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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:

- The Electoral Register for Co. Monaghan, 1938-1939, which consists of 36,616 records.

We have many more records coming for the Roots Ireland database later this year, so keep an eye out for our updates!

You can read more about the various records which have been uploaded in recent years 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!

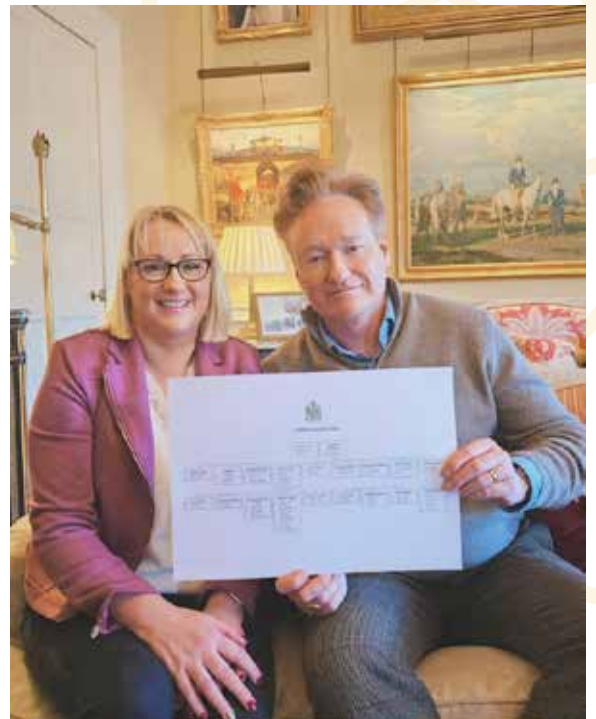
EYE ON COUNTY CENTRES

Limerick claims Conan O'Brien

County Limerick and Galbally parish can proudly claim U.S. comedian and television host Conan O'Brien, who wholeheartedly embraces his Irish ancestry. Catriona Crowe of Limerick Genealogy recently worked with Conan on tracing his O'Brien ancestry to a townland a short distance from the village of Galbally in south-east County Limerick. This will feature in Conan's upcoming television travel series in which he filmed this visit to Ireland.

Conan's great grandfather Thomas O'Brien born in 1859 left his home in the parish of Galbally with beautiful views of the Galtee Mountains, travelling to Massachusetts in the late 1870s. A decade later he married Mary Anne Walsh whose father came from county Waterford. All of Conan's sixteen great-great-grandparents and many of his great-grandparents hail from Ireland and following a DNA test, he has come to the conclusion that he is 100% Irish!

For updates, keep an eye on -
www.facebook.com/LimerickGenealogy
www.instagram.com/limerickgenealogist
www.instagram.com/teamcoco
www.twitter.com/ConanOBrien



teamcoco Just researched my heritage with a top genealogist. Turns out O'Brien is an Italian name.



limerickgenealogist Irish Had a great day today with Conan in Limerick and Tipperary

Images: @teamcoco, Instagram

Killian Homeplace Longford interview on Shannonside FM



January was a busy month at the new County Longford chapter of Roots Ireland. Founder, Joan Killian Gallagher welcomed Charlie McGettigan, Brendan Scott (Manager, Irish Family History Foundation), and retired Longford Librarian, Mary Carleton Reynolds, for an afternoon of sharing life experiences, memories, and, of course, family history. Charlie interviewed Joan on ShannonsideFM a few days later. The 48 minute interview aired on 7th February and will be made available online in due course. The date and time will be posted on the TKH website and social media.

On January 2nd, Eileen O’Duill, well-known and highly respected in genealogy circles, both in Ireland and America, became the Director. She has been a professional genealogist since 1990 and the founder of Heirs Ireland, specialising in legal and probate research. As a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, she served on the APG board as the International trustee for Britain and Ireland from 2007 to 2012. Eileen was the recipient of the APG Professional Achievement Award in 2016.

Eileen first met Founder and Chairman, Joan Killian Gallagher, in 1998 while doing research locating relatives of a Killian cousin who had died intestate in NYC, leaving a sizeable estate.

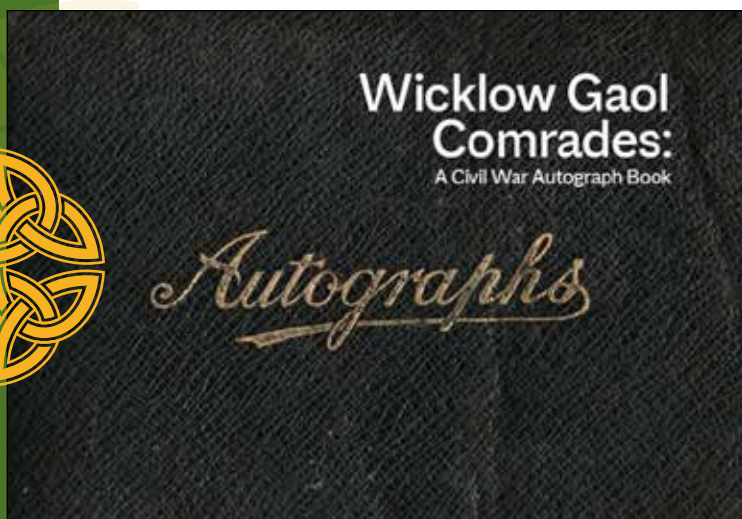
The connection led to over 25 years of friendship and shared family history projects. Eileen witnessed first-hand the years of restoration and she joins Joan in celebrating the new venture. We are proud to welcome her on board to guide TKH Family History Centre to continued growth.

Keeping the connection to Notre Dame alive, the Research Team will be working with South Bend teacher, Patricia Shea Karban. On January 26th, she had the honour of becoming the recipient of a Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowship. Her abstract is “Stepping into My Cultural Heritage”, with a three-week stay in Ireland this summer to research her family heritage. She is going “to learn to Irish step dance, deepen the connection to family and reflect on Irish culture by exploring the social aspect of traditional dance in Ireland.” Congratulations, Patty. TKH is proud to help you in any way we can.



L-R: Charlie McGettigan, Joan Killian Gallagher, Brendan Scott, Mary Carleton Reynolds

WICKLOW GAOL COMRADES: A CIVIL WAR AUTOGRAPH BOOK

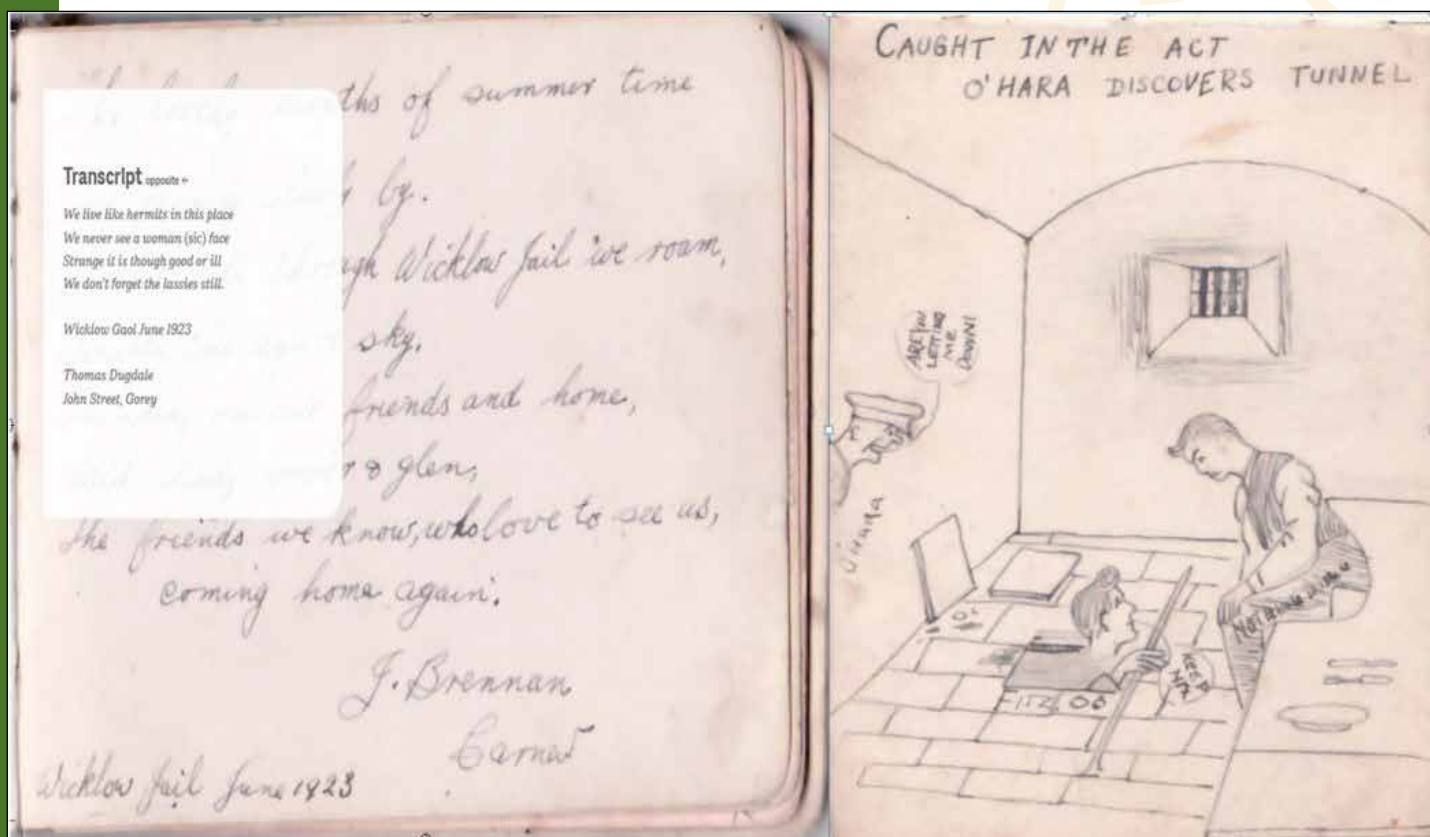


See https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow_1916-_1923/wicklow-gaol-comrades-a-civil-war-autograph-book.

The prisoners feature in a 1923 autograph book, which was donated to Wexford County Archives many years ago. It consists of rhymes, messages, sketches and cartoons, all recalling the men's humanity, courage and humour in the grim surroundings of Wicklow Gaol, where they faced an uncertain future. The men hailed from Wicklow, Wexford, Carlow, Kildare, Westmeath and Dublin. As part of the project, relatives of the prisoners were traced and were welcomed to Wicklow Gaol on the night of the launch and thanked for their invaluable contributions to the publication, video and exhibition.

The project *Wicklow Gaol Comrades: A Civil War Autograph Book* is a collaboration of the Wicklow County Archive & Genealogy Service (our IFHF centre for Wicklow) and Wexford County Council Archive services. This project tells the stories of the men held in Wicklow Gaol during the Civil War and consists of a publication, exhibition and video.

This project is one of several Decade of Centenary projects by the Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy service, which is located at Wicklow



Extract from the autograph book showing poetry/cartoons created by the prisoners in 1923.

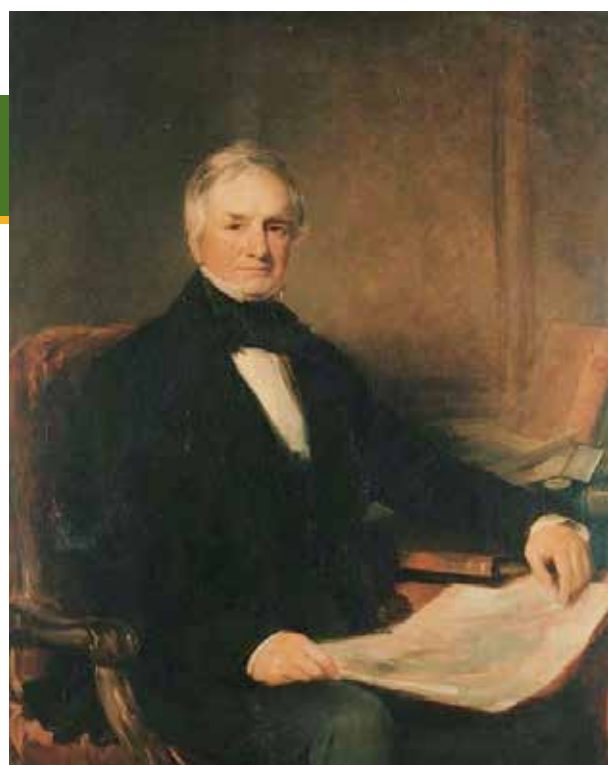
Library in Wicklow Town. It offers a rich resource for researchers of wide and varying interests - students, teachers, local and family historians, academic researchers and those interested in the story of County Wicklow, the history and development of the county, of local communities, and the authorities who served them.

The exhibition will travel to Wicklow library branches throughout 2024. The video was produced for the project by <https://mckennacreative.ie/> is shared on YouTube https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kO39LfjU48U&ab_channel=WicklowCountyArchivesYoutube and on social media.

The project was supported by Wicklow and Wexford County Councils and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media under their Decade of Centenaries funding. There will be a number of copies of the publication available to the public, as well as libraries, history groups and schools and the e-book is at: https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/wicklow_1916-_1923/wicklow-gaol-comrades-a-civil-war-autograph-book. For further information, please contact Catherine Wright at archives@wicklowcoco.ie.

Who was Richard Griffith of Griffith's Valuations? Our centre in Tyrone, Irish World, investigates

Sir Richard Griffith, born in Dublin, was one of the foremost public figures of his time, an exemplar par excellence of the energetic, high-minded civil servant and scholar of the early and mid-Victorian periods. While still in his teens, Griffith was a lieutenant in the Royal Irish Artillery, but after the Act of Union in 1801, he resigned his commission to study civil engineering in London. In 1808, he surveyed the Leinster coal fields, and later reported on the bogs of Ireland for a government commission. In 1812 he became professor of Geology to the RDA and was appointed Government Inspector of Mines. When the Irish Valuation Act was passed in 1827 Griffith became commissioner of Valuation, and for the rest of his long life was involved in some way with practically every notable public project in Ireland. During the Famine, when public relief works were criticised as pointless exercises in forced labour Griffith advocated what he considered to be more beneficial schemes such as reclaiming fallow land or improving river navigation. In 1855 he published a geological map of Ireland was Chairman of the Board of Works from 1850-64.



Richard Griffith

He will probably be best remembered for the land valuation which bears his name and which has such resonance for genealogists. During his peak years, he estimated that he traversed Ireland up to forty times a year, often travelling by night to avoid loss of valuable working hours. He retained his physical and mental stamina well into old age, often walking the mountains of Wicklow or Kerry in his seventies, bedecked in swallow-tailed coat and oblivious to the elements. He died peacefully at his Dublin home in 1878 at the age of 94.



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We are a non-profit organisation, founded in 1956, dedicated to helping individuals, groups, educators and global diasporas gain a deeper understanding of the rich history of Ulster and its families.

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Ulster Historical Foundation is thrilled to share a big update with you – it's new website www.ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com is NOW LIVE!

All of the Foundation's previous websites (AncestryIreland, BooksIreland, History from Headstones, History of the Irish Parliament, different conference and genealogy course websites) are now all located under the one web address, www.ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com.*

On this new website you will be able to browse the Foundation's bookstore; check upcoming events; register for upcoming courses and conferences; and access useful guides and valuable resources to help with your research.

Crucially for the researcher, a key new feature of ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com is the improved search

functionality of its databases. Users can now search by keyword meaning that searching is no longer limited by name or location.

This new website also comes with a host of other amazing features that are designed to help visitors learn more about the lives of their ancestors and help them with their family history research.

A short video, demonstrating some of the website's new features, can be found at the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8RATbDQTh90>

*Note:

Attempts to visit previous Ulster Historical Foundation websites, will now see you directed to www.ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com

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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