JSTOR - a free online resource for NIFHS members

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How might JSTOR and journals help me in my family history research?

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Introduction to JSTOR

JSTOR (standing for Journal STORage) is a well-regarded online archive of mainly academic journals. These are organised into Collections, each containing the journals of a particular discipline or area. JSTOR, in collaboration with the Queen's University of Belfast, has digitized many journals and other materials, some dating back to the 18th century, to form the **Ireland Collection**. Each year it adds new issues of those journals. Most journals, including back numbers of the Society's journal *North Irish Roots*, have a "moving wall", usually of 3 years, which means that journals less than 3 years old are not yet available online. JSTOR indexes all the journals and provides good facilities for searching the **Ireland Collection** or for browsing individual issues of journals.

Normally access to a JSTOR Collection is by subscription. Many libraries subscribe to various JSTOR Collections but people can pay to read individual articles. However, the Society has arranged with JSTOR that all of our Members have free access to all of the **Ireland Collection**. Each year Members are e-mailed the *username* and *password* for the Members' area of the Society's website and these are also used to log in to JSTOR via the Society's website.
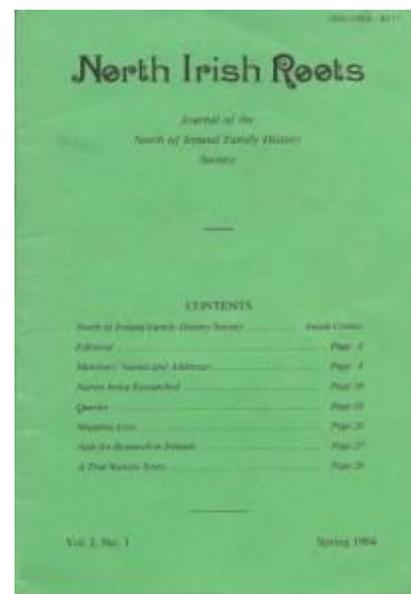
North Irish Roots 1.1

The Society welcomes this collaboration with JSTOR for several reasons.

- Firstly, this is a useful resource for our Members as it makes available a wealth of material that otherwise might be difficult to find.
- Secondly, it makes our Members' interests available to a very wide range of people, who may have similar interests and thus may be able to help our Members.
- Thirdly, it provides excellent worldwide publicity for the Society.
- Fourthly, it brings in revenue to the Society, thereby helping to keep your annual NIFHS subscription about £1 less than it would otherwise be.

JSTOR Login

Each year Members who have supplied the Society with e-mail addresses receive an e-mail showing the *username* and *password* for the year for the Members' area of the Society's website and these are also used to log in to JSTOR via the Society's website.

To log in, at www.NIFHS.org click on the **Login** menu and select **JSTOR Access**

Type the *username* (not your e-mail address) and *password*.

This will bring up a page with a box followed by a list of links to all the journals in the **Ireland Collection**. **Click on the box to search to read the articles.** If you just want to see what articles are available in a journal, click on the link to the journal but you will not be able to search or to read an article.

Clicking on the box takes you to the NIFHS page on JSTOR. The top of that page should read "Access provided by **North of Ireland Family History Society**" to indicate that you are logged in to JSTOR, so ignore the buttons labelled Register and Log in – they are for people who have their own personal JSTOR accounts.
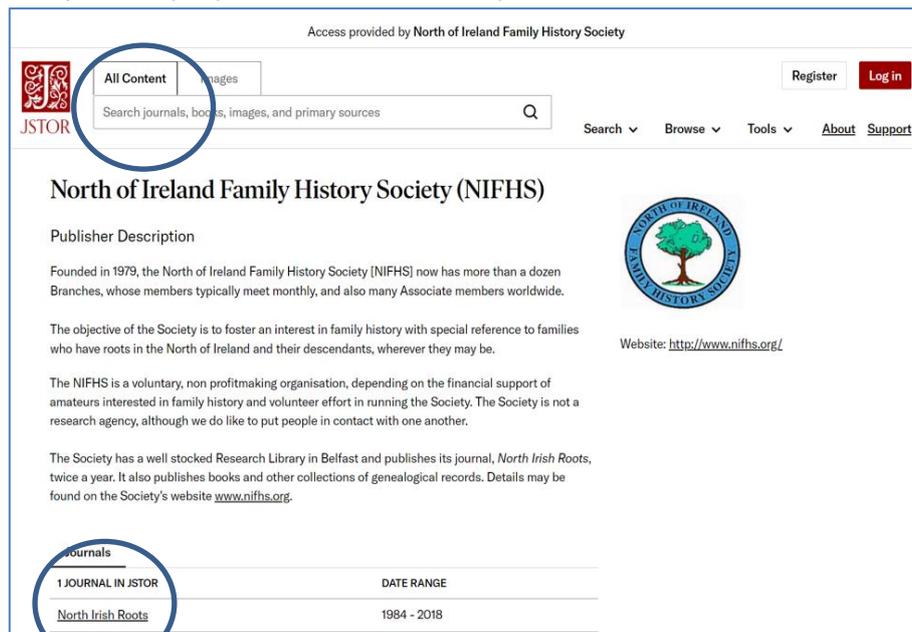
You can now use the Search box near the top of the page to search JSTOR for some keyword such as a surname or place – or you can go directly to *North Irish Roots* by clicking on that link at the foot of the page.

Searching in JSTOR

The unit for viewing online or for download as a PDF document is an article within a volume of a publication. A complete volume is not available for viewing or downloading as a single document. Use the search box on the page illustrated above. (Tip: put quote marks around a phrase to target the search term better, e.g. "Carrickfergus Castle".). This *Basic search* may well deliver more articles than you require so, from the Search menu, select *Advanced search*. This lets you supply several keywords and lets you limit them to certain fields such as Author or Title, to certain publication dates, to certain publications such as *North Irish Roots*, and so on.

Basic search

Typing the parish name **Macosquin**, for example, returns over a hundred articles from a range of publications. One of these is as follows.

The Rev. Dr Hezlett was one of the founders of this Society in 1979 and its President in 1983-4 and his well-written family history, deposited in the Linenhall Library, led me to a fascinating story of Dr Kennedy and his nephew John McKeag - it led from Macosquin and Aghadowey to the Californian gold rush and on to Hawaii with a tale of riches and poverty. There are two ways to read the article.

• Click on **the title of the article**: this displays some information about the article followed by the first of the four pages, from which you can click to read the subsequent pages. It includes the statement "Your search term, **Macosquin**, occurs 2 times in this item. View Results"; clicking on the link produces links to the first and last pages.

• Click on **Download PDF**: this downloads a file containing some information about the article, followed by the four pages.

Advanced search

As a search may produce a long list of results, you may wish instead to click on **Advanced Search**; select access type **All content** and then narrow your search. This may be by combining several search terms - here the townland name **Glenleary** is added - or limiting the range of dates or the language …

… or by naming a journal or selecting from a list of journals.

How might JSTOR and journals help me in my family history research?

Journals are a rich source of family history information. Genealogical journals, such as *North Irish Roots*, contain articles about families and lists of names that others are researching. Local history journals have articles about events and businesses of the past, lists of names and many pictures such as old school photographs with the names of the pupils.

The Society has a good collection of 50 or so local history society journals and they are fascinating to browse through - for a list see www.nifhs.org/resources/journals/. In general such journals are not well indexed but a partial help is a pair of indexes to articles (not their contents) - one to **Gravestone Inscriptions Extracted from Journals** and the other to **Miscellaneous Records Extracted from Journals** - both of which are on the Society's website via the above Journals page. If you are a member, you may request a Look up of an article but we cannot copy the article for you.

The advantage of JSTOR is that all the material is indexed and can be easily searched.

Here are some examples of the sort of information that you might find from back numbers of *North Irish Roots*.

Lists of names   -   There are many articles with lists of names. Here in Ireland we can often trace family back to about 1800. So articles listing names in the early 1800s and before then can provide useful pieces of the jigsaw. To illustrate this, here are just a few such articles to whet your appetite; there are many more.

Vol.	No.	Year	Pages	Contributor	Subject
2	1	1988	5-6	S. A. Milsopp	The Tenants of the Ward Family in Bangor 1757
2	3	1989	110-115	G. Millar	Old Ballymoney – list of residents 1804-1810
2	5	1990	180-183	F. J. Bigger & I. Forsythe	Merchants in Belfast High Street, beginning of the 19th century
2	7	1991	252-254		
3	1	1992	27-36	T. G. F. Patterson	Derryhale Townland, Kilmore Parish, Co. Armagh, 1821 Census
3	2	1992	15-16	J. R. Doggart	Flax Growers in Ballymoney Parish, 1796
4	1	1993	4-6	J. R. Doggart	Seat-holders, Shankill Parish Church, Lurgan, 1725
4	2	1993	16-25	J. R. R. Adams	A 'Directory' of Belfast, c1740 – culled from several sources
5	1	1994	30-33	T. Witherow & D. Mitchell	Extracts from "Derry and Enniskillen, in the Year 1689"

Sources of information - There are also articles listing sources of information that you may not yet have investigated. Here are just a few examples; again, there are more to be found.

Vol.	No.	Year	Pages	Contributor	Subject
2	5	1990	164-166	W. R. H. Charley	The Royal Ulster Rifles Museum Library – amongst the many records are more than 200 editions of the Army List from 1793
2	6	1990	194-196	P Long	Monaghan County Museum Document Collection
2	7	1991	230-232	T. Sullivan	County Cavan Library: Local History Section
2	7	1991	233-235	K. McAllister	Genealogy in Tyrone Division of Western Education and Library Board Library Service
2	7	1991	236-237	PRONI Deputy Keeper's Report 1985	Royal Irish Fusiliers: Records in the Public Record Office

Specific families - There are many articles on specific families – do any of them tie up with your families? Here are a few.

Vol.	No.	Year	Pages	Contributor	Subject
2	8	1991	280-281	C. A. McClatchey	The Name McClatchey
5	1	1994	18	R. W. Stewart	The Marshall Family of Cumber and Balteagh Parishes, Co. Londonderry
5	1	1994	23-26	R. Garland	Irish Garlands
5	1	1994	26-28	R. Caseby	Caseby Family Genealogy
5	1	1994	34-35	E. Wickens	The Clegg Family of Copeland Islands
5	2	1994	28	G. Sayers	Sayers – Ireland and Australia
6	2	1995	15-22	R. Graham	Families of the Great Houses of the Shore Road
7	1	1996	22-26	A. S. Cromie	The Cromies of Portstewart
8	2	1997	22-24	C. W. Bingley	The Waddell Family in Ireland

Miscellaneous articles - There are many interesting articles that you may have missed, usually because they were published before you joined the Society. Here is a small sample.

Vol.	No.	Year	Pages	Contributor	Subject
1	6	1985	165-166	H. A. Hezlett	Your Family History – developing a family tree into a family history
1	8	1987	225	E. Wickens	The Scottish Link – successfully connecting Scottish antecedents to a present day Irish family
6	1	1995	12-15	J. Convery	The Glasgow Poor Law Records as a Source for the Irish Family Historian
7	2	1996	24-35	-	Street Names of Belfast – that have changed
8	1	1997	13-15	C. Ludlow	Ulster Salt Makers
10	1	1999	10-13	K. C. Harvey	Donaghadee and the White Slave Trade in Pennsylvania
17	1	2006	25-33	G. Davis	Irish Migration to Nineteenth-Century Britain
17	2	2006	16-24	M. Harper	Journeys and Migrations – North Irish Roots – Ireland to America
18	2	2007	23-27	M. K. Simms	Pre-Plantation Sources for Ulster Family History

Members' interests - Finally, another find that could prove very useful would be discovering that, before you joined, another Member had listed your family under his or her interests. With luck that Member can still be contacted – after all, one of the main reasons for the Society is to put Members in touch with each other to share information.

To inspire you to search for a gem, here is a snippet from Vol. 9, No. 1, 1998, page 16:

> Louise McKeag was returning from New York in 1915. She put her luggage on board the *Lusitania* and went ashore to say farewell to her sisters. She used a toilet on the quay but was unable to get out because children had broken the door handle. When she was eventually rescued, her luggage had been deposited on the quay and the *Lusitania* was disappearing into the distance on the voyage that was to end in destruction by a U-boat, with great loss of life.