



From the Convener

Well this is my last letter as Convenor of the Irish Group. Betty Vanderlande and Mark Donald have kindly taken over my job. Betty is going to organize the financial and membership side of the club and Mark is going to do the newsletter and the Convenors job on the day of the meeting. Val Williams is our telephone contact. Elaine Dickson is in charge of the afternoon teas and I will be look out for guest speakers. If you have any ideas for guest speakers please let us know.

Our next guest speaker will be Brian Corr who was such a great success when we had him speak last year and when he offered to come again to talk about Michael Collins I was delighted as I 'm sure you will be.

I have enjoyed being convenor and getting to know and enjoy the company of everyone of the group and learning more about Ireland and researching from you all. Happy researching.

Sandra (Ex Convenor)

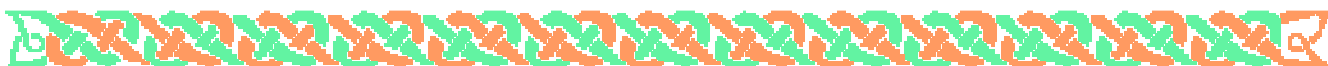
April 2010

Volume 13 No 9

ISSN 1039-5490

Features

| | |
|---|---|
| <i>Notice From PRONI</i> | 2 |
| <i>Meeting Dates</i> | 3 |
| <i>An Irish Brick Wall Crumbles</i> | |
| <i>Useful Websites</i> | 4 |
| <i>An Irish Brick Wall Crumbles Contd</i> | |
| <i>Probate Records</i> | 5 |
| <i>Brick Walls-Irish Research</i> | 6 |
| <i>Traditions</i> | 7 |
| <i>Province of Munster County Names</i> | |



Anyone who is intended to visit Northern Ireland for Family Research please note

NOTICE FROM DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE
24 March 2010

PRONI Self-Service Facility to move to Cregagh Library

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has announced that its Self-Service Facility will temporarily move to Cregagh Library from September.

The move is to allow for the relocation of PRONI from its current base on Balmoral Avenue to a new facility in Belfast's Titanic Quarter.

A popular family history resource, which includes church records, the Self-Service Facility allows researchers to look at the records via microfilm.

Director of PRONI Aileen McClintock said: "Moving the Self-Service Facility is one of several measures PRONI is taking to allow uninterrupted access to a significant quantity of our records while we relocate to our new headquarters."

In advance of the closure, PRONI is also taking steps to increase the volume and range of material available to researchers online. The 19th century street directories are now available through the website and additional sources for family history research will be uploaded in the coming months.

PRONI has worked with Libraries NI – the new single library service for Northern Ireland – to make sure these popular family history resources will continue to be available for research during this time.

This will further strengthen the commitment to strategic partnership between Libraries NI and PRONI who work closely together to provide access to heritage resources.

See www.proni.gov.uk or call 9025 5907 for more information.

Notes to editors:

1. The construction of the new Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast's Titanic Quarter is currently on programme for completion and handover in August 2010 – following that it will take up to eight months to move the archives to the new headquarters.

2. Cregagh Library is located near the upper end of the Cregagh Road, off Upper Knockbreda Road. It is a 10-minute drive from PRONI's current site at Balmoral Avenue and it is on a direct bus route (No. 6A) from Belfast City Centre. Customer parking is available on site and also in the surrounding area. There is full disabled access.

3. Media enquiries should be addressed to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure Press Office. Tel (028) 9051 5047 or email press.office@dcalni.gov.uk. Out of office hours please contact the Duty Press Officer via pager number 07699 715 440 and your call will be returned.

Hills as green as emeralds
Cover the countryside
Lakes as blue as sapphires-
And Ireland's special pride
And rivers that shine like silver
Make Ireland look so fair-
But the friendliness
of her people
Is the richest treasure there.



| | |
|--|--|
| <p>2010 Meetings: 2pm start we will be in Unit 5. as the S.West group is in 4</p> <p>Sunday 18th July</p> <p>Sunday 17th October</p> <p>Venue: Unit 5, WAGS Rooms May Street Bayswater</p> | <p><i>The Route Back Home 2010 Family History Festival</i></p> <p>Ballymoney Town Hall 1-2 October</p> <p>2010 email: museum@ballymoney.gov.uk</p> <p>IFHF have added 52,000 Church of Ireland records for Co Wicklow to their pay-per-view website. See http://wicklow.brsgenealogy.com</p> |
|--|--|

An Irish Brick Wall Crumbles

I began my quest to learn about my roots in 1986, following the death of my mother. Dad had pre-deceased her 20 years earlier.

On my maternal lines, I was helped substantially by the wife of a cousin. All of my lines have South Australian connections and this lady had resided in suburban Adelaide and provided what she then knew for publication in the 1986 edition of BISA. I have since located other researching cousins and progressed further.

We knew that my 2 X great grandfather, John FORD had married at Greenough Flats (near Geraldton) in 1863 and had 3 daughters before that family group proceeded to South Australia in 1876. The Acting Senior Librarian of the Battye Library in Perth had informed me in 1992 as follows:

The Inquirer newspaper of 17 May 1876 listed a Mr. & Mrs. Ford and family (3) as traveling on the brig "Laughing Wave" to Port Adelaide.

The Inquirer gave 13 May as the departure date but *The West Australian Times* gave 14 May and the Fremantle Harbour registers recorded 12 May – take your pick!

When and how had John arrived in Western Australia? There were a number of possibilities, including some with the FORDE spelling, based on information published in the reference books "Bond" and "Free" and other works.

The Geraldton Family Society (Joan Downes) was very helpful with information from local sources. I had joined WAGS in 1993, and over time, had asked and was rewarded with what the Research ladies (Jean Isles in particular) the Convict SIG, the Irish SIG and others were able to locate.

Contd.....p4

Irishman went to a pet shop and asked how many budgies were in stock. "We have 99" replied the shop owner "Give us the lot" said the Irish man, paid for them and left. He went to a tailors shop and had 99 pockets sewn into a jacket, put a budgie in each pocket, went up to the Post Office Tower and jumped off. He hit the ground with an almighty smack and lay there groaning until a passer-by came and asked him what had happened. "I don't know sur" he replied "but that's the last time I try that budgie jumping".



Useful Websites

www.tcd.ie/history/1641 Depositions from aftermath of 1641 Rebellion, or explore full history at <http://1641.eneclann.ie>

Munster Marriage Records Online <http://www.genwed.com/UK/Ireland/Munster-Marriage-Records.htm> This website has links to Christening Marriage and Cemetery <http://www.cmcrp.net/Cork>

<http://www.limerickgealogy.com> and <http://www.limerickcity.ie> for Quaker records

Contd from Page 3

It was a process of elimination of the various Johns to determine which was the one that went east. To complicate the matter, there was conflicting detail between the South Australian certificate of death of my ancestor and an obituary published shortly after that event.

When I received the September 2009 issue of *Western Ancestor* I, as usual, devoured every morsel that it held. One thing grabbed my attention – there was a publication stated as being accessioned into the WAGS library in the previous quarter. The title was very explicit, “Listing of Bond or Imperial Convicts Who Left the Colony from October 1875 to December 1900”. I figured that if the John FORD who left on the “Laughing Wave” got a mention, I would have confirmed that he had arrived on Australian soil as a convict. I emailed Audrey Holland, the Convenor of the WAGS Convict Group. She very kindly and promptly checked that new acquisition and confirmed my suspicions. She then copied relevant parts of the book and mailed them to me. The author of the book, Brian Perdue, stated that the alphabetical list of people’s names was extracted from Police Gazettes held at the Alexander Library in Perth. There, among the “F”’s was: FORD John
88, 92/1876 2510 13/5/1876 Adelaide

The number “88” is the page number and the “92/1876” is the Gazette number and the year of departure. The best bit – the “2510” was his Convict number, noted and suspected ever since I first sighted the Irish Government Bicentenary gift in 1988.

I was boasting about this result at a gathering of my local Genealogy group at Liverpool, NSW. Another member, who was more familiar with the resources we now have at our new location at the Liverpool Regional Museum, called one up on a computer and asked me the name of my ancestor. His effort then resulted in the following information:

The following description of the under mentioned expire convict, who arrived in South Australia during the past week, is published for the information of the police only:

John Ford, tried in Galway, Ireland, Ireland, in 1848, for cattle stealing, and transported for seven years; sentence expired nineteen years ago.

That detail was published in the South Australian Police Gazette of May 31, 1876. While John’s Convict number was not stated, the other information ties in with No. 2510. Remember, this was at a time when South Australia had passed an Act to discourage convicts entering their borders, especially from the West.

WAGS member 4600 Mr Reg BONNEY



Probate Records

Most pre 1922 wills did not survive however the indexes are available. Before the Probate Act of 1857, the C of I was responsible for Pre 1858 wills & admons in its own diocese, unless worth more than £5 in another diocese when it would go to Prerogative Court under authority of Archbishop of Armagh. 1858-1900 – PRONI holds microfilm (MIC/15C) of transcript copies for wills relating to Northern Ireland i.e. Londonderry, Belfast & Armagh; originals were destroyed in Dublin 1922., the indexes for these are now available online at PRONI. It is at the first phase of a project to index and digitize all the early wills that were proved in the District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry from 1858 to c.1900. The second phase will link the index entries to both the will calendar entries and the copy wills on the [History of Probate page](#) on the PRONI website. CD Index of Irish Wills 1484-1858 in our library. Check Probate Index for England and Wales (microfiche in our library) as some Irish wills are here at the end of the year. Registry of Deeds also has some wills information.

Irish Will Calendars, 1878-1900

Provide specific information including surname and first name of testator, county in Ireland or overseas country of residence and death, date of death and year of probate.

E.g. 38263 John McMurtry
Date Of Death 10/06/1888
Date Of Grant 19/09/1888
Effects £38 19s. 11d
Registry Belfast

Full Abstract:

Letters of Administration of the personal estate of John M'Murtry late of Blackhead Islandmagee County Antrim Seaman who died 10 June 1888 at Sea were granted at Belfast to Mary Eliza M'Murtry of Blackhead Islandmagee the Widow

Post 1900 Wills

These can be located using Will Calendars e.g.

Examples of 1917 Will and Admon:-

McCLOSKEY Mary [62] 26 January Probate of the Will of Mary McCloskey late of 19 Crane Street, Belfast, Spinster who died 22 December 1916 granted at Belfast to Catherine Meehan, Spinster, Effects £9 6s.

MULLIN Bridget [176] 6 December Administration of the Estate of Bridget Mullin late of Ballintrain, Co Tyrone, Spinster, who died 26 April 1898 granted at Londonderry to Mary Mullin, Spinster, Effects £22 14s 4½d.

Registry of Deeds www.landregistry.ie

The Irish Registry of Deeds was founded in Dublin in 1708 and was responsible for all Deeds, Conveyances and Wills after 25 March 1708, but was not compulsory. It included details of lease, mortgage, conveyance and annuities, rents, rights of way, wills, dissolution of partnerships etc. There are 2 main series: The Names Index of Grantors and The Lands Index. E.g. the Land Index is divided in two sections, one by townland arranged alphabetically by barony; while in the other they are arranged alphabetically by county irrespective of barony.

Source: PRONI and similar information available at National Archives Dublin

cont.....P6



TRADITIONS

CHRISTMAS—WHITEWASHING THE HOUSE

In many rural areas of Ireland still today the custom of whitewashing the outhouses and stores prevails. At one time, it was the whole farm, inside and out. The women would scrub and polish everything till it shone, and the men would take a bucket of whitewash, or lime wash, and purify everything in honour of the coming of the Christchild.

This custom goes back long before Christianity or even Celtic civilization. It was a purifying ceremony from the most ancient of times, the ancient Mesopotamians, 4000BC would cleanse their homes, sweep the streets even, in an attempt to assist their god in his battle against the powers of chaos. And in Central European lore, it was believed that the deity, Frigg, would check all the thresholds of each house to make sure they were swept clean. The links are so tightly intertwined, it becomes difficult to separate one belief from another, Christmas is like a Tapestry, tightly and colourfully woven. It is almost impossible to find a thread and trace it to its beginning in the picture. From this ancient custom comes the modern traditions of putting up fresh curtains, a special Christmas Bedcover, cushions and table linens etc. The whitewashing of the house.

HALLOWEEN

The Celts celebrated Halloween as Samhain, 'All Hallowtide' - the 'Feast of the Dead', when the dead revisited the mortal world. The celebration marked the end of Summer and the start of the Winter months. During the eighth century the Catholic Church designated the first day of November as 'All Saints Day ('All Hallows')' - a day of commemoration for those Saints that did not have a specific day of remembrance. The night before was known as 'All Hallows Eve' which, over time, became known as Halloween.

WEDDING

Bunratty Meade is a honey wine that's served at the Bunratty Castle medieval banquet, it's from a recipe based on the oldest drink in Ireland. In the old days, it was consumed at weddings because it was thought that it promoted virility. (If a baby was born nine months after the wedding, it was attributed to the mead!) Couples also drank it from special goblets for a full month following the wedding, which is supposedly where we get the word honeymoon. This was to protect the couple from the fairies coming to spirit the bride away.

Ancient custom: couples ate salt and oatmeal at the beginning of their reception: Each of them took three mouthfuls at the beginning of their reception as a protection against the power of the evil eye. Also, when a couple is dancing, the bride can't take both feet off the floor because the fairies will get the upper hand. Fairies love beautiful things and one of their favorites is a bride.

Province of Munster

The name "Munster" derives from the old Irish kingdom of *mumu* and the Norse word *stadir* ("homestead").

Co Clare (An Clar) Not sure of it's meaning, perhaps one of our members could enlighten us. In my pocket dictionary the word **clar** means board, plank, table of contents, menu, programme etc.

Co Cork (Corcaigh) derives its name from the marshy land.

Co Kerry (Ciarrai) stems from Ciar (son of Fergus, King of Ulster), whose descendants occupied this part of Munster.

Co Tipperary (Tiobraid Arann) is derived from the Irish 'Tiobraid Arann', the well of Era, referring to the River Ara

Co Limerick (Luimneach) is derived from the Irish 'Luimneach',

Co Waterford (Port Lairge) Derived from the Viking 'Vethrafjorthr' meaning weather haven.