



Lisburn Branch Newsletter



March 2018

Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

It is a capital mistake to theorise before you have all the evidence. It biases the judgement. 'Sherlock Holmes' - The Study in Scarlet

Beyond 2022 project

All Irish family historians must mourn the day in 1922 that the Public Records office burned down reducing 7 centuries of history to ash or fragments that blew away in the wind. To mark the 100th anniversary of this event, a virtual replica of the public records office is being constructed which will 'hold' as many of the surviving documents or records which had been copied or substitutes as possible. The project will be available on 30 June 2022. Read about it at - www.beyond2022.ie

Families in British India

<https://wiki.fibis.org> The place to go if you have discovered family in British India. Many people served with the army, in the civil service, on the railways or as missionaries (to name but a few occupations) in British India. The records are very comprehensive. Your brick wall could be in India.!

Townlands

There are approximately 61,000 townlands in Ireland (Place Names Study 2014). Many have similar names eg. 'Tully' meaning a small hill. They come in all sizes (averaging 325 acres) and shapes but are vital for family history. Locating a townland on a Griffith's Valuation map can be difficult so it is useful to search www.townlands.ie which shows the shape and location of the barony, parish and townland on a modern map. Another use of this website is identifying townlands on BMD certificates which are difficult to read or have variable spelling.

Book Review - Flesh and Blood: A History of my Family in Seven Maladies

The title of this book in the Library Service catalogue attracted my attention. It describes five generations of a family through the maladies that afflicted them, such as hunger, pestilence and exposure. The author, Stephen McGann is an amateur genealogist and an actor (playing the doctor in Call the Midwife). He is also a bit of a philosopher. Each chapter in the book deals with a different malady in terms of Medicine, History and Testimony. The Medicine might be a bit too detailed for some but the History and Testimony are fascinating. The book illustrates a novel way to write up a family history.

Irish Miles versus Statute (English) Miles

The Irish mile measured 2240 yards or about 1.27 statute miles or 2.048 km. It was used in Ireland from the C 16th plantations to the 19th century with some use into the 20th century.

Archive.org - a website mentioned by William Roulston in January

Examples of books found on this website. 1) 'History of Congregations of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and biographical notes of eminent Presbyterian ministers and laymen, with the significance of names of places' published in 1886 by the Rev. W.D. Killen
2) Irish Marriages, being an index to the marriages in Walker's Hibernian Magazine 1771-1812 by Henry Farrar Vol 2 K - Z and appendix.

Report of the Society for Promoting the Education of the Poor 1827 - Google Books

The Kildare Place Society ran schools in Ireland before the setting up of the National School System. The appendices contain lists of schools and teachers. 1 to 4 - names of teachers being trained in the Model Schools, their ages, religion and the schools that they taught in. **Thomas Arbuckle** aged 25, trained Nov. 1826 - Feb. 1827, taught in Ballymagroarty, Co Derry
Eliza McKnight aged 24, trained Feb. - May 1826 and taught in Purdy's Burn School, Co Down.
William Hemphill aged 34, trained Mar. - June 1826, taught in Cloyfin, Co Derry since 1812.
Appendix 5 is a list of teachers who were paid gratuities because from inspectors' reports, they appeared 'to be deserving of encouragement', for example, **John Moore** teaching at Culmore, Co Derry and **Joseph Gordon** at Broomhedge, Co Antrim. Appendix 7 is a list of all the schools connected with the Kildare Place Society on 5 January 1827.

Tip of the month - Searching in different ways

Many webs sites (such as Find My Past, Family Search and the Irish Census) will allow searches using given names only. Though this is no good unless your ancestor has at least two given names (preferably one of them a family surname), it can be useful if you have enough other information to filter out improbable results. This type of search can help if the surname has many different spellings or if a woman has married and the surname is not known. Find My Past has recently added searching by addresses on all their UK census records. On Irish census records - policemen, hospital and workhouse residents were listed by their initials only but all the other usual information has been recorded.

Church of Ireland Gazette - 1856 -1923 - free to search at <https://esearch.informa.ie/rcb/>

Known as Irish Ecclesiastical Gazette and then The Church of Ireland Gazette; Searchable by word, date range or title of article. Value to genealogists - lots of references to people.

What's on in March.

Lisburn NIFHS - 13th Members' Research - Bring along any item, photograph or document which has aided and informed your research. Several members will be sharing what they have discovered.

PRONI - free talks but please register

March 14: 1- 2pm - Click and Create - Photographing Commemoration in Ireland

March 21: 1- 2pm Memories and Memorialisation - Ulstermen at St. Quentin

NOTE: Crafting Live - April 26th to 28th - volunteers will be needed for the NIFHS stall.

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www.nifhs.org