



'SUMMERTIME AND THE LIVING IS EASY'

Dubose Heyward

Dear Members

I hope this finds you well and rested after the summer break, ready for the new season of events on the NIFHS calendar.

Firstly a message to Branch members, look out for your membership renewal information and remember that you can renew online at - www.nifhs.org/membership/branch-membership-form/ . The renewal system is live now. Branch membership is for a year from 1 September until 31 August. Associate members, your renewal date is 1 January 2022.

All membership entitles you to attend any event or Branch meeting. To attend a Branch meeting by Zoom, email the secretary of the appropriate Branch. You will find all Branch details, including the Branch programmes for 2021/2022 at- www.nifhs.org/events/ . Some programmes have yet to be completed so it's worthwhile to keep checking. The programmes up to December 2021 are included in this Newsletter for your convenience.

As promised this edition of the Newsletter is all about the Society, what services are still being provided during this period of restrictions and what changes are being considered to enhance your membership experience. There is plenty planned for the year ahead, starting with a weeklong DNA Summer School.

Evelyn B2513

DNA SUMMER SCHOOL IS BACK!

The DNA Summer School will run from 6th to 10th September this year and it is better than ever! It is also more accessible than ever since all classes will be via Zoom so we look forward to welcoming people from near and far.

With 2 classes each day, there is something for everyone from beginners to advanced. You can join as many classes as you like as they are all independent of each other. The cost per individual class is £10 and if you wish to attend them all, the total will be reduced to £80.

Each class will be approximately one hour long and will be followed by a question and answer session.

The DNA Summer School is very popular - classes are friendly, easy to understand and provide practical advice to help you to further your DNA research. And, as an attendee at one of our classes, you will be invited to join our DNA interest group which meets monthly to discuss a wide variety of DNA related topics.

Further information about the content of each class and how to book is on the Society's website at -

www.nifhs.org/courses/

You can also keep informed by following our DNA page on [Facebook](#).



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DNA SUMMER SCHOOL TIMETABLE

Monday 6 Sep 3.00pm	The Advantages of Y-DNA Martin McDowell
Monday 6 Sep 7.00pm	The Advantages of mtDNA Martin McDowell
Tuesday 7 Sep 3.00pm	The Leeds Method Anne Johnston
Tuesday 7 Sep 7.00pm	Using X Matches in your DNA Research Anton Rea
Wednesday 8 Sep 3.00pm	The DNA Family Matching Tool Martin McDowell
Wednesday 8 Sep 7.00pm	Achieving Success with DNA Anne Johnston
Thursday 9 Sep 3.00pm	Stories from Ballycarry and Islandmagee DNA projects Anne Johnston and Martin McDowell
Thursday 9 Sep 7.00pm	Using the Chromosome Browser Effectively Martin McDowell
Friday 10 Sep 3.00pm	Ethnicity Estimates Anne Johnston
Friday 10 Sep 7.00pm	Using DNA Painter Jonny Perl

NIFHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2021

This year the NIFHS AGM (by Zoom) is being hosted by Causeway Coast and Glens Branch on -

Saturday, 18 September 2021 @ 11:00 am - 1:30 pm BST

Programme:-

Zoom Waiting Room opens at 10.30 am

AGM Business starts at 11.00 am

Post AGM Talk at 12.30 pm - Guest Speaker: **Dr Nic Wright** on "Pre-history of the CCG Area"



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BRANCH PROGRAMMES (SO FAR)

LARNE BRANCH - larne@nifhs.org

- Monday, 27 September 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Tithe Applotment Books
Desmond McCabe (PRONI)
- Monday, 18 October 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : In the shadow of Glenarm Castle
Jacky Wilson
- Monday, 15 November 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
Zoom Talk : Commemorated in Stone: War Fatalities Remembered in Local Graveyards
Nigel Henderson
- Monday, 20 December 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
Zoom Talk : Instantly Buckled for Life - Scottish Marriage Records
Chris Paton

BELFAST BRANCH - belfast@nifhs.org

- Tuesday, 28 September 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Tracing your Family on the Internet
Chris Paton
- Tuesday, 26 October 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Northern Irish Land Registry
Des McCabe
- Tuesday, 23 November 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
Zoom Talk : Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Ian Evers
- Tuesday, 14 December 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
Zoom Christmas Meeting Belfast Branch

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS BRANCH - causeway@nifhs.org

- Tuesday, 28 September 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
The Kerr Family of Clintyfinnan, Armoy: A Genealogical and Genetic Odyssey
Andrew Kerr
- Tuesday, 26 October 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Tracing Relatives from the Belfast Shipyards
Maureen McKinney
- Tuesday, 23 November 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
DNA for beginners plus information on the new FTDNA website
Martin McDowell



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BALLYMENA BRANCH - ballymena@nifhs.org

- Thursday, 30 September 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Eddie's Extracts - Transcriptions of Life and Death
Eddie Connolly
- Thursday, 28 October 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm BST
A History of Fraternities in Ulster - Orange Order, Freemasons, Hibernians, etc
David Hume
- Thursday, 25 November 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
The Story of the Workhouse and Their Records
Natalie Bodle

LISBURN BRANCH - lisburn@nifhs.org

- Tuesday, 14 September 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Finding Living Relatives
Branch Members
- Tuesday, 12 October 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Dating Old Photographs
Stephen Gill
- Monday, 25 October 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Photo Restoration Workshop
Stephen Gill
- Tuesday, 9 November 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT
Zoom Talk : Mining for Treasure in the IGRS Collections
Jill Williams
- Tuesday, 14 December 2021 @ 7:30 pm - 9:00 pm GMT - **Quiz**

NEWTOWNABBEY BRANCH - newtownabbey@nifhs.org

- Monday, 13 September 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm BST
Zoom Talk : JSTOR and DNA Updates
Mike McKeag & Martin McDowell
- Monday, 11 October 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm BST
Zoom Talk : Black Cats & Dumb Suppers - The Spooks and Superstitions of Hallowe'en
Dr Bob Curran
- Monday, 8 November 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm GMT
Zoom Talk : Scottish Poor Law Records
Irene O'Brien (Glasgow City Archives)
- Monday, 13 December 2021 @ 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm GMT
Zoom Talk : Christmas in the Poor House
Aaron D. McIntyre (Archive & Heritage Coordinator, Clifton House Heritage Centre)



ATTENDANCE AT EVENTS

To check all events and programmes from January 2022 onwards go to - www.nifhs.org/events/list/ . Do remember to keep checking as Branches continually update their programmes online.

Your membership, whether Branch or Associate, entitles you to attend all Branch meetings or events, just contact the branch secretary at the email addresses provided for further information and Zoom links.

YOU MAY JUST FIND THIS REALLY USEFUL...

In November the society will again be participating in an online event organised by the Family History Federation. This is the Really Useful Family History Show which is this time taking place over 2 days, Friday 12th and Saturday 13th November.

This event aims to give you the experience of visiting an actual show and allows attendees to interact with those exhibiting. This takes place in the exhibition hall where various family history societies and organisations will be manning a virtual booth. You will be able to find out more about them, download documentation and also ask questions via chat. An archive version of the previous show can still be found online, so if you want to get a feel for what it looks like you can have a wander through the exhibition hall here:

<https://www.fhf-reallyuseful.com/exhibition-hall>

Bear in mind the show is now closed and that the booths will not be manned until the next show starts. It is also expected that the exhibition hall booths will change somewhat with new exhibitors and some new content made available.

Last time our society also manned a zoom room which allowed show attendees to come in and talk to us via zoom to discuss their family history queries or just to say hello. This was a good way to enhance the interactive experience and help answer people's queries.

As well as the exhibition hall, the Really Useful Family History Show provides talks, workshops and expert sessions to help people along their genealogical journey. These are different for every show but again, from the link above, you can get an idea on how useful you would find an event like this by looking at what was available last time!

In order to make this event a success for the society, we are looking for volunteers to help us staff our virtual booth throughout both days of the November show to answer questions and provide information about the society and the service we provide. At previous shows we have had questions about membership and general queries about what websites can be used for Irish family history research.

So if you are prepared to represent the society in either our zoom room or online chat then let us know and we'll be very pleased to have your support! Just send us an email at education@nifhs.org to volunteer and we'll get back to you nearer the time.



BLARIS OLD BURYING GROUND

Lisburn Branch have been transcribing the memorial inscriptions from the graves in Blaris Old Burying Ground, which is situated in Blaris townland on the outskirts of Lisburn. In 1984 Richard J. S. Clarke published a transcription of the stones which included dates of death before 1900. At the time the oldest legible stone bore a date of 1626.

Ten visits were made to the graveyard by the Lisburn Branch photography team who took 1680 photographs of 801 plots. The best photographs were uploaded to One Drive for the team of transcribers to access and record the inscriptions on a spreadsheet together with burial records dating from 1912 obtained from Lisburn and Castlereagh Council.

When completed an index of surnames will be made available on the NIFHS website and a look up service to provide enquirers with the relevant photographs, inscriptions and burial records. In addition, the family histories of many of the families buried in the graveyard are being researched. If anyone knows of relatives buried at the Old Burying Ground in Blaris (as distinct from the New Burying Ground in the same townland) and would be interested in providing information for our research on the families please contact

lisburn@nifhs.org

RESEARCH LIBRARY

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and Government health restrictions the Society had no option but to close The Research Centre and Library housed in units C4 and C6 of the Valley Business Centre in Newtownabbey in March 2020.

A small band of willing volunteers formed a subcommittee which has met regularly by Zoom to ensure that safety precautions were in place to keep safe the few volunteers who needed access to the premises for essential business purposes. The group is keeping the situation under constant review.

In the light of changes in the course of the pandemic and in the Government health restrictions the group are discussing when and how we can safely return to use our premises. At present we are unable to open our windows and this is a problem that needs addressed, as good ventilation is a crucial safety precaution in planning for the future. The group has been in touch with the landlord of the premises and discussions are underway in the hope of finding a solution to overcome the ventilation problem which will make it possible for the society to use the premises for family history research, talks and meetings, all of which require those involved to be inside the premises for prolonged periods of time.

The group are also discussing other ways of using the premises including introducing an enhanced look up service (see details of restricted service below) by Zoom and running a book borrowing service from C4 which would be for specific books by arrangement. The enhanced look up service would give an opportunity to make the valuable resources that are available in the research library more relevant to our members worldwide.

The work is well underway and there will be more information available in the weeks ahead as the discussions and decisions progress.....

Alison Tait, on behalf of the Society's Safety Precautions Subcommittee



LOOK UP SERVICE

The North of Ireland Family History Society (NIFHS) provides a free Look Up Service for Members who are unable to visit the Research Centre in Newtownabbey.

Currently Our Research Centre is closed in compliance with the Coronavirus Emergency Regulations.

Lookups in the transcriptions of Church Registers and Graveyard Transcriptions done by the Society are the only requests that can be accepted at present.

To use this service:

- Use the "Look Up Request " format shown on the website. Copy and paste into an email.
- State your membership number (5 characters - e.g. A0001).
- State which record set is to be checked: the shelf mark of the volume (e.g. IR150-025)
- State which specific name is to be looked up, listing alternative spellings.
- If there are likely to be many results, provide as much information as possible to narrow the range.
- Give your name and email address
- Include your name and membership number - e.g. A0001 - in the Subject line of your email.
- Email your request to lookup@nifhs.org.

Please bear in mind:

- **This is a look up service, not a research service.**
- Omitting your membership number will delay dealing with your request.
- We have only one volunteer available to do searches, the volunteer might be in the Research Centre only once a week, or less frequently, you may not receive an immediate response.
- Often a surname will feature many times in the record set and it is not feasible to check them all.
- Because of copyright law we cannot provide a verbatim copy of more than a short extract.
- Please limit your request to that which can be answered quickly and briefly - 1 Source, 1 Surname.

We are working on ideas to enhance this service.

OUR NIFHS WEBSITE

We have a team working on how we might improve the Society web presence. They are embarking on a consultation with volunteers and office holders.

In parallel with this they plan to get in contact with Associates and Branch members via email. This will be a short questionnaire to seek out your views on what you think the revised/new website should include. This follows an earlier sample questionnaire about the existing website.

The team is called WEB3. If you get an email from WEB3, or one that mentions "WEB3", you will know what it is about.



NIFHS HELPED ME WITH A BRICK WALL IN MY FAMILY TREE

I have been an associate member of NIFHS since beginning my family history journey about ten years ago. My ancestors hail from Counties Tyrone, Londonderry and Armagh.

NIFHS has been very useful in my research and I am sure I am not alone in wanting to thank everyone involved for email Bulletins and Zoom meetings organized during 2020.

With time on my hands during Covid lockdown I have sought to break down some brick walls. An update about Tartaraghan transcriptions being prepared for publication in a booklet caught my eye. [North Armagh Branch Newsletter link in Bulletin 6 (April 2020).]

BRICK WALL. Henry Stevenson's death was a mystery.

Research into my maternal **Tartaraghan** Stevenson ancestors posed the problem as to when and where did my GG grandfather **Henry Stevenson** die. Several years ago I visited Tartaraghan Graveyard but could not find a headstone to reveal all. Having exhausted online resources, Church records prior to Civil Registration were my best chance.

Evidence so far

My Great grandparents were **George Compton Cummings** 1844-1923 and **Jane Love Stevenson** 1851-1905 who married in Tartaraghan Church of Ireland on December 17th, 1869. Her father was Henry Stevenson. Jane was 19 on the Marriage record so must have been born around 1850 [Irishgenealogy.ie] A newspaper marriage announcement stated Jane was Henry's third daughter. [Ancestry.co.uk Belfast, Northern Ireland, the Belfast Newsletter (Birth, Marriage and Death Notices 1845-1945)]. Jane's parents **Henry Stevenson** and **Mary Ann Love** married in 1837 in Armagh. [Ancestry.co.uk The Belfast Newsletter (Birth, Marriage and Death Notices 1845-1945)]. Mary Ann Love Stevenson died in 1865. [Ancestry.co.uk The Belfast Newsletter (Birth, Marriage and Death Notices 1845-1945)]. Henry's father was **William Stevenson**. [PRONI Will calendars.]

Newspaper entries and Irishgenealogy.ie confirmed four of Jane's siblings: -

Sarah Anne 1838 -1902, eldest daughter, married Thomas Atkinson Woodhouse in 1857 and remained in Ireland.

William 1840-1878. Armagh Assistant County surveyor died aged 38 from Phthisis.

Robert Henry 1845-1871. A medical doctor died from Phthisis at his father's residence, Breagh Tartaraghan.

Margaret 1852-1860.

There must have been at least two more children because: -

1/ Jane being the 3rd daughter must have had another older sister.

2/ Jane, George and two children travelled to Australia in 1875 to her brother (unreadable initial) in Newcastle NSW. [Ancestry.co.uk. New South Wales, Australia. Assisted Immigrant Passenger Lists 1828-1896.]

My mother told the story that George and Jane left Mildred, their eldest daughter, in Australia with relatives when they returned to Ireland. My grandmother **Emma Jane Cummings** was born at Killen Clonoe in 1891 and she never met her older sister.



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NIFHS provided the key.

I contacted Audrey Ward from North Armagh Branch NIFHS to enquire when the Tartaraghan transcriptions booklet would be available and she kindly volunteered to look, in Tartaraghan records, for entries of Henry and Mary Anne Stevenson's children and, hopefully, Henry's death.

Audrey came up trumps with birth and baptism dates for Jane, Margaret and Robert Henry as well as two sisters that I did not know about, **Mary Elizabeth** 1846- and **Rachel** 1855 -.

I found Mary Elizabeth and Rachel, both milliners, on ships' records going to a brother, **David**, in Newcastle, NSW in 1880. Incidentally a Thomas Tedford from Tartaraghan was with them. All three were sponsored by an Isaac Stevenson.

[Ancestry.co.uk. New South Wales, Australia. Assisted immigrant Passenger Lists 1828-1896.][Ancestry.co.uk. New South Wales, Australia immigration deposit journals. 1853-1900]

I was then able to convince myself that the unreadable initial on Jane's passenger list was a D.

Henry death breakthrough

Audrey didn't find any evidence of a death record for Henry.

Henry was alive in Nov 1871 as his son Robert Henry died at his father's residence [Belfast News Letter] and Henry's farm was advertised for sale in April 1873. [Ancestry.co.uk.Ireland Encumbered Estates 1850-1885] With no evidence of Henry in Ireland after 1873 I followed my hunch that Henry had followed his children to Australia and ordered a likely death certificate. Henry Stevenson, father William, died 1885 Newcastle NSW. [Ancestry.co.uk Australia Death Index 1787-1985]

Information on the death certificate confirmed it was him: -

Henry Stevenson, a gentleman, died 7 Oct 1885, age 72, from Carcinoma of stomach and liver, Father William Stevenson a farmer, born in Armagh and 3 years in NSW. Informant was son D Stevenson of Hunter Street, Newcastle.

My Stevenson research in Australia will no doubt continue!!!!!!

Thank you so much Audrey Ward and North Armagh branch of NIFHS for helping me to break down my brick wall.

Amy Abbott A3175

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