



Lisburn Branch Newsletter

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December 2018



Newsletter compiled by Louise and Elizabeth

Every good wish for Christmas and may 2019 be a year of successful research.

Remembering and Forgetting

We have just passed the centenary of the end of The Great War. This was marked by many events throughout the world. Another centenary which has been scarcely noticed is that of the 'Spanish Flu' which in 1918 and early 1919 killed more people globally (at least 50 million and possibly twice that number) than died in the war (around 16 million). A recent half day conference in the Ulster Museum was one of the few events anywhere marking this tragedy. The Great Flu is remembered chiefly within families because of its often devastating effects on family life. There are so many stories that are only preserved within families and yet together they represent important social history. Your stories are important so remember to pass them on. The December meeting gives an opportunity to members to share their stories.

Hatched, Matched and Dispatched

Birth certificates provide mother's maiden name and father's occupation, marriage certificates take you back to the previous generation and death certificates ensure that your ancestor has been neatly laid to rest. Additionally the cause of death can indicate lifestyle, environmental conditions and employment hazards. The causes of death on a page of www.irishgenealogy.ie can tell a lot about conditions at the time. For example of the 10 deaths registered in Lisburn between 3 - 9 December 1818, 7 died of influenza with pneumonia. 2 of TB and 1 was run over by a railway engine. The ages ranged from 7 months to 40 years.

Griffith's Valuation Maps

You might remember that Valerie Adams mentioned in September that PRONI held good copies of the Griffith's valuation maps. However it is more convenient to look at those on www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/ In a recent blog John Grenham pointed out that the many maps which have now been put on this site date from several decades after the publication of the Valuation. There is a Guide to Maps which explains that it has not been possible to identify the exact year of publication of the several different versions (up to 8) which may be available for the same location.

Emigration web sites

<https://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/ships/irishtousa.shtml> and www.theshipslist.com

These are free sites but require consent to the use of advertising and cookies.

Recording your Family History - File naming Tip

How often have you had to open documents or files just to see what they were? I came across one suggestion for labelling documents which would make them recognisable. It is Year Document Type- Ancestor Name- Location e.g. 1901 census-Mary Smith-Lisburn. Next the document has to be put in a file again with a name which will be easily recognised. In January we will be discussing ideas to make Family History recording user friendly so if you have any good ideas, please come and share them with the other members.

Absent Voters Lists - Counties Armagh and Londonderry

Special provision was made in 1918 so that people engaged in war service could vote. Absent voters list are available on the PRONI website for Counties Armagh and Londonderry under Decade of Centenaries. The Excel spreadsheet can be downloaded and sorted by name, polling district, registration unit and address (townland or street). A great uncle who was wounded on July 1st 1916 was on the list, indicating that he may have returned to active service.

findmpast.co.uk - available at NIFHS Research Centre and at PRONI - FREE

Irish records found only on this site. - Dog Licence Registration with owner's name and address, National School Registers, Quaker Collection, Petty Sessions Court Registers and Prison Registers 1790-1924. Most of these refer to the counties in the Republic of Ireland. Also on the site for those with Scottish roots - Fife death index 1549 - 1877

Christmas past

The Downshires of Hillsborough Castle were noted for their generosity to their neighbours and tenants. On Christmas Eve 1895 in the castle, they entertained about 700 children from all the local schools. In 1852 a previous Marquis was reported as purchasing 30 cwt of beef, along with bread and other good things, for distribution among the poor in and around Hillsborough as he did every year. This was not the case with every landlord. As found in 18th century Registry of Deeds memorials, sometimes the tenants were supplying the landlords' with their Christmas dinners. Two fat capons (value 5s), 4 fat pullets (2s 6p), 5 bacon hogs (£10), 2 sugar loaves of 10 pounds each (5s) were, in addition to the rent, requested to be delivered at Christmas or the monetary value in lieu.

Other search options

It is not always necessary to search by surname. If a surname has many variants it is a long process going through each one. GRONI allow searches using the first three letters of a surname - 'Begins With' option. Irishgenealogy.ie (other search options) and the censuses records (more search options) may also be searched without a surname but it is advisable to fill in as many other details as possible or there will be a very large number of results. Irishgenealogy.ie give exact date ranges as an option but only the year is searched for.

