



"NOVEMBER... LEADS THE MONTHS THEIR WINTRY ROUND"

Anne Hunter

Dear Members

I know the above quote won't apply to all of our members; some are basking in the sun. However, it has definitely turned chilly here.

Wherever you are around the globe, there's plenty in this month's issue to help you pass your free time.

Please do take time to read the letter below from our Joint Chair, Alison Tait.

Enjoy the read!

Evelyn B2513

Newsletter@nifhs.org

NIFHS GOVERNANCE UPDATE

Dear Society Member,

This update is a follow on from the Society AGM.

Michael Parkinson and Alison Tait will continue as Joint Chair, Elizabeth Scott will continue as General Secretary, and Mike McKeag will continue as the Society Treasurer. All, for an interim period which will allow for succession planning to proceed and to enable support arrangements to be put in place for the future new office bearers.

The Trustees have taken advice from The Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA) and are presently undertaking a Governance Health Check. The Governance Health Check is a step-by-step assessment tool, in the form of a questionnaire. The aim of the questionnaire is to help the Trustees of organisations, such as NIFHS, to review their organisation's current governance arrangements, with a view to identifying areas, where improvements could be made, which would be helpful to the running of their organisations.

The NIFHS Trustees have worked hard to complete the Governance Health Check and will keep you informed about the progress of the process, and appropriate action taken in the near future.

Best wishes for now,

Alison Tait,

On behalf of the NIFHS Trustees
20th November 2022



TRANSCRIPTIONS UPDATE

NEWTONCROMMELIN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Baptisms 1835-1905

Marriages 1836-1844

Now added to the list of church records available in the Randal Gill Library, and for lookup, is Newtowncrommelin Presbyterian Church. Although the church is now known as Newtowncrommelin, the registers use the spelling Newton Crommelin or Newtoncrommelin.

The baptism registers that we have transcribed date from 1835-1905. Mothers' names and surnames are recorded with only a couple of exceptions, and places of residence are recorded until the end of 1876.

In this small batch of 48 marriages that predate Civil Registration only a few fathers' names are recorded, but all have the place of residence and all the marriages have at least two witnesses named, with their addresses.

Images of the registers are available for consultation in the Research Centre.

MARKS, SPENCER, SERES, EATON

These are names that you might recognize! I came across them when studying the records of **Donaghcloney Parish Church**, Waringstown, Co. Down. The transcription of these records was given to us by one of our members, who transcribed them from photographs taken at PRONI over several years. They were made available for "lookup" a couple of years ago. The records date from 1697 and are one of the earliest sets surviving.

Transcribed are Baptisms 1697-1865, Marriages 1697-1869, and Burials 1697-1890. In these early records there is huge variation in the spelling of names, and some of the pages are torn or blotted with ink, so some details are impossible to read.

I mention these records again because we have now added lists of surnames from these records to the list of Church Records on our website. Members requesting a "lookup" can now specify the variations of names that they think are relevant.

www.nifhs.org/resources/church-records-by-county/

www.nifhs.org/resources/look-up-service/

Sandra Ardis
Projects Coordinator



MOURNING CARD COLLECTION



The North of Ireland Family History Society has been collecting mourning and memorial cards for many years and there are now 1,300 entries in the database. They date from the late 1800s and early 1900s although some cards do include earlier birth dates, and more recent additions extend to the middle of the 20th century. Many of these cards include information about other members of the family and we have images for all but 80.

All the cards have been transcribed and names, locations and dates of death or burial are recorded in the document which is freely available on the NIFHS website.

The cards cover a wide variety of locations, and as well as Ulster locations, other places mentioned are: Athlone, Australia, Bradford, Canada, Dublin, Gateshead, Liverpool, Nottingham and Scotland.

The scanned images, some of which have a photo of the deceased, are available to members of the Society either by visiting the NIFHS Research Centre or by using the online "look-up" service.

In the days before telephones were commonplace, mourning cards were printed to notify relatives and friends about a death, and the date and time of the funeral. Memorial cards were generally produced in the following weeks and months.

The Librarian welcomes further additions of any mourning or memorial cards to the collection. To contact the Librarian -

Librarian@nifhs.org

See our website for the document of transcribed mourning cards:

www.nifhs.org/resources/miscellaneous-records/index-to-mourning-cards/

Sandra Ardis
Projects Coordinator

FOR SALE

Larne Branch, have for sale the graveyard book 'Resting in Larne's Green Land' for £2 plus p&p. If you live in Larne, we can arrange to meet you instead of posting.

If you are interested in purchasing the book, send me an email -

sukisuix@gmail.com

There are still a few copies available through the NIFHS shop, too -

www.nifhs.org/shop/



NEW VIDEO RECORDINGS

NIFHS GUIDE TO THE CONTENTS OF THE NORTH IRISH ROOTS JOURNAL (1984-2021)

I hope you have received the new Guide - thank you for all those who have sent encouraging emails which I will be passing on to the Indexing Team.

Following the Launch of New Guide for North Irish Roots on 17 November, you are invited to view the recordings of the talk on our YouTube Channel at -

www.youtube.com/@educationatnifhs

The presentation has been helpfully edited by one of our Education Team, Linda Kirby, into three separate videos, so you can watch them all or just the one that interests you!

Whilst you are there, why not subscribe to the Channel to be notified when new videos are uploaded? (You need to be signed into YouTube to do this.).

Hope you find these helpful,

Audrey McKeown
Editor - North Irish Roots Journal

CAN ANYONE HELP?

Mary Montgomery Sickles and her husband Bob are planning to visit Carnmoney, Co Antrim, this June to find out more about her roots.

Mary is a Montgomery (from Pennsylvania) and she has traced her ancestry to Andrew Montgomery (born 1727) who lived in Carnmoney, as did his son Isaac (born 1753) and Isaac's wife, Agnes McGill (also born 1753.) Isaac and Agnes had seven children, the youngest of whom was named John, born in Antrim in 1792. Records show that the extended Montgomery family emigrated to the United States after John's birth. Andrew died in North Carolina in 1796.

Can any member of the Society shed light on what their lives were like in Ireland? Should we assume they were farmers, or might they have had other occupations? Is there a possibility that one of their descendants might still be living in the area?

Buried in Carnmoney Cemetery are James Montgomery, who died in 1918, and Joseph Montgomery, who died in 1941. Is there any evidence that these two individuals were Andrew's descendants?

Thank you for any information you are able to share.

Bob Sickles

If you have any information about the Montgomery family from Carnmoney, please send it to -

Newsletter@nifhs.org



NIFHS News 48 - November 2022

ARMAGH ROBINSON LIBRARY LECTURES

To link with the 250th anniversary of our second building at No 5 Vicars' Hill, which was built in 1772 as the Registry for the Diocese of Armagh, there will be a lunchtime series of Zoom lectures.

(1pm-2pm, Tuesday 29 November - Friday 2 December 2022).

Speakers and topics will be as follows:

- Tuesday 29th November: Dr Katharine Simms (Trinity College Dublin),
'The Medieval Archbishops of Armagh'
- Wednesday 30th November: Professor Steven Ellis (National University of Ireland, Galway),
'Why the Reformation failed in Ireland: a reconsideration from the wild west'
- Thursday 1st December: Alan Ford (University of Nottingham),
'Money and Brains: Christopher Hampton, James Ussher and the 17th-century See of Armagh'
- Friday 1st December: Staff from the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland,
'The Treasures and Conservation of the Armagh Diocesan Registry Papers held at PRONI'

Free places can be obtained at -

armagh-robinson-library.arttickets.org.uk

or by emailing -

admin@armaghrobinsonlibrary.co.uk

Dr Robert Whan
Director
Armagh Robinson Library

AMAZON SMILE DONATIONS

NIFHS received almost £450 from the [AmazonSmile Donations scheme](#) during the 2020-21 Covid Year.

In the 2021-22 Year, the amount received was a few pence short of £350. A big *Thank You* to all buyers who supported NIFHS as their charity of choice when shopping online at smile.amazon.co.uk.

To support NIFHS, always shop at smile.amazon.co.uk instead of amazon.co.uk.

If you're not already a Smiler, sign up and choose NIFHS as your charity at smile.amazon.co.uk.



COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

SILENT CITIES PROJECT

Many of us are familiar with the CWGC website, and have used their records in our research, but do you know anything about the Commission itself and how it came into being? What challenges it faces in today's world and what the future holds? The Silent Cities Project aims to rectify this. In the words of the CWGC -

'Welcome to Silent Cities, a brand-new YouTube series about our work at the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. Every week we will release a new episode where we delve deeper into the history of the CWGC and we discover more about our global work. From Africa to Canada, from Gaza to Yokohama, discover more about the CWGC by subscribing to our YouTube channel.'

Find the series at - www.youtube.com/commonwealthwargraves

FUTURELEARN AND GENEALOGY

Futurelearn have added a new course to their history section -

Genetic Genealogy: Researching your Family Tree using DNA

It is a six-week course, four hours per week and is absolutely free. Provided by the University of Strathclyde, it accompanies the existing Strathclyde course -

Genealogy: Researching Your Family Tree

If you are interested in Irish language and culture, there is a series provided by Dublin City University, beginning with -

Irish 101: An Introduction to Irish Language and Culture

If you have Scottish ancestry, as many of us do, and struggle to read original documents, try this, provided by the University of Glasgow -

Early Modern Scottish Palaeography: Reading Scotland's Records

There are many, many more courses which may be of interest. The courses are all free, very flexible and online.

Find out more at -

www.futurelearn.com

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this Newsletter at the time of its publication. Links to third party websites are included in good faith. The NIFHS is not responsible for the content associated with those links. Over the passage of time the content on websites, including NIFHS.org, may be moved or removed. This may result in "page not found" error messages or content that does not appear to be relevant to the link source context.