



**'Little month of February, you are small, but worthy—very!
Will you grow up like the others, like your sister months and brothers?'**

From **Leap Year** by Annette Wynne

Dear Members

Here we are in February and although the smallest month, there's still a lot going on. The first day of the month is the first day of meteorological spring. It is also Imbolc and St Bridget's day. All associated with light and regrowth. Halfway through the month and St Valentine's Day reminds us of connections and relationships. The month of the family historian, perhaps?

In this month's issue there are some important reminders - keeping your membership details up to date and the closing date for the Ex Libris competition is just over a month away. The Look Up Service is very popular and busy and there is an update on changes to the Service which will benefit you all.

I really enjoy receiving your feedback, and this month I have included, with her permission, some feedback on one member's experience using the 1921 Census of England and Wales. My thanks to Carolyne for that.

By now you should have received, by email, details about a new NIFHS resource - a Guide to the Contents of North Irish Roots Journals 2013 - 2021. This is a key resource for your family history research. This index is a pilot project and if it proves a useful resource, further indices will follow. As you can imagine it has taken an enormous amount of work to complete, and our thanks go to Audrey McKeown, editor of North Irish Roots, and her team of helpers. Access this new resource through the NIFHS website -

www.nifhs.org/members-only-content/

Please send Audrey your feedback, as this could determine whether further similar work will be undertaken -

NRoots@nifhs.org

That's all from me, I hope you enjoy this month's news.

Regards

Evelyn B2315

CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Contact details supplied by each member annually on the Membership Form are held securely by the Society. This information is used to contact you, send your journals, email Newsletters, and generally communicate with members.

If any of your details change, we need to know - e.g., any new name, postal address, email address, phone number etc.

If you do have any changes, please notify the Membership Team at -

membership@nifhs.org



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1921 CENSUS -SOME FEEDBACK

I have read the recent newsletter and as suggested I am passing on my experience of using the new 1921 census as this may be of assistance to others.

I found that the initial search did not pick up my grandfather, but I was able to find the family through my mother's details. I then paid the £3.50 in order to obtain the original documents and was able to download these without any difficulty.

However, in trying to find the associated documents I accidentally pressed the arrow on the right-hand side of the page, and this then automatically took me to the next record. I was also immediately charged another £3.50. Fortunately, this proved to be another family also living in the police station where my grandfather was stationed so the information was still helpful.

The additional documents that can be accessed from the film strip at the bottom of the page from the tab marked "extra address" include the following: -

- Cover page
- Instruction sheet (same as the one in the Ireland 1911 census)
- Map
- Descriptive details of the Enumeration District

There is also the option to obtain a transcript of the census page but there is a further charge of £2.50 for this.

I hope that this information will be helpful.

Carolyne Langley

EX LIBRIS COMPETITION - REMINDER

Full details of the above competition were published in the November 2021 issue of the Newsletter. A quick refresh of your memory -

'The Society has decided to hold a competition to design a bookplate for use in books donated to our Randal Gill Library in Newtownabbey.'

All members are invited to submit one original design each by March 31st to -

Treasurer@nifhs.org

Please put **Ex Libris** in the subject field of the email. Your bookplate should take the form of an attached editable document (.doc or .docx) so that the name of a donor can be inserted before the bookplate is printed. The bookplate must be of a suitable size for fixing in a book and it must name the library, e.g., NIFHS Randal Gill Library. For inspiration, you might like to see the website of the Bookplate Society at -

www.bookplatesociety.org/gallery.htm



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SPRING EDUCATION COURSES

Our courses are off to a great start with the 'Strictly for Beginners' and 'Online Genealogy Resources' sessions. Here is some of the feedback we have received to date ...

STRICTLY FOR BEGINNERS COURSE

Twenty people booked for the two sessions from UK, Australia and Ireland which covered organising your research, as well as accessing online key family history websites such as civil, church, census, land and burial records. The participants were also introduced to the key benefits and family history resources that NIFHS offers to members.

Participants commented ...

"It was very interesting. I wasn't aware of some of the sources covering the early 19th century".

"After attending the Course, I now plan to go back to the beginning with a particular family tree and search using the records in the order you suggest."

"I have learnt stacks from the course. I also appreciated your guidance on organising my research."

"I really enjoyed it, learning more which will be helpful to me. The presentation was lively and not at all dry."

"The presentations were informative, and I hadn't heard of websites about townlands."

"That was a wonderful presentation. I will order a number of these publications from NIFHS, especially on Tyrone, Fermanagh and the church records."

"Thank you so much for this very useful Handout, and for the excellent sessions"

"Lots of things to think about, not least all the material on the NIFHS site. Great links on the handouts."

MORE ONLINE RESOURCES FOR GENEALOGY AND FAMILY HISTORY COURSE

This was a popular course which was repeated over two sessions with over 110 people booking in from UK as well as USA, Ireland, Canada, and Australia. Mike McKeag introduced the benefits of online newspapers, books and journals as well as introducing JSTOR. Audrey McKeown explained the indexing project and the subsequent new Guide to the Contents of the North Irish Roots Journal (2013-2021). The Guide (pdf) is being emailed to all members giving them access to over 130 online resources, 2,100 locations and 2,000 surnames.

Many encouraging comments were received including one from Chris Paton, Professional Genealogist at Scotland's Greatest Story, and member of the NIFHS Larne Branch - "The new North Irish Roots Guide to the Indexes is going to be an incredibly useful tool for NIFHS members helping them to unlock gems from previous editions to the Journal."

With comments like these we are happy our Spring programme is off to a great start. We would encourage you to check the courses programme for upcoming classes that may be of interest to you:

www.nifhs.org/courses/

What could you learn to help advance your family history research? **Martin McDowell, Education Officer**



LOOK UP SERVICE - FEBRUARY UPDATE

Owing to increased demand the Look Up Service is now supported by a team of experienced volunteers who will respond to requests for Look Ups as soon as possible. Directions on requesting a Look Up are on the NIFHS website at -

www.nifhs.org/resources

Use the drop-down menu to access the Look Up Service and follow the instructions. For more detailed information about the service there is a free class in the NIFHS Spring 2022 programme of online courses and classes. Here are the details -

Wednesday 23 March 2022 (7pm-8pm GMT)
An online Zoom class with NIFHS Volunteers

Our November session on Zoom proved very popular so we are doing it again! This session aims to increase awareness amongst Society members of the benefits of our Society Look-up Service. What does it cover? How do you apply? This is not a formal talk but an opportunity for you to find out more about some of the items that the Society holds in its research library. Come along and you may even get a look-up done during the session!

To book your place email Martin at Education.Zoom@nifhs.org quoting 'LUS' in the subject line.

There has been some disruption to the Look UP Service during the past two years as access to the NIFHS Research Centre has been restricted due to the Covid 19 Pandemic. As we move forward the Look Up Team are asking anyone who submitted a request during this time, and hasn't received an answer, to please resend your request.

Our apologies if you have been affected and we are grateful for your understanding.

Alison Tait

PRONI - INDICES TO BELFAST WORKHOUSE ADMISSION REGISTERS

At the beginning of January this year The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has made available, through its website, the first instalment of the Indexes for Belfast Workhouse Indoor Relief Registers. Some of you may have already tried to access these. Personally, I found it a bit difficult to find what I wanted. Then I watched the 'How to' video on PRONI's You Tube channel and all became clear. Here is how I found it. Go to -

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/proni-youtube

Scroll down to 'PRONI how-to-guides' and click. Go to 'How to Use Online - PRONI eCatalogue' and click again. It's worthwhile enduring the hassle. There are other useful videos there too.

Happy hunting!!



**23RD ULSTER-AMERICAN HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM
JUNE 19-22, 2022
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY - JOHNSON CITY, TENNESSEE**

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 23rd meeting of the Ulster-American Heritage Symposium which will be hosted by the Department of Appalachian Studies at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee, June 19-22, 2022.

The Symposium is co-sponsored by the **Mellon Centre for Migration Studies**, located at the Ulster-American Folk Park in Omagh, Northern Ireland. Part of the Libraries NI Heritage service, it is the primary project of the Scotch-Irish Trust of Ulster. The Symposium has been closely associated with the Ulster-American Folk Park since it met for the first time in 1976 and with the Mellon Centre since 1996.

The aim of the Symposium is to encourage scholarly study and public awareness of the historical connections between Ulster and North America including what is commonly called the Scotch-Irish or Ulster-Scots heritage. The Symposium has as its general theme the process of transatlantic emigration and settlement, and links between England, Scotland, Ireland, and North America. Its approach is interdisciplinary, encouraging dialogue between those working in different fields including history, language, literature, geography, archaeology, anthropology, folklife, religion, and music, to name a few.

The 2022 symposium theme, "**Transatlantic Transitions: Environment and Society**", offers an opportunity to reflect on the two-way diasporic relationship operating across the Atlantic and welcomes papers that explore this influence in both Ulster and America. With the overarching theme of "Migration", the symposium offers an opportunity to learn from each other by looking at both the past and present.

The recent *Glasgow Climate Change Conference* reminded us that environmental history has never been so important. Among other reasons, migration is often a response to environmental change. The story of movement on a changing planet is intimately tied with themes of home, family, and diaspora. A better understanding of our migration past is central to meeting the environmental challenges that we all face and to building a shared future on our common home.

About the host institution:

The Department of Appalachian Studies at East Tennessee State University includes a range of academic programs as well as the outstanding resources of the Center of Excellence in Appalachian Studies and Services. The Department includes the Bachelor of Arts in Bluegrass, Old-Time, and Roots Music Studies, the leading program in its field and the first four-year degree of its kind in the world, along with a range of minors. The Department is also home to its popular and long-running program in Appalachia, Scottish, and Irish Studies, which offers a summer study abroad experience and exchange programs in Scotland and Ireland. In addition to its undergraduate programs, the Department offers both a Graduate Certificate and Master of Arts in Appalachian Studies, and a Graduate Certificate in Heritage Interpretation and Museum Studies. The Department's programs are a natural fit for ETSU, with its strong history of service to Appalachia and a mission that embraces its Southern Appalachian identity and regional setting, proudly reflecting its traditional roots and heritage.

East Tennessee State University is located in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains, just an hour's drive from Asheville, North Carolina. Other nearby attractions include the Appalachian Trail, The Birthplace of Country



The North of Ireland Family History Society
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Music Museum, the Carter Fold, Roan Mountain, Mount Mitchell, Grandfather Mountain, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Sycamore Shoals State Historic Park, Cumberland Gap, and many more. Opportunities for excursions will be available.

The deadline for abstract submissions is March 1, 2022

Submissions should include - A 250-word (max) abstract and a 50-word (max) biographical sketch. Please indicate whether the abstract is for a presentation or a poster. Submit abstracts to: macmorra@etsu.edu

While we are planning for an in-person Symposium, there will be the possibility to attend remotely as well.

For more information, please visit

www.etsu.edu/cas/cass/ulster_american_heritage_symposium.php



DEPARTMENT of
APPALACHIAN STUDIES
College of Arts and Sciences
EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY



MELLON CENTRE FOR
MIGRATION STUDIES
exploring the migrant in everyone

AND FINALLY - ANOTHER EVENT

ROOTSTECH 2022

Registration for RootsTech 2022 is now open. The dates for the 'world's largest family history conference' are 3-5 March 2022. The event is advertised as 100% virtual and 100% free.

You'll find all the information you need at -

www.familysearch.org/rootstech/next/

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