



No. 6

# NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

## “NEWS 45”



Aug. 2010

### WELCOME

*Welcome to the sixth edition of "News 45". It will bring you information on interesting websites, Record Centres in Ireland, our own Research Centre at No. 45 and any other news that crops up. Previous editions, with an index, are available on our website, under 'Resources'.*

### No. 45

Our Research Centre at 45 Park Avenue, Belfast, is open on Wednesday mornings from 10.30am until 12.30pm. Access at other times is by prior arrangement. See our website for contact details.

[www.nifhs.org](http://www.nifhs.org)

We have produced two new booklets this year, which are now available on the website:

RESEARCHING YOUR ANCESTORS IN THE NORTH OF IRELAND



A Research Guide



A List of Websites

Details under Publications at: [www.nifhs.org](http://www.nifhs.org)

### Associate Members

When you receive the autumn edition of North Irish Roots there may be a renewal form included as a flier. This means that you are due to pay your subscription for the coming year. Not everyone receives the flier so if there isn't one then you are all paid up!

### FamilySearch

FamilySearch has expanded the public preview of its next generation web site. The beta test site can be accessed at <http://fsbeta.familysearch.org>

The site includes a new look, a new navigation system, and a host of revised features. They hope visitors will provide feedback to improve the experience and a new "feedback" tab is prominently placed on the right side of each page.

One of the most obvious changes is a new search engine for finding and viewing records. The new search engine manages multiple databases, indexes, and images. Although still under development, visitors can freely search hundreds of millions of names from a wide range of records.

### Coastguards of Yesteryear

This site is dedicated to the Coastguards who lived and worked around the **Irish** coastline between the 18th and early 20th centuries. It includes a collection of Coast Guard Station photos as well as facts and figures about the people; births, deaths, census information. Also included are some fascinating accounts of bravery during rescues from shipwrecks as well as interesting articles about shipwrecks and rescues.

[www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org](http://www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org)



# INFORMATION WANTED

A Database of Advertisements for Irish Immigrants Published in the Boston Pilot



From October 1831 until October 1921, the Boston Pilot newspaper printed a "Missing Friends" column with advertisements from people looking for "lost" friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States. This extraordinary collection of 33,951 records is a searchable online database, which contains a text record for each advertisement that appeared in the Pilot. <http://infowanted.bc.edu>

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## [www.genwed.com](http://www.genwed.com)

GenWed.com is a free genealogical research database for marriage records and a directory to other marriage records online for the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Most are free but some are in marked professional or subscription databases. Most of the more than 25,000 marriage records in the free database were submitted by visitors who added records they had found during their own search for family history.

### County lists for the Province of Ulster

- **County Antrim**
  - Island Magee Parish Marriage Records
- **County Derry (Londonderry)**
  - Aghadowey Parish, Church of Ireland
  - Aghadowey Parish, Presbyterian
  - Garvagh, Errigal Parish Records
  - Moneydig Presbyterian Church
- **County Donegal**
  - Birth, Death, and Marriage Records
  - Donaghmore RC Parish Marriage Extracts
- **County Down**
  - Banbridge Area Co. Down Marriages 1848-1864
- County Down, Marriages
- Kilkeel Parish Marriages & Births
- Newry Parish records 1745-1815
- **County Fermanagh**
  - Aghalurcher Parish Marriages (Lisnaskea district)
  - Cleenish Parish Marriages
  - Devenish Parish Marriages
  - Drumkeeran Parish Marriages
  - Enniskillen Parish Marriages
  - Galloon Parish Marriages
  - Inishmacsaint Parish Marriages
  - Kinawley Parish Marriages
  - Killesher Parish Marriages
  - Lisnaskea Marriages

Links are also available to message boards and GenWeb projects.

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### North Irish Horse in the Great War

This site explores the experiences of soldiers of the North Irish Horse during the First World War. It covers the five Squadrons sent to France from 1914 to 1916, as well as the 6th Inniskilling Dragoons (Service Squadron), which became part of the 2nd Regiment North Irish Horse in 1916, the V Corps Cyclist Regiment formed when the 1st Regiment was dismounted in early 1918, and the 9th (North Irish Horse) Battalion, Royal Irish Fusiliers, formed when the 2nd Regiment was dismounted and merged with the 9th Battalion in September 1917.

The site draws on official records, contemporary references and later recollections, along with a gallery of photographs, extracts from war diaries and casualty lists.

[www.northirishhorse.com.au](http://www.northirishhorse.com.au)



## Surname Distribution Map



At "Who Do You Think You Are?" Live 2010 last February, Malcolm Pether from RootsMap offered to supply a *free* surname distribution map to each of our members. RootsMap is a family run business, established after many years' experience in research.

The maps show the distribution of households in Ireland by county, based on Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864. You can see an example of an Irish Surname Map on the Home page.

He will supply one map per member, showing the name of your choice, either in Ireland or Great Britain.

Visit the website [www.rootsmap.com](http://www.rootsmap.com) to see the names that are available.

The advantage to our members is that they get a distribution map free, and the benefit for him is that the name of RootsMap becomes more widely known within the family history community.

The free map will be delivered by attachment, in PDF format, to an email address. Purchased maps can be posted as hard copy.

All members have to do is send an email with their request to [info@rootsmap.com](mailto:info@rootsmap.com)

### The Huguenots: France, Exile and Integration

The fifth International Huguenot Congress takes place from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

The first three days of the conference will take place at the Magee campus of the University of Ulster in Londonderry and there will be an excursion to Dublin on Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> September. The visit to Dublin will be hosted by the Irish Section of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland.

Further details from the website:

[www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/huguenot2010/main.php](http://www.arts.ulster.ac.uk/huguenot2010/main.php)



The National Hall, Olympia, London,  
25th-27th February 2011

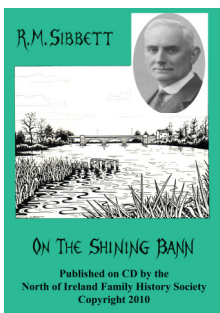
We've booked our table for next year!

### PRONI

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland closes its doors at Balmoral Avenue on Friday 3rd September 2010. See their website for details of the closure and the microfilm service available at Cregagh Library. [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

## On the Shining Bann - Records of an Ulster Manor

By R. M. Sibbett



A CD version of this out of print book, first published in 1928, is now available. It is a history of the manor of Cashel, the area around Portglenone, County Antrim, and gives a great deal of information about the local families. The author, R. M. Sibbett was born in 1868 in Killycoogan, Portglenone and had a great love for his birthplace. When writing his book about the area, Mr Sibbett accessed an original Grand Jury Book (1769-1825) and incorporated much of its wealth of historical and family details. The book is in searchable PDF format.

Further details are on our website, under publications.

[www.nifhs.org](http://www.nifhs.org)



# GRONI



Oxford House, Chichester Street, Belfast

The General Register Office maintains a public search room in which the general public and genealogists can search computerised indexes. Facilities have greatly improved in recent months, and there is now a much bigger room with about 20 computer terminals. Booking time has also improved and it is possible to book an Index Search within a week or two.

Details for booking are on their website under Family History and Research (in the list on the right of the screen).

[www.groni.gov.uk](http://www.groni.gov.uk)

All searching is done at a computer terminal, and the new digitized birth index is now available. This is a brief guide and mock up of the search screen.

## Birth Search

Birth Reg. Ref. Number  *Ignore this when searching.*

Child's Forename

Child's Surname  *Beware of alternative spellings and mistakes in transcription of names.*

Mother's Maiden Name

Date of Birth  dd/mm/yyyy

Year of Birth

Year Range of Birth  to  *The maximum year range is 10 years.*

District   *District is a drop down list, but it's best to leave this field empty, as there are so many options.*

You do not need to complete all fields, but you **must** fill in at least the child's surname and **one** of the date options. The maximum year range is ten years.

This new database enables you to search using the mother's maiden name. So you can look for a particular child, or if you put in the child's surname and the mother's maiden name with a year range of ten years you will see all children registered by those parents in that year range.

There are transcription errors so you will need to try alternative spellings. Members of staff welcome being given a note of any errors, and they will pass them on for correction.

The Birth Registration Reference Number is needed if you wish to order a certificate.

This new index allows you to see the mother's maiden name and the date of birth.

The result of your search will look like this:

Reference Number	Child Forename	Child Surname	Mother's Maiden Name	Date of Birth	District of Registration	Entry History
U/1913/59/1007/29/282	Agnes	XXXXXX	Kennedy	04/10/1913	Belfast	
U/1911/52/1007/99/482	Albert Edward	XXXXXX	Davidson	18/06/1912	Enniskillen	
U/1912/172/1021/45/254	Albert David	XXXXXX	Gibson	18/01/1912	Lurgan	

To access more information such as where the birth took place or the father's address you will need to request a 'Verification', and a member of staff will show you a scan of the registration entry on another computer screen.

Four verifications are included in the £12 fee for an index search (9.30am-3.30pm), and you pay £3 for each additional one.

The new index of deaths will be available soon.