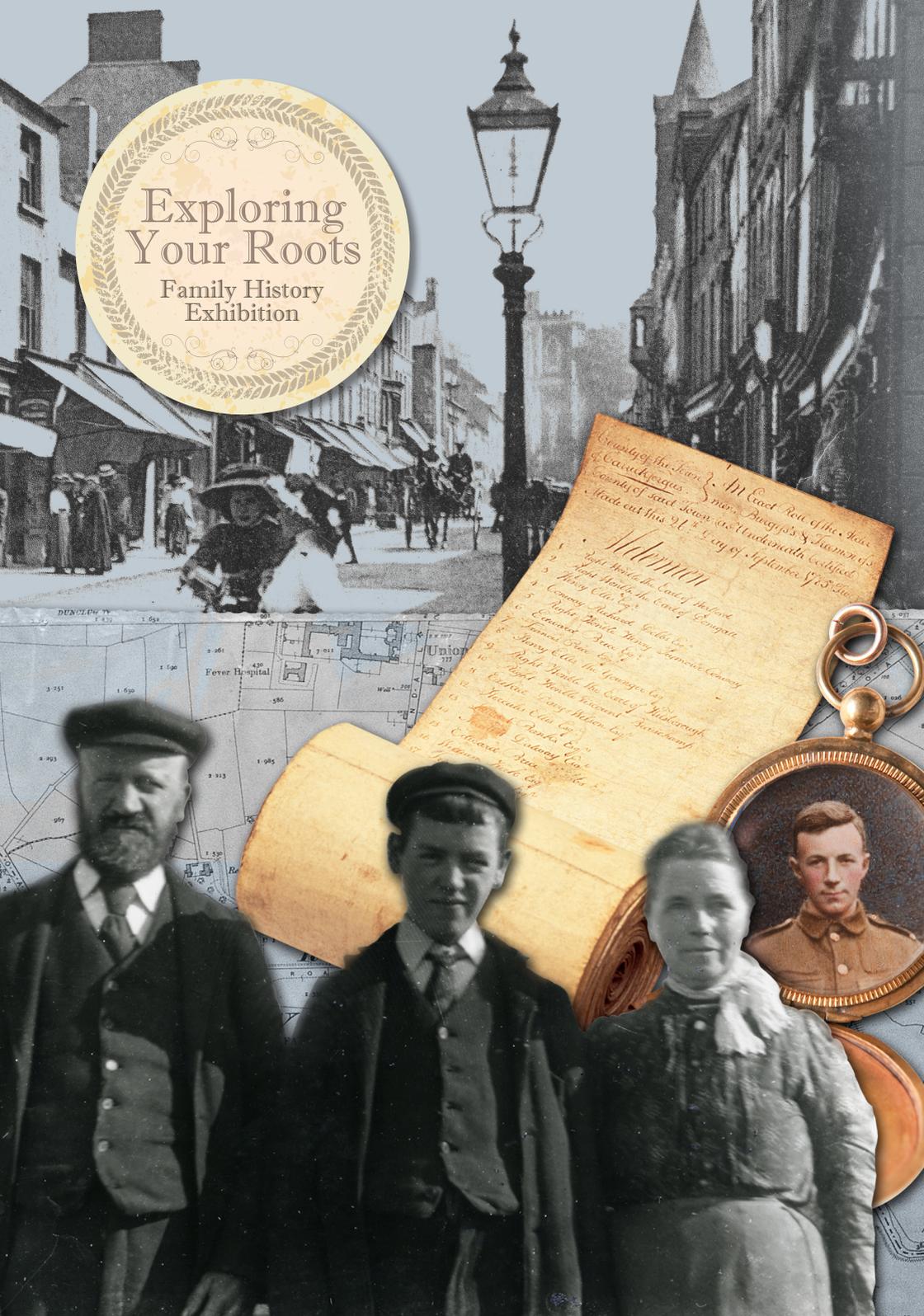


Exploring Your Roots

Family History
Exhibition



County of the Town & in East Wall of the City of
County of West London and Underneath Certificate
Made out this 21st Day of September 1852.

Widowmen

- 1 Right Warden the Court of Exchequer
- 2 Right Warden the Court of Common Pleas
- 3 Henry Ellis Esq
- 4 Company of Merchant Tailors L^{rs}
- 5 Edward Henry Esq
- 6 Thomas Esq
- 7 Henry Ellis Esq
- 8 Right Warden the Court of Exchequer
- 9 Right Warden the Court of Common Pleas
- 10 Esquire Esq
- 11 Esquire Esq
- 12 Esquire Esq
- 13 Esquire Esq
- 14 Esquire Esq
- 15 Esquire Esq
- 16 Esquire Esq
- 17 Esquire Esq



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Introduction

Exploring Your Roots

Researching family history is like being a detective. Clues and information need to be gathered from many sources, assessed and then put into a format where a family tree and related information can be built up.

This can take many hours of work, but it is often very rewarding and provides a wonderful insight into the world of our ancestors.

Having exhausted the resources at your immediate disposal, having asked all the pertinent questions of your extended family and having copied the birth, marriage and death entries from the family Bible, what next? Avid genealogists will leave no stone unturned in the search for ancestors and will pursue every avenue of research until all have been exhausted.

This exhibition has been designed to offer a flavour of the diverse museum collections held by Mid and East Antrim and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils. The Museums are Carrickfergus Museum & Civic Centre; Larne Museum & Arts Centre; Mid-Antrim Museum, Ballymena; The Museum at The Mill, Mossley Mill and Sentry Hill House. The artefacts held in these collections can provide a rich resource for researchers and much of the material featured in this booklet can be consulted by prior appointment.

Some of the most useful records and repositories for those starting on their family history research are listed below:



- 1-2. The Dunlop family, Ahoghill.
3. Victorian photo album from Larne Museum collection.
4. Reconstruction of Mossley Mill c. 1840.
5. Louie Mckinney's diary, 1910. Sentry Hill Collection
6. Aerial view of Carrickfergus showing St. Nicholas Church.
7. View of Curran spit, Larne 1872.
8. McKinney Family, Sentry Hill 1910.
9. Ballymena town, 1905.

A Sense of Place

Exploring Your Roots

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In exploring family history, sometimes an interesting place to start is by looking at the landscape. While documents can contain important details about our ancestors, much can be learned by examining the surroundings in which they lived. Landscapes are in a constant state

of change: old buildings are replaced by new structures, modern roads snake through the countryside, towns and villages expand into former fields and new industrial zones are constructed.

Despite all these changes, there is much to be seen that reveals fascinating views into the past. These glimpses help us to understand the world in which our ancestors lived. History is all around us. Sometimes it is very obvious, such as Carrickfergus Castle a fortress dating back over 800 years standing on the shores of Belfast Lough, while at other times history is more

subtle, such as in the names of streets or other locations. For example, Fairhill Shopping Centre in Ballymena stands on the site of a once busy fair or market, while Joymount in Carrickfergus recalls the fine mansion built by Arthur Chichester who was Lord Deputy of Ireland from 1605-1615.

Prominent buildings or other structures all have stories to tell. The tall chimney at Mossley Mill forms an important landmark as well as being a reminder of the important flax spinning mill that operated until 1995. In Larne the harbour was vital in the development of the town, something that can be traced through the years using maps and historic photographs.



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1-2 Mill Street, Ballymena. These photographs show a century of change in town.

3. Aerial view of Carrickfergus, before the construction of the Marine Highway began in the 1970s.

4. Aerial photograph of Mossley Mill site, a flax spinning factory in Newtownabbey, 1934.

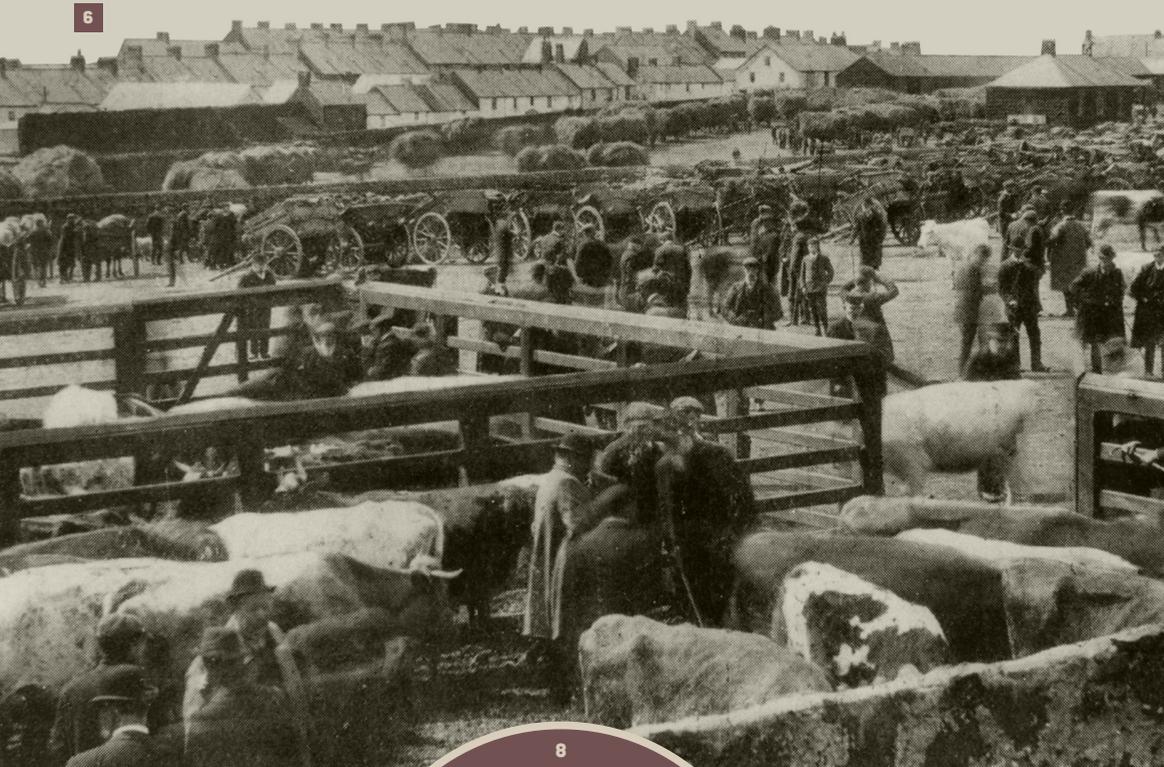
5. Larne Harbour, 1970s.

Elsewhere in Larne the Museum and Arts Centre is housed in the attractive red brick building that opened in 1906 as the Carnegie Free Library. Its name shows its links to Scottish-born American millionaire and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie who funded over 2,500 libraries all over the world. So as well as being an important resource for the local community for over a century, the centre is part of a world-wide network of Carnegie buildings.

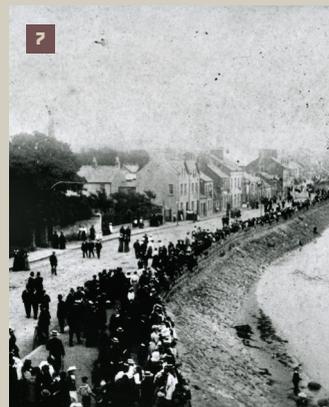
Links between the local and wider worlds can also be explored in historic visitor attractions. The Andrew Jackson Cottage near Carrickfergus shows the kind of household that would have been familiar to U.S. President Andrew Jackson's parents when they emigrated to America in 1765. Arthur Cottage at Dreen, near Cullybackey, commemorates the family of Chester Alan Arthur who was President of the United States from 1881 to 1884. The cottage also allows visitors to experience life in the nineteenth century by learning how day-to-day activities

were undertaken. The role of the hearth, the importance of the wooden dresser, settle bed, milk churn and tilley lamp can all be explored at the cottage. In Newtownabbey, the dwelling house and farm buildings at Sentry Hill, near Carnmoney, recall two centuries of farming life in east Antrim. The property was associated with the McKinney family for generations and their possessions allow visitors to follow their lives, interests, joys and sorrows over the years. These and other historic attractions are an ideal way to experience and explore life, culture and traditions in earlier times.

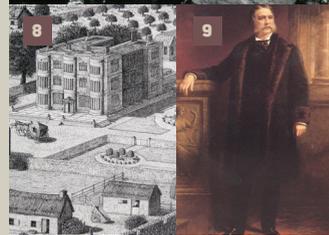
Maps, drawings, paintings and photographs are of great help when exploring historic landscapes and capture a scene in a moment in time. Examining them closely can show how today's landscape has changed over time and often can explain interesting features or buildings.



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6. Fairhill, Ballymena. Once a busy market, now the site of Fairhill Shopping Centre.

7-8. Scotch Quarter, Carrickfergus, once the site of Arthur Chichester's mansion, Joymount Palace.

9-10. Arthur Cottage at Dreen, near Cullybackey, Ballymena, commemorates the family of Chester Alan Arthur who was President of the United States from 1881 to 1884.

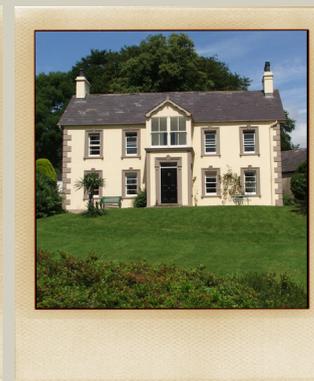
11. Larne Museum and Arts Centre, originally named Carnegie Free Library after Scottish-born American millionaire and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie who funded over 2,500 libraries all over the world.

12. Sentry Hill, Newtownabbey was home to the McKinney family for over two centuries.

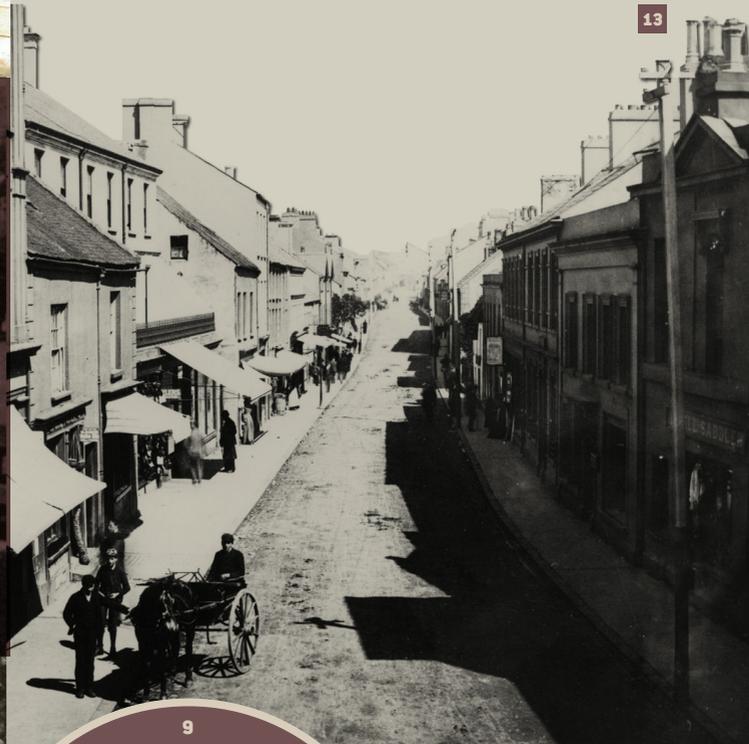
13. Larne Main Street c. 1900.



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Emigration

Exploring Your Roots

Travel is an integral part of life today, whether for work, for leisure or perhaps to emigrate to another land. Travel was also important in the past, although only the wealthy could afford to journey long distances for purely pleasure purposes. The long voyages made by many people were intended to be one-way, as they emigrated with the aim of settling down and raising their families in distant countries. The reasons behind emigration were complex and often were a combination of poor prospects at home and encouraging reports from earlier travellers.

Many of those who emigrated settled down well in their new country, forming part of communities whether in towns or rural areas. Some made important contributions to their new land: in 1767, Andrew Jackson was born in South Carolina to Andrew and Elizabeth Jackson who had emigrated from Carrickfergus. Andrew Jackson was the seventh President of the United States from 1829 until 1837 and his life and career is celebrated in the Andrew Jackson Cottage near Carrickfergus.

Emigration had an impact on those who were left behind in Ireland. Many families kept letters and photographs sent by relatives who had moved to distant lands. Sometimes they received money from abroad, not only to help others to emigrate, but also to fund everyday life in Ireland such as rent and education. Such was the impact of emigration in Ireland that there were few families unaffected by it. William McKinney (1832-1917) of Sentry Hill saw four siblings and four of his own children emigrate. His brother-in-law, Joseph McGaw, had a successful sheep farming business in Australia. Three of McKinney's sons went to join him, including Jim who settled with his wife Effie at a family sheep station named Nangus. Much of the family's correspondence is still preserved at Sentry Hill house, thanks to William McKinney. William McKinney's youngest son also spent most of his life out of Ireland: Hugh qualified as a doctor and served in the Nigerian Medical Service for many years. Although he married his English wife Louie in 1907, she did not join him in Nigeria until 1915. Throughout their long separation, they regularly wrote touching letters to each other. When she did finally join him, she kept a journal which gives a fascinating insight into their lives in Africa.

Emigrant correspondence not only provides enormously valuable family information, but it also shows how emigrants viewed new lands and cultures. While some letters have been preserved in museums and other institutions, many remain in private hands. They are a wonderful source for tracing family emigrant stories and are well worth seeking out from other family members, in attics or amongst old correspondence. The world of the emigrant can also be explored in other ways such as in visits to museums and other exhibitions and viewing memorials such as that commemorating the 1717 emigrant ship Friends Goodwill in Curran Park, Larne.



1-2. The Andrew Jackson Cottage near Carrickfergus celebrates the life and career of the seventh President of the United States from 1829 until 1837.

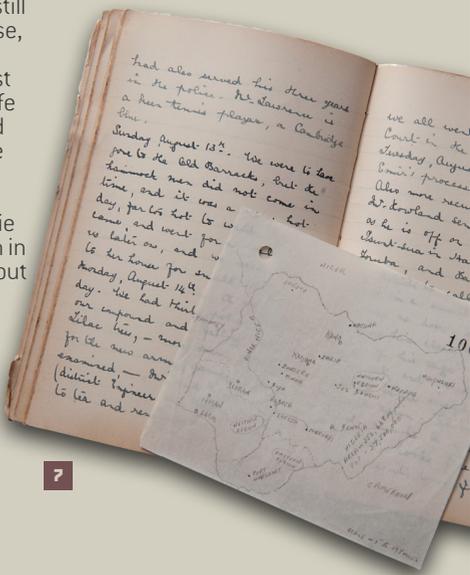
3-4. Jim McKinney and his wife Effie emigrated to Australia in 1890, where they joined Jim's two brothers and uncle in running the family's successful sheep farming business. Sentry Hill Collection

5-8. Hugh McKinney served in the Nigerian Medical Service. His wife Louie, did not join him there for another eight years. Throughout their long separation they regularly exchanged touching letters. Her journal gives a fascinating account of their lives in Africa. Sentry Hill Collection

9-10. Camerons, a Ballymena travel agent offered 'assisted passage' for families wanting to emigrate abroad. The photo, above right, shows a group of families are getting ready to sail to Canada, 1926.

11. William Fee McKinney's brother-in-law, Joseph McGaw, had a successful career in Australia and sent funds to assist with the education of the McKinney children. This bank draft for £50 is the equivalent of £2400 in today's money. Sentry Hill Collection

12. The 'Friend's Goodwill' memorial in Curran Park, Larne commemorates the 1717 emigrant ship.



Earning A Living

Exploring Your Roots

Finding work was as much a part of the lives of our ancestors as it is of modern society. The need to earn a living could change the course of a family's history by influencing whether a family remained

in a particular locality or moved elsewhere. Farmers and agricultural workers obviously stayed on the land, but others might move to towns and cities where employment was available in factories and shops.

Learning more about these places of work can help piece together details about the life and times of our ancestors.

In museums the display of items and images relating to industry and commerce reveal objects that were a familiar part of everyday life to those who worked in those places. They can also show how workers interacted with each other and how each played a role in producing particular products or services.

In County Antrim the textile industry was very important and as production increasingly moved to large-scale factory settings, so workers moved to be near their employment. In Ballymena, Braid Water Mill was established in 1865 and employed generations of workers in yarn spinning. The mill survived until 1999 and influenced the lives of thousands of workers' families.

As well as textiles, there were many other industries that provided employment for workers. For example, Kane's Foundry in Larne was a prominent factory in the town. It was a branch of a large Ballymena firm originally established by John Kane. His grandson, William Hugh Kane, founded the Larne factory in about 1887. Workers at the Foundry produced textile, farm and quarry machinery. Kane's Foundry was one of the key employers in Larne for nearly a century, before closing in 1986.



The Carrickfergus area also had textile producers. One of these was Barn Spinning Mills, a flax spinning operation established by James Taylor in 1852 in what had previously been a cotton mill. From 1947 it was operated by Jeremiah Ambler and became a wool and worsted yarn mill. The building now houses residential units. It and other former factory buildings stand as reminders of their central importance in the lives of so many families. Another former textile complex that has now found a new role is Mossley Mill in Newtownabbey which houses a Civic Centre and Council Offices. The historical exhibition there uses objects large and small, interviews with former employees and photography to tell the story of the flax spinning mill and its important role in the local community.

1. Kane's Foundry workers, Larne 1920.
2. Staff at Barn Spinning Mills, Carrickfergus. Established in 1852, the mill was later owned by John Weatherup who can be seen in the front row (4th from the left).
3. Employees of Braidwater Spinning Mill, Ballymena, 1939. Mid-Antrim Museum has a rich collection of images and records relating to the mill, available for consultation.
4. Polishing shop at Mossley Mill, 1930s. Waxing and polishing smoothed the thread to make sewing easier.

In Carrickfergus, Rodgers shipyard provided valuable employment for decades. Paul Rodgers took over the shipyard in 1870 and employed up to 150 people constructing and repairing ships. The skilled employees initially made wooden vessels, but later adapted to working with iron.

The industrial world is not the only workplace to be discovered through images and objects. Farm machinery,

agricultural tools and photographs of rural activities all help to show how our ancestors can evoke an era of hard work which provided food and other products necessary for survival. Generations of men and women worked on farms, rearing their children and passing down

knowledge of the land, the seasons and the techniques for ensuring good crops and other agricultural products.

Exploring the world of work in the past is a way to discover our ancestors and their daily lives. Museums, through their displays and programmes, are an excellent way of investigating this aspect of past times.



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5. Paul Rodgers' shipyard in Carrickfergus employed about 150 people in its heyday constructing and repairing ships. He is seated 3rd from the right, top row.

6. These children are thought to be employees of Larne Weaving Company, known locally as Brown's Factory. Even by the early 20thC, children as young as 11 were expected to work shifts in factories while still at school.

7-8. Paul and Martha Esler's farm 1960s. The Eslers owned a farm at Moorfields, Ballymena, following in the footsteps of their parents. Their rich photographic collection provides a glimpse into the lives of those who made their living from the land.



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Education

Exploring Your Roots



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1-2. Toreagh National School, Larne in 1916 and in 1932.
 3-4. Guy's School, Wellington Street, Ballymena 1912.
 5. Ballymena Model School, Ballymoney Road c.1925.
 6. Pupils of Mossley National School.
 7. Selection of copybooks from Mid-Antrim Museum Collection.
 8. Galgorm National School, Ballymena.

Education plays a central part in the lives of young people today and this has been the situation for most children for nearly two centuries. The establishment of National Schools in 1831 brought primary education to children in Ireland. Schools were built, teachers were trained and an education structure was set in place to ensure that children learned reading, writing, arithmetic as well as other subjects. School then became an everyday part of life for generations of children.

presence of siblings at a school and perhaps other relations as well. As well as giving details of family history, school registers show the size of a school and thus indicate the number of pupils in each class and the strength, or otherwise, of a community.

School photographs provide a fascinating glimpse into the world of education. Some schools had regular group photographs taken and, if the names are known, these can reveal the faces of ancestors. Even if the photographs are not annotated, they show the type of world inhabited by our relations. So much can be learned from looking at photographs, including the type of clothing worn by the children, their shoes (sometimes the pupils were in bare feet), their hairstyles and their often stern-looking teachers. Even in black and white, they capture a moment from the past, including the expressions on the pupils' faces and perhaps a blur where a child moved just as the shutter was pressed.

School photographs, particularly early ones, were often taken out of doors. However, pupils spent most of their time inside a schoolroom where familiar objects included ink wells, primers or copybooks and text books. These objects show how children learned in the past. Of particular interest are copybooks that taught pupils how to write in attractive copperplate writing. Comparing these with modern school books and equipment shows how education has changed over the years. Learning about learning can be really interesting!

When tracing family history, school records can be an important source of information. In particular, school registers are valuable as not only do they record the names of pupils but usually their dates of birth and sometimes details such as the occupation of the pupil's father, their address and religious denomination. In addition, registers show the years when a child attended a school, confirming their residence in an area at a particular time. Registers can also reveal the



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Total attendance in this standard to close of

Galgorm National School A97

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World Wars

Exploring Your Roots

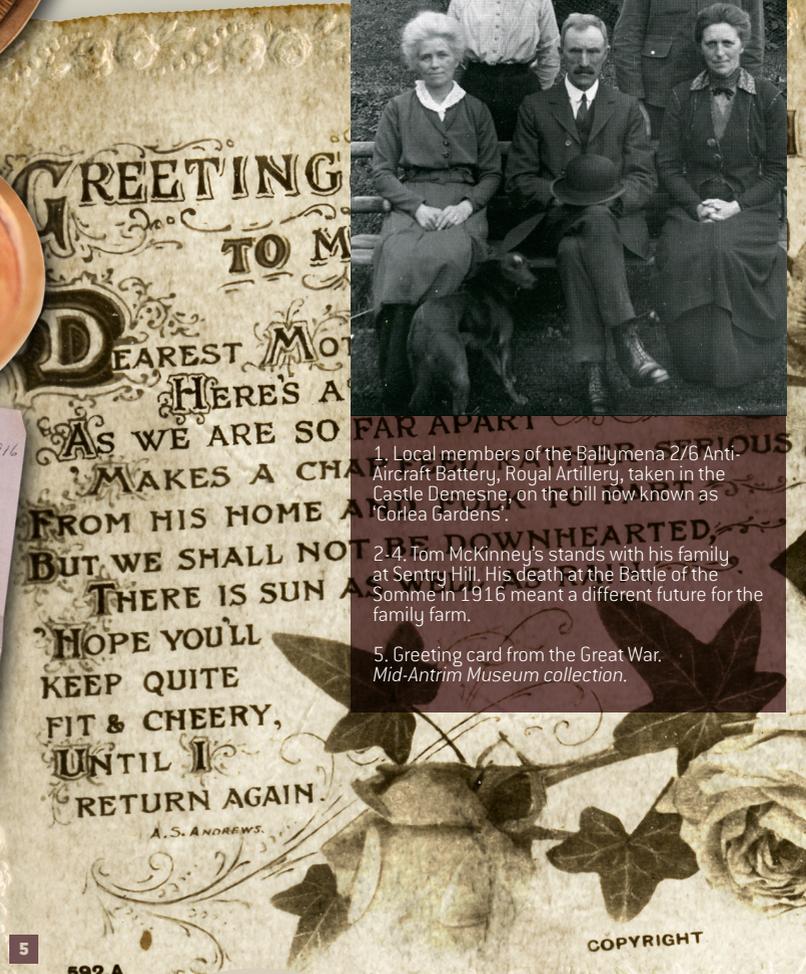
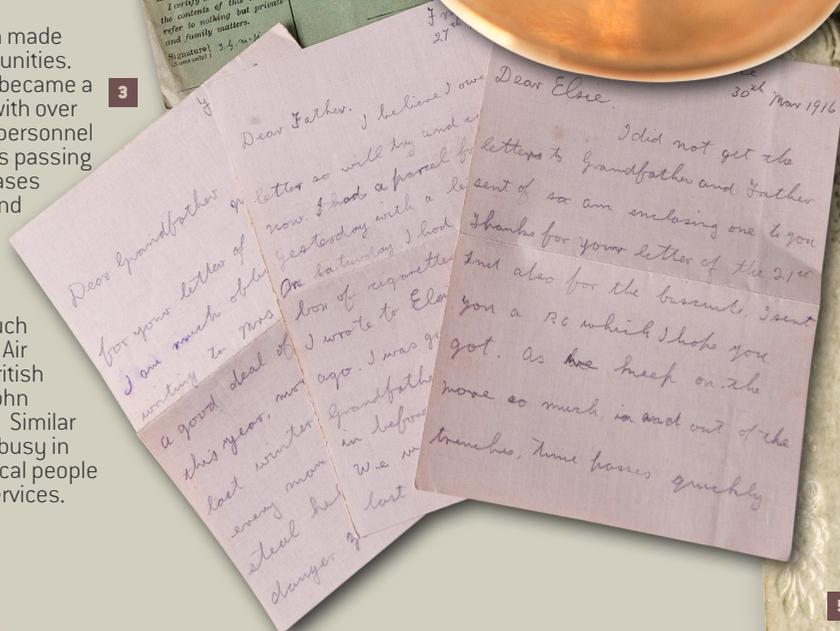
Wars make an impact on the history of families, usually through active service by individuals. The two world wars of the twentieth century were enormously significant and most County Antrim communities were affected by them to some degree. Exploring the lives of those who were caught up in these conflicts can tell much about those periods in history and how war changed families, sometimes permanently.

Military service could be carried out near home or could mean travel to distant lands. During World War One the local impact can be seen by looking at the Carrickfergus and Whitehead area. Troops trained at army camps at Sunnylands, a coastal defence battery at Kilroot kept regular watch on shipping while an airship sub-station at Bentra, near Whitehead, used dirigibles to help counter attacks from enemy submarines. Troops from all parts of Ireland and Britain were stationed nearby, making their own impact on the area whether on duty or during leisure times.

The main fighting took place far from Carrickfergus, in France, Belgium and the Dardanelles, but many households were devastated when telegrams arrived announcing the death of a family member. Many of those who died left widows and young children behind and these bereaved families were a permanent legacy of the war. Such deaths could have an impact well beyond the 1914-1918 period. For example, at Sentry Hill, near Carnmoney, Tom McKinney was raised on the family farm and spent a year at agricultural college in preparation for ultimately taking over the property. His death during the Battle of the Somme in 1916 meant a different future for the farm which eventually passed to his cousin, Joe Dundee.

World War Two again made an impact on communities. Larne, for example, became a vital transport hub with over four million service personnel and 92,000 vehicles passing through the port. Bases for Air Sea Rescue and anti-submarine training were also at Larne where local people were active in services such as the Home Guard, Air Raid Precautions, British Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade. Similar organisations were busy in Ballymena where local people volunteered their services.

Factories, such as the shell factory in Cullybackey, provided employment as they adapted to war demands. However, most of those who joined the Royal Air Force, Royal Navy or the army spent the war far from Ireland. As in World War One, news of injuries and deaths to those in active service, brought grief and long-lasting changes to local families.



1. Local members of the Ballymena 2/6 Anti-Aircraft Battery, Royal Artillery, taken in the Castle Demesne, on the hill now known as 'Corlea Gardens'.
 2-4. Tom McKinney's stands with his family at Sentry Hill. His death at the Battle of the Somme in 1916 meant a different future for the family farm.
 5. Greeting card from the Great War. Mid-Antrim Museum collection.



There are many ways to discover more about the world wars and their impact on families. Organisations such as the Commonwealth War Grave Commission provide information on casualties of the two wars and have a searchable website. Visiting significant sites help to understand the wars. For example, in Carrickfergus the United States Rangers Centre is dedicated to the men of the First Battalion of this elite American Army Unit which was activated in the town in 1942. Led by Major William O. Darby, the battalion played an important role in the conflict. War memorials, gravestones, photographs, contemporary film footage and publications all reveal much about the war. In addition, objects such as war medals and Next-of-Kin Memorial Plaques provide a tangible link with the past. Some war-related items may be found in the home. Poignant photographs of men and women in uniform were usually kept by families for generations. One of the most important wartime records is the personal account: written descriptions and recorded interviews reveal the impact of war on individuals. Talking to those who remember the war can provide significant information for family research, as well as gaining insights into life during times of world conflict.



6. Members of the Women's Royal Naval Service who worked at Larne Naval Base and billeted in the Towers Hotel.

10. Shell factory at Cullybackey, Ballymena.

7. Members of Larne Home Guard.

11-12. Major Darby at the Normandy Landings and meeting President Roosevelt.

8. Discharging military vehicles at Larne Harbour during World War Two by permission of The Imperial War Museum, neg no. A8896

13. Bessie Cherry and her brother Alex, from Craiguwarren. Alex served in the 1st World War. Bessie worked in Margaret Kenny's shop 'The Dairy' in Bridge Street. It was directly across from Morrow's Shop, now the entrance to The Braid Museum and Arts Centre.

9. Distribution of Gas masks at Carrickfergus Town Hall.



Taxes are never popular, but all sorts of taxes and charges have been levied on people for centuries. In order to collect this money, records need to be kept to ensure that names, addresses and other details are recorded accurately. This sort of activity is just one aspect of the role of local authorities and other public bodies over the centuries.

The composition and duties of public bodies have changed over time, with new functions and structures replacing earlier operations. However, the need to maintain records in some form has not greatly altered and these records can be valuable sources for those exploring family history. For example, rate books and similar records can show details of a person, a residence or business at a particular period of time. They can also reveal much about the general state of the local economy.

Minutes of meetings are an important part of record keeping by local authorities. Most details are routine, but can be very specific in relation to a person, an event or a location. Sometimes this sort of detail is not available elsewhere and so minute books can be a useful source of information. The minutes of corporations, councils and similar authorities over the centuries deal with a wide range of subjects. Together these influence the shape of a landscape, the emergence of a town or village and how people interact with each others.

Public authority records can be very varied, as outlined above, or can focus on a specific organisation. For example, workhouses were established all over Ireland from 1838 and by 1841 about 130 Poor Law Unions were in existence. Each union covered a specific geographical area and a workhouse was built to house the poor and destitute, including children and the elderly. Workhouses were constructed in both Ballymena and Larne and were operated by Boards of Guardians, funded by a taxes on landlords and others, with staff employed to manage the day-to-day activities. Workhouse records such as minute books, registers of admissions and registers of births and deaths can be a valuable source for family research. Not only do they generally list those who spent time in the workhouse, but they can provide details of staff and those who supplied food and other goods to the institution. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland holds records relating to both Ballymena and Larne workhouses.

Whether general records, or those relating to specific organisations, municipal records have a role in unravelling the history of a family or in exploring the world in which an ancestor lived.



1. Extract from Larne Petty Sessions Register 1847 – 1877.

2. Extract from Ballymena workhouse register.

3. Extract from Larne Town Commissioners minute book 1854.

4. Electoral roll of Carrickfergus freeholders who had certain rights and privileges. Freemen could vote in parliamentary and local elections 1785-1850. The Freemen certificates are available for consultation at Carrickfergus Museum.

5. Corporation record held by Carrickfergus Borough Council.

6. A petition signed by local men requesting a Free Library and Newsroom for the town of Larne.

Exploring Graveyards

Exploring Your Roots

Those researching family history are likely to find themselves looking at graveyard inscriptions at some stage in their investigations. Graveyards come in many shapes and sizes and vary greatly in age, but all can have great value in providing information about those interred.

Many official burial records are held by the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, local authorities or by local museums. Inscriptions on headstones not

only provide key information about those interred, but can also be attractive and artistic in themselves. The style of engraving and other details on headstones can show craft skills which were often carried out by local people. Memorial plaques and inscriptions placed inside churches and other buildings can be another useful source of information about individuals and their achievements.

In Ballymena, one of the most historic graveyards is the Old Churchyard in Church Street. It originally surrounded an eighteenth century Church of Ireland church which was replaced in the 1850s by a new building, St. Patrick's, on Castle Street. Only the tower survives of the earlier church and the site contains many graves of relevance to those undertaking family research.

The graveyard in Ballynure, like that in Ballymena, contains the remains of the old parish church. Built in 1602, its rector from 1695-96 was the famous cleric and writer Jonathan Swift. A new church, Christ Church, was built nearby and consecrated in 1856. The old graveyard not only contains many interesting graves, but also has a corpse house which was used as an initial resting place to thwart graverobbers.

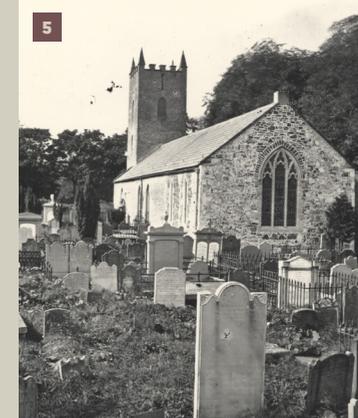
An earlier churchyard can be found surrounding St. Nicholas' Church in Carrickfergus. This site of worship dates to the late twelfth century when John de Courcy established both the church and the nearby castle. Burials took place over the centuries, as can be seen by the many gravestones and memorials in the graveyard and church. The most striking monument is inside the church:

the Chichester Monument commemorates Arthur Chichester (1563-1625) and his family. Chichester was Lord Deputy of Ireland from 1605-1615.

Another early graveyard is the medieval St. Cedma's in Larne. Catering for the combined parishes of Larne and Inver, the graveyard has headstones dating from 1628. Many of these stones have been removed from their original locations and are now arranged around the outer wall. The graveyard surrounds St. Cedma's Church which dates from about 1350.

The headstones in the above graveyards have all been inscribed and this material is available to researchers. The Ulster Historical Foundation has made many of these inscriptions available, see page 32 for further details. Some museums have facilitated this type of research: Mid-Antrim Museum has details of headstone inscriptions from almost all the graveyards in the Ballymena Borough, as well as some interment records freely available on its website. A publication on Ballymena Old Churchyard containing headstone inscriptions is available at Mid-Antrim Museum, a number of burial records from other local churches can also be consulted here.

Exploring graveyards can provide vital information for family research and can also be an interesting day out. Even if the headstone of a particular ancestor is not found, it can be fascinating to view other inscriptions and learn more about those who were associated with an area in earlier centuries.



1. Heritage and walking trail leaflets such as those produced by Newtownabbey Borough Council can help to locate graveyards and understand their role in a local community.

2-3. St. Nicholas Church, Carrickfergus.

4. Ballymena Old Churchyard.

5. St Cedma's Church, Inver, Larne.

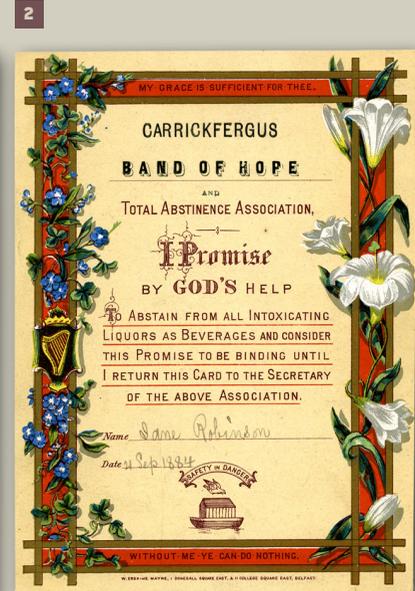
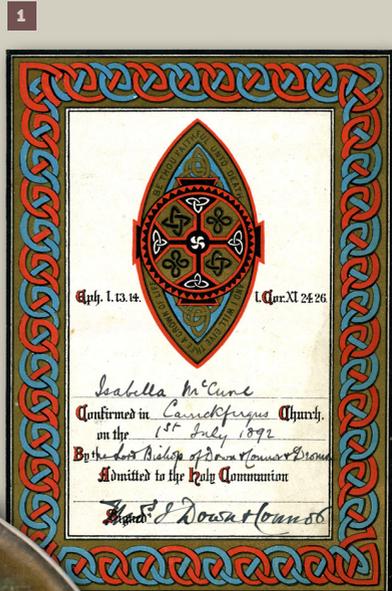
6. Corpse House at Ballynure graveyard, Newtownabbey.



Treasures At Home

Exploring Your Roots

When researching family history it is amazing what can be found in our own homes. People often collect mementoes from important family occasions and these can be passed down from generation to generation.



Handwritten family tree listing names and dates:

- James George
- Hugh Giffen
- Mias Agnew
- Joseph Martin
- John Bigger
- Isabella McCune
- Thomas Giffen
- William Giffen
- Nancy Martin
- John McKinney 1805
- Eliza George
- Thomas G. McKinney 1805
- Isabella Giffen
- John J. McKinney 1861
- John J. McKinney 1825
- Margaret Giffen
- Eliza McKinney
- Elizabeth Margaret
- John J. McKinney
- Isabel Rossborough
- William McKinney
- Joseph McKinney
- Margt Ann Campbell
- Hugh Giffen McKinney
- Louise Stevens
- Sept. 2, 1907
- Robert Campbell
- 1872-1872
- Mrs James McKinney
- Effie J. Murray
- Jan. 12, 1901
- Flora Elizabeth
- Kenneth James

Diary of Mr McKinney's

June 5th 1848. Went to Ashhill in the train with my Father to keep an account of the census and men's times on the new road that is being made between Ballymena and Pottloghena. My Uncle James Giffen contracted for the making of it and my Father and James and Tho^o Miller joined to assist him. We agreed to make the road for £

But 30th June I walked home from Ashhill by Hills and Duncraig with my Father we got home at seven o'clock

January 1st to 8th 1849. Wrought at home with David Hunter and James Leaman

8th to 14. at Ashhill 14 to 22. at home 22 to 28 at Ashhill

Jan 30. Walked through Ballymena all night with a bag of W.O. McKinney looking for thieves. There are great quantities of oats and potatoes stolen from the farms.

Nov. 1st 5. Went to Ashhill. But 10. came home in the train

TRY HILL, CARNMONEY,
 day, 13th February,
 Lightieth Year of her Age,
L A F. GIFFEN,
 Wife of Thomas G. McKinney.

Her remains will be removed for interment in Carnmoney Burying-Ground, on Tuesday, the 16th instant, at Twelve o'clock noon.

FEBRUARY 15, 1886,

1. Holy Communion certificate, Carrickfergus Museum Collection
2. Band of Hope certificates declared total abstinence from alcohol.
3. Brooches belonging to Margaret (Meg) McKinney, daughter of William Fee McKinney.
4. McKinney family tree,
5. William Fee McKinney's diary,
6. McKinney funeral card.

William Fee McKinney, born in 1832 at Sentry Hill, built up a remarkable collection of diaries, family letters and an extensive library of books and pamphlets. Along with souvenirs from family travels abroad, William collected natural history specimens and items of local historical interest.



8

Old letters not only contain useful information about the lives of the writers, but the quality of paper used, the style of writing and the signature help us to connect with an ancestor. Wills and legal documents can show family relationships and might also provide information about where people lived and what property or land was associated with a family. Certificates of birth, marriage

and death obviously are very important, but other certificates can also show other details. For example, a certificate awarding a prize to a child in a school or youth organisation helps to capture an important moment in the life of that individual. Family Bibles often were used to record key information such as the births, marriages and deaths of family members and can be very informative.

Paper documents are not the only source of family information found in homes. Sometimes Christening robes or wedding dresses are carefully preserved over many years. Usually handmade, these garments frequently show wonderful craftsmanship and a high level of decoration. The care taken to make and preserve such garments shows their

importance at key times in the history of families and indeed photographs often recorded such occasions. Christening robes and wedding dresses are also items that can be admired for their own sake, as fine examples of skilled needlework and as an indication of what was fashionable at the time that they were made.

Exploring the home for clues about family history can be very rewarding and can yield all sorts of interesting information. Building on this knowledge, the researcher can then look to other sources, including museums where objects and information can help to understand the background to the lives of ancestors.



9



10

8. Jane & Charles Ross.
Larne Museum Collection

9. Sadie Morrow was christened in 1919. She would later own Morrow's shop, the original home of Ballymena Museum.

10-11. The Dunlop family were originally from The Flush (Old Portglenone Road, Ahoghill). Around 1914, they moved to the Ballymena Road, in a house beside Ahoghill Orange Hall, where they opened a garage. The photo above shows Jack Dunlop, on a motorcycle, in the garage, 1923.

12. Sampler by Sarah Wray 1854. Proven needlework skills were once a must for young girls.
Larne Museum collection

13. Tom McKinney's christening cup. Tom was later killed at the Battle of the Somme, 1916. [See Page 18]



11

12

13





Placenames and Administrative Districts

Getting to grips with the administrative districts in Ireland is essential to help with your research. Administrative districts include the townland (which is unique to Ireland), parishes, baronies, dioceses and Poor Law Unions.

Maps of the townlands, baronies and parishes may be found at **Irish Townlands** (free access). www.townlands.ie

Placenames NI (free access) provides information about the origin and meaning of placenames as well as variants that have been recorded. www.placenamesni.org

The Public Record Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) has Historical Ordnance Survey Maps available online (free access) that date from 1832. www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

Civil Registration Of Births, Deaths And Marriages (B, D, M)

The civil registration of non-Catholic marriages in Ireland commenced on 01 April 1845 while the registration of Catholic marriages, all births and all deaths commenced on 01 January 1864.

The General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) holds records of births, deaths and marriages from 1845 for the six counties of Northern Ireland. These records are available online (fees apply) at geni.nidirect.gov.uk. Although restrictions apply on viewing more recent records, the following records may be viewed online:

- birth records over 100 years old
- marriage records over 75 years old
- death records over 50 years old

Researchers can visit GRONI at Stranmillis, Belfast or use GRONI terminals at PRONI, Belfast to view more recent records that are not available online.

The General Register Office of Ireland (GROI) holds copies of births, death and marriages for all of Ireland up to 1921 and thereafter for the Republic of Ireland only. These records are available online (free access) at www.irishgenealogy.ie with the same restrictions as for GRONI records mentioned above. For some years, only an Index entry is available, but work continues to add the full images to the website.

Researchers can visit the GROI research facility in Werburgh Street, Dublin. Additional registers are maintained by the GROI administrative headquarters at Convent Road, Roscommon.

Civil registration indexes for Ireland are available online via the website Family Search (free access) at www.familysearch.org, at **Ancestry** (fees apply) www.ancestry.co.uk and at **Find My Past** (fees apply) www.findmypast.co.uk. The indexes include 1864-1958 births, 1845-1958 marriages, and 1864-1958 deaths, but exclude index records for Northern Ireland after its creation in 1922.

Church Records

Prior to the commencement of civil registration (in 1864), church registers are a key source of family history information. The availability of these varies from congregation to congregation. Some, mainly Church of Ireland, date from as far back as the seventeenth century but many others, especially Catholic registers, start no earlier than the 1830's.

PRONI has an unrivalled collection of church registers for the entire province of Ulster and covers all the main religious denominations. Most of these registers are available on microfilm, some are original records and some which have been digitised may be viewed on particular terminals at PRONI. PRONI provides two guides – 'PRONI Guide to Church Records' and 'Church Records available as Digital Copies in PRONI' – (free access) at www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/proni-guide-church-records.

Many Roman Catholic registers are now available online at the **National Library of Ireland** (free access) registers.nli.ie while commercial sites such as:

- **Roots Ireland** (fees apply) www.rootsireland.ie
- **The Ulster Historical Foundation** (fees apply) www.ancestryireland.com and
- **Emerald Ancestors** (fees apply) www.emeraldancestors.com/ have sizeable collections of church records.

Graveyards And Burial Records

Burial records are held in various locations and available resources can list those in the plot, as well as gravestone inscriptions and photographs. **Mid-Antrim Museum's** website contains headstone inscriptions and also Interment and Plot Owner records (free access) in the Ballymena area www.thebraid.com/explore-your-roots.aspx.



Mid and East Antrim Council as well as Antrim and Newtownabbey Council have produced **Churchyard Trails** that include a Pre-Reformation Trail, a Covenanter Trail (both Ballymena area) available at www.thebraid.com/ballymena-churchyard-trails.aspx and Churches and Graveyards in Carrickfergus – these highlight prominent families and interesting headstones and inscriptions. Larne Historic Church Trail can be found at www.larnehistoricchurchtrail.co.uk.

Some of the sites where you may be most likely to find your ancestors are listed below:

- **Discover Ever After** (free access) www.discovereverafter.com
- **Find a Grave** (free access) - www.findagrave.com
- **Billion Graves** (free access) - billiongraves.com
- **Belfast City Council** (fees apply) - www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/burialrecords/burialrecords.aspx

Census Records

Although the first true census was held in Ireland in 1821 and thereafter every ten years until 1911, unfortunately, the earliest census that survives in its entirety for the whole of Ireland is the 1901 census. Census returns from 1821 – 1851 were almost entirely lost in 1922 in the destruction of the Public Record Office in Dublin. Census returns from 1861 – 1891 were completely destroyed by government order, many during the First World War as scrap paper.

The 1901 census was taken on 31 March. The information in the census is listed under the following headings: name; relationship to the head of the household; religion; literacy; occupation; age; marital status; county of birth (or country if born outside Ireland); and ability to speak English or Irish. The 1911 census was taken on 01 April of that year and contains additional information including the number of years a wife was married, the number of children born and the number still living.

Surviving census fragments from 1821 – 1851 and the full 1901 and 1911 census records are to be found at **The National Archives of Ireland** (free access) www.census.nationalarchives.ie.

Wills And Testamentary Records

Prior to 1858 the Church of Ireland was responsible for administering all testamentary affairs. Unfortunately, nearly all original wills probated before 1858 were destroyed in Dublin in 1922. However, indexes to these destroyed wills do exist and are available at **PRONI**, where they can be found under the Name Search database - an index to pre-1858 diocesan wills and administration bonds (free access) www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni.

Prerogative and diocesan copies of some wills and indexes to others, 1596 – 1858 is available online at the **National Archives of Ireland**, as are Will Calendars and Will Registers (free access) www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie.

In 1858 testamentary matters were brought under civil jurisdiction and exercised through District Probate Registries and a Principal Registry in Dublin. **PRONI** holds the transcripts of wills created by the district registries from 1858 to 1900, and then from 1900 on has original copies of wills.

PRONI has an online database for the Will Calendars for the three district registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry covering the period 1858 – 1965 and a number of copy wills are also available to view on the website (free access).

Valuation Records Tithe Applotment Books, 1823 - 1838

The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the Established Church which had been payable in kind, should now be paid in money. A valuation was carried out of the entire county parish by parish to determine how much would be payable by each landowner. The Tithe Applotment Books list the occupiers of titheable land and therefore omit labourers and urban dwellers.

The records are arranged by parish. The records for Northern Ireland are available at PRONI while those for the Republic of Ireland (and some parishes which straddle the border) are available at The National Archives of Ireland (free access) www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie.

Griffith's Valuation, c1860

The Primary Valuation of Ireland, better known as Griffith's Valuation, is the earliest comprehensive listing of all property in Ireland. It is particularly useful if you are trying to locate where in Ireland your ancestor was living in the mid-nineteenth century. It includes the most palatial of mansions as well as the humblest of labourers' cottages. Griffith's Valuation was published between 1847 – 1864 and County Antrim was issued around 1860.

Ask About Ireland (free access) www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/ allows for searches to be undertaken on a family name or a place name. It includes scanned images of the original printed version of Griffith's Valuation and the annotated valuation maps which allow you to pinpoint the precise location of every property in Ireland at that time.

Valuation Revisions

Properties were valued annually from 1864 to the early 1930s and recorded in the annual Valuation Revision Books. Each year valuers recorded changes to:

- the names of occupiers or immediate lessors
- quality or dimensions of the properties,
- any differences in the acreage and value

The changes were recorded in different colours of ink, one colour for each year, and the alterations are usually dated. This can help to establish significant dates in family history, such as dates of death, sale or migration.

The Northern Ireland books have been scanned and are available online at PRONI (free access) apps.proni.gov.uk/Val12B/Search.aspx.



(1) *Larne School Attendance Committee.*

No.	Parent or Guardian.		Address.	Christian Names of Child.	Date of birth.			Name of National School which Child attends.	When admitted.	When left.	in which class efficient elementary instruction.
	Surname.	Christian Name.			Day.	Month.	Year.				
802	<i>McAllister</i>	<i>Alexander</i>	<i>Pound Street.</i>	<i>Samuel.</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1876</i>	<i>St. John's Place.</i>			
803	"	"	"	<i>Louise.</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1900</i>	"			
804	"	"	"	<i>John.</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1901</i>	"			
805	<i>Ogilby.</i>	<i>William</i>	"	<i>Korah.</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1897</i>	<i>Larne & Inver.</i>			
806	"	"	"	<i>Alexander.</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>1899</i>	<i>St. John's Place.</i>			
807	<i>Hell.</i>	<i>William</i>	"	<i>Maggie.</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1901</i>	<i>Larne No. 2.</i>			
				<i>Joseph.</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1902</i>				

Certificate of Registry of Marriage.

Solemnized at the **CHURCH OF ST. BARNABAS**, in the PARISH OF LITTLE ILFORD, in the COUNTY OF ESSEX.

When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
	<i>Archibuff</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Colonial Medical</i>	<i>Waltham Chase</i>	<i>William Fee</i>	<i>Farmer</i>
	<i>Christina</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>Single</i>	<i>Medical</i>	<i>St. James St</i>	<i>McKinney</i>	<i>Successor</i>

VALUATION OF TENEMENTS. PARISH OF BALLYCLUG.

Names.	Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Land	
			A.	R. P. £ s
BALLYKEEL—continued				
TOWN OF BALLYMENA (HARRYVILLE)—continued.				
HENRY STREET—con.				
<i>Hugh Ballantine,</i>	<i>Forge (in rare).</i>			
<i>Same.</i>	<i>Ho., off., yd., & sm. gar.</i>			
<i>Same.</i>	<i>Ho., off., yd., & sm. gar.</i>			
<i>Same.</i>	<i>Ho., off., yd., & sm. gar.</i>			
<i>Same.</i>	<i>Ho., off., yard, & sm. gar.</i>			
<i>Same.</i>	<i>Ho., off., yard, & sm. gar.</i>			

Emigration

Although the first true census It's estimated that 80 million people worldwide claim some Irish descent.

In the **USA** few immigration records exist prior to 1820. A record of Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine 1846-51 may be found at **The National Archives [USA]** (free access) aad.archives.gov.

Those arriving at New York between 1820 – 1891 were registered at **Castle Garden** (free access) www.castlegarden.org and at Ellis Island between 1892 – 1924 (free access) www.libertyellisfoundation.org. Castle Garden and **Ellis Island** records are also available at **Family Search** (free access) www.familysearch.org.

Before 1865 **Canada** was known as British North America and there was no requirement to keep information about immigrants from the United Kingdom. Records from 1865 are held at the **Library and Archives Canada** (free access) www.bac-lac.gc.ca.

More than a third of convicts sent to **Australia and Tasmania** between 1791 and 1853 were sent from Ireland and records may be found in the **Ireland-Australia Transportation Database** (free access) www.nationalarchives.ie/. Pre-1923 immigration records are held by individual state archives and libraries while after that date, immigration records are held by the **National Archives of Australia** www.naa.gov.au.

Archives New Zealand holds immigration records (free access) at archives.govt.nz.

DIPPAM is an online virtual archive of documents and sources related to Ireland and its migration experience from the 18th to the late 20th centuries (free access) www.dippam.ac.uk.

Armed Forces

Different records are available depending upon which branch of the Armed Forces your ancestor served in, i.e. the Army, Navy or Air Force and whether they were an officer or other rank.

The National Archives [Kew] have a range of very helpful Research Guides at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/ with links to records such as Attestation Records, Service Records, Medal Rolls, Pension Lists, Casualty Lists and War Diaries. These records are available at **The National Archives** (free access although fees apply for some), **Ancestry** (fees apply) www.ancestry.co.uk, **Find My Past** (fees apply) www.findmypast.co.uk and **Family Search** (free access) www.familysearch.org.

GENUKI's UK and Ireland Military Records page (free access) also provides links to a wide range of Armed Forces records www.genuki.org.uk/big/MilitaryRecords.

Although conscription was never introduced to Ireland or Northern Ireland during either World War, thousands volunteered to serve. Unfortunately, more than 4 million of 6.5 million service records of servicemen in the First World War were destroyed during the Blitz in WW2.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) honours the 1.7 million men and women of the Commonwealth forces who died in the First and Second World Wars.

Their searchable database (free access) www.cwgc.org provides information about war dead, their next of kin and cemeteries.

Ballymena and The Great War (free access) www.freewebs.com/snake43/home.htm provides information about those from Ballymena and the surrounding area who enlisted during WW1.

Carrickfergus Roll of Honour (free access) carrickfergusrollofhonour.blogspot.com aims to record the details of all those men and women from the Borough of Carrickfergus who served during the Two World Wars.

PRONI has a range of Muster and Pay Lists for Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteer Units from 1620 onwards (free access) that can be searched in person.

The Army Museums Ogilby Trust (free access) www.armymuseums.org.uk/ provides links to over 100 regimental museums throughout the UK.

LIBRARIES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

Local Libraries and Heritage Libraries

Local libraries are frequently overlooked as sources of information on family history, but it is their very 'localness' that makes them such important places to carry out research.

Additional collections of benefit to historians, researchers and genealogists are held in the **nine Heritage Libraries in Northern Ireland** that are located in libraries in Armagh, Belfast, Derry, Downpatrick, Enniskillen, Newry, Omagh, the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies (MCMS) and Ballymena. Ballymena Central Library is well worth a visit for its collection of printed volumes, newspapers, maps and directories.

Other branch libraries have important collections of local material, such as **Carrickfergus Library** which has an excellent collection of local materials.

Belfast Central Library Opened in 1888, Belfast Central Library in Royal Avenue is the city's principal library and houses some 1,000,000 volumes.

Belfast Newspaper Library This is a section within **Belfast Central Library** and holds the largest collection of local newspapers in Northern Ireland, ranging in date from the 18th century to the present day. Newspapers can also be accessed at:

- **Irish Newspaper Archive** (fees apply) www.irishnewsarchive.com
- **British Newspaper Archive** (fees apply) www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk and
- **Find My Past** (fees apply) www.findmypast.co.uk

A database of newspapers published with their dates is to be found at the **National Archives of Ireland** (free access) www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie, while newspaper obituaries have been transcribed at **Eddie's Extracts** (free access) eddieextracts.com.

The Linenhall Library The Linen Hall Library in Donegall Square North was founded in 1788 as the Belfast Reading Society and is the oldest library in Belfast. Its genealogical collection is unsurpassed in Northern Ireland for the sheer numbers of published family histories and has digital collections available online that include postcards of scenes from around Ireland.

National Library of Ireland (NLI) Provides an online catalogue - a range of items have been digitised and are available to view online.

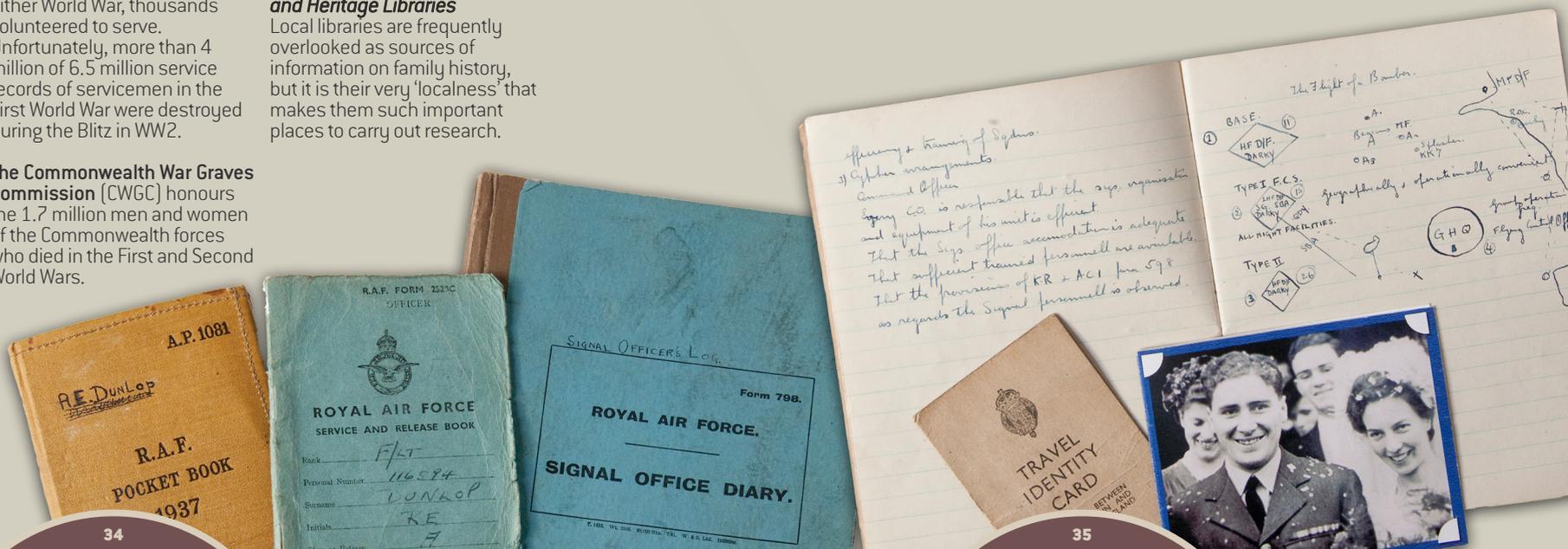
There is also a newspaper database, a sources database (over 180,000 catalogue records for Irish manuscripts and articles in Irish periodicals), a manuscripts collections list, digital photographs (over 33,000 images), the Clonbrock database and the Poole database (both photographic collections). These may be found at www.nli.ie (free access).

Presbyterian Historical Society

The library of the Presbyterian Historical Society is located at Fisherwick Place, Belfast. The emphasis here is obviously on Presbyterian history with a large number of congregational histories.

North of Ireland Family History Society (NIFHS)

There are eleven branches of the North of Ireland Family History Society, (NIFHS) including those in Ballymena, Larne and Newtownabbey; each branch organises a lecture programme and outings during the year.



The **NIFHS Research Centre** based at The Valley Business Centre, Newtownabbey has an extensive library that includes transcribed church, graveyard and newspaper records as well as a comprehensive selection of printed books, pamphlets and journals. The library is open to non-members but has restricted opening hours.

Ulster Historical Foundation

The Ulster Historical Foundation is based at The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street, Belfast where it has its library and research centre. Among the Foundation's electronic resources is a large database of civil and church records. For County Antrim these are principally civil marriage records, 1845 – 1921 and pre-1900 Catholic registers. Most of these records are available via its website www.ancestryireland.com either on a pay-per-view basis or for members only. The Foundation has published several volumes of gravestone inscriptions for east Antrim and has records from other burial grounds across County Antrim and sells a number of local interest publications at www.booksireland.org.uk.

Archives

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) located at the Titanic Quarter in Belfast is one of the best regional archives in the UK.

One of the main features of PRONI'S collections is the fact that they cover both public (i.e. official) and private records. These include thousands of documents relating to the management of the great landed estates, records of many important businesses and records relating to the governance of many of Northern Ireland's towns.

In addition to records already covered in this guide, PRONI has a number of online databases that include:

- e-catalogue (provides information on archival materials)
- Registers of freeholders (naming those qualified to vote)
- Londonderry Corporation Records (from 1673-1901)
- Name Search (In addition to the pre-1858 diocesan wills and administration bonds, there are surviving fragments of the 1740 and 1766 religious census returns and 1775 dissenters petitions)
- Nineteenth-century street directories (particularly useful if looking for a Belfast ancestor)
- The Ulster Covenant of 1912 (naming those who were opposed to Home Rule for Ireland).

Some of the other important categories of records held by PRONI include:

Landed estate records

Until the early part of twentieth century, most of the land in Ireland was possessed by landowners whose estates ranged in size from 1,000 acres or less to, in some cases, over 100,000. Nearly all of the farmers in Ireland were tenants on such estates. The records generated by the management of landed estates are a major source of genealogical information. The best collection of Irish estate papers is housed in PRONI. These records include leases, lease-books, rentals, maps, surveys and valuation. There are excellent records for the Adair estate around Ballymena and the Donegall estate which covered much of south-east County Antrim. The estate records in these collections date back to the early seventeenth century.

School records

The records of almost 1,600 schools in Northern Ireland are held at PRONI. Of particular interest are the enrolment registers. These record the full name of the pupil, his or her date of birth (or age at entry), religion, father's address and occupation (but unfortunately not his name), details of attendance and academic progress and the name of the school previously attended. A list of school records may be found here www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/index-school-collections-proni.

National Archives of Ireland (NAI)

In addition to records mentioned elsewhere in this guide, NAI have a range of online records (free access) that includes Soldiers Wills, Will Calendars, Census Search Forms, Diocesan & Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds, Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls, Valuation Office Books and Shipping Agreements & Crew Lists www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie.

Museum Archives

Individual sites within the Mid and East Antrim Museum and Heritage Service offer some publicly accessible archives of interest to researchers:

- **Carrickfergus Museum** holds a significant amount of archival material including harbour records, Freeman scrolls and town records. The Freeman records date from 1765 and can be searched by card index. The Town Records date from 1765 - 1911 and a short calendar for researchers can be found online at www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/things-to-do/museums-arts/carrickfergus-museum-and-civic-centre/collections-and-research (free access). Carrickfergus Museum's community archive room features local and social history material and also contains information relating to both world wars and local industries.

• **Larne Museum's** permanent displays reflect the agricultural, industrial, military and maritime history of the area. Accounts and memories of local people are available through oral history listening posts and photographs are available to browse in a digital community archive.

- **Mid-Antrim Museum at The Braid** offers artefacts of local interest with themes that include settlement & change, commerce & industry, living off the land and politics & conflict. Information about current exhibitions and a history of the area may be found at www.thebraid.com/museum.aspx. New Perspectives is an online exhibition that examines the Home Rule Crisis and the involvement of key figures from the Nationalist and Unionist movements who lived in or visited mid Antrim newperspectives.thebraid.com/scene.aspx. The museum holds archival material that includes Ballymena Town Rate Books from 1902, Rental Collection Books from 1936, Council Wages Book, Braid Water Spinning Mill employment records from 1868, as well as some employment records from Kane's Foundry and Gallaher's and a small number of school records.

• **Sentry Hill** offers researchers access to its rich archive that includes a range of artefacts of local historical interest and curiosities from around the world.

Professional Genealogy Research Services

At some point, you may find that you need the services of a professional genealogist to help you break down brick walls, access documents that, due to distance, you cannot access yourself or simply because you lack the time or expertise to undertake the research yourself. Rates charged and timescales to undertake work varies and you will need to clarify these before commissioning work. Reputable genealogists will adhere to a Code of Professional Conduct and they should be able to provide you with this upon request.

The following membership organisations have lists of professional genealogists that are available to undertake research work:

- **Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)** - www.apgen.org/index.html
- **Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI)** - accreditedgenealogists.ie
- **Register of Qualified Genealogists (RQG)** - www.qualifiedgenealogists.org
- **Society of Genealogists Northern Ireland (SGNI)** - sgni.net

Please note that neither Mid and East Antrim Borough Council nor Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council endorse or recommend any particular provider.





BIRTHS, DEATHS AND MARRIAGES - CIVIL REGISTRATION

General Register Office Northern Ireland (GRONI)
NISRA, Colby House, Stranmillis Court, Belfast, BT9 5RR

Tel: +44 (0)300 200 7890
Email: gro_nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk
Web: geni.nidirect.gov.uk

General Register Office Ireland (GROI) (Administrative Headquarters):
Government Offices
Convent Road, Roscommon Co. Roscommon, F42 VX53

(Public Research Room):
Werburgh Street, Dublin 2
D08 E277

Tel: +353 (0)90 663 2999
Email: gro@groireland.ie
Web: www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/GRO_Research.aspx
(Online Certificates and Indexes)
Web: www.irishgenealogy.ie/en

LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES AND RESEARCH CENTRES

Ballymena Central Library
5 Pat's Brae, Ballymena
County Antrim, BT43 5AX

Tel: 028 2563 3950
Email: ballymena.library@librariesni.org.uk
Web: www.librariesni.org.uk

Belfast Central Library
Royal Avenue, Belfast
County Antrim, BT1 1AE

Tel: 028 9050 9150
Email: belfast.central@libraries.org.uk
Web: www.librariesni.org.uk

Linenhall Library
17 Donegall Square North
Belfast, BT1 5GD

Tel: 028 9032 1707
Email: info@linenhall.com
Web: linenhall.com

National Library of Ireland
7 - 8 Kildare Street
Dublin 2, D02 P638

Tel: +353 (0)1 603 0200
Email: info@nli.ie
Web: www.nli.ie

National Archives of Ireland
Bishop Street, Dublin 8
D08 DF85

Tel: +353 (0)1 407 2300
Email: query@nationalarchives.ie
Web: www.nationalarchives.ie

Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI)
2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast
BT3 9HQ

Tel: 028 9053 4800
Email: proni@communities-ni.gov.uk
Web: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

North of Ireland Family History Society (NIFHS)
Research Centre and Office
Unit 4, Valley Business Centre
67 Church Road
Newtownabbey, BT36 7LS

Email: nquire@nifhs.org
Web: www.nifhs.org

Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland
Assembly Buildings
Fisherwick Place, Belfast
County Antrim, BT1 6DW

Tel: 028 9041 7299
Email: phslibrarian@pcinet.org
Web: www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com

Ulster Historical Foundation
The Corn Exchange
31 Gordon Street, Belfast
BT1 2LG

Tel: 028 9066 1988
Email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk
Web: www.ancestryireland.com

MUSEUMS

Mid-Antrim Museum At The Braid
1-29 Bridge Street
Ballymena Borough Council
BT43 5EJ

Tel: 028 2563 5077
Email: BraidMuseum@midandeastantrim.gov.uk
Web: www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/museums

Carrickfergus Museum and Civic Centre
11 Antrim Street
Carrickfergus, BT38 7DG

Tel: 028 9335 8241
Email: carrickfergusmuseums@midandeastantrim.gov.uk
Web: www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/museums

Larne Museum And Arts Centre
2 Victoria Road
Larne, BT40 1RN

Tel: 028 2826 2443
Email: marian.kelso@midandeastantrim.gov.uk
Web: www.midandeastantrim.gov.uk/museums

Museum At The Mill
Mossley Mill, Carnmoney Road
Newtownabbey, County Antrim
BT36 50A

Tel: 028 9034 0129
Email: museums@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
Web: antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/museumatthemill

Pogue's Entry Historical Cottage
Church Street, Antrim
County Antrim, BT41 4BA

Tel: 028 9448 1338
Email: clotworthy.reception@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
Web: www.visitantrimandnewtownabbey.com

Sentry Hill Historic House & Visitor Centre
40 Ballycraig Road
Newtownabbey
County Antrim, BT36 4SX

Tel: 028 9083 2363
Email: museums@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
Web: www.sentryhill.net

