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LOOK UP SERVICE - APRIL UPDATE

Sandra Ardis, Projects Coordinator

BALLYNURE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Baptisms 1819-1918 and marriages 1819-1845 have now been transcribed and checked and are available to the Lookup Service.

The images we used were from a very scratched microfilm where some records could only be partially read. The original registers have been mislaid and PRONI has no back up microfilm, so, at present, there is nowhere to find the missing information.

There are more than 3,500 baptisms, just over 2,000 of which are before 1864 when Civil Registration began. Ten families have Belfast addresses.

We transcribed 504 marriages and up to 1826 they were mixed in with the baptism records. From 1827 fathers' names are recorded and witnesses are named in all marriages. And a rarity in marriage records, mothers' first names are included from 1827 to 1844.

The Rev Samuel Alexander HAMILTON travelled to America in 1848 and whilst there performed 31 baptisms. The register records that they are all children of Irish Presbyterians, and most of them from Ballynure Church. Townlands are named in most cases.

The first baptism was on 21 Aug 1848 in Montreal, then he travelled to Ogdensburgh and Lisbon in New York State, and in November 1848 he performed 3 baptisms in Toronto. By March 1849 he was in Montgomery, Alabama, and then on to Philadelphia where the last baptisms took place on the 5 August 1849.

Surnames of the families are - ADAMS, ANDREWS, BAXTER, BOYD, CATHCART, FORBES, GREAVES, HALL, JENKIN, JOHNSTON, MACLEAN, McCULLOUGH, McFETRIDGE, McROBERTS, MILLER, SPARROWHAWK, THOMPSON, WRIGHT.

1950 U.S. CENSUS

(with thanks to Mike McKeag and his Belfast Branch Snippets)

McKeag Robert H.	Head
Elizabeth H.	Wife
Dorcas A.	Daughter
Alma E.	Daughter
Robert D.	Son
Robert G.	Father

1950 U.S. Census

1950census.archives.gov/

On April 1st the 1950 U.S. census was released; it included US territories which were not states yet such as Alaska and Hawaii. Free, it consists of images of the census returns and is gradually being transcribed and indexed by various organisations. Released by NARA, the American National Archives and Records Administration, it uses Amazon Machine Learning Textract service to convert handwriting into print, not always successfully, and the public are asked to provide corrections. The names on the left were automatically transcribed as:

mckeag Elisabeth Robert * Dorcas a * alma E * Roberted * Robert

Ancestry has announced that it will create its own transcriptions of the records using artificial intelligence (AI) technology in partnership with volunteers from free family history website FamilySearch, which will be available later this year.

MyHeritage was the first company to publish the entire 1950 US Census image collection. You can browse it for FREE now at blog.myheritage.com/2022/04/myheritage-publishes-the-1950-u-s-census-search-for-free/. MyHeritage has also released the Census Helper™, a useful and free tool that scans your family tree and compiles a list of your relatives who are very likely to be found in the 1950 census. Armed with this list, you'll know exactly which family members to search for in the newly released records, and your research will be much more focused. If you don't already have your family tree uploaded to MyHeritage, this is a fast and easy method to get started. And, once again, this is FREE and it is also available NOW. You can learn more about the Census Helper™ at: blog.myheritage.com/2022/03/jump-start-your-1950-u-s-census-research-with-the-census-helper/.

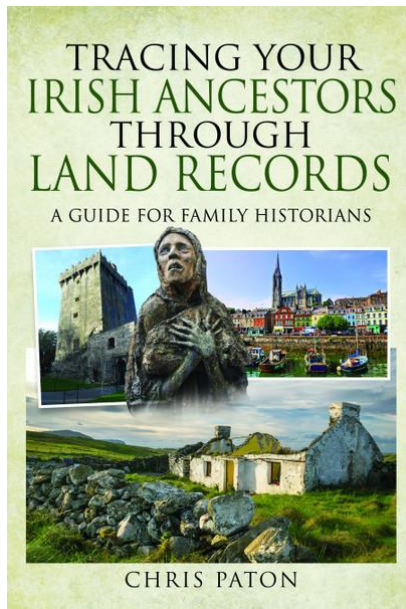


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BOOK REVIEW

by Michael M^cKeag, B1191

CHRIS PATON'S TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS THROUGH LAND RECORDS



Chris Paton is well known to many in our Society, of which he is a member, as a popular speaker and writer on family history in Ireland and Scotland. From Ireland and living in Scotland, where he is a professional genealogist, he writes a blog, scottishgenes.blogspot.com, in which he brings tidings of new developments to help us in our research.

Subtitled *A Guide for Family Historians*, this is his latest book and it covers a lot more than its title suggests. It begins with a Timeline, which sets Ireland's long list of land records and other events in their historical context. This is complemented by Chapter 2, *A [very] Brief History of Ireland*, which perhaps should have been Chapter 1 as it is aimed at readers who are unfamiliar with Irish history. Chapter 3, *Boundaries and Administration* (which should have been Chapter 2?), explains the many different units of land that the researcher comes across: provinces, counties, baronies, parishes, townlands, poor law unions and others.

The meat of the book comes in Chapters 1, 4, 5 and 6. Chapter 1, *The Lie of the Land* (which ought to be Chapter 3?), is a somewhat puzzling title for an introduction to the many sources - archives, offices, libraries, websites, societies and so on - that hold the information that we family historians need.

Chapter 4, *Where Were They?* is so called as a justification for including censuses in a book on land records; not just censuses but also vital records, street directories, electoral records and even newspapers. I suppose almost every record about a person associates that person with a place.

Chapter 5, *Valuation Surveys*, covers the enormously useful Tithe Applotments, Griffith's Valuation and the subsequent Valuation Revision Books.

Chapter 6, *Tenancy and Ownership*, treats the consequences of most people being tenants of large landowners, with varying tenancy and inheritance rights - or wrongs. Paton covers in detail the value of Estate Records, which many researchers fail to use, and he leads the reader through the sequence of Acts designed to assist tenants to become landowners. By one of these Acts my great grandfather was finally able to buy his farm on April 29th, 1893, from the Ironmongers Company.

The book finishes with a short Chapter 7, *A Sense of Place*, which deals with maps, the wonderful Ordnance Survey Memoirs, journals and parish histories, all of which can help turn your family tree with its bare facts into a readable family history. The newspapers of Chapter 4 might find a better home in this chapter.

This is an excellent book; the author has a wealth of knowledge, which he shares with us. He tells us what is available and where to find it and he illustrates this with examples.

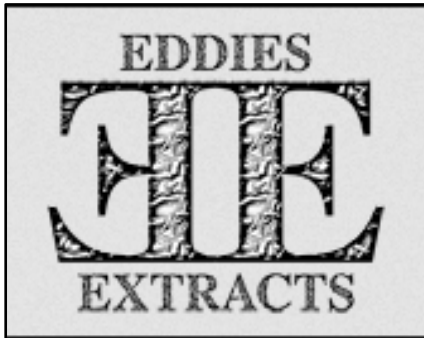
Chris Paton: *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors Through Land Records - A Guide for Family Historians*. Pen & Sword Family History. ISBN: 9781526780218. Paperback, xiv & 160 pages. September 2021. £14.99 or U.S. \$26.95. Also available in ePub and Kindle formats for £6.98. (Prices as at time of Review.)



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'EDDIES EXTRACTS' WEBSITE

Eddie Connolly



Eddies Extracts began as an offshoot to the research I was doing into my family history.

When I began my research in 1993, my parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles had all passed. It soon became apparent that that created a large gap in knowledge with which to start building a tree.

In the early 90s, access to information for those doing genealogy in Ireland was very limited. Online genealogy consisted of a few news groups and mailing lists which were very American centred and unless you were able to visit a repository personally, be that the Public Record Office (PRONI), General Register Office (GRONI), or just the local church, finding information was difficult.

Having experience of placing many notices myself, visits to the newspaper library soon became a regular occurrence in an effort to fill in that initial gap in knowledge.

In 1996, having amassed numerous photocopies of family notices etc., and recognising the lack of readily accessible resources for those researching their family tree, I was inspired by the website of Bob Sanders who had begun to transcribe ships in port from the 1881 UK Census and started to transcribe those notices and add them to a website I had set up to publish my family tree.

Over the next few years, I began transcribing more and more information, not just the death and other family notices, but accident reports and obituaries etc. subscription lists and other stories documenting the lives of our ancestors.

It soon became clear that I needed to set up a dedicated website to hold these extracts. In 2000, I was able to obtain a free account with Rootsweb who hosted many of the online mailing lists and 'Eddies Extracts' came into existence.

It was also around this time I started a lookup and research service for those, especially from overseas, who were unable to access the various repositories, transcribing or obtaining copies of records e.g. church records, newspaper stories, wills, etc.

When the site went live, I also added in a transcript of the "Roll of Honour of Presbyterian Church in Ireland from the Great War of 1914-1919". The Roll, which I had discovered many years previously when researching my grandfather's service, contained the names of over 25,000 members of the Presbyterian Church who served or were killed during the war. While there are many other Rolls of Honour from businesses, schools, and universities, it was unique in the scope of its information.

This was followed in the following years by many other Rolls of Honour including Campbell College, Trinity College, Dublin, Portora etc and those extracted from contemporary newspapers.

During the centenary of the First World War, I also added transcriptions from "Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914-1919" (published by HMSO in 1921) dealing with Irish Regiments. From these I added the details of over 30,000 men who had died, enhancing the published information with other details.



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The years following saw many other records added. From transcriptions of books and guides to baptisms and marriages and also maritime records with details of merchant seamen from Ireland extracted from the "Register of Deceased Seamen" and extracts from the "Mercantile Navy List" of 1849 and 1850.

Many other stories and history extracts not on the website can be found on a companion blog

anextractofreflection.blogspot.com

and on my Facebook page can be found photographs, Great War art and posters and other images.

Recent years have seen me step back, reducing the time I spend on active genealogy but still I add more transcripts to the site albeit reduced in number and have recently updated a partial index of birth, marriage and death notices that now contains over 23,000 entries in number.

The information I have transcribed has always meant to be freely shared. When I obtained the space on Rootsweb it was provided free which allowed me to do that. However, Rootsweb started to experience some problems with outages as their servers aged, and I took the decision to purchase my own webspace and domain and was able to get the site up and running again. As this incurs a cost for me, I have added a request for a small donation should anyone find useful information.

I have recently been invited to give a couple of talks and the donations for those have helped with the running costs and should ensure that the site will remain for another few years.

Eddies Extracts is well worth a look. I have found some fascinating information on the website, including a death notice which tied two branches of my family together. The web address is -

www.eddieextracts.com

AND FINALLY

Do remember that the Branch AGMs will take place during the month of May. Why not consider taking a more active role in your branch by joining the committee? If you need any more information, the branch secretary will be happy to help. You can find all the Branch Secretaries' email addresses on the NIFHS website -

www.nifhs.org

If you have any ideas, views or stories you would like to share, we are here to listen. The email address remains the same-

Newsletter@nifhs.org

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