



# Lisburn Branch Newsletter

January 2018

Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

**'Those who do not treasure up the memory of their ancestors, do not deserve to be remembered by Posterity'. Edmund Burke 1729 - 1797**

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## The Big Freeze 1947

We didn't have time last month to cover the winter of 1947. If you want to read about it then the book - Ireland's Artic Freeze, The Big Freeze of 1947 Kevin C Kearns 941 708 22 is available from the library. It concentrates on conditions in the then Free State particularly in and around Dublin but the weather was much the same in the north.

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## Understanding Documents for Genealogy & Local History by Bruce Durie 929.1

This book from the library service deals with understanding early documents. It is largely about English, Welch and Scottish documents but there is plenty of valuable information in its 448 pages. For example, the author has devised a 'realistic' table of the relative values of money over a period of over 400 years. It is based on prices and wages. If your ancestor's was left £100 in a will in 1850, it would have been worth 126 X £100 of equivalent purchasing power now. Monetary conversion across the ages is not an exact science but for a rough estimate, Bruce Durie suggests using X 200 for 1600 - 1800 and X 100 for 1800 - 1900.

Year	Value	Year	Value	Year	Value
1600	233	1750	205	1955	25
1620	221	1800	77	1965	19
1640	194	1850	126	1970	16
1660	156	1900	114	1980	3.5
1680	187	1914	107	1990	1.75
1700	158	1919	47	2011	1
1720	168	1939	60		
1740	166	1946	39		

For more on the subject of relative value see <https://www.measuringworth.com/>

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## Ancestors in the Royal Navy

For anyone who finds a Royal Navy sailor in their family tree there is a wealth of information on the web. Apart from the naval records [www.findmypast.uk](http://www.findmypast.uk) (free access at C4 and PRONI) information about all aspects of life in the navy (which included the Coastguard service) can be found at <http://www.pbenyon.plus.com/>

## Tip of the month – six suggestions for New Year Resolutions

1) Keep a rough notebook in which all family history discoveries are written down hopefully dated and with sources. 2) Try not to use scraps of paper. 3) Organise findings in some way before they become overwhelming. 4) Draw up family trees. 5) Make copies of original documents and photographs 6) Write down the family stories.

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### What shall we name the baby? – a cautionary tale of the three Margarets.

After finding names on the census records, the next step is often searching for birth certificates which will lead to mother's maiden name. One usually assumes that the names on the census return are at least similar to those which were registered. Recently I was researching a family in Carryduff who had three daughters - Amy, Annie and Margaret Hutchinson, all at home in 1901. When I looked for Amy's birth certificate, there were no Amys. There were lots of Annie Hutchinsons but not the right one. With Margaret - success. She was registered by her father as Margaret Sarah. I then found the birth dates of the two older girls in [www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchives.co.uk). Back to [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie) and I found Margaret Elizabeth (alias Amy) registered by her maternal Aunt Elizabeth and Margaret Julia (alias Annie) registered by her Aunt Maggie. Surely this must have led to bureaucratic problems in later life. If you have an interesting story, please let us know.

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### JSTOR Irish collection

Members of NIFHS have access to JSTOR, an online system for archiving academic journals. History Ireland from the Sept/ Oct 2014 issue up to and including the 2017 issues, published a series of short articles by Fiona Fitzsimons on Family History resources. Some cover unusual records such as the Quit Rent Office (Jan/Feb 2015) which dealt with both urban and agricultural Crown estates between 1660s and 1930s. Detailed estate records survive, including leases, rentals and tenant lists - (National Archives of Ireland). Tudor Fiants (July/Aug 2015) - warrants issued between 1521 and 1603 to draw up written orders which would convey a right, an office, a title to property or a pardon. These records contain over 120,000 names which include, in addition to those of the great families, - aldermen, merchants, artisans and yeomen. (The Irish Fiants of the Tudor Sovereigns - National Library of Ireland). Another article (Nov/Dec 2016) dealt with Convert Rolls 1703-1845 and Catholic Qualification Rolls 1774 - 1845) which are available on findmypast. (free at the C4 library.

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### PRONI – on line additions in 2018

PRONI plan to link a range of digitised images to its online catalogue and one of these will be the Education Commissioner's Grant Aid Applications (mentioned by Valerie Adams in November). The Tithe Applotment Books (1823 -1837) for NI counties are also being digitised.

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### What's on in January/ February

The list of courses for Spring 2018 will soon be appearing on the NIFHS website. Some of the courses book up very quickly so keep having a look at the website.

**Back to Our Past**, Belfast -16 to 17 February Titanic Suite. This is the first time this event has been run in Belfast. Being a volunteer at the NIFHS is not only enjoyable but will give you free entry .

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