



## NIFHS News 44 - June 2022

**'IT WAS JUNE, AND THE WORLD SMELLED OF ROSES.  
THE SUNSHINE WAS LIKE POWDERED GOLD OVER THE GRASSY HILLSIDE.'**

Maud Hart Lovelace

Dear Members

Oh, for some of that sunshine!

As we draw to the close of the 2021-22 session, it's a good time to reflect on the band of volunteers without whom the Society could not function. Our thanks to them all as they continue their work for us.

In this month's issue you will find more information about the new website, the plans to reopen the research centre, new additions to the look ups and library lists, and details of this year's DNA Summer School. The booking for the Summer School opens at the beginning of July and it books up quickly, so don't delay.

There is also a call out for articles for the Spring 2023 North Irish Roots Journal and for a volunteer (or two) with experience of the development of computer systems or databases. Contact details for both are in the relevant articles.

My thanks to those of you who contacted me last month. I really enjoy getting your feedback. I'm always on the look-out for your stories. Normally the cut-off date for receipt of articles is the 10th of the previous month but as a Summer issue will encompass July and August, the cut-off date is the 20th July.

Evelyn  
B2513

### **NORTH IRISH ROOTS JOURNAL SPRING 2023**

Thank you, Members, for your great response to the appeal for articles on Tracing Your Irish Ancestors in Australia (Autumn 2022 edition). I am delighted that several members offered to write articles on their family as well as other articles on finding the key sources in Australia when looking for records, etc. There will be a full Journal of 52 pages for the Autumn Edition thanks to you!

For the Spring 2023 Journal, the focus will be on Tracing Your Irish Ancestors in New Zealand. It would be great to have articles from our New Zealand members as well as elsewhere. These might focus on useful sources for the Family History Genealogist in New Zealand as well as New Zealand Family History organisations that can help. I know, for example, many families left Killyleagh, Northern Ireland for New Zealand. I wonder do we have members with this connection?

The word count is 1,300 words - about 3 - 4 pages in the Journal. I can provide you with support if you send me a paragraph with your idea/outline for a possible article.

My email is [NRoots@nifhs.org](mailto:NRoots@nifhs.org)

From Audrey McKeown, Editor,  
North Irish Roots



## NIFHS News 44 - June 2022

### DNA SUMMER SCHOOL 2022 22ND TO 26TH AUGUST

The DNA Summer School will again be held over 5 days, with 2 classes a day, all via Zoom.

We will be covering Y-DNA, Mt-DNA and autosomal DNA, with classes for beginners and the more experienced.

This year we are providing some practical case study classes, as well as theory classes, so you can see working examples that will show you how to apply what you have learned.

You will have an opportunity to hear some well-known guest speakers, and you might even win one of our great give-away prizes.

Each class will be stand-alone so you can come to as many or as few as you like. There will be a discount if you wish to immerse yourself in DNA for the whole week and book all 10 classes and you will be invited to a free question and answer session after the event.

Anyone who has attended previously will know how popular our classes are - they are friendly, easy to understand and provide practical information to help you further your DNA research.

We look forward to seeing you there. You can see the whole programme and book (from the beginning of July) on our website at

[www.nifhs.org/courses/](http://www.nifhs.org/courses/)

To keep in touch, follow our Facebook page here - [www.facebook.com/DNAatNIFHS](https://www.facebook.com/DNAatNIFHS)

### LISBURN BRANCH 40TH ANNIVERSARY

Lisburn Branch celebrated their 40th Anniversary of the founding of the Branch with an Afternoon Tea at the Ballance House, Glenavy on Saturday 25th June.

A suggestion in a Family History class in Lisburn led to a first meeting on June 2nd, 1982, of 20 people interested in forming a branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society. Two of those who attended that meeting are still members and two others were members until very recently.



The event began with a virtual trip through the last 40 years in the Branch, remembering the people who gave so much of their time and effort, the places visited for research and pleasure and the projects successfully completed. Before enjoying a delicious Afternoon Tea, a Living History re-enactor demonstrated the etiquette of Afternoon Tea hosting.

As the event was held in the Ballance House, the ancestral home of John Ballance, run by the Ulster New Zealand Trust, there was an exhibition showing the Family History links of Lisburn members to New Zealand.



## NIFHS News 44 - June 2022

### NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LOOK UP LIST

#### **TOBERKEIGH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - Baptisms 1829-1902, Marriages 1830-1869**

Toberkeigh Presbyterian Church is situated in the north of Co. Antrim. The baptisms were transcribed by volunteers from AllState, under the leadership of Imelda McVeigh. There are 1483 baptisms, with only about 165 mothers' names recorded, and no parents' occupations. There are 8 sets of twins and 4 children identified as illegitimate, although there are more than 20 with just mothers' names. The most common surname is McCurdy, with 117 baptisms recorded!

We have also transcribed 187 marriages from 1830 to 1869. Most of the places of residence recorded are in the locality, but 2 are worth noting. Mary Murry married John Murrey of Paisley, Scotland in 1833 and Ellen McPherson married William Garner of Glasgow in 1841.

#### **1ST DROMARA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CO. DOWN -**

Baptisms 1816-1874, Marriages 1817-1845, Burials 1750-1972

The handwriting in these baptism records was particularly difficult to decipher. For example, what looked like WALLAN was clear as WALLACE in a different entry for the same family. The surname WALLAN could not be found in other sources in this part of Ireland, so the 79 baptisms have been recorded as WALLACE. If you know that it should be WALLAN please let us know before we print in a few weeks' time. With few exceptions, mothers' names with maiden name are recorded, as are places of residence. Twenty sets of twins are recorded and one set of triplets. We are working on another baptism register for this church, which will take the records up to 1922.

In the marriage records from 1817 up until 1821, only the names of the bride and groom are recorded. From 1821 to 1823 names of witnesses are recorded and from 1824 other details are included such as fathers' names, places of residence, where the marriage took place and who authorised the marriage. Several marriages took place in the early hours of the morning: 1 am, 2 am, and even 4 am!

Two of the marriages took place in Belfast -

Robert Mulholland of Stranmillis and Anne Cairn of Belfast married in Belfast in 1833.

Robert Curry of Carnew and Letitia Carson of Ballynahatty married in Belfast in 1835.

The more than 1,200 burial records include additional information that has been gleaned from gravestones, newspapers, and wills, providing information for some individuals on relationships, place of birth and cause of death.

#### **PORTMORE CEMETERY - Burial records 1894-1929**

Portmore Cemetery is in Co. Antrim and lies on the eastern side of Lough Neagh, southwest of Glenavy. We have transcribed 462 burials from a register which records, for most entries, name, age, religion, occupation, and last places of residence, many of which are the surrounding townlands but also 135 entries with addresses in Belfast.

To use the Look Up Service contact - [Lookup@nifhs.org](mailto:Lookup@nifhs.org)

Sandra Ardis  
Projects Co-ordinator



## NIFHS News 44 - June 2022

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### WEB3 SURVEY

Last month the "WEB3" Sub-Committee (set up by the Society Council) explained some of their work. WEB3 have the aim of involving as many as possible in the entire process of developing the website requirement. To that end they have been planning a Survey of Society Members about our future website. The plan is to send out the survey soon to all Society members via email. So, if you get an email from the Society about a survey, please help us by completing the survey. It will only take a few minutes. And of course, it is anonymous. This will assist the team in firming up on the layout and content of the new website.

### MORE ABOUT OUR WEBSITE

Do you have some experience of development of computer systems, or databases?

Then why not consider joining the WEB3 Sub-Committee in the preparation of the requirements for our new Society website? Much has been done and there is more work to do. The skills we are particularly interested in relate to the client role and control of development of our website - it is NOT in the practical development of the website, as we shall not be doing this "in-house".

If you think you might be able to assist, please contact Michael at -

[Web3@nifhs.org](mailto:Web3@nifhs.org)

While WEB3 has been meeting virtually, we may wish to meet in person in the future.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Michael H Parkinson,

Convenor, NIFHS WEB3 Sub-Committee.

### THE VIRTUAL RECORD TREASURY OF IRELAND

The website is now live. Access it at -

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

150,000 records, spanning a 750-year period of Irish history, that were thought lost forever are available to you at the click of a button and completely free! I can't begin to do it justice here. Read all about the 'Beyond, 2022' project at -

[www.nationalarchives.ie/news/launch-of-the-virtual-record-treasury-of-ireland/](http://www.nationalarchives.ie/news/launch-of-the-virtual-record-treasury-of-ireland/)

How can you not be impressed?



## NIFHS News 44 - June 2022

### UPDATE FROM THE VOLUNTEERS AT THE RESEARCH LIBRARY SUBCOMMITTEE

#### Opening arrangements for the Research Centre, and a further call for Volunteers to help in the Research Library.

The Research Centre is now open for private research, by prior arrangement only, via the NIFHS website at -

[Bookings@nifhs.org](mailto:Bookings@nifhs.org)

These arrangements and the introduction of a booking system are for all Society members, groups of Society members who may wish to attend together, and for visitors and members of the general public, for private research. Society Volunteer, Kathleen Morrison has kindly agreed to coordinate the booking system. The introduction of a booking system will enable Kathleen to schedule opening times according to demand and the availability of Research Library Volunteers. This will also enable the Society to monitor the use of the Research Library facilities which will be helpful for future planning. It is our intention, at this stage, to open on Tuesdays and possibly on Thursdays, if volunteers are available, from 11am until 8pm offering 3x3hour research sessions accommodating up to four researchers with two volunteers for each three-hour slot. Current Department of Health advice will be followed, and the opening arrangements will be kept under review in the weeks and months ahead, which will enable any necessary changes to be quickly implemented according to the demand, and the availability of Volunteers. Please be assured that the new arrangements have been thought through very carefully and that they will be as flexible and user friendly as possible. The 'Volunteers at the Research Library Team' will make sure of that! A very thorough cleaning programme has taken place throughout the Research Centre and a portable Air Purifier has been purchased. New vertical blinds have been installed in the Randal Gill Library and the Journal Room.

Many thanks to all the members of the subcommittee, past and present, and to all others who have helped with the arrangements in any way - your help is very much appreciated!

The opening arrangements for the Research Centre, are, as has always been the case, dependant on willing and available Volunteers. On behalf of the team, I would urge anyone with spare time, and who would be interested in volunteering in the Research Library, to please contact Kathleen Morrison for more information at the above email address, or contact me,

Alison Tait at -

[Chair@nifhs.org](mailto:Chair@nifhs.org)

As always, the 'Volunteers at the Research Library Team' will make everyone coming to the Research Centre very welcome! There will be the usual lively atmosphere and good craic that we have all missed for too long! Thank you to all who have already volunteered to help in the Research Library, and yes please do join the 'Volunteers at the Research Library Team'! Those who cannot attend the Research Centre can avail of the Look up Service via the Society website at -

[Lookup@nifhs.org](mailto:Lookup@nifhs.org)

A further Look up Service 'Live' session is being included in the autumn Educational Course Programme. Lastly, and of great importance, there will be plenty of expert help on hand with your family history research queries. Welcome back!!

Alison Tait,

On behalf of the Volunteers at the Research Library Subcommittee, June 2022.





## NIFHS News 44 - June 2022

### NEW ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY LIST

APRIL 2022

- 010--052 - Seanchas Ard Mhacha, Vol. 27 No. 2 2021, Armagh Diocesan Historical Society
- 100--068 - Co. Londonderry, St. Comgall's, Desertmartin,  
Bap. 1785-1882, Mar. 1784-1869, Bur. 1783-1900, NIFHS, Causeway Coast and Glens Branch
- 100--069 - Co. Armagh, St. Paul, Tartaraghan,  
Bap. 1825-1919, Mar. 1824-1944, Bur. 1828-1969, N. Armagh Branch, NIFHS
- 150--090 - Co. Antrim, Ballynure Presbyterian Church,  
Bap. 1819-1918, Mar. 1819-1845, NIFHS Project Group
- 150--091 - Co. Antrim, Randalstown 1st Presbyterian Church,  
Bap. 1837-1902, Mar. 1837-1845, NIFHS Project Group
- 150--092 - Co. Antrim, Randalstown 2nd Presbyterian Church,  
Bap. 1838-1912, NIFHS Project Group
- 150--093 - Co. Antrim, Rasharkin Presbyterian Church,  
Bap. 1834-1902, NIFHS Project Group
- 150--094 - Co. Antrim, Toberkeigh Presbyterian Church,  
Bap. 1829-1902, Mar. 1830-1869, NIFHS Project Group
- 555--200 - Houston & Related Families, Broughshane area, Co. Antrim Houston, James & Natalie  
(Donated by James Houston)
- 700--108 - Tracing Your Ancestors Using the UK Historical Timeline by Smith, Angela & Bertram, Neil

### AND FINALLY

In wishing you all a great summer, I'll leave you with a reminder to look out for the following -

- Branch membership renewals - you'll receive a notification.
- The Branch activities for the session 2022-2023. Find the details as Branches complete their programmes at -

[www.nifhs.org/branches/](http://www.nifhs.org/branches/)

- The WEB3 survey which will be emailed out to you.

Looking forward to seeing some of you at the DNA Summer School  
or in the Research Library!



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