



CONNECT

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



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May 2019

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*The Newsletter of AGI and ASGRA,
the accrediting bodies for Irish and Scottish professional genealogists*

Welcome to our twelfth Newsletter. Our sincere thanks are extended to those who have contributed, commented or made suggestions to improve the publication during this period, as well as to those who have helped in any way with this Issue.

An interesting new idea has emerged since the last edition which is covered in more detail in a section about holidays and local genealogical sources. We hope that some of you may be inspired to pen a few notes and send in an article. This would be very welcome!!!

Again, in this quarter's edition we present another interesting set of articles from both our organisations and we continue our series on local genealogical resources. This time we are visiting an important and extensive collection in the west of Ireland located in Ennis, which is the county town of Clare.

As usual, we hope you find the Issue useful and enjoyable. 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.

The Editors of *CONNECT* are:

Michael Walsh from *Accredited Genealogists Ireland (AGI)* and

Lorna Kinnaird from the *Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA)*.

The production responsibilities have been cheerfully assumed by John Grenham MAGI.



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Robert Davison, AGI Council Member
Michael Walsh, AGI Council Member
From ASGRA: Janet Bishop, Chairman ASGRA
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Contributions welcome

Any content for inclusion in **CONNECT** will be most gratefully received and can be sent to either:

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Our next edition is planned to go out in August 2019 and the deadline for submissions is 31 July 2019.

We hope that you enjoy reading the Newsletter!



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News from Scotland and Ireland...

News from Ireland

A CPD event was held in Cork City on Wednesday 29 May attended by 15 members. The day began with a walking tour of part of the city starting from Kent railway station. The first stop was to peer through a metal grille at the second longest railway tunnel in Ireland built in 1855. The walk continued along MacCurtain Street passed Poets' House and then Thompson's bakery which was founded in 1826, employed many people in Cork until closure in 1984 and at its height produced a mile of swiss roll a day!!!

Inevitably, the walk passed the iconic Murphy's brewery and then visited the historic Shandon area to the north of the River Lee.

We visited St. Anne's Church in Shandon with its famous stone tower which houses the famous Shandon Bells.





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Opposite this we saw the former location of the Cork butter market which for much of the 19th century was the world's largest, selling butter to all 5 continents.

The programme of lectures was held in the Cork City and County Archives and was headed by Brian McGee, County Archivist who presented a comprehensive overview of the Archives. This was the first local government archives in Ireland and Brian explained that its role was to acquire and preserve local material and to make its contents secure and accessible. The archive holds 400 years of material including local government archives, business, family and estate papers and trades union records held in 800 collections comprising 26,800 items.

The contents include material from various local government bodies, the health service, local steam packet companies and other maritime holdings as well as important photographic collections. It also comprises 2 significant private donations, one from Richard Dowden a former mayor of the city in 1845 and another from Thomas Hewitt who was a prominent distiller and local Councillor in the city which contains over 14,000 letters. Both providing great historic insights into the life of the city. For genealogists, the Archive holds important records of church burials, Poor Law Union Workhouses, hospitals, schools as well as electoral registers and property valuations.



This was followed by AGI member Dr. Paul MacCotter from the University of Cork (UCC) School of History who is a native of the city. Paul gave a concise and well researched presentation on the UCC archives. These include records from local breweries in Cork city including wage books, papers from local Co. Cork estates including the *White/Leigh-White/Shelswell-White* family of Bantry and the *Grehan* family of Clonmeen as well as collections from various local dignitaries and public figures. It also features a collection about George Boole who was a professor of mathematics at the University in 1849 and became the founder of Boolean algebra, the basis of modern computing.

Later, an enthusiastic talk was given by AGI Affiliate Ann Marie Coghlan who gave us an excellent review of resources available for genealogists at the Cork City Library. An excellent



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study space is available as well as important resources such as a large newspaper archive and a collection of online directories and almanacs from 1753 to 1945.

There was an impressive genealogy section which included marriage records and marriage bonds, the *Grove White* Notes which is a collection of manuscripts, books, journals and gravestone inscriptions providing pedigrees of many North Cork families. In addition, facilities available include useful searchable indexes to District Electoral Districts (DEDs) and street names and a collection of historic maps. Further resources available were Church of Ireland (Anglican) ebooks, Brady's Clerical and Parochial Records of 1864 and Cole's Church and Parish Records of 1903.

Finally, AGI member Rosaleen Underwood gave an impressive overview of the resources held at the Cork County Library. These include local directories and estate papers including the Wallis estate of Millstreet as well as local journals and documents carefully researched and presented by local historical and archaeological societies across Co. Cork including Cork, Skibbereen and Kinsale.

She also explained the complexity of researching Catholic records in the city and highlighted those 6 parishes whose records are not available online and whose registers can only be examined at the Cork County Library. The Library also holds a database of baptisms of all parishes in the Deanery of Cork up to 1900. Other important collections include journals from the Cork Historical & Archaeological Society which began in 1892, a compendium of records for North Cork & East Kerry called *O'Kief Cois Mang* and a compendium of late land records. These records are not available directly to the public, but librarians will consult them on request.

It was, in truth, a hectic day! There was a huge amount of information provided about local genealogical resources which was presented concisely in a number of excellent contributions, coupled with the chance to explore on the ground a little of the great history of this exciting city.

Michael Walsh MAGI



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News from Scotland

SAFHS Conference at Wick – Saturday 27th April 2019



The SAFHS Conference and History Fair hosted by Caithness Family History Society took place at the Pulteney Centre, Wick with the theme “*Northern Roots*”.

The Pulteney Centre is a thriving community centre offering a range of activities and facilities. It was a perfect location from which to hold the Conference and Fair. This was a special year to host the Conference as it marked the 30th Annual event of the Scottish Association of Family History Societies.

Delegates and representatives were warmly invited to an evening reception at the Pulteney Centre on the Friday night. This was an excellent get together and much chatting and sharing of information was to be had. Those who attended said it was a very positive gathering and it allowed everyone to feel relaxed for the day ahead. The wine, biscuits and cheese were delicious!

The Official Conference Opening on the Saturday was conducted by Viscount Thurso.

Talk 1: Oral History meets Family History by Doreen Leith



Talk 2: Clan Davidson Family History Projects in Caithness by Nick Hide (Clan Davidson)



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Talk 3: From Caithness to China by Neil Fraser (Historic Environment Scotland)



Talk 3: From Caithness to China by Neil Fraser (Historic Environment Scotland)

Lots of good positive feedback was received from the delegates (those attending the talks) and all three talks were very entertaining and enjoyable to listen to. It was encouraging to see delegates' pencils scribbling away frantically noting down details from all the talks.

After a lovely lunch of soup and sandwiches, the delegates were invited to a guided tour of the Nucleus: *The Nuclear and Caithness Archive*



Delegates were shown around the archive building, which included looking at some early *unusual* maps of Caithness. A short talk was provided on the sources that are housed at the Caithness



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Archives, and delegates were invited to peruse the collections in the folders before returning to the Family Fair again.



Images: ASGRA Secretary (Ian Marson) and ASGRA Treasurer (John McGee) manned the ASGRA and Ask the Expert Tables together with Bruce Bishop, Janet Bishop, Linda Kerr and Lorna Kinnaird
Anna Rogalski (Caithness Family History Society)



Image: Anna Rogalski looking at a delegates scrap book collection of family photos



Image: The SAFHS publications table
(sales of the Parish Registers sold like hot-cakes!)



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Image: Janet Bishop of GenealogyUK

“

It was a good conference and fair which had been well received by those who attended. Caithness Family History Society could not have done any more.

The exhibitors in attendance were: Aberdeen & North East Scotland FHS; ASGRA; Borders FHS; East Ayrshire FHS; Fife FHS, Moray & Nairn FHS; Orkney FHS; Tay Valley FHS; Strathclyde University; Castlehill Heritage Centre; Lanarkshire FHS; Highland FHS; Highland Archive Services, SAFHS and GenealogyUK.



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Images: Moray & Nairn FHS and Lanarkshire FHS



Images: Borders FHS & Fife FHS and Image: Caithness FHS



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Launch of the 31st SAFHS Conference 2020

31st Annual SAFHS Conference



2020

The Scottish
Association of
Family History
Societies

It's a Sair Fecht!

Saturday 18 April 2020

The Brunton, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh, EH21 6AA

9 am – 4.30 pm



Conference: £ 35 per Delegate: 4 Speakers (must be pre-booked);
Morning Coffee; Lunch; Afternoon Tea; Free entry to Family History Fair.

Family History Fair: £2 entry at door: Around 50 stands, with all your
favourite local and family history societies and charities; Ask the Experts.

Booking Forms: Available on the SAFHS Website: www.safhs.org.uk

Enquiries: to SAFHS 2020 Co-ordinator: Janet Bishop -
genealogyscotland@gmail.com

Hosted by:

ASGRA, Borders FHS, Lothians FHS, SGS

All four FHSs are busy planning for next years Conference. Further details (when known) will be included in subsequent issues of *CONNECT*.



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Careers in Genealogy

For the last 10 years, I have run a course at the SoG in London about careers in genealogy. The last one was on the 26 January this year and as always was fully subscribed. The course came about through a talk I gave some years ago at an AGRA professional day; at that time I had just 45 minutes to give a presentation on the experiences of a career genealogist to a group of interested people, who were considering embarking on genealogy as a profession. The SoG asked me if I could do a half-day course, and since then, with the exception of one year, I have presented my talk to between 25-30 attendees at each session - so perhaps about 250 people over the last 10 years.

My emphasis has always been on the accreditation aspect, and I have always actively promoted AGRA, ASGRA and AGI (formerly as APCI) at every session. With the venue being in London, almost all who have done the course are England-based and looking to operate a practice in England. Over the years, out of the 250 or so attendees, I only know of about half a dozen people who have actively pursued membership of AGRA; what became of the remainder I don't know - perhaps they decided that genealogy as a career was not for them, or perhaps some are working professionally but never sought to seek any form of accreditation. One thing I do know is that about a third of attendees were only just starting out in genealogy and had yet to gain the knowledge of even the basic principles of researching one's family history. In the last five or so years, I have found an increasing number of "researchers" have yet to visit an archive. The success of the course can't be measured by the number of people who followed through to take up the profession. On the contrary, I hope that I have put across the message that if you aren't prepared to outlay the resources needed to run a successful business and put in the time and effort, then don't bother. The feedback has always been good. I had a phone call from one attendee a few years ago, who said the course was beneficial, but I was "very negative". Well, I tell it how it is and make no excuses for saying that you will spend hours of time researching for a client only to come up with nothing positive, shatter a family story to bits, and then present them with a bill!

At the beginning of the session, I always ask for a show of hands from those who are already doing paid research, those who are taking courses and those who have worked as a self-employed person but not in genealogy. Maybe no more than one or two in each session are doing paid work, and interestingly I now see more who are embarking on courses with the IHGS, Strathclyde and Dundee. As for people in other professions or trades, there have been accountants, solicitors, marketeers, archivists, a builder and a vet. Most are hobby genealogists, and the age bracket tends to be the over fifties.

What do I teach? Well the course has evolved over the years, I started out in my professional career as a genealogist back in 1998, although I had been a family and local historian since 1980. I base the course very much on my own experience from when I started out, and also on feedback from many of my genealogist colleagues who have shared their own experience.

The course does not teach how to be a researcher. It deals with the world of self-employment, running a business, taxes, marketing, administration, dealing with clients, what to charge and how to report back. A new element this year was GDPR. The reporting element is always met with interest and I show a few



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examples of how reports should be presented to clients, I am sure you will agree that reporting is not *one size fits all*, and I report in different ways to different clients. Nevertheless, I stress the importance of good reporting, including the emphasis on citing sources and explaining the process of research. I have seen reports that show that searches were done in census records but no explanation as to what the census was. We should not assume that a client knows anything about the records we search and what we aim to achieve from doing so. We have to remember that we are spending our client's money and not our own.

Accreditation is an important part of the course. Membership of one of the accrediting bodies, in my opinion, is essential, and I don't hold back on the fact that if you are serious about being a professional then you should always have the desire to reach a standard that others have not reached, and that you will put yourself to the most stringent tests of professionalism and abide by a code of rules and ethics that will set you apart from other so-called professionals. At this year's session, it was a bonus to be able to promote Paul Gorry's book *Credentials in Genealogy*, which is something the profession has been in need of for a long time. I recommend seeking a qualification, but, as in any other profession, a law degree does not make you a Lawyer, a medical degree does not make you a Doctor and a genealogical degree does not make you a Genealogist.

So why run the course at all? When I became a professional genealogist, and started to run my own practice, I was on my own, I made mistakes, I spent countless hours on the business and not in the business, and I had failures and successes. I quickly learned how to get Clients; I had no choice as it was my bread and butter, and I am pleased to say that after 21 years I have always had a good number of clients to work for, so much so that I don't do anything else to supplement my income. I still give the occasional talk, though most of the time I don't get paid for that. I don't write books, rarely write articles and, apart from this course, I no longer teach genealogy.

Honestly, I like to share my success but I am also very protective of it and while I am always ready to help and advise would-be professionals, I am not in the habit of giving away trade secrets. I see the course as being advantageous to the profession -why? - because over the past few years I have seen how, with programmes like *Who Do You Think You Are?* and *Heir Hunters*, some individuals have taken on a profession that they are ill-prepared for. We have no regulation, we have no chartered professional body, anyone can set up and call themselves a genealogist and take on paid clients without having any knowledge, experience or qualification. When they get stuck and don't deliver, the profession takes a knock. I think paying clients deserve the best standard of service, and if teaching this course can achieve that mindset amongst those who wish to join the profession, then so be it.

Genealogy is a small industry and good commissions can be hard to obtain. As a profession I find it exciting, satisfying and rewarding, I hope that the small presentation I do each year puts across the message - that it is a serious undertaking to be charged with researching someone's family history, for whatever reason.

Ian Marson
ASGRA Secretary



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A new initiative...

Many of you go on holiday and as you are interested in genealogy seek out a local resource and make a visit. Irish and Scottish peoples have huge diasporas and many early emigrants left traces in North America, New Zealand, Argentina and many other places around the world. These international resources often have rich and interesting archives which many of our members in AGI and ASGRA would be interested in hearing about.

Consequently, an exciting idea has been put forward by one of our readers. If you have visited an archive or a local resource abroad, then perhaps you would consider sharing your experiences with the readers of *CONNECT*. A brief article describing details of the archive, such as location, access and facilities together with a note on the holdings of interest coupled with a few photographs (in *jpeg* format) would make a great and informative contribution to the Newsletter.

So, if you have something that may be of interest to our readers, then please get in touch with one of our Editors.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Michael Walsh (AGI) at michael9walsh@gmail.com

Lorna Kinnaird (ASGRA) at dunedingenie@virginmedia.com

Newfoundland calling...

The first article is likely to be from Georgina Scally MAGI who recently visited Newfoundland and found a local archive with many significant and interesting connections back to Ireland and the early Irish emigrants.



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Dates for your Diary...

In Ireland...

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The *Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme* for 2018 has been put together by Helen Kelly MAGI, Nicola Morris MAGI and their capable team. Undertaking CPD is a mandatory requirement for professional genealogists in Ireland which allows them to maintain their accreditation. Attendance is monitored by AGI.

2 CPD days are in the planning stage.

These include possible visits to the Railway Records Society Museum at Heuston station in Dublin and to Grangegorman Military Cemetery which is a British military cemetery in Dublin.

More details will be available in the next Issue of *CONNECT*.

National Archives of Ireland

The 2019 series of lectures on genealogy continues at the *National Archives of Ireland* and at least 3 of our members will be giving lectures on Irish genealogy this autumn:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 11 June: | Nicola Morris MAGI on Estate Records |
| 24 September: | Clare Doyle MAGI on “The Genealogy of an Irish Workhouse” |
| 12 November: | Michael Walsh on “ <i>The Griffiths Valuation</i> and its place in Irish genealogy” |

Lectures start at 6.00pm and will be held at the National Archives in Bishop Street in Dublin



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Back to our Past will be held October 18-19 at the RDS in Ballsbridge, Dublin

The biggest event in the Irish Genealogy calendar is undoubtedly the **Back to Our Past** exhibition which is held annually at the Royal Dublin Society (RDS) in Ballsbridge, Dublin. The event forms part of a huge exhibition for the over 50s and will be held over 2 days Friday 18 October and Saturday 19 October 2019.

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.

Entrance is free!!!

2019 AGM of AGI will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 10.30 a.m.

Advance notice is given that the AGM of AGI has been pulled forward to a Tuesday. This is largely because of the difficulty experienced in recent years of booking a suitable venue for our Christmas Dinner after the meeting in a busy seasonal period.



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In Scotland...

Plans are in full swing for the SAFHS Conference in 2020 in which ASGRA will be part of a team of four societies.

The membership continues to grow.

Council is pleased to announce the admission of two new members: Sarah Smith, Kinross; Shirley Obrzud, Dunbar; and one new probationer: Jane Ferguson, Edinburgh

We wish them well, and look forward to working with them.

The Generation Frame



A new Scottish genealogy programme has been aired on BBC Scotland entitled “The Generation Frame” which was first shown on Monday 20th May 2019. For four consecutive Mondays, the public will be entertained by the research carried out by ASGRA members.

Four ASGRA members, Elizabeth Cunningham, Lorna Kinnaird, Alex Wood and Chris Halliday have taken part in the production of this new venture, and it is hoped that it will lead to a regular yearly programme.



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Getting to know each other...

From Ireland...

In this issue we introduce **Clare Doyle** who runs her own genealogy business from Co. Galway. Clare recently became a full Member of AGI after joining the organisation as an Affiliate. Clare also spends time offering her services as a lecturer at Portumna Workhouse in Co. Galway.

Here, she writes about the history of the Workhouse, its records and how the institution was run.

Genealogy in a vacuum

Creating a names database for Portumna Workhouse 1852-1922

The physical placement of the Workhouse on the landscape reflected how it was designed to intimidate those seeking admittance. The buildings were large and stark and entirely different from the small cabins that housed the labouring classes outside the workhouse walls. Those coming into the workhouse had to accept the rules imposed and in entering were admitting defeat; they could no longer feed their families and had no assets to sell and nowhere else to go. Many, if not starving, were certainly malnourished and unable to





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readily fight off the various infections and disease that were so prevalent.

There are no Board of Guardians Minute Books for Portumna Workhouse, or other in-house records so there is no detailed, first-hand evidence about how the Board handled the initial influx of over 800 inmates who arrived during 1852, nor for those who were resident there up to the early 1920s. Neither are there any details of those seeking entrance and recorded in registers as was the normal, daily practice. Genealogical research is difficult in this case; the only thing connecting these people to the local landscape is the building itself. Newspapers, official reports, the Census and folklore accounts do provide some help in learning more about the building and its occupants. Civil death records for those who passed away after 1864 are also very useful, but they do not include the details of a family member informing the registrar of a death. It is unfortunate, that this detail comes from the matron, master or other inmate and is usually someone wholly unconnected with the deceased. Even in death, paupers were alone.

While there were general regulations governing the running of all workhouses in Ireland, each workhouse seems to have operated according to local conditions and the whim of staff, particularly the Master. As a result, the local system was very *ad hoc*. McCabe and O'Grada describe how tales of mismanagement and corruption were rife with few recorded mentions of well-run workhouses in Ireland.¹ This is particularly true in relation to the physical care of inmates. There were no concessions to comfort and there are many instances recorded when inmates were ridiculed, shamed, assaulted and mistreated within the walls of the institution. Local newspapers are particularly important as evidence of these activities.

In order to curb the rapid spread of disease, a phenomenon recognised by George Wilkinson (the architect employed to design the network of workhouse buildings in Ireland), additional ventilation windows were built into post-Famine workhouses. It was hoped that this measure would allow for the introduction of fresh air, particularly in the laundry and dormitories. At night,

as the inmates were sleeping, the stale warm air would rise and escape through these vents and

¹ McCabe & O'Grada, 'Better off thrown behind a ditch: Enniskillen Workhouse during the Great Famine' in *UCD Centre for Economic Research*, (2009), pp 1-28.



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fresh air would be brought in through small holes underneath the raised wooden platforms upon which the inmates slept. It could be argued that while fresh air could more easily circulate, in the cold, damp climate in the west of Ireland, many inmates began to suffer from influenza, pneumonia, respiratory and lung illness and whooping cough. The death records are interesting and relevant too in this instance, as they record the various causes of death in Portumna Workhouse. One of the main causes of death in Portumna was bronchitis.²



Ventilation windows in women's block at Portumna, a feature of post-famine workhouses

Aside from the ventilation, other in-built measures and day-to-day activities were undertaken in the hope of preventing disease from easily spreading from block to block. On arrival and before the separation of the family, each person was bathed, de-loused and given a workhouse uniform. These were the clothes to be worn while resident in the workhouse. On requesting to leave, the

² As evidenced in details from the civil death records of Portumna Workhouse inmates



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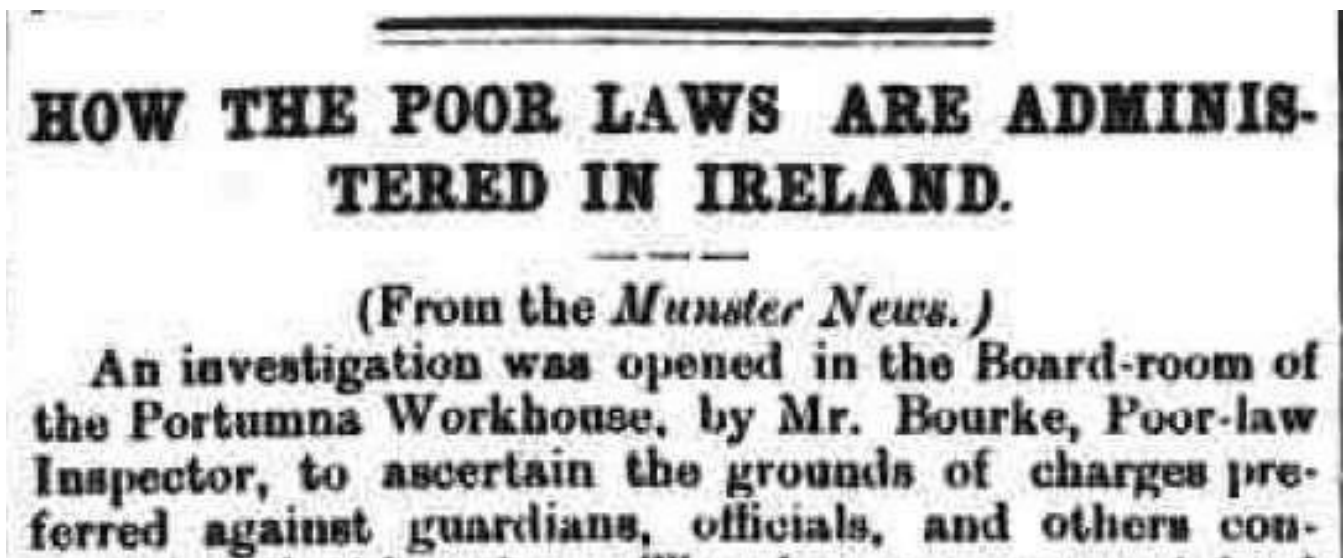
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inmates' old clothes were returned to them, though likely not washed or cleaned. Often their clothing were rags. Local newspapers provide accounts of those found outside the workhouse wearing their uniform, something that was prohibited. Upon leaving, paupers had to return their uniforms, the property of the Board of Guardians and being in possession of it after leaving was often punished as a type of theft.

Given the practice of corralling inmates into dormitories and workspaces in large numbers, it was inevitable that disease when it did occur quickly spread through the workhouse complex. Cholera, smallpox and typhus were rife throughout the country at various times. Many paupers suffering from cholera ultimately succumbed to dysentery, especially the children. In order to counteract this procession of diseases, the internal spaces in the workhouse were whitewashed with lime and the infirmary was placed outside the complex, behind the main buildings.



Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette, 6 August 1864

While some conjecture is employed in the study of Portumna Workhouse given the incomplete information available, a study of local newspapers and Poor Law Reports indicates that staff and guardians were not always kind in their treatment of inmates, especially those who were infirm,



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diseased, old or suffering from a mental illness. This lack of kindness was often reflected in a lazy attitude to the care of inmates. On 6 August 1864 the *Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette* reported an extract from the *Munster News* on the fate of John Howard, an inmate of Portumna Infirmary.

The man was presented at the Board Room in the Workhouse on grounds that he had received insufficient treatment during his stay. He was reported as being neither able to walk nor stand, 'and one of his legs was in a frightful state from some disease of the most frightful kind...he had no shirt and his skin was exposed through several parts of torn garments'.³ In 1865, the *Cork Constitution* reported that Portumna Workhouse 'is beyond the pale of Christianity'.⁴

The prevailing thinking among the Poor Law Commissioners, was that the moral and sometimes physical failings of the poor were the main reasons for their poverty. Those who were poor were bad, and bad because they were poor. Victorian thinking in the 'age of improvement', focused on the need for order, discipline and cleanliness in all aspects of workhouse life and this in theory permeated thinking on how the poor and sick should be treated. Idleness was frowned upon.

Life in the workhouse for both sick and able-bodied was one of abject misery and harshness with little or no concern for those who entered as the most vulnerable in society. While recording the names of workhouse inmates might only provide some genealogical assistance for those interested in the area, at the very least, recording the names of these unfortunate people provides what might be, one of the only records that they ever existed.

³ Hull Advertiser and Exchange Gazette, 6 Aug 1864.

⁴ Cork Constitution, 16 September 1865



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Focus on ...

In this last Issue of *CONNECT* we introduced a new series of articles drawing the attention of our readers to important regional sources for genealogists.

We hope that this initiative will help readers in Ireland and Scotland to become more familiar with the various archives that each country offers.

In this second contribution we are looking at the rich and extensive resources of the Clare County Library, many of which are online, which is based in Ennis.

THE LOCAL STUDIES CENTRE, ENNIS

The Local Studies Centre is the reference library and research centre for County Clare. It is located next to the DeValera Library in Ennis, County Clare. This centre is known throughout the world for its wonderful online genealogical research collection which is the first point of call for anyone with County Clare ancestry. A number of sources are available online to view at the following link:

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/coclare/genealogy/genealog.htm>



Jane Halleran Ryan

The Centre contains newspaper collections, book and unpublished collections with an emphasis on material from Clare authors as well as material on various matters pertaining to County Clare.



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The unpublished collection includes theses, unpublished works such as projects relating to various aspects of Clare archaeology, history and topography.



Reading room: courtesy of Clare County Library

The newspaper collection includes many local newspapers that are no longer in existence as well as back issues of the *Clare Champion*, *Clare People* and the *County Express*. In addition, there are several -lesser known titles with various dates available. Included in this collection is the Dunboyne Collection of newspaper clippings between 1824-1873, an eclectic series of newspaper clippings that Lord Dunboyne collected on various well-known families with Clare and Limerick connections.



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The Centre also holds a photographic collection which includes the Lawrence Collection as well as photographs from the McNamara and the Westropp families. In addition, it also contains the Killaloe Heritage Centre collection which includes private photographs of the Killaloe area and its residents.

The Centre has a map collection including the Down Survey, the Ordnance Survey 6-inch 1842 First Edition and the Letter and Names Book from John O'Donovan.

Some estate collections are available on microfilm including some papers from the Petworth House Collection, the Studdert Papers, the O'Brien Rent Roll and the Duke of Buckingham's papers as they relate to his estate in County Clare.

The Centre also contains many County Clare baptism and marriage registers on microfilm. They also hold the Church of Ireland for the parish of Drumcliffe, Ennis including the baptism, confirmation, marriage and burial registers.



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The Manse; courtesy of Clare County Library

The Manse has a large front reading room where the *Clare Champion* issues are held. In addition, there is a separate room which holds 3 microfilm readers and a research table. The microfilmed newspapers and parish registers are also contained in this room. The Centre also uses a card catalogue system whereby any name, place or building in County Clare has an index card with information as to sources and references contained therein.

The upstairs room contains further archive materials but is not open to the public. However, the librarians will access what materials are needed for viewing.

The centre is open Monday – Friday 10am – 1 pm, 2 pm-5:30 pm with a late opening Friday until 8 pm. It is also open on Saturdays from 10 am – 2 pm except for Bank Holiday weekends.



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The two librarians, Peter Beirne and Brian Doyle can be reached via email at:

localstudies@clarelibrary.ie

Jane Halleran Ryan (AGI Affiliate)

End of Newsletter