



'It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold'

From **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens

Hello All

Here we are in March, the month of St Patrick's Day, so whether you drowned your shamrock in green beer, or planted new potatoes to harvest in July, I hope you had a good day. The quote above perfectly described the day here in Northern Ireland.

In this month's Newsletter you'll find a book launch, new resources, projects to get involved with and some freebies. I hope there's something of interest for everyone, I'm always happy to receive your feedback -

newsletter@nifhs.org

Kettle on, feet up and enjoy the read.

Evelyn
B2513

LOOKUP UPDATE

New additions to the Lookup Service are:

Randalstown 1st Presbyterian Church - baptisms 1837-1902 and marriages 1837-1845

There are gaps in these records between 1844 and 1856, and only a few recorded from the end of 1861 to 1866. As these records are not available at PRONI it has not been possible to check if there are pages missing from the photocopies we were given, or gaps in the register. Mothers' full names and places of residence are recorded in most entries, with many giving Shane's Castle as their place of residence, and one family (William Park LOGAN, MD) giving Manchester as their address.

The 38 pre-registration marriages record witnesses and a few fathers' names.

Randalstown 2nd Presbyterian Church - baptisms 1838-1912

In these records mothers' names are not recorded until 1879. Most places of residence are local but between 1853 and 1865 places of residence are not recorded. The baptism of Elizabeth RAINEY in 1869 records that her father Alexander was "now living in America."

Rasharkin Presbyterian Church - baptisms 1834-1902

Of these 1,680 baptisms most have mothers' full names and places of residence recorded. More than 600 have birth dates before 1864. Jeannie GLASS with father named Samuel, baptised in 1901, is recorded with an address in Glasgow.

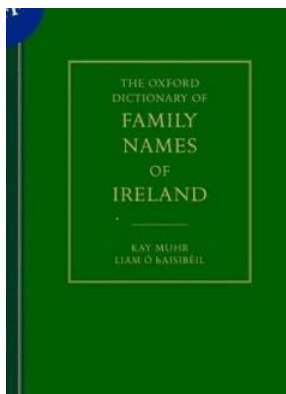
Sandra Ardis

Projects Coordinator



EVENTS

BOOK LAUNCH - BELFAST CENTRAL LIBRARY



All are welcome to the launch of

'The Oxford Dictionary of Family Names of Ireland',

edited by Kay Muhr and Liam Ó hAisibéil,

followed by a talk on family names by Kay Muhr

The event is on the second floor of Belfast Central Library on

24 March 2022 at 6.00pm

Refreshments will be served

Booking is advisable. Contact t: 028 9050 9150 or e: belfast.central@librariesni.org.uk

This event is by attendance only. Mike McKeag will deliver a short review of the book on behalf of NIFHS. The Lisburn Branch has purchased a copy for the NIFHS Randall Gill Library, and this will be available for consultation when C4 reopens. If you are free, please go along and support Mike and NIFHS.

PROJECT LAUNCH - PRONI

Launch of **'Demonised: The Islandmagee Witches, 1711'**

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Dr Andrew Sneddon, and Dr Victoria McCollum would like to invite you to the launch of **'Demonised: The Islandmagee Witches, 1711' Project**.

'Demonised: The Islandmagee Witches' project, will mark the 312th anniversary of the trial of the "Islandmagee Witches" in Carrickfergus, Co. Antrim in 1711.

The project aims to bring the story of "Islandmagee Witches" to wider audiences in creative ways and using new technologies. The project leaders will launch a new, dedicated "digital toolkit" website and discuss the graphic novel, choice-driven video game, original musical score, and Virtual Reality experience they are basing on the trial. There will be an opportunity to speak to the team and sneak preview the graphic novel and game.

This is an online event on

Thursday 31 March 2022 at 12.15 - 13.30 BST

To book for this and other PRONI events go to -

www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/talks-and-events-proni



GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES IN ARMAGH ROBINSON LIBRARY

Thirza Mulder, Archivist, Armagh Robinson Library, Northern Ireland
(Thirza will be presenting a talk about these resources by Zoom to Lisburn Branch on
Tuesday, 12 April 2022 @ 7:30 pm BST
To book your place email - lisburn@nifhs.org)

Armagh Robinson Library, founded in 1771 by Archbishop Robinson, is a reference library, archive, and museum, as well as a four-star tourist attraction. Its history is reflected in the collections, which combine an 18th century gentleman's library with a substantial reference library of modern secondary material.

The library holds many resources which could be of benefit to the family history researcher. While the Library holds no birth, marriage, or death records, it offers other resources which can provide information for direct ancestors' research and other related research.

RESEARCH IN THE LIBRARY

We welcome both national and international family researchers. Often overseas family researchers have little information to go on: they may have found one or two names of the first ancestors to emigrate, and a reference to the county of origin from the shipping manifest. If so, we can use the ancestor's surname and the county to try and narrow down the regions the family may have come from, by using the Griffith's Valuations for this.

VALUATION RECORDS:

General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland, or Griffith's Valuations

The primary valuation of Ireland was carried out between 1848 and 1864 to determine whether people were liable to pay the Poor rate (for the support of the poor and destitute within each Poor Law Union). It offers details on where people lived in mid-nineteenth century Ireland and the property they possessed.

The Ask About Ireland website (www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation) allows us to do a quick search on the ancestor's surname and can provide the names of potential parishes of origin. The library holds 106 volumes out of over 300 volumes compiled. Based on the search results, the researcher can access the relevant copy.

SURNAMES DIRECTORIES:

If a search in *Griffith's valuations* is unsuccessful, the researcher can consult our resources on Irish and Ulster surnames. These works can direct them to a particular area with a higher concentration of the family name. They can also provide the all-important spelling variations!

PLACE NAME GUIDES

If a place name has been found, but cannot be traced on modern day maps, or in any records, researchers can consult our place name guides. These often supply the historic spellings of place names. Once the modern-day place name of a place of origin is known, we can provide contact details for the relevant parish repositories of BMD records, provided that the ancestor's denomination is Church of Ireland. We can also supply general contact details for repositories of other Churches. When the place of origin and possible names have been determined, the following resources can provide additional information.



CLERICAL DIRECTORIES AND SUCCESSION LISTS:

If the known ancestor was a member of the clergy in the Church of Ireland, clerical directories and succession lists can help determine their movements and family members, such as Crockford's Clerical Directories and Leslie's Clerical Biographical Succession List.

Crockford's Clerical Directories

These contain biographies (including education, work, and family details) of Anglican clergy in the UK.

Leslie's Clerical Biographical Succession Lists

These contain brief histories of each parish, and biographical entries for clergy, often including parent names, and names of direct descendants. The lists are published per Diocese.

PROPERTY RECORDS:

Tithe Composition Applotment Books, Grange, Tynan, Eglish, Lisnadill

The Tithe Applotment Books were compiled between 1823 and 1838. They record the amount of tithe, a one-tenth production tax which was due from each occupier of land, regardless of their religion, to support the clergy of the Church of Ireland. Originally, the tax was paid in produce. However, after 1823, the Tithe Composition Act allowed tithes to be paid in cash.

Rent rolls of the See of Armagh, 1615-1746, copied from the originals

Registers of the See of Armagh's lands and buildings with the rents due. The rent rolls cover many surnames in Armagh town and surrounding areas.

PARISH HISTORIES

Some Parish histories include information on its church members. The library holds over 60 works relating to the history of parishes around the North of Ireland.

CENSUS LIKE RECORDS

A list of the inhabitants of the town of Armagh for the use of his Grace the Lord Primate

The above source, also known as the 1770 Census of Armagh, lists the inhabitants of 1770 Armagh by street, recording the name of the head of the household, their marital status, occupation, religious denomination, as well as the number of children, servants, and apprentices in the household.

The Library holds the original Lodge manuscript, as well as a copy of Sean Barden's Notes on the 1770 Census of Armagh, containing various comprehensive lists, such as an alphabetical index of the inhabitants by surname, a list of the records sorted by streets and by religion, and some lists specifically referring to widows, wives, the poor, the pubs, etc.

Index to the Armagh Diocesan Registry Archive Held at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

The original registry records which were held at the Registry Office, are held at PRONI. The library offers researchers access to a printed index.



DIRECTORIES and ALMANACS:

The library holds several general directories and almanacs, such as Thom's Irish Almanac and Official Directory. The following two directories will be of special interest for research in the local area.

- (a) *The General Directory of Newry, Armagh, and the Towns of Dungannon, Portadown, Tandragee, Lurgan, Waringstown, Banbridge, Warrenpoint, etc. Thomas Bradshaw, 1819*

The above Directory gives historical accounts of the towns mentioned. In addition, it lists merchants, traders, and other professionals for each, as well as for the towns of Rathfriland, Markethill and Banbridge.

- (b) *Country Armagh 100 Years Ago - A Guide and Directory*

This is a reprint of the Book of County Armagh. This gives details of Manufacturers, Merchants, Traders, Professional Men, Farmers, Landowners, Tourists, Anglers and Sportsmen Generally (1888).

COURT RECORDS:

Manor Court Rolls, 1625-1627

During the 1700s and 1800s, most of the population lived as tenant farmers on Landed Estates. The administration of these manor estates produced large quantities of records such as leases and deeds, rentals and account books, maps and other correspondence. The Armagh Manor Court Rolls (Armagh 1625-1627), Artrea (1626), Donaghmore (1626-1627) and Termonfeckin (1625-1627) recorded the proceedings of the Courts Leet in the Manor of Armagh which include the names of jurors attending and non-attending, plaintiffs, defendants.

The original Rolls are not available for consultation because of their fragile condition. However, transcripts are available at PRONI (T475), and we hold the copy of *Seanchas Ard Mhacha* which contains T.G. Paterson's article on the Rolls.

Armagh Assize records, general and specific cases, 1735-1797 (MS), 1762, 1763, 1817, 1819, 1862

The Armagh Assizes were a higher, criminal court where the accused of more serious criminal offences were brought to trial. The Assize records in the library list the cases that came to court, naming the prosecutor, the person indicted, the facts, and the return of the Jury.

LOCAL AUTHORITY RECORDS:

The Armagh Corporation was the local authority, from 1613, consisting of a sovereign and a grand jury. It appointed, paid, rewarded, fined, and dismissed police officers. It was responsible for fire and police services as well as for providing piped water to the town.

Armagh Corporation Books, 1776-1814, 1818-1839

The Corporation Books describe the many decisions taken by the Corporation and the monies spent on Fire and Police Services.

Armagh Corporation Pipe Water. Names Of Citizens Who Took Pipe Water from August 12, 1796 to December 12, 1828

The Armagh Pipe Water Book contains 155 contracts between the Corporation and house occupiers.



Armagh Borough Books

The Armagh Borough Books contain names and signatures of Grand Jurors, 21 June 1738 - 26 June 1818

MILITARY RECORDS:

Copy of Muster Roll of Ulster 1630

During the early 17th century landed estates were required to muster tenants for defence when areas were under threat from the native Irish. In 1926, James Dean produced a transcribed copy of the Muster Roll of Ulster 1630. This details the names of 13,147 adult males bearing or capable of bearing arms. As there are little to no parish and estate records for that period, the muster roll is the nearest record to a census of the British population of early 17th century Ulster.

Military and Army Lists from 1708 to 1897

Military lists record the details of officers who served in the armed services.

FAMILY HISTORIES

The library holds a small selection of family histories specifically relating to families from the North of Ireland.

MAPS

Ordnance Survey Maps of all of Ireland

The library holds a full set of the Ordnance Survey maps of all of Ireland (1829-1842). The maps are very detailed six-inch = one-mile scale maps, showing all existing buildings, landmarks and geographical features.

Petty maps

Sir William Petty surveyed the lands confiscated in Ireland during the 1650s. The Down Survey, as this project became known, provided the basis for his *Hiberniae Delineatio Quoad Haec Hactenus Liciuit Perfectissima Studio Guilielmi. Eq. aurati* (London, 1683).

Irish Historic Towns Atlases

The library holds fifteen issues from the Historic Towns Atlas series, namely Armagh, Bandon, Belfast, Bray, Carrickfergus, Derry/Londonderry, Dublin to 1610, Dundalk, Felhard, Kells, Kildare, Kilkenny, Maynooth, Mullingar, Trim.

NEWSPAPERS:

Henry Irwin Newspaper Collections

Annotated Irish newspapers collected by Henry Irwin, 1788 - 1799. Indexes available online: www.armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk/henry-irwin-newspaper-collections/

Dublin Mercury Newspaper 1766

The Dublin Chronicle 1787-1790

Access

- Contact the administrator to book your place:
- 028-37523142 or email - admin@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk

Online assistance is available through - www.armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk/genealogical-sources



AUDREY'S GUIDE TO THE CONTENTS OF NORTH IRISH ROOTS

All Members who have supplied an e-mail address on their joining/renewal forms should by now have received their Guide and had time to search it for names and places and resources of interest to them. Maybe the journals are on your shelf - or maybe the articles were published before you joined, in which case, unless they were recent, you can find them for free on JSTOR using the instructions in the Guide. If you haven't yet made good use of the Guide, you are missing a trick.

Mike McKeag, 'Snippets', Belfast Branch

NIFHS VOLUNTEERING

You all know that this Society is made up of a collection of people around the world with a shared interest in genealogy and tracing their family history. The level of interest varies between a general interest in your own family story, and a wider interest in family and/or local history, and may include use of DNA, as well as other resources to follow your interest. The Society has developed over a forty plus period of time, during which technologies have emerged, more record sources have been revealed or discovered, and the interest and awareness of all of this has increased dramatically. Some of this is down to the restrictions we all experienced during the early stages of the Covid pandemic, when we were all at home, looking around for things to do - home baking only goes so far!

In order to continue as an organised society, both at branch level and centrally, we always need some people to look after the various aspects of the running of the Society. Each Branch has its committee and office bearers - all volunteers from their own Branch. Each role requires a certain amount of time and effort to be given to society business, such as producing the Newsletter, arranging meetings or visits, finding, and booking speakers and subjects to learn about, and so-on.

At central Council level, this is an even more involved job, as we have certain obligations to comply with Charity Commission requirements, arranging capitation insurance, managing the finances of the Society, rental, and maintenance of the Research Library, running the Society shop, library, education and courses, membership, and many other functions not immediately obvious at Branch level.

At our next Council meeting a new scheme will be discussed and a new volunteer post created, that of Volunteer Coordinator, with a dedicated email address - volunteer@nifhs.org .

The role of the coordinator will be to respond to enquiries from anyone who feels they would like to know more about helping the Society run. The coordinator will establish what skills that person may have, and advise where they might best be utilised. The new scheme will be supported by a campaign on social media and in Society publications, advertising the need for volunteers.

If you feel you could help in any way, no matter how small, please send a message - what you have to offer might make a difference to someone else's workload. The Society has in recent months welcomed very valuable assistance from two people who are volunteering with editing and publishing our Journal and carrying out research from Australia and America, (see below) so, as you see, distance is really no object!

Ken Tait



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO INDEX NORTH IRISH ROOTS JOURNALS (1984-2012)

I trust you have received an electronic copy of the new **Guide to the Contents of the Journals (2013-2021)**. Many positive comments have been received and are much appreciated. I was ably assisted on the project by two overseas members - **Kate Brinko** (USA) and **Leisa Byrne** (Australia). I am keen to complete the *Guide* by including the contents of the remaining Journals (1984-2012) with the help especially of **volunteers** including **overseas members**.

The task is mainly about extracting brief details from these journals which are on JSTOR and typing in the key information on an agreed template. Both Kate and Leisa have been very positive about their experiences on producing this first *Guide*. Kate says, "I have never been to Ireland, so researching my Irish ancestors was a huge challenge. This project helped me obtain a deep understanding of North Irish surnames, townlands, geography, and history, as well as helped me locate more genealogical resources in the US. If you decide to index the remaining journals, please count me in!"

Please email me by return at NRoots@nifhs.org if you can help. Thank you!

Audrey McKeown

Editor, *North Irish Roots Journal*

AND FINALLY...

Beyond 2022 - Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury - keep watching the website for new developments. Although it doesn't officially launch until the end of June, there are a few sources available for searching now. The story of how this website was developed is a fascinating one, well worth having a look.

Find out all you need to know at - www.beyond2022.ie .

MyHeritage is running a free 'Introduction to Genealogy' course. It's a very basic course but you might find something useful. When I say basic, I mean basic. One of the first bits of advice is when you go to interview relatives take a pen and notebook. You don't need me to tell you that MyHeritage is always looking for new members so be aware what you sign up to.

Find out more at - www.myheritage.com

ROOTSIRELAND to celebrate St Patrick's Day are offering a 25% discount on the annual membership rate until 31st March. There is also a discount on the six-month membership.

If you are interested - www.rootsireland.ie

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