

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



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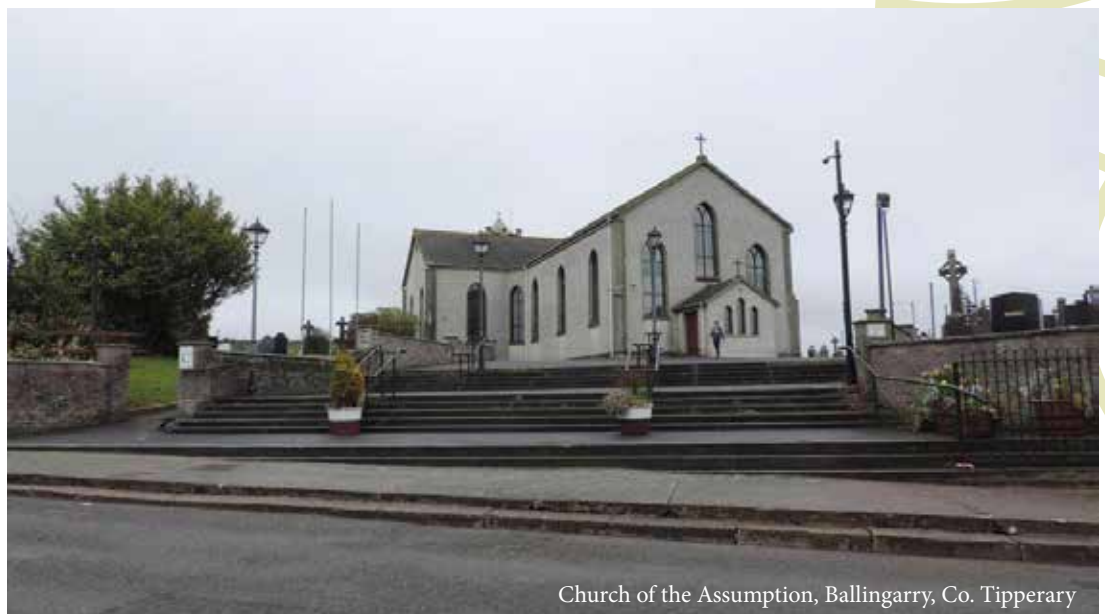


Welcome everyone to our first newsletter of 2022. In this issue we will update all of our readers on the very exciting recent updates to our website, www.rootsireland.ie and what our reopened centres are getting up to.

NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS!

In 2022, we have uploaded the following records to our database at www.rootsireland.ie:

- **Monaghan:** 5861 CI, RC & Presbyterian births, marriages and deaths.
- **South Tipperary:** 2500 Ballingarry RC marriages & 10,000 baptisms.
- **Kerry:** 7643 Kilgarvan baptisms.
- **Kilkenny:** Thomastown RC baptisms, 1900-1910 – 567 records; Slater's Directory, 1856 – 982 records; Bassett's Directory, 1884 – 7955 records (9504 total).
- **East Galway:** Galway emigrants, 1829-66 – 2746 records; Galway Productive Loans, 1836-48 – 1778 records (4524 total).
- **Westmeath:** 3085 graveyard records; 227 Mountnugent RC marriage records.



Church of the Assumption, Ballingarry, Co. Tipperary

This means that over **43,300** records have been added to the Roots Ireland database in 2022, with more coming soon!

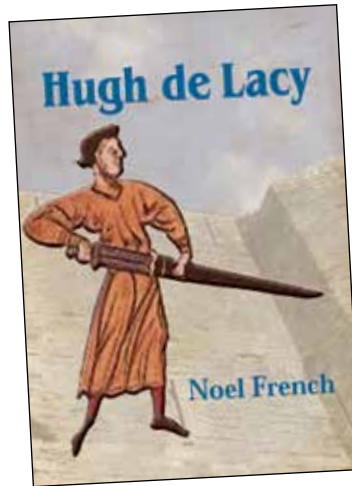
You can read more about these various records to have been uploaded in 2022 on our blog at www.rootsireland.ie/category/blog/

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

NEW MEATH BOOK LAUNCHED

Hugh de Lacy, a new biography of the Norman Lord by Noel French, director of the Meath Heritage Centre, was launched at Easter. Meath was granted to the Norman lord, Hugh de Lacy, in April 1172, 850 years ago. His legacy can be seen all around us. Norman surnames occur widely in those areas which were conquered at this time. The generations that followed became a 'middle-people' - not quite Irish and not quite English, but a mix of the two. They embraced the Irish language



and Brehon Law, intermarrying with the Gael and trading with them as often as they fought them, but they still retained elements tying them to England.

Trim Tourism Network sponsored the launch of *Hugh de Lacy* on Saturday 16 April 2022 at the Stockhouse, Trim. Speakers on the day included Cllr Sean Drew, cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Frank Cogan, president of the Meath Archaeological and Historical Society and John Donohoe, news editor, *Meath Chronicle*.

NEW SURNAME HISTORIES ONLINE



Brian Mitchell of Derry Genealogy has compiled concise, one-page histories of 386 surnames, of Gaelic and Planter origin, which are most closely associated, through numerical strength or uniqueness, with north-west Ireland (in this instance Counties Derry, Donegal, Fermanagh and Tyrone).

There is some repetition on background to surnames in each surname history as the intention was to create a surname history for each surname that enabled the bearer of that surname to understand the wider origins of their surname as well as its connection to a particular locality.

Although only detailed family history research will confirm the actual origins of an ancestor, surname histories are a very useful first step in any exploration of Irish roots. Surnames, as they are very much connected to place in Ireland, are an integral part of Irish identity and family history; hence they further cement a connection with Ireland among the Irish Diaspora.

These surnames and their numerous spelling variations are recorded in the database of church and civil registers, dating from 1628 to 1930, created by Derry Genealogy which is now accessible online at <https://www.rootsireland.ie/derry-genealogy/list-of-derry-surname-histories/>

These family histories are free to view at no cost and with no limit to those with a current subscription to Roots Ireland.



SAMUEL HAYES BRIDGE, WICKLOW

A new pedestrian bridge to link the Jubilee Walk and Avonmore Way near Rathdrum, County Wicklow was officially opened in 2021. Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service researched and compiled an information panel to be located at the bridge, which tells the story of Samuel Hayes, who built Avondale House and estate in 1777, the former home of famous Irishman Charles Stewart Parnell. For more information see <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/>



WICKLOW IN THE REVOLUTIONARY ERA PODCASTS

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service is delighted to present our third podcast in the Wicklow History Ireland Hedgeschool series. Entitled 'Robert Barton – forgotten man of the Irish revolution?', the panelists explore the story of Wicklow's Robert Childers Barton – his Glendalough estate, political career and role in the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921, and its aftermath. The podcasts can be accessed at <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/>



WICKLOW GRAND JURY RECORDS

Wicklow County Archives and Genealogy Service in collaboration with the *Beyond 2022 Project* have produced a video featuring the county's nineteenth-century Grand Jury records. The video offers a virtual visit to Wicklow County Archives and a look at some of our oldest and most interesting county records telling the story of local government in the Wicklow of the 1800s and the communities they served. These records also contain valuable family and local history information. The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C1roH2WOJBs> and is part of a wider project partnering with archives services around the country and culminating in a booklet, maps resource and showcase entitled *People, Place and Power – Grand Jury Records & Local History*, which can be viewed on <https://www.facebook.com/trinitylongroomhub/videos/762457510963967>. For more information see <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/>



People, Place and Power: Grand Jury Records and Local History

NEW BOOK FROM THE ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

Northern Ireland 1921–2021: Centenary Historical Perspectives

2021 marked the centenary of the partition of the island of Ireland and the foundation of Northern Ireland. As part of the commemorations of these significant events, Caoimhe Nic Dháibhéid, Marie Coleman and Paul Bew bring

together twenty-two scholars to examine the diverse and sometimes challenging contours of Northern Irish history over the last 100 years.

In this book we see a portrait of a changing Northern Ireland, from the violent upheavals which characterised its birth, the uneasy political stability of the interwar years, the challenges of post-war economic, social and political change, the great turmoil and trauma of the Troubles, and the peace process era and beyond.

Political, social, economic and cultural history all feature, conveying the richness and diversity of the present scholarship on the history of Northern Ireland.

For more information please visit: <https://www.booksireland.org.uk/store/all-departments/northern-ireland-centenary>



IRISH GENEALOGY ESSENTIALS ONLINE MODULES



Why not register for one of Ulster Historical Foundation's Irish Genealogy Essentials **online modules**.

Each **module** offers everything you will need to know about specific aspects and topics in Irish genealogy and provide you with the tools and information needed to further explore your family history. Each module is priced at **just £74.99** and are available for immediate viewing AND can be accessed from the comfort of your own home

Register now for the following modules:

- Introduction to Irish Genealogy (Link to: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/intro-module/>)
- Church Records in Ireland (Link to: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/church-records/>)
- Irish Land Records (Link to: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/land-module/>)
- Lesser Known Sources for Irish Family History Research (Link to: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/lesser-known/>)

Click here for more information (Link to: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/course-modules/>)

ROYAL VISIT FOR BRÚ BORÚ



The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall were hosted at Brú Ború on 25 March 2022 as part of their Irish visit. Brú Ború, which is the IFHF centre for South Tipperary, nestled in the shadow of the ancient Rock of Cashel.

On their arrival, the Royal couple were greeted by the director of Brú Ború, Úna Ó Murchú; the director general of Comhaltas and chair of the IFHF, Dr Labhrás Ó Murchú; and the manager of the centre Ronan O' Brien. The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media Catherine Martin, T.D., on behalf

of the Irish Government, welcomed the Prince and Duchess.

During their one-hour visit, the Royal couple were entertained in the

Teach Cheoil by the young musicians of the Cashel Branch of Comhaltas and in the theatre by the world renowned Brú Ború group who have represented Ireland at five World Expos. The Prince and Duchess were taught a step of Irish dancing.

During their visit, the Royal couple met with the family of Ashling Murphy who was tragically killed in County Offaly. Their Royal Highnesses said they were glad to have been able to express their condolences to the Murphy family and hear about Ashling's life. Prince Charles said in his

speech 'words often speak to the mind, but music speaks to the heart in a deeply moving, even spiritual way. I am pleased that we were able to reflect on the positive role traditional music played in Ashling's life during the visit to Brú Ború.'

The British Ambassador Paul Johnston wrote:

'Their Royal Highnesses commented to me how much they had enjoyed the visit, and how glad they were to be back in Ireland for the first time since 2019. The visit underlined the warmth and depth of the strong links which exist between our countries and the final event at Brú Ború was a wonderful way to conclude the trip. Please allow me to wish you every success in your ongoing work, and to express my thanks to you once again.'



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FOCUS ON A SOURCE

THE CENSUS IN BYGONE DAYS

Early Days Census

The first attempt to carry out an official census for the island of Ireland was made in 1813. The undertaking of this census was entrusted to the Grand Jury, essentially the precursors of the County Councils, in each county.

Due to inadequate resources and other pervading issues, this enumeration failed, and was duly abandoned.

The next attempt, and what was to become the first comprehensive government census of Ireland, was taken in 1821.

This census was carried out under the superintendence of the Magistrates at the Quarter Sessions (courts). Though largely successful, this, and the subsequent 1831 census, were not without their teething problems. Townland boundary queries, some enumerator remuneration issues, and even open hostility to the enumeration in some areas, led to an unsatisfactory outcome for these early censuses.



Advancements in other areas of civil administration in the 1830s would lead to the betterment of census enumeration.

Civil Advancements in 1830s

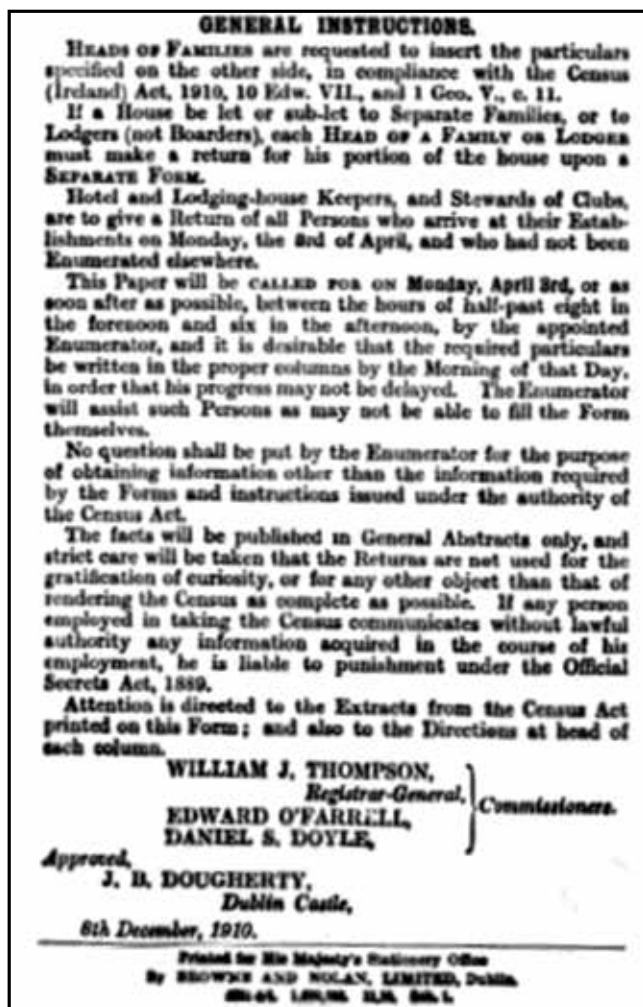
By 1841, the townland boundary issue had been largely resolved through the completion of the Ordnance Survey.

Furthermore, household return forms (Form A) were given to the heads of each household to fill out themselves rather than being the preserve of the enumerator.

Also, a reliable enumeration team from within the newly formed Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was established.

These developments made the 1841 the most satisfactory census to-date. The census was carried out every ten years until the year 1921 - when no census was taken owing to the War of Independence.

The next census took place in 1926 and represents the first census undertaken by the Irish Free State. From 1946, the census was carried out every 5 years.



The loss of the 19th century census records The demise of virtually the entirety of the early Irish census records will forever remain the greatest tragedy of Irish genealogy. There are varying factors for their loss:

The returns for 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 were, for the most part, destroyed in 1922 in the fire at the Public Record Office at the beginning of the Civil War.

The returns for 1861 and 1871 were intentionally destroyed by government order in 1877 after statistical information had been extracted.

Those for 1881 and 1891 were pulped during the First World War, allegedly due to a paper shortage.

(With thanks to the North Mayo Heritage Centre for researching and writing this article).



MICHAEL EGAN, RIP

There was great sadness within the Irish Family History Foundation at the news of the death of Michael Egan on 9 September 2021. Michael was a long standing, highly valued and active board member of the IFHF who always could suggest practical solutions to various problems and issues. Michael was a great friend and supportive colleague at all times and he is missed greatly. Our sincerest condolences to his wife Terry and family on their loss. May Michael rest in peace, Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



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