



NIFHS News Bc" 26 - October 2020

NEW NIFHS NEWSLETTER VENTURE

Welcome to the first edition of the monthly (ish) Newsletter. In the August edition of the biennial Newsletter Mike outlined some of the changes that the Society has made due to the current health emergency, and producing a more frequent Newsletter for a trial period is another of those changes. The aim is to encourage better communication and to keep you informed of the ongoing changes as they happen. Do remember we are still looking for others to join the Newsletter team, if you are interested please contact - Secretary@nifhs.org.

The first and most welcome piece of news is that most of the Branches are up and running again through the use of Zoom and I would encourage you to look at the Branch programmes on the website - www.nifhs.org. Your membership of the Society, whether Branch or Associate, entitles you to attend Branch meetings and, as they are all being conducted virtually, now is your opportunity to join in. If you find a talk or event you would like to attend, simply email the Secretary of that Branch to receive an invite.

I hope you find something that interests you in this Newsletter, an event to attend, the latest information from the world of DNA, revisiting school or using social media. Overall remember that this is your Newsletter and your ideas, views and news are always welcome. If you have a tip or an interesting story to tell, don't be shy. We all want to hear it. If you have a criticism, please make it constructive and courteous.

Contact the Newsletter Team at Newsletter@nifhs.org. Waiting to hear from you, Evelyn

A VIRTUAL OUTING OR TWO

We aren't able to attend our usual quota of family history talks/fairs this year, so why not try a virtual visit?

North Armagh Branch has asked me to highlight their Zoom talk on **Wednesday 21st October**,

"Putting Your Ancestors in Their Place" - Dr Janet Few

Email NorthArmagh@nifhs.org to register your interest



WORLDWIDE VIRTUAL EVENT Saturday 14th November



Then travelling further afield:-

Organised by the Family History Federation, the Really Useful Family History Show has a lot packed into the one day. Six live streams of talks, virtual booths where you can chat to experts, opportunities for shopping, joining societies - the list goes on and on, and if you can't manage to visit it all, the talks will still be available after the event.

NIFHS will be represented so come visit our stall or talk to us in our virtual booth.

Find more information and booking details at -
www.fhf-reallyuseful.com



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PRONI REOPENS TO THE PUBLIC CONTINUED

Details of booking a visit to PRONI were explained in the August edition of the Newsletter.
The following provides some information about the actual visit

A MEMBERS EXPERIENCE

Alan Bennett, Newtownabbey



Do not arrive more than 15 minutes before your allocated time. As the restaurant is closed you will need to bring your own food with you. There is a vending machine for drinks.

Enter the building with a face covering on and sanitise your hands at the station.

Approach the front desk and a staff member will confirm your identity and appointment. You will be asked to confirm a contact number. Then swipe your visitor pass on the scanner. You will be asked to put your belongings in the lockers and only clear plastic bags with your notebooks etc. are allowed. You will then be asked to sit

in a designated area and another member of staff will contact you.

You will be escorted to your designated area. This may be in the reading room upstairs or there are rooms downstairs. The room upstairs containing the microfilms, computers etc. is closed.

At your allocated area there will be a microfilm machine and a cardboard box. Inside this box will be the items you requested. A form is with each item and you must sign to show receipt of the items. Keep this form for when you are leaving. At 15:30 an announcement will be made to return all items to the box at your area. When you do this, you must sign the forms to show return of your items and put these forms in the box.

Some useful points:-

- (1) During your time in the building you must wear a face covering at all times.
- (2) The staff will not be allowed to assist you with your research.
- (3) If you need help with the microfilm machines, the staff can help, but they will ask you to stay back a safe distance while they are dealing with your request.
- (4) The toilets are open all day to everyone.
- (5) There will be announcements at regular intervals asking everyone to wash their hands.
- (6) When you want to go for something to eat you must go to the designated area downstairs with your own food. Tables are set out.

NEW RECORDS ON THE WAY!

As most of you will be aware Irishgenealogy.ie allows you to view civil records of birth, marriage and death here: civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp

You will be pleased to know that they have recently added a further update to the site which provides death records for Ireland for the years 1871 to 1969. This leaves death records for 1864-1870 as the only remaining records to be added to complete their historical records from the 1800s.



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FAMILY TREE DNA UPDATES

Martin McDowell, NIFHS DNA Project

Ethnicity estimates

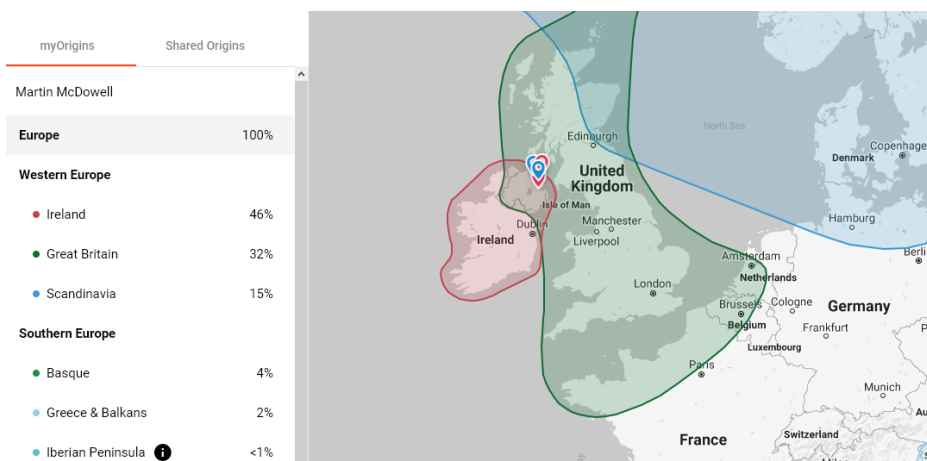
Family Tree DNA have recently launched My Origins (Version 3) which is an update on their ethnicity estimates. Anyone who has taken a family finder test with FTDNA will have already received their results and can see them when they log on to their account.

Ethnicity estimation is not an exact science but FTDNA are seeking to improve the quality of their estimates by increasing the size of the control group that they use to work out these estimates and also by increasing the number of reference populations from 24 to 90. This compares with 70 regions used by Ancestry DNA. The reference populations are the regions into which ethnicity is allocated and you can see from the table below exactly where regions have been added. For these regions you will receive a percentage ethnicity estimate (if you have any ethnicity from that region). One of the major changes for the British Isles is that they have added two new regions 'Ireland' and 'Great Britain' to replace the previous region 'British Isles'.

Continental Region	myOrigins 3	myOrigins 2
Africa	21	4
Europe & Middle East	27	12
Asia & Oceania	33	6
Americas	9	2
Total	90	24

People who have uploaded their results to Family Tree DNA from other DNA companies can also see My Origins if they have previously unlocked their account. The unlock allows you to access ethnicity estimates and use the chromosome browser on each account permanently for a one-off fee of \$19 (about £14).

Another development is that you can view the location of your DNA matches' ancestors on the ethnicity map if they have entered the location. You can see a snapshot of my results below showing my ethnicity percentages and markers on the map which show the location of my matches' ancestors. You can see which of your matches have entered a location on the shared origins tab. The blue markers refer to the location of their earliest known male ancestor and the red markers to the location of their earliest known female ancestor.





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Are you on the map? If you have not yet entered your location you can do so by going to 'account information' and selecting the tab for genealogy. Then select the page for 'earliest known ancestors' and click on 'update location' to enter your details. You will be able to enter a name for your earliest known male and female ancestors. The names you enter should be the names of the people who you know furthest back on your father's, father's, father's, line and your mother's, mother's, mother's line. You will still be able to download your previous ethnicity results (My Origins 2) for comparison purposes for a period of months.

And that's not all! A further development coming in the future is the ability to view your ethnicity by segment through the chromosome browser. This will enable you to identify segments of DNA which are attributed to specific ethnicities and identify others on your matches page who share these with you.

MAKING YOUR DNA RESULTS WORK FOR YOU

Need help making sense of your DNA results? Are you drowning in matches and don't know what to do with them? If so, then help is at hand!

The North of Ireland DNA project are offering free online 30-minute personal sessions for any society members who want more specific advice on making progress with their DNA results. So, if you have any questions you need answered or if you need direction on the next steps then we can help you! We would ask everyone who books a session to have results within our DNA project and that will enable us to talk you through your results and answer specific questions (using screen sharing).

Whilst these sessions are being offered free, we would encourage those who get benefit from this service to make a voluntary donation to our North of Ireland DNA project here:

www.familytreedna.com/groups/nifhs/about/background

All donations made at the above link will be used to purchase additional DNA kits that will be used to test people within Northern Ireland who wouldn't otherwise test. These will include participants in our Ballycarry DNA project or similar projects in the future.

If you want to book a session just send an email to DNA@nifhs.org stating your membership number and also noting what aspect of DNA you would like help with. We will then get back to you to arrange a date for a zoom one-to-one session. Please remember that our project administrators are volunteers with limited time so if you want to be certain of getting a session then please book one asap to avoid disappointment. We look forward to hearing from you and helping you make progress

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

Courtesy of North Armagh Branch

"Only a genealogist thinks that a step backwards is progress"

"Friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate"

"Eventually all genealogists come to their census"

"Genealogists are relatively obsessed"

"Genealogy: Chasing your own tale"



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BACK TO SCHOOL - CENSUS OF TEACHERS IN 1905

Joyce McNamara, Lisburn Branch

If you have teachers sitting on your family tree, Louise Lewis, Lisburn Branch, has discovered a really fascinating list published by the National Archives Ireland. It details all National School teachers across the island in 1905. See www.nationalarchives.ie/article/list-of-teachers-employed-by-the-commissioners-of-national-education-on-31-march-1905/ The list is organised alphabetically by surname, with very legible entries. One useful aspect is that they show the teacher's exact age, so you can work out a date of birth if you don't have it. The entries also show the school that the teacher went to, where they trained, their length of service, and in which school and in what capacity they were teaching in 1905.

FACEBOOK BENEFITS

Joyce McNamara, Lisburn Branch

With reduced 'real life' contact during the summer, I turned to my much under-used Facebook account and was surprised at the benefits. Many are wary of using Facebook, and it's up to the individual to control wisely the information they share, but simply setting up an account at www.facebook.com can give you instant access to much useful information and interactive chat with like-minded people. Many NIFHS branches have their own Facebook pages. These are listed at www.nifhs.org I'm still learning, but other interesting groups which I have joined are County Down Genealogy and The Genealogy Squad (US focused, but brimming with good ideas). If it's DNA you're interested in try DNA Help for Genealogy (UK) and Genetic Genealogy, Tips and Techniques. If a group is marked 'private', you just need to make a simple application to join.

THE FINAL WORD?...

Palaeography

- Introduction
- Where to start
- Quick reference
- Interactive tutorial
- Further practice
- Game - ducking stool
- Further reading

palaeography

Palaeography: reading old handwriting 1500 - 1800 A practical online tutorial

Palaeography is the study of old handwriting. This web tutorial will help you learn to read the handwriting found in documents written in English between 1500 and 1800.

At first glance, many documents written at this time look illegible to the modern reader. By reading the practical tips and working through the documents in the Tutorial in order of difficulty, you will find that it becomes much easier to read old handwriting. You can find more documents on which to practise your skills in the [further practice](#) section.

This tutorial has been developed in partnership with the [School of Library, Archive and Information Studies \(SLAIS\)](#), University College London

Where to start

Tips on reading and transcribing documents.

Quick reference

Dating, numbers, money, measurements.

Tutorial

Ten documents of varying levels of difficulty, information about the documents and their historical backgrounds.

Further practice

More documents to practise on. New documents will be added periodically.

You can also learn Latin with our [online tutorial](#) for beginners



Short listed by the Times Higher Awards 2006 for the Most Imaginative Use of Distance Learning

The previous article brought something to mind which I think you might find helpful. I do use Facebook and I am a member of a few closed groups.

One of the most common posts in all groups concerns deciphering handwriting in original documents. A mixture of unfamiliar handwriting, unusual names and occupations can lead to all sorts of peculiar interpretations of the original. Was your great grandfather a tailor or a sailor, is the surname Cooper in your family, or were they all Loopers? You do need to know.

The National Archives at Kew could well help you out. They have a free online tutorial in palaeography. Find out more at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/palaeography/.