



Lisburn Branch Newsletter

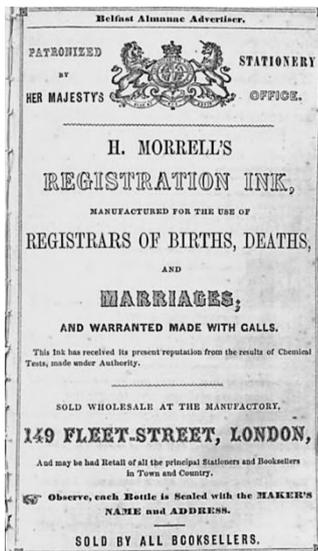


May 2018

Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

Genealogy: where you confuse the dead and irritate the living. Source unknown.

Registration of Births, Death and Marriages



Scanning old church registers on microfilm at PRONI can be very tiring. Apart from difficult hand writing, the ink has often faded to a shadow. When civil registration began in 1845, special registration ink was required by law. The jar containing the ink 'ought not to be left uncorked' and 'the ink must not be diluted'. If it was 'not of a good colour' this was to be reported to the Registrar General. Strong iron boxes were required for the registers, furnished with a lock and two keys, one to be kept by the registrar and the other by the superintendent registrar. The iron boxes were to be kept 'in some dry and secure area of the registrar's dwelling house or office'. These provisions were designed to prevent illegal tampering with the records (watch *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins on BBC1).

Advertisement in Henderson's Belfast Directory 1846/1847

Trade Directories

Trade Directories and Almanacs (many held in the NIFHS library) are worth studying for many reasons. Your ancestor may have worked in a company which advertised there. In the directory mentioned above 136 pages give information about societies, clubs, hospitals, schools, union workhouses etc. A useful database of Irish directories can be found at www.swilson.info/dirdb.php This site has much more to offer and is worth bookmarking.

Back to Our Past Belfast - Genealogy lectures

These lectures are now on line at the Genetic Genealogy Ireland YouTube site: click videos https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChnW2NAfPIA2KUipZ_PiUlw

Pre 1800 resources - Pococke's Tour in Ireland in 1752

This book (available at archive.org) gives a detailed description of a tour round the coast of Ireland. Names mentioned tend to be those of the gentry and clergymen. Places names are often spelt strangely (Burn Cranmer for Buncrana) and some have since changed so knowing the old names is useful when reading 18th century documents. The River Foyle was called the Finn after its source river. Belfast consisted of one long broad street and several lanes.

Motor Directories

At the beginning of the 20th century, not many people owned motorbikes let alone cars. In 1905 in Ireland there were 842 registered cars and 1321 motorbikes. By 1914 these figures had risen to 10923 cars and 9288 motorbikes. One of the people who registered a motorbike that year was Joseph Fletcher of 8 Railway Street, who owned a cycle shop. This information comes from <http://www.lennonwylie.co.uk/IrishMotorDirectory1914.htm> The Linen Hall Library holds early Motor Directories as does the National Library of Ireland. In 1915, Louise's grandfather was observed by a policeman driving his motorcar IW 277 at 20 to 30 miles an hour while passing the Metropole Hotel corner in Portrush. At the petty session's court, the defence argued that the speed was not more than 18 to 20 mph on approaching the corner where it was much reduced. However he was fined £5 and costs for reckless driving and 10s for not producing his licence.

Y DNA Testing - Spanner in the Works

Maurice Gleeson says that surprises in DNA results are commonplace. Y DNA results may reveal a Surname or DNA switch along the direct male line. Ancestors may have changed their surname for a variety of reasons such as - a Gaelic name being anglicised; an adopted child's or a step child's name being changed to the new father's surname; a surname change that is required as a legal condition of inheritance or marriage; adoption of mother's surname; or a name change as a sign of clan allegiance. Maurice reckons that there is a 50-50 chance that your surname does not go back to the person who originated it about 1000 years ago.

Historical Australian BMD Certificates - <http://www.jaunay.com/bdm.html>

Though this web site is mainly concerned with South Australian records, if you are looking for family who emigrated to Australia, this useful page showing what appears on BMD certificates in the different states. The most informative are the certificates from Victoria dating from 1853.

Education Records - Grant applications from National Schools PRONI - ED/1

I recently looked at a grant application dated 1858. The school was seeking aid towards teachers' salaries and books. The large form that had to be filled in asked for a very detailed description of the school building including the size of the blackboard! There were details of the teachers' names, ages, where they had trained and last worked. Also the average attendance, the school hours and how they were filled - ONLY 15 minutes for play!

What's on in May and June.

MAY Saturday 12th 9.45 - 1pm Penal Laws, Poverty and Migration, Garvagh Community Building Admission FREE, no booking required.

Saturday 19th 11am **NIFHS AGM at Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim**

PRONI EVENTS - booking required

Thursday 24th 7 pm **The Penal Times - the Catholic Church in the 18th Century**

Wednesday 30th 2 - 4pm **Plantations in Ulster 1600-1641 - book launch and presentations**

JUNE Wednesday 27th June 12 noon to 9pm Foyle and East Donegal Family History Festival, An Grianan Hotel, Burt, Donegal. Speakers from USA, Canada, Donegal, NI.