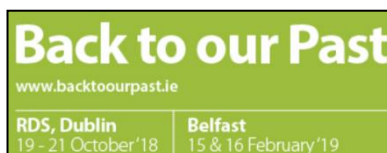




UPCOMING GENEALOGY SHOWS

It is great to see that there are a lot of large shows confirmed for the upcoming year. So, if you have a few days spare and want a bit of inspiration and assistance, here is what is coming up:

Back to Our Past - RDS, Dublin 19th-21st October 2018. This is now the 9th year that this show has been held. As well as stalls there will be simultaneous lectures taking place throughout the show on both DNA and a variety of genealogy subjects. Although our Society will not take part in this, there will be many things to interest our members.



Back to Our Past - Waterfront Hall, Belfast 15th-16th February 2019.

The Waterfront Hall will be filled with all sorts of genealogy related exhibitors ready to give you helpful advice or sell you their range of products. Also, an extensive programme of talks on genetic genealogy is planned and will take 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.

Anyone who attended Back to Our Past in Belfast in February 2018, will understand how useful and enjoyable attending a family history show can be. With a mixture of stalls and lectures, there is something for everyone of all skill levels. It's a great way to increase your awareness of other groups and websites out there that can help you with your research.

The North of Ireland Family History Society will again be involved in helping to organise an exciting programme of speakers and will also 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 secretary@nifhs.org

Check out <http://backtoourpast.ie/> from time to time to see the latest information on upcoming lectures and attending organisations for both Shows.

Family Tree Live - Alexandra Palace, London 26th-27th April 2019. This event is sponsored by the Federation of Family History Societies and Family Tree magazine. <https://www.family-tree.co.uk/ftre/show/family-tree-live/>

The Genealogy Show - NEC Birmingham 7th-8th June 2019. This show hopes to build on the success of Who Do You Think You Are Live which ran in the NEC for a number of years until 2017. According to their website this event will be a great opportunity to network, learn and have fun. <https://www.thegenealogyshow.uk/>

FREEBIES !

Researching your family history can be an expensive business - travelling to research centres, paying for membership of genealogical societies and websites, purchasing certificates etc. So, isn't it great when something is free?

Libraries NI provides free access to a range of e-magazines of interest to the family historian - 'Your Family History', 'Irish Roots Magazine' and 'Who Do You Think You Are?' From the comfort of your armchair go to the website - www.librariesni.org.uk - log in if you are already a library member, go to the e-magazine section and start choosing. If you are not a library member already, become a virtual member which will still enable you access the e-magazines as above.

You can download the app to your phone, Kindle etc so you can read on the go. Happy researching!!



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OUR HEROES IN MEMORIAM

Whilst not a new website, this useful site may have been overlooked by a number of people with Belfast military ancestors.

It holds information on those who died from the Belfast area and includes details from plaques in the Belfast City Hospital and the Belfast City Hall which listed the death of employees.

War dead commemorated in local graveyards are also detailed and some photos are included.

Ourheroesinmemoriam.co.uk



Pages	WW1 Irish Soldiers Database									
Welcome	Sutherland	Alexander	Cpl	3197	2nd	Royal Irish Fusiliers	KIA	07/09/1915	Cavan	Mill St
Update News	Agnew	Joseph	Rfm	16	10th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	01/07/1916	Belfast	19 Ravenscroft St
Country	Scott	James	Rfm	78	15th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	06/08/1917	Belfast	5 Venice St - 13 Cambrai St
Belfast Recruiting	Keenan	William	L/Cpl	84	14th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	16/08/1917	Belfast	43 Virginia St
Balmoral Industrial	Leinster	David A	Rfm	128	10th	Royal Irish Rifles	Died	24/12/1917	Belfast	35 Magnetic St
School Roll of Honour	Matthews	Thomas	Rfm	203	12th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	15/08/1917	Belfast	19 Witham St
36th CCS, R.A.M.C	Clydesdale	John	Rfm	204	15th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	22/11/1917	Belfast	53 Howard St South
WW1	McCartney	William	Rfm	215		Royal Irish Rifles	Died	02/08/1917	Belfast	10 Foyle St
Belfast City Hospital	Bell	Austin	Sgt	220	16th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	01/08/1917	Bangor	45 Holborn Av
History	Gilliland	W M M	Lt		2nd	Royal Inniskilling Fusiliers	KIA	28/04/1915	Londonderry	Co Londonderry
Royal Victoria Hospital	McCracken	Joseph	Rfm	241	14th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	03/08/1917	Belfast	49 Severn St - 77 Church St East
Photos	Dyer	James	Pte	14343	4th	Royal Innis. Fus	Wo		Belfast	Emerson Row
WW1 Irish Soldiers Database	Bell	William J	Rfm	264	15th	Royal Irish Rifles	KIA	17/08/1917	Belfast	28 Nora St
Dedication Page	Lyons	S	Pte	270	8th	Canadian	KIA	25/04/1915	Carnglass	Dervock

The Rolls of Honour for the Balmoral Industrial School and the Ulster Motorcycle Club are little-known sources of information which are also included - <https://sites.google.com/site/ourheroesinmemoriam/introduction>

SOCIETY COURSES

Whilst we are still finalising the exact schedule, this is advance notice that the society will be again holding an exciting and practical series of lectures and information sessions in the coming Autumn. When information is available it will be on the Society website.



The majority of the courses will be held in our Research Centre in Newtownabbey, but some will also be held in Bleary Community Centre (arranged through our North Armagh branch) and in Derry Library (arranged by our Foyle branch). Availability details and late additions can always be found by keeping an eye on our website.

<https://www.nifhs.org/resources/courses/>

IRISH GENEALOGY PROJECTS

As mentioned in a previous issue of this newsletter, the Irish Genealogy Projects website continues to provide access to an increasing number of new resources.

Recent additions include baptisms (1800-1808 and 1812-1815) for the Western Division of Clones parish (Monaghan and Fermanagh) and photos of gravestones in Dromore Presbyterian Church and Dromore Holy Trinity Church of Ireland (both in Tyrone).

These complement a series of other records which cover the whole of Ireland. Full details of recent updates and a full list of records can be found here: <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/>



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GOOGLE AS A RESOURCE

If you are seeking information about a particular area it is worthwhile simply using our good friend Google. There are so many wonderful local websites that are often overlooked.

For example, searching for Lisburn AND history will lead you to www.lisburn.com. A website stuffed full of all things Lisburn, including old photos. I also found another gem, and worth more than a passing glance, with a little bit more effort -http://lisburn.com/books/lisburn_miscellany/miscellany.html.

Having by no means exhausted the availability of websites referring to Lisburn's past, I moved on to Lurgan and found by the same search technique, Lurgan AND history - www.lurganancestry.com.

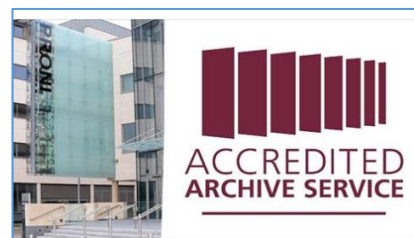
www.cotyroneireland.com is another great site - estate and church records, muster rolls etc.

All of these great sites were found in just a few minutes. Have a look for the area you are interested in and if you find some hidden gems, don't forget to share them with the rest of us. Happy hunting! PS - you can also do the same with names but some more care is needed.

CONGRATULATIONS TO PRONI!

PRONI has been awarded the first ever Accredited Archive Award in Northern Ireland by the Archive Service Accreditation Committee.

PRONI's Director Dr Michael Willis commented 'This prestigious Award is a significant achievement and milestone for PRONI and I am delighted and proud that PRONI was assessed as reaching the national standard enabling us to be awarded Archive Service Accreditation. This is welcome recognition of PRONI's good practices and quality services and is testimony to the ongoing hard work of all PRONI staff to make PRONI the best archive that it can be!'



Our congratulations go to all at PRONI. It really is worth a visit. Details of opening hours and directions are on the website www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni. See registration process below.

Registration Process at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

You need to be a registered visitor to carry out research at PRONI. To register, you must provide your name and a permanent address, and produce one of the following forms of photographic identification on your first visit:

- a full passport
- a driving licence or provisional driving licence (providing it shows a photograph)
- an electoral ID card
- A Translink Senior Smartpass
- A Translink 60+ Smartpass
- A Translink War Disabled Smartpass
- A Translink Blind Person's Smartpass.
-

A member of staff will take your photograph, create your visitor record, and give you your unique Visitor Pass, which allows you swipe access to the public research areas and is used to access original records. Your Visitor Pass is valid for ten years from the date of registration and you must bring it each time you come to PRONI for research. Once registered, simply activate your Pass at the self-service terminal on the ground floor on each visit. Faulty passes will be replaced free of charge, however, there is a £10 fee to replace a lost or stolen Visitor Pass, chargeable under PRONI's Statutory Rule *Public Use of the Records (Management and Fees) Rules (Northern Ireland) 2016*. By registering for a PRONI Visitor Pass, you agree to abide by this legislation and associated Code of Conduct.



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NORTHERN IRELAND'S CENSUS RECORDS

The first census to be taken in the new political state of Northern Ireland was taken in 1926. While there have been a range of explanations over the years as to what happened to those census records, in 2013, after an extensive search, PRONI and the National Statistics Office confirmed that the records no longer exist. As the next census taken wasn't until 1937, that leaves quite a gap from the last available census, that of 1911. Even when it was taken in 1937, some information wasn't sought, i.e. occupations. This census is subject to the 100 years rule and won't be available for some time.

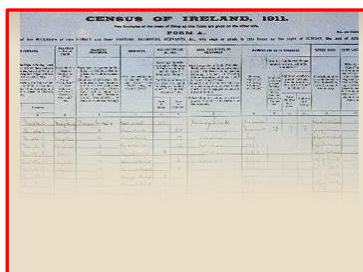
Prompted by the outbreak of World War 2, the British government passed the National Registration Act on 29th September 1939. It was deemed essential that the details of all citizens were recorded. When the National Register was complete, the information gathered, was used to allocate ration books, issue identity cards and for military conscription. The information in the register is arranged by address with each resident's name, date of birth and marital status recorded. The date of birth instead of just an age can prove very useful.

The 1939 Act prohibited publication of the registers, but the information can be accessed in Northern Ireland through a Freedom of Information request. Using PRONI's **general research enquiry form**, details of a specific address, NOT an individual, can be requested. Details of all the individuals who would now be at least 100 years of age, if still alive, are available. However, you must supply proof of death of anyone who would not now have attained the age of 100 years, if applicable.

You will find the enquiry form at www.nidirect.org.uk/proni, simply scroll to 'Your Research' at the bottom of the PRONI home page and then 'Enquiry Service'. It is quite a simple process and free of charge.

AVAILABILITY OF NORTHERN IRELAND CENSUS RECORDS

- 1901 & 1911 - full census survives and is available at - www.census.nationalarchives.ie




Census of Ireland 1901/1911 and Census fragments and substitutes, 1821-51

The household returns and ancillary records for the censuses of Ireland of 1901 and 1911, which are in the custody of the National Archives of Ireland, represent an extremely valuable part of the Irish national heritage. [Read more about their digitisation.](#)

All thirty-two counties for 1901 and 1911, [searchable by all information categories](#), are now available on this site. Corrections and improvements will be ongoing, and we are very grateful to all users who have submitted corrections to us. A small amount of material is [missing from the site](#), and will be placed online as soon as possible.

Surviving census fragments and substitutes for 1821-51 are a valuable, if limited, resource for the pre-Famine period. [Read more about these records](#)

- 1921 - no census taken -
- 1926 - census taken but probably destroyed during WW1
- 1931 - no census taken
- 1937 - census taken but with limited information
- 1939 - National Register survives - access through Freedom of Information request - as outlined above



Submit an Enquiry

You can use this form to make a general or research related enquiry.

- 1941 - no census taken - WW2
- 1951 - census taken and every ten years thereafter- not yet available



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PERSEVERE WITH DNA

I decided to get my DNA tested back in 2016 and after an initial burst of enthusiasm I really lost interest. I had thousands of matches but couldn't work out how they were related to me. Frustration and boredom set in and I even stopped checking my new results.



Then earlier this year I was contacted by someone from Canada, Myrna, who was reading as my second cousin once removed but she didn't know how we were related. However, as soon as I saw the surnames she had on her tree, I did know.

Myrna was descended from Eleanor Parker nee Steed and I am descended from James Steed, Eleanor's brother. DNA had solved a puzzle that had troubled me for over three years.

Whilst researching the children of my 3xggrandfather, Thomas Steed, I found what at first appeared to be two families with a father named Thomas living in Belfast at around the same time. There were two girls, Eliza and Eleanor, in one family and the rest including my 2xggrandfather, James, in the other. The family of Eliza and Eleanor appeared to be much more affluent than mine. Their father had his own grocery business, whereas 'my' Thomas had a range of jobs - canvasser for books, furniture salesman, upholsterer - among others and didn't seem to stay in any one job for long.

The only link between the two families was that Ann Jane, my great-great grandfather's sister had given birth in the home of Eleanor - but what did that prove? It certainly wasn't enough on its own to prove that Eleanor and Ann Jane were sisters and that the two Thomas's were one and the same.

It took the DNA results to prove the relationship and when I had another cousin in England tested, there was no doubt left. I was now able to link all of the siblings and through baptismal records of Eliza and Eleanor I had the name of my 3xggrandmother, Anne Burns, too. Myrna has supplied me with lots of information and photos about the family which I didn't have, and I have reciprocated.

Since my contact with Myrna, descendants of Eliza have been in touch too. They, like me, had initially thought there were two families. Now they have been able to add, James, Ann Jane, another four siblings, and their families, to their trees.



Further research in the British Newspaper Archive through Find My Past* produced newspaper reports of Thomas the grocer's bankruptcy which explained the change of fortunes in the family.

If all of the above wasn't enough, Myrna and her granddaughter are visiting from Canada in September and my English cousin is coming over from Yorkshire to meet up with them too.

So, the next time you look at your thousands of DNA matches and heave a sigh, my advice would be - persevere with it, you just never know what the outcome will be.

Evelyn Barrett, Member No B2513

**Remember there's free access to Find My Past in NIFHS library.*

If you are interested in taking a DNA test yourself, you can find out more here:- <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

Discounts are available if you order your kit through the North of Ireland Family History Society.

To do that just send an email to dna@nifhs.org specifying who the test is for, your address and which type of test you require.



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NORTH OF IRELAND DNA PROJECT

The Society's DNA project is continuing to grow in size as the interest in DNA testing through Ireland escalates.

Last August the project had just under 1,000 members and it has more than doubled in size in the last year.

Joining the project has many benefits including being able to see which project members you match. By identifying local people with whom you have a DNA match, you have a better chance of working out your true relationship.

We have had a number of project members that now know how they are related to each other and some of these have even met each other at our local interest group which meets every month. More information at: <https://www.nifhs.org/dna/>



TWO INTERESTING WEBSITES

Claire Santry is a good friend of NIFHS and helps to publicise our activities. Have you tried her two excellent Irish Research sites? To see her very helpful website, go to <https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/> and to read about the latest news in the Irish genealogy world - don't miss her Genealogy blog at <https://irishgenealogynews.com>

In her [blog](https://irishgenealogynews.com) this month, below she tells us when to expect the next upload of images of civil registrations to irishgenealogy.ie



Thursday, 2 August 2018

Indispensable research companion

GRO's online civil bmd registers: latest on progress

Don't get too excited, now.

Since the last upload of images of GRO's birth, marriage and death registers to IrishGenealogy.ie back in November, the expectation has been that the next tranche would be coming along this summer. That's certainly what I understood, anyway.

It seems the next release is running behind that schedule. The managers of IrishGenealogy.ie are currently anticipating the next batch to be ready for upload in November or thereabouts.






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MEMBER PROFILE

Aaron McCormick recently made history in the society when he was elected as chairperson of the North Armagh branch for the incoming year aged 25. Not only is he the youngest chairperson in his branch but he is also the youngest chairperson to serve in any branch of the society. It's great to see younger members take active roles within the North of Ireland Family History Society and it bodes well for the future.

Here Aaron tells us a bit more about his interest in genealogy and why he enjoys being a society member:

"I have always had an interest in history, however from the age of 15 I have been conducting research into my ancestry. How did I get into this you may ask? Well, I was looking through photograph albums in my house and I came across a few pages filled with old portrait postcards and a box of brownie photos, of course no names had been entered onto the back, so I started asking who the people were. This sparked a deeper interest into my lineage. What did my family do for a living? Where did they live? Did any emigrate? Was there any scandal?"

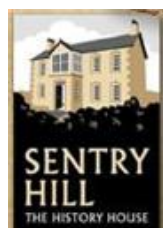


Over the past 10 years I have gathered a collection of family records, images and stories. One of the most important aspects of gathering this information has been talking to older relations, asking about their past, recording their memories and asking them who the people are in the images. I have been very fortunate as I have been able to question my grandparents and their siblings about the family, this has been invaluable to me.

I became a member of the North Armagh branch around 7 years ago having been introduced to the society by a friend. I have found the talks interesting over the years and meeting other people with the same interests has been fantastic. Having presented my first talk to the society last year which looked at Maralin Village through photographs, I have gained confidence in public speaking and it allowed me to share information that I have gathered.

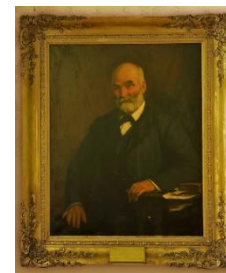
I am looking forward to the next year of the society which will explore a wide range of interesting topics and look further into the exciting new world of DNA and the doors to the past it may open."

PHOTOGRAPHS



Sentry Hill is a visitor attraction just outside Belfast where things have changed little over the last hundred years. The house is still dressed in period style and gives a great understanding to visitors of how some of our ancestors lived.

William Fee McKinney who lived at Sentry Hill was an amateur genealogist, diarist, archivist and photographer and the items he left behind are still housed at Sentry Hill.



As we all are very much aware, photos are essential to any good family history and breathe life into a series of facts and information that can otherwise appear dry.

Some of the McKinney photos can be found here <http://www.sentryhill.net/>

However, the National Museums of Northern Ireland also hosts McKinney's extensive photo collection on their website. As well as photographing members of his family, McKinney also captured in time some of their neighbours and some local buildings in the Carnmoney district. The Sentry Hill photo collection is only one of the many collections made available.

Glass slides, original photos and lantern slides make up a very impressive archive which can be accessed here: <https://www.nmni.com/collections/history/photographs>

Even if you aren't lucky enough to find a photo of a family member, you will most certainly find images that your ancestors saw through their own eyes many years ago.