

The newsletter of www.rootsireland.ie and the Irish Family History Foundation



Research your Irish Ancestry at
www.rootsireland.ie



Welcome everyone to our third newsletter for 2020. We normally keep you informed of the activities of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) centres, but due to the current coronavirus pandemic, this is not possible. But many of our centres have reopened and many others are beginning to do so. So in this newsletter we hope to update all of our readers on the very exciting recent updates to our website, www.rootsireland.ie and what our centres are getting up to.

NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS!

Since our last newsletter we have uploaded the following records to our database at www.rootsireland.ie:

- North Mayo: Over 79,540 Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist burial registers, gravestone inscriptions and tithes;
- Wicklow: Over 34,000 burial records from County Wicklow – mostly Church of Ireland but also some Roman Catholic;
- Armagh: over 41,000 baptismal, marriage, death and headstone inscription records of various religious denominations in County Armagh;
- Westmeath: Over 13,000 Roman Catholic and church of Ireland parish records and gravestone inscriptions.
- South Dublin: over 200 men from South Dublin who died in WW I.

These are in addition to records already uploaded this year, which include:

- 220,000 Kerry Roman Catholic baptismal and marriage records;
- 61,500 Cork Roman Catholic records;
- 30,000 Kilkenny records;
- 700 Dublin dog licence owners.

This means that over 467,000 records have been added to the Roots Ireland database so far this year!

Further records are expected this year from Limerick, Kilkenny, South Tipperary and elsewhere.

You can read more about these various records which have been uploaded in 2020 on our blog at www.rootsireland.ie/category/blog/

We will notify those on our mailing list when new records are uploaded and available, so make sure to register to our mailing list to keep abreast with new additions to www.rootsireland.ie!

EYE ON COUNTY CENTRES

COVID-19 CRISIS

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, our centres have been closed to the public since March. Our centres are continuing to operate their online service, however, so they will be able to serve you online. As restrictions are slowly lifting, some centres will have an on-site presence. It is strongly recommended that you contact centres before attempting to make appointments in person. Should you have any difficulty contacting one of our centres, please email us directly at enquiries@rootsireland.ie. Obviously, Roots Ireland continues to provide its normal service as usual. Please keep yourself and those around you safe.

KILKENNY CENTRE REOPENED

Rothe House and Garden, home to our Kilkenny Centre, Kilkenny Family History, has reopened to visitors. Come visit the beautiful sixteenth-century merchant's townhouse and take a walk through the restored gardens.

The new opening hours are:
Tuesday to Sunday, 11am to 6pm.



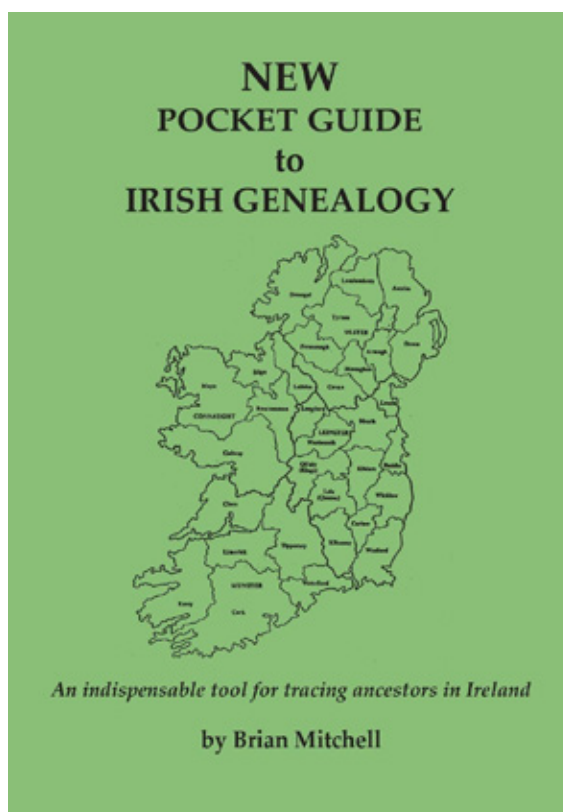
NEW EDITION OF BRIAN MITCHELL'S POCKET GUIDE TO IRISH GENEALOGY

We are delighted to announce the publication of a new edition of A Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy by Brian Mitchell from our Derry Centre. This 7 x 10 publication is one of the most complete and informative books on genealogical research in Ireland ever written. When Brian Mitchell wrote the original Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy in 1991, with revisions in 2002 and 2008, access to Irish record sources was through examination of original and microfilm copies of historical sources in record offices. Genealogists now, however, have ready access online to most of Irish record sources. Therefore, Brian Mitchell has completely revised his guide to meet the needs of today's researchers and direct them to the most current websites and resources.

Enriched by the author's experience as a professional geographer and leading Irish genealogical researcher, the New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy is an invaluable tool for all those seeking Irish ancestors.

For more information, see

<https://genealogical.com/store/new-pocket-guide-to-irish-genealogy/>



PLEASE STAY SAFE – LOOK AFTER YOURSELVES AND OTHERS

IRISH GENEALOGY MATTERS



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF ORGANIC GARDENING AT ENNISCOE, CASTLEHILL, BALLINA, COUNTY MAYO



The
North Mayo
Heritage
Centre

This year Enniscoe Organic Garden, which is also the site of our North Mayo Centre, will be celebrating twenty-five years as a certified organic garden. Certification is carried out annually by the Organic Trust in Ireland.

There has been a walled garden at Enniscoe since the eighteenth century. The early maps show a three-acre garden, complete with orchard, propagating house and stone built orangery. Fruit, vegetables,

and flowers were all grown together. In roughly 1870 the garden was divided, with a curving cross wall and a monumental stone archway linking the two parts. The northern part is the Ornamental Garden, restored in the 1990s under the Great Gardens of Ireland Restoration Programme. The southern part is now the Enniscoe Organic Garden, certified in 1995, growing fruit and vegetables.

The Heritage Centre is located in a restored, and partly rebuilt, farmyard at Enniscoe. It is a Community Development Company and Hugh Trayer, Manager of NMHC, has worked with his staff to produce high quality fruit and vegetables almost all the year round. Interesting crops include heritage tomatoes, Swiss chard, purple potatoes, asparagus, sugar snap peas and many varieties of salads. Willow is also grown which is used in the willow-weaving courses held throughout the year. The soil is fed naturally with green manures and compost material produced from within the walled garden. The rich BioDiversity of Enniscoe ensures honeybees are on hand to assist with pollination. Recently two rescue hedgehogs were released by staff from The National Parks and Wildlife to help keep the slug population under control.

Vegetables and fruit are sold directly from the garden gate, and are also supplied to the café in the Heritage Centre, to Enniscoe House and to The Ice House, both members of Ireland's Blue Book. In partnership with The Reel Deel brewery, a small hop garden has been established which will in time provide an organic hop crop which will be used to produce an interesting organic beer.

In 2016 the House and Gardens featured in the TV series *Lords & Ladles* with the well-known chef Derry Clarke of L'Ecrivain working in the garden, preparing the vegetables and fruit for the programme. Derry Clarke said that:

Enniscoe House on the shores of Lough Conn was the location for one of the *Lords & Ladles* Programme.

Their gardens are magnificent and well worth a visit. My greatest pleasure was being able to visit the 25 year old Organic Garden to source all I needed for the 17th Century menu on offer that evening, and it all growing practically on the door step of this magnificent property.

In 2019 MNHC intended to set up a QQI, level 4 course in organic horticulture offered by the Educational Training Board. Due to COVID 19 the starting date will now be late autumn or early 2021. Up to sixteen students will have hands on experience in the organic garden in addition to skills learnt in a classroom setting. This has always been a priority for the garden and will now see a new generation of gardeners working, learning and understanding the importance of organic gardening.

On 26-27 September the annual Enniscoe BioDiversity Blitz will take place where members of the public can have an opportunity to learn more about the environment we live in. This year there will be a special focus on organic gardening and will form part of the celebration of twenty-five years of the Organic Garden at The North Mayo Heritage Centre, Enniscoe.



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IRISH GENEALOGY MATTERS



REMEMBERING THE CAPTURE OF TRIM BARRACKS AND THE BURNING OF TRIM

One hundred years ago Ireland was in the midst of its War of Independence. The Irish Republican Army, the I.R.A., fought a guerrilla war against the British forces. British government reacted to the worsening situation in Ireland by militarising the police. In January 1920 the force known as the Black and Tans came into existence. Heavily armed, poorly trained and given free reign the group quickly acquired a reputation for leaving a trail of terror in their wake. The most significant operation carried out by the Meath Volunteers during the war of independence was the taking of Trim Barracks on Sunday 26 September, 1920. The Head Constable was injured by a shot to the chest. The buildings, including the officer's quarters and a garage containing a Black Maria, were set on fire. The Black and Tans arrived that night to burn the town. The premises of J&E Smyth's went up in flames. J.J. O'Reilly was the owner. He was also chairman of Trim Urban District Council but was not involved in any party politics. Smyth's employed about 100 people and the object of the burning may have been to create unemployment. The adverse publicity, nationally and internationally, to the sacking of Trim facilitated the growing support for the cause of the independence movement in Ireland and beyond. On Sunday 27 September our Meath Centre in collaboration with Meath Archaeological & Historical Society, Meath County Council and Battle of Ashbourne Commemoration Society are Remembering the Capture of Trim Barracks and the Burning of Trim Sunday. All are welcome – all events are non-political and non-sectarian. Please Social Distance – wear a mask.



Smyth's Trim following the attack

NEW PUBLICATION FROM THE ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

The Ulster Historical Foundation have just published *Major-General Oliver Nugent: the Irishman who led the Ulster Division in the Great War*, by Nicholas Perry. Oliver Nugent, Ireland's longest-serving divisional commander of the Great War, led the Ulster Division on the western front from 1915 to 1918. That period saw the operational transformation of the British army and his own development as a general, from the heroic but doomed assault at Thiepval in July 1916, through the triumph of Messines, the heart-breaking failure at Ypres and the mixed success of Cambrai in 1917, to the great German spring offensive of 1918. Alongside the challenges of divisional command he had to manage the Ulster Division's political dimension, with its roots in the pre-war Ulster Volunteer Force. The tensions that arose between him and politicians at home over issues like Irish recruitment, relations with the 16th (Irish) Division and, especially, Ulster's place in a post-war political settlement, reveal not only the conflict between military and political priorities but also the divisions within Irish unionism during the Great War period.



More widely, Nugent's career provides a unique insight into the political decline of the Irish landed class as well as their enduring military tradition – from his financial struggles as a young landlord in the 1880s, his regimental service on India's north-west frontier and in the Boer war, and his involvement with the UVF in Cavan in 1914, to his role in quelling political unrest in post-war India, his return to an Ireland convulsed by revolution and his adaptation to life in the Irish Free State. For more details, see <https://www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/oliver-nugent>

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