



*** NEW LOCATION, NEW PREMISES, NEW NAME ***

Research Centre and Randal Gill Library

Several of our Associate Members and many Branch members have already visited our new Research Centre at Valley Business Centre, Newtownabbey. The Mayor of Newtownabbey declared the premises open on Wednesday 5th September and for those of you who haven't seen it yet here are some photos!

Maps of the location are on our website. www.nifhs.org

From this...



to this...



From this...



to this...



Tea Room and Irish Journals



From this...



to this...



A whole room for Maps and Directories!



Our Research Centre is open on Tuesdays from 2.00pm-8.00pm, Wednesday mornings from 10.00am until 12.30pm, and Saturday mornings 10.00am-12.30pm. Access at other times is by prior arrangement. See our website for contact details.

Unit C4, Valley Business Centre, 67 Church Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT36 7LS



Now that we have more space to display our resources, previously un-noticed items are coming to light.

We have a small collection of Railway Journals in our library, one of which contains this interesting report on plans to construct a tunnel from Co. Antrim to Scotland. The article makes interesting reading and the author's research describes the various methods proposed.

NORTH CHANNEL TUNNEL

We may just glance at the earlier suggestion for a "dryshod" crossing, for an enormous embankment, proposed in the early 1860s to extend from Torr Head in Antrim to Mould in Kintyre in Scotland. We need not consider this any further than to wonder what was to be source of the immense mass of material, which was to provide the cost, and how the engineers expected to preserve the embankment in security in the currents and tides of the Channel.

In 1868 however, appeared a scheme for a Tunnel under the North Channel, and since the authors, Messrs Lyndon L. Macassey and William Scott, went into considerable detail about their ideas, we can be very clear as to what they were seeking to create. The route selected was from near Cushendall in Antrim to Glenstrone in Kintyre, the Tunnel itself to be about 34½ miles, with a single line of railway of dual gauge (5' 3" and 4' 8½") and connecting lines to join the Tunnel to the systems of the two countries. As the Mull of Kintyre was and is far from any main line, the scheme involved no fewer than 112 miles of new railway to Helensburgh on the Clyde; on the Irish side would be connecting lines to Ballymoney on the Belfast-Derry railway, and along the coast to Larne, Belfast and places south.

Extract from an article by K. A. Murray in the JOURNAL OF THE IRISH RAILWAY SOCIETY, Oct. 1995

If you are interested in reading the full article, which includes other proposals, including a plan by Dr. A. A. Wells of Queen's University, Belfast in 1964, contact irishsect@nifhs.org for a pdf copy.

THE CATHOLIC HERALD

<http://archive.catholicherald.co.uk/>

Discover history in the Catholic Herald from 1935 to 2011. Every page has been scanned and digitized, each article tagged and extracted, so that you can search the whole archive by content, keyword, topic, location, and date. The archive includes an interesting article written in 1941.

Nightly Flight to Barns and Ditches

BELFAST PEOPLE NEED 40,000 FAMILY HUTS IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

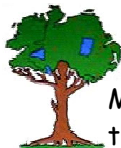
<http://archive.catholicherald.co.uk/article/23rd-may-1941/5/nightly-flight-to-barns-and-ditches>

LIVERPOOL HISTORY PROJECTS

Those of you with ancestors in Liverpool may be interested in this website. It has been set up by a group of people who have accumulated records from the Liverpool Record Office, and their aim is to complement Freebmd and Lancashirebmd. The site contains **Roman Catholic Marriages, baptisms and burials** with a complete index to all the 55,000+ marriages from all the Roman Catholic Churches in central Liverpool and the vast majority of those in the suburbs, formerly in West Derby, Toxteth Park, Ormskirk and Prescot registration districts for the years 1837 to 1901. Under 'Irish Fragments' there are lists of pupils registered in Roman Catholic schools, whose previous school was listed as Ireland, and burial records that list individuals who were returned to Ireland for burial.

www.liverpoolhistoryprojects.co.uk

Suggestions for a new name for this newsletter will be gratefully received! sandraardis@btinternet.com



HOLY FAMILY PARISH CHURCH



More than 5,000 baptism records have now been transcribed and checked and will soon be on the shelves in the Randal Gill Library. A big **THANK YOU** to all those members at home and abroad who helped to transcribe and check these records.

We will be starting on the marriage records very soon, and we would be pleased to hear from any member interested in helping with this work. A batch of images and a spreadsheet will be emailed to each volunteer wherever they are in the world, along with guidelines for transcribing. You don't need to be fast, accuracy is more important!

Contact: newtownabbey@nifhs.org

HELP!

Clementine Delves, one of our Associate Members, has requested help in locating information about the 44th Regiment (East Essex) and where in Ireland the regiment was stationed c1810-1825.

If you can help Tina
she can be contacted at -
delves84@btinternet.com

IRISH DNA ATLAS

The Genealogical Society of Ireland and the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland have launched an all Ireland project to create a collection of DNA samples from individuals of Irish origin. Participants should have eight great-grandparents who came from the same general area and will be asked to provide a Birth Brief showing the genealogical details of their immediate ancestors, back to their eight great grandparents. Information about the aims of the project and the collection of the data can be found in the Project Newsletter -

http://familyhistory.ie/docs/DNA/DNA_01.pdf

MORE BAPTISM RECORDS ONLINE

Derramore Presbyterian Church, Co. Londonderry has baptism records, 1825-1899 and gravestone inscriptions on their website
www.derramorepresbyterianchurch.co.uk

Fortwilliam Park Presbyterian Church has baptism records from 1885-2005 available on their website. They can be searched by name and filtered by date. Images of the original registers in PDF format can be downloaded and browsed.
www.fmpci.com/fortwilliam-park/baptismal-register

Baptism records of Macrory Memorial Presbyterian Church, Duncairn Gardens, Belfast, from 1941 until its amalgamation with Fortwilliam Park Presbyterian Church in 2005. Original images may be downloaded.
www.fmpci.com/macrory-memorial/baptismal-register

See a photo of Macrory Memorial Church at Geograph -
www.geograph.ie/photo/2591912



MAGHERA AND DISTRICT GENEALOGY AND HISTORY

Described as a platform for the sharing of knowledge, this site has a catchment area that includes Garvagh, Kilrea, Magherafelt, Moneymore, and Draperstown. Material for the site has been submitted by volunteers and includes headstone transcriptions and photos, church and civil records, 1831 census records, and information about towns and villages in the area.
www.magheragenealogy.org/index.php/home