



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!

In 2026 so far, we have uploaded the following records to our database at www.rootsireland.ie:

- 22,402 new Church of Ireland and Presbyterian Church and Gravestone Armagh records.
- 9825 Tipperary records – Cappawhite RC baptisms and marriages.
- 43,652 records from the Boston Globe's 'Missing Friends' series and Annaghdown graveyard records (Galway).
- 24,000 Clare records – civil births, marriages and deaths.
- 8278 Kildare nineteenth-century census substitutes.

This means that so far in 2026, we have uploaded approximately 108,157 records from Armagh, Clare, Kildare, Galway 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

GALWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



We are delighted to announce that the Galway Family History Society based at the Woodford Heritage Centre is now the official centre for all of Galway City, County and the Islands family history research services. The Society has over 1.4m

records to search online at rootsireland.ie and also compile in depth family history reports in Woodford. The Society provides advice and assistance via email, telephone or face to face and welcomes visitors to the centre. Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 5pm and Fridays 9.30am to 12.30pm. Please email: galwayroots@gmail.com or visit www.galwayroots.com for further information.

The new service will be officially launched on 25 September, see details (right).

GALWAY FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

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galwayroots@gmail.com



www.galwayroots.com



www.rootsireland.ie - online search facility



@galwayfamilyhistory



Experts in Family History Research

Launch Event Invitation
Friday 25th September 2026, from 7 - 9pm
CUMASÚ Centre, H91 DKF7



You are cordially invited to celebrate the expansion of the Society's Family History Research Services and Archives for Galway City, County and Islands. Please RSVP to galwayroots@gmail.com or 0909749309 before 18/9/2026.
Event Address: ARD Family Resource Centre, CUMASÚ Centre, Doughiska Road, Galway, H91 DKF7

LIFFORD OLD COURTHOUSE IS NOW HOME TO DONEGAL ANCESTRY CLG



Donegal Ancestry provides a comprehensive genealogy service for people at home and abroad who want to trace their Donegal roots. They have been collecting and computerising genealogy records for over 30 years and have compiled a database of almost 1 million records from the primary genealogy sources for Co. Donegal.

In July 2024, due to the upcoming retirement of the manager, Joan Hannon, the board of Donegal

Ancestry agreed to reach out to community groups requesting expressions of interest in operating the service in the future. A number of proposals were received, and after many meetings it was eventually agreed that Donegal Ancestry would move to Lifford Old Courthouse.

Lifford Old Courthouse

Since its earliest days as a community centre, Lifford Old Courthouse available as a shared space for the community. In 2025, Lifford Old Courthouse opened the new Lifford Museum. The Museum offers a unique opportunity to explore Donegal's heritage in one place, within one of the county's most iconic historic buildings.

The museum brings together three important heritage collections: the County Donegal Historical Society Collection, formerly housed in Rossnowlagh; the Donegal Ancestry Collection, previously located in Ramelton; and artefacts from Lifford Old Courthouse itself.

Exhibits span thousands of years of history, from the Stone Age and Bronze Age through Penal Times and the 18th and 19th centuries. Displays also explore Irish independence and Ireland's cultural influence across Europe, with visitors able to view copies of the Book of Ballymote and The Annals of the Four Masters.

More information is available at donegalancestry.com or liffordoldcourthouse.com.



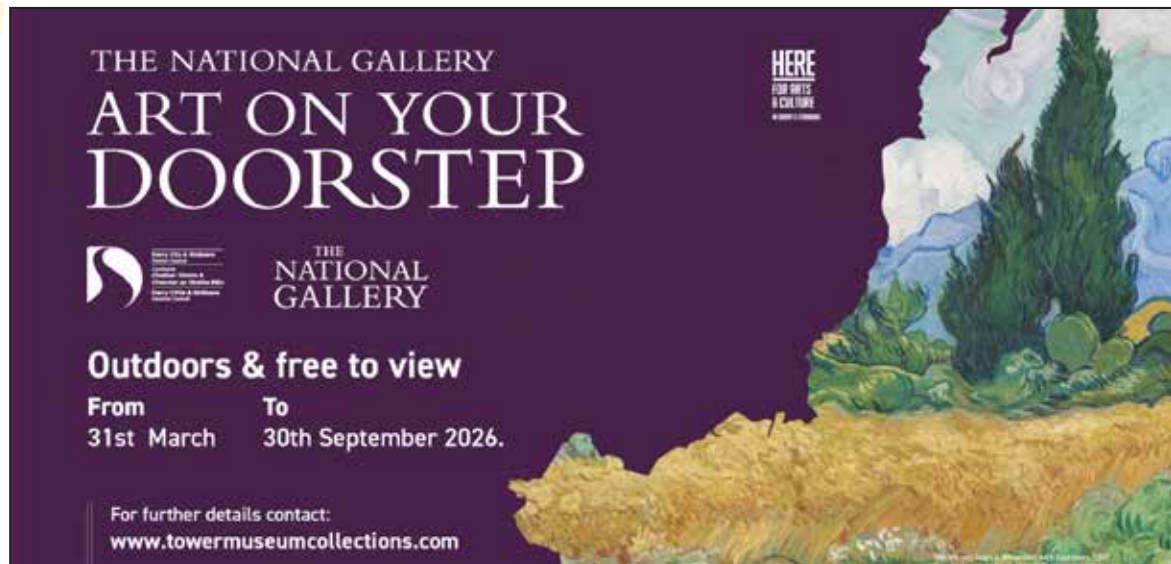
Lifford Old Courthouse

DERRY GENEALOGY – ART ON YOUR DOORSTEP

The National Gallery: Art On Your Doorstep is a programme that shares masterpieces from their collection with communities. Derry City & Strabane District Council's Museum team is one of twelve partners that will be exhibiting stunning reproduction during 2026. The Museum team selected eighteen artworks for six sites, from familiar pieces by Renoir

and Van Gogh, alongside art that engages us with family, nature and food. Each artwork is reproduced at life size. We hope the exhibition trail will inspire creativity and spark moments of joy in everyday life. ➔

DERRY GENEALOGY – ART ON YOUR DOORSTEP



WICKLOW GENEALOGY – MICHAEL DWYER 200

Legendary Wicklow Chief Commemorated At Michael Dwyer 200 Weekend



Re-enactors dressed as Pikemen and British soldiers

Last year marked the 200th anniversary of the death of Michael Dwyer, the famous Wicklow 1798 Rebellion leader. Born in 1772 in the Glen of Imaal, West Wicklow, Michael Dwyer is one of the most famous rebel leaders of the 1798 period and became known for his guerrilla warfare tactics in the Wicklow Mountains where he successfully evaded capture for many years. Known as the ‘Wicklow Chief’, Dwyer fought alongside General Joseph Holt at significant

battles such as Arklow and Vinegar Hill and conducted numerous skirmishes against British forces from 1798 until late 1803. Imprisoned from 1803 until 1806, Dwyer was transported to New South Wales, Australia in 1806 where he remained, and continued to be a figure of some influence with the Irish community until his death on August 23rd 1825. Indeed, more Wicklow people were transported to Australia as a result of the 1798 Rebellion than from any



other county, with thousands of Australians tracing their roots to County Wicklow.

To mark the 200th anniversary of the death of Michael Dwyer, Wicklow County Archives & Genealogy Service was proud to be one of the organisers of a two-day event in Glenmalur, County Wicklow in August, as part of the Heritage Week 2025 celebrations which attracted attendees from Wicklow, Ireland, America and Australia. As part of the Michael Dwyer 200 programme, the archives and genealogy service re-issued the publication *The Rebellion of 1798 in County Wicklow Education Pack*. Originally commissioned as part of Wicklow County Council's commemoration of the bicentenary of the 1798 Rebellion, this education pack was distributed to all Wicklow schools and libraries. This publication will give a new generation of young people an understanding of the 1798 Rebellion and an awareness and appreciation of the role of Michael Dwyer and his comrades in our history.

The programme featured talks by Dr Ruan O'Donnell, Carmel O'Toole, Dr Joan Kavanagh and Dr Perry McIntyre. They explored topics including Dwyer's role within the international context of the Society of United Irishmen, his associations in Wicklow, his legacy in Australia and his enduring significance to the Irish diaspora, symbolised by his memorial in Waverly Cemetery, Sydney.

Speaking at the event, James Hazell, Chargé d'Affaires with the Australian Embassy, remarked, 'Events like this are an important way to recognise, re-



Unveiling of memorial to Michael Dwyer.

member and reinforce the strong cultural links between Ireland and Australia. The Dwyer grave at Waverly Cemetery in Sydney continues to resonate with many Australians and it is very fitting that today's event takes place 200 years to the day of Dwyer's death in Australia on 23rd August, 1825.'

The Michael Dwyer 200 weekend was organised by the Arklow Municipal District and co-funded by Wicklow County Council and the Heritage Council. Please see <https://heritage.wicklowheritage.org/category/topics/michael-dwyer-200> for more information.

UHF 5-DAY RESEARCH CONFERENCE- 4-9 OCTOBER 2026

Aimed at the 'serious' family historian (though not necessarily at the experienced researcher alone – beginners can be serious too!), this event is for individuals who love archives.

Immerse yourself in a week of discovery with Ulster Historical Foundation's enhanced 5-Day Research Conference, designed for those eager to make significant progress in uncovering their family history. During Ulster Historical Foundation's five focused days, you will work in the archives with personal guidance and support from our experienced research team, ensuring your time is productive, rewarding, and inspiring.



Visit the link below to learn more:
<https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/events-courses/research-conference-2026>

NEW BOOK FROM ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

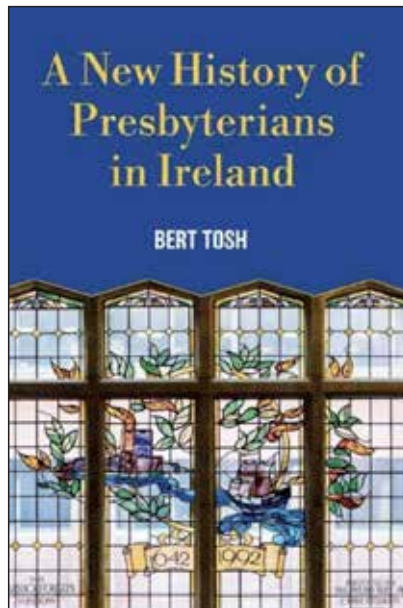
COMING SOON – New book from Ulster Historical Foundation.

A New History of Presbyterians in Ireland

By Bert Tosh

The first in-depth history of Presbyterians in Ireland for many years, this book tells the story of a people once described as 'a difficult lot to deal with'. Beginning in the early seventeenth century, author Bert Tosh explores the experiences of Presbyterians, of all shades and outlooks, across this island over the last four centuries.

Ever conscious of the range of Presbyterian churches and acknowledging the Presbyterian tendency to divide over often important issues, the author describes the emergence and development of each of the different branches of Presbyterianism, giving due attention to the smaller Presbyterian bodies and their adherents – among others, the Covenanters, Non-Subscribers and Seceders. Presbyterians often felt ignored, harassed and even persecuted by their being dissenters from the Established Church in Ireland, and the toleration granted to them was, for a long period, only meagre. That dissent made governments often suspicious of them and their loyalty, and in return Presbyterians were often suspicious of governments. A number of Presbyterians took up arms as United Irishmen in open rebellion in 1798 while just over 100 years later they were again ready to rebel against government plans to introduce Home Rule for Ireland. In more recent times, Presbyterians lived through the period known as the Troubles, and attention is focused on the ways in which they were affected by it and responded to the challenges it presented.



Available November 2026

Visit the link below to pre-order for just £19.99 (RRP £24.99)

<https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/shop/products/new-history-presbyterians>

Page Count: 496

Format: Paperback

ISBN: 978-1-913993-90-0

Publisher: Ulster Historical Foundation and Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland

Dimensions: 234mm x 156mm

SPECIAL OFFER

And to mark this new publication, get *A New History of Presbyterians in Ireland*, *Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland* AND *Presbyterian History in Ireland: Two Seventeenth-Century Narratives* together for just £39.99 (RRP £56.97)

ORDER NOW

<https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com/shop/products/presbyterianism-ireland>



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