



CONNECT

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



Issue No. 9 :

August 2018

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

Welcome to our ninth Newsletter. Our thanks go out to those who commented, made suggestions to improve the publication and to those who contributed or helped in any way with this Issue.

We would like to thank Ian Marson of ASGRA (*The Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives*) for stepping in temporarily and helping to put together our last Issue.

A warm welcome is extended to Lorna E. Kinnaird of ASGRA who has agreed to take on the responsibilities of putting together the Scottish input for this and future issues. We wish Lorna every success in her new role and the Irish team looks forward to working with her.

In this quarter's edition we present another interesting set of interviews from both our organisations and an article on the Raheny history society in Dublin.

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

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

This Newsletter has been put together by Michael Walsh MAGI from AGI and Lorna E. Kinnaird from ASGRA. The production responsibilities for the Newsletter have been cheerfully assumed by John Grenham MAGI.



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Any content for inclusion in **CONNECT** will be most gratefully received and can be sent to Michael Walsh (AGI) at michael9walsh@gmail.com or to Lorna Kinnaird (ASGRA) at dunedingenie@virginmedia.com

Our next edition is planned to go out in November 2018 and the deadline for submissions is 31 October 2018.

We hope that you enjoy reading the Newsletter!



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News from Scotland and Ireland...

News from Scotland

ASGRA forthcoming events:

Joint CPD Event 30 September - 2 October 2018

Planning is underway for our joint CPD event in Glasgow. We look forward to joining with our AGI colleagues.

On the Sunday evening we have booked a venue for our attendees to be able to meet and network, drinks will be provided and the venue will provide a menu for those who wish to have dinner or an evening snack.

On Monday morning, there is a planned visit to the Mitchell Library and this will include a tour of the Library and also a talk by Irene O'Brien on "*Finding Irish Ancestors in Glasgow City Archives*". Attendees can opt to lunch at the Mitchell or elsewhere. The afternoon is free for attendees to research in the Mitchell or spend at their leisure.

On Tuesday morning Graham Holton from Strathclyde University will be giving a talk on how DNA can be used in conjunction with migration. After a short break ASGRA member John McGee will give a "light hearted" talk on "*Pride of the Lions a genealogical perspective on the Lisbon Lions*". This will be followed by lunch and farewells.

We do hope that as many AGI and ASGRA members can join us for what will be an interesting and entertaining event. We look forward to seeing you.

SAFHS Conference 2019

The 2019 Scottish Association of Family History Societies Conference and Family History Fair will be held hosted by Caithness Family History Society in Wick on 26th & 27th April 2019.

ASGRA will be having a stand at the event. We will also be running the "Ask The Experts" facility and welcome our AGI colleagues to join us. We will also have an ASGRA expert so with



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members of the three accrediting bodies we have the opportunity to offer expert advice to members of the public on researching English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh ancestry.



**The Scottish
Association of Family
History Societies
Conference
2019**

Northern Roots
Caithness Family History Society
Presents
**The SAFHS 30th Annual
Conference and Family History Fair**
**26th April 2019 – Evening Reception
(8 - 9.30pm)**
**27th April 2019 – Conference & Fair
(9.45am – 4.30pm)**
in
**The Pulteney Centre
Huddart Street, Wick
KW1 5BA**





**The Scottish
Association of Family
History Societies
Conference
2019**

Caithness people have populated many countries and regions across the World.
If your ancestors have their roots in Caithness, here is a unique opportunity to follow their genealogical trails or trace their Northern beginnings.
The 2019 SAFHS Conference will host a number of family history presentations, plus it will enable you to discover how to access Caithness based archival resources.
Alongside the Conference, a number of family history societies and other heritage organisations will be on hand, providing advice and resources that can help with your genealogical research.
So, save the dates – 26th and 27th April 2019

For further information contact
Caithness Family History Society on
enquiries@caithnessfhs.org.uk



SAFHS Conference 2020

We are pleased to announce that planning is also underway for the SAFHS 2020 Conference, which will be hosted by a partnership made up of ASGRA, The Scottish Genealogical Society, Borders FHS and Lothians FHS.

The venue will be in the Brunton Theatre, Musselburgh on the **18 April 2020**.

ASGRA's role will be to bring a professional element to the event and as well as our usual stand and "Ask the Experts" we will be co-ordinating a series of lectures.

We hope to be able to offer advice and expertise covering English, Irish, Scottish and Welsh research.

Again, we wish to welcome our AGI partners to this event.



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University Matriculation Records

I have used the matriculation records held in the University of Edinburgh Special Collections department in the past but found that they have very little information. I was therefore pleased to find that the University of Glasgow matriculation records do have a bit more in the way of genealogical information. I was able to trace my subject from 1875 to 1882. This was from his first matriculation in Arts aged 15 to his fifth year in Law, aged 22. The records show his age, where he was born and the name and occupation of his father. There was also a matriculation slip filled out in his own hand from 1889. As with many students, he did not graduate.

I found the staff to be very helpful, suggesting other sources to check such as prize lists.

The University of Glasgow Archives and Special Collections is at 13 Thurso Street, Glasgow. They are open from 9:30-1700 Monday to Thursday and 10:00-1700 on Friday. Although it is not necessary to make an appointment, it is best to get in touch in advance as they can have the records available when you arrive.

Val Wilson, ASGRA

News from Ireland

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

CPD Programme 2018

1-2 October 2018: CPD event in Glasgow

More details are available in the Scottish listing above.



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6 November 2018: CPD event at Dublin City Library, Pearse Street

More details will be available nearer the event.

AGI visit to the Guinness Storehouse Archive 22 May 2018

Almost two-thirds of AGI Members and Affiliates gathered outside the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin city centre early on the afternoon of 22nd May last. The hard working AGI CPD committee had laid on another excellent informative afternoon and it was good to see such a sizeable turnout. The main event was a lecture given by Archivists Fergus Brady and Alexandra Markus about the extensive Guinness Archive which extends back to the foundation of the company in 1759.

Founded just eighteen years ago, the archive containing 20,000 personnel files, 3,500 ledgers, more than 10,000 maps and photographs together with an advertising collection is the largest corporate archive in the country. The brewery had been unused for nine years when Arthur Guinness took it over and the original lease (for 9000 years) from Mark Rainsford dating to 1756 still survives. At its inception the brewery site measured about 4 acres but at its height (in the 1940s) extended to about 65 acres; it currently stands on around 45 acres today.

Although the archive dates to the company's foundation, most of the archive is from the 1880s onwards. At the time the company had about 5,000 employees, 2,000 of whom were labourers. The company had its own barges and rail network and was by all measures an extensive enterprise. Alongside its commercial success, the company was renowned as a good employer; it provided health care to its workers, known colloquially as 'cradle to grave care', a rarity in late 19th/early 20th century Ireland when poverty and infectious diseases were rampant. On retirement, employees had the benefit of a pension which on death passed to a family member. It was also common practice to offer the deceased's job to a member of their family and in this way, recruitment was strongly biased in favour of families who already had someone in the brewery.

There is good survival in the archives for personnel files for tradesmen and labourers, these also hold the most information and often include the original application form, together with details



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of the employees extended family, however staff files (divided between No. 1 and No. 2) are less well represented. The files also retain 'Accident Forms' which can be especially informative; the brewery also had a wing in the Newcastle Sanitorium where staff suffering from TB would be sent to recover.



AGI group visiting the Guinness archives

The archive also retains a collection of Newsletters 1949-1980. 'Guinness Time' relates to UK brands while the 'Harp' newsletter relates to activities specific to St James's Gate, in Dublin. Newsletters can be especially interesting to genealogists as they can contain notices of deaths and obituaries. The collection has been digitised but is only available to staff members.

Interestingly almost 800 employees throughout Ireland and the UK served in WW1 and the archive retains a WW1 Role of Honour listing their names.

While the Guinness Company did provide some housing initiatives (Bellview, Thomas Court, Terenure and Rialto) it was Edward Cecile Guinness (1847-1927 1st Earl of Iveagh) who in 1890 established the Iveagh Trust providing housing for company employees and thereby funded the largest area of urban renewal in Edwardian Dublin. The Iveagh Trust archive is completely separate to the Guinness Storehouse archive and unfortunately this collection is not catalogued or accessible to the public.



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The final part of the talk focused on how to access the archive. At present there is not much one can find online so if you cannot attend in person it is possible to submit an online search request which the archivists assured us would be will be responded to in time. Alternately, visitors can request a meeting with one of the four in-house archivists or make an appointment to search specific material from the archive. Up to fifteen researchers can be accommodated at the one time and the archives are open Monday to Friday 9.30pm-4.30pm. Access to personnel files is restricted to direct relatives only but with the correct documentation representatives of relatives (i.e. genealogists) will be accommodated.

A lively question and answer session followed and all attending were no doubt hoping to have good reason to search the archive at some point in the future. The afternoon was rounded off by a meal and drinks (Guinness of course) in a nearby hostelry. Many thanks to the CPD committee for organising another fine event.

Georgina Scally MAGI

AGI Hon Secretary



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CPD event in Co. Clare

The CPD event in Ennis, Co. Clare held on Tuesday 14 August 2018 comprised 2 major activities.

The first activity was an informative and entertaining presentation of the work of the Clare County Librarian who manages the Local Studies Centre attached to the County Library. This centre deals with genealogical queries from around the world.

The facility is housed in a beautiful old building which was formerly the family home of the Presbyterian Minister of Ennis and it still has the feel of a large family house.



Attentive listeners in the Local Studies Centre, Ennis

The former Presbyterian church has now been imaginatively redeveloped and forms part of the Clare County Library which is situated next door.

The principal remote resource for genealogical researchers in Clare is the website of the Clare County Library which can be found at www.clarelibrary.ie.

This contains a comprehensive set of archives holding a wealth of genealogical material.

The key facilities of the website were:



A *Google* search facility accessible from the landing page or index page of the website; this also allows access to a gallery of local photographs and a local blog



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A *Forum* button which gives access to the local blog and bulletin boards



An index to the 81 Civil Parishes in Co. Clare which can be found under the Clare Genealogy & Family History/Research support section of the website; this provides a drill down facility which identifies a list of resources available for each parish

There is also a wealth of genealogical information available on the website including *inter alia*:

- Census data searchable by name
- Griffith's Valuation data searchable by name
- Tithe Applotments data searchable by name
- Analysis of surnames
- Book of Survey and Distribution
- Estate records
- School registers
- An indexed set of RC parish records

The second part of his CPD event took place in the more comfortable surroundings of the main Clare Museum in Ennis.

Here an illustrated talk and discussion on 18th century names in Clare was led by Dr. David Fleming of the University of Limerick who co-authored a book entitled "Pauper Limerick" or "The Register of the House of Industry", more commonly known as the Limerick Workhouse.



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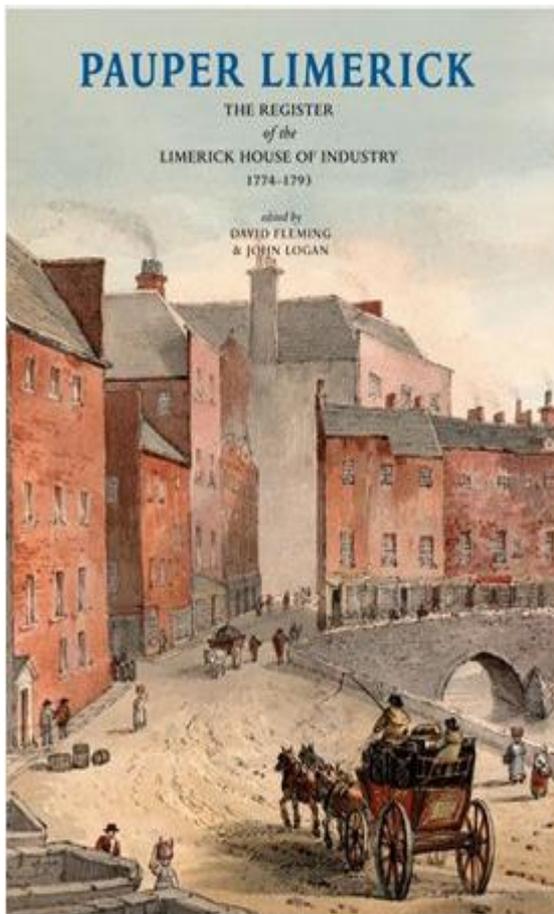
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This work was based on the Limerick Workhouse registers from 1744 to 1793 which is a remarkable resource which recorded all those who were admitted to the Limerick Workhouse. This resource is particularly interesting as it predates the Poor Law legislation of the 19th century. Its powers derived from legislation passed by the Irish Parliament in Dublin in 1772

The records have been digitised and over 2,000 names have been archived. The information available for each resident includes his/her name, age at admission, religion, last residence, date of admission, occupation and whether admission was “voluntary” or “compulsory”. Admission depended on space, food, finances, and the average stay was 220 days although several people were admitted a number of times.

Age profiles reveal predictably that men who were in older age bands from 50+ years old were typically those who were unable to physically continue with manual work. For women a much younger age profile was found often because they had children

with them.

Dr. David and his colleague John Logan have analysed the given names and the surnames found in these records. This analysis revealed that the most popular boys' names were John, James and Patrick while for girls it was Mary, Margaret and Catherine. Names were originally driven by family traditions but later this weakened in the



Dr. David Fleming at Clare Museum



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19th century as the church became more influential.

Popularity varied between religions but given names *John* and *Patrick*, *Mary* and *Catherine* were common to both Catholic and Protestant denominations. In the Protestant list record names associated with monarchy surfaced such as Charles, Edward and Edmond.

Surnames inevitably suffered from great mis-spellings as documentalists whose native tongue was English struggled with Irish names pronounced in thick accents often by people who could neither read nor write and so were in no position to check what had been written.

The most common surnames were revealed to be *O'Brien/Brien*, *Fitzgerald*, *Ryan* and *Bourke*.

Dr David advised against determining a person's religious affiliation from his surname alone. The records revealed that surnames *Moloney*, *Ahern* and *Grady* strongly featured among the list of Protestant surnames!!



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AGI members outside Clare Museum

An interesting and informative discussion ensued.

Michael Walsh MAGI



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Raheny Heritage Society

There are two schools of thought about the origin of the name Raheny, Rathenny or Rahenny. One source claims it derives from the Irish *Rath Eanna*- the fort of Eanna, possibly a chieftain or important personage. Another source claims it comes from *Rath Eanaigh* – the fort of the swamp or marsh. Certainly, Raheny was situated on a rath overlooking the Santry River and traces of the rath can still be seen today in the village.



The Hayes Cross, Raheny

Raheny is today a modern suburb, situated four miles north-east of Dublin City, on the road to Howth. In the past, Raheny parish was centred on a rural village, which comprised some 18th and 19th century houses and schools with two churches, a constabulary barracks, petty session court house, surrounded by large private estates, small farms and labourers' cottages. It remained



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largely unchanged until the 1950s when the spread of modern housing estates crept over the green countryside alongside the building of schools, shops and a library. However, more than many suburbs of Dublin City it still retains its village atmosphere.

The origin of the Raheny Heritage Society goes back to 1984 when a series of lectures on tracing your family history, organised by Dublin City Library was held in Raheny Library. Following these lectures, Ray Wickham, a dedicated amateur genealogist, started a small group which met regularly in Raheny Library to further their interest in researching their own family history. Later it was decided to extend the activities of the group to include local history and in January 1987 the Raheny Heritage Society was officially launched with Ray as Chairman and I became secretary.

The society flourished under Ray's leadership and guidance. He introduced many of us for the first time into how to use all the repositories in Dublin, e.g. National Library of Ireland, Public Records Office, then housed in the Four Courts, (now the National Archives of Ireland), as well as the Registry of Deeds. He was a great mentor to all and was always available and willing to help members in their own family research as well as encouraging and fostering interest in the local history of the Raheny area. He died in 1996 aged 75, leaving a legacy and enthusiasm for family and local history research among members.

For the Dublin millennium year 1988, the society mounted an exhibition on the history of Raheny which included a scaled model of the village based on the records of *Griffith's Valuation*. This was a great success. Another exhibition on the Guinness estate at nearby St. Anne's, also with a scaled model of the house, held in 1991 in the Red Stables at St. Anne's was very popular. The first publication by the society was in 1992, *Raheny Heritage Trail*, a walking tour to create awareness of the historic village. In 1999 the society transcribed and published the *1901 & 1911 Census Returns for Raheny and Environs*. This was followed by transcribing the nearby parish of Clontarf and publishing the *1901 Census Returns of Clontarf West* in 2002 and *1901 Census Returns of Clontarf West* in 2005. The next publication was *Raheny Footprints* in 2009, which features some men and women, who lived at various times in the Raheny area and by their achievements, locally and nationally, truly left their 'Footprints in the Sands of Time' to quote H.W. Longfellow.

The society also published in 2015 *Raheny Memories*, written by the late Joe Bell (1926 – 1992). He wrote his memoir in 1988 and describes a way of life long gone now and reflects on the changes in Raheny village and countryside from the thirties to the eighties, when it grew from a small rural village to become a Dublin suburb.

Over the years, other exhibitions have been researched and displayed by the society in Raheny Library as well as at the annual Rose Festival in St. Anne's Park. Society members are available



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to give talks to local clubs and schools and to assist those engaged in local history projects and family history research. As part of National Heritage Week, the society organises an event and this year a guided tour of the old Raheny graveyard was held on Sunday 19 August at 2pm and 3.15pm. The society meets twice a month; the second Wednesday for Family History and the last Wednesday for Local History, but not during July and August. Website: www.rahenyheritage.ie

Joan Sharkey MAGI
Vice President AGI

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.

Introducing Mrs Margaret Hubble, ASGRA





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Ref.	Questions
Q1	Name: Margaret Hubble
Q2	Email: mhubble@btconnect.com
Q3	Occupation: Professional Genealogist
Q4	Location: West Lothian, Scotland
Q5	Areas of research and specialisms: Research throughout Scotland, with some English research included. Most of all I enjoy solving” brick walls” in a client’s research. Specialisms include research in West Lothian and criminal records. Social history interests me immensely.
Q6	What brought you into genealogy? Curiosity! Neither of my parents seemed able to answer questions about my deceased grandparents’ families when I was young, and I was determined to find out more. A maternal aunt, who was very keen on the social history of Leith and who had a wonderful memory, whetted my appetite for this subject.
Q7	What has been your most interesting client commission? (no mention of client name please) That’s a very tough question. Probably research I undertook for a client who owned various family portraits and wanted to find out more about the individuals in them. This family had owned coal mines in the early 19 th century, and one of the sons was written out of his father’s will due to some mismanagement of money – the black sheep of the family. I eventually wrote a book about it. I also managed to contact family members in Nova Scotia – descendants of the “black sheep” and subsequently put my client in touch with them, with great results.
Q8	What is your favourite archive and why? I love the Glasgow City Archives. This is probably because they hold so many



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	<p>Poor Relief Applications, which can be like gold dust to a family historian. Information such as locations of family elsewhere (including many in Ireland), workplaces of individuals, including their earnings, health issues and family interrelations can add so much to a client's history. I love the excitement of ordering out the old books and hoping for that eureka moment.</p>
Q9	<p>Have you researched your own family history?</p> <p>Yes, but it was not straightforward, and I still have one query which I cannot solve, much to my dismay. My father told stories about visiting an aunt as a boy, where cousins were practising acrobatics on the kitchen table. Although this seemed HIGHLY improbable, I discovered that my great aunt had married into a fairground family and had 13 children in caravans all over Scotland. This also explained the foreign sounding surnames of the witnesses at my grandfather's marriage. I always tell clients not to totally dismiss family stories!</p>
Q10	<p>What tips can you offer a beginner?</p> <p>Speak to the older generations of your family. Verify all information by confirming details at the relevant repository. Take information from Internet sites with a pinch of salt! Write everything down, including references for certificates, and keep a note of every search you have undertaken, even where you have a negative result. That way, you won't duplicate work. Don't ever give up!</p>
Q11	<p>How do you relax or what other interests do you have?</p> <p>I am a member of Historic Scotland and enjoy visiting their properties. I love walking and swimming but having broken my leg and fractured my ankle (visiting a castle), resulting in surgery 8 weeks ago, I haven't been doing much of either lately. I love going out for meals and socialising with friends and have found out that even in a wheelchair lately that has been possible!</p>
Q12	<p>Any other comments or information to add?</p> <p>Researching clients' family histories means that I am constantly learning and updating my skills. Being an accredited member of ASGRA is very important to me.</p>



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In this edition of CONNECT we are also saying “Hello” to Rob DAVISON from AGI

Rob DAVISON has been a long standing member of AGI and its predecessor for over 15 years and was formerly an AGI Council member.

Rob lives in Co. Down in Northern Ireland and is involved in many Ulster genealogical societies and activities including the North of Ireland Family History Society.

Ref.	Questions
Q1	<p>Name: Robert Christopher Davison.</p> <p>My father was Christopher and he was a Belfast man. His father was Robert or ‘Rab’ in the vernacular, so I hold the connection with them both, although they are long dead. My sister and only sibling was named Julia after her paternal grandmother, so our parents have followed the Ulster-Scots naming tradition.</p>
Q2	<p>Email: enquireland@gmail.com</p> <p>I came up with this ‘play on words’ as a title for my research business whilst an American friend was visiting some years back. She thought it should be inquireland which apparently is ‘US -speak’ but it just didn’t look right to me!</p>
Q3	<p>Occupation: Professional Genealogist and retired Bed & Breakfast proprietor.</p> <p>All this came about when I retired after 30 years service in British Transport Police in England and came to live in Co. Down.</p> <p>Initially I worked for The National Trust but it was only after we took on the Bed and Breakfast that I ceased working for them. I was also developing and honing Genealogy research and after becoming a member of APGI (forerunner of AGI) in 2003 I decided to combine research with B & B, although my Wife took on the</p>



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	<p>major share of the B & B work!</p> <p>Prior to B & B I did spend a lot of time in Dublin on research commissions and assisting with the Genealogy Advice Service in both the National Library and the National Archives. It was on one of those visits that a strange experience, with a family history connection, occurred.</p> <p>Some years back I had attended a Conference in Crewe, Cheshire organised by the Federation of Family History Societies. One of the Stewards was a local genealogist who mentioned that her son was studying at Trinity College, Dublin. A couple of years later I was walking past Trinity in Dublin and I thought about this woman. Blow me, as I crossed the street at some lights, there she was walking towards me with a chap who I was then introduced to as her son. This was after we'd both recovered from the shock of the unexpected meeting!</p>
Q4	<p>Location: Just outside the village of Greyabbey on the Ards peninsula of Co. Down.</p> <p>For those unfamiliar with the geography of the area I usually refer to the peninsula as the 'dangly bit' on the right-hand side of Northern Ireland.</p> <p>I didn't know at that time but the Ards was settled in the 17th. century by Montgomery of Ayrshire and his followers. There is still a strong Ulster-Scots ethos in the area and one of our local pipe bands compete at Championship level. Road signs are bi-lingual in English and Ulster-Scots.</p> <p>Living here made me more aware of my own Ulster-Scots heritage although subtly, it had been there since I was a kid. My Father would speak of 'reddin out' things and I knew what he meant although just saw it as a figure of speech. During a bit of family banter, one of my elderly Belfast Aunts said that I was 'sleekit' and I had to look that up in a dictionary of Ulster-Scots words and expressions! This encouraged me to read Burns and the Ulster 'Weaver Poets' who were his contemporaries.</p>
Q5	<p>Areas of research and specialisms: I started off with what I would term basic family history research for members of the North of Ireland Family History Society worldwide.</p> <p>The Society has always emphasised that it is not a research agency but encourages members to help each other. The service I offered at that time was free but I became disillusioned when people didn't even bother to thank me for what I'd</p>



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	<p>done for them. I thought that if I was going to do this, then my time was valuable and I should be recompensed accordingly. After a few years of this and having built up a reasonable client base and good reputation, I got into Probate research.</p> <p>Then I got into Adoption tracing through an agency of Social Services in Belfast. For a time I was also assisting a number of English-based Adoption researchers but I have cut back on this work now. I am still retained by two of the major Probate researchers based in England and regularly research for the well-known genealogist, Anthony Adolph.</p>
Q6	<p>What brought you into genealogy?</p> <p>When I joined the North of Ireland Family History Society, they were setting up links with the west of Scotland and we were in regular contact with Troon and District FHS and even visited at some of their events. Granda Rab had told me about one of his sisters, Lizzie, being born in Paisley. She was a bit of a celebrity in the family as she had lived to be 100 and had the telegram from the Queen presented to her by the Rev. Ian Paisley! One of the Troon FHS members, Charlie Kelly, very kindly offered to get me the information on Lizzie's birth and the Davison's in Paisley. Imagine my surprise when it turned out that the family had settled in Partick, not Paisley in the 1880's! In the late 1990's I became aware of the Clan Davidson Association and after attending an AGM in Edinburgh, I joined up. It didn't help me with my own family history but it did enhance my empathy for things Scottish. I have the full highland rig courtesy of Hector Russel's of Glasgow but am currently experiencing difficulty getting into the kilt!</p>
Q7	<p>What has been your favourite piece of research or most interesting assignment?</p> <p>Some years ago RTE commissioned a TV programme titled 'Where Were Your Family in the Famine'. There were three 'personalities' profiled and one of these was Jasmine Guinness. My AGI (then APGI) colleague Pamela Bradley carried out initial enquiries for the Guinness segment but the trail lead to Ulster as Jasmine's Mothers side of the family, the Casey's of Co. Tyrone, turned out to be the more interesting! I was filmed discussing the 1911 Census return for Jasmine's Mothers Grandparents in the Linen Hall Library in Belfast and I think this occupied 30 seconds of air time in the programme.</p> <p>However, I think my favourite piece of research was a Probate enquiry involving a woman who had died intestate in Queen's County, New York. The trail for family lead back to Ireland and I was able to locate a living relative who had</p>



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	<p>married and moved to England. It was a huge and pleasant surprise to be told that I was required to attend Queen's County Court House along with the claimant, to give evidence of my research. To make the most of this unexpected opportunity, I arranged for my wife to accompany me.</p> <p>After a briefing by the lawyer appointed for the claimant we adjourned to the Library of the Queens Court House where a Judge presided. He heard the evidence and then expressed an interest in my Clan Davidson tie, so I was delighted to inform him of the Clan Association and its activities.</p>
Q8	<p>What is your favourite Archive and Why?</p> <p>Call me biased but it has to be PRONI in Belfast. The new facility is such a bright, modern and user-friendly archive. It has recently been enhanced with the provision to search GRONI (General Record Office of Northern Ireland) 'live' records which is a boon for Probate researchers especially.</p>
Q9	<p>How is your own family tree?</p> <p>Could be healthier! Some of the outer branches are dying off. They were both offspring of my Irish Grandmother's side of the family; the McAllisters and McGahey's.</p> <p>I should mention that although I have tended to concentrate on the Irish side of the family I haven't completely neglected my Mother's side. She was a Gore of Coventry and they were an old established Midlands family. Local Parish records are pretty good and I have been able to get back to the early 1700's with the Gore family. Unfortunately I have hit the 'brick wall' so far as the Davison's are concerned. I can't get any further back from the birth of my Great- Great Grandfather c.1800 and probably in Co. Armagh.</p>
Q10	<p>What tips can you offer a beginner?</p> <p>I always say to work from the known to the unknown and on that journey, to make sure that wherever possible, documentary evidence is accumulated. I would quote the misunderstanding about the location of Granda Rab's family in Scotland as a prime example of the suspect 'family legend'. These days there is so much information available on the Internet but I caution beginners to not grab the first family tree that looks as though it might be theirs, and be a little more circumspect</p>



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	and DO THE RESEARCH!
Q11	<p>How do you relax or what other interests do you have?</p> <p>Since turning 70 I have decided to cut down on a number of ‘interests’ and that has included voluntary work with the North of Ireland Family History Society.</p> <p>I still edit the annual Journal of my local history society and that usually occupies 6 months of the year in collecting information and then having the last-minute scramble (or so it seems!) to get it ready for publication. I have a life-long interest in all matters concerning railways but this tends to be passive now.</p> <p>I’m a Committee Member of the British Transport Police History Group and I have a specialised interest and on-going project on the ‘Railway Police in Ireland’. The History Group has an active and enthusiastic Research Group who usually communicate through e-mail and the collective knowledge and wisdom relating to transport policing is phenomenal.</p> <p>There’s also a genealogical element to it as many enquiries are received and dealt with by my colleagues in England relating to people who find out that an ancestor was a railway, dock or canal policeman, when they are working on their family history.</p> <p>At home I enjoy listening to a wide variety of music, to reading and again a wide variety of genres. I would consider myself well travelled over the years and have visited Australia, New Zealand, the USA, Russia and Central Asia (when it was still part of the USSR) and most of the countries of Europe and Scandinavia. These days I tend to watch the travel programmes on TV although I’ve surprised myself by getting enthusiastic about the prospect of a Cruise. I think Jane McDonald on Channel 5 had something to do with that!</p>
Q12	<p>Any other comments or information to add?</p> <p>I’m very pleased to have had this opportunity to let my friends and colleagues know a bit more about me than I may have revealed in the past. It’s particularly appropriate I feel in view of the ASGRA/AGI link as geographically I’m a lot closer to Scotland than most of my AGI friends, but also I have a spiritual connection, if that doesn’t sound too pretentious! This came home to me some years ago after I had found out about the Davison connection with Partick. I took the Subway from Central Station to Partick and as I emerged onto street level and looked around, I did feel a bit of a tingle in the spine and a sort of déjà vu</p>



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