



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 1

CONNECT

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

Welcome to our thirteenth 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.

As the summer holidays come to an end, we have followed up on a new idea which was presented in our last Issue about holidays and local genealogical sources. We invited holiday makers who still need to get their genealogical fix and insist on visiting local archives to write about their experiences. In this Issue we have our first volunteer describing her experiences in Newfoundland!! In the next edition a visit to the Gibraltar Archives and the resources found there will be discussed.

We hope you enjoy this and invite others to come forward and write a few lines and send in an article. This would be greatly appreciated!!!

Again, in this quarter's edition we present another interesting set of articles from both our organisations.

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:

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.



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 2

Table of contents

News from Scotland and Ireland.....	4
News from Scotland	4
Professional Day.....	4
Statistical Accounts Online:	5
SAFHS Conference: 31st Annual SAFHS Conference 2020.....	6
News from Ireland	7
Genealogist on tour!	7
A new initiative... ..	11
Is Brexit good for Genealogy?	12
Dates for your Diary	13
In Scotland.....	13
Friday 6 th Sept 2019 ASGRA Professional Day, Register House.....	13
Friday 7 th February 2020 ASGRA AGM in The Dome, NRH.....	13
Saturday 18 th April 2020 SAFHS Conference, Brunton Halls, Musselburgh.....	13
In Ireland.....	13
Continuous Professional Development (CPD).....	13
National Archives of Ireland.....	14
“Back to our Past” Friday October 18 and Saturday October 19 in Dublin.....	14
2019 AGM of AGI will be held on Tuesday 3 December at 10.30 a.m.	15
Getting to know each other... ..	15
From Ireland... Rosaleen Underwood.....	15
Focus on	20



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 3

Alliance Sub-Group Team members:

From AGI: Paul Gorry, AGI Council Member
Robert Davison, AGI Council Member
Michael Walsh, AGI Council Member
From ASGRA: Janet Bishop, Chairman ASGRA
Ian Marson, Secretary ASGRA
Lorna Kinnaird, ASGRA Council Member

AGI Council Office Bearers

President: Joan Sharkey
joan.sharkey@gmail.com

Hon. Secretary: Georgina Scally
info@accreditedgenealogists.ie

Hon. Treasurer: Anne Rodda
arodda@drew.edu

ASGRA Council Office Bearers

Chairman: Janet B Bishop
genealogyscotland@gmail.com

Secretary: Ian F. Marson
secretary@asgra.co.uk

Treasurer: John McGee
wheechmcgee@hotmail.co.uk

Contributions welcome

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

Michael Walsh (AGI) at michael9walsh@gmail.com

Lorna Kinnaird (ASGRA) at dunedingenie@virginmedia.com

Our next edition is scheduled to go out in November 2019 and the deadline for submissions is 31 October 2019.

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. 13:

August 2019

Page 4

News from Scotland and Ireland...

News from Scotland

Professional Day

ASGRA will be holding a professional day on the **6 September 2019** in **The Dome at New Register House**. We are actively encouraging those who are operating as a professional genealogist and also those seeking to turn professional, with an emphasis on the importance of accreditation.

Although we are directing the event to try and encourage new membership we would like as many members as possible to attend and be on hand to give advice and answer questions during the informal part of the event and over coffee etc.

It is important that ASGRA has new membership to enable the association to grow and develop as Scotland's only accrediting body.

Programme:

Introduction & A Brief History of ASGRA – 9.20am
Janet M Bishop, FSGRA, FSA Scot, ASGRA (Chairman)
Ian F Marson, FGRA, ASGRA (Secretary)

The Importance of Accreditation – 9.45am
Paul Gorry, FSG, FIGRS, MAGI
(Author of "Credentials for Genealogists")

Break & Refreshments – 10.30

A Day in the Life of a Professional Genealogist – 10.45am
Lorna Kinnaird, PgDip, FSA Scot, ASGRA
Alex Wood, BA, MLitt, MEd, MSc, ASGRA

Becoming a Member of ASGRA – 11.30
Dr Kirsteen Mulhern, MA, PhD, ASGRA



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 5

Questions & Feedback – 12.15

ASGRA Members & Assessors will be present 12.30 – 1 pm
to answer questions on a one-to-one basis

Statistical Accounts Online:

From 1 August 2019, the Statistical Accounts of Scotland Online website will be hosted by the University of Edinburgh Library for a period of two years. Scans, transcripts, map-based searching and our Related Resources will be available free of charge to all users.

As a result of these changes, you no longer need a subscription or a user account to use the website.

Over the next year, the Statistical Accounts Board will be working with the University of Edinburgh, the University of Glasgow, Historic Environment Scotland and the National Library of Scotland on their plans to integrate the Statistical Accounts of Scotland into their national collections. We look forward to updating you in the coming months as these plans take shape.

For further information please look at: <https://stataccscot.edina.ac.uk/static/statacc/dist/home>

An 18th century character non-reference. Parish of Ordiquhill, Banffshire. NRS CH2/291/1

On 7th May 1721 James Gordon in Newtown of Park and his wife Helen Murray wished to leave the parish. They were denied a testificate on account of them being guilty of “many injustices, falsehood and unfaithfully borrowing money and taking on of goods under fair pretences and promises of payment which they have not nor intended to perform...”. “They went away under the imputation and character of notorious cheats”. It is not revealed where they eventually went to and, as a couple, they can’t be traced in later records of any Scottish parishes.

The rise and fall of James Clapperton Parish of Deskford, Banffshire. NRS CH2/91/3

In 1783 the new tax on the recording of baptisms and marriages had come into force all across Scotland and Mr James Clapperton, the new Schoolmaster and recently-appointed Session Clerk of the parish of Deskford, in Banffshire, was appointed as collector of these taxes. In 1784 Helen Taylor in Kirkcoun was reported as being with child by James Clapperton the schoolmaster. The Kirk Session minutes later note that “Mr James Clapperton, schoolmaster and Session Clerk, having left the country in an abrupt manner, has taken 5 shillings from the Poor Fund with him.” An inauspicious end to a career as a Banffshire Schoolmaster.

Bruce B Bishop FSA Scot, ASGRA



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 6

SAFHS Conference: 31st Annual SAFHS Conference 2020

It's a Sair Fecht!

**Saturday 18 April 2020
The Brunton, Ladywell Way, Musselburgh, EH21 6AA**

9 am – 4.30 pm

(Hosts: ASGRA; Borders FHS; Lothians FHS; SGS)

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 via the SAFHS Website: www.safhs.org.uk

Enquiries: to SAFHS 2020 Co-ordinator: Janet Bishop
www.safhsconf2020.simplesite.com



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 7

News from Ireland

Genealogist on tour!

In the last Issue we announced a new initiative. If you visit a local archive when you are away on holiday, perhaps you would like to share your experiences. Many international archives have rich and interesting archives with strong connections to Ireland and to Scotland.

Our first contribution is from Georgina Scally MAGI who is the Hon Secretary of AGI.

Here is her article.

A jaunt in Newfoundland, Canada.

A childhood fascination with offshore Atlantic fishing or maybe a subliminal connection to those who left our shores many eons ago, either one planted the seed of a desire in my husband's mind to one day visit Newfoundland (NFL), Canada's largest island perched off its south-eastern coast. That day came in April this year when we (I would hate for him to travel alone!) landed on a foggy windswept runway at St John's, Newfoundland's capital. Prior to the trip I had been aware of Irish links with NFL as a result of migration in the 18th and 19th centuries, but little prepared me for the strength, depth and enduring connection with Ireland apparent almost everywhere we went.

Newfoundland's location near the renowned Grand Banks fishing ground together with the superb natural harbour of St John's were no doubt the ultimate prizes in the minds of those who over the centuries sought to colonise the territory and control what at one time was considered the richest fishing ground in the world. While colonising such a location might sound like economic bliss, one element more than any other, proved (and continues to prove) the ultimate challenge – the weather! The extreme climate with long (and I mean long) months of snow, ice blizzards, freezing rain and thick fog meant that only the most persistent, resilient and toughest survived here.

While the island has a fascinating history, it is the impact of the Irish on the island in particular in the later 18th and 19th century that is of interest. British merchants from Devonshire and Dorset in the West County had by the late 17th century already forged strong links with NFL. West Country ships and vessels making their way to NFL had begun stopping at seaports like Waterford and Cork to stock up on provisions (salt beef, pork, butter) which were all more abundant and cheaper than English provisions. Soon they also began taking on Irish labour (also cheaper than English) with



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 8

most migrants (seasonal and permanent) coming from areas around Waterford, Wexford, south Kilkenny, southeast Tipperary and Cork.

At first the flow of Irish to NFL was relatively insignificant and the numbers ebbed and flowed relative to the growth and decline of the inshore and offshore fisheries and to how the balance of power played out between the French and the English on the Island (reflecting happenings in Europe). Over time however, as the British gained greater control of the island and with conditions in Ireland which encouraged migration, the number of Irish on the island rocketed. By the 1730s it is estimated 1,000 Irish passengers were being carried to NFL annually; by the 1770s and 1780s, 5,000 Irish came to NFL annually, many of whom would stay permanently. By 1800 half the population was of Irish descent. The impact of this migratory trend on the island's embryonic administrative, legal and social framework was immense not least because most of the Irish immigrants were Roman Catholic and this at a time when the practice of Catholicism was forbidden in NFL.

The island is roughly one and a quarter the size of Ireland and long distances (populated by millions of trees) separate communities. Early in our trip an attempted circumnavigation of the 'Irish Loop' peninsula, south of St John's was cut short by a sudden onslaught of torrential rain, pot-holes the size craters tantalisingly obscured by pockets of dense fog that enveloped our little hired car and sent us scurrying back to the paved streets of St John's. We now began to understand why the tourist office was not yet open for the 'season'. Although this was Easter week, the season in NFL only begins at the end of May - the reason being of course...the weather!



Every holiday needs a boat trip but as the 'season' had not yet begun the only option we could find was to Fogo Island, NFL's largest inhabited island off its northeast coast. Prior to undertaking the 450km road trip to the Fogo Island Ferry the only thing we knew of Fogo Island was that it was home to the architecturally astounding Fogo Island Inn (*see Photo 1*) and that it was the reputed location of one corner of Canada's Flat Earth Society (I might add I am not a member!). Within hours of arriving on the island almost everyone we met on hearing our accents said we must visit Tilting, an Irish community at the extreme eastern end of the island. Initially, we thought Tilting might be a reference to



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 9

some strange Irish sect of the Flat Earth Society, but this was not the case!

Tilting is one of the strongest extant Irish communities in NFL and retains one of the best collections of small vernacular structures associated with the traditional family based inshore fishery (structures that are almost completely disappeared in other communities). Furthermore, traditional Irish farming practices going back to 19th century were still practised here up until a few decades ago. The village got its name from the practice of living in temporary log structures known as 'tilts'. These structures were sometimes supported on wooden piles, set into the earth or pack-ice as the need arose .



Tilting's natural bay (*see Photo 2*) lent itself to the practice of ice fishing, amongst the toughest ways to make a living and to which the local Irish became adept.



The present-day population still retain their Irish accents and a strong connection to Ireland, although many have never been here (*see Photo 3*).

This was nowhere more evident than in the local café which was gearing up for the weekly trad session just as we departed.

After two sun filled days on Fogo Island and the first icebergs of the season (thanks to global warming) we got wind of an imminent snow-storm and so left the island amidst a white blizzard though which we drove (more like slid) back (yet again) to the shelter of St John's.

Downtown St John's is small, and we found our way to The Rooms an impressive building housing NFL's most extensive cultural space, including its largest collection of historical records and archives. (The name itself and its internal layout mirrors the fishing rooms where families came together to process their catch) (*see Photo 4*).



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 10



The Rooms houses NFL's parish, civil and census records as well as wealth of other resources including an online catalogue and digital database with thousands of photographs (<https://www.therooms.ca>).

These days St John's appears multi-cultural on the surface anyway, yet you can order a pint at a 'seisún' in downtown St John's quicker than you can in Dublin, and it will more than likely be served to you by a Farrell or a Foley, or a Power – worth a visit some time, in season!

Note: Some of the information in this short article was sourced in *A Short History of Newfoundland and Labrador*, Newfoundland Historical Society, Canada, 2018.

Georgina Scally MAGI



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 11

A new initiative...

We hope you enjoyed Georgina's article on Newfoundland! We hope to continue this series but here's where you can help.

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



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 12

Is Brexit good for Genealogy?

In these uncertain political times many businesses are concerned about the effects of Brexit in terms of stockpiling, investment and profitability. But one wonders whether there is an unexpected bonus for the professional genealogist? I recently had an email from a client in London whose father had been adopted in Scotland soon after he was born during WW2. She knew virtually nothing about her grandparents apart from their names and separate addresses on her father's birth certificate. But her plea to me in researching her family history was, "Please can you establish whether my birth grandparents were Irish as I am sick of Brexit and I want to apply for an Irish passport!" From the press and media it appears that applications for Irish passports are at an all-time high from UK residents.

In conducting the research I established that the paternal line came from the docklands of Dublin and were residing in Grants Row, St Andrews parish, Dublin in the 1901 census of Ireland. The paternal great-grandfather, aged 18, enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers and he fought in the Boer War. After breaking his ankle in South Africa he was shipped back to the Chelsea Hospital and his war was over. He emigrated from Dublin with a wife and son around 1908 to work in the docks at the Broomielaw in Glasgow. However, in 1914 at the age of 39 and he enlisted in the Royal Dublin Fusiliers once more, but after a few weeks training, he was found to be unfit as a result of rheumatism in his badly set ankle. This did not deter him as he then enlisted in the Highland Light Infantry, but they quickly transferred him to the Connaught Rangers reserve battalion. However, by 1916 the Connaught Rangers disembodied him for being unfit. It was obvious that this Boer War veteran was desperate to enlist in WW1, because he was in financial trouble with young children and he was finding it difficult to get regular work in the quays. He applied for a war pension but this was dismissed on the grounds of lack of fitness and lack of any active service.

On the maternal line using Glasgow Poor Law records I established that the great-grandfather came from County Donegal.

In 1912 his wife died in Glasgow and he was finding it difficult to raise his young family and keep a regular job down. Things started spiralling down and the Parish Inspector issued a warrant for his arrest on the grounds of child neglect. In 1913, three of his youngest children were taken to the Children's Shelter. They then spent time in Stobhill Hospital, probably due to malnutrition, and then about a year in the Glasgow Poorhouse, before being returned to their father in 1914.

Bad news for the client though. It showed that both her grandparents were born in Glasgow of Irish great-grandparents and thus she did not qualify for an Irish passport.

She will just have to put up with Brexit like the rest of us!

John McGee, Treasurer, ASGRA



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 13

Dates for your Diary...

In Scotland...

Friday 6 th Sept 2019	ASGRA Professional Day, Register House
Friday 7 th February 2020	ASGRA AGM in The Dome, NRH
Saturday 18 th April 2020	SAFHS Conference, Brunton Halls, Musselburgh

In Ireland...

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The *Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme* for 2019 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 have been arranged for this autumn:

- 1. Thursday 19 September 2019:** A visit to Grangegorman Military Cemetery; this is a British military cemetery in Dublin.

Brian Donnelly of the *National Archives of Ireland* will give a talk on medical and institutional records.

The talk will take place in the afternoon, but there may also be a local tour on the morning of the 19th; full details and a timetable will be circulated closer to time.



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 14

We look forward to seeing you on 19th September.

- 2. Tuesday 5 November 2019 pm.:** A talk on the 1922 Public Records Office Fire will be given at the *Dublin City Library and Archive, Pearse Street, Dublin* by Zoe Reid, Peter Crook and Sean Murphy from the *National Archives of Ireland*

This is to be confirmed; it is also hoped to present this lecture through a webinar

More details will be available shortly.

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:

24 September: Clare Doyle MAGI on “The Genealogy of an Irish Workhouse”

12 November: Michael Walsh on “*The Griffiths Valuation* and its place in Irish genealogy”

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

“Back to our Past” Friday October 18 and Saturday October 19 in 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 this year over 2 days on 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.



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 15

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.

Getting to know each other...

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

From Ireland... Rosaleen Underwood



In this quarter's Issue we introduce **Rosaleen Underwood** who is a very experienced genealogist. Although based in Dublin, she specialises in Cork City and Co. Cork genealogy.

Rosaleen worked in the Genealogy Service in the *National Archives* for 12 years and at the *National Library* for 3 years, both of which she thoroughly enjoyed.

Rosaleen is a member of various genealogical societies and currently is a Committee member of the *Irish Genealogical Research Society--Ireland Branch*. She has also served on the AGI Council and still works on a number of sub-Committees.



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 16

	Questions
Q1	Name: Rosaleen Underwood
Q2	Email: underwor.rmc@gmail.com
Q3	Occupation: Genealogist
Q4	Location: Dublin
Q5	<p>Areas of research and specialisms:</p> <p>It's funny – I specialise in Cork city and county, and yet I seem to spend a lot of my time researching families in the North (which I love doing) but, like everyone else, I research all areas of the country.</p> <p>I enjoy doing the 18th century but my favourite records of all are parish records (any denomination, any period), and putting together — or trying to — the different families and their family trees, and wondering about the stories in their history. I always feel there's a story in every line there if we could find it.</p> <p>When I was studying genealogy, I did projects on surnames in East Cork (spanning 1,000 years), and marriage links between banking families in the 18th centuries, and I still enjoy chances to get back to them.</p> <p>Social history and local history are both important to me and to any area of research I am doing so I do a lot of background reading, especially for areas I am not so familiar with.</p>
Q6	<p>What brought you into genealogy?</p> <p>It was a roundabout journey. I was always the family nerd full of useless</p>



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 17

	<p>information that nobody else wanted to hear, and with a background in art and design, and a passion for history, so as soon as I got a chance to do a course in family history at my local library I was hooked, and things just took off.</p> <p>All the women in my family were great story-tellers, and I was mesmerised by all the exciting names and places. Unfortunately, when that generation had all died out (before I knew the questions that needed to be asked), my mother was the ultimate brick wall and wouldn't tell me anything. But I wore her down by getting her to talk about the Emergency (as the years of World War 2 were known in Ireland) when she had just left school and she was out and about with her friends, and would gently lead her back into the family, and she was as good as the rest of the family.</p> <p>Most of the family stories were greatly exaggerated, of course, but there were others that were much more interesting than the version I had been presented with. Like the great-grandfather who I was told should have lost his job because, being a customs official, he let some of the Fenians escape from the harbour. It was only because my great-grandmother was so persuasive that he was demoted sideways and exiled to Bristol for five years. That doesn't seem to have been the case at all (although they did move to Bristol for a few years). I found a newspaper report of the first part of his trial for embezzlement and extorting excess harbour dues when I was searching for a report of an eviction for a client. I am still ploughing through all the documents in the National Archives (maybe I will finish them at Christmas), and all I can say is that there was certainly bad blood between him and one of the captains in the harbour. Meantime, my great-grandmother came back and set up a hotel where several generations of us grew up but that's another story altogether.</p>
Q7	<p>What has been your favourite piece of research or most interesting assignment?</p> <p>It's so hard to say. The current case is usually the favourite whatever it is but it is great when I can get some extra records that will give some background to the case and bring the family to life.</p>
Q8	<p>What is your favourite Archive and Why?</p> <p>The Genealogical Office. It's always so peaceful there, and usually bright and sunny (even when it's lashing rain outside). I have happy memories of many</p>



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 18

	<p>great discoveries there over the years.</p> <p>As well as all the manuscripts, there are a lot of books on the open shelves there (many of which used to be on the open shelves of the Main Reading Room but were removed) including copies of the Annals, <i>Analectica Hibernica</i>, many of the Historical Manuscript Commission and Irish Manuscript Commission publications, many of the standard works on genealogy, various editions of <i>Burke</i> and <i>Who's Who</i>, the complete hardback Hayes' <i>Sources for Irish Civilisation</i>, dictionaries and directories, reports, catalogues of reports on the various collections in the National Library, Deputy Keepers' Reports of the Public Record Office and PRONI, and a whole load of other things. There used to be great opportunities for browsing there but, with the current ordering system, you have to make your own browse time. But it's always worth squeezing it in as you never know what you will find.</p>
Q9	<p>How is your own family tree?</p> <p>Growing. The main fertiliser it needs is more time. Some lines go back a long way but it all depends on the available records. They are very bad for my grandfather's parish in Co. Monaghan and there are awkward gaps at Crooke in Co. Waterford affecting all of my great-grandfather's family on another line. The supposed English Protestant line turned out to be 3rd generation Catholic from Limerick but I got back to the 1780s with them which isn't too bad for this country. I haven't started on my Scottish great-grandfather yet. Maybe at Christmas — that's when I treat myself to my own research.</p> <p>My mother told me (long before I started tracing the family) that most of her father's relations had emigrated to Australia. I got as far as I could with that side of the family, wrote it up and sent it off to the Clare County Library who put it on their website and hoped that someone would contact me.</p> <p>A few years ago, when visiting one of our daughters in Sydney, I met up with some of my new cousins there, and we went up to Toowoomba in Queensland to see where the family first settled in the 1850s. It was a great experience and made me realise what it must be like for those coming back to Ireland to see where their ancestors came from.</p>
Q10	What tips can you offer a beginner?



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 19

	<p>Be flexible about names, dates, spellings and just about everything. Take nothing for granted and double-check all information given, no matter how "reliable" the source. Think how the information could have been misinterpreted, and work out different scenarios for everything to see how plausible they are. Get to know the alternative forms of names, forenames and surnames. Note all information or family stories, no matter how contradictory. Eventually, they will all make sense.</p>
Q11	<p>How do you relax or what other interests do you have?</p> <p>Puzzles, reading (who-dunnits, of course), photography, and comparative languages. Latin at school gave me a good start with the Romance languages but it is the Germanic and Scandinavian languages that are my real interest. It started a long time ago passing as I was passing through Ostend noticing how similar the Flemish on the signs was to English, and I resolved to study it which I did over 20 years later. The last few years I have been studying Danish which I had always been told was very difficult. For the first six weeks it was but then I started to see the similarities between it and Irish, how a double consonant often had the same effect as <i>buailte</i> or <i>séamhú</i> (the H after a consonant) in Irish modifying the sound, and how some words were more similar to the Irish than to English (call it the Viking effect) and then it began to make sense. Icelandic would be interesting as there is supposed to have been a strong Gaelic influence there. Reading up on the historical differences and technical stuff has to be saved for Christmas breaks along with the rest of the history books I have collected throughout the year. No wonder I need a two week break then with all the reading up I have to catch up on. I haven't yet got around to studying Scots-Gaelic or Welsh but I hope to some day.</p>
Q12	<p>Any other comments or information to add?</p> <p>Advice given to me by my first family history teacher when I was starting off was to think local first, then national, and then international. In other words, know the context and the background, and how the local events fit in with the national and international events. Maybe it's because of my training in art and design that I like to see things in the round so social history and local history are very important to me, and can often provide answers to the questions raised by family history.</p>



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 13:

August 2019

Page 20

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 Scotland throughout the coming months, we will be highlighting an archive and specific collection that is of great interest. This requires the input of all ASGRA members to think about the archives they visit, and to write an article on their visit for the memberships.

End of Newsletter