



Ulster Historical Foundation



**PRESERVING THE PAST
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE**
Development Campaign 2019–2022

Ulster Historical Foundation



Kerry Cavanagh from Australia at our 2015 family history conference



Foundation staff reuniting with old friends in Auckland, New Zealand who had attended our events in Belfast



Recording for posterity the memories of a 96-year-old man in County Antrim

Since it was established in 1956, the Ulster Historical Foundation has carved a unique space in the world of genealogy. We are the only body on the island of Ireland which provides both expertise in family history research and produces a range of high-quality publications.

The Foundation is renowned for its professional, world class research, courses in family history, annual conferences and extensive lecture tours in North America which provide a welcome opportunity to engage with many people interested in their Irish and Ulster family history.

The Foundation pioneered the online availability of birth, marriage and death records in Ireland, and for over six decades has been offering expert genealogical advice through professional research services.

Headquartered in Belfast, the Foundation works closely with all communities in Northern Ireland to help unlock the past and contribute to peace-building and reconciliation.

Ulster is a truly unique part of the world. People know of its English, Irish and Scottish mix but they are rarely aware of the diverse threads woven into the fabric of the nine counties. These include the Vikings, Huguenots, Italians, Jews and Anglo-Normans who have at one time or another called this part of the world 'home'. It makes for an interesting challenge when asked to research someone's 'roots'!

1,500 members share their knowledge within the Irish and Scots-Irish genealogical community. Many have participated in our annual family history conference as an opportunity to meet and exchange views, while others have attended the Irish family history courses all over the world.

Lecture tours to the US, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Great Britain have enabled the Foundation to bring its research expertise and knowledge of Irish archives to a truly global audience.

A small dynamic team committed to and passionate about the history of Ulster help tell the stories of the millions of people who have lived in the nine counties of the historic province of Ulster over many centuries.

While reaching out to the Ulster diaspora is still a core activity, the Foundation also services many other constituencies, reflecting the enormous interest internationally in Irish family history. The popularity of movie and TV series filmed in Northern Ireland has resulted in an explosion of visitors curious about their heritage. Thousands of enquiries are received from all over the world seeking to find out whether the family homestead that they hailed from is the same part of the world as 'Game of Thrones' or is it 'blarney'.

The growth in genealogy and family history has meant that the Foundation is struggling to meet the demand of clients and requires a re-examination of structure and addressing the need for capacity building.

At the core of the Foundation's mission is the academic rigour and independence which only secure funding streams can guarantee. No state funding is received. Funding is generated through research services, membership subscriptions, publications sales and events. The Foundation now seeks to engage with those individuals who share a passion for family history and genealogy and who hopefully will support the Foundation.

Looking to the future, the Foundation has developed a five-year plan which aims to deliver financial stability at its heart. A Research Support Officer is required to underpin the work of the research team.

The Foundation's mission is to communicate our history to others and to inspire pride in our heritage and culture.



This new position will strengthen internal resources, support outreach work, enabling the organisation to impart its expertise to a much wider audience across local communities throughout Ulster, the island of Ireland, and further afield. The role supports this virtuous circle by encouraging greater participation in genealogy as a pastime and educational activity through demonstrating it is 'alive' and relevant to local people.

While public-facing roles may be more engaging and rewarding, the back-office support is hugely important. An additional Administrative Officer, with financial duties, will complement the existing team and will facilitate a more efficient response to the myriad of requests received, not to mention the additional footfall, which the Research Support Officer role will generate.

Perhaps of most importance to future expansion, the Foundation believes that the time is right to recruit a Development Officer to maintain and grow relationships with the membership, as well as identify and cultivate donors and benefactors.

The Foundation has always led the way with innovation by investing in Information Technology facilities and in providing ease of access online to the most detailed records on Irish genealogy.

Renowned for the range and quality of publications the Foundation cannot always respond to opportunities when they arise. A Publications Fund would allow authentic academic freedom and the pursuit of opportunities to research and publish works of the greatest direct benefit to the widest audience. It is becoming increasingly difficult

to attract subventions for books in general and especially for what could be described as more specialised subjects. Over the Foundation's lifetime many young historians and researchers benefited from having their work published.

The Foundation's emblem is a ship, chosen to represent the passage of thousands of people who have departed from Ulster over the centuries. Using the metaphor of a ship, we can say that for over 60 years the Foundation has successfully navigated the many challenges facing an organisation such as ours. Ingenuity, imagination and sheer hard work have kept us afloat and we look to the future with confidence.

With your support we believe that we can flourish, not only building on what we have achieved, but reaching out to a new generation of researchers and those fascinated by the place we call home.

The campaign goals below will enable us to continue our work:

- To invest in our research capability so that we continue to deliver the best research at the highest standards
- To be able to respond to all enquiries for assistance
- To endow a Publications Fund
- To upgrade our website and our IT facilities
- To establish an Outreach Fund to extend our work to other communities

With your help we can . . .

Preserve the past for future generations
and allow accessibility for all.



Build our capacity

Increasing the team with three full-time staff members:

Additional Administrative Officer to complement the existing team and help core staff service increased activity.

A new Research Support Officer to underpin the work of the research team expand our capacity for encouraging greater public engagement in family history and interaction through the Foundation's available services.

A new Development Officer to explore funding streams and put the Foundation on a secure and sustainable financial footing going forward.

£120,000 a year for 3 years



Develop our digital infrastructure

The digital revolution has transformed genealogy. The 'roots' tourist is now a major player in the global tourism market with thousands of visitors returning to their ancestral homeland every year. Further investment in digital infrastructure is therefore necessary to build a state-of-the-art website for the Foundation that will showcase the full range of products and services and provide the most accessible research tools for the general public as cost effectively as possible.

£50,000 a year for 3 years



Endow a publications fund

High quality publications are a strength of the Foundation. Limited by capacity and funding leads to missed opportunities to commission and produce pioneering books of direct benefit to the wider public. Additional funding would allow additional publications which would enhance the understanding of Ulster and Irish history and genealogy.

£40,000 a year



Expand our membership offer

The Foundation's members represent a solid base of support. To ensure their interests are best served it is intended to develop a state-of-the-art map-based, geo-referenced and cross-referenced database of people and places, to include parishes, townlands, etc. This will help users develop a greater understanding of where their ancestors lived and will be of assistance when visiting places of interest to them.

£20,000 a year



Increasing outreach work

An annual fund would allow the augmentation of our international lecture tours through the inclusion of additional locations, especially in lower income areas where there is a strong link to Ulster. In addition, there is an aspiration to add venues in Great Britain to the existing programme, particularly in cities where there are vibrant Irish communities.

£20,000 a year



Library development fund

The Foundation has a small but hugely valuable research library. Two recent major donations by supporters have significantly added to our collection and helped to make it a major resource for those searching Ulster ancestors. An annual fund would allow us to maintain adequate storage facilities for our books as well as purchase new and important titles for our library. The fund would also help cover the cost of necessary conservation work.

£20,000 a year for 3 years



Infrastructure fund

The Foundation would like to develop a resource centre utilising available floor space within the current premises. This additional space will allow the organisation to expand and develop a facility providing space for lecture rooms, a small conference venue, library annex and other meetings facilities for heritage and cultural activities.

£30,000 a year for 5 years

Connecting people
around the world
through heritage.



Carol Schmidt at Dunluce Castle



Carol Schmidt's Wadsworth homestead,
County Fermanagh, 21 Sep. 2017

We bring long-lost family together

During the 2016 family history conference, participants from all across the world discovered new information and stories about their Irish heritage and ancestors. Amazingly, two of the group's participants learned that they were related! Though living thousands of miles apart in Australia and Canada, Mary-Ann Cohn and Melanie McLennan (pictured above) discovered that their respective great-great-grandparents, Sarah and David Ogilby were siblings! They had no idea of each other's existence before the conference, but their story really goes to show the power of heritage in connecting people across the world.

We teach individuals how to find their ancestral home

Carol Schmidt from Illinois knew she had Irish heritage, and despite extensive research, was unable to find the information she needed about her Wadsworth ancestors. After attending one of the seminars on the Foundation's US lecture tour in March 2017, she learned of new techniques of using old and new maps to discover the past. A few months later Carol came to Ireland to attend the Foundation's family history conference, and following a research breakthrough and by using the mapping technique, was able to pinpoint the precise area where her family came from all those years ago. A quick drive to rural Fermanagh followed, and using a combination of local knowledge, Google maps and lots of preservation, Carol was able to find the ruins of the exact cottage that her ancestors once lived in! This amazing story is just one example of the incredible discoveries that can be made through the Ulster Historical Foundation.

About the Ulster Historical Foundation

- 1 An educational non-profit charity in the UK with a proven track record since 1956.
- 2 An established reputation for academic rigour, high-quality research and publications.
- 3 Committed professional staff who with a genuine passion for genealogical and family history research.
- 4 A small, lean, and well-run organisation with solid foundations to build upon.
- 5 Punching above its weight around the world.
- 6 Solvent today but not complacent about the future.
- 7 Determined to secure a future presence while maintaining academic independence.
- 8 The only organisation in Ireland offering a broad range of activities in the genealogy sphere combined with a wider historical role achieved through publications, conferences and lecture programmes.
- 9 Independently funded through the provision of services, and received from members, customers and supporters.
- 10 The Foundation works with the Irish American Partnership 501c3 for US donors.

Ulster Historical Foundation is an educational non-profit organisation and a registered charity with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC 100280). Registration was confirmed on 7 August 2014. The Foundation is governed by a trust deed (1998), and a scheme of incorporation (1999).

The Foundation is managed by a board of up to 14 trustees drawn by application and on merit from diverse backgrounds representative of the broad community served by the charity. The Foundation's accounts are Charity SORP compliant and audited annually by PricewaterhouseCoopers.



How you can support us

By bank transfer

Bank: First Trust Bank
Bank Address: 11/15 Donegall Square North, Belfast, BT1 5GB

(UK donors)

Account number: 10921251
Sort Code: 93 86 55

(International donors)

IBAN: GB86 FTBK 9386 5510 9212 51
BIC: FTBKGB2B

Through the Irish American Partnership

Support the Foundation with a tax-deductible contribution through the Irish American Partnership www.irishap.org/ulster-historical-foundation or call on **+1 617-723-2707**

Via the Foundation's website

www.ancestryireland.com/make-a-donation/

Via Paypal.com

Use the 'send money' function to: kathryn.mckelvey@uhf.org.uk

By cheque

Payable to: 'Ulster Historical Foundation' and posted to the address below.

Gift Aid

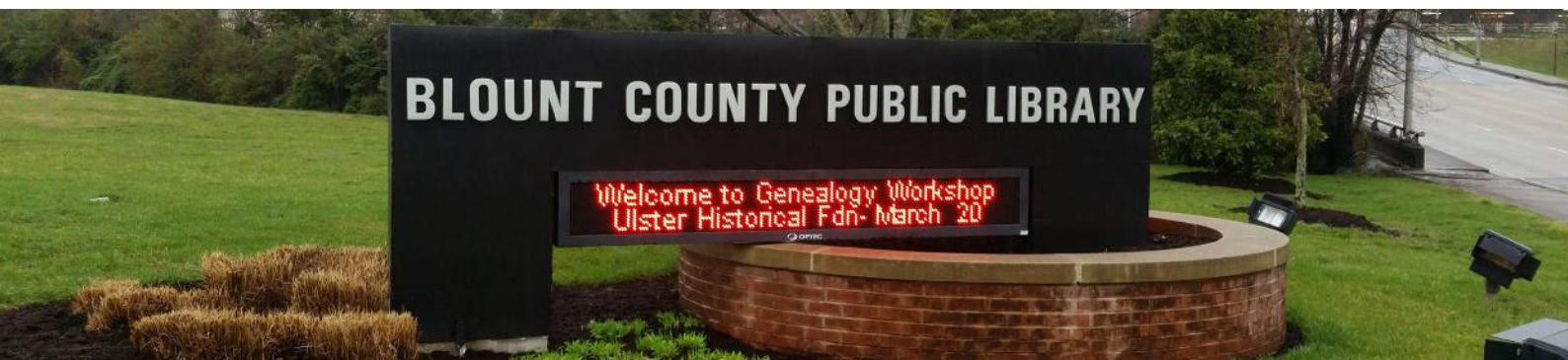
UK tax payers: for every pound you donate to the Foundation, HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) will give us an extra 25 pence. This is at absolutely no cost to you.

To Gift Aid your donation you can use this link:

www.ancestryireland.com/gift-aid



We would like to thank you
in advance for your generosity.



Ulster Historical Foundation

Registered with the Charity Commission
for Northern Ireland NIC 100280

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