



Back To Our Past - 3rd year in Belfast

Back To Our Past will be held in the Waterfront Hall's
International Convention Centre on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th February.



The event is free and attracts people from around the world to both exhibit and attend. The show will have one main hall for exhibitors and two lecture theatres on the floor above, one for talks on DNA and the other for talks on aspects of family history. Of the 24 talks being provided across the two days, members of the North of Ireland Family History Society are providing no less than five of them. So, lookout for talks by Mike McKeag, Andrew Kane, Ken & Alison Tait and Martin McDowell. Other speakers will be from PRONI, the Irish Genealogical Research Society and Libraries NI. The family history talks have all been organised by Martin McDowell and will be hosted by the Society President, Ann Robinson, and Killyleagh Branch Chairman, Ken Tait.

Family Tree DNA, who sponsor the DNA talks, are sending their very own Mike Sager along to explain how he has constructed a tree for mankind using results from the new Big Y-700 test. A talk not to be missed!

The full talk schedules can be found on the event website:

DNA talks are at <https://backtoourpast.ie/schedules/belfast-dna-lecture-schedule/>

Genealogy talks are at <https://backtoourpast.ie/schedules/belfast-genealogy-lecture-schedule/>

The society will have a stand at the event so please come along and say hello!

Don't forget, if you would like to help out at the event please let us know at secretary@nifhs.org

Society Research Centre "C4"

Don't forget we are open 2pm - 8pm
Tuesdays and Thursdays
(check www.nifhs.org for holiday periods)

Family Tree Live, Alexandra Palace April 2020

N.B. NIFHS will **not be present** at this event.

Spring Courses at our Research Centre

The society continues to provide short courses to help people further their knowledge and skills regarding aspects of family history. This term 14 courses are being provided and include a mixture of some new courses alongside some old favourites. New courses this time include one on graveyards and another explaining recent changes to the tree tool on Family Tree DNA. You can see the full schedule on our website here: <https://www.nifhs.org/resources/courses/>
Our courses remain good value - one session classes are £8, two sessions classes £14 & three session classes only £18.

Digital Microfilm Records at National Archives, Kew

As more and more records go online it can be hard to keep up with everything that is out there. If you don't already know, you may be interested to discover that the National Archives has digitised some of its microfilm records and made them available to download online. These include indexes to some of their naval records, coastguard records (1816-1947), records of South African Air Force, RAF service records, shipping and seamen, cabinet office files, war cabinet correspondence and papers, convict transportation registers and papers relating to the Irish Boundary Commission. Whilst many of these are indexes only, they are still essential to locate the record that you are looking for. In fact, you might even find an elusive record that you didn't previously know existed!



You can access this collection and see the full range of records available here:

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/free-online-records-digital-microfilm/>



Update on Society Transcribing Projects

Early in 2018 the Society was given photocopied images of registers from 43 churches in Ballymena and the surrounding areas. The records had been gathered by the late Jack Adams, a professional photographer and local historian, and were given to us by his family. Transcription work has been ongoing since then and we can now make more than 7,000 baptism records from the 1st Presbyterian Church, Ballymena (1824-1907) available to members at the Research Centre and by requesting a lookup from lookup@nifhs.org

We discovered that a very scratched microfilm at PRONI has records from 1812-1824 and transcription of these is almost complete, all be it with a lot of question marks, (the old book had a lot of ink blots!). There are more than 1,200 baptisms in these 13 years, and they will be available soon. Baptisms from the 2nd and 3rd Ballymena Presbyterian Churches are also nearing completion.



All the work of transcribing, checking and producing the booklets is undertaken by members who kindly volunteer and we are very grateful to the whole Transcription team for the wonderful job they do of preserving these records.

If you would like to help with our projects, please contact the Projects Coordinator at projects@nifhs.org

"Lest We Forget"

The World War One Rolls of Honour

in Ballynure Presbyterian Church and Ballynure Methodist Church

is a book by Mr Richard T. Wallace which was inspired by two war memorial plaques on the walls of Ballynure Presbyterian Church, and by his visits to the battlefields of France and Belgium, especially the Tyne Cot Cemetery just outside Ypres.

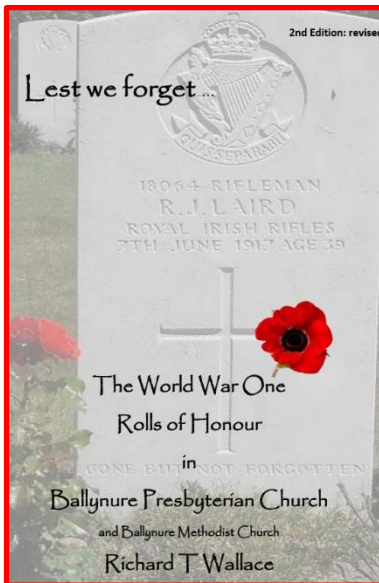
Mr Wallace records the life and times of the local men who joined up and writes about their families and their fate. He includes photographs, images of Attestation papers, newspaper notices and many other documents.

This second edition includes the names on the memorial in Ballynure Methodist Church.

We are grateful to Richard for permitting the Society to publish his work on our website and in our Research Centre.

Available now at

<https://www.nifhs.org/resources/miscellaneous-records/ballynure/>



Ballynure Old Graveyard, Co. Antrim

We have also been given gravestone inscriptions from Ballynure Old Graveyard. There are more than 500 records of the complete transcriptions from the headstones, and they are accompanied by photographs of each headstone. A map of the graveyard is also available.

This work was compiled by Mr Richard T. Wallace and his colleague Stephen Bell. They have given us permission to make the work available in our Research Centre and on our website at <https://www.nifhs.org/resources/miscellaneous-records/ballynure/>



Members may request copies of photos by email to lookup@nifhs.org (please always quote the grave number)



Larne Branch Exhibition

Recently the Larne Branch of the NIFHS held a highly successful exhibition in Larne Museum and Arts Centre showing many aspects of Larne life and family history through newspapers.

The exhibition was staffed by volunteers to explain the exhibits and answer any questions.

One of the contributors to the exhibition was Siobhan Watson (middle row, second right) who explains her part in keeping alive the boxing history of the Jellie family. "A few years ago, I inherited two newspaper articles about my grandad and his brothers - all born in Larne and amateur boxers.

My paternal Jellies were builders and masons and were also competitive boxers from a young age.

Glenyss {of Larne branch} invited members to contribute any newspaper articles of Larne to their exhibition so it was very thrilling to be able to see us being part of the Larne project.

"It was amazing to see my dad, who himself was a boxer, my cousin, myself and then our children all admiring not only the newspaper articles and photos, but actual boxing gloves and memorabilia of our family donated to the Larne Museum.

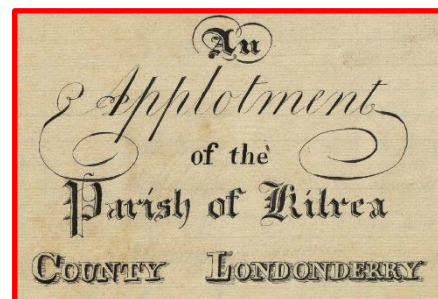
This is family history alive and real!"



Tithe Applotments at PRONI

Tithe was a tax payable to the Church of Ireland (Established Church) by land occupiers. The Tithe Applotment Books record the outcome of the land survey which was undertaken between the years 1823 & 1837 to establish how much tax was to be paid by each leaseholder. The survey was taken on agricultural land only and was recorded by civil parish and townland in Tithe Applotment Books. In some instances, there was no valuation (applotment) as the land was too poor in nature or was church land. PRONI holds the books for nearly all of the parishes in Northern Ireland and have made them available to search online. Conducting the search takes a bit of getting used to but hopefully this will help:-

Access the PRONI eCatalogue at <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni> click on eCatalogue. Select Browse at the top right hand corner of the page and enter FIN/5. This will open up a list of entries in FIN series. Click on FIN/5 and another list will appear. Click on FIN/5/A and the second page of these results will list the Tithe Applotment Books for each parish in alphabetical order. Bear in mind that these are very large files.



While all of the above may seem complicated, it is more so in the telling than in the doing. This is a great resource for pre-famine Ireland and is a step back in time from Griffiths. If you persevere you could be rewarded not only with the names of the leaseholders but the size of the holdings, valuation and sometimes even a description of the land. It provides a glimpse of not only where but also how your ancestors lived.



Update on Irish Genealogy

Irish Genealogy, as promised, are moving along with providing free access to civil records for births deaths and marriages. As well as the Indexes, most of the actual images of the registers are now available as follows

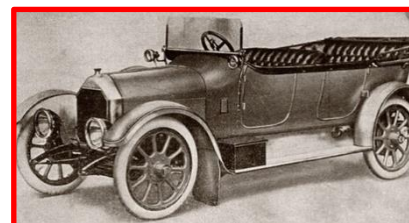
Birth register images are all available	from 1864 to 1919
Marriage register images are all available	from 1845 to 1921 (1944 for Republic of Ireland)
Death register images are available	from 1878 to 1921 (1969 for Republic of Ireland) (1864 to 1878 images to follow)

Access all of the above and more at www.irishgenealogy.ie. If you haven't already had a look at this website, it will be well worth your while to do so. It is a marvelous resource.

Irish Motor Directory 1914-1915

It is always useful to have another good look round a website you are familiar with. It's easy to fall into the habit of using the same resources over and over without looking at what else is on offer on that site. Here is a little gem recently discovered on the www.lennonwylie.co.uk site but which may have been there for some time.

The **Irish Motor Directory 1914-1915** lists all of the owners' names and addresses for registered motor vehicles in Ireland during those years. There is also a list of the establishments which provide support for the motorist, whether selling fuel or providing mechanical and break down services. The site states that there are over 20,000 registered vehicles in Ireland at the time and while I haven't counted all of the names listed, there are 852 in County Antrim alone. The lists are arranged by county but not alphabetically so a bit of searching is required but you might find, as I did, that your three times great uncle owned a motorcycle.



NIFHS 40th Anniversary celebrations



We are now well into our 40th anniversary year - celebrating our humble beginnings in 1979 with one small group of members meeting in a room in Bangor which has now grown in 2020 to approximately 1100 members - half of that number meeting in 11 thriving Branches throughout the North of Ireland and the rest being our many Associate members mainly overseas.

We are almost unique in that our society amongst all the similar groups locally, is the only one with a significant collection of artefacts and records in a research facility of our own, our Family Research Centre, in Newtownabbey. Since January 2019, a small team has been planning and arranging events and encouraging branches to do the same to help mark the anniversary, as well as to raise the profile of the Society as we go forward into the future. You may have heard us featured on BBC Radio Ulster's "Your Place And Mine" several times already.

You may also have noticed our 40th anniversary logos and colour scheme on posters and publicity material, and have seen or heard of events we have already run, such as the **AGM and book launch hosted by Lisburn Branch**, where the Anniversary Year of Events was officially launched by the Mayor of Lisburn, the very successful talk in September by **Donna Moughty "Finding your American Cousins"**, and the exciting ongoing **Ballycarry DNA project**, as well as the wonderful **displays and information sessions held by Larne Branch and Causeway Coast & Glens Branches**.





Our next 40th event is a free Digital Roadshow in co-operation with Queens University Centre for Digital Data.

We hope many members of the Society will support this event and bring along small artefacts, documents etc to be digitally recorded or scanned with their stories, for the preservation of the information and the item - this is for the owner, but with permission could be shared with NIFHS, or archived for future researchers.

North of Ireland Family History Society
40TH ANNIVERSARY DIGITAL ROADSHOW
Saturday 7th March 2020
10.00 am - 4.00 pm
The Hill of The O'Neill,
Ranfurly House,
26 Market Square,
Dungannon,
BT70 1AB

This Digital Roadshow, which is being run by the North of Ireland Family History Society, as part of our 40th anniversary year of celebrations, is being facilitated by the Centre for Digital Data Analysis (CDDA) at Queen's University, Belfast.
The event is FREE, and refreshments will be provided.

40th ANNIVERSARY **LIVING LEGACIES 1914-18** **CDDA**

www.nifhs.org

"Come along to this
ANTIQUA ROADSHOW
style event, where you will have the opportunity to share photographs, stories and objects associated with your family history. Each contributor on arrival will be greeted by a member of the Digital Scanning team, before being assigned to a researcher.

Experienced researchers from CDDA will be on hand to record your stories and scan your treasured items of memorabilia, photographs, letters and artefacts, related to your family history.

After the event you will receive digital images of the object via email or another agreed method.

Branch events will continue through the year, which will culminate as follows - so

for Our Gala 40th event - a full Celebration Day

Venue: Castle Upton Suite, Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick, Co Antrim
Date: Saturday 20th June 2020 Time from 10am-5pm

Members - do come and meet old friends, enjoy refreshments, be entertained by several prominent guest speakers, music, and a hot buffet lunch.

More details about the cost, how to book and also preferential accommodation rates for people wishing to stay overnight, etc will be circulated quite soon by email, through our branches and on our website i.e. <https://www.nifhs.org>



We look forward to welcoming many members - old and new.

Newsletter content provided by NIFHS Newsletter team