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Welcome everyone to our first and only newsletter for 2021. We normally use this newsletter to keep you all informed of the activities of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) centres, but due to the uncertain situation which prevails at the moment, things have been quieter than usual of late, although many of our centres have been working extremely hard to get records transcribed and uploaded to the Roots Ireland website. 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! • NEW RECORDS!

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

- **58,400 Kerry** Roman Catholic baptism and marriage records;
- **3708 East Galway** Roman Catholic baptismal records;
- **18,000 Laois & Offaly** trader records;
- **3300 Cork** Roman Catholic baptismal and marriage records;
- **20,000 Armagh** Church of Ireland records and gravestone inscriptions.



Dingle, Co. Kerry

This means that over **103,000** records have been added to the Roots Ireland database in 2021!

You can read more about these various records to have been uploaded in 2021 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 situation, most of our centres have only been able to operate on a limited basis, although continuing to operate their online service. Most of our centres now have an on-site presence, although it is strongly recommended that you contact centres before visiting. 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.

CELEBRITY CHEF DONAL SKEHAN VISITS DÚN NA SÍ AMENITY & HERITAGE PARK

Celebrity chef Donal Skehan was in Moate, visiting Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park for the filming of a travel series that will be shown in the United States later this year.



Donal Skehan at Dún na Sí.

While there Donal was treated to some traditional Irish music and even learnt a few céilí dancing steps. Some members from the Moate branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann were on hand to show Donal how it's done. The visit was a great opportunity to highlight Irish music and culture which is promoted throughout Dún na Sí Amenity and Heritage Park. Dún na Sí is also home to Westmeath Genealogy. The resident genealogist, Bernie Norris, provides assistance to Westmeath's diaspora and their families who are searching for their ancestral home.

BOYNE VALLEY TWINNING SUMMARY

Noel French from our Meath Centre was involved in a twinning ceremony between Meath and Michigan. It is around five years since contact was first made between County Meath and Boyne City in Michigan who have their own Boyne Valley back in North-West Michigan. The Mayor of Boyne City was contacted to propose a twinning which led to a visit by a delegation to Trim in 2018 for a fantastic cultural and musical event in the Stockhouse restaurant hosted by Trim Tourism Network. This was the first practical step in an idea that both the Boyne Valleys would be twinned in a unique joining up of two sister regions. A formal request was presented on that day to officially set about designing a twinning of the two regions.



Noel French of Meath Genealogy speaking at the twinning event.

An Irish delegation from County Meath travelled to Boyne City in Michigan in 2019 to officially seal the twinning of the two Boyne Valleys and represented from this side by Councillor Noel French of Meath Genealogy, Mick Hughes and David Gorey from Trim Tourism Network and schoolteacher Michael Kerr.

The twinning is now up and running officially endorsed by Meath County Council and there are four programmes being established based around education, tourism, culture and business. There is also a programme of events to be mutually celebrated around Thanksgiving, Halloween, Christmas and St Patrick's Day. It is hoped there will be a visit to Boyne City by an Irish delegation as part of the Chicago government visit during St Patrick's week. Boyne City officials are being invited to visit the Irish Boyne Valley in September 2022.

WICKLOW COUNTY ARCHIVES & GENEALOGY SERVICE HAS A NEW HOME

The service is now located at the new Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town. The collection offers a rich research resource for the family and local historian, academic and researchers of wide and varying interests who wish to learn about the shape and development of Wicklow communities and the authorities who served them. Among the collections are the 17th/18th century Wicklow Borough records, Grand Jury, Poor Law Unions and Workhouses, Boards of Health, Rural District and Town Councils and Wicklow County Council. Our digitised collections can be accessed on www.wicklow.ie. The archives service also offers assistance to those tracing their Wicklow family history as a member centre of the Irish Family History Foundation and www.rootsireland.ie.



Wicklow Library and archives.

WICKLOW COUNTY ARCHIVES & LOCAL STUDIES SERVICES WELCOMES SCHOOL GROUPS

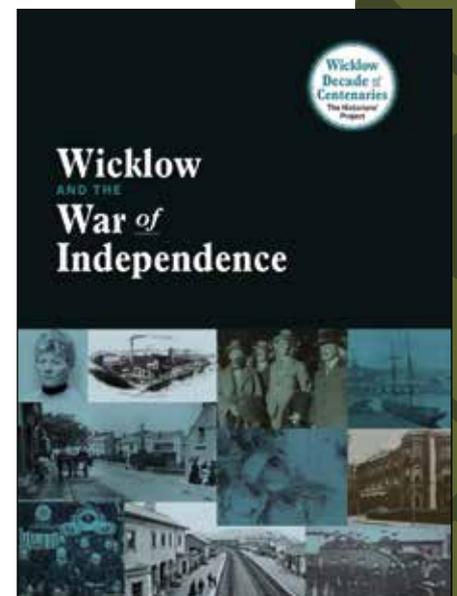
The students from Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School were introduced to Wicklow archives collections such as Wicklow Town records from the 1600s, workhouse registers from Famine times, and school group photographs from the early 1900s. They learned about the importance of records for the study of history and the work of the archivist in preserving them and making them accessible. They also learned how to start researching their family tree.

The archives and local studies services are planning a comprehensive schools programme to include school visits, projects and resources to assist at Junior and Leaving Certificate work levels. This will introduce the students to Wicklow sources and support their work as part of the history curriculum, particularly in relation to the emphasis on the use of primary source material in history project work.

“WICKLOW AND THE WAR OF INDEPENDENCE” – COUNTY PUBLICATION AND EXHIBITION

Wicklow County Archives and Genealogy Service is proud to present our publication marking the War of Independence in County Wicklow. The book and exhibition Wicklow and the War of Independence was launched at the official opening of the new Wicklow Library & Archives, Wicklow Town (the e-book is also available at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow-the-war-of-independence>). The book and exhibition brings together a collection of essays and images by 12 of the county's local historians who have researched the revolutionary era in their respective localities from a variety of perspectives.

The result is a series of interwoven studies that bring the complex tapestry of this significant part of Wicklow history into new and sharper focus.



ROTHE HOUSE KILKENNY REOPENED



Rothe House Gardens.

Rothe House reopened on 4th June having undergone essential works and was visited by tourists from all over Ireland, the U.K., many continentals and a small number from the U.S.A. including some family history clients

who had deferred their tours because of the pandemic. Recently, parties visited from the U.S. and Manchester. The annual Kilkenny Arts Festival meant a steady stream of visitors throughout the month of August. Fortunately, visitors continue to visit throughout the Autumn.

Minister Malcolm Noonan paid a brief visit recently as part of our Conservation Programme assisted by his department. Despite somewhat inclement weather, he found the house and garden a hive of activity with visitors taking tours, library patrons in the members library and an Art Workshop which is funded by Kilkenny County Council for the participants. Rothe House Trust partners in hosting the venue.

Mary Pyke, head gardener, and her colleague Anne Moore organised flower arranging and wreath making on the weekend of Halloween. Participants took home their treasures and many will return for further events on 4 December 2021. All details on website see www.rothehouse.com or telephone 056/7722893, email reception@rothehouse.com

NEW BOOK FROM ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Dr Henry Jones' Account of the 1641 Rising: plantation and war in County Cavan

Edited by Brendan Scott

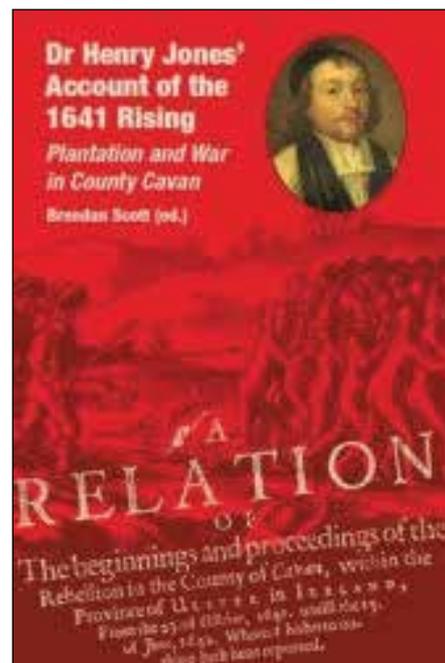
In 1641, Dr Henry Jones was dean of the Church of Ireland diocese of Kilmore. His life, and those of many other British settlers in the Ulster Plantation, fell into disarray when the rising began in October of that year. Jones managed to escape Cavan and established and chaired the deposition commission, responsible for taking around 8000 depositions, or witness statements, from British settlers.

Jones also wrote a number of pamphlets about the rising, including this new edition of his description of

the events which took place in Cavan between October 1641 and June 1642 entitled *A relation of the beginnings and proceedings of the rebellion in the county of Cavan*.

This fully annotated edition of the pamphlet comes with an extensive introduction which describes County Cavan in the seventeenth century, Jones' background and his account of the rising there, while also rescuing from obscurity an important companion piece to the 1641 depositions which affords the reader a unique insight into this chaotic period of Irish history.

Published by the Ulster Historical Foundation, the book can be ordered online at www.booksireland.org.uk.



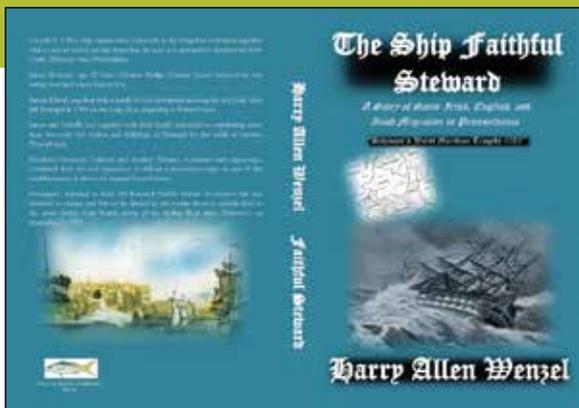
OPENING OF OFFALY ARCHIVES BY MINISTER MALCOLM NOONAN, 18 NOVEMBER 2021

Offaly History is pleased to announce the opening of Offaly Archives at Unit 1F, Cluster Two, Axis Business Park, on Thursday 18 November 2021, by Malcolm Noonan, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Offaly History completed the building of its second premises in 2019 to coincide with its 50th anniversary. The new repository is a state-of-the-art archives building managed by a professional archivist, Lisa Shortall, and houses the collections of Offaly History and Offaly County Library. The mix of the voluntary and the public sectors, under professional management, provides a unique blend of enthusiasm, specialist knowledge and continuity that can only enhance Offaly Archives over time. See www.offalyarchives.com for more detail.



Offaly Archives Launch.



A book which Brian Mitchell of our Derry Centre assisted with, has just been published. The book, written by Harry Wenzel, is entitled *The Ship Faithful Steward: A Story of Scots-Irish, English, and Irish Migration to Pennsylvania. Delaware's Worst Maritime Tragedy – 1785*. Two hundred thirty-six years ago a three-mast square rigged sail ship left Londonderry in the Kingdom of Ireland for New Castle, DE and Philadelphia. Captain Connolly McCausland, one-third owner of *Faithful Steward*, from Limavady, set sail with a crew of twelve and 249 passengers. Famine and religious persecution drove many thousands of Irish to the shores of North America in the 1700s. The American Revolutionary War ended in 1783. British America, in particular Philadelphia, was loaded

NEW BOOK WITH DERRY CONNECTIONS

with wealthy Scots-Irish merchants, having migrated prior to the revolution and who joined and became the backbone of General Washington's army and the Pennsylvania Navy.

James McIntire II believed he was sailing to a land where his heroes lived.

Simon Elliott, together with a family of five would join up with his son John, having left Donegal for Pennsylvania in 1784 on the *Lazy Mary*. James and Isabella Lee, departed Ardara and Killybegs in Donegal with more than two score relatives. Merchant Gustavus Colhoun and brother Thomas, a mariner, devised a plan to shepherd coinage stowed aboard the ship.

Everyone's life was destined to change and forever be altered by an event to unfold on September 1, 1785 near the Indian River Inlet. Readers will discover a fascinating tie-in between those migrating from Ireland, and their knowledge of or relation to others residing in Pennsylvania. The storyline

ends with a gut-wrenching account of the wreck, followed by a clever tie-in to Lewestown, DE, all based on an actual news account dictated by a shipwreck survivor, years following the disaster.

Pennsylvania author, Harry Wenzel, over the past four years devoted his time to researching and writing the story to complete his second historical fiction novel based on an actual shipwreck. He states – A love of researching historical events and genealogy led to writing the narrative. His novel incorporates actual history and the research is a fulfillment of a story, one that would never be written and left untold if never researched. Published in 2016, *Sindia, the Final Voyage* is his first historical fiction novel recounting Ocean City's (NJ) famous shipwreck of 1901, when the four-mast 328' long steel hulled barque carrying a substantial cargo wrecked in a storm off the 16th beach while completing a round the world sail to New York City. Artifacts of the cargo remain on display at the Ocean City (NJ) Historical Museum. For more details, go to harrywenzel.com.

ENNISCOE HOUSE AND NORTH MAYO HERITAGE CENTRE



L-R: Cllr Michael Loftus (Chairman, North Mayo Heritage Centre), Susan Kellett (Enniscoe Estate) and Marcus Robinson (Reel Deel Brewery).

The Chairman and Board of the North Mayo Heritage Centre, and the Kellett family of Enniscoe House and Enniscoe Estate, wish to celebrate today the awarding of the Green Flag and the Heritage Flag by An Taisce. The Heritage Flag award has been set up by An Taisce this year, and seven unique sites have been chosen, one of which is the Enniscoe Estate. Enniscoe House is recognised as a house of National Importance and has remained in the same family since it was built, originally in the 1740s.

This year Enniscoe House was chosen by the Georgina Campbell Guide as "Country House of the Year", and by the Good Hotel Guide as the Editor's Choice for a Fishing Hotel. Susan Kellett and her son, DJ Kellett, have been welcoming visitors to the house and grounds for nearly forty years. The North Mayo Heritage Centre, which is located behind Enniscoe House, has been dedicated to preserving and promoting the rich heritage of the region since the 1990s. The Heritage Centre comprises a Family History Research Unit, holding a data base of over 1.2 million records, a small museum, cafe, and conference centre. NMHC is a member of the Irish Family History Foundation and provides an international genealogical service through the Roots Ireland website.

I am delighted to see such positive developments for everybody in this community coming after two very long and difficult years' said Cllr. Michael Loftus, 'it's a credit to all the hard work done for generations by so many people associated with the Enniscoe Estate and bodes well for its future.' For 26 years Enniscoe Organic Garden has grown a wide variety of fruit, vegetables, and herbs. These are used by a number of restaurants in the area as well as being available to the general public who visit the garden. In recent times the quality of the produce has been recognised by Bord Bia at the National Organic Food awards as well as by leading chefs such as JP McMahon and Derry Clarke. In 2019 The North Mayo Heritage centre began a collaboration project with the Reel Deel Brewery in Crossmolina. Working together they have grown the ingredients for an organic craft beer. 2021 also saw the setting up of a partnership between Susan Kellett, Enniscoe Estate, and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. Launched by Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan, in July 2021, the fifteen-year agreement will see many rare breeds on the Enniscoe lands. This summer, Connemara Ponies, Irish Moiled Cattle, Cladoir Sheep and a number of Old Irish Goats were all settling in. "It seems an excellent match between my ambition to preserve and enhance this unique corner of Mayo and the work of the National Parks and Wildlife Service" Susan stated on the occasion of the Minister's visit. For further information please contact Hugh Trayer, Manager, North Mayo Heritage Centre, Enniscoe, Crossmolina, Co. Mayo on 00 353 96 31809 or at nmhmanager@gmail.com.



Please stay safe and have a wonderful, peaceful and happy Christmas



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