siobhán Fitzpatrick
Librarian, Royal Irish Academy writes in connection with it:

‘The diary is a chronicle of life in a rural household in English brought low by the early death of the writer’s father. This is the story of two years in the life of William Davis (1842-1921). An intelligent and rather serious boy in his late teens, trying to make sense of his world, the journal entries expand as William matures to adulthood. It is a personal journey which is the richer for the author’s growing self-awareness and for the insights which it affords the reader on life in post-Famine King’s County.’

With an excellent introduction and extensive annotations, this book is an important addition to the canon of historical works on County Offaly.