



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 1

Welcome to our fifth Newsletter!!

Our thanks go out to those who commented, made suggestions to improve the product and to those who contributed news and articles or helped in any way with publication.

The publication of CONNECT has been re-scheduled to avoid conflicting with national newsletters and Christmas. We hope this does not cause too much inconvenience. We still plan to maintain a quarterly publication and the next issue is planned for the end of November. Then, we avoid Christmas and produce our first 2018 issue in mid-February. From then on, we intend to publish quarterly.

We continue in this issue with articles about important genealogical archives in Scotland, genealogical services in Dublin and present another interesting set of interviews.

We hope you find it useful, enjoyable and, as before, we would welcome your comments and suggestions.

If you would like to contribute please get in touch with one of the CONNECT editors.

*This Newsletter has been put together by Michael Walsh MAGI from AGI
and Kirsteen Mulhern from ASGRA.*

*The production responsibilities for the Newsletter
have been cheerfully assumed by John Grenham MAGI*



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 2

Table of contents

News from Scotland and Ireland...	3
Visit to the Moving Image Archive.....	3
ASGRA Continuing Professional Development Event	4
From AGI a report on a visit to the Ordnance Survey headquarters, Dublin, Ireland.	5
Dates for your Diary	8
A selection of forthcoming events in Scotland	8
A selection of forthcoming events in Ireland.....	10
Getting to know each other.....	11
Introducing Ian Marson from ASGRA.....	11
Introducing Georgina Scally from AGI.....	14
Focus on... ..	19
Edinburgh City Archives.....	19
Dublin Genealogical Advisory Services.....	22

AGI Council Office Bearers

President: Máire Mac Conghail
mairemacconghail@eircom.net

Hon. Secretary: Anne-Marie Smith
info@apgi.ie

Hon. Treasurer: Sandra Doble
sandraandliam@eircom.net

ASGRA Council Office Bearers

Chair: Janet Bishop
genealogyscotland@gmail.com

Hon. Secretary: Stuart Coles
enquiry.scc@gmail.com

Hon. Treasurer: John McGee
wheechmcgee@hotmail.co.uk

Any content for inclusion in **Connect** will be most gratefully received and can be sent to Michael Walsh (AGI) michael9walsh@gmail.com or Kirsteen Mulhern (ASGRA) scottishgenealogy@gmail.com.

Our next edition will go out in November 2017 and the deadline for submissions is 31 October.

We hope that you enjoy reading the Newsletter!



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 3

News from Scotland and Ireland...

News from Scotland

Visit to the Moving Image Archive

ASGRA and AGI members are cordially invited to attend the forthcoming visit to the [Moving](#)

[Image Archive](#) (previously the Scottish Screen Archive) in Glasgow on 24th October.



The archive has recently moved to fantastic new facilities at Kelvin Hall in Glasgow, and houses an amazing collection of clips and full length films which document many aspects of Scotland's social history over the last hundred years.

The collection represents a wide range of subjects, such as:

1. Work and industry
2. Home life
3. Leisure, travel and holidays
4. Sport and entertainment
5. Local traditions and community events
6. Transport
7. Changing landscapes and new towns
8. Wartime

The tour will include a half-hour curated film screening. The Moving Image staff will select some films, based on material that might enhance local or family



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 4

history, but special requests can also be catered for. For more details, or to book your place, please contact Linda Kerr (lindakerr1745@gmail.com) by 6 October.

ASGRA Continuing Professional Development Event

ASGRA are pleased to announce that their next CPD event will be held in Edinburgh on November 3rd. This event will be an interactive workshop entitled 'Preparing for Professional Membership' and will centre around the practical and intellectual skills required by professional genealogists. The workshop is designed particularly to assist with those preparing for (or considering applying for) accredited professional membership.

Topics covered will include: competencies; codes of practice; experiential learning; palaeography; report writing.

A team of experienced practitioners will be available on the day to assist, and practical information about the benefits of joining a professional association will be available.

To reserve your place, or to find out more, please contact Stuart Coles (asgra.sec@gmail.com).



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 5

From AGI a report on a visit to the Ordnance Survey headquarters, Dublin, Ireland.

Undertaking Continuous Professional Development (CPD) is a mandatory requirement for professional genealogists in Ireland which allows them to maintain their accreditation. As part of the 2017 Programme an interesting visit to the Ordnance Survey of Ireland (OSi) was organised by Helen Kelly MAGI and her team. This is a Report by one of the attendees..

Historians may use maps, geographers may refer to them, surveyors may make them but genealogists depend on them for almost every aspect of research and from that dependency has grown a deep affiliation and dare I say it, love of maps. From the moment a new enquiry is received, the maps are out; as the story of the individual or family being researched unfolds, maps are with us every step of the way. So when Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI) Continuous Professional Development (CPD) committee announced some months ago the next CPD event would be an outing to the Ordnance Survey Offices, Phoenix Park, Dublin, the news was received with palpable delight at the thought of entering the epicentre of map making in Ireland.

On August 3rd last a group of seventeen AGI members and affiliates assembled at the Ordnance Survey Ireland headquarters, Mountjoy House (built *circa* 1728), Phoenix Park, Dublin 8 where the Survey headquarters have been situated since its inception (as the Ordnance Survey Office) in 1824. For the following two hours or thereabouts Tom Broderick a career surveyor with 40 years' service under his belt, took us on a whirlwind tour of the Survey since its inception until the present day.

The Ordnance Survey is the national mapping agency for Ireland. The Office was initially part of the army under the Department of Defence and all staff employed by the Office were military until the 1970s when the first civilian employees were recruited. The Office was created to carry out a complete survey of the country. This was achieved under the directorship of Major General Thomas Frederick Colby who oversaw the creation of the earliest collection of maps (at a scale of 6 inches to one mile). As a result of this mammoth task (by 1846) Ireland was the first country in the world to be entirely mapped. Furthermore, the maps from this original series are still in use and are amongst the most accurate ever made and all legal boundary documents to this day are based on them.

The latter point should not be underestimated when one considers the enormity of the undertaking and the innovative methods employed by Colby and his men. Without going in to too much detail, Colby established a system of mapping based on triangulation and Pythagoras's



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 6

theory and using a base line in Lough Foyle (County Derry) called Colby's Bar, he established a base line of 7.89 miles into which the entire country was tied.

In the formative years, many men of great character and ability contributed to the Survey alongside Major General Colby; Thomas Drummond came up with a new system of surveying whereby on clear dark nights blocks of lime were burnt on the tops of mountains and hills at all sorts of distances and the various angles were recorded by pointing the theodolite on the lights; the system was so successful the term 'Drummond lights' became part of common *parlance*. An affable, capable and incredibly versatile young man by the name of John O'Donovan was employed by the Survey to record what was been surveyed; John O'Donovan (1806-1861) led the project of information collection, notation and compilation which included surveyors field notes, commentaries and correspondence to the Ordnance Survey headquarters in Dublin. This correspondence exists for twenty-nine counties and is known today collectively as the Ordnance Survey Letters. John O'Donovan was also responsible for the collection of place names including townland names in both Irish and English, the results of which require no introduction to the genealogist.

Modifications to the 6 inch maps were made in the 1860s and 1870s and in 1874 hand coloured Town Plans (at a scale of 1: 500) were produced. Later again (1897-1913) the first 25 inch maps were made. Our speaker talked us through the laborious process of copper printing which further increased our admiration for the 19th century surveyors.

The final part of the talk concentrated on how the Survey has re-invented itself in terms of adapting and using modern technology to the extent that it is now the most technological advanced commercial mapping agency in Ireland used by a range of government and other bodies such as (amongst others) Local Authorities, Banks and Insurance companies, Engineers, Solicitors, Surveyors, Coillte (The Irish Forestry Service), An Post (the Irish state postal service) and An Garda Síochána (the Irish police service) the latter of whom have their own dedicated mapping section at Garda Headquarters, Harcourt Street, Dublin.

Google maps and Apple maps provide competition and the Survey has had to change and adapt to make itself relevant and useful in the face of competition from such technological giants. While a range of Ordnance Survey historic maps are still available to view (www.osi.ie), a considerable part of the website is now dedicated to providing public access to all sorts of spatial data by means of a portal known as a GeoHive.

Shortly, the Ordnance Survey will embark on yet another milestone as after sixteen years as a commercially driven organisation under recent legislation it will revert to full state operation when it will amalgamate with the Valuation Office (VO) and with the Property Registration Authority (PRA) of Ireland to become a new state body Tailte Éireann.

The talk ended with a lively question, answer and discussion session and as if it was needed the affection by which maps are held by us as genealogists was demonstrated most profoundly when



CONNECT

***The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists***



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 7

one of our members professed to having wallpapered his hallway with copies of the 1:50, 000 Discovery series of Ordnance Survey maps of Ireland!

The lecture was followed by a tour of nearby Farmleigh House, a small 18th century Georgian mansion once owned by the Guinness family but now in the ownership of the Irish government and used to accommodate state dignitaries and guests of the nation.

The afternoon's events came to a close as most of the group adjourned to a nearby hostelry for dinner and drinks. Many thanks to Accredited Genealogist Ireland CPD organising committee Helen Kelly, Nicola Morris and Sandra Doble for organising an enjoyable, informative and entertaining event.

Georgina Scally MAGI



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 8

Dates for your Diary

A selection of forthcoming events in Scotland

['Our Islands, Our Past'](#),

Orkney, 14-17 September 2017

[Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies Conference – 'Millport: Habitat, Heritage, Holidays'](#),

Millport Field Centre, Cumbrae, 16 September 2017

[Edinburgh in Print – Guided Walk](#),

Edinburgh, 23 September 2017

[Discovering your family history at the moving image archive](#),

Kelvinhall, Glasgow, 27 September 2017

[The Chisholmes of the Scottish Borders: Their Lands, Properties and Artefacts](#),

Highland Archive Centre, Inverness, 27 September 2017

[Women in Tenements – Guided Walk](#)

Tenement House, Glasgow, 1 & 15 October 2017

[Getting the most out of ScotlandsPeople](#),

National Records of Scotland, Edinburgh, 13 October 2017

[200 Years of Black Isle Farmers](#),

Highland Archive Centre, Inverness, 25 October 2017



CONNECT

***The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists***



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 9

[Scottish Local History Forum Annual Conference,](#)

A K Bell Library, Perth, 27 October 2017

[Scottish Records Association Annual Conference,](#)

General Register House, Edinburgh, 10th November 2017

ASGRA and AGI members may also wish to keep up to date with forthcoming events using the useful pages on the website of the Scottish Association of Family History Society (SAFHS) at: www.safhs.org.uk/whatson



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 10

Dates for your Diary

A selection of forthcoming events in Ireland

Meanwhile in Ireland...

Tuesday 7 November 2017

A CPD event is being planned at the Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street, Dublin 2.

More information will be available shortly

Back to Our Past Royal Dublin Show (RDS) – October 20-22

*The biggest event in the Irish Genealogy calendar is undoubtedly the **Back to Our Past** exhibition which is held annually at the Royal Dublin Show (RDS) in Ballsbridge, Dublin. The event which is part of a huge exhibition for the over 50s runs will be held over the weekend of Friday 20 October to Sunday 22 October.*

It is a unique event in Ireland which brings together professional genealogists, major website owners, book publishers, software providers, associations and is open to the public on all 3 days.

It provides a wonderful opportunity to mix with other enthusiasts, discover the latest in hardware, gadgets, tools and accessories as well as discovering what other groups, societies and associations have to offer.

There is also normally an opportunity for members of the public to book a private consultation with a professional genealogist from AGI to discuss their research problems and their brick walls. In addition, for those just starting out to research their own family history, it is a great chance just to make a gentle enquiry or to receive helpful advice on how to get started.



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 11

Getting to know each other...

Each Issue we interview principal members of each organisation so that members can get to know other key players better.

Introducing Ian Marson from ASGRA

In this edition of Connect we are saying hello to ASGRA researcher Ian Marson who runs Linklines Research. You can find out more about Ian's research services on his website at: www.linklines.co.uk

Name: Ian Marson

Email: ianfm@linklinesresearch.com

Occupation: Genealogist

Location: Maltby, South Yorkshire

Areas of research and specialisms: I undertake a wide variety of research projects, historical family trees, archival research, legal and probate work. I specialise in researching Yorkshire, Durham, Northumberland and the Scottish Borders.



What brought you into genealogy?



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 12

My interest Genealogy began in 1980 following watching a programme by Gordon Honeycombe (You can still watch it on YouTube), before the 1881 census had been released and before the internet. I remember going to the local library to get a book about how to start my family tree, the library had just 2 books on the subject. I still have one of them but that's another story! I gained an interest in local and family history and got involved in local groups. In 1998 when I left the corporate world I set up in business as a full-time researcher, studied at the IHGS and joined AGRA, first as an affiliate then as a full member. I've been a full-time researcher ever since. I joined ASGRA in 2015 as a full member.

What has been your favourite piece of research or most interesting assignment?

This is a difficult one, I have boxes of past cases going back almost 20 years but I do remember the case of the bigamous vicar. He was expelled from the Church by the Archbishop of York. Fled to America and joined the Mormons, leaving his first wife and family in England.

What is your favourite Archive and Why?

Sheffield Archives, it was the very first one I ever went to and visit there almost every week. When Sheffield City Council put out to tender all their in house archival research work a number of years ago I was fortunate to win the contract to be retained as their consultant genealogist which gives me a steady flow of regular work. The staff are exceptional (I would say that wouldn't I).

How is your own family tree?



CONNECT

***The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists***



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 13

I compare myself to the cobbler with a hole in his shoe that he never has time to repair. Lots to do and I should get on with seeing what is online now to fill in the gaps.

What tips can you offer a beginner?

Get everything written down and ask your family before it's too late. Don't sit at the computer all day looking at online records, make use of local archives and original sources and always ask for help. In fact, hire a professional to help you!

How do you relax or what other interests do you have?

I'm a Lighthouse Bagger, the aim is to visit every Lighthouse around the English, Irish and Scottish coast. I also like walking, especially on the coast.



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



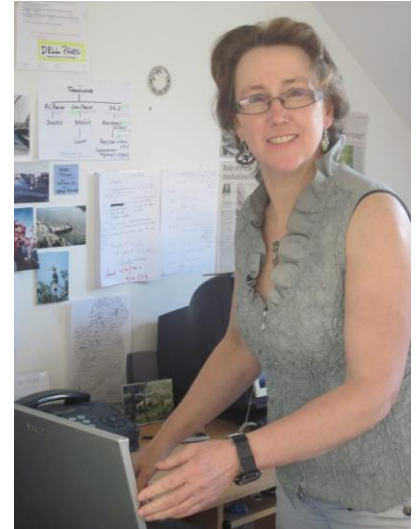
Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 14

Introducing Georgina Scally from AGI

Georgina was recently elected to the AGI Council in Ireland. She took joined AGI as an Associate and after s probationary period successfully transitioned to full member status. This Interview focuses on her experiences of this development pathway.



Ref.	Questions
Q1	Name: Georgina Scally
Q2	Email: info@irishgenealogyservices.com
Q3	Occupation: Genealogist
Q4	Location: Dublin city



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 15

Q5	Areas of research and specialisms: I undertake research assignments for all parts of Ireland and while I have no declared specialism I am particularly fond of researching Dublin families.
Q6	What brought you into genealogy? I was a self-employed professional Archaeologist for about 25 years but the recession hit my business badly. I was lucky in that I had a few long term projects that kept me going through most of it but the recession was the impetus for change. An uncle of mine (since deceased but then in his nineties) asked me to research his family history and I enjoyed the search so much I signed up to the Diploma in Family History in Independent Colleges Dublin run at the time by Paul Gorry. The course was excellent and I knew immediately that this is what I wanted to do in place of Archaeology.
Q7	Why did you want to join AGI as an affiliate: In Ireland there is no single professional association for genealogists and anyone can call themselves a genealogist regardless of whether they have any experience or training in the subject or not. I am sure there are many skilled researchers out there providing a genuine service to the public, but I am also sure that there are many people advertising themselves as genealogists who are capitalising on this lack of professional cohesion. I very much like the fact that in AGI there are research standards to be met and all research assignments regardless of how large or small must be of a high quality. When I decided to join I liked that AGI provided a mentoring process to all affiliates. The mentoring process proved a useful guide to ensure I was on the right track in terms of research methods and presentation. AGI's CPD programme is also a great asset in regard to keeping up to speed with different areas of research.



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 16

Q8	Was the transition to full accreditation straightforward? I found the transition from AGI affiliate to full AGI member to be a straight forward process. I took my time selecting what I believed to be a relevant and suitable piece of work and once the report and all other necessary paperwork had been submitted, I more or less forgot about the application for a couple of months. It was however at the back of my mind and I was really pleased to be accepted as a full member in 2016.
Q9	What has been your favourite piece of research or most interesting assignment? I've had many fascinating searches and it's hard to pick one from the pile - families (and their antics) are endlessly interesting. I've a project that started two years ago and I'm still working on it intermittently and it would come close to the top in terms of a favourite. The client in this case had been told a certain version of events by her birth family but she always had a niggling feeling that things didn't quite add up. Only when her parents died did she start delving into her past to see if there was any substance to why she had felt so ill at ease with the version of events she had been told. Through a series of various records I was able to establish the truth behind the story she had been told and instead of being an only child with no Irish relatives she found she was from a large extended family and has over thirty living Irish first cousins! Its stories like this that really make you appreciate knowing where you are from as without that base, life can be quite unsettling. Even when someone finds out the 'true' version of events, it can be quite emotionally disturbing as they have to mentally re-write their own history.
Q10	What is your favourite Archive and why? I really like The Valuation Office in Dublin. I like it for a variety of reasons. The first being that it is possible to handle the surveyors original Revision Books



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 17

	<p>although with digitisation this is becoming less common as many counties are now online.</p> <p>I like it also because you never know or can predict what may lie in store each time you visit.</p> <p>I am also very fond of The Registry of Deeds in Henrietta Street, although I don't tend to visit that frequently.</p>
Q11	<p>How is your own family tree?</p> <p>There were a number of very capable amateur genealogists (Mary Keegan and Gordon St George Mark) in my family (I say amateur with the greatest respect as it is only now that I fully appreciate what they managed to achieve in a pre-internet era) who completed extensive research on the material lines of my family - Joyce and Stein.</p> <p>Our branch of the Stein's came from Clackmannanshire in Scotland where they had been involved in whiskey distilling along with the Jameson's and Haig's. The Stein's moved to Dublin and eventually sold everything they had to the Jameson's and the rest as the saying goes, is history. My amateur genealogist relatives are both now deceased so it is up to me to work on the long neglected other (Sally) side of the family.</p> <p>I'm from a long line of hoarder's so my attic is full with bundles of as yet unexamined documents/letters/photographs/postcards some going back to the early 19th century, possibly earlier. Each time I look into the attic I say to myself I must take a month (more like 6 months) off and get to grips with the bundles, but as yet, this is a luxury yet to look forward to!</p>
Q12	<p>What tips can you offer a beginner?</p> <p>The best tip I can suggest to a beginner is to take a pencil and as many sheets of paper as necessary (stick them together with cellotape) and draw out your family tree in simple graphic form.</p> <p>Then, focus on one person at a time and always take note of your sources.</p>



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 18

	<p>Without knowing where you found a piece of information, that information is worthless. There is so much here-say and near truths in genealogy, it is really important that you can verify the information you have found.</p> <p>Also, be careful of what you come across on the internet; many people regard genealogy as a race to compile the largest online tree and basically they take any information they find for a family of the same name and without any verification, just tag that information onto their own tree.</p> <p>I would also suggest joining a group of like-minded researchers (your local library or technical college may run courses) as you learn so much from other people and it is a good way to push yourself outside your own boundaries.</p> <p>Also, learn how to use footnotes – they are invaluable!</p>
Q13	<p>How do you relax or what other interests do you have?</p> <p>My husband has owned a barge for over twenty years and for the last five years we've been running trips for the public at weekends.</p> <p>We started the business during the recession as being self-employed both in construction related jobs our respective professions were badly affected. We didn't know if there would be demand for the trips but they have proved a great success and even though we are in different jobs now and things have improved on the work front for both of us, we enjoy doing them so much we don't want to stop.</p> <p>The barge is on the River Barrow in south-east Ireland and we spend a lot of weekends there. I've always been pretty active so anything that involves water, sea swimming, kayaking, sailing that's for me.</p> <p>I've yet to sail around the Irish coast having spent a lot of time sailing around Scotland, particularly the Hebrides and St Kilda as well as the Orkneys and Shetlands, the Scottish islands make fabulous sailing grounds with all sorts of wonderful bird and wild life.</p> <p>I climb the odd hill or mountain every now and again and I'm also a bit of a wanderlust and like to head off to far flung parts of the world when possible; I'm heading to Iran in a few weeks so I'm looking forward to that.</p>



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 19

Focus on...

Edinburgh City Archives

In each Issue we will focus on a Scottish or an Irish archive.

The purpose of these guides is to give some “top tips” for practical use of the archives based on the experience of users. So you will hopefully find out some different details to those advertised on the archive’s website!!

The records held by Edinburgh City Archives document the heritage of the city and its people stretching back to the 12th Century. If you have an ancestor who lived, worked or attended school in Edinburgh then you may well want to visit the City Archives.



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 20



The search room is located in the depths of the City Chambers on the High Street. They are open Tuesday to Thursday from 9am to 1pm and from 2pm to 4:30pm. Tightened security requirements now mean that you need to give advance notice of your arrival date and time. Once you arrive at the main entrance to the City Chambers you will be issued with a visitor pass by staff at the reception. You will then be escorted down to the archives by a member of staff.

Some of the records are held onsite but many are held in the repository out at Murrayburn on the outskirts of Edinburgh. That means you need to order the records in advance so that they are ready for your visit. The following list is just a quick guide to some of the records of interest to genealogists:-

Town Council Minutes
Burgess Records



CONNECT

***The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists***



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 21

**Various Incorporated Trade Records
Parochial Board and Parish Council Records
Some Poor Records (but not many)
School Records
Police Records
Records of Various Clubs and Societies
Burgh, Baillie and Police Court Records
Taxation Records
Episcopal Church Records
Business Records
Militia Records**

There is no single online catalogue for these records; in fact some are not catalogued at all. There are top-level descriptions of the records on the Scottish Archive Network - www.scan.org.uk. Go to the online catalogue on this website and use the Archive Reference of GB236 to access the descriptions.

There are three subject guides on the council website that give an overview of records for family, house and business history which are useful and are found at: http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/download/341/edinburgh_city_archives_subject_guides

It is definitely worth contacting one of the archivists for advice before your visit. They did have a bit of an unfriendly reputation in the past but that has now all changed with new staff, who are all very helpful. Their contact details are:-
Email: archives@edinburgh.gov.uk, Tel: 0131 529 4646
(contributed by Val Wilson, ASGRA Member)



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 22

We hope that this will help new users feel more comfortable using these archives for the first time. The authors of these articles are also happy to hear from new users of these archives if they have any further questions about them.

Dublin Genealogical Advisory Services

Introducing an article from John Grenham, the doyen of Irish genealogy, on services that AGI provide to the National Library and to the National Archives which are both located in Dublin.

One aspect of the work of AGI members that some of our Scottish colleagues may not be aware of is the provision of free genealogical advice services to the public in the National Library of Ireland and the National Archives of Ireland. Indeed, some AGI members outside Dublin may only have a vague idea of what's involved and how the services came about.

In the early 1990s, three NLI staff members, (including Colette O'Flaherty, now Chief Herald and Keeper of Special Collections) were seconded to the Office of the Chief Herald, otherwise the Genealogical Office (GO). The aim was to use the GO to provide advice to some of the crowds of hapless tourists clogging up the NLI Reading Room in the aftermath of Alex Haley's *Roots*. John Grenham, then the GO's in-house researcher, provided training.

At the outset, the service was formal, in-depth and paid-for, a nuisance for any Irish civil servant, because ever ha'penny taken in had to be accounted for in triplicate. The service was not successful in purely financial terms, but it made a clear difference to the Reading Room counter staff. Now anyone who had been through the service knew what they were looking for when they arrived in the Library.

In subsequent years, the service moved to the main NLI building and became free and a little less in-depth. Two NLI staff were supplemented by a rotating crew of members of what was then APGI, with the aim of intercepting genealogical researchers before they reached the Reading Room. They could then be provided with enough information to start research - shelf numbers, microfilm references, starting points - or told they didn't yet have enough information to start research, given basic surname information and advised what they needed to get started.



CONNECT

*The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists*



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 23

The Library was motivated by benevolent self-interest, but the work could be intense. After seven hours of dealing with dozens of people who knew only that their great-granny was a Murphy, one could feel like a wet dish-rag. A homicidal wet dish-rag.

In due course, the National Archives of Ireland saw the benefits of what was happening at the Library and began to offer its own free service, this time staffed only by APGI members and a little more formal and in-depth.

Over the past decade or so the two services have evolved in distinct directions. The Library now provides a dedicated genealogy room in which the public have direct access to reference works and PCs with a range of commercial subscription sites, as well as personal advice, now provided from a roster provided by a collaboration between Eneclann and Ancestor Network, only some of whom are AGI members. In the Archives, the more in-depth advice and support service is provided by AGI members only.

One of the most important aspects of both services is that they are purely walk-in: it is not possible to book in advance. The reason is simple. The aim of both NAI and NLI is to relieve Reading Room pressure, not provide free research services. Because of this, the day-to-day work involved can vary greatly. When a queue is waiting, some of the advice will be a bit less in-depth. When no-one is waiting and the pressure is off, the boundary between advice and actual research can get blurred.

Dubliners have an excellent nose for free stuff. The Archives is situated near the working-class Liberties area where the word seems to be out that, if you pick your times, you can pop in and out and have your family tree done for free at the NAI GAS.

Gas altogether.

John Grenham MAGI



CONNECT

The newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish Genealogists



Issue No. 5 :

September 2017

Page 24

Useful Resources – Scottish Medieval Records

People of Medieval Scotland

Few of us will probably be lucky enough to find any verifiable ancestral line dating back into the medieval period, but even those whose research trails end much more recently than this may find the People of Medieval Scotland website interesting and useful.

The database on this website contains information about individuals involved in actions in Scotland, or actions relating to Scotland, in documents written between the death of Malcolm III on 13 November 1093 and Robert I's parliament at Cambuskenneth on 6 November 1314. This information is drawn from around 8600 documents.

PEOPLE OF MEDIEVAL SCOTLAND
1093-1314

Home About Database Information Schools News Contacts Social Network Analysis Help

SEARCH BROWSE RECORD SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS MAP FAMILY TREES LABS

CITATION HISTORY

Absalom, son of Absalom of Lennox

FLORUITS 1208 × 1265

RELATED PLACE Lennox

FAMILY CONNECTIONS » Gephi Visualisation

Total number of associated factoids: 3

Relationship factoids (2): Witnesses factoids (1):

Listing items 1 to 2, page 1 of 1

DATE SHORT SUMMARY

X 28 Sept. 1308 ? Son of Absalom son of Absalom (Familial relationship) object (relationship)

Document 3/17/75 (RRS, v, no. 2A)

DESCRIPTION

Malcolm, earl of Lennox, out of reverence and honour for the holy man, Kessog, his patron saint, has given, granted, and by this present his present charter established, to his beloved and faithful usher, Sir John of Luss, and his heirs the liberty that neither the king nor his heirs will take, or permit anyone to take, prizes, captions, or carriages within John's lands of Luss (DNE) which he holds from the Malcolm. Similarly, Malcolm granted, and by this his present charter established, to Sir John and his heirs that they must not be troubled by the bailies or servants of the lord king, the justiciars, or Malcolm's servants or bailies, either outside or inside of the bounds of Luss, regarding the presentation of witness, since Malcolm and his heirs will always be prepared to provide sufficient witnesses from the other men of their earldom in service of the lord King. Malcolm will provide witness as often as it may be necessary. Malcolm promises warrandice.

FIRM DATE X 28 September 1308

DATING NOTES x_RRS_v, no. 2

SOURCE FOR DATA ENTRY RRS, v, no. 2

TRAD. ID RRS, v, no. 2A

The database itself is a fascinating window into the lives of the 'movers and shakers' in medieval society, but the website has other fascinating features too, not least the Historical Information and the Map searches.

It can be a bit daunting at first glance – especially as there is so much information on the website, but there are tutorial worksheets, and help on the website to get you started.

It is well worth a look, as are its sister project pages: