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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:

- 17,701 Clare records – RC baptisms & marriages, civil births and death and gravestone inscriptions.
- 13,049 Kerry records – RC Castlegregory baptisms.

This means that in 2024, we uploaded approximately 154,750 records from Kerry, Monaghan, Armagh, Mayo, Clare and Tipperary!

We have many more records coming for the Roots Ireland database throughout 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

John Tate's Charity Archive (Wicklow)

Wicklow County Archives and Genealogy Service has recently launched the project *John Tate's Charity* based on a wonderful collection donated to the Archives by the charity's board of trustees. John Tate's Charity was founded as a bequest in the will of John Tate in 1787, for the parishioners of Rathdrum, County Wicklow. Remarkably, the charity is still in operation today, providing assistance to third-level students through interest-free loans. The archives project features a descriptive list of the John Tate's Charity collection, an exhibition, and online digital resources. Wicklow County Archives are grateful to the Heritage Council who supported the project through their Heritage Stewardship Fund 2024.

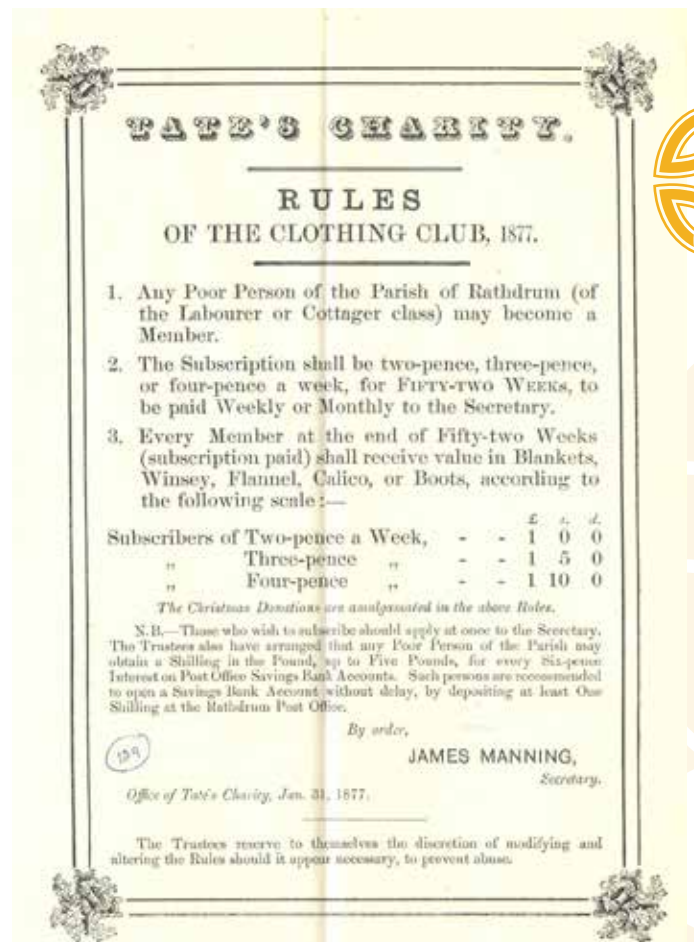
John Tate of Glenmalure died unmarried in 1787 at the age of 33. He was a member of the landed gentry and in his short life he extended his holdings to almost 3,000 acres in County Wicklow. In his will, he left his interest in 900 acres at Cullentrage near Rathdrum to form the basis of his charity, with the stipulation that parishioners of Rathdrum should benefit from its support. Reflecting contemporary ideas about poverty, Tate's will specified the lending of 'small sums of money not exceeding £5 to any one person interest free to be paid in such a manner and at such times not exceeding 12 months ... for the industrious poor of the said Parish of Rathdrum'. The will also states that charitable donations (rather than loans) should only be distributed in exceptional circumstances, such →

as in cases of 'sickness or some unforeseen misfortune or sudden emergency happening to any of the poor of the said parish'. Apart from the provision of small loans, the collection also reveals other activities of the charity, including the support of a dispensary, a midwife and a school in Rathdrum, as well as a clothing club which ran from 1877 until 1979. Tate's Clothing Club was a savings club with a difference as savings were matched by the charity; if someone saved £5, they could get clothing worth £10, and they could nominate a local draper to supply the clothing.

A key condition of Tate's will was that the charity would not discriminate based on religion, and over time, two of the five trustees would be the Rathdrum parish priest and the Church of Ireland rector. The charity's minute books detail trustees, including Charles Stewart Parnell, who was its chairman from 1869 to 1878. Trustees were



Plaque commemorating John Tate's bequest at St Saviour's Church in Rathdrum. (Image: Wicklow County Archives)



Pamphlet, Tate's Charity Rules of Clothing Club, 1877 (John Tate's Charity Collection, Wicklow County Archives, WCA/PP4/6/3/1/1)

generally from well-established landed families, such as the Hayes family, who originally built Avondale, the Actons of Kilmacurragh, the Comerfords and the Guinness family.

While the Tate collection is significant for local and family history of Rathdrum and County Wicklow, it also holds national historical importance as a notable example of the philanthropic activities of the landed gentry in Ireland during the 18th and 19th centuries. This social class is well represented in local authority archive collections, through their activities on Grand Juries and Boards of Guardians, and of course, their estate papers. However, the records of John Tate's Charity also offer an insight into the lives and needs of the labouring and poorer classes and the perspectives and activities of charitable trusts.



Wicklow County Archives collections include records of the county council and its predecessors, such as the Grand Juries, Boards of Guardians, and Town Commissioners. The County Archives also holds the private papers and business archives of the families who administered, lived, and worked in the County Wicklow.

For more information on Wicklow County Archives and the John Tate's Charity collection, see www.wicklow.ie. The full link is at:
<https://www.wicklow.ie/Living/Services/Arts-Heritage-Archives/Archives/Collections/Archives-Publications-Projects/-John-Tates-Charity-Archival-Collection>

MAYO CENTRES TAKE PART IN LIBRARY EVENT

Mayo County Library Service hosted a very successful genealogy event on Saturday 23 November at Castlebar Library, in partnership with the North Mayo Heritage Centre and the South Mayo Family Research Centre. Ger Delaney and Brendan Walsh, family history researchers at the two Co. Mayo centres, were in attendance to offer one-to-one genealogy consultations to members of the public. The event was booked out well in advance. Twenty consultations were held on the day, with enquiries from all parts of Co. Mayo. The two Co. Mayo centres would like to thank Austin Vaughan (County Librarian), Jim O'Connor (Local Studies Section) and the staff of Castlebar Library for their support of the event. A special thanks also to the staff of the North Mayo Heritage Centre who handled the bookings.

LIMERICK MAN'S DIARY GOES ONLINE

Limerick Genealogy was delighted to have worked with South Australian Greg Were and his family on researching his great great grandfather John John Fitzgerald who was born in Shanagolden parish, county Limerick in 1856 and emigrated in 1876. Interestingly John John returned to visit family and friends in west Limerick in 1912 and wrote an account in his diary. Greg and family travelled from South Australia to county Limerick in September to retrace his great great grandfather's visit in 1912, tying in with the Askeaton 825 celebrations. →



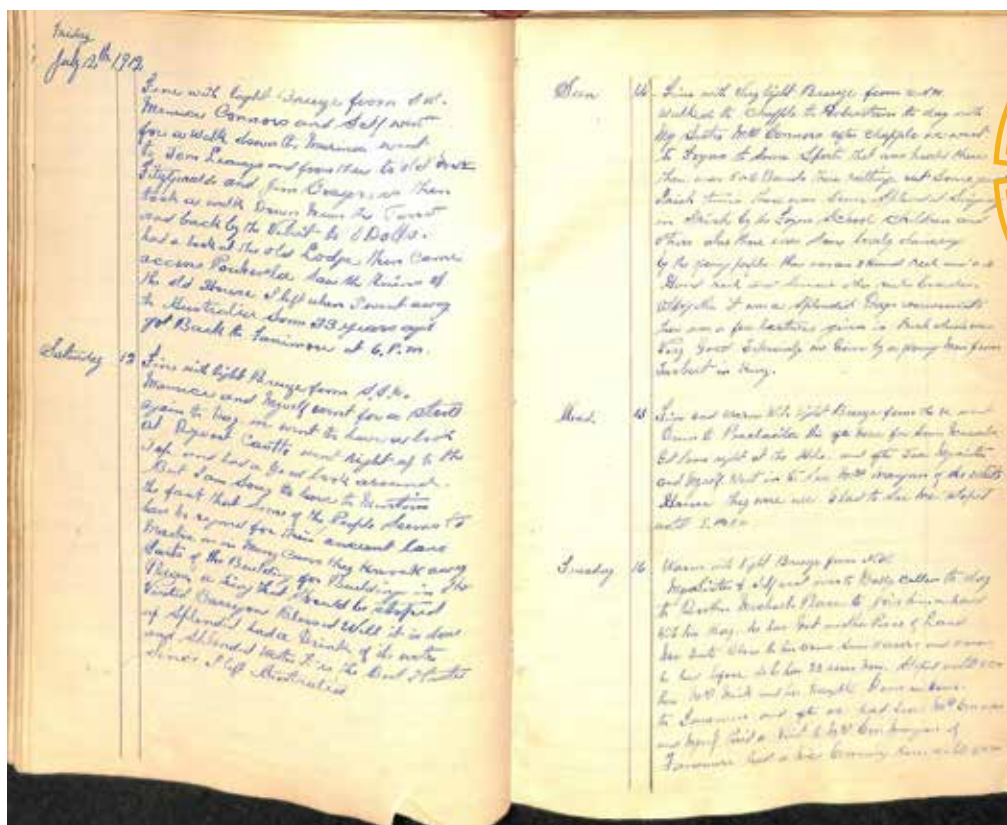
Brendan Walsh & Ger Delaney of North Mayo Heritage Centre and the South Mayo Family Research Centre carrying out research for clients at Castlebar Library.



*John John Fitzgerald
(credit: www.johnjohn60.com)*



This 1912 diary and indeed all of John John's surviving diaries, while in Australia from 1885 to 1918, are now digitised and freely accessible online at www.johnjohn60.com, thanks to Greg. Have a browse and you might find the names or locations of your west Limerick ancestors. If so, Greg would love to hear from you! He is very interested in learning more of the connections between west Limerick and South Australia.



Excerpt from John John Fitzgerald's diary on his return trip to Limerick July 1912 (credit: www.johnjohn60.com)

CAVAN GENEALOGY



A picture of Janet Dolan from USA visiting with her two sons. Cavan Genealogy recently introduced Janet to her cousin Eileen who brought her to the Dolan ancestral family farm in Cavan. Another successful research project at Cavan Genealogy linking up the diaspora with their long-lost relatives at home.

Sligo Genealogy Centre hosts a Workshop on 'Creative Ways to Write and Share your Family History'



Adrian Regan of the County Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society leading the genealogy workshop.

On Tuesday 20 August, 2024, as part of the National Heritage Week Programme of Events, the Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Society hosted a specially created workshop entitled '*Creative ways to Write and share your Family History*'.

The twenty-three people who attended gained an insight into some preparations to make before starting writing, including deciding the audience and message for each section, setting a plan and choosing writing style. They also gained knowledge in editing and proof reading and were made aware of several ways to add additional content of interest to the story,

including scanning old family photos & documents and designing simple family charts and tables for illustration.

Suggestions on a number of ways to share their family history including a slide show video or power point presentation with others were also imparted.

The event which was held in the Sligo Heritage & Genealogy Centre, helped stimulate interest in heritage and genealogy and appealed, not only to those with Sligo ancestry, but also to those interested in their Irish heritage in general.

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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