



This summer edition of *NIFHS NEWS* is to keep you updated on your Society's activities and it aims to bring to your attention a number of useful resources.

## COURSES

For those of you who live within striking distance of Newtownabbey, a wide range of short courses will be available at our Research Centre in October and November. Some cater for the beginner and some for the expert; they cover craft work and DNA and much more. Our previous courses proved popular and, as it's a case of first come, first served, book your place now at [www.nifhs.org/resources/courses/](http://www.nifhs.org/resources/courses/), where details are available. These courses will also be available to the general public but Members have the opportunity to book now before the courses are advertised to the public; also Members enjoy a discount. You might have friends that would be interested in this programme - tell them about it - perhaps they would like to join the Society.

The courses begin on the following dates:

October 1st - "**The Advantages of Y-DNA**" - 1 Saturday afternoon

October 3rd - "**You've taken the DNA Test, what next? - Understanding Family Finder**" - 3 Monday evenings

October 4th - "**Writing up Your Family History**" - 1 Tuesday morning & afternoon

October 8th - "**Dublin Archives & Visit to Dublin**" - 1 Saturday afternoon PLUS trip to be arranged

October 8th - "**You've taken the DNA Test, what next? - Understanding Family Finder**" - 3 Saturday afternoons

October 11th - "**Life in Ulster in the 1830s**" - 1 Tuesday morning

October 18th - "**A Beginners' Guide to Facebook**" - 1 Tuesday morning

October 25th - "**The Plantation of Ulster - Names & Places**" - 1 Tuesday morning

October 29th - "**Memory Box - a creative craft class**" - 1 Saturday morning and afternoon

November 5th - "**A Beginners' Guide to Facebook**" - 1 Saturday afternoon

November 9th - "**A Beginners' Guide to Word**" - 1 Wednesday afternoon

November 15th - "**Land Records & Maps**" - 1 Tuesday morning and afternoon

November 16th - "**Manipulating Images in Word**" - 1 Wednesday afternoon

November 19th - "**Researching Military Ancestors**" - 2 Saturday afternoons

November 23rd - "**A Beginners' Guide to PowerPoint**" - 1 Wednesday afternoon

Should you have any queries about these courses, please contact [Education@nifhs.org](mailto:Education@nifhs.org).



At the Annual General Meeting in May, a number of valued and long serving Officers of the Society decided not to stand again. Chief among these were our President, Rosemary Sibbett, who had also been Membership Secretary (and had worn various other hats) for very many years, our Chairperson of many years, Ann Robinson, who has now taken on the rôle of President of the Society, and our Treasurer of many years, Robert Guthrie. The success of the Society and its development on many fronts are tributes to their excellent leadership.

## Council now has the following Officers

Honorary President	Ann Robinson	Vice-President	Michael M <sup>c</sup> Keag
Chairperson	Brian O'Hara	Education & Development Officer	vacant
General Secretary	vacant	Project Officer	Anne Johnston
Membership Secretary	Sandra Ardis	Dispatch Officer	Maggie Lyttle
Treasurer	vacant	Publicity Officer	Maeve Rogan

As you can see, there are several vacancies still to be filled as a result of recent changes of responsibilities - please consider volunteering. In addition, Council would like to appoint Deputies to the Chairperson, General Secretary, Membership Secretary and Treasurer. If you would like to help, please contact [Chair@nifhs.org](mailto:Chair@nifhs.org).

## Some Society News

Two Branches are considering changing their names to reflect their membership better. The Coleraine Branch is proposing **Causeway Coast and Glens** and the Omagh Branch is proposing **Tyrone**. In due course our website and literature will be revised to reflect the new names once they have been confirmed.

Meanwhile, at the time of writing, the Branch pages on the Society's website are in the process of being updated to list the programmes for the coming year, beginning in September. All Members are welcome to attend the meetings of any Branch and are encouraged to bring along friends, who will be under no obligation to join but may wish to sample what the Branches have to offer. See [www.nifhs.org/branches/](http://www.nifhs.org/branches/).

The collection of material in our Research Centre at Newtownabbey continues to grow. Far flung Members who will be visiting Ulster are invited to get in touch beforehand to arrange for the Centre to be open at a time that is convenient to them. E-mail [Bookings@nifhs.org](mailto:Bookings@nifhs.org). Those who cannot visit the Centre may ask for material to be looked up. E-mail [Lookup@nifhs.org](mailto:Lookup@nifhs.org).



## Article in Family History Monthly Magazine, December 2010

A common urban myth goes that a steerage passenger tells a Jew that his name sounds too Jewish and suggests another. But when the Ellis Island clerk asks his name, he nervously blurts out in Yiddish: "Sheyn fergessen" (I already forgot). And on the spot he became Sean Ferguson.

Many tales circulate about surname changes that occurred on reaching Ellis Island yet none are true. All immigrants' documents were prepared before leaving the departure port by shipping clerks in Europe. From then on immigrants' names however they appeared were official. So if any misspellings occurred they occurred before departure, either due to misunderstandings, variations in pronunciation, or simply a clerk's momentary inattention. And clerks who investigated passengers' documentation on their arrival to Ellis Island did not write down any names. They worked from the original European lists.

Of course immigrants could alter their names anytime after arrival.

## V.A.D. in WW1

<http://www.redcross.org.uk/About-us/Who-we-are/Museum-and-archives/Resources-for-researchers/Volunteers-and-personnel-records>

In 1909 the War Office issued the Scheme for the Organisation of Voluntary Aid. Under this scheme, the British Red Cross was given the rôle supporting the Territorial Forces Medical Service in the event of war. It did this by recruiting volunteers, called Voluntary Aid Detachment members. They came to be known simply as 'VADs'. They were trained in first aid and nursing and proved invaluable during both world wars. The Red Cross website has a series of indexes recording the service details of personnel working during both world wars. These indexes are very extensive but they are known to be incomplete. Record cards may include the dates of service, the nature of the duties performed, the detachment the individual belonged to, the institutions and places where the individual served, and any honours that may have been awarded. In addition, there are indexes for personnel who served in military hospitals, who were trained nurses, and who received the war medal.



An example is the Ramsey family of Enagh Manse, Ballymoney. Eileen Florence and Winifred both served during the Great War and have two record cards each. Eileen was a cook and pantry maid and parlour maid at the Hotel Crystal, Boulogne, for a year and then, after seven weeks in the Ballymoney War Hospital Supply Depot, spent two years in Postal Censorship at the Dock Office in Liverpool. Winifred was a laboratory assistant in the War Hospital in Newcastle, Staffordshire, before transferring to the 1<sup>st</sup> West General in Liverpool as a section leader.



## OpenStreetMap & Irish Townlands

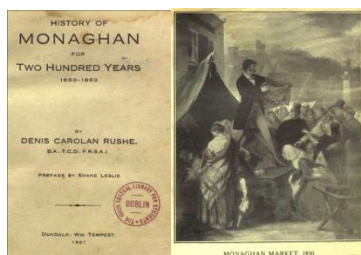


[www.OpenStreetMap.org](http://www.OpenStreetMap.org) is a collaborative project to create a free editable map of the world. Still a work in progress, it already contains an immense amount of information and can be useful in illustrating your family history. It is used in conjunction with the Irish Townlands database at [www.townlands.ie](http://www.townlands.ie) - e.g. see <https://www.townlands.ie/derry/coleraine/macosquin/camus/>.

## E-Books about Ireland

The *AskAboutIreland* website is well known for hosting Griffith's Valuation and its associated maps but it has more, including e-books on Irish places - south of the border - at <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/>. So, if you are looking for background information for your family history, these could well be useful. A couple of examples:

Rushe, Denis Carolan: *History of Monaghan for two hundred years: 1660-1860*. Dublin: Wm. Tempest, 1921.  
 Townsend, Horatio. *Statistical survey of the county of Cork*. Dublin: Graisberry and Campbell, 1810.







## Easter Rising & Ireland Under Martial Law, 1916-1921

<http://search.findmypast.ie/search-world-Records/easter-rising-and-ireland-under-martial-law-1916-1921>

Mr. Wolfe then replied, and submitted that the charges had been proved. Accused had been a tool in the hands of other people—people whom he (Mr. Wolfe) would like to see in the accused's place. Those people who used the accused in that way were that day far away from him, trying to save their own skins. While the charges had been proved, he would be glad, as the advocate of a merciful law, if the Court could see its way to extend to the accused in his hour of need the mercy of the law which had been so grossly and shockingly violated.

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61055>

<http://search.ancestry.co.uk/search/db.aspx?dbid=61054>

Discover your ancestor among the thousands of names of those who participated in or were affected by the Easter Rising of April 1916. The collection also documents the names of both civilians and soldiers who were court-martialled in the years following the Rising. You will also find the British Army and Royal Irish Constabulary search and raid reports, which were created during the War of Independence as guerrilla warfare exploded across Ireland.

In the case above, Jasper Wolfe of Skibbereen, the Cork Crown Solicitor, prosecuting at Courts Martial, successfully prosecuted a printer for printing seditious literature but then asked the court to show mercy. Although an outspoken Home Ruler who had shared a platform in London with George Bernard Shaw and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Jasper was kidnapped by the I.R.A. and on its death list for prosecuting their men - but, having a good reputation as a defence lawyer, he was also retained by the I.R.A. to defend their men. On one occasion some I.R.A. men arrived to burn down his house; Jasper said "Come on in. I'm just having a drink. Why don't you join me?" Two or three hours later the men left, incapable of lighting a cigarette, let alone a house. On another occasion he had to leave Ireland to avoid being shot. Later he was elected a T.D. for Cork.

## Irish Quaker Records at FindMyPast

The Society of Friends has always kept excellent records. The first sets of Irish Quaker records from the mid-1600s are now online at FindMyPast, with more to come; so far the following are online:

Birth- over 28,000	<a href="https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-births-1714376457.html">https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-births-1714376457.html</a>
Marriage- over 33,000	<a href="https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-marriages-1714368093.html">https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-marriages-1714368093.html</a>
Death - over 39,000	<a href="https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-deaths-1714344283.html">https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-deaths-1714344283.html</a>
School- over 43,000	<a href="https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-school-records-1714329487.html">https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-school-records-1714329487.html</a>
Migration - over 16,000	<a href="https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-migration-records-1714316486.html">https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-migration-records-1714316486.html</a>
Congregational - million+	<a href="https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-congregational-records-1714308633.html">https://blog.findmypast.co.uk/ireland-society-of-friends-quaker-congregational-records-1714308633.html</a>

## John Grenham's records move to [www.JohnGrenham.com](http://www.JohnGrenham.com)

For some years the *Irish Times* website hosted John Grenham's excellent genealogical material. He has now set up a new website. Most of the site is free but a small payment is asked from heavy users.

Thanks to Claire Santry's blog at [irish-genealogy-news.blogspot.com/](http://irish-genealogy-news.blogspot.com/).

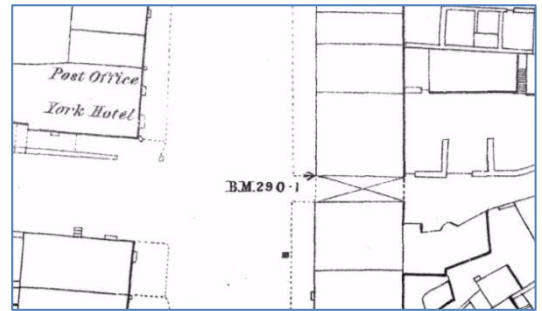


## 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ordnance Survey Maps of the Republic of Ireland



University College, Dublin, has made 1,369 maps available at <http://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:40377>. They include places in Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan but not the 6 counties. The site's abstract reads "A collection of mainly 19<sup>th</sup> century maps of almost 150 cities, towns, and villages in the Republic of Ireland. Most are Town Plans which were surveyed at either five or ten foot to one mile scale between 1837 and 1896.

The remainder were produced by enlargement of the 1/2500 maps between 1892 and 1911." There is a map of the whole of Ireland at <http://digital.ucd.ie/maps/explorer/> so you can zoom and then click on the area of interest - e.g. zooming on Ballybay shows two rectangles denoting maps; clicking on one of them brings up the map; details from the maps are shown here.



Thanks to Chris Paton's blog at [www.BritishGenes.blogspot.com](http://www.BritishGenes.blogspot.com).

## Directories

A great range of Irish directories is available, mainly street directories but also those listing medics, clergy, police, ... A good list of those that are digitised is at <http://www.swilson.info/dirdb.php> - some of these are at PRONI and some elsewhere - some free, some not - some cover this part of Ireland, some that part. And don't forget the many directories on the shelves of the Map Room at the Society's Research Centre: <http://www.nifhs.org/resources/directories/>. Together these cover the years 1738, 1787, 1798, over half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and most of the 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Edwardian Postcard Project



The early British postcard is a fascinating multimodal communications technology. In the heyday of the postcard during the Edwardian age (1901-1910), it offered an opportunity for the exchange of everyday messages with pictures at very low cost. This opportunity was not to be available again until the contemporary digital revolution. Up to six deliveries a day were being made in major cities and 6 billion cards were sent in the period. We at Lancaster University have collected 3,000 cards from the period to examine the creative responses of the population to this new technology.

This site at <http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass/projects/EVIIpc/index.php> now features a searchable resource of 1,000 of our cards, together with their transcriptions. We've added historical records wherever we've been able to find additional historical information, especially from the 1901 and 1911 censuses. The example shows a postcard sent from Dundalk to Miss Margaret Calvin of Waterside, Coleraine, in 1909.



Thanks to Dick Eastman's blog at [blog.eogn.com](http://blog.eogn.com).