

The Seven Villages of Newtownabbey

Discover the history of your Newtownabbey ancestors with *The Seven Villages of Newtownabbey* – a brand-new guide from the Antrim & Newtownabbey Branch of the Northern Ireland Family History Society (NIFHS).

Covering Carnmoney, Glengormley, Jordanstown, Monkstown, Whiteabbey, Whitehouse and Whitewell, this publication highlights key records and sources for family historians including church and school records, local gravestone transcriptions and war memorials.

Available now to download: Full guide £20 | Individual villages £5 📄 www.nifhs.org

Did you know that Antrim and Newtownabbey has a coat of Arms?



The Antrim and Newtownabbey coat of arms was officially granted in March 2017. The coat of arms includes the Barbican Gate of Antrim Castle with blue and white waves in the base alluding to Lough Neagh and Six-Mile-Water. The water-wheel represents the textile industry and the bezants imply wealth and prosperity; the cogwheels represent further industrial connections.

Credit: [Arms \(crest\) of Antrim and Newtownabbey.jpg](#)

The red eagle is taken from the arms of the Pakenham and de Courcy families; it is rising from a crown and in its beak is the red hand from the arms of the O'Neill family, and with one foot it is holding a windsock, alluding to the strong aviation history in the local area and to the airport.

Supporting the shield is a stag from the old Arms of Antrim and the black griffin of Grimshaw from the arms of Newtownabbey. They are standing in a field of barley, representing the rural areas, and clutching respectively a representation of the Antrim Round Tower and the Mossley Mill Chimney. The motto means *Achieving prosperity together*.

Carnmoney - Did you know that William Fee McKinney (1832-1917), who lived at Sentry Hill, Ballycraigy, compiled a *Family Register* containing details of local families, especially those from the Parish of Carnmoney. The register includes birth years from the 17th century to 1917, as well as spouses' names and emigration details, where available. This *Stud Book* is a valuable resource for genealogical research. The register is split into two volumes, with 394 pages and 1069 entries.

Further Information:

[Details on McKinney's stud book](#)

NIFHS Ref: IR556-002, *Register of Families, Carnmoney*, (2 Volumes), McKinney, William Fee

Glengormley



Did you know that the Crown & Shamrock Inn, on the Antrim Road was reputedly one of Co Antrim's oldest bars. In the late 1870s it traded as a spirit grocery store and evolved into a halting point for stagecoaches. Francis Joseph Bigger from Carnmoney founded the Ulster Public House Association and according to legend, the pub had gained a poor reputation which prompted the Church of Ireland to intervene and ask the Ulster Public House Reform Association to run it. In 1901, Bigger's model establishment was opened and he named it *The Crown and Shamrock*.

Jordanstown – Did you know that Belfast High School was established in 1854 by John Pyper in Clifton Street in central Belfast? It was called the Pyper Academy, a private institution, and provided commercial education for middle-class boys. Later it was renamed the Belfast Mercantile Academy and it taught mercantile subjects such as bookkeeping, arithmetic, and business practices. These subjects were considered essential for preparing the students for Victorian industry and for the army. In 1874, the academy relocated to Glenravel Street in Belfast and subjects such as the sciences, classics, and advanced mathematics were introduced to meet university entrance exams and professional careers. In 1953, the school purchased Ardilea House, a large 19th-century villa on the Shore Road in Jordanstown and re-located there. The school was renamed Belfast High School in 1963 and has remained at these premises ever since.

Monkstown – Did you know that 3 professional footballers were born in Monkstown?

James Hagan who was part of Danny Blanchflower's Northern Ireland squad in the late 1970s and named in Billy Bingham's provisional squad for the 1982 World Cup. He also played for Coventry, Torquay United, Detroit Express, Seiko in Hong Kong, and Birmingham City.

John Alexander Mackie, who was signed by Arsenal in 1922 and in April 1923 had his Ireland debut in a 3–0 win over Wales. In 1928 he transferred to Portsmouth, and won 3 caps for Ireland. After leaving Portsmouth, he played for Northampton Town before finishing his career in non-League football with Sittingbourne.

Michael Smith began playing football as a defender at Greenisland Boys' Club. In 2005, he joined his first senior club, Ballyclare Comrades and in January 2009, signed for Ballymena United. In 2011 he moved to England to join Bristol Rovers and then played for Peterborough United (2014-17), Heart of Midlothian in Scotland (2017-23) and Yeovil Town (2023-25). In July 2025, Smith joined Weston-Super-Mare.

Whiteabbey - Did you know that *Homes for WWI Heroes* were built in Whiteabbey?

In 1919 after WWI, parliament passed the Irish Land (Provision for Soldiers and Sailors) Act which provided for the erection of dwellings for ex-servicemen across Ireland. In the Newtownabbey/Glengormley area, 111 cottages were built between 1922-25; 1 at Ballyduff, 4 at Whitewell, 40 at Glengormley and 62 at Cambrai Park and Ypres Park in Whiteabbey. The British Legion also built 4 cottages for ex-servicemen at Doagh Road, Whitehouse in the late 1920s.

Whitehouse



Did you know that Molly Seaton, born in Greencastle, was a pioneering Irish women's footballer? She played for local men's teams before forming her own women's team, Castle Rovers. During WWI, she took part in charity matches for wounded soldiers. Seaton played at major venues including Goodison Park and Windsor Park, toured Britain and Ireland, and represented and captained Ireland against England, Scotland and France. She continued playing into the 1930s and died in 1974, leaving a lasting legacy as a trailblazer for women's football in Ireland.

Whitewell – Did you know that the Ministry of Public Security ordered the killing of 23 animals from the Belfast Zoo as it was feared the WWII air raids could lead to the animals escaping thus posing a risk to the local community? The animals which were shot included a tiger, a lynx, a hyena, a black bear, two polar bears and six wolves. Each evening the Keeper of Sheila the elephant, Denise Austin walked her home to the Whitewell Road and Sheila slept safely in a garage throughout the air raids. After the war, Sheila returned permanently to the zoo and lived until 1966.