



## EMAILS A MEMBER SHOULD EXPECT

Members of this Society will be emailed from time to time. For example, twice a year, the Society emails an E-newsletter to all members with an email address. We also email Notification of the annual AGM and occasionally, we email about any other news or relevant updates. When a member joins, they get a Welcome email from the Society giving their membership number etc. Soon after this, they will also get an email from JSTOR inviting them to register for access to their Irish Journal Collection. Each year, after a member renews, JSTOR will email them again to renew their access - for more detail see [www.nifhs.org/membership/benefits-of-membership/jstor-north-irish-roots/](http://www.nifhs.org/membership/benefits-of-membership/jstor-north-irish-roots/)

## WHERE SHOULD I LOOK NEXT?

When you are working on your family history it is hard to keep track of all the websites that may be able to help you with your research. Here are a few suggestions that you may not have tried before and that might just help you break through your brick wall!

### IRISH GENEALOGY PROJECT ARCHIVES

This website can be found at <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/> and has resources covering the whole of Ireland, divided up by county. At this link, you will be able to see what has been added to the site over the last two months. Recent additions include photographs of headstones in Urney Cemetery, County Tyrone and also some Methodist, Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic baptisms for County Fermanagh. You can find all sorts of records here by clicking on the county name and seeing what has been added. Church and cemetery records, census substitutes, directories and military and constabulary documentation are just some of the things that can be found. This is a very active site where records are added regularly so it is one where you should pay a return visit in the future.

### REGISTRY OF DEEDS PROJECT

If you are looking for Irish land records there isn't a better website to visit than <http://irishdeedsindex.net/index.php>. This site allows you to search indexed land records by surname or townland and with over a quarter of a million index entries and over 40,000 townland entries, this site is becoming a major source of genealogical data that has, until recently, been hidden away in dusty manuscripts and rarely visited microfilms.

### BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVE

Newspapers always prove a valuable tool to genealogists and can help unravel the lives of our forebears. The Portadown Times, The Northern Constitution and the Londonderry Sentinel are just three of the publications recently added to the vast array of newspapers at <http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/> Its another site to keep an eye on as new editions of existing newspapers are also added sporadically. This collection of newspapers is also available through some other websites such as Genes Reunited and Find My Past.



## AUTUMN COURSE PROGRAMME

The NIFHS Course Programme continues to go from strength to strength. This Autumn as soon as the programme was announced, several Courses were sold out very quickly and there has been a considerable uptake on the rest. All courses are in the Honneyman room of the society's headquarters at Unit C4, Valley Business Centre, 67 Church Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 7LS.

Courses are competitively priced at £7 for one 2hr class, £12 for courses that run for 2 x 2hr classes and £15 for courses composed of 3 x 2hr classes.

Some courses have already been successfully completed but there are many still on offer: -

- October 3rd – [Websites for Genealogy](#) – 2 Tuesday evenings
- October 10th – [Valuation Records](#) – 1 Tuesday morning and afternoon
- October 16th – [Family Finder 2](#) – 3 Monday evenings **FULLY BOOKED!**
- October 17th – [Writing up Your Family History](#) – 3 Tuesday mornings
- October 17th – [Researching Military Ancestors](#) – 2 Tuesday evenings
- October 31st – [Halloween Lock-In](#) – 1 Tuesday evening – FREE EVENT
- November 7th – [Understanding Heraldry](#) – 1 Tuesday morning and afternoon plus a walkabout to be arranged
- November 8th – [It's All About Me](#) – 1 Wednesday afternoon
- November 11th – [Making the Most of Your Autosomal DNA Results](#) – 2 Saturday afternoons **FULLY BOOKED!**
- November 14th – [Emigration to Australia and New Zealand](#) – 1 Tuesday afternoon
- November 14th – [The Advantages of Y-DNA](#) – 1 Tuesday evening
- November 15th – [Using Family Search](#) – 1 Wednesday afternoon **FULLY BOOKED!**
- November 22nd – [Land Records](#) – 1 Wednesday morning and afternoon
- November 28th – [Life in Ulster in the 1830s](#) – 1 Tuesday afternoon **NOTE NEW DATE**

More information can be found at [www.nifhs.org/resources/courses](http://www.nifhs.org/resources/courses)

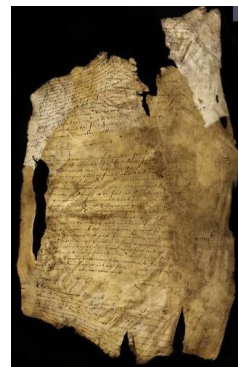
Where a course is marked FULLY BOOKED, e-mail [Education@NIFHS.org](mailto:Education@NIFHS.org) for a place on the waiting list; if demand is sufficient the course may be repeated. Courses can be booked by sending an email with your name and membership number to [education@nifhs.org](mailto:education@nifhs.org) and payment should be made at the beginning of the first session of your course.



## THE GREAT PARCHMENT BOOK

Many of you will be researching families who settled in the north west of Ulster during the Plantation of 1610. Those families had their origins in Scotland, England and Wales and came to Ulster with the promise of land.

After the Battle of Kinsale 1601 and the Flight of the Earls 1607, the government of James I confiscated the estates vacated by the Earls, surveyed the land and granted that territory, bounded by the Rivers Foyle and Bann and the sea, to the Corporation of the City of London to 'plant' it.



The 'Society of the Governor and Assistants, London, of the New Plantation in Ulster' (known later as The Irish Society) was formed in 1609 and they assumed responsibility, however reluctantly, for the management of the estates and planting them with people from mainland Britain who were regarded as less troublesome than the native Irish.

Fast forward to 1639 and Charles I decided to seize it all back from the Londoners. To that ends he sent commissioners to record all leases and contracts, details of which were entered in the Great Parchment Book - essentially, a record of the families who held the leases, and, in some cases, where they originated. The book itself was subsequently handed over to the Irish Society. Having survived a devastating fire in 1786, it is one of the few records of 17th Ireland that survive.

The story of the restoration of the book is worth reading by itself but modern technology has provided the family historian with the means to search the contents of the book online at - [www.greatparchmentbook.org](http://www.greatparchmentbook.org) . Even if you don't find any of your ancestors therein, the website provides a valuable insight into the history of the north west of the island during the period.

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## GOONS

The **Guild of One Name Studies** is a valuable resource for those family historians who want to know more about the origins of their family surnames.

A one name study (ONS) researches all occurrences of the surname, as opposed to where it occurs in a particular family tree. A study will include the origins of the name, the meaning, geographical distribution, patterns of migration and variants of the name.

The Guild holds a register of surname interests, available online at [www.one-name.org](http://www.one-name.org) - your surname may be on that register. If your surname is being studied by a Guild member, you may be able to obtain valuable information about the name and your connection to it.

Joining a One-Name Study will put you in touch with other family historians researching the same name - some ONS also have their own DNA projects.



### BACK TO OUR PAST 2017

The popular genealogy show and DNA conference will be on in Dublin. Our Society will have a stand and there will be many interesting lectures.



### BACK TO OUR PAST 2018 IS COMING TO BELFAST!



### CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS

On Friday 16th February and Saturday 17th February 2018 the Titanic Exhibition Centre will be filled with all sorts of genealogy related exhibitors who will be there to give you helpful advice or sell you their range of products.

Anyone who has been to Back to Our Past in Dublin will know what the show is like and will be glad to hear that an extensive programme of talks on genetic genealogy is planned and will be taking place throughout the two days. It's great to have a massive event like this coming to Belfast so make sure you note the dates in your diary and tell your friends too.

The society will have a stand at the show to explain what we do, encourage new members to join and to sell some of our publications. Anyone who has helped at any of the previous shows we have attended will know how enjoyable it is helping members of the public with their queries and helping to promote the society.

To make this event a big success we will need plenty of help from our members throughout the two days. So, if you can spare a few hours to help us out it would be greatly appreciated. We expect to be very busy and we will need as much help as we can muster.

If you can help us out please let us know by email at [president@nifhs.org](mailto:president@nifhs.org)



## PRONI NEWS

### PRONI EXPRESS

To keep informed of the events, talks and exhibitions at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, it would be worthwhile subscribing to the PRONI Express eNewsletter - <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/subscribe-pronis-enewsletter>

Personal details will not be shared with any third party and there is a link to unsubscribe at any time.

### PRONI DIGITISED CHURCH RECORDS

An important recent event at PRONI was the launch of digitised church records on 22<sup>nd</sup> September past. Records of fifteen churches dating from 1642 are now available to view onsite.

#### Church of Ireland

- St Columb's Cathedral (CR1/113), Londonderry
- Derryloran parish (CR1/114), Co. Tyrone
- St. Anne's Cathedral (CR1/115), Belfast
- Drumcree parish (CR1/116), Co. Armagh
- St. Andrew's parish (CR1/117), Hope Street
- St Mary Magdalene parish (CR1/118), Donegall Pass, Belfast
- Dromore Cathedral (CR1/119), Dromore, Co. Down
- St. Luke's (CR1/120), Mullaghglass, Co. Armagh
- St. George's parish (CR1/121), High Street, Belfast
- St Patrick's parish (CR1/122), Ballymacarret, Belfast, Co. Down

#### Methodist

- Ballymacarett Methodist Church - later known as Newtownards Road Methodist Church and now the East Belfast Mission (CR6/18), Belfast
- Hyde Park Methodist Church (CR6/19), Mallusk, Co. Antrim
- Ligoniel Methodist Church (CR6/20), Belfast
- Frederick Street Methodist Church (CR6/21), Belfast
- Salem Methodist New Connexion Church (CR6/22), York Street, Belfast

### PRONI WORKSHOPS

Admission is free but booking is advisable. Details at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)

18 October 2017, 8 November 2017 and 7 December 2017

#### Using Family and Local History Resources Online

Monday 20 November 2017: **Using online resources and starting your research**

Friday 24 November 2017: **Using the PRONI Historical Maps Viewer**

PRONI and Land & Property Services have worked together to digitise and make available a range of historical Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) maps online. The session will start with an orientation tour of PRONI, followed by a hands-on introduction to the PRONI Historical Maps Viewer. The workshop will last for 1.5 hours, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm.



### INTERVIEW WITH EDWARD (NED) ROONEY (Aged 9)

Genealogy is a topic that attracts the interest of many people, both young and old. Recently one of our society members noticed a nine-year-old boy using the GRONI computers at the Public Records Office with astonishing capability and understanding of his ancestry. Here's a bit more from the boy in question:

Our member asked Ned "Why did you become interested in family history and genealogy?" and "Have you found out anything interesting?"

This is his reply.



"Well, my name is Ned Rooney and from what I understand there have been a lot of Ned Rooney's in my family in the past. My daddy had an uncle called Ned, my great-grandfather and great-great grandfather were both called Ned. I was very keen to listen to the stories that other older members of my family told me about them.

My daddy works as a genealogist and he has told me a lot about the history of our family. We live in a house that was built by my great-great-great grandfather, Patrick Rooney in the 1860s and there were Rooneys connected with our townland, Corbally, since at least the early 1600s I don't know if or how we are connected to them because I couldn't find any evidence of a link, however. On my mummy's side of the family there were some very interesting people. Many of them became scientists. My great-grandfather was called Dr Charles Suckling and he led the team of scientists who developed the anaesthetic, halothane. Another ancestor ran the Royal Powder Mills at Waltham Abbey in Essex.

I am also very interested in history and science. Genealogy involves using both subjects. I know a bit about DNA and I would like to find out more about this area. I think that finding out about lots of ancestors and their lives is very interesting!"

Finally, he was asked "What would you say to encourage other young people into the world of family history and genealogy?"

Ned: "You can find out a lot about who you are by studying your family history. For example, I love history and science so it's interesting to see that there are people in my family who have been interested in these subjects - it helps to explain where I get these interests! It also helps you to understand about the past and how important the past is in shaping our world."

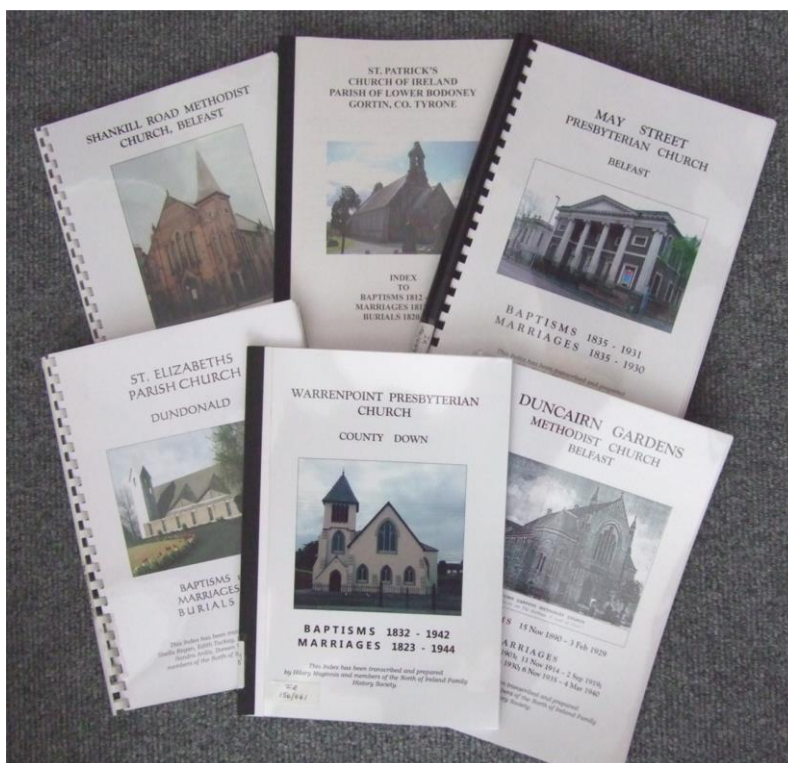
Well done, Ned, it is most encouraging to see a young person with a curiosity about his ancestors.



### TRANSCRIPTION WORK

Volunteers within the North of Ireland Family History Society regularly undertake transcription work to make preserve and make records available for our members. There are now hundreds of booklets of baptisms, marriages and burial records on our shelves.

A full list of the Church Indexes and all the Irish books is available online on our website at [www.nifhs.org/library-list](http://www.nifhs.org/library-list)



Currently a group are working on the records of **Cregagh Methodist Church**. Their records incorporate those of **Castlereagh Methodist Church** (their first Church was located at Castlereagh and then moved to Cregagh).

Work on marriages from 1899 - 1942 is now complete and baptisms from August 1892 are being worked on, with transcribers currently up to 1909.

When complete, these records will be made available in the Randall Gill Library for consultation and associate members will be able to request a look-up by emailing [lookup@nifhs.org](mailto:lookup@nifhs.org)

There is always much work to do and so help is always needed.

If you would like to help transcribe records on behalf of the society please send an email to our projects co-ordinator c/o [education@nifhs.org](mailto:education@nifhs.org) and we will be in touch.



## FAMILY TREE COLLECTION

- Have you seen the index to our **Family Tree Collection** and the list of **Family Tree Books** which we have in our Library?
- Would you like to add your research to it?

*We would like to be able to share our research and information with other members. It could be that someone else has already found information which would be of interest to you. We encourage you to submit a copy of your family tree.*

Suggestions for format of trees:

- Handwritten
- Typed tree
- A computer printout from your computer programme

*A commercial family tree programme usually has a facility to make a narrative or genealogy report of a particular relative's descendants.*

Commercial Family Tree programmes include:

- Family Tree Maker 17
- Family Historian 6
- Brother's Keeper 7.2
- Roots Magic 7
- Legacy 9.0
- Tree View 2

*Please also supply a title page to include the main family name and other major surnames, location/area, your name, branch/associate number, contact email and date of print out.*

| <b>ROBINSON</b>   |                        |
|---|------------------------|
| DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS ROBINSON (1836-1882), OF<br>BESSEBROOK CO. ARMAGH & BALLYMENA, CO. ANTRIM |                        |
| SURNAMES INCLUDE:   |                        |
| BROUGHTON   | LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND     |
| ELLIOTT   | N. IRELAND & AUSTRALIA |
| KANE  | BALLYMENA              |
| MISCAMPBELL   | CO. ARMAGH             |
| SMALL   | BELFAST                |
| PREPARED BY:<br>A.K. ROBINSON BCOZ LIGBURN BRANCH MAY 2017<br>EMAIL ADDRESS                     |                        |

*The index which will go online will only have your membership number for identification. The Family Trees will only be available in the Randal Gill Library. If you update your tree then it can be exchanged with the older version*

- **Do take a break in your research and submit a copy of your tree/trees.**
- **Don't wait until you think it is finished, it probably never will be!!**

**If you want more information contact the Librarian at [librarian@nifhs.org](mailto:librarian@nifhs.org)**

