

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



Research your Irish Ancestry at
www.rootsireland.ie



Welcome everyone to our latest newsletter in which we keep you all informed of the activities of the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF) centres and the Roots Ireland website. We hope you all have a lovely Christmas and holiday period and are getting some great genealogy done during the long winter nights.

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:

- Antrim & Down – 12,000 baptisms & marriages;
- Kerry – 19,826 RC Kerry records from Dingle (baptisms) and Prior (baptisms & marriages);
- Clare – 27,000 Tithe Applotment Book records.

This means that over **166,000** records from Galway, Westmeath, Kerry, Armagh, Antrim, Down, Kilkenny, Tipperary and Monaghan have been added to the Roots Ireland database in 2022 so far, with more to come from Galway!

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

Kildare County Archives New Online Sources

A selection of Naas and Athy Poor Law Unions' records and County Kildare Municipal Burial Grounds registers have been digitised and are now available online.

The Kildare County Archives service has made nearly 18,000 pages of some of its records relating to the Poor Law Unions of Athy and Naas available via its Online Archives service including Naas Poor Law Union Minute books and Athy Poor Law Union Indoor Relief registers. These sources are an invaluable source for historians and family history researchers.

County Kildare was served by five Poor Law Unions (PLUs), with workhouses at Naas, Athy and Celbridge, in addition to workhouses in Edenderry, Co. Offaly, and Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow, which covered some parts of the county. Naas Workhouse opened its doors to receive paupers on 4 August 1841, admitting five men, a woman, and a child. By the following week seventy-one more people were in the workhouse and numbers rose steadily thereafter. The Athy Workhouse admitted its first paupers on 9 January 1844, housing 297 people by November. Celbridge Workhouse, which opened in June 1841,





Kildare County Archives

Naas UNION.

PAUPERS who were Admitted into, or Discharged from, the Workhouse, or who Died therein, during the Week ended SATURDAY, 2nd day of

	ADMITTED.						DISCHARGED.					
	Males aged 15 and over	Females aged 15 and over	Boys under 15.	Girls under 15.	Children under 5.	TOTAL.	Males aged 15 and over	Females aged 15 and over	Boys under 15.	Girls under 15.	Children under 5.	
ended	8	9	5	4	—	26	5	—	1	3	—	
Previous week	82	157	123	122	12	496						
Total	90	166	128	126	12	516						
of Week	5	1	1	3	—	10						
Year	55	150	122	123	12	506						

RETURN OF SICK AND LUNATIC PAUPERS

	No. of Paupers in Hospitals on the above date.		No. of Lunatics and Idiots in Workhouse on the above date.	
	In Workhouse.	In Hospitals.	In Workhouse.	In Hospitals.
ended	178	46	11	6
Previous week				
Total				

was the smallest of the three in the county. There is a limited number of surviving records for Celbridge Poor Law Union and none from the nineteenth century.

The Naas Poor Law Union Minute books now online cover the pre-Famine, Famine, and post-Famine era, from April 1839 to June 1858. They provide an account of the minutes of the weekly meetings of the Naas Board of Guardians including details of how the workhouse was run and weekly statistics on how many men, women and children were entered, left, or died, as well as details of food, medicines, and other supplies. During the years of the famine there are details of outdoor relief, fever hospitals and temporary workhouses.

Seventeen Athy Indoor Relief registers and an index register covering the years 1878 to 1918 are also now available online, containing thousands of names. The people listed from Co. Kildare and many other Irish counties. These Indoor Admission and Discharge

registers include information recorded under headings such as Name of Pauper, Sex, Age, Marital Status, Child of/Orphan/Deserted, Trade, Religious Denomination, Disabled and Nature of disability, Name of Spouse, Number of Children etc. Each volume contains an alphabetical index. It should be noted that there are pages missing from some of the volumes and some are in poor condition.

A selection of interment registers for fifteen graveyards in Co. Kildare are also online. These include Ballybracken, Kildangan; Crosspatrick, Kilmeague; Fontstown, Athy; Laraghbryan, Maynooth; St. Conleth's, Newbridge; St. Corban's, Naas; Nicholastown, Athy, and Yewtree, Monasterevin. The range of dates and entries varies from graveyard to graveyard with the earliest dating from 1887.

For queries in relation to the above, contact Kildare County Archives at archives@kildarecoco.ie

WHAT CAN YOU FIND IN YOUR COUNTY ARCHIVES

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service – Digital Project for Heritage Week 2022

You might be surprised at the volume and variety of records relating to your county in your local archives! In this digital presentation, archivist Catherine Wright describes the collections held in the Wicklow County Archives Service, focusing on collections common to most local authority archives and discuss their usefulness as sources for research. These include Grand Jury records, Boards of Guardians, Town Commissioners

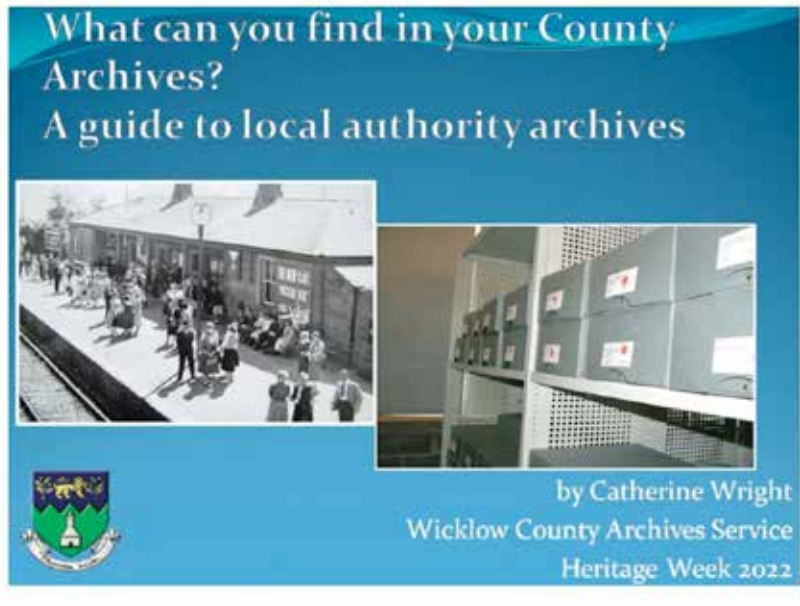
and Town and County Councils as well as private family papers and business collections. County Archives are widely used by local historians, family historians, academics and researchers of varied interests. During this time of commemoration, county council records are invaluable as a tool in understanding the role played by local government in the path to independence and county archivists have played a key role in



THE OFFALY HISTORY LIBRARY AT BURY QUAY IS OPEN TO YOU

Decade of Centenary projects. Indeed, the collections of county archives tell the story of the development of communities and the authorities who served them and place this story within the national context. The project can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCENMJRXPufhalxxD5aKNAoQ>

See the catalogue online at www.offalyhistory.com. We have a large reading room in Bury Quay so you can sit on your own in peace and quiet. We implement Covid-19 advice and we ask that you do the same. Subject to that you have over 13,000 history titles to browse, including the very latest scholarship. We subscribe to many journals and have full runs or almost so. Again see the online catalogue for details. We also have most of the local newspapers online since 1831 with two desks available for researchers in this area. Get your research started and get it on paper. The cataloguing of the Michael Egan donation of almost 1,000 histories is almost complete.

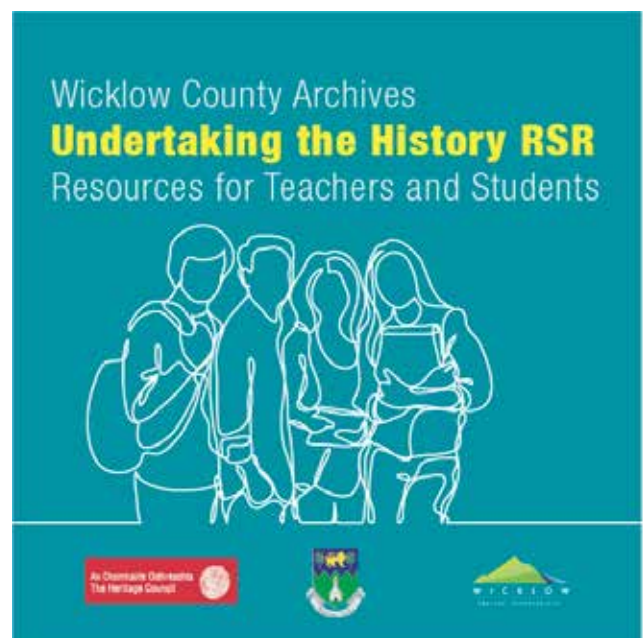


NEW WICKLOW EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service

As part of their outreach activities, Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service, with support from the Heritage Council, have developed a resource pack for teachers and students, on the Leaving Certificate History Research Study Report (RSR). Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service have developed this new resource to highlight the collections and resources of Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service and how they can assist in the study of history and specifically the History RSR. The resource pack can be downloaded at <https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Digitised-Collections> and consists of:

- Guide to Wicklow County Archives collections
- Student and Teacher guides to the RSR
- Guide on How to do Historical Research, in PowerPoint and PDF format
- Series of RSR Worksheets, for students to record their activities and findings.



NEW BOOK

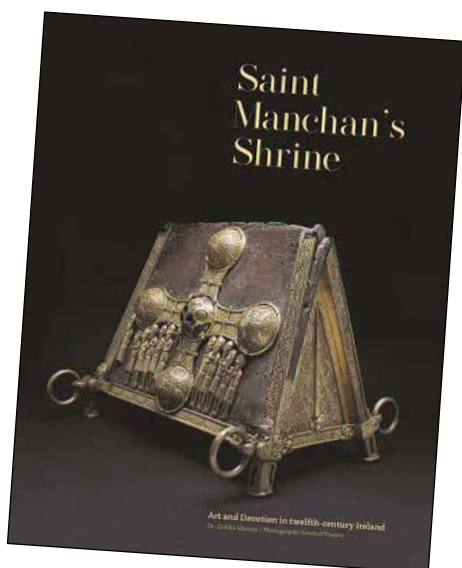
St Manchan's Shrine: art and devotion in 12th-century Ireland by Griffin Murray and Kevin O'Dwyer (Silver River Studios, Durrow, Tullamore, hardback, quarto format, 128 pp, full colour ISBN 978-1-8383513-1-1, €45. Discount to OHAS members of €5) is now in stock at Bury Quay, Tullamore and is also available to purchase online from Offalyhistory.com.

The new book, *St Manchan's Shrine*, was launched to great acclaim by the CEO of the Heritage Council **Virginia Teehan** on Friday 21 October 2022 at Offaly History Centre, Tullamore before a large and distinguished audience.

Saint Manchan's shrine is one of the most remarkable survivals from Ireland's medieval past, having been safely kept and venerated in the same locality since its creation in the early twelfth century. This masterpiece of medieval art is now proudly and

reverently displayed in the rural parish church of Boher in County Offaly, not far from its original home at the ancient church site of Lemanaghan. St Manchan's shrine is a gabled-reliquary, taking the shape of steeply pitched roof or tent, and is fitted with carrying rings, which enabled it to be carried in procession by two bearers using poles. It is not only the largest reliquary surviving from medieval Ireland but is also the only remaining example of its type. It enshrines what are believed to be the bones of its eponymous saint, St Manchan, whose death is recorded in AD 664.

This project involves close up photographs of the detailing of this shrine which is now encased in a high security glass display unit. The text was written by archaeologist Griffin Murray and metalsmith/photographer Kevin O'Dwyer. This new book provides a unique insight into the making of this artifact.



ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION



Our Family Story: Research Pack

Buying the perfect present for someone who appears to own everything; is extremely particular; or wants nothing, is not easy.

Rather than the typical Christmas hamper or a pair of socks we hope our new research pack might just be the perfect present for a family member or friend to show that you appreciate them. You may even wish to treat yourself to one!

Every family story is unique and each story is worth telling. Researching your family history is great fun and can be fascinating. Let us help you start your journey into your family's past. A road less travelled...but a journey worth starting.

For more information click here

(Link to Research Pack:

<https://www.ancestryireland.com/our-family-story-research-pack/>)



Researching Your Irish Ancestors: Assisted Research Programme

Running from 8-13 October, *Researching Your Irish Ancestors* offers participants the chance to spend a week researching in the archives, assisted and supported by the Ulster Historical Foundation's staff and team of researchers.

'Early Bird' Registration price - £839.99

Given the current low value of sterling (GBP) against other currencies now is a particularly good time for overseas visitors to book their 2023 research trip. The current exchange rate values will ensure overseas delegates can make a very tidy saving on the cost.

Reserve your place now, with a deposit of **only £350 (GBP) per person!**



Take advantage of our "Early Bird" registration price, and sign up today! (Link to website: <https://www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn/>)

CHRISTMAS EVENTS AT ROTHE HOUSE, KILKENNY



Festive Wreath Making / Seasonal Centrepiece Workshops

There's nothing quite like the eye-catching sight of a seasonal wreath, the scent of freshly clipped greens or a beautiful floral arrangement enhancing your festive table. If you've ever wondered how to make your own unique piece, then look no further.

It only takes a little creativity to create a masterpiece – we're certain that once you have tried it, wreath-making will become a beloved seasonal tradition.

Under the expert guidance of our team, create your own one-of-a-kind wreath and table centrepiece this Christmas with a straightforward, step-by-step workshop.

Saturday, 3rd December at 10am-12.30pm and 2pm-4.30pm.

Workshop includes:

- All materials including wreath base (participants can bring additional materials, flowers, etc if they wish)
- Tea/coffee and festive treats
- Guidance and advice in a fun and relaxed setting
- A few hours of mindful crafting, away from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations!

Participants are required to bring their own scissors, secateurs and any particular materials/flowers they would like to include in their creations.



Christmas Miscellany

Join us for an evening of storytelling, song, poetry and music in the magical surroundings of Rothe House this Christmas. Nostalgia and hopefulness will be the themes of the evening as we hear from an array of familiar and emerging voices in our community.

The event will begin with a mulled wine and mince pie reception before sitting back in the magical candlelight of the Tudor Kitchen to listen to both beloved and original stories, songs and music.

Tuesday, 13 December, 6.30pm-8.30pm

This event is funded by the Kilkenny Creative Ireland Programme 2022

Booking for both events is on www.eventbrite.com

Customer Retail Evening

The Merchant Shop sells a unique range of Irish products from the very best of Irish craftspeople.

With discounts across all products, you can pick up some Christmas gifts or treat yourself to a special something, safe in the knowledge that you are supporting a local business and local suppliers.

There will be treats and surprises as well as a raffle on the evening for a luxury hamper packed full of wonderful products.

Thursday, 15 December from 5pm-8pm



2023 IRISH GENEALOGICAL CONFERENCE

Unfortunately, Armagh Ancestry has to cancel the 2023 Genealogy Conference due to be held in May. The Council has other commitments and so sadly the conference cannot proceed.

Thank you all for your time and patience and if it is decided to reorganise the conference, we will let you all know. Apologies for any disappointment that this may have caused to anybody.

Thank you for reading, and please let us know if you have any queries or comments about our site and/or centres by emailing enquiries@rootsireland.ie.



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