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Welcome everyone to our second newsletter for 2019 in which we aim to keep you informed of the activities of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) and our centres, as well as new features and updates on our website, www.rootsireland.ie.

NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS!

Since our last newsletter, the following records have been added to our database on www.rootsireland.ie

- 38,000 Church of Ireland Waterford baptisms;
- 9000 Armagh confirmations;
- 3200 RC baptisms and marriages for Adamstown, Co. Wexford;
- 1295 Cork marriage records – Donerail, Killavullen, Cloyne & Kilshannig Civil records;
- 1398 RC baptismal, marriage and deaths records for Camolin, Co. Wexford.
- East Galway records including Cappatagle & Kilreekil RC baptisms, 1766-1915; Woodford RC baptisms, 1909-1917; Civil records updated and extended; Roman Catholic marriages extended to 1917;
- 18,500 civil marriage records for County Waterford, 1864-1912.

This is along with the records already uploaded in 2019:

- 18,000 records of various types (census substitutes and baptisms) for Counties Laois and Offaly;
- East Galway records including Cappatagle & Kilreekil RC baptisms, 1766-1915; Woodford RC baptisms, 1909-1917; Civil records updated and extended; Roman Catholic marriages extended to 1917;
- 18,500 civil marriage records for County Waterford, 1864-1912.

So, roughly 100,000 records have been uploaded in 2019 so far. Many more records are expected shortly, including the Roman Catholic registers for the parish of New Ross, County Wexford, as well as more Limerick records, so keep your eyes open for more updates! We will notify those on our mailing list when these records are uploaded and available, so make sure to register to our mailing list to keep abreast with new additions to www.rootsireland.ie!



Cloyne Church of Ireland Cathedral

EYE ON COUNTY CENTRES



WICKLOW COUNTY ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE'S RESEARCH ON FAMINE GRAVEYARD

A new Information panel for Rathdrum Famine Graveyard, County Wicklow, was launched on 2 May. Unveiled by local historian Kevin Byrne, it is on the route of the very popular Rathdrum Jubilee Loop walk. The panel was funded by Wicklow County Council and commissioned by Councillor Pat Kennedy and the Rathdrum Playground Committee. The Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service compiled the contents for the panel, based on the work of Kevin Byrne in his book *Time Did Not Stand Still, a History of St Coleman's Hospital*. Kevin's generosity in allowing his book to be used for the panel, and the quality of his work, was honoured at the unveiling and a very poignant piece from his book was read on the evening:

'The Burial Ground, like many "paupers" graveyards, was known colloquially as the "Shankyard". It is estimated that over 8,000 people were buried here, many of whom were children - with well over 1,000 of these burials occurring during the Great Famine in the late 1840s. The bodies were taken on a cart without any funeral ceremony. A local coffin maker constructed cheap coffins, which were

placed in layers. Over each was spread just sufficient earth or sawdust, not more than two or three inches, to conceal the boards. The only ones to attend the funeral were the "paupers" who drove the cart and another who assisted in taking the coffins from the cart and slipped them into the trench. Friends outside seldom knew of the deaths in the Workhouse until long after the burial!

(Kevin's book is available from St Coleman's Hospital, Rathdrum - all proceeds go to the hospital's Patients' Benefits Fund).



Kevin Byrne, Catherine Wright (Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service) and Cllr Pat Kennedy at the unveiling.

IRISH WORLD LTD. PRESENT SCHOOL AWARD



William O'Kane of Irish World presents a cheque for £300 to P7 pupils Kristyn Archer and James Parks, with their teacher Mrs Lynn Watt, Donaghmore PS Principal.

Primary School pupils in Donaghmore, County Tyrone, have recently won a £300 grant from Irish World Ltd. for their project entitled 'Our Town-lands'. Mr William O'Kane, manager of Irish World Ltd., organisers of the

competition, presented the pupils with their award. He praised the work of the P7 pupils, and their interest in studying the family histories and place-names of their own town-lands in Donaghmore parish.

He said that Irish World aims to promote interest in local history, genealogy and culture, and it was good to see young people develop an interest in their own localities. Quoting the poet Patrick Kavanagh, who said that all great civilisations are based on the parish, Mr O'Kane said that it was important that present and future generations build on the traditions and achievements of their forebears and to remember their achievements. He thanked the pupils for their hard work and looked forward to working with local schools again in the future.



ROTHER HOUSE, KILKENNY HERITAGE WEEK

Rothe House in Kilkenny have a packed schedule for Heritage Week, including guided tours of houses and gardens daily at 2:30pm. Price: €5.50 per person, children under 12 go free. No booking required. Head gardener Mary Pyke will give tours on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 12pm to 12:45pm. Price: €3 per person, children under 12 go free.



Rothe House Gardens

Genealogist Mary Flood will be available for consultations on Tuesday, 20th August from 2pm. Consultations are by appointment only via kilkennyfamilyhistory@rothehouse.com. The fees for each consultation are €25.

Staff member Anne-Karoline Distel will offer a juggling workshop for children and children at heart on 21 August from 2pm-3pm. Booking is required, please contact reception@rothehouse.com. Price: €6 for children, adults go free. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Juggling equipment will be provided, but you can bring your own as well. Anne will also offer a trad music workshop for fiddlers and other trad musicians. The workshop takes place on Friday, 23 August 3pm-4pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Booking is essential for €5 per person, regardless of age. Please bring your own instrument.

Thursday and Friday 12pm-1pm, children are invited to Come out and Play in the garden. They will (re) discover nursery rhymes and oldtime outdoor games. This event is free, but booking is required via reception@rothehouse.com.

Kilkenny Archaeological Society are offering a free Introduction to Photography class on Thursday, 22 August from 1pm to 2:30pm. Booking required.

Rothe House will also host a book reading by local artist and author Judy Rhatigan. Judy will be reading from her recent publication *Beyond the Briary Wood: A Life Journey*. The reading will take place on 23 August from 4 to 5 pm in Rothe House. This is a free event.

ARMAGH ANCESTRY GENEALOGY CONFERENCE 2019

The inaugural Armagh Genealogy Conference was held on the weekend of May 17th-19th 2019 and had attendees from

USA, Canada, Australia, Germany, Ireland and UK. The event was very successful and feedback from those who attended was so positive that the event will be run again in early May 2020 (dates to be confirmed). The underlying theme for the Conference was 'Emigration – voluntary or forced' and **Brian Mitchell's** talk on 'Emigration Records and their usefulness when searching for your Ancestors' and **Tom Quinlan** of the **National Archives of Ireland's** talk on 'Sources in the National Archives of Ireland for Researching a Convict Ancestor' proved both informative and interesting, even for those of us without an emigrant ancestor.

Dr William Roulston of the Ulster Historical Foundation delivered a talk on 'Researching eighteenth-century ancestors in Ulster' highlighted some of the lesser-known sources and especially appealed to those with Scotch-Irish heritage.



Dr William Roulston and Conference Director Feargal O'Donnell with attendees from Germany and USA



Dr Brendan Scott of the Irish Family History Foundation delivered a talk on 'Using the 'RootsIreland.ie' database – a unique national asset' and discussed how best to use this extremely important research tool. Sean Barden and Jason Diamond gave a brief talk on the genealogical sources held in their local Armagh repositories.

Feargal O'Donnell of Armagh Ancestry delivered talks on 'Tracing Your

Armagh/Irish Ancestors', 'Church, Civil and Census Records', '1922 Fire in the Four Courts – Was everything destroyed?', 'History from Headstones' and ended the Conference with a walking tour of St Mark's Church of Ireland graveyard in Armagh City.

The idyllic, mythological and historic setting of the Navan Fort Centre lent to the ambience of the Conference. The many attendees had time to discuss their research to date with the experts and amazingly we had several attendees who appear to be long lost 'cousins'.

For further information or to book a place on the 2020 Conference you can contact Feargal O'Donnell at researcher@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

MEATH HERITAGE CENTRE WELCOMES MEATH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO BALLIVOR

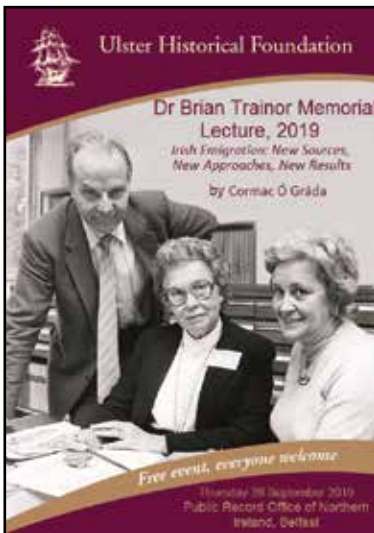
On 19 May 2019, Noel French from our Meath Centre led a walking tour of Ballivor, County Meath for members of the Meath Archaeological and Historical Society. There was also an exhibition of military memorabilia, including uniforms from various periods

of history including 1916 and the War of Independence and demonstrations by military historian Tóla Collier. This was followed by a re-enactment of the taking of Ballivor Barracks 1919 and Irish War of Independence skirmish.



Noel French and Tóla Collier at the site of Ballivor Police Barracks

ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION DR BRIAN TRAINOR MEMORIAL LECTURE, 26 SEPTEMBER 2019



The 2019 Dr Brian Trainor Memorial Lecture will be delivered by Cormac Ó Gráda, professor emeritus, University College Dublin, in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland on 26 September 2019 and is entitled 'Irish emigration: new sources, new approaches, new results'.

This lecture is free to attend but the UHF hope that you may consider donating to the Ulster Historical Foundation's Dr Brian Trainor Memorial Lecture to ensure that this lecture could become an annual event.

More information on how to donate can be found here: www.ancestryireland.com/brian-trainor-memorial-lecture-fund/

Whilst this lecture is free to attend registration is essential. For more information and to register go to: www.eventbrite.com/e/dr-brian-trainor-memorial-lecture-tickets-62314160331

DERRY GENEALOGY INFORMATION SESSION

Brian Mitchell of our Derry Genealogy Centre spent the afternoon with Bernadette Walsh, archivist of Derry City and Strabane District Council, in Derry Central Library on Thursday 16 May as part of Bernadette's 'Discover the Archives' event. At this event, Brian discussed the wide and rich range of genealogical sources available to genealogists interested in researching Derry.

Brian Mitchell (Derry Genealogy) and Bernadette Walsh



DÚN NA SÍ AMENITY & HERITAGE PARK/WESTMEATH GENEALOGY RECEIVES FUNDING

DÚN NA SÍ AMENITY & HERITAGE PARK is delighted to have secured some Leader funding. This is being used for the redevelopment of a selection of the site's attractions, featured here in our Heritage Park in Moate, County Westmeath. The Heritage Park at Dún na Sí takes the visitor on a unique journey through Ireland's past, from an iron age ringfort to a fisherman's cottage, all part of Ireland's tradition and heritage.

Dún na Sí is home to **WESTMEATH GENEALOGY**, the designated Genealogy Centre for County Westmeath and is run under the auspices of the Irish Family History Foundation and the Moate Branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Éireann. Westmeath Genealogy offers a family research service for anyone tracing their Irish ancestors who originated from Westmeath.



ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION GENEALOGY ESSENTIALS COURSE

Irish Genealogy Essentials

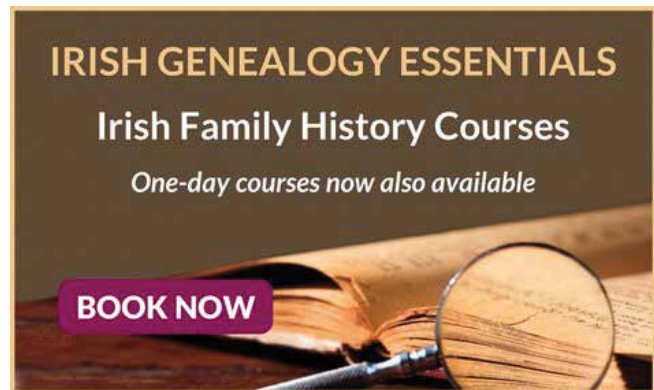
The most comprehensive Irish family history focused genealogy course offered in the U.K. and Ireland.

Irish Genealogy Essentials embraces the unique nature of Irish genealogical research

It is ideal if you:

- Have no experience with genealogy or family history research
- Have some experience with genealogical research, but want to develop your skills and knowledge further
- Consider yourself a more experienced genealogical researcher who wants to learn new techniques and lesser known sources.

The knowledge you gain from *Irish Genealogy Essentials: A Family History Course* will help you get to grips with research techniques, archives and genealogical sources in Ireland; provide you with the information and skills to further explore your family



history and help you find your elusive Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

The next genealogy courses are scheduled for:

- 04-08 November 2019
- 10-14 February 2020

For more information or to register for this course go to: www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/

BREWING UP A STORM IN NORTH MAYO HERITAGE CENTRE



The North Mayo Heritage Centre is about to embark on a remarkable collaboration project with the Reel Deal Brewery in Crossmolina. Working together they are going to grow the ingredients for Ireland's first Organic Craft beer. An area of the garden that has been set aside for some time is to become the new 'Hop Plot'. A variety of organic hop has been identified and the Victorian Walled garden is the ideal location for this to happen.

Hugh Trayer is the Manager of the North Mayo Heritage Centre and said 'It will take a few years before we can really enjoy the end product, but the indications are very positive at this stage. It also means that as well as creating an organic craft beer we are looking at job creation and upskilling of the workforce in this area'.

Aine Bell (North Mayo Heritage Centre) and Marcus Robinson (Reel Deal Brewery) in the walled garden of Enniscoo Estate on the site of the new hop plot

The organic garden at The North Mayo Heritage Centre already grows a wide variety of organic fruit, vegetables and herbs. These are used by a number of the leading restaurants in the area as well as to the general public who visit the garden. The garden forms a key part of the Biodiversity within the Enniscoo Estate, which houses the North Mayo Heritage Centre. A special bee plot has been prepared to entice the occupants of the recently arrived bees' hives.

The North Mayo Heritage Centre is dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the region. In September the North Mayo Heritage Centre will host the annual Enniscoo Biodiversity Blitz with many local and national groups involved with free nature walks, workshops, exhibition and talks for all the family.

NEWEST ADDITION TO ROTHE HOUSE GARDEN, CO. KILKENNY

Staff at Rothe House & Garden (who are also our Genealogy Centre for County Kilkenny) have been busy with many enthusiastic visitors from all parts of the globe. The wonderful award-winning garden looked splendid for the annual garden party held in mid-summer. A dovecote, which as well as being an ornamental feature would have provided the house with fresh meat and eggs, would most certainly have been in the garden in the 17th century. A 1654 land survey mentions a dovecote, among other features in the garden, the dovecote mentioned in the survey would have been a more substantial stone structure built against the rear garden/town defence wall. The new dovecote upon which work commenced in February is a timber structure, certainly not out of place for the era which is situated in the middle of the large orchard grass area and this combined

with additional perennial planting has created an amazing feature in the centre of the orchard that we feel is a welcome addition in keeping visitor interest in the orchard area of the garden.



Rothe House Garden, Co. Kilkenny

FOCUS ON A SOURCE

CONFIRMATION RECORDS

Confirmation is a church practice that falls into the category of what the Anglican Catechism calls 'rites and institutions commonly called sacraments'. While many Protestants shy away from calling Confirmation a sacrament in the strict sense, the witness of the Church throughout the ages, especially in Anglicanism, has seen fit to uphold them as a vital means through which God mediates grace to us. For Anglican churches, the normal course would be that you were baptized as an infant, and then as a teenager undergo a lengthy instruction (catechesis), which prepared you for Confirmation. As a general rule, anyone who is over 10 years old and can answer for themselves could be ready for



confirmation, but the right time for you might be at any age – you could be in your teens or in your nineties!

Armagh Ancestry has commenced the computerization of Confirmation Lists held within Armagh's Church of Ireland churches, and 9000 of them were uploaded recently to the Roots Ireland database. These generally commence in the 1820s and can vary in the information they record. Some merely have the person's name, year and church where the Confirmation was held. Others record the name, age, address and some have additional comments. Some churches had Confirmations every 3-4 years whilst others only had a few over a large year span. These Confirmation Lists can be useful for locating a possible ancestor, especially where the church records have been lost or destroyed.



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