



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.

NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS! • NEW RECORDS!

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

- Tipperary South: 2227 marriage records for the Roman Catholic parish of Boherlahan & Dualla, 1810-1900.
- Kerry: Roman Catholic records for Killorglin (Marriages: 1798-1851 & 1884-1911 - 7,986 records); Ballyheigue (Marriages: 1858-1900 - 1,142 records); Dingle (Baptisms: 1823-1899 - 16,521 records); Annascaul (Baptisms - 5419 records).
- Clare: Bridgetown Civil Birth Records, 1881-1941 (2500 records); New Quay RC Baptism Records, 1846-1900 (2102 records); Bodyke RC Marriages, 1832 -1900 (858 records); Carrigaholt RC Marriages, 1832-1900 (1075 records).
- South Mayo: Baptisms Ballyovey CI parish, 1829-1918 (101 records); Baptisms Kilvine RC parish 1908-1923 (720 records); Marriages Ballyovey CI parish, 1854-1954 (32 records); Deaths Ballyovey CI parish, 1880-1966 (65 records).
- Armagh: Seagoe CI baptism, marriage, and deaths, 1672-1821 (9050 records); Seagoe CI Hearth Rolls, 1662 (149 records); Seagoe CI Landholders, 1709 (128 records); Montiaghs CI baptism records Register 4, 1851-1867 (385 records).

This means that we have uploaded over 110,000 new records to the Roots Ireland database so far this year, with more to come!

You can read more about these various records to have been uploaded in 2023 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 Longford Centre!

The Irish Family History Foundation are delighted to announce that the Killian Homeplace Family History Centre has been appointed as the County Longford centre for the IFHF. The Killian Homeplace, winner of the 2013 All Ireland Pride



of Place in the Diaspora category, is located in Fermoyle, just outside Lanesborough in County Longford.

Founded in 1998 by Joan Killian Gallagher, the centre is housed in meticulously restored cottage and is



a sustainable tribute dedicated to the memory of her great, great grandmother, Anne Furey Killian, who against all odds, purchased the farm from the Land Commission in 1893. She was 82 years old and had been widowed for over 30 years. Joan reconnected with Killian cousins in Longford and Roscommon in 1996 when she took her father to the Notre Dame Navy game in Dublin. This was the beginning of a journey of joy and discovery that Joan hopes to share with those in search of their own family history and place of origin in County Longford. It is this life changing cultural and educational exchange that is the mission of The Killian Homeplace Family History Centre.

The team of dedicated researchers and highly qualified genealogists at The Killian Homeplace are looking forward to working with members of the global diaspora as well as the local community in putting together their own County Longford family history and finding their place of origin.

The County Longford Centre will be open initially on Friday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm, on Saturday mornings from 10 to 1 pm, in addition to hours by

appointment. Opening hours will be extended as demand increases.

Already the centre has welcomed overseas visitors from Florida, Texas, Virginia, California and Norway. Requests for genealogical research assistance from those with County Longford roots around the world are coming through on a daily basis. Dr John Roney, head of the Irish Studies Department of Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut, has collaborated with TKH founder, Joan Killian Gallagher in working with MBA student Laura Regan to set up marketing and operation procedures for the new Centre.

Contact details are below:

The Killian Homeplace,
Fermoyle, Lanesborough,
County Longford,
N39 RY93.

Website: www.thekillianhomeplace.com

Email: longfordroots@thekillianhomeplace.com

Phone: + 353 (0) 86 395 2557

ONLINE IRISH GENEALOGY COURSES

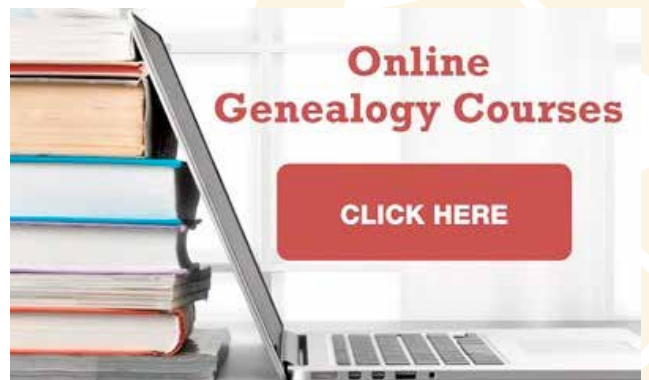
Ulster Historical Foundation's next online Genealogy Course is set to begin on **22 November**.

Take the time this winter to further explore your family history, gain a better understanding of the archives and genealogical sources in Ireland and find your elusive Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

Scheduled to run from **22 November 2023 until 17 January 2024** this course consists of:

- 21 pre-recorded lectures on essential topics relating to Irish genealogical research (over 28 hours of content)
- Four live "Q and A" sessions/Tutorials with the course lecturers (to be scheduled at different times to suit different time zones)
- Downloadable lecture handouts and reading list

(<https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/online-course/>)



IRISH GENEALOGY ESSENTIALS ONLINE MODULES



These online modules offer 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. Register now for the following modules:

- Introduction to Irish Genealogy
- Church Records in Ireland
- Irish Land Records
- Lesser Known Sources for Irish Family History Research

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!

(<https://www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials/course-modules/>)

COUNTY KILDARE GRAND JURY RECORDS NOW ONLINE

Kildare County Council's County Archives service has digitised over 6,000 pages of the surviving County Kildare Grand Jury Abstracts of Presentments and Query Books and these are now available to researchers via its Online Archives service at <https://kildarecoco.ie/Library/LocalStudiesGenealogyandArchives/Archives/OnlineArchives>

'We present Mary Nowlan, wife of Darby Nowlan of Nurney in said County, as a proper person to be instructed in the practise of midwifery, her residence being seven miles distant from the nearest practicing physician, or gentleman following the profession of midwifery, and fourteen miles from Naas, the site of the intended infirmary'.
Summer Assizes, 1809

The aims of digitising the Grand Jury archives are to improve public access, to facilitate research and to create an additional preservation copy. The

County Archives acknowledges the support of the County Kildare Decade of Commemorations Committee and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media under the Decade of Centenaries 2012-23 initiative for funding to conserve the 1810-1826 manuscript volume before its digitisation.

These records are the earliest local authority archival collection for Co. Kildare. The Grand Jury dates from medieval times when its main function was the administration of justice. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it took on more functions such as the provision of roads and public buildings, and the running and maintaining of dispensaries, courts, fever hospitals, the county infirmary, and the county gaol. The Grand Jury also collected a tax called the county cess. The Valuation Acts of 1826 and 1852 made the valuation more equitable and from 1833 ratepayers were represented at the baronial presentment sessions. The Grand Jury



was made up of prominent local landowners who were appointed by the sheriff. It met twice yearly at the Spring and Summer Assizes for the purpose of passing presentments of proposed and approved works which were effectively financed by the cess payer. The post of the county surveyor was first created in the nineteenth century, and he also reported to the assizes. However, corrupt practices amongst the grand juries were widespread, and in 1899 their powers and duties were transferred primarily to democratically elected county councils, as well as to rural district councils under the Local Government (Ireland) Act of 1898.

The digitised printed books have had Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software applied to facilitate text searching. The volume covering the years 1810-1826 is handwritten so OCR cannot be applied. Due to the age and condition of the documents the OCR process is not fully accurate. Please also note that spelling of words may vary from modern usage.

Enquiries to archives@kildarecoco.ie



FINDING WICKLOW IN THE VIRTUAL RECORD TREASURY OF IRELAND



A great evening was had at Wicklow Library where Wicklow County Archives and Genealogy Service recently hosted the Virtual Treasury Roadshow. This was a chance to see the history of Wicklow and its people through the lens of this exciting new online resource <https://virtualtreasury.ie/>. Ciarán Wallace,

Deputy Director of the Virtual Record Treasury spoke about Ireland's public records – their destruction and recovery. Brian Gurrin, Virtual Record Treasury Research Fellow, discussed Wicklow records in the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland and highlighted items of interest in the Wicklow County Archives collection.

In June 1922 the Public Record Office of Ireland was destroyed in the battle of the Four Courts, the opening engagement of the Civil War. In a single afternoon seven centuries of Irish history went up in flames. The Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland is an all-island and international research programme working to digitally reconstruct, as far as possible, these lost archives. By tracking down copies and transcripts in libraries and archives around Ireland and overseas, tens of thousands of documents relating to every corner of Ireland have been recovered, making them available online free of charge.

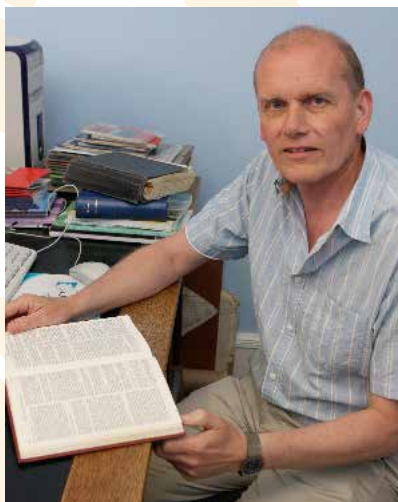
Cllr Paul O'Brien, Cathaoirleach, Wicklow Municipal District Council, said:

I welcome The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow to Wicklow, which is the first stop on its national tour. We are very proud that Wicklow County Archives is a participating partner in this important project which has virtually reassembled the Irish archives lost in the fire of the Public Records Office in 1922. Our County Archives has contributed digital versions of the Wicklow Grand Jury records to the Virtual Record Treasury and I look forward to learning about the other Wicklow treasures restored and made available by the Virtual Record Treasury.

Ms Emer O'Gorman, Chief Executive, Wicklow County Council, stated:

The Virtual Record Treasury Roadshow highlights the value of archives to everyone, having reassembled 700 years of Irish archives lost during the Civil War. Indeed, archival sources and especially local authority archives have featured strongly in Decade of Centenaries programmes, which have brought local stories and experiences to life. We are very proud of the collections in our own Wicklow County Archives and look forward to a continuing collaboration between Wicklow and the Virtual Record Treasury project.

MIGRATION STORIES



Brian Mitchell (Derry Genealogy)



Dr William Roulston (UHF)

An emigration symposium will be held in Garvagh, County Derry, on Saturday, 28 October, 2023.

Representatives from our Derry and Antrim/Down centres will be speaking. Details below:

VENUE: Main Street Presbyterian Church, Garvagh

DATE: Saturday, 28 October 2023

SCHEDULE: 10.00am Introductions and welcome
10.10am Speaker 1
10.45am Speaker 2
11.20am Refreshments
11.45am Speaker 3
12.30pm Closing words

SPEAKERS: Keith Beattie
Reverend William Martin and the migration of 1772

Dr William Roulston
Scottish migration to the Bann Valley

Brian Mitchell
Migration patterns from County Londonderry to North America



CAVAN VISITORS MEET THEIR FAMILY!

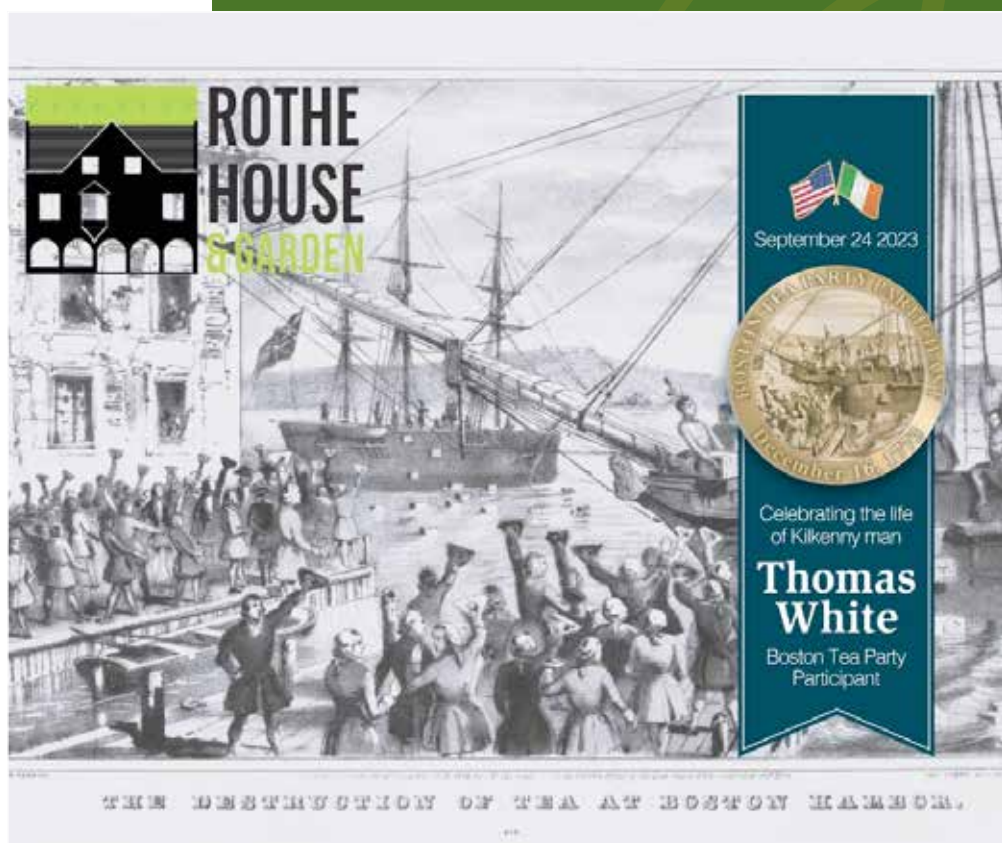
Recent visitors to Cavan Genealogy in search of their ancestors got more than they bargained for when they discovered that the genealogist, Concepta McGovern, was actually a long lost cousin of theirs! Researching their Sheridan ancestors Concepta recognised a link to her own family tree, and a link was made. As you can see from the photograph, they were soon one happy family!

Concepta McGovern (Cavan Genealogy) and her newly-discovered relations!



Thomas White Commemorative Event at Rothe House & Garden, Kilkenny

On Sunday 24 September, a commemorative event - unique in Ireland - took place at the home of Kilkenny's family history centre in Rothe House & Garden. Thomas White was born in Kilkenny on 19 March, 1739 and had emigrated to America by 1771. He was a tailor, a Freemason, and a revolutionary. On 16 December, 1773, Thomas participated in the Boston Tea Party – one of the most pivotal events in the lead-up to the American Revolutionary War, which he also took part in. His contribution to American independence was remembered at a ceremony at Rothe House, attended by local dignitaries and a delegation from Boston, where a plaque was unveiled.



TOWNLAND ATLAS of ULSTER

ANDREW KANE

Researchers and genealogists in Ulster have long felt the lack of a decent townland atlas to give context to their findings. In preparing just such a publication, and to greatly increase its value and utility to the researcher, it was decided to base the atlas on 17th-century grants and landed estates for a number of reasons:

- 1 The landholding pattern established in the 17th century largely survived into the 20th century when the full effect of the Land Purchase Acts changed things radically;
- 2 To draw attention to the large body of material still surviving from that period;
- 3 To demonstrate the continuity of the townland as a fundamental unit of Irish life, which was ancient when Bodley produced his maps before the Plantation of Ulster.
- 4 The origins (and subsequent acquisitions) of the 17th-century landlords gives us valuable insight on the migrations (both external and internal to Ulster) of their tenants.

The compilation of the maps and (more importantly) the index has involved a close study of the following sources:

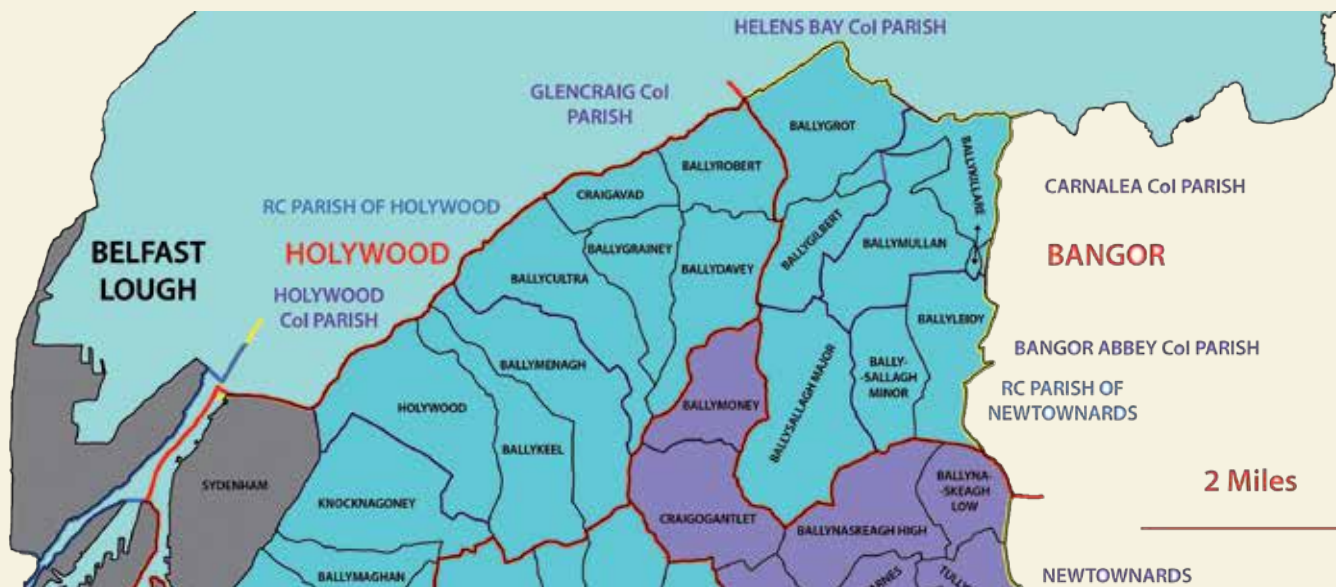
- 1 Bodley maps, 1609
- 2 Plantation grants, c. 1610
- 3 Inquisitions
- 4 Post plantation surveys, 1611–22
- 5 The muster rolls, c. 1630
- 6 Civil Survey, 1650s
- 7 Down Survey, 1650s
- 8 Books of Survey and Distribution, 1660s–80s
- 9 ‘1659 census’
- 10 Hearth Money Rolls, 1660s
- 11 Estate papers.



None of these sources gives a complete view of the nine counties forming the province of Ulster and one of the aims is to provide a reference work with a consistent naming system to allow easier access to the rich 17th-century materials for those who have not had the privilege of studying them in detail.

Brightly coloured maps have been produced for each of the 78 baronies (with every townland named) showing the civil, Anglican and Roman Catholic parish boundaries and the all-important estates. The narrative explains the relevance of each different land division and what records were kept at each level. The evolution of parish boundaries from the 17th century are briefly traced and there are notes on each estate to enable them to be found in primary records.

The Atlas provides an invaluable guide to the newcomer to the townland system as well as opening up the world of 17th-century records to the serious researcher. Although it represents a snapshot in time, it is a dynamic snapshot – of relevance to the last 400 years of our history and society.





ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Andrew Kane works as a Research Consultant for the Ulster Historical Foundation handling a wide range of, mainly genealogical, commissions and assisting in delivering their course programmes. He is a Trustee of the North of Ireland Family History Society and an active member of their Causeway Coast and Glens Branch committee. He is also a member of several other local history groups in the Coleraine area where his family have lived for at least 12 generations. He has published the well-received *Town Book of Coleraine* and contributed to several genealogical journals and magazines. He has given talks on local history around Ulster and been a contributor to several television and radio programmes at home and abroad.

ISBN: 978-1-909556-89-8 PAGE SIZE: 305mm x 215mm

EXTENT: Approx. 384pp, including 130pp of full colour maps

SUBSCRIPTION OFFER – ENDS 31 MARCH 2024

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Note: local subscribers can collect their copies in person from the Foundation's offices. Alternatively, assuming an in-person launch event will go ahead subscribers may be able to collect their copies at the launch (details for any such event will be issued in due course).

The book is due to be published in the financial year 2024–25.

WAYS TO SUBSCRIBE

To subscribe you can make payment in the following ways:

Via the Foundation's website

<https://www.ancestryireland.com/townland-atlas/>

Via Paypal.com

Use the 'send money' function to: kathryn.mckelvey@uhf.org.uk

By cheque

Make cheque payable to: 'Ulster Historical Foundation' and send to:
Ulster Historical Foundation, Bradley Thallon House, Kiltonga Estate, 44D Belfast Road, Ballycullen, Newtownards, Co. Down, BT23 4TJ. NOTE: If sending anything by post, please ensure that your name is written **VERY CLEARLY** and **EXACTLY** as you would like it to appear on the List of Subscribers.

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