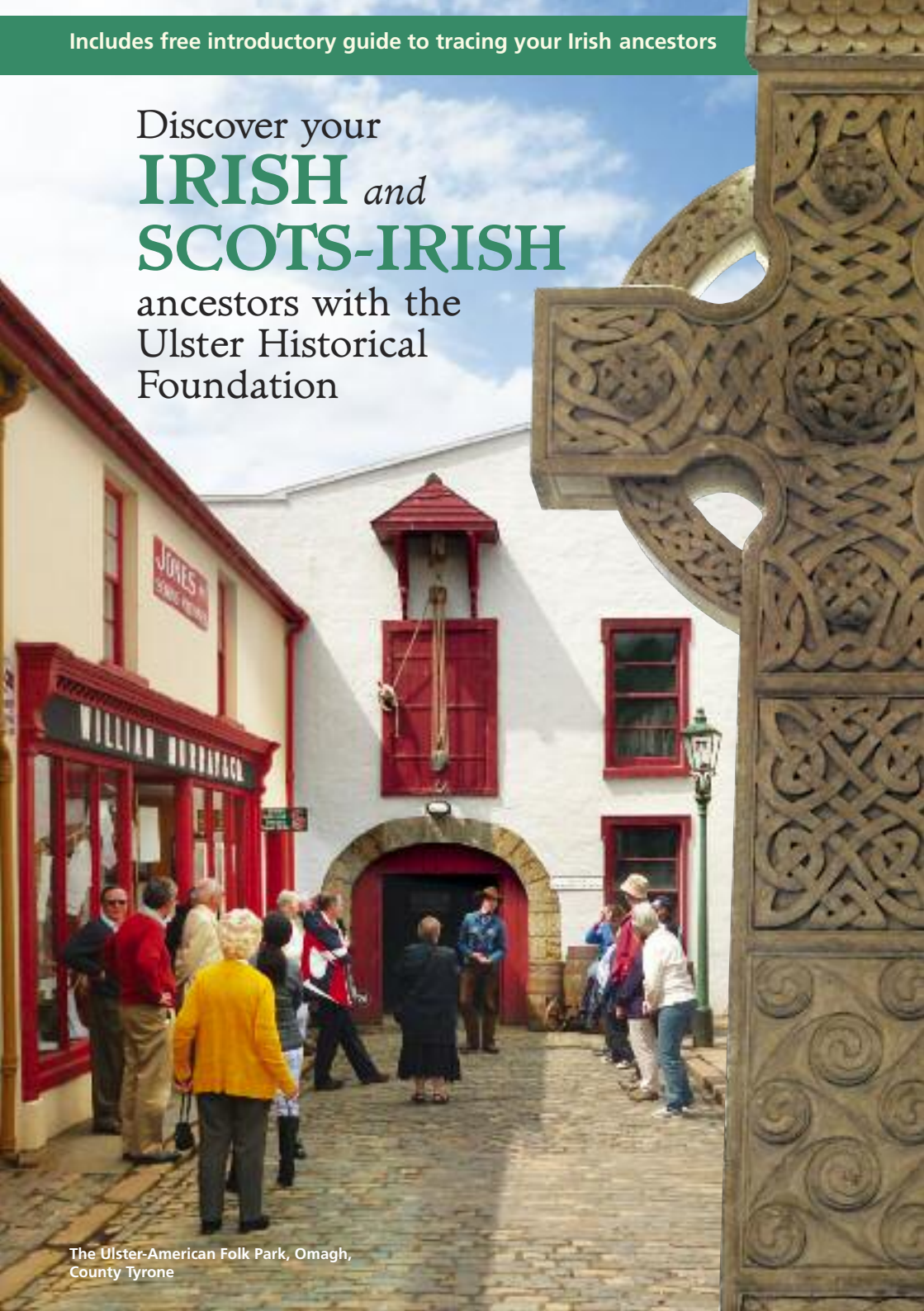


Includes free introductory guide to tracing your Irish ancestors

Discover your
IRISH *and*
SCOTS-IRISH

ancestors with the
Ulster Historical
Foundation



The Ulster-American Folk Park, Omagh,
County Tyrone

Founded in 1956, the Ulster Historical Foundation is a long-established, highly reputable research and publishing agency. We have been conducting genealogical research in the archives for 60 years and have helped tens of thousands of people discover more about their Irish and Scots-Irish roots.



The Corn Exchange, Belfast, the home of the Ulster Historical Foundation

The Foundation is an educational non-profit organisation. Our aim is to encourage an interest in the history of the province of Ulster; promote a positive image of Northern Ireland overseas; strengthen the links between Ireland and those of Ulster descent; broaden access to historical documents and records for Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy; and to inspire pride in Irish and Ulster heritage and culture.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO THE TOWNSHIPS AND TOWNS OF IRELAND.

No. of Sheet of the Ordnance Survey Map.	Township or Town.	Area in Statute Acres.	County.	Barony.	Parish.	Post-Office Union in 1857.	Townland Census of 1851. Part I.	Vol.	Page
1	Derrygarry	161 1 25	Monaghan	Trough	Keirigal Droghda	Clogher	III.	294	
57, 26, 46	Derrygonnigan	522 1 25	Tyrone	Derrygonnigan Upper	Derrygonnigan	Coontown	III.	187	
81, 52	Derrygonnigan	773 8 0	Down	West Muskerry	Derrygonnigan	Derrygonnigan	II.	187	
24, 53	Derrygonnigan	229 2 25	Tyrone	Derrygonnigan Middle	Clashadee	Derrygonnigan	III.	219	
23, 28	Derrygonnigan	147 0 15	Down	Upper Muskerry	Urney	Carra	III.	20	
45	Derrygonnigan	145 2 25	Down	Upper Muskerry	Derrygonnigan	Ardara	III.	24	
37	Derrygonnigan	82 2 18	Down	Derrygonnigan	Clashadee	Westport	IV.	121	
40, 41	Derrygonnigan	418 4 25	Down	Clashadee, K.I.L.	Derrygonnigan	Malone	II.	24	
21, 22	Derrygonnigan	483 1 2	Down	Clashadee	Derrygonnigan	Malone	II.	24	

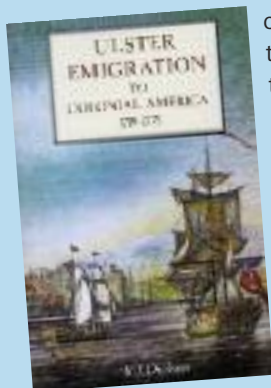


Research Officer,
Gillian Hunt, Memphis TN,
March 2014

Over these years the Ulster Historical Foundation has developed into one of the principal genealogical research agencies in Ireland and a leading publisher of quality historical, educational and genealogical books. It also operates a membership association called the Ulster Historical and Genealogical Guild, the aim of which is to bring together people from all over the world in their quest to discover Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

The Foundation is one of the few organisations that is actively engaging with family historians in Ireland and North America. Each year we organise a North American lecture tour while members of staff speak at other genealogy events in the United States and Canada. Through our family history conferences we bring genealogists to the archives in Belfast and Dublin and provide hands-on assistance with research.

Ulster Historical Foundation is entirely self-funded. We depend on the support of our customers and members to continue to provide the range of services that we currently offer.



The Foundation's first publication: R.J. Dickson's 1966 classic study of eighteenth century migration from Ulster to North America



Family history conferences 15-22 June 2016

The Foundation's family history conferences allow you to trace your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. You can learn about the history of Ireland and your ancestors' lives and migration experiences first-hand through assisted research with our expert genealogists in the Belfast and Dublin archives, complemented by excursions through Ireland's beautiful landscape to some of our most historic sites.

Public Record
Office of Northern
Ireland, Belfast



Dunluce
Castle,
County
Antrim

15-22 June 2016

DAY

- 1 Evening reception and get-together
- 2 Research in PRONI or visit to Titanic Belfast
- 3 Research in PRONI or visit to Giant's Causeway
- 4 Visit to Derry and Donegal
- 5 Free day
- 6 Research in Dublin archives or tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Trinity College
- 7 Research in PRONI or visit to Boyne Valley
- 8 Research in PRONI or visit to Ulster-American Folk Park and Barons Court

For full details of this programme go to:

www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/summer-2016

'This conference was extraordinary. It was exceptionally well organized by the most accommodating and professional people – not to mention their wonderful sense of humour. Although I wasn't able to learn any more about my own ancestors, I did learn a great deal and have new sources of information to explore. Then perhaps another visit to Belfast is in my future. Thank you for a memorable experience.'

Jacque Leeper, Georgia, USA



Early bird offer: \$999 before 29 February 2016
Full price: \$1075 after 29 February 2016

Throughout our conferences, our experienced and expert research staff will be on hand in the archives to provide you with the advice you need to help find your ancestors. They will be available to direct you to sources that could be helpful in your quest for more information on your forebears, and will be ready to assist with reading difficult handwriting and understanding more about the documents you will be consulting.

‘What a wonderful week this was, I cannot believe just how many places that we all visited together, thank you so much to everyone involved in all the hard work for giving us such a wonderful time, I also met up with many new friends.’

Kay Howard, Essex, England



The Nomadic, Titanic Belfast, the Paint Hall and original Harland & Wolff offices

In addition, our staff and expert colleagues from kindred organisations will be with delegates during the tours, so even if you are taking a break from actual research to visit one of our superb attractions, you will still be able to speak with them about your research interests and priorities throughout the week. And when we go to Dublin to visit the archives and repositories our staff will be joined by colleagues – some of the most experienced genealogists in Dublin – to help maximise your time during the day.



4–10 September 2016

DAY

- 1 Evening reception and get-together
- 2 Research in PRONI or visit to Titanic Belfast
- 3 Visit to Derry and Donegal
- 4 Research in PRONI or visit to Boyne Valley
- 5 Research in Dublin archives or tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Trinity College
- 6 Research in PRONI or visit to Ulster-American Folk Park and Barons Court
- 7 Visit to the Glens of Antrim and the Giant’s Causeway

For full details of this programme go to:

www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn-2016

Early bird offer: \$999 before 29 February 2016
Full price: \$1075 after 29 February 2016



Eastern passage at Knowth, Brú na Bóinne, County Meath

Participants are also able to avail of our research assessment service, where we complete a preliminary report, and advise on search strategies for the duration of the conference, for each delegate who submits a completed research questionnaire. These are prepared in advance of our conferences, providing you with the opportunity to consider the contents and plan your research accordingly or peruse the online catalogues for PRONI and the National Library prior to arrival. The research assessment is also an ideal tool to help those with limited archival experience get started in the archives in Belfast and Dublin.

11-17 June 2017

DAY

- 1 Evening reception and get-together
- 2 Research in PRONI or visit to Titanic Belfast
- 3 Research in PRONI or visit to Derry and Donegal
- 4 Research in PRONI or visit to Enniskillen and the Fermanagh Lakelands
- 5 Research in Dublin archives or tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Trinity College
- 6 Research in PRONI or visit to Ulster-American Folk Park and Barons Court
- 7 Visit to the Glens of Antrim and the Giant's Causeway

For full details of this programme go to:

www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference-2017

This very practical, hands-on support for family historians, blended with our array of fascinating tours to some of Ireland's most appealing attractions is what makes attending the Foundation's family history conference a truly unique and memorable experience.

'Loved this conference last month [September 2015] and so glad I visited the Antrim coast. Wonderfully organized and learned so much history. Highly recommend.'

Maureen Hanlon,
California, USA

The great mound of Knowth from the western entrance



Early bird offer: \$999 before 29 February 2016
Full price: \$1099 after 29 February 2016

'If it is as wonderful and helpful as your September family history conference, everyone is in for a great time. Everything was great from our guides on the tours, to helpful staff at PRONI and the other places of records/deeds/archives ... I now have an understanding of where to look, where to go, and best of all, I was travelling through the same countryside as my ancestors had lived. Met some interesting people in my co-attendees of the conference and some great staff from UHF. Thanks to all of them and wishing the new folks good success! Oh, and bring clothes a bit baggy because the food was wonderful!!!'

Jane Jackson, Ontario, Canada

When we visit Dublin participants will have the opportunity to tour the historic Kilmainham Gaol, where the leaders of many Irish rebellions were detained, including Robert Emmet, Eamon de Valera, and those executed following the Easter Rising of 1916.

The Dublin tour will also visit Trinity College – renowned seat of learning, (the oldest university in Ireland) and home to the magisterial Book of Kells. This 9th-century gospel manuscript is housed in the university's Old Library which also contains 200,000 of the library's oldest books (in the magnificent Long Room).

Should you prefer to spend more time savouring the enchanting landscape and historic sites of your ancestors, each day there will be a visit to some of Ireland's best visitor attractions.

Tour highlights include: visits to Titanic Belfast, the Giant's Causeway and the Glens of Antrim coastal drive, the famous Walls of Derry and the hills of Donegal, the Ulster-American Folk Park and afternoon tea at Barons Court, home of the Duke of Abercorn.

Barons Court, County Tyrone



3-9 September 2017

DAY

- 1 Evening reception and get-together
- 2 Research in PRONI or visit to Titanic Belfast
- 3 Research in PRONI or visit to Ulster-American Folk Park and Barons Court
- 4 Research in PRONI or visit to the City of Armagh (ancient ecclesiastical capital) and the medieval town of Carlingford
- 5 Research in Dublin archives or tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Trinity College
- 6 Research in PRONI or visit to Derry and Donegal
- 7 Visit to the Glens of Antrim and the Giant's Causeway

For full details of this programme go to:

www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference-2017

Early bird offer: \$999 before 29 February 2016
Full price: \$1099 after 29 February 2016

What is included in the price?

For all those taking part in our **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors** conferences the following is included:

- Six evening meals
- Six lunches
- Four morning teas/coffees
- Transport during the event (from the designated drop-off and pick-up point)
- Talks and tours
- Entrance fees
- Research assistance by professional genealogists

These conferences sell out fast – so book your place now!

Travel and accommodation

Please note that travel to and from Northern Ireland and accommodation are not included in the price, and delegates will need to make their own reservations for accommodation during the Tracing your Irish Ancestors conferences. There are, however, a number of hotels in Belfast's historic Cathedral Quarter which would merit consideration.

Malmaison Belfast

www.malmaison.com/locations/belfast

Merchant Hotel

www.themerchanthotel.com

Ramada Encore

www.ramada.co.uk/hotels/united-kingdom/belfast/ramada-encore-belfast-city-centre/hotel-overview

Premier Inn

www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/northern-ireland/antrim/belfast/belfast-city-cathedral-quarter.html

The Malmaison and Merchant hotels are located in historic buildings and have an excellent reputation but can be expensive. The Ramada Encore and Premier Inn would be cheaper options. Alternatively, you may wish to stay elsewhere in Belfast or its vicinity. Go to www.discovernorthernireland.com to check out accommodation options.

The Ramada Encore, Belfast will be the pick-up and drop-off point for the duration of the Tracing your Irish Ancestors conferences. Delegates not staying at this hotel will be expected to make their own way here to take part in the tours and outings.



The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



Guides and speakers

During the conference you will be assisted in your research and enjoy talks from a range of acknowledged experts in Irish genealogy, history, migration and archives. They include:

Fintan Mullan

Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and a regular speaker on the North American circuit, having given genealogical lectures in over 30 states and provinces.

Dr William Roulston

Research Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and author of *Abercorn: The Hamiltons of Barons Court* and *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors*.

Gillian Hunt

Research Officer with the Ulster Historical Foundation and regular presenter and speaker on Irish genealogy across the British Isles and North America.

Dr Glynn Kelso

Curatorial Officer at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and a member of the Archives and Records Association Learning and Education Committee.

Dr Brian Lambkin

Director of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park and co-author of *Migration in Irish History, 1607-2007*.

Dr Patrick Fitzgerald

Lecturer and Development Officer, Mellon Centre for Migration Studies and co-author of *Migration in Irish History, 1607-2007*.

Mellon Centre for Migration Studies

Located in the grounds of the Ulster-American Folk Park, the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies is an accessible and user friendly research library. The Centre houses an extensive collection of materials including 17,000 books, primary source documents, maps, periodicals and the Irish Emigration Database.

Libraries and archives

Participants at the Tracing your Irish Ancestors conferences will have the opportunity to visit the following libraries and archives:

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast is one of the best regional archives in the UK. It holds centuries of records relating to the province of Ulster and the families that have lived here. One of the main features of PRONI's collections is the fact that they cover both public (i.e. official) and private records.

National Archives of Ireland

The National Archives in Dublin holds the records of the modern Irish State which document its historical evolution and the creation of its national identity. Their holdings relate to all parts of Ireland and provide essential primary source material for people seeking to understand the political, economic and social forces which have shaped the Irish Nation.

National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland, located on Kildare Street in the centre of Dublin, was established by the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act, 1877. In addition to its huge book and newspaper holdings, the National Library has an extensive collection of estate papers.

Registry of Deeds, Dublin

The Registry of Deeds in Henrietta Street, Dublin, holds material relating to land transactions from 1708 when it opened. It is one of the most valuable sources of ancestral information for the eighteenth century.



The Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh, County Tyrone



Research Officer, Gillian Hunt presents a 'Causeway tartan' tie to door-prize winner, Memphis TN, March 2014

North American lecture tours

Ulster Historical Foundation has been bringing its historical research expertise and knowledge of Irish archives to North America since 1979, delivering Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy programmes through our annual lecture tours.

The Foundation is the only Irish historical research organisation undertaking regular and extensive family history lecture tours across the North American continent. The presenters are from one of Ireland's foremost genealogy research organisations and one of the very few agencies within the British Isles to travel regularly to share its knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for Irish archives with American and Canadian audiences.

Our workshops are in-depth and highly educational programmes. Offering full-day and half-day or evening events, the speakers deliver presentations on a wide-range of Irish historical and genealogical subjects. The seminars provide very practical and detailed information on how to trace your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

Executive Director, Fintan Mullan,
Williamsburg VA, March 2015

The sessions help the beginner and the seasoned genealogist alike: from the basics (for those new to Irish genealogy) to guidance and research tips on utilising obscure and unusual archival sources for 17th- and 18th-century research. Moreover our programmes are of value to researchers, no matter where your ancestors originate on the island of Ireland.

These expert sessions demonstrate how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, provide strategies for breaking down brick walls, and provide important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research. The programmes include 'Solving your brick-walls' – a practical internet tutorial where the speakers use online resources and their local knowledge to offer participants tips and specific advice about their personal research interests.

This year our Executive Director, Fintan Mullan, and Research Officer, Gillian Hunt, will speak in thirteen locations across North America from 05 to 22 March 2016, including: I I

Saturday	05-Mar-16	Toronto, ON
Sunday	06-Mar-16	Boston, MA
Tuesday	08-Mar-16	Philadelphia, PA
Wednesday	09-Mar-16	Leesburg VA
Thursday	10-Mar-16	Newberry, Chicago, IL
Friday	11-Mar-16	Salt Lake City, UT
Saturday	12-Mar-16	Portland, OR
Sunday	13-Mar-16	Portland, OR
Monday	14-Mar-16	Chehalis, WA
Wednesday	16-Mar-16	Fountaindale, IL
Thursday	17-Mar-16	Memphis, TN
Saturday	19-Mar-16	Pittsburgh, PA
Sunday	20-Mar-16	York Co., PA
Tuesday	22-Mar-16	Halifax, NS



Gillian Hunt, book stall, Ottawa ON, March 2015

All of our events are open to the general public as well as members of the host organisations. Full details of March 2016 programme, including times, venues and booking information can be found on our website at:

www.ancestryireland.com/northamericantour2016

Our staff are happy to travel to any location where we are invited to speak and can offer a wide range of lectures which we tailor to suit a group's needs. If you or your local society are interested in hosting a workshops in 2017 or 2018, please contact the Foundation by emailing: enquiry@uhf.org.uk.

Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss the Foundation's Irish and Scots-Irish workshops!

The Ulster Historical Foundation is one of the leading publishers on the island of Ireland and as far as production values are concerned, is second to none for the quality of its books.

Since 1966 the Foundation has been publishing books that look at the relationship between Ulster and North America. Our very first book was *Ulster Emigration to Colonial America, 1718–1775*, by R.J. Dickson, a volume that has never been out of print.

Other titles include:

Essays in Scotch-Irish History (ed. E.R.R. Green), *Scotch-Irish Merchants in Colonial America* (Richard MacMaster), *From Ulster to America: The Scotch-Irish Heritage of American English* (Michael Montgomery), *Them Wild Woods: An Irish Quaker Family's Transatlantic Correspondence 1818–1877* (Bill Jackson), and *From Ulster to Canada: The Life and Times of Wilson Benson* (W.J. Smyth and Cecil Houston)

Code: rootstech16

Use this money-off coupon code to receive 15% discount on all books published by the Ulster Historical Foundation – www.booksireland.org.uk





I have never known any distress that an hour's reading did not relieve.

MONTESQUIEU

Among the genealogical titles produced by the Foundation, *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The essential genealogical guide to Early Modern Ulster* by William J. Roulston, provides a detailed overview of pre-1800 records for tracing your roots in the north of Ireland, including a parish by parish listing of available sources.

The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of the 1830s provide a fascinating account of life across much of the north of Ireland on the eve of the Great Famine. These have now been published in 40 volumes and are available to purchase from the Foundation.



We have hundreds of Irish history and genealogy books and eBooks available on our bookstore, booksireland.org.uk.

Our membership association, the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild, was established in 1978 to provide a forum for the Irish and Scots-Irish genealogical community to share their knowledge with other researchers across the world.



Trinity College, Dublin

It is designed to give you – the local and family historian – access to a range of specialist resources and services that you will find invaluable in your quest to complete your research. Consider the following member benefits:

Publications

Guild members receive two annual publications – *Familia: Ulster Genealogical Review* and the *Directory of Irish Family History Research*. Guild members are welcome to make submissions for publication in *Familia* and the *Directory*.

Share your research interests

A key attraction of membership is to have your own research interests shared with other members through our annual *Directory* as well as on an online searchable database. Members can place up to 6 research interests for free, and include names, dates, locations and occupations.

Very rare gravestone inscription in Monasterboice monastic site, County Louth, inscribed in Gaelic, Latin and English.



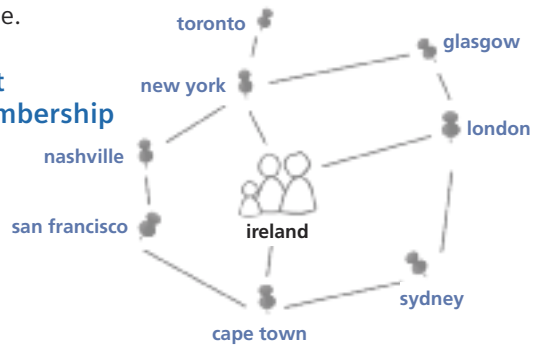
Product discounts

Guild members enjoy huge discounts on our products and services:

- 50% off all baptism/birth, marriage and death/burial records on www.ancestryireland.com.
- Free access to over 200 member-only databases, many covering all of Ireland; and free access to our research library in Belfast.
- Free access to over 50,000 gravestone inscriptions and to History of the Irish Parliament online.
- 15% off the Foundation's publications, when purchased through our online bookstore. Non-internet sales enjoy 10% discount.
- Discounts on research consultations and initial assessments as well as privileged access to the Foundation's research expertise.

Access to our members' area at www.ancestryireland.com/membership

The online members' area contains over 160 articles from previous issues of *Familia* 1985–2005 and further articles on research and guides to sources.



Celebrate Ulster's heritage: educational and social events

Be part of and contribute to a vibrant Irish research community. The Foundation frequently holds local and international lecture tours, book launches and other functions. Your membership ensures that you are kept informed of all events. Celebrate Ulster's connection with the wider world.

Prices start from as little as US \$50 for one year's membership. Join at www.ancestryireland.com/membership





'Your search established the blood relationship to our complete satisfaction and we are in constant correspondence with our relatives in Ireland and have visited them at their home. They are as thrilled as we are at the success of your research.'

Howard T. Pollock,
USA

From Pomeroy to the Moon

One of Foundation's most successful research reports, certainly in terms of publicity, was that completed for Colonel James B. Irwin, whose family hailed from Altmore and Turnabaron, Pomeroy, County Tyrone. Col. Irwin was an astronaut who flew on the Apollo 15 mission 26 July–07 August 1971. This fourth manned lunar mission was distinguished by the first utilisation of the famous lunar rover.

The Foundation identified his ancestral line by locating the marriage on 29 April 1879 in Altedesert parish church, of John Irwin of Altmore, farmer, son of Thomas Irwin, to Mary Benson, daughter of Matthew Benson of Turnabaron.

In September 1979 Col. Irwin made a personal visit to Ulster. He visited his ancestral home in Pomeroy, and met many local people during his trip, which included a number of well-publicised social events. In appreciation for helping him to reconnect with his Ulster roots, Col. Irwin presented the Foundation with two signed colour photographs of his moon flight.

Ulster Historical Foundation provides a professional and comprehensive range of research services for the nine counties of the historic province of Ulster. Each year the staff at the Foundation answer thousands of genealogical enquiries. Since 1956 the Ulster Historical Foundation has offered its research services to clients all over the world, with **over 15,000 detailed reports** into family history being produced. We offer a range of research services:

Initial Assessment

Ideal for those who are not sure how to get started with their Irish research. An initial research assessment explores the feasibility of archival research by identifying sources of potential relevance for your family history.

Specific Research

Ideal for those who have specific research that they would like carried out, for example, a particular church register or landed estate record they wish to have examined.



In-depth Research Report

Ideal for those who are clear about their research objectives and want to have a detailed study of their family history carried out. Our reports are interpretative as well as factual as we seek to build up a profile of your ancestors by examining original documents and microfilm copies in archives and libraries.

Document Retrieval Service

For clients who have a very specific piece of research such as sourcing the details of and obtaining a copy of a birth/marriage/death record and certificate or obtaining copies of undigitised documents from archives which cannot be accessed remotely.

One-to-One/In-Person Research Consultation Service

A consultation with a member of our experienced research team could save you a considerable amount of time and greatly increase your chances of success. During the consultation the researcher will assess the information you already have, check any relevant indexes and then provide you with advice on the next steps.

Gift Certificates

Gift Certificates may be used to buy a family history report, the **Family Research Starter Kit** or books available at: booksireland.org.uk. It is the ideal present for the novice or experienced family historian for a birthday, Christmas or other special occasion. For more information, email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk.

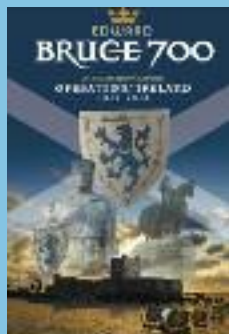


'I have just received your incredible report. I want to thank you for all your amazing research. You have not only done a wonderful report, you and your researchers (angels) have filled a huge hole in my mother's heart and soul. We are so grateful to you all.'

Barbara McByrne,
Irving, USA

'I can honestly say that the Ulster Historical Foundation was the only organisation to make any progress in my family research.'

R. Main, USA



Ulster Historical Foundation has been involved in many projects over the years and has worked with a range of different institutions and organisations, including local government, community associations, and cultural/historical groups. These ventures have included the development of genealogical databases and websites, the creation of exhibitions and the production of promotional booklets. In addition UHF staff have worked as consultants on television and radio programmes for the BBC and other broadcasters and taken part in numerous productions.

If you are involved in a heritage project and would like to find out how the Foundation can help you then email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk



Dr William Roulston interviewing 96-year-old John Cushinan

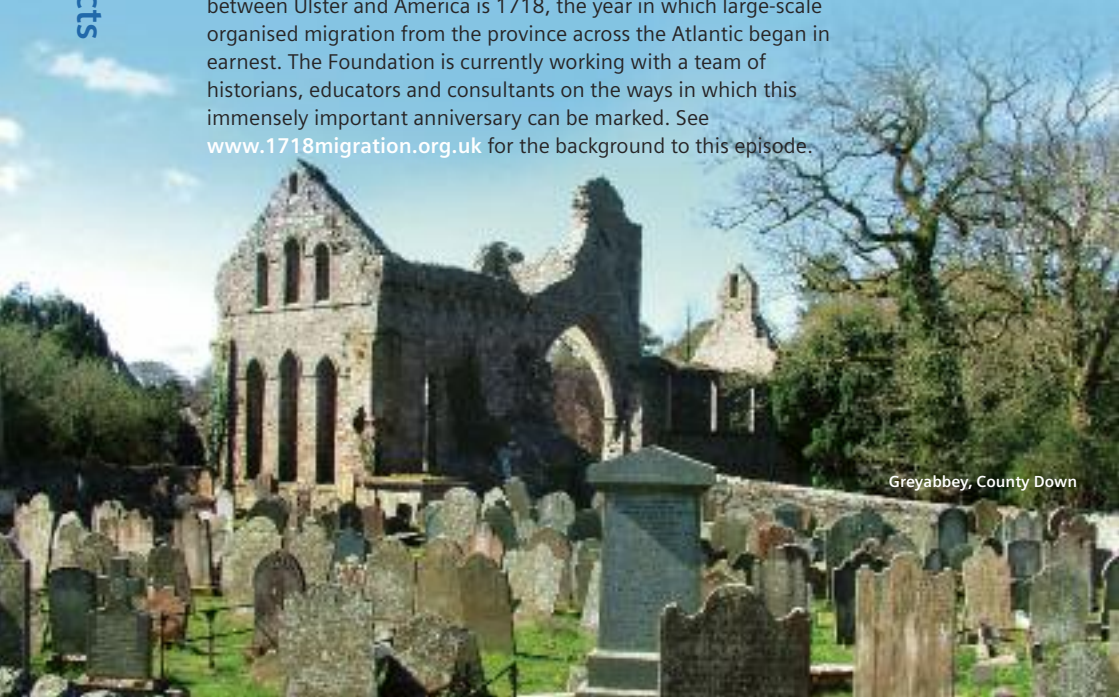
South Antrim Living Memories

One of the most significant of our projects in recent years was the South Antrim Living Memories Project. This involved interviewing elderly people in three County Antrim communities – Doagh, Toome and Whitehead – and creating a book, exhibition and website based on the material gathered. A series of short films was also produced. See

www.southantrimlivingmemories.co.uk for more information.

The 1718 Migration Story

One of the most important dates in the story of the relationship between Ulster and America is 1718, the year in which large-scale organised migration from the province across the Atlantic began in earnest. The Foundation is currently working with a team of historians, educators and consultants on the ways in which this immensely important anniversary can be marked. See www.1718migration.org.uk for the background to this episode.



Greyabbey, County Down



Six steps to get started researching your Irish ancestors

Success in Irish genealogy can never be guaranteed. The loss of so many records combined with poor record-keeping has made the task of searching out Irish forebears more difficult than in other parts of the world. Nonetheless, there are many sources that can be checked and which do have the potential to reveal much about your family history in Ireland. Below we have made a number of suggestions to help you kick start your research into your Irish ancestry. Some of the steps will be more applicable to some than others and their usefulness will depend to some extent on when exactly an ancestor left Ireland. It is unfortunately true that the earlier an ancestor crossed the Atlantic the more difficult it becomes to find out more about their life and family background in Ireland.

1 Search the online records of the Irish Family History Foundation

The Irish Family History Foundation is the co-ordinating body for a network of county-based genealogical research centres in Ireland. These centres have computerised over 20 million Irish genealogical records, including church and civil records, census returns and gravestone inscriptions.

Most of the centres have made their records available online via the subscription based website: www.rootsireland.ie. You may find it helpful to subscribe for a month to establish whether any relevant records can be found on this site. The site contains the largest collection of church and civil records for the island of Ireland that are searchable online.



Round tower and high cross of Monasterboice monastic site, County Louth

2 Search digitised church records online

The website www.irishgenealogy.ie has begun indexing and digitising Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Church records for Carlow, Cork, Kerry and Dublin city. Recently the National Library of Ireland has digitised its microfilms of Roman Catholic Church registers up to 1880 – these are available at www.nli.ie. This is helpful to search if you know the parish or area your ancestors came; if you do not know the year or parish, you will find it more useful and efficient to first search the Roman Catholic databases available on www.rootsireland.ie.

3 Search census returns online

The only two censuses which are available in their entirety for the island of Ireland were compiled in 1901 and 1911. These censuses are now available for free online at www.censusnationalarchives.ie. It is possible to download a scanned image of the actual census return for each household.

Although your ancestor may have left Ireland long before the 1901 census, other members of their immediate family may have stayed behind. Census returns may be a way of finding out more about them. Although ages given in census returns are frequently inaccurate, they can be a basis for searching for birth certificates. This website also holds scans of the surviving fragments of the 1821 to 1851 census returns.



Self-service microfilm readers, search room, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

4 Search the civil registration indexes

Civil registration of all births, marriages and deaths began in Ireland in 1864. Non-Catholic marriages had been registered by the state from 1845. The website FamilySearch.org (www.familysearch.org) includes civil registration indexes, 1845–1958. Genealogists can now search a single name index of births, deaths and marriages for the period 1845–1921 for all of Ireland with additional indexes for the Republic of Ireland from 1922 to 1958.

www.irishgenealogy.ie also has the indexes to births, marriages and deaths – births over 100 years, marriages over 75 years and deaths over 50 years. Birth references for the years 1900 to 1914 contain the mother's maiden name and marriage references for the years 1882 to 1939 contain the names of both the bride and the groom.

Conference participants, June 2014, with Dr Brian Lambkin (Director of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies), exploring the Mellon homestead, Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, County Tyrone

The General Register Office of Northern Ireland has digitised all its records and made its historic records available online for a fee. This includes all births over 100 years, all marriages over 75 years and all deaths over 50 years. These can be accessed at <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>.



Date of Admission 18... ..	Index Number	Name of Child	Age of Child at Admission	Surname	Original Name of Family	Place of Birth and Family of the last Mother, except at which the Child is born, and the place to which he has moved.		
						School	County	Class
17-9-25	206	1 John McQuade	27 1/2	McQuade	Stranabuck	St Mary's	Leath	1st
17-9-25	207	2 James McQuade	25 1/2	McQuade	Stranabuck	St Mary's	Leath	1st
18-10-25	208	3 Edward Murray	2 1/2	Murray	Broughmore	Stranabuck	Leath	1st
18-10-25	209	4 Edwin Lord	2 1/2	Lord	Stranabuck	St Mary's	Leath	1st
18-1-16	210	5 Daniel McNeill	22 1/2	McNeill	Leath	Stranabuck	Leath	1st

5 Search the PRONI eCatalogue

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (www.proni.gov.uk) is one of the best regional archives in the British Isles. Many of its collections have been catalogued in some detail and its once voluminous paper catalogues are now available electronically.

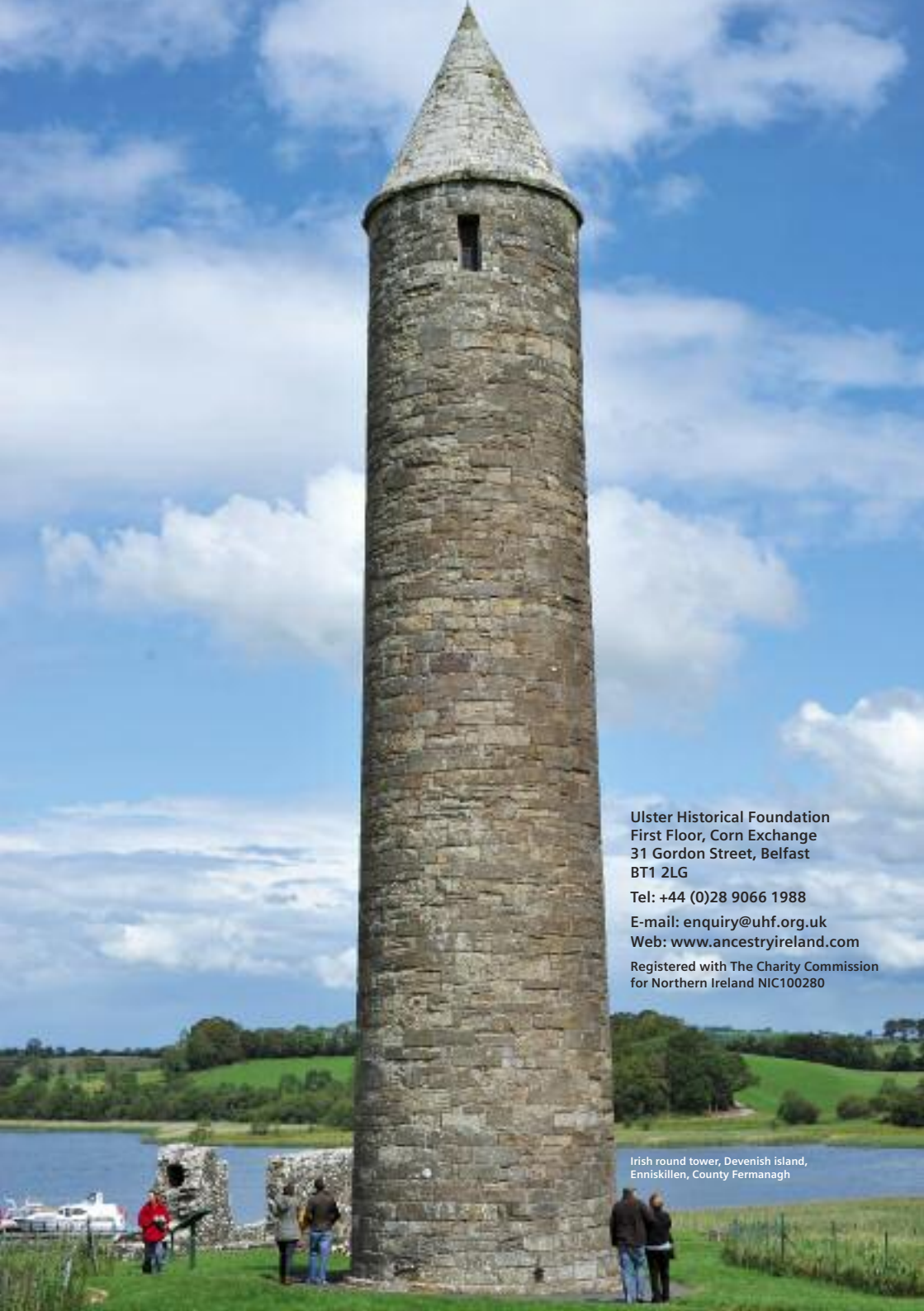
It is worth spending some time going through the eCatalogue to see if any records of potential relevance can be discovered. These can then be searched if you are able to visit PRONI in person or you can commission the Ulster Historical Foundation to examine documents on your behalf. Other databases of records are available on the PRONI website and are worth perusing for information of relevance.

6 Search Valuation records online

After civil and church registers, probably the most important nineteenth-century source for researching Irish ancestors is Griffith's Valuation of c. 1850–60, the first truly comprehensive survey of property in Ireland. The website www.askaboutireland.ie provides a free search facility.

Tithe Applotment Books from the 1820s and 1830s only concern land liable for tithes so will not include ancestors who were, for example, labourers or lived in urban areas. Nonetheless it is an important source for identifying surname locations in the pre-famine period. Those books for the Republic of Ireland (which include a few parishes in Northern Ireland which border the Republic) are now available online at:

www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie.



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Irish round tower, Devenish island,
Enniskillen, County Fermanagh