



Lisburn Branch Newsletter



April 2018

Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

Stories

Thank you to all who contributed stories for our March meeting. There was a great variety of stories and it helps in planning talks to know what areas members are researching. Apologies to those people who did not get to tell their stories. I realise that a 10 minute time limit per story was totally unrealistic and in the end I had too many volunteers. Next time, it will be better organised with more time to look at the material that members bring along.

BMD on GRONI and Irishgenealogy.ie Thanks to Rosemary Sibbert for this information.

I had assumed that BMD information up to 1921 on these two websites would be the same but this is not the case as the images are derived from different sources. Registrars in Ireland recorded births, marriages and death in Register books which were kept in local custody. The ones for Northern Ireland have been digitised by GRONI. At the end of each quarter, all Registrars had to hand write copies of all events registered in their district. These were written on loose leaf sheets and when completed, the Registrar signed that each sheet was a true copy of their Register book. The Quarterly returns were sent to Dublin up to 1922 and bound in registers there. These have been digitised by irishgenealogy.ie. You will notice on the GRONI images that there are actual signatures of informants. On the equivalent irishgenealogy.ie copy the 'signature' will have been copied. Sometimes entries will be missing from irishgenealogy.ie but will be found on GRONI or on websites where transcriptions are derived from GRONI. (BMD from border areas, where the event took place in the 26 counties (now ROI) but was registered in a county which is now Northern Ireland, may not appear on GRONI but will be found on irishgenealogy.ie)

Ten Tips for searching old Newspaper Archives - from www.theancestorhunt.com

Deliberately misspell when searching on line as scanning old newsprint creates errors.
Try abbreviations for given names such as Wm for William, Jno for John, Robt for Robert.
Remember to search for hyphenated words by searching for portions of words.
Married women went by their husbands names. Mrs Samuel Jones or Mrs Jones.
Search for an address rather than a name or combine street name / address with surname.
When searching for obituaries add 'beloved' or 'dear' or 'loving' to your search criteria.
For birth announcements add 'born to' or 'born to wife of' to surname.
In the search criteria combine names with occupations, churches, business names, clubs etc.
Browse for cause of death for 2 weeks before death date. Death may be due to an accident.
For names beginning with Mc, search also M' especially in the older newspapers.

Genealogy Podcasts and Downloads

Cyndi's list www.cyndislist.com/podcasts/general/ contains a list of useful podcasts such as Family Tree Magazine Podcast. There is also a link to BBC Radio 4's *Tracing Your Roots* where you can download episodes which include one about ancestors who vanished without trace.

Causes of death

Death certificates may reveal family tragedies or secrets. At BTOP I purchased a booklet of Causes of Death & Old Medical Terms. Some of these refer to occupational hazards: for example, Rag-Picker's Disease - Anthrax; Coachman's lung - Tuberculosis. Influenza may appear as Epidemic Catarrh and Severe Depression as Melancholia.

Registration of Births in Ireland - August 1880 Act

It was the duty of the father, mother or any one present in the house when the child was born to register the birth within 42 days. If this did not happen, the register would give notice to those responsible to attend at his office or other convenient place, within 3 months from the birth, in order to register. After the 3 months expired, another notice would go out requiring the person registering the birth to produce within 12 months a solemn declaration, made before a justice of the peace, of the particulars concerning the birth. After 12 months no birth could be registered except with the authority of the Register General in Dublin. (Before this act, the registered births of my great grandmother's children are as much as 3 months after the date recorded in the church register. After the act, the two dates agree.) There are birth certificates on irishgenealogy.ie where no given name is recorded. These were not always children who died soon after birth. 12 months were allowed to alter or add the names which might be given at baptism, on payment of a fee of 1 shilling. The changes were also supposed to have been made on the certified copy by the Register General's office.

Advanced GOOGLE search tools

Some Google search tools which should bring up more specific results. 1. Apply quotation marks eg "john brown". 2. Use the minus sign eg. "john brown -queen (takes out references to Queen Victoria's servant). 3. Make the search site specific eg site:familysearch.org "john brown" 4. Search only page titles eg allintitle: "john brown" 5. Search a date range eg "john brown" 1840..1860 6. Search for terms near to each other, for example where one term is within 10 words of the other search "john brown" AROUND(10)"sarah smith"

Second World War Experience Centre

<https://war-experience.org/>

I found this site while searching for British POW experience. It contains a large number of stories in collections such as War at Sea, War in the Air, Civilians' War, Clandestine War.

What's on in April.

Crafting Live - April 26th to 28th at Titanic Exhibition Centre - volunteers will be needed for the NIFHS stall.