



CONNECT

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



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November 2020

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

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

As you may be aware, Ireland and much of Scotland are still in the grips of major lockdowns and their attendant restrictions. Most of our archives and libraries are once again closed and we will try and bring you up to date with the latest situation, in addition to offering some interesting and, hopefully, informative articles.

We look forward to safely emerging from this pandemic, to our archives re-opening and to resuming our genealogical research activities.

In this quarter's edition we have a major article on an important event in Scottish history. There is also information about contacting our archives concerning their re-opening plans. In addition, there are notes about a series of innovative online lectures that have been held and ideas for further events.

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

or

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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Alliance Sub-Group Team members:

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Robert Davison, AGI Council Member
Michael Walsh, AGI Council Member

From ASGRA: Janet Bishop, Chairman ASGRA
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Lorna Kinnaird, ASGRA Council Member

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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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Lorna Kinnaird (ASGRA) at dunedingenie@virginmedia.com

Our next edition is scheduled to go out in February 2021 and the deadline for submissions is 11 January 2021.

We hope that you enjoy reading the Newsletter!



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News from Scotland and Ireland...

News from Scotland

Council continues to meet albeit via Zoom, which ensures that the day to day governance of the association is kept as much to the norm as possible in these uncertain times. We are still open for business but of course our normal way of doing things is seriously disrupted. We are pleased to announce that Richard Forty of Aberdeen has been accepted as an ASGRA probationer and we welcome him to the Association.

Although we do not have any specific indication of when archives will re-open, we have been made aware that it is likely that the ScotlandsPeople centre and NRS will remain closed until well into the New Year. This is not good for our members as there are limitations to what can be done with online records, plus the financial costs of having our income stream seriously affected.

We have been operating members' meetings via Zoom, nothing formal, just the chance to meet and have a chat and share news and stories, the sort of things that would perhaps be discussed over coffee in the ScotlandsPeople centre cafe.

On a positive note we can announce that the SAFHS 2020 Conference "*It's a Sair Fecht*" that was cancelled when the lockdown was brought in is now scheduled to take place in April 2021 which will give ASGRA the opportunity to give its presentation on The Radical Rising. The exact date has yet to be fixed so watch out for further announcements.

Our AGM will go ahead as scheduled on the 5 February 2021 by Zoom and we will look forward to seeing members on the day.

Old Photographs:

If you are interested in old photographs of the Inverness area – you might find the Joseph Cook Collection on www.ambaile.org.uk useful. These were collected by Joseph Cook, my great uncle. More detail about him and his family, including my grandfather, James Cook, can be found under *The Best-known Citizen of Inverness* on www.cookcollection.co.uk/biography - Diane Baptie (ASGRA Member)



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Contracts of Marriage in the Register of Deeds:

Owing to the religious struggles which beset Scotland during the 17th century, many Scottish registers of marriage do not go all that far back. What can be useful sources are marriage contracts made between couples which, although private arrangements, were registered for more security in the various registers of deeds. Over the years, I have been extracting these from the Register of Deeds of the Court of Session.

Apart from the date of registration, a contract includes the date and place where it had been made, the names of the bride and groom, other parties involved and details about the tocher (dowry)

Here are some examples for the period 1600-10.

Other family members:

A contract was recorded on the 20 May 1606, having been drawn up at Kirk of Rait on the 25 March 1603 between Patrick Davie in Inchmichael on the one part and Katherine Jakson, relict of John Hunter in Craighall and her sons, Andro, John and William Hunters for Katherine Hunter, her daughter on the other part (RD1/119)

Here we learn the names of the parents of the bride that her father had died, that she had three brothers and that she had been living in Craighall

Another contract was registered on the 12 February 1600, having been made 5 years before, on the 18 November 1595 at Balhousie between James Crombie, merchant burges of Perth on the one part and Barbara Foullis, daughter and heir of the deceased Patrick Foullis, burges of Perth on the other part, also lists her curator, Patrick Justice, cordiner and burges and her grandfather, the deceased James Foullis (RD1/74)

This also tells us that she was underage

Some other relatives.

Registered on the 5 June 1601 and made at Edinburgh, 17 November 1598 – Mr Thomas Hamilton of Drumcairne, advocate, taking on the burden for Elizabeth Ross, daughter of the deceased James Ross, treasurer and burges of Edinburgh by the deceased Marion Hamilton, eldest sister of the said Mr Thomas Hamilton, with consent of Thomas Hamilton of Preistfeild, her guidsir, Mr Thomas Hamilton of Drumcairne, her maternal uncle and the rest of her curators on the one part and Robert Hamilton of Bathgait for Robert Hamilton, younger of Bathgait, his eldest son on the other part (RD1/80)

This contract includes details about the bride's mother, her maternal uncle and her grandfather (guidsir)



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Registered on the 4 December 1607 and made at Edinburgh, 29 July 1606 – Mr Thomas Abernethie, minister on the one part and Beatrix Creiche, daughter of the deceased John Creiche, merchant burghess of Edinburgh and John Creiche younger, her brother and George Abernethie, her brother-in-law for her on the other part (RD1/139)

Here Beatrix is represented by both her brother and her brother-in-law

Remarriage

Registered on the 28 May 1600 and made at Kinghorn, 16 Dec 1597 – Isobell Robertstone, daughter of James Robertstone of Wester Kinghorn and Alieson Loquhair on the one part and Andro Robertstone of Glasmont on the other part. She was to be his second wife. His first wife was Jonet Rok and they had had James, John and Bessie. He was to pay each of them 60 merks and the rest of his goods and gear was to go to his future spouse, unless he decided to leave part to his children (RD1/74)

This would be very useful if Andro Robertstone did not leave a will

A family affair!

Registered on the 1 January 1605 and made at Edinburgh, 24 March 1598 – John Blair of that Ilk for his daughters, Grissell, Issobel and Annas on the one part and Bryce Blair of Lochwod for his sons, Bryce, Robert and John on the other part. Bryce Blair younger was to marry Grissell, and failing her by death or refusal, Issobell, whom failing Annas. If Bryce failed, then his brother, Robert would marry her, whom failing, John (RD1/106)

A joint wedding

Registered on the 6 January 1602 and made at Strathaven, 14 December 1600 – James Kirkland in Cauldtreme for his sons, John and Andrew Kirklands on the one part and Andro Hamilton, miller in Strathaven and his spouse, Helein Torrens for their daughters, Eufame and Bessie Hamiltons on the other part (RD1/84)

Diane Baptie

ASGRA Member

National Library of Scotland

George the IV Bridge, Edinburgh

<https://www.nls.uk/reopening> (to book a seat)

The NLS remains open with limited spaces and days. Consult their website for more information.



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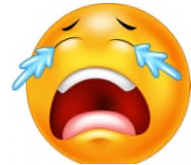
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News from Ireland

BACK TO OUR PAST – VIRTUAL EVENT

18th – 20th SEPTEMBER 2020.

Due to Covid-19 and related restrictions, Back To Our Past did not take place as usual in the RDS, Dublin this year. Normally at this time, AGI would be preparing for one of the major genealogical events in Ireland, and calling on our members to assist on the AGI Stand, gathering our books for sale, as well as compiling the roster for our free consultations. Sadly, the sweet jars were empty this year and there were no cakes on the cake stand!! There was no excitement and buzz as the doors opened on the first day to the public and the hall filled up with a sea of people visiting each stand including the AGI stand.





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As with a lot of events in 2020, it was a journey into the unknown – a Virtual Event. Of course, as one would expect, it brought its own challenges and issues, both technical and man-made! A registration fee of €10 was required to view all of the presentations over the three days, which will be available on the BTOP website for another 3 months, so we are told.

A number of the usual Exhibitors also took part by providing presentations – National Archives of Ireland, Glasgow City Archives, Ancestry, TIARA, Irish Roots Magazine and others.

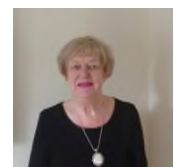
Unlike setting up our usual AGI stand in the RDS, where we are in total control of how it looks, the information we provide and manning it, we did not have the same control over what was uploaded on the BTOP Virtual website prior to it going ‘live’.

AGI provided six ‘Introductory’ talks over the three days, which were presented by our Members. They had recorded them beforehand with Conor O’Hagan who was working with BTOP for the event. A BIG thank you to Conor for all of his assistance in producing the videos. The following AGI Members took part:

Joan Sharkey – *‘How to Find What You Are Looking for in Roman Catholic Records in Ireland’*



Helen Kelly - *‘Territorial Divisions in Ireland’*



Nicola Morris – *‘Researching in the 1901 and 1911 Census of Ireland’*



Paul Gorry - *‘Being Prepared for Researching in Irish records’*



Sandy O’Byrne – *‘Researching Irish Ancestors in Civil Records’*





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Michael Walsh – *'Researching Griffith's Valuation'*



New Affiliate Member

AGI are pleased to welcome a new Affiliate member Jillian Van Turnhout.



Jillian Van Turnhout

Jillian is a well-known national figure in Ireland having been a member of *Seanad Éireann*, the upper house of the Irish Parliament.

Jillian is currently a member of the Board of the *Arts Council of Ireland*. She has been involved in family history for nearly two decades and in recent years has concentrated on developing that interest professionally.



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AGI participation in the Dublin City Culture Club

Culture Club is a series of hosted talks and tours that introduce and encourage people to connect with the cultural spaces of Dublin City. It was set up by Dublin City Culture Company in recent years in partnership with all of the museums, galleries, archives, and libraries as well as other cultural activities in the City. The *Culture Club* is open to all but booking in advance is necessary and numbers are restricted to only a small group of 15 to 20 people, hence it has become extremely popular.

Since the middle of March, following government advice regarding the COVID-19 situation, Dublin City Council Culture Company suspended its tours and public programming. In the changed circumstances, it was later decided to run a series of virtual Culture Clubs, where you could experience cultural events, talks and performances online via Zoom. It was still open to all, free and limited to small numbers.



The National Archives of Ireland (NAI) was one of the partners involved with the Culture Club and in May, Elizabeth McEvoy, archivist in NAI requested AGI to take part in 'Ask the Genealogist' presentations in June, August and October. Staff members in NAI were also taking part in 'Ask the Archivists' presentations for the alternative months of July, September and December. I was the contact person on behalf of AGI who liaised with Elizabeth McEvoy in NAI.

The first AGI presentation took place on 30 June and was given by John Grenham. The title of his lecture was 'The Revolution in Irish Online Research'. The format was a lecture followed by question and answer session from the public.

The second presentation was held on 20 August and was given by Tony Hennessy. The topic was 'How to Start, when to Start – First Steps in Tracing your Ancestors'. Tony also presented examples of starting a sketch pedigree chart and family group records to help in undertaking your family history research.

The final presentation took place on 20 October and this was a Question & Answer session, with three members of AGI taking part:- Nicola Morris, Steve Smyrl and Máire Mac Conghail. Below was part of the advertisement of this presentation, on the Culture Club website:-



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Our enticing ad:

Grab a cup of tea or coffee and join us for a free *Culture Club* from the comfort of your own home.

Professional genealogists, Nicola Morris, Steven Smyrl and Máire Mac Conghail, members of Accredited Genealogists Ireland, will be available to answer your genealogy questions on any aspect of Irish genealogical research. Whether you have a question about how to get started on your family tree or have a long standing brick wall that you have been struggling with, you can tap into their extensive knowledge of sources and research methods. Questions posed by others may prove relevant to your own research and this is an opportunity to learn more about Irish genealogy via the experience of the genealogists and those posing their questions. The session will also be accompanied by live online research and research demonstrations relating to the questions posed.

All the three presentations were booked up very quickly in advance and proved very popular with the public. The feedback from both the *Culture Club* and National Archives has been very complimentary to AGI.

I would like to thank all the AGI members who took part in the *Culture Club* events which was a new opportunity for AGI in these 'unusual times' to showcase the genealogical expertise of our members and connect with the wider public.

Joan Sharkey MAGI

President

Accredited Genealogists Ireland AGI



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The Archives of Ireland:

For many of us in genealogy a source of great frustration has been the closure of our national archives, libraries, and research facilities during this lockdown. Nicola Morris MAGI who heads up the CPD Team at AGI, has prepared a set of notes about how to contact major archives in Ireland in order to check on their planned opening arrangements. We hope that this will be of use to our readers.

National Library of Ireland:

You can find details of arrangements for using the National Library of Ireland Main Reading Room and Manuscripts Reading Room on the NLI website:
https://orders.nli.ie/orders/1997/build/add_reader_details

National Archives of Ireland:

The National Archives of Ireland Reading Room website:
<https://www.nationalarchives.ie/product/book-the-reading-room/>

Archivists at the National Archives are currently available to answer questions by email. In addition, AGI are continuing to provide a genealogy advisory service for virtual visitors by email. The email address for both services is: query@nationalarchives.ie

General Register Office:

The General Register Office Public Research Room on Werburgh Street, Dublin can be contacted by email at GROResearchRoom@welfare.ie
It is also possible to order digital copies of records from this office, with the relevant reference details. The orders can be made via the email address:
The e-mail address is GROResearchRoom@welfare.ie

Valuation Office:

The Valuation Office (VO) in the Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin is currently closed.

Registry of Deeds:

The Registry of Deeds in Henrietta Street, Dublin is currently closed to the public, but plain copies of memorials can be ordered from their offices.



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Dublin City Library and Archive:

The DCLA on Pearse Street in Dublin city is currently closed to the public and there is no timetable for reopening the reading room. DCLA is however open for telephone and email queries:

Telephone: +353 1 6744999 **Email:** dublinstudies@dublincity.ie cityarchives@dublincity.ie

Representative Church Body Library:

The Representative Church Body Library (RCBL) in Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin, is currently closed and there are no notifications about their plans to reopen.

Updated information about timelines is available on their website

<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library>

However, you can still contact the office with queries by email on library@ireland.anglican.org

PRONI:

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast is currently closed and there is no information about when it is likely to fully reopen.

Please consult the website: <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>

GRONI:

The Research Room at the General Record Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) in Belfast GRONI is currently closed to the public

Phone: 0300 200 7890 (if outside the UK: +44 300 200 7890).

Cork City and County Archives

The Research Room at Cork City and County Archives is closed located in the Seamus Murphy Building, 32 Great William O'Brien St, Blackpool, Cork but is currently closed.

Phone: +353 (0)21 450 5876.



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THE ABORTIVE JACOBITE INVASION OF 1708

The Historical Perspective

The first Jacobite Rising, in 1708, was a disaster even before it began. James VII and II fled back to France after the failure of his expedition to Ireland during the years 1689 to 1691. He was granted what was, for that time, a huge pension of some six hundred thousand livres (about £50,000) by Louis XIV. With this funding James was able to establish a Jacobite Court in exile at St Germain-en-Laye, near Paris, surrounding himself with an ever-increasing community of expatriate Jacobite supporters.

Following the death of James VII and II in 1701 the mantle of Jacobite leadership in exile fell upon his 13-year old son the 'Prince of Wales', James Francis Edward Stuart (the 'Pretender'), whom Louis XIV formally recognised as 'King James VIII and III of Great Britain'. France was reeling from Marlborough's resounding victories on the Continent and seen from a French perspective a Jacobite rising in Scotland in favour of the 'pretender' would create a diversion and ease the pressure on the French army in Belgium. The victory at Alamanze in Spain provided additional encouragement for Louis to support the rising.

In the years immediately before the Act of Union of 1707, privateers and pirates were highly active along the east coast of Scotland, and this continued for several years after the attempted invasion. In 1705 three Aberdeen ships returning from Campheir were seized by the French and the Ostenders, and were held hostage by the French in exchange for the return of the two French or Ostender crews captured earlier by Captains Gordon and Campbell.

Even on land the situation was very unstable, as shown by a letter¹ from Edinburgh, probably written by John Philp, to William Lorimer, Chamberlane to the Earl of Seafield at Cullen on July 3rd 1705: -

"....wee have a great report of ane skirmish that was among the gentlemen in Banff shyre and that very bloody, which made us believe that Boynd should not have been able to have come to the Parliament, but wee see it to be otherwise...". This probably refers to James Ogilvie of Boynd mentioned later.

The war on the continent continued, and the arrangements for the union with England also continued in Edinburgh. The Scots Parliament met on 3rd October 1706 and the Act ratifying the Treaty of Union was passed on 16th January 1707. The Scots Parliament adjourned some nine

¹ National Archives of Scotland. Seafield Muniments GD248/560/42



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weeks later on the 25th March. The Act of Union of 1707, rather than bringing harmony to Scotland only served to bring disaffection and dispute. It is estimated that at least two-thirds of the population were Stewart sympathisers, and anti-union sentiment soon began to be directed towards the possibility of a Stewart restoration. Even such anti-Royalists as the ultra-Presbyterian Cameronians considered being ruled by a Stewart king to be a lesser evil than being suppressed by an Anglo-Hanoverian dynasty and parliament.

Scotland was swarming with agents and spies working for France, and intrigue was rife. One of these spies, Nathaniel Hooke, was an Irish Protestant and was active in Scotland in 1705 and again in 1707. He took back information to France in which he made the claim that several influential Scottish nobleman and clan chieftains were ready to support the rising.

*“The memoirs of Colonel Hooke, a Jacobite emissary from Louis XIV to Scotland, and other writers of the time all give us glimpses of a potential intrigue in which the Old Chevalier adherents sought to take advantage of the unpopularity of the union by combining such extremes as the Cavalier and Catholic Jacobite with the westland Cameronian whig. The old active supporters and mainstay of the revolution of 1689, the Covenanting whigs of Galloway, Lanark, and Ayr, discontented with the union, were sulkily, through some of their agents, becoming active. The unsettled state of Scotland, and the fairly concrete promises of support carried from that country to the court of Louis XIV by Colonel Hooke, by the young Lord of Boyne and others, made a French and Jacobite invasion of Scotland a feasible proposition”.*²

Encouraged by the supposed promise of an army of 25,000 troops and 5,000 horse awaiting them in Scotland, the French decided to provide the ‘pretender’ with a limited amount of military support, and land him in Scotland, where it was assumed that these promised troops would meet up with the invading forces. An expeditionary force of 5,000 men was to be sent aboard a French fleet comprising five men-of-war and fifteen troop transports, under the command of Admiral Claude de Forbin.

A motion was made for Prayers and a fast in the Church against the possibility of invasion, but the wheels of ecclesiastical bureaucracy turned slowly indeed, the date being set for the first Thursday in April “*albeit that many thought that before that tyme the hazard might rather be over, or the fast too late..*”.

The expedition gathered at Dunkirk, but it soon became obvious that it was not only the French who had their spies, and before long a British squadron of men-of-war under Admiral Byng was anchored off Gravelines, just seven miles from Dunkirk. On 6th March 1708 Prince James, now twenty years old, arrived at Dunkirk to join the French troops. He had recently caught measles from his little sister, and he was extremely ill. The weather too was ill, with spring gales raging in the Channel. Nevertheless, the French fleet set sail that evening in atrocious conditions, and after seeking shelter from the storms off Ostend, they eventually managed to evade the British

² James Grant (ed). Seafield Correspondence. Scottish Historical Society Vol 2 No 3, 1912, Edinburgh



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squadron and set sail northwards. In the morning of the 13th March the French fleet was seen near to the Isle of May, just off the south coast of Fife, but they seem to have overshot their original target of the Firth of Forth, and by the afternoon they were off Montrose.

A Jacobite welcoming party waited in vain at Burntisland, on the south coast of Fife, with their intention having been to join up with the French troops and advance on Stirling. The Royal Navy squadron under Byng's leadership had successfully shadowed the French ships and moved into the attack on the evening of the 13th, off Bervie, before any of the troops could be landed.

Most of the French ships escaped, but a few of them seem to have continued northwards towards Aberdeen and into the Moray Firth. Despite the Prince's plea to be put ashore, alone if necessary, despite the £5000 bounty on his head, Admiral de Forbin decided to abandon the enterprise and sailed back to Dunkirk. After yet another stormy voyage Prince James landed back at Dunkirk on the day before Easter, the 7th April 1708. He had not even managed to set foot on his native soil, and the rising of 1708 was over before it had even begun.

The Moray and Banff Perspective

For some weeks before the French invasion fleet left Dunkirk the rumours of war and invasion were spreading across Scotland, and all of the intelligence which had been gathered by the British spies suggested a landing in the Firth of Forth, on the Aberdeenshire coast, or in the Moray Firth. Although the main Jacobite forces had mustered at Burntisland, this being the most convenient place from which to march on Stirling, a landing further north, for example in the Moray Firth, could have called upon the support of the Highland Clans.

Correspondence flowed between gentlemen in London and Edinburgh and their friends, relatives and business contacts in the north. It is fortunate that some of the letters have survived as part of the Seafeld Muniments in the National Archives of Scotland (GD248 series), which gives a flavour of the feeling at the time.

A letter³ was written by John Philp in London to William Lorimer, Chamberlain to the Earl of Seafeld at Cullen, on 25th February 1708 (*see page 32*);

"D. Cousine,

My Lord has written you fully about his private business, and I am to tell you that we are allarmed with a ffrench invasion from Dunkirk. They say about 12,000 men are to be embarqued and twice as many stands of arms with 2,000 horse"

³ National Archives of Scotland, Seafeld Muniments GD248/560/41/16



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By 2nd March James Steuart, the Lord Advocate, had reduced these estimates to 6,000 men, a force which he refused to take seriously, suggesting it was “*rather a design for amusement and diversion than for a solid invasion*”.

On 6th March the Lord Advocate again wrote to the Earl of Seafield;
“*May it please your Lop – In yours to me about this threatened invasion, you appeared solicitous that Presbyterians, especially their ministers, should shew their zeal against it: and I must confess that tho’ many of them be but ill affected towards the Union, yet I never apprehended that any of them would be so desperat as to joyn with a French Popish party to the overthrow of religion and liberty and all deer to men*”.

Two days later the state of alarm was increasing, as was, again, the supposed size of the French forces. In a letter⁴ to William Lorimer dated 8th March 1708, probably again from John Philp, we read: -

“*Dear Cousine,*

Wee have now certain information that the ffrench design ane invasion upon Scotland. They have brought eleven men-of-war from Brest to joyn those at Dunkirk and the pretended Prince of Wales is there to come with them with 10,000 armed men and a considerable quantities of ammunitioun and arms. The ffrench fleet will be near thirty-two men-of-war besides transports and privateers, but I hope in God the English and Dutch ffleett, quich are above forty men-of-war, will stop their project.....

.... *It’s reported they designe to land in fforth [Firth of Forth] or att Aberden – but whatever happen you may have my Lord Seafield’s papers in such a readiness that they may be secured in some safe place, if there be any hazard in that part of the countrey, for where they land they will doe damage to the countrey and lands*”.

Two letters dated the 9th March refer to the presence of French spies in the area. A letter to the Earl of Seafield from Anna Seafield on that day reads: -

“*Dearest Heart,*

..... *we are migitly alermed hier with the invation from France..... it is said the Leard of Boyn is Colnall...*”

[James Ogilvie, younger of Boyn, was a broken and landless man whose estate had fallen into the hands of his relative the Earl of Seafield. Hence the worries that he may re-appear at Cullen House. His only hope of advancement lay through a successful Jacobite rebellion, and he delved deeply into Jacobite intrigue, passing frequently between France and Scotland arranging for the French landings and a Jacobite rising in Scotland.]

⁴ National Archives of Scotland, Seafield Muniments GD248/560/41/23



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On or about the same date Alexander Gairden, the Laird of Troup, with a clear plea to remain anonymous in these troubled times, was probably also referring to James Ogilvie when he wrote to ‘Nicholas Dumbar of Castellfield, Shirreff dpt of Bamf’: -

“No doubt you have herd of the gentilman hes set ashor heer from Franc and who is gon to Boynd and thence to the Hichlands and thorrow ye kingdom. He wes all nicht the 29 February in William Hards at Nethermiln, and went away the first of March befor the sun tuo hours, he landed about 6 hours of even. He passed for an Edinburgh merchant. The ship wes about ten or twentie guns, seventy to ninentie men. Giv not me for your author”.

Realisation was dawning that events were now beginning to move fast, and on the 11th March Robert Fforbes in Edinburgh wrote to the Earl of Seafield: -

“...we now begin to believe ane invasion is designed, and upon my word the enemy could not have hade a fitter opportunity since the revolu^one for their is nothing heir to withstand a very small force...”

[Robert Forbes was Clerk to the Scottish Privy Council, an establishment which was about to disappear following the Act of Union].

On 13th March the French and British fleets were seen off the east coast. A very hasty letter⁵ from Alexander Ogilvie in Glasgow to the Earl of Seafield was written during the day, conveying the news which he had heard: -

“Montroas [Montrose] ... cuming from the north appeared fortie ships and about the sam tym at Berrich [Berwick on Tweed] twentie eight, the first haveing a flag. Qtt they are is not knouen”.

A second letter⁶ followed from Alexander Ogilvie, now in Edinburgh in the evening: -

“8 at night... Since the last express sent of at three acloack the accompts beare that from Dunbar ane hundreth saile of ships have bein sein passing to the north, and just nou there is one express from Eyllle [Elie] beares that they ware sein pass by this evening”. [A later message reduced the number of ships to twenty].

On the evening of the 13th March, a sea battle took place off Bervie, near Montrose. In a letter⁷ the following day from the Earl of Leven to the Earl of Seafield he notes that: -

“Sir George Byng with thirty men-of-war under his command came up and attacked the French squadron off Montross yesterday the 13th instant betwixt the hours of four or five in the evening

⁵ National Archives of Scotland, Seafield Muniments GD248/560/41/27

⁶ National Archives of Scotland, Seafield Muniments GD248/560/41/28

⁷ National Archives of Scotland, Seafield Muniments GD248/560/41/29



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but the French retired so fast that the best half of Sir George his squadron could not come up with them”.

A letter⁸ was written from Feteressie on the 14th March, to the “Right Honourable My Lord Forglen at Edr, *these heast*: -

“My Lord,

Since that from Montross I gave your Lo. som small accompt of a fleet of great ships seen off this coast on Saturday last, I'll give yo the trouble of reading what further accompts I have heard and seen of ym. As they cam by Montross, that toun, I told your Lo., was in great dread of ym and I stayd yr till they were past the toun and horsed yn, qch gave me occation to see the whole ingagement as I went on the road.....

The writer enclosed a copy of a letter for the Lord Marischall: -

“My Lord,

The news your Lo. gott does not seem groundless. Caterlaine [a Kincardineshire Laird] is positive there was a skirmish att sea yesterday qch began off Bervy about 3 acloak, and he saw two destinck fleets, on consisting of about 26 saill the oyr about 30, and 4 ships att a distance from either. After some scattering single shots he saw five of the last fleet of great bigness and forse attack tuo of the first fleet about yr owen size, qch tuo mentained a running fight from betwixt 4 and 5 to eight, yt they gott out of his sight. He saw severall broadsides given on both sides and the water visibly rise wt the ball. He thought the tuo shot much sharper than the 5 who wer much blouner. He saw no boarding or disabling. The tuo had the advantag of the wind, and during the time they were in excercise the fleet to qch the 5 belonged mad the best of thar way off. [In the run-up to the battle the French had captured several seaman or fishermen from Montrose]. The Montross seamen are landed and tell strange stories. They say they were French who took them aboard, and that they were brawlie intertained that first night to witt Friday, but that when this oyr fleet cam up upon them they were in great confusion. The ship they wer in was not ingaged but had 500 men in hir. She and ane oyr who had as many lost the fleet, and are yett on the coast. They sounke ther boat and hes send 8 of them ashore, and keeps tuo to pillut them where they are bound, qch they say was to have been in the Firth [of Forth] yisterday if the fleet had not ingaged them. They tell that K. J. [King James] was in the fleet but they know nothing of the success of the ingagement, haveing been separat. The fleet we see to the northeast is certainly the fleet qch attacked, qch we take to be the English and Dutch. This is all I can learen. A short time will give us the certainties.... this of the 13th deat.

Back to the original letter: -

“I am told som of the abov mentioned fleets took tuo oyr boats wt six men in each qch are not as yett returned, and I am told that great shooting has been heard this night by a fleet that is farr off

⁸ National Archives of Scotland, Seafeld Muniments GD248/560/41/30



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at sea. What accompts may be fourder had of these fleets tym will produce. It is werie probable the English abd ffrench have mett.... It was one o the most deverting shows I ever see to behold ther firing and ingaging on Saturday as I did... I am sure they fired sevrall thousand shott”

The signature of this letter is torn off, possibly for the protection of the writer. A further, similarly anonymous letter⁹ reads: -

“The fleets wer only about 2 or 3 miles or yrby of land, and when they cam up to Bervie they were not over halfe a mile from our view at which tym they began to fire fastest, and I thought ther wold have been near tuintie saill ingaged. At Bervie they mad out to sea and the smoke of ther gouns eclipsed seavrals of these lay furdest off... My Lady Anna [Lady Seafield] is werie feard lest the ffrench land neer hir”.

On 15th March, a letter from Alexander Ogilvie to the Earl of Seafield: -

“This afternoon the English fleet came in to the road of Leith the wind being easterly, and on Saturday’s night the ffrench haveing outsailed save one ship... It is confidently reported young Boynd [the James Ogilvie mentioned earlier] landed in Angus. A French ship, the “Salseburrie” or “Salisbury” was captured off Montrose by Captain Thomas Gordon, one of Byng’s commanders, “*There are a good deall of walouable goods in the Salseburrie, such as pleat [silver plate] and gold*”.

On 16th March a letter from James Steuart to the Earl of Seafield commented unfavourably on Sir George Byng’s decision not to chase the French ships further northward than Aberdeen, so allowing them to escape. The following day Alexander Ogilvie mentioned that “*Barks cum from Murray [to Leith] did not sie aney appearance of the French*. There was much discussion on 16th and 17th March as to whether the ships laying offshore [off Aberdeen] were English or French – the general conclusions being that they were English vessels. The later evidence that on these dates the British fleet was lying in Leith Roads may indicate that it was, after all, French ships lying off Aberdeen, from where they ventured northwards to the Moray Firth. Sir George Byng was noted as being at Leith on the 16th.

On the 20th a rather ambiguous report notes that “*The fleet continues in Leith road. The Aberdeens report of the ffrench fleet seemed to be the English [how could the English fleet have been off Aberdeen when they were in Leith?], and we have noe accounts of the ffrench being seen on this coast since the chase*”.

The Garmouth ‘landings’

⁹ National Archives of Scotland, Seafield Muniments GD248/560/41/31



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It appears that not all of the French ships returned immediately to Dunkirk. On 21st March the Countess of Seafield, in a letter from Cullen House, tells of the landing of a part of the French fleet at Garmouth.

A letter to the “Right Honbell the Earell of Findlatur at Edr;

“My Lord;

No doubt you have hird of 3 French shipes being at Spaymouth and Buky [Buckie] in great foras and an littel on(e) which had about 24 guns which cam and wint with them as apired with inteligans They wind of the 20 in the mornen but war seen afar of today agenest the Carnose [Scarnose near Cullen]. It is said thar were twall mor seen of Spaymouth as it war from Cromartie.”

A letter¹⁰ of 26th March (*see page 33*) records that “*They [the French] were seen about Speymouth and that some of them landed, diverted themselves, drank with severall people thereabout, told them King James was at sea, had beat the English fleet and would shortly land*”.

Another commentator writes in a similar vein;

“Edinburgh 8 at night.... Friday last sum of them landed at Garmoch, did no harm, dyned, payed weill and weint aboard.

Through almost all of the days following the attempted invasion the wind continued to blow from the east, frequently quite strongly, which did not allow Byng’s ships to leave the roads at Leith, although between 27th and 30th march they did patrol the mouth of the Firth of Forth. They were joined by Admiral Baker with nine men-of-war on 3rd April.

Two days before this, on 24th March, a rising had commenced in Stirling, in which Stirling of Keir, Seaton of Touch, Stirling of Carden and Lord Nairn, with some mounted followers, had commenced a march on Edinburgh. The previous day, 23rd March, it was recorded that the Duke of Marlborough was rapidly concentrating an English army on the Scottish border.

Postscript

The retributions soon began. It was noted that “*The French landing at Garmouth had rendered many in the County of Banff [and probably also Moray] suspect, and Colonel Grant had been sent north and had arrested some who were said to have consorted with the French*”. Thirteen interrogators were prepared for the prisoners put in Edinburgh Castle relative to the invasion, and following this the prisoners were to be sent south to Berwick, and thence onwards to London. The list of those who had been arrested gives some idea of the number of important people in Scotland who were suspected of being involved, either practically or in spirit, with the attempted invasion.

¹⁰ National Archives of Scotland, Seafield Muniments GD 248/560/41/46



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A letter from Richard Dowdswell, Excise Office, Edinburgh, to George Tilson in the Secretary's Office, Whitehall, London, dated 27th April 1708 notes that: -

... also the Marquis of Huntly, Earls of Errol, Marshall, Seaforth and Nithsdale, Lord Drummond, Viscounts Stormouth and Kilsyth, Lords Nairn and James Murray, Sir George Maxwell, Stirling of Keir, Murray of Pomeas, Seaton of Touch, Stirling of Carden are all to be at Berwick the 1st May under a guard of Scots dragoons in their way for London. The remove of these people makes many here very uneasy.

It appears that the prisoners were dispatched to London in two groups, one leaving on Friday 30th April and the other on 7th May. A subsequent communication gives more detail¹¹;

8th May 1708. The prisoners following set out for London viz; on Fryday 30th April, Marquis Huntly, Earl Seaforth, Viscount Kilsyth, Earl Nithsdale, Lord Drummond, Lord Nairn, Murray of Pomeas, Sir Donald McDonald, Viscount Stormont, Sir George Maxwell, Stirling of Keir, Stirling of Carden.

Yesterday [7th May] Duke of Gordon, Viscount Kenmure, Lord James Murray, Fotheringham of Pourie, Lyon of Auchterhouse, Robertson of Strowin, Gordon of Gollachie, Seaton of Touch, Stewart of Tannadine, Ross of Kippendavie, Newton of Edmestoun, Mackdonald of Keppoch. The Duke of Gordon would not provide himself with coach or horse for his journey, so that one of the troopers was forced to be dismounted and he exalted on the outside of the uncouth beast. The Dukes friends did not admire his fancy. The carrying up of these gentlemen occasions too much uneasiness here.

The eventual punishment, if any, of these gentlemen, has not been researched, but it is evident that their involvement in this abortive episode would not have endeared them to the authorities who, only seven years later, supervised the Forfeited Estates following the Rebellion of 1715.

Bruce Bishop
ASGRA Member

¹¹ James Grant, loc cit.



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How has lockdown treated you?

There has been nothing like it!!!! All major archives closed, meetings cancelled, and genealogists forced to stay at home self-isolating with nothing on the telly and only an occasional zoom meeting to break the monotony!!! Then a period of re-awakening and an summer period when life started to get back to “normal” before the instances of the Covid-19 virus started to rise dramatically and both Ireland and Scotland were forced into much stricter measures and our archives closed again.

What impact did these lockdown restrictions have on you and on your life? Perhaps you took up a new interest or activity that could be safely practiced at home or started reading all those books about genealogy that you always promised you would read but never did or perhaps you used the time to reflect on where your life was going and on what changes were needed to your lifestyle and so on.....

If you would like to share your experiences about how lockdown provided opportunities as well bringing disruption, about how you reacted to these new and formidable challenges or about how you survived during this amazing period of history, then we would love to hear from you!!!

We would welcome any interesting articles by genealogists and researchers on how the lockdown treated them, on what they learnt, how they changed and how they adapted their lives - serious or humorous!

Please get in touch with:

Michael Walsh (AGI) at michael9walsh@gmail.com

or

Lorna Kinnaird (ASGRA) at dunedingenie@virginmedia.com



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Dates for your Diary...

In Scotland...

ASGRA AGM Friday 5th February 2021

Future meetings

Due to the lockdown situation and the likelihood of restrictions on travel and group meetings the use of online conference facilities will be used for the foreseeable future and the next Council meeting in December will be a “Zoom meeting”, as will all future meetings until the situation has improved. The AGM in February might not be able to go ahead in its current format, options were to postpone or to have an online meeting. Further discussion will take place as the situation changes.

In Ireland...

Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

The Continuous Professional Development (CPD) Programme for 2020 has been put together by Nicola Morris MAGI and her 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.

Several CPD days had been arranged for 2020 but all these events had to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Faced with this catastrophe, Nicola and her team came up with an enterprising but practical alternative and have planned a series of remote events for the autumn and winter using modern technology. The aim is to provide a series of online lectures on how to access prominent Irish archives and use their resources.



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1 October 2020

Running an Irish Genealogy Website: John Grenham

The first talk in this online CPD series bore the intriguing title: '*The Inside Skinny, running an Irish Genealogy Website*' and was presented by the doyen of Irish genealogy, John Grenham, who is the author of the standard reference book for all students of Irish Genealogy "*Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*" which is now in its 5th Edition.

This online lecture was also available to our friends and colleagues in Scotland who are members of ASGRA and we were pleased to welcome Janet Bishop who is the current Chairman of ASGRA to the event.

John described, in his inimitable, relaxed and authoritative style, the early years of his involvement in Irish genealogy and the evolution of his website **Irish Ancestors** (which can be found now at www.johngrenham.com) and its difficult early years.



He recalled his work with the *Irish Times* and being at the forefront of applying emerging computer software developments to mundane genealogical tasks such as searching and sorting for place names based on the *Townland Index* and for surnames using the *Households Index*.

As technology rapidly evolved, John quickly recognised the huge potential for applying software to genealogy and by the 1990s he had developed "*Grenham's Irish record finder*". He worked hard to set up a genealogy service in co-operation with the "*Irish Times*" and he also found time from 2009 to contribute a regular weekly column on Irish genealogy to the paper. This continued until 2016 when he finally took over the entire website.

He took us through the many different and extensive features and facilities of the *Irish Ancestors* website and the databases that underpin them. There is an



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impressive array of maps including civil parishes and Roman Catholic parishes as well as Poor Law Unions and counties. In addition, a detailed list of surname information sources is presented by parish. Although this is pay for view website, there many pages in the *Browse* section can be viewed free and John explained this and the '5 free pages' feature.

For many of us who use John's website on a daily basis, it was an extremely informative, interesting and useful session. It explained the huge wealth of information available that perhaps we were not fully aware of and gave us a better appreciation of the huge potential for researchers that this resource represents.

13 October 2020

Stuart Rosenblatt: Jewish records are nowhere and everywhere

Stuart is a leading member of the *Irish Jewish Genealogical Society* whose website can be found at www.irishjewishroots.com.

Stuart gave us an absorbing and informative talk on Jewish records in Ireland. He entertained us by describing how he lived in Dublin and spent much of his time following up tenuous leads, verifying findings and compiling and adding the results to the huge collection known as the *Irish Jewish Family History Database* which is an impressive collection of over 61,000 records. One of his most interesting and important finds was the discovery of the *Alien Registration records* 1914-1922 which required non-nationals (i.e. non-British aliens), of whom many were Jewish, to register with the police.

The *Irish Jewish Genealogical Society* is a Division of the *Irish Jewish Museum* which is located in an old synagogue in Walworth Road in Portobello in south Dublin which is a part of the city where there was once a prominent Jewish community. The Museum was opened in June 1985 by the President of Israel, Chaim Herzog, who was born in Belfast.

He introduced us to several prominent books on Jewish history in Ireland including "*The Jews of Ireland*" by Louis Hyman and "*Jewish Ireland in the Age of Joyce*" by Cormac O'Grada.

The *Irish Jewish Genealogical Society* has presented several volumes of Irish Jewish records to the *National Archives* of Ireland and to the *Dublin City Library* in Pearse Street.

Among the huge collection of books that the *Irish Jewish Genealogical Society* has produced is the *Book of Irish Jewry 1700 -2020* which is also available in the *National Archives of Ireland* and the *Dublin City Library* in Pearse Street.



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Finally, Stuart took us on a tour of the huge website that the *Society* maintains introducing us to the many features and facilities that are available and explaining the codification system applied to the record collection.

It was a very informative talk which identified the key resources on Jewish records for Irish researchers. Stuart is contactable and is willing to help people with their research. His contact details can be found on the website.

2 November 2020

Harriet Wheelock: Is there a Doctor in the House?

Harriet is the Keeper of Collections belonging to the *Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (RCPI)* and is responsible for managing all the College's the historical collections which are held in the Heritage Centre attached to the College in Kildare Street in Dublin. She is responsible for preserving these collections and promoting awareness of Ireland's rich medical history and making the collections accessible to the public.

Her lively and interesting talk began with a brief history of RCPI which was founded in 1654 and is the oldest medical establishment in Ireland. It was founded originally to provide doctors for the British Army during the Napoleonic Wars. In 1784 the *Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland (RCSI)* was founded but there were no official licensing arrangements for medical doctors until 1858 and so anyone could call themselves a doctor!!! The Medical Act 1858 established the profession on a much firmer footing. All medical doctors required qualifications be free geywere allowed o to practice and 19 awarding bodies were established in Ireland including Trinity College, RCPI , RCSI and Apothecaries' Hall.

Harriet then went to describe the main resources that the Heritage Centre holds.

These include:

The Kirkpatrick Index

A unique collection spanning the period 1869 to 1954 of newspaper cuttings, manuscript notes and extracts from printed works, relating to individual Irish-born doctors, collected by Dr Kirkpatrick. The index contains entries for over 10,000 Irish-born doctors from the earliest times up to the 1950s. Although Dr. Kirkpatrick died in 1954, the collections are continually added to, the Index is maintained and is available.



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The Medical Register and Medical Directories

This has been published annually since 1852 and lists all doctors registered in the British Isles detailing qualifications and positions held.

Royal College of Physicians of Ireland registers

These list all the doctors who have been admitted to RCPI as Licentiates, Members, Fellows or Honorary Fellows since 1692. The information contained in the registers usually consists of name, date of admission and occasionally address, qualification and date of death.

Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland registers

Apothecaries' Hall of Ireland was established in 1792 as a body to regulate the apothecary and pharmacy trade in Ireland. The registers of Licentiates and apothecaries examined by the Hall contain details of name, date of admission and qualification and, in many cases, an address.

Dun's Library

The Library holds a number of printed works that can be useful in tracing Irish medical doctors including:

- published histories of Irish medical schools and hospitals
- histories and printed alumni lists of the main Universities and College where Irish medics studied
- the printed rolls of the Royal Army Medical Corps and the Indian Medical Service.

Interestingly, some of this material will be digitised by Ancestry and so will one day be accessible to many genealogists.

For further information please contact heritagecentre@rcpi.ie or phone +353 1 6698817.

Finally....

It is hoped to cover *The Genealogical Office, Wills and Testamentary Records* and *The Registry of Deeds* in the near future and also to provide information on how to access Court records.

These events are currently at the planning stage and more information will become available later.



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2020 AGM of AGI

The 2020 AGM of AGI is scheduled to be held on Wednesday 2 December 2020.

The meeting will start at 10.30 am.

This will be a Zoom meeting.

The Agenda and Minutes of the 2019 AGM will be circulated before the meeting and Zoom login details will also be circulated a day or two in advance. For those that are not used to using Zoom and who would like to join the meeting, a handy 'How to use Zoom guide' will also be issued prior to the meeting.

Michael Walsh MAGI

End of Newsletter