

LOCAL HISTORY BOOK LAUNCH

'The McCartans of Kinelarty and the Irish roots of Charles de Gaulle'

**On Friday 7th February
at 7.30 sharp**

Ballydugan Mill, Downpatrick

**Authors : Thérèse Ghesquière-Diérickx and Sean McCartan
Bi-lingual English and French
Translation : Eamon O'Ciosain – Ginger Nally (NUI Maynooth)**

When, in 1969, Charles de Gaulle voluntarily left power he sought a location to reminisce. He chose Ireland his McCartan ancestral homeland from whence his branch arrived in France in the early 18th century. Down through the years his ancestors had retained nostalgia about Ireland. On 19th June 1969 he received representatives from branches of the County Down McCartans in Aras an Uachtarain, Dublin.

This book is the first in-depth study of this fascination connection between Ireland and France. In Ireland Sean McCartan undertook to methodically investigate all that concerned this link. Also the link was made and researched in France by Thérèse Ghesquière-Diérickx where from generation to generation the memory and documents were carefully preserved by many of the McCartan descendants, illustrating the continuity of the ties between this old Irish family and Charles de Gaulle.

In this book, many of the archival documents from Irish and French sources are examined for the first time. The book also contains a rich collection of the family portraits of the French McCartans descended from John McCartan of Kinelarty (1640-1736) who is interred in nearby Loughinisland and whose son Anthony was the first of the family to settle in France.