



# Lisburn Branch Newsletter



February 2018

Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

**'How often have I said to you that when you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth?' quote from 'Sherlock Holmes'**

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## Spring Courses at NIFHS library

New courses at C4 are listed on the NIFHS web site, beginning with Family Finder 1 on 6, 13 and 20 February. This course is repeated (Family Finder 2) on 3, 10 and 17 March. On February 20 a free course on using JSTOR followed on February 27 by The Plantation of Ulster - Names and Places. Other courses are about using DNA results except for Family Tree Maker on March 13 and Scottish Records on May 8. Check the web site for details.

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## Advice from Family Tree Magazine - thanks to John Beatty for this.

Transcriptions need to be checked, transcribers are often interpreting difficult handwriting. First names tend to be more reliable than surnames which might change, for example children may adopt a step father's name.

When doing a search, resist the temptation to complete all the search boxes. Entering less information may be more successful in finding what you are looking for.

Family Reconstruction - extract every possible reference to a surname in a particular area and attempt to sort them into distinct family groups. Then start to build up theories about relationships between them. Try to disprove a theory rather than trying to prove it.

Throughout 2018 Family Tree magazine is running a Family Tree Academy. Challenges are set each month and the answers given the following month. These challenges will mainly deal with English and Welsh records.

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## British Merchant Navy Lists 1915

Over 39,000 names of merchant seamen serving in 1915 have been digitised and are available to search for free at <http://1915crewlists.rmq.co.uk/>

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## More free resources

Have a look at the long list of free pages compiled by Ulster Ancestry at <http://www.ulsterancestry.com/ua-free-pages.php> They have been sorted by date and county which makes it easy to find those that may be useful for your research. Also free on Ulster Ancestry - the Court Cheque Book for Co. Antrim in 1776 (PRONI D1364/L/1). This is a long list of freeholders (no search facility) who elected two Knights to represent Co. Antrim in the Dublin Parliament. Names and townlands are given and a few reside in other counties.

## The Photograph as an Historical Source



Our talk in February is about photographs so here is a little puzzle. This image shows a building in Market Square which still exists. At the time it was Magill's public house and hotel. Where is it, when might the photograph have been taken and what could be the reason it was decorated in this way? Before it was Magill's it was the residence of the McClure family. A descendant visited Lisburn last year and was delighted to be able to stand in front of her 2 x great grandfather Adam McClure's home. One of the Adam McClure's sons emigrated to Canada. In 1866 he distinguished himself by speaking in the Legislative Assembly of Vancouver Island for 16 hours. To prevent legislation being passed allowing speculators to grab tax-sale land, he stood up to speak at 2 pm on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April and sat down again at 6 am the next morning.

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### DNA Atlas of Ireland - volunteers required

The Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and the Genealogical Society of Ireland are looking for volunteers whose eight great grandparents were born within 50km of each other on the island of Ireland and who are willing to take part in genetic testing. The study has already revealed 10 distinct genetic clusters - 7 'Gaelic' Irish ancestry and 3 of shared British- Irish ancestry. If you are interested email Seamus O'Reilly via [irish.dna@familyhistory.ie](mailto:irish.dna@familyhistory.ie)

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### A Chance Conversation - thanks to Tim for this story

At the end of last month's meeting, Tim was chatting to Florence about the interesting talk given by William Roulston. He mentioned that the early Templepatrick Presbyterian records were of interest to him as he was researching a family connection there. Florence said that she had an interest in the Duffield family from Templepatrick, in particular a Florence Duffield after whom she was named. That was like lighting the blue touch paper! Tim's mother's maiden name was Duffield and he has been researching the Duffield connection with the Templepatrick area prior to the family moving to Belfast in the late 1800s/early 1900s.



Florence was completely familiar with the Duffield family having spent considerable time in their company as a small child. She told Tim about their occupations, places of work, family homes, church and birth, marriage and death dates. She has also been able to send him photographs. For Tim it brought to life a part of his family research that would have remained a dry branch on his family tree. And all that from a chance conversation at the end of our meeting!

Harry and Florrie Duffield

### What's on in February

**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 .

Registered Charity Number NIC106071

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