



## NIFHS News 32 - April 2021

### 'April is the Cruellest Month'

T. S. Eliot, *The Wasteland*

Hello All,

Although Eliot is one of my favourite poets, I have to disagree with him. For those of us in the Northern Hemisphere, April is a month of new growth, and warmer and longer days, conducive to strolling through graveyards and browsing headstones. For the Society it is also the month of preparation for the Branch AGMs in May. Now is the time to consider what skills you have to offer to your Branch. Associate members, you aren't off the hook. There are many volunteering opportunities for our overseas members, too.

The Society is still looking for someone who will take on the task of completing applications for funding. As these are usually online applications, your home location doesn't rule you out. Please consider taking on the role. I didn't have one response to last month's article!

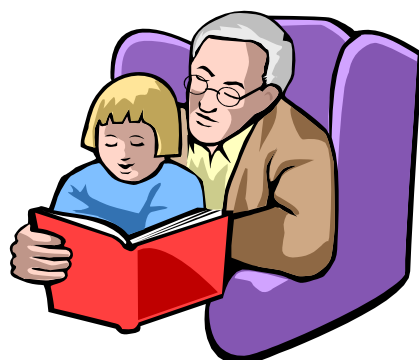
Over the past year we have become all too familiar with the news of businesses and organisations having to close their doors. I am pleased and proud to tell you that our membership has actually grown. The Society has adapted to the challenges of lock downs, made connections with individuals and groups that we might otherwise never have met, and raised our profile by attending online events and providing online courses. There has still been the usual support for our members and we have welcomed non-members to some events as well. Now this hasn't just happened by chance, there are those in your Society who have given of their time and energy to make sure that the Society remains strong and is prepared for future challenges. We owe a collective vote of thanks to those volunteers. I'd like to direct you to an article entitled 'Societies in Sickness' in the latest edition of the *Who Do you Think You Are?* magazine (generally available as an e-magazine through your public library service). Not all Family History Societies have coped as well as ours, sadly.

As always, I value your views, news and comments. Contact details remain the same - [Newsletter@nifhs.org](mailto:Newsletter@nifhs.org)

Stay well,

Evelyn  
B2513

### 2021 Biennial Competition - 'FAMILY MEMORIES' - Final Reminder



You still have time to enter the above competition, **the closing date is Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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.

All the details are available on the NIFHS website - [www.nifhs.org/resources/biennial-competition/](http://www.nifhs.org/resources/biennial-competition/)



## **SOME NEW SOURCES ...**

### **Glenwherry Presbyterian Church Baptisms**

Glenwherry Presbyterian Church lies south east of Ballymena in Co. Antrim, on the main road from Ballymena to Larne. Although the church has been in existence since 1823 the surviving records are from 1845.

We have transcribed baptisms from 1845 to 1901.

There is some overlap between the old register that records baptisms up to 1866, and the new register that runs from January 1864 and which includes fathers' occupations and place of birth, in addition to the place of residence. Mothers' maiden names are recorded consistently throughout, with few exceptions.

These baptism records are now available to members for look-up\*.

Sandra Ardis  
Projects Co-ordinator

\* You will find details of the look up service on the NIFHS website under Resources -  
[www.nifhs.org/resources/look-up-service/](http://www.nifhs.org/resources/look-up-service/)

### **New Digital Archive - Early Carrickfergus Town Records**

By Donald Bell

Please can I pass on to members in NIFHS, the internet link to a new digital resource that has become available on the early Town Records of Carrickfergus, covering the period from the early 17<sup>th</sup> to late 19<sup>th</sup> Century. This digital resource is based on an original hand-written archive of property and land leases, deeds and wills - a book still held in Carrickfergus Museum and is available from the Carrickfergus Museum collection and Research page on Mid and East Antrim Council's website. I have pasted the link below in case it may be of interest to any of your members whose family research may have associations with Carrickfergus.

[www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/things-to-do/museums-arts/carrickfergus-museum-and-civic-centre/collections-and-research/carrickfergus-old-town-records-1600-1800](http://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/things-to-do/museums-arts/carrickfergus-museum-and-civic-centre/collections-and-research/carrickfergus-old-town-records-1600-1800)

A book has also been produced of the history of Carrickfergus, from the early medieval period to the 20<sup>th</sup> Century : "Carrickfergus Through the Centuries". The author is Laura Patrick-Dawson and the book was produced by the Mid and East Antrim Council, assisted by funds from National Lottery Heritage Fund. The initial run of free copies was exhausted just before Christmas. A new order for 1000 hard-back copies has been placed. These will be distributed free of charge to anyone who would like a copy. Please keep a look out on the MEA Council's Facebook site for details on when these books will be available, and how to acquire one. There is an electronic version of this book and it is also on MEA Council's website. Here is the link:-

[www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/business/urban-regeneration/carrickfergus-thi/education-resources/images-and-videos](http://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/business/urban-regeneration/carrickfergus-thi/education-resources/images-and-videos)



## **Antrim and Newtownabbey Council Burial Records**

### **Burial Records Search Portal**

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council burial records are available online for the following cemeteries that are under the control of the Council:

- Antrim
- Ballyclare
- Belmont
- Carnmoney (Main and East)
- Crumlin
- Mallusk
- Sixmile
- Rashee Cemetery
- Umgall

Records can be accessed using the search portal on the Council website:-

[antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/cemeteries](http://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/cemeteries)

## **Dictionary of Irish Biography**

First launched in 2009, the Dictionary of Irish Biography (DIB) has moved to an 'open access' model making its entire corpus of nearly 11,000 biographical entries freely available to all users for the first time.

Officially launched on St Patrick's Day by Taoiseach Micheál Martin, Mary Canning, president of the Royal Irish Academy, and Kate O'Malley, interim managing editor of the DIB, the DIB is now a fully accessible national, and indeed international, resource that the general public can enjoy alongside students of history at all levels. The website is –

[www.dib.ie](http://www.dib.ie)

The launch can be viewed at -

[www.dib.ie/news/open-access-dictionary-irish-biography-launched](http://www.dib.ie/news/open-access-dictionary-irish-biography-launched)

A separate Dictionary of Ulster Biography -

[www.newulsterbiography.co.uk](http://www.newulsterbiography.co.uk)

maintained as an open access resource by the Ulster History Circle, complements the DIB.

This is a wonderful new resource for students of Irish History and well worth bookmarking.



## **Killinchy Presbyterian Register of Families, 1836: An Excellent Census Substitute for Killinchy Ancestors**

By Richard Wilson A3311

I have always felt frustrated that the records I needed to take my research back further or prove my theories just seemed to not exist - or perhaps even worse - began just after my ancestors were born or married.

I grew up outside of Killinchy, County Down but until I started researching my family history I didn't realise that many of my paternal ancestors did too - I knew that my grandfather was born in Killyleagh and my grandmother lived in Lisbane before moving to Comber, but as I delved deeper I came to realise that Killinchy - and the Presbyterian Church - played a big role in our family story.

Although the Killinchy Presbyterian baptism and marriage records go back to the early 1800s, they aren't particularly detailed, and I always felt held back by the lack of early census records for tying these families together. However, there is an excellent substitute that can help fill in the gaps and paint a picture of life for people in Killinchy in the 1830s - 1840s and it may be a potential game-changer for anyone with Presbyterian ancestors from Killinchy and surrounding areas.

The record set is indexed on the PRONI Guide to Church Records as the "Register of families, 1836" but is apparently in fact the minister's visiting book, noting information about the families that made up his church. As such it names a great many Presbyterian families not just from Killinchy parish but also surrounding parishes such as Kilmoody and Tullynakill. It is not held in PRONI - you currently need to request a look-up from the Presbyterian Historical Society for a small fee, but it is definitely worth it.

The information held in this register can prove the existence of people not covered by civil records and who were born or married before the existing records for Killinchy began. In some cases, they reveal the names of spouses and children that were otherwise lost to history and impossible to prove without these records. For some records there are even additional useful notes such as that people moved or emigrated and where they went, as well as other biographical facts such as if they went into trade.

It takes a bit of extra work to interpret the entries, but with some persistence it can be used as a census substitute (although the entries appear to have been updated from 1836 into the 1840s so it isn't a static snap-shot of families).

By way of an example, here are some of the excerpts provided by the PHS for some families that I have been researching: "Lisbane - Alex. Lowry, wife Martha, children Andrew, Grace (26,) Jane (24), Alex (22), Martha (20), John (18), Nancy (16), Hugh (14), Samuel (13), Eliza (11), Mary (10), Thomas (5)".

Generally, when an age is recorded, this is how old that person was in 1836. Therefore, it is possible to infer an approximate year of birth. Children's births can often be corroborated by cross-referencing with baptism records, although sometimes they reveal children not baptised in the church, so without this record there would be no other means by which to prove a connection to the family.



## NIFHS News 32 - April 2021

A further example of how this source is useful can be seen from the following excerpt: "Ballymacashen townland: Joseph and Mary Wilson with children - Mary, William John, James and Margaret".

Clearly no ages are given here, and I believe that this was how the minister recorded families AFTER 1836. I know from my own research that Joseph Wilson married Mary McNally in Killinchy Presbyterian in 1839 and had 9 children between 1840 and 1857. This information is therefore very useful for dating the Register of Families, showing also that it was a working document.

Of the children named in the excerpt, William John was born in 1840 while Mary was born in 1848. A fifth child - Elizabeth, born and baptised 1846 - is not mentioned on the register, possibly suggesting that she died in infancy. There is no record for James in the church baptisms, but he is mentioned in a Wilson family bible so the "Register of Families" helps to prove that he was the child of Joseph and Mary Wilson from Ballymacashen.

Through these records I have been able to confirm a number of lines of research and have proven relationships that there would have been no other way of doing with just the baptism and marriage records. I believe that with greater access and knowledge of these wonderful, useful records, many more family and local historians would be able to make important breakthroughs in their own research. It would be fantastic if they could be digitised or compiled into a book to make them more readily available.

### Australian Family History Links - December 2020

By Sue Barrett

Australian Cemeteries - [www.australiacemeteries.com.au](http://www.australiacemeteries.com.au)

Australian War Memorial - Search for a Person - [www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people](http://www.awm.gov.au/advanced-search/people)

Australian Joint Copying Project - [www.nla.gov.au/content/australian-joint-copying-project](http://www.nla.gov.au/content/australian-joint-copying-project)

Convicts - The Digital Panopticon - [www.digitalpanopticon.org](http://www.digitalpanopticon.org)

Department of Veterans' Affairs - WWII, Korean, Vietnam, 1<sup>st</sup> Gulf - [nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au](http://nominal-rolls.dva.gov.au)

National Archives of Australia - [recordsearch.naa.gov.au](http://recordsearch.naa.gov.au)

National Library of Australia - [www.nla.gov.au](http://www.nla.gov.au)

National Native Title Tribunal - [www.nntt.gov.au](http://www.nntt.gov.au)

Ryerson Index - Death Notices & Obituaries - [www.ryersonindex.org/search.php](http://www.ryersonindex.org/search.php)

Trove - Old Newspapers - Advanced Search - [trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers](http://trove.nla.gov.au/search/advanced/category/newspapers)



### **Australian Capital Territory (ACT)**

Heraldry & Genealogy Society of Canberra (HAGSOC) - [www.familyhistoryact.org.au](http://www.familyhistoryact.org.au)

Canberra Cemeteries - [www.canberracemeteries.com.au/grave-search](http://www.canberracemeteries.com.au/grave-search)

### **New South Wales (NSW)**

NSW State Records & Archives - Family History

[www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/family-history](http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/family-history)

NSW Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages - Historic Index

[www.nsw.gov.au/topics/family-history-search](http://www.nsw.gov.au/topics/family-history-search)

Society of Australian Genealogists - [www.sag.org.au](http://www.sag.org.au)

### **Northern Territory (NT)**

Genealogical Society of the Northern Territory - [www.gsnt.org.au](http://www.gsnt.org.au)

### **Queensland (QLD)**

Queensland Archives - [www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/search-the-records](http://www.qld.gov.au/recreation/arts/heritage/archives/search-the-records)

Queensland Family History Research Service - [www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au](http://www.familyhistory.bdm.qld.gov.au)

Queensland Family History Society - [www.qfhs.org.au](http://www.qfhs.org.au)

### **Tasmania (TAS)**

Libraries Tasmania - Tasmanian Names Index - [linctas.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/names/](http://linctas.ent.sirsiidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/names/)

### **Victoria (VIC)**

Births Deaths Marriages Victoria - Family History Search

[www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/research-and-family-history/search-your-family-history)

Government Gazette/Passenger Records/Immigration

[gazette.slv.vic.gov.au](http://gazette.slv.vic.gov.au)

[www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration](http://www.prov.vic.gov.au/explore-collection/explore-topic/passenger-records-and-immigration)

Wills - [www.justlovehistory.com/2020/09/18](http://www.justlovehistory.com/2020/09/18)



## **South Australia (SA)**

City of Adelaide Archives

[www.cityofadelaide.com.au/community/creativity-culture/city-archives](http://www.cityofadelaide.com.au/community/creativity-culture/city-archives)

Family History SA - Barry Leadbeater [www.familyhistorysa.org](http://www.familyhistorysa.org)

Genealogy SA - Online Database Search

[www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search](http://www.genealogysa.org.au/resources/online-database-search)

Extracts from Early General Registry Office Land Records

[www.localwiki.org/adelaide-hills/GRO\\_Merge\\_Index](http://www.localwiki.org/adelaide-hills/GRO_Merge_Index)

Land Services SA - [www.landservices.com.au](http://www.landservices.com.au)

Reg Butler LocalWiki [www.localwiki.org/adelaide-hills/tags/butler](http://www.localwiki.org/adelaide-hills/tags/butler)

SA Directories/Government Gazette

[guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/directories](http://guides.slsa.sa.gov.au/directories)

[www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa\\_gazette](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/other/sa_gazette)

SAILIS - SA Integrated Land Information System - [www.sailis.lssa.com.au](http://www.sailis.lssa.com.au)

State Library of SA - [www.slsa.sa.gov.au](http://www.slsa.sa.gov.au)

SA Property and Planning Atlas (Property Browser) - [sappa.plan.sa.gov.au](http://sappa.plan.sa.gov.au)

State Records of SA - [www.archives.sa.gov.au](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au)

[catalogue.archives.sa.gov.au/Archivessrsa/t1tbmain.asp](http://catalogue.archives.sa.gov.au/Archivessrsa/t1tbmain.asp)

[www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/family-history](http://www.archives.sa.gov.au/content/family-history)

## **Western Australia (WA)**

Births, Deaths & Marriages - [bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/\\_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx](http://bdm.justice.wa.gov.au/_apps/pioneersindex/default.aspx)

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board - [www.mcb.wa.gov.au/research](http://www.mcb.wa.gov.au/research)

WA Museum - Welcome Walls - [www.museum.wa.gov.au/welcomewalls](http://www.museum.wa.gov.au/welcomewalls)

## **AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER HELP COLUMNS**

South Australia - *Sunday Mail* - Can You Help? - [canyouhelp@sundaymail.com.au](mailto:canyouhelp@sundaymail.com.au)

Victoria - *Sunday Herald Sun* - Desperately Seeking - [seeking@heraldsun.com.au](mailto:seeking@heraldsun.com.au)

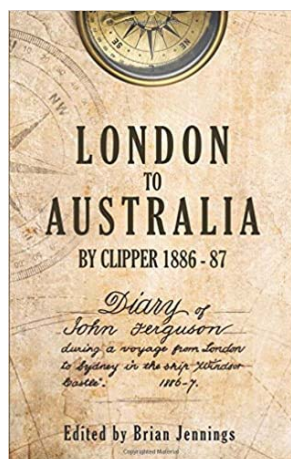
WA - *West Australian* (Monday) - Can You Help? - [canyouhelp@wanews.com.au](mailto:canyouhelp@wanews.com.au)



## BOOK REVIEW

***London to Australia by Clipper 1886-87:  
Diary of John Ferguson during a voyage from London to Sydney in the ship 'Windsor Castle'.***

Edited by Brian Jennings, Independent Publication, 2018, Paperback, 98 pages, available Amazon



On 14<sup>th</sup> October 1886, John Ferguson, aged 23, stepped out of his home at Ballylinney townland near Ballyclare in Co. Antrim for the very last time and so began his long journey to Sydney, Australia. 130 years later John's account of his adventure onboard the 'Windsor Castle' - a 198-foot-long, wooden clipper - was discovered stowed away in a dusty, Craigavon attic. John's journal, which was returned to Ireland following his death in 1901, was passed down through the family and finally rediscovered in the dusty attic by great, great nephew, Dr. Brian Jennings. Brian has edited and published the journal, so now that clipper experience, so full of clarity and vivacity, has again been brought to life for those whose ancestors heaved and hefted themselves across the seas over a century ago.

There are three surprises in John's journal. The first is that the voyage from London to Sydney was made by clipper ship. While many forked out for the steam ships which short-cutted through the Suez Canal, the clippers had to make a 90-day voyage around southern Africa with scarce landings. This meant that all supplies, including live ducks, pigs and sheep, had to be carried onboard.

The second surprise was how thoroughly John, despite being of a weakly constitution, revelled in his voyage and the highly novel experiences that accompanied it, as he made his way from rural Ireland, down through the tropics and across the Southern Ocean. The food was surprisingly good too and he even managed to expand by three inches - 'since I came on board my clothes have been getting too small for me, or rather I have been getting too large for my clothes'. Travelling on the clipper also meant that the population was low - 22 passengers and 26 crew - and the camaraderie high. The journal provides a real sense of the rhythm of the little seaborne community and the variety of day-to-day interactions and entertainments played out over three months. It also provides an illuminating insight into the daily chores and challenges for the sailor.

The third was how vividly and beautifully written John's journal is. No bland parade of names, dates and weather reports, rather, evocative and often poetic, accounts of his actual lived experiences; the 'peculiarly pleasing' effect of swinging on the netting over the flying jibboom, sleeping outdoors and being 'hushed asleep by the music of the waves', the wonder of seeing the mighty Albatross for the first time, the transcendent joy of hearing the sailors sing their 'chanties' as they set to work under moonlight. And there was, of course, the inevitable rolling about and sleep deprivation due to fierce weather.

John Ferguson and the 'Windsor Castle' finally passed through the 'Heads' and into the 'simply magnificent' Sydney Harbour at 5am on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 1887. Sadly, John appears to have been too busy to tell us about his new life in Australia. You'll have to attend one of Dr. Jennings talks to find out what happened next, but if you're interested in immersing yourself in the kind of long voyage undertaken by many of our forebears, then this is the book for you.

Other Australian 'voyage narratives' can be found at [TROVE - 'Diaries, Letters and Archives' Section](#).

Joyce McNamara, Lisburn Branch, Member B2640



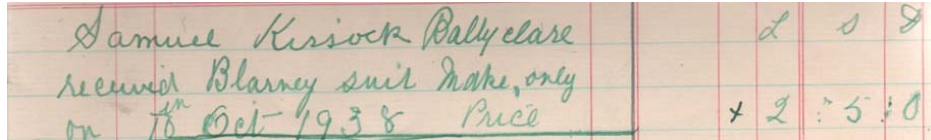


## NIFHS News 32 - April 2021

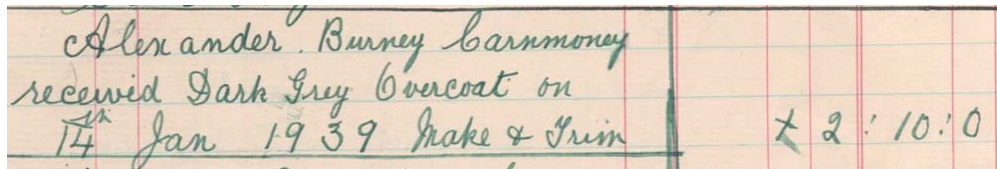
### Final Pants

By Chris Hill, Associate Member

This is the third and last set of snippets from my family's tailoring business in Glengormley.



Samuel Kissock, who died in 1940, was a well-known Ballyclare publican and dog-racer. At least twice in the 1920s he was acquitted of irregularities such as unlicensed premises and unauthorised opening hours. In 1926 the Licensing Court magistrates in Larne were highly suspicious but, at the last moment, changed their minds and gave him the benefit of above 20 years of good record.



Andrew ("Wee Andy") Burney died in 1923 and this is probably his nephew Alexander Johnston Burney. He suffers the common scribal errors. In the 1879 births register, Dr John Dundee writes that the father John Burney is a farmer's wife:

1879	25-4 February	Alexander Johnston Burney	M	John Burney Barmoney	Elisha Burney formerly Gibbon	Married wife	John Burney Father Barmoney	Thirty first born 1879	John Registrar
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Both wives of John Burney had maiden name Gibson; Sarah Jane did not live long after the birth in 1874 of John Gibson Burney, Alexander's half-brother. The online 1911 census transcription has "Ship Assistant-Hardware", but "Shop" is a sounder reading:

1	John	Burney	Head of Family	Presbyterian	read & write	37		Farmer	Single
2	Alexander J	Burney	Brother	Do	Do	32		Ship Assistant - Hardware	Single
3	Andrew	Burney	Uncle	Do	Do	77		Farmer	Single
4	Edward	Gibson	Servant	Do	Do	26		Farm Servant	Single
5	Maggie	Callan	Do	Do	Do	-	30	General Servant domestic	Single

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation
Burney	John	37	Male	Head of Family	Presbyterian	Antrim	Farmer
Burney	Alexander J	32	Male	Brother	Presbyterian	Antrim	Ship Assistant-Hardware



## NIFHS News 32 - April 2021

The *Larne Times* of 25 November 1943 says: *The death took place last week of Mr. William Atwell, caretaker of Carnmoney Masonic Hall, who was well-known and esteemed by the Masonic brethren over a wide area...He was a member of Harmony Masonic Lodge, No. 645, and of Royal Arch Chapter, No. 645 [as were my grandfather and many others in this Glengormley / Carnmoney circle], and both were largely represented at the funeral, which was of large dimensions, to Mallusk on Friday evening last. The chief mourners were - Messrs. W. Atwell (son), and Marshall M'Keown (son-in-law).*

This is probably Thomas Archbold of The Bungalow in Carnmoney, secretary of the local Orange Lodge, and first cousin twice removed of W F McKinney of Sentry Hill.

Hill, Thomas John of Post Office, Whitewell, County Antrim, sub-postmaster boot and shoemaker died 14 October 1951 Administration Belfast 15 January to Eleanor Hill spinster. Effects £820 15s. 11d.

My tailoring uncle Alec Hill also worked as a part-time postman, cycling the braes between Carnmoney and Whitewell post offices, both at times managed by the Abernethy family. These Hills (perhaps our distant relatives) descended from the Carnmoney shoemaker John Hill and did long service at Whitewell. The *Larne Times* of 18 January 1951 explains that James Hill was succeeded by his daughter Miss Elizabeth (Lizzie Hill), who in turn was succeeded by her sister Miss Agnes (Mary Agnes Hill); and while Agnes was ill her brother Thomas John Hill did some of the Post Office work. Another child, also Elizabeth, was born in 1877 and died in 1882; Ellen (Ellenor, Eleanor, Nellie) was born in 1880 but not named on the birth register; then "Lizzie" was born in 1883 and given the name of her deceased sister. A snippet from a W F McKinney notebook in Sentry Hill does not make this clear, and does not mention Nellie:

I note a theme of court appearances by our tailoring clients: nothing too outrageous, but a sign perhaps of wartime economic problems and the pressure to keep up appearances and afford £5 and even £6 suits.

I thank Evelyn Barrett for her editorial encouragement and armtwisting. NIFHS readers who recognise these names are welcome to contact me at [chrishill197@googlemail.com](mailto:chrishill197@googlemail.com).

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