



'This dark, frieze-coated, hoarse, teeth-chattering month'

Hello All,

Here we are in February and, depending on where you are just now, the above words of Samuel Taylor Coleridge might well resonate. However, have no concerns. Some more records have become available for you to search from the comfort of your warm fireside. Or, for some of you, as you sit in the sun.

Remember, too, the courses on offer from your Society and the online events to attend. Lots to catch up on this month but let's begin with a competition.

I welcome your thoughts and ideas, to contact the Newsletter - Newsletter@nifhs.org.

Evelyn

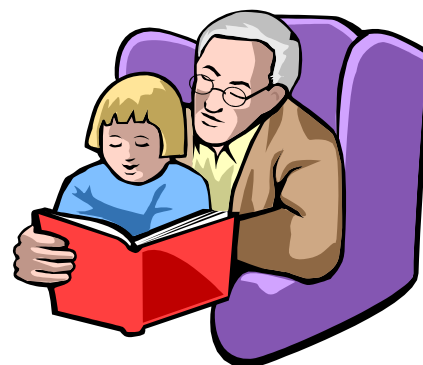
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2021 Competition - FAMILY MEMORIES

The Society has run a biennial competition for its Members since 2006. Organised by the Belfast Branch for all Members of the Society, it attracts entries from Members around the world. The purpose of the competition is to encourage people to write up at least part of their family history rather than just construct a family tree. Many of the articles have subsequently been published in the Society's journal, *North Irish Roots*.

Family stories bring a family tree to life. They give personality and character to individuals that were previously just names, dates and places. They can look at the family unit rather than just the individuals within it. They can recall the joys they experienced and the tragedies they had to deal with, the events that made them into the people they were. They allow us to connect with and understand our ancestors and relatives and give us something that can be passed on to those that follow.

The theme of this year's competition is '**Family Memories**'. They can be your own personal memories of your life and that of your family. They can be based on an interview with elderly relatives recalling their lifetime memories. They can be pieced together from family letters and other documents and family heirlooms. Use the competition as a way of recording family memories for posterity - as time passes the details may become hazier - or use it as an opportunity to talk to parents, aunts, uncles or grandparents about their memories before it is too late. Get them to look through family photographs, remember family events, identify individuals and recall their characters and information about their lives.



The competition is open to all NIFHS Members and the winner will receive £100 with the runners up receiving £60 and £40. The results will be announced at the Society AGM in September 2021.



2021 Competition - FAMILY MEMORIES

Terms and Conditions:

1. The competition is open to all fully paid-up members of the North of Ireland Family History Society.
2. The entry must relate to your personal family history research and you must cite the source of each fact.
3. The document should be no more than 2,500 words in length. It may contain maps, photographs and other illustrations to add interest (each of these counts as 100 words towards the total) and lists of family members should be limited to what will be of interest to the general reader.
4. The judging panel will be appointed by the Committee of the Belfast Branch, who are the competition sponsors, and will include an independent panel member. No member of the judging panel will be permitted to submit an entry.
5. The evaluation criteria will be:
 1. Genealogical content (reporting of the history of the family, important life events, etc.) - 50 marks
 2. Quality of presentation (uniqueness, creativity in telling the story, quality of writing) - 50 marks
6. The winner will receive £100 with second and third receiving £60 and £40 respectively. The panel may decide not to award a prize.
7. Entries will not be returned and contestants must consent to the Society making the article available as a reference resource, which may include publication in North Irish Roots and on the Internet. Consequently, the author must own the copyright of all material, including illustrations, or else have permission from the copyright owner to republish the material.
8. Entries must be e-mailed to the competition organiser at anne.johnston33@gmail.com by **Friday 28th May 2021** and the following information must accompany each entry:
Name, Membership Number, Address, Telephone Number and a contact E-mail Address.
9. The entry must not be in pdf format because it is much more difficult to re-format it for subsequent publication in North Irish Roots.

NIFHS COURSES SPRING 2021 PROGRAMME

The NIFHS Spring Course programme is well underway and the reports are excellent. Having our courses available online is something new to NIFHS and has proved very successful.

Whether you are interested in DNA, emigration to the southern hemisphere, heraldry, using the registry of deeds or writing a family history, there is a course to get you started.

It is not too late to sign up to any of the courses. You will find full details of the courses and how to book on the NIFHS website -

www.nifhs.org/courses.

Please note:-

'Family Tree Maker: Basics and Benefits' has been moved to Friday 5 March 2021 (2pm-3pm)

'Researching your Military Ancestors' course has been cancelled and full refunds made to those who had already booked this course.



HERITAGE FROM HOME

Libraries NI

1-19 March 2021

Here is a list of the 'Heritage from Home' events arranged by Libraries NI for the month of March as mentioned in the January Newsletter. All these events will be delivered on Zoom and can be followed on PC, laptop, iPad and on most smartphones. It is essential to book, so if you would like to attend an event, please email: heritage.talks@librariesni.org.uk

The programme will be updated weekly, so keep checking the website -
www.librariesni.org.uk/news/heritage-from-home/
and follow Libraries NI Facebook page for notifications.

Monday 1 March 2021, 1.00 -2.00 pm

Dating and understanding family photographs, 1840-1940

Jayne Shrimpton

Tuesday 2 March 2021, 1.00 - 2.00 pm

A sense of place: ecology, community and the human spirit

Dr Liam Campbell

Wednesday 3 March 2021, 2.00 - 3 pm

Question and answer session with Joe Mahon

Joe Mahon

Thursday 4 March 2021, 1.00 - 2.00 pm

Boundaries, borders and map-making: A comparative measuring of America and Ireland

Dr Liam Campbell

Friday 5 March, 1.00 - 2.00 pm

The Ballykinlar History Hut project at Down County Museum

Mike King

Monday 8 March, 1.00 - 2.00 pm

Workshop: dating photographs

Jayne Shrimpton

Tuesday 9 March, 1.00 - 2.00 pm

The Earth Connects Us: The geology and landscapes of the Mourne Gullion Strangford
Aspiring UNESCO Global Geopark

Dr Kirstin Lemon

Wednesday 10 March, 2.30 - 3.30 pm

Protestants in the South of Ireland

Dr Marie Coleman



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Thursday 11 March, 12.00 - 1.00 pm

The Celts at War

Richard Doherty

Friday 12 March, 2:30pm-3:30pm

Religion and belief in Iron Age Ireland

Dr Patrick Gleeson

Monday 15 March, 11:30-12:30pm

Mumming and rhymers (illustrated talk)

Dara Vallely / Armagh Rhymers

Monday 15 March, 2.00 -3.00 pm

St Patrick's Play

Armagh Rhymers

Thursday 18 March, 2:30-3:30pm

Storytelling (Irish myths)

Frances Quinn

Friday 19 March, 1.00 -2.00 pm

Irish property records for Family History

John Grenham

ODD BODS AND SODS

You still have time to register for **RootsTech Connect 25 -27 February**. It's free so why not give it a try? According to their website the content of the sessions will be available online for twelve months after the event. If you cannot attend this weekend, it might still be worthwhile to register and access the sessions at a later date. All you need to know is at - www.rootstech.org.

www.nifhs.org/home/search-nifhs - is this search facility for our website new to you? Have a look on the website and see what you can find.

www.irishgenealogy.ie - An additional year of historic Births, Marriages and Deaths are now available to view on the irishgenealogy.ie website. The records now available online include: Birth register records - 1864 to 1920; Marriage register records - 1845 to 1945 & Death register records - 1871 to 1970.

Did you know that Irish parents only had 21 days in which to register a birth? I didn't until I attended one of the Libraries NI 'Heritage from Home' talks, 'Starting research on Irish records'. John Grenham was the speaker, a name familiar to many of you. He explained that sometimes a baptismal date was earlier than a birth date because the parents hadn't registered the child within the 21 days required and made up a date of birth to comply with the rules. This little snippet of information solved a mystery for me and now I have another line added to my family tree.



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MORE PANTS

By Chris Hill, Associate Member

This is a second set of snippets from my family's tailoring business in Glengormley (see NIFHS News 27, November 2020). All feature solicitors or court appearances.

Farquharson Archibald of Main Street Portrush county Antrim baker and confectioner died 18 March 1942 at Derrylavan county Monaghan Eire Probate Belfast 3 May to James Farquharson baker. Effects £10207 19s. 10d.

Archibald apparently made two wills, in 1934 and 1939. His son James, executor of the later will, raised a probate case against solicitor Dennis O'Connor Taggart, executor of the earlier one. Disappointingly, the parties settled without a court fight, as Mr Edmond Warnock, K.C., for the plaintiff, explained (*Ballymena Observer* of 11 December 1942):

Counsel went on to say that the testator had a family of six, one of whom, Archibald, had gone to Australia, where he established himself in a prosperous business. The testator sent a letter to Archibald asking him to return home and look after the business. The son returned in 1939 and took charge of the business, which then became an astounding success. In his letter, the testator had clearly indicated to Archibald that the business would be assigned to him, but six months after Archibald's return the testator made his will leaving everything to James.
The terms of settlement, Mr. Warnock added, had not been drawn up.



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John Harbison and Jane Strange of Galgorm Parks (just south of Cullybackey) had a large family including Matthew, Andrew and Samuel. The *n* in local Harbi(n)sons comes and goes, and surnames became middle names in the usual way: Andrew was Andrew Strange Harbison, and his son with Jane Martin was this Andrew Martin Harbison (1903-1953), a Cullybackey plasterer and then a builder who lived in Sunrise Terrace in Glengormley. He had brothers Howard, John and Matthew.

The *Ballymena Observer* of 29 July 1932 reports a traffic incident, with testimony that needs a grain of salt: *Andrew Harbison, Cullybackey, said he was a passenger in the car, and Bamford's small car came out in a flash at about 40 miles an hour and hit their car broadside on. Their car was travelling at about 15 miles an hour.*

Also, in 1932 my grandfather advanced £250 to Andrew M Harbison. This and similar transactions in PRONI ledgers suggest that private citizens would lend spare cash at about 6 per cent annual interest, via solicitors who kept lists of reliable borrowers and lenders. My grandmother, much earlier, when the family bought their Glengormley house, likewise borrowed and repaid £100. It seems more sensible than borrowing from sharks:

Stafford Robinson received
light suit 25 Aug 1938 x 4 : 15:0

Mr Robinson, a building contractor of Carnmoney Road, was sentenced in Belfast in 1942 to eight months of hard labour for a £950 fraud. He was working on a site near Maghera (Derry) which had four houses built, two partly built, and foundations laid for two more. Apparently ("on account of war regulations") he could not complete the work. He turned to the Capital Loan Company who charged 48 per cent (though I see no stated loan period); even less wisely, he pretended to be the owner or lessee of the land. "He got into the hands of money-lenders, could not get out of their clutches and then committed this fraud" said his Lordship (*Northern Whig* of 25 February 1942).

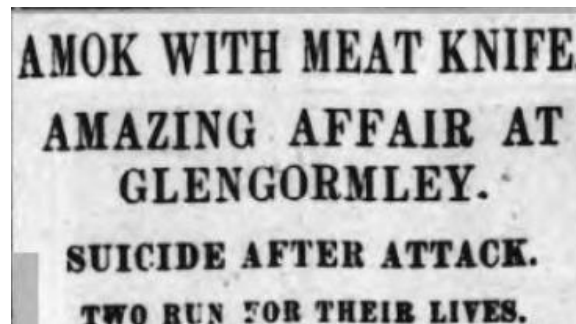
"Stafford Robinson" is named in other cases and looks like the same man. He was a passenger of William Glenn of Glengormley in a collision with a young cyclist near Carrickfergus, and he told the inquest (*Belfast News-letter* of 30 March 1940) that this car's speed was about 25 miles per hour. "He saw no light approaching before the accident", and the police found no lamp "on the bicycle or anywhere near the scene". Whatever our doubts, the open verdict is understandable. Then Stafford Robinson testified in the trial for property fraud of one Norman Fletcher (*Belfast News-letter* of 29 January 1941).



1940

Mrs William Kirk Ballyhenry		
received costume + Blouse	£ 2	✓
on 8 May 1940 costume	2	12
Ladies Blouse		11
	£ 3	4

On 8 May 1940 Chamberlain survived a vote of no confidence, and Germany was about to invade France and the Low Countries. William Kirk (1886-1953) had retired or partly retired, auctioning his farm and poultry stock, soon after marrying Ethel Pinkerton in 1935. With his first wife Isabella Barron (1876-1933) and their Ballyhenry neighbours he had already seen battle (*Larne Times* of 28 July 1928):



John Lyle, age 70, attacked his son Robert and Robert's wife with a bread knife and a large meat knife. After William arrived with distracting remarks (so that the slashed couple "speedily increased the distance between themselves and their pursuer") John returned home, bolted the door and cut his throat. A solicitor's letter urging him to behave or quit the farm had just arrived, and he seems to have reacted poorly. Robert Lyle told the inquest (*SON'S GRAPHIC STORY...Thrilling details of the incident...*) that John "thought people were doing things against him, but sometimes he was quite all right".

NIFHS RESEARCH LIBRARY

In line with current restrictions relating to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Research Library will remain closed at present. However, remember to check the NIFHS Website www.nifhs.org, [NIFHS Facebook](#) and [NIFHS Twitter](#) for the latest Society news. Many Branches have their Facebook and Twitter channels as shown on the NIFHS Home page. Remember, also, you can join in with any of the events that Branches are running.

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