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GRO huge price increases and small victories

With no warning, Ireland's Civil Registration Service more than doubled the price of birth, marriage and death certificates this month. At €20 per entry, Irish BMD certificates are now, for the first time, more expensive than those supplied by the General Register Office of Northern Ireland. They were previously €8.

The price hike relates to long-form 'certified' copies of birth, marriage and death certificates ordered via both GRO Roscommon and the online facility at www.certificates.ie.

GRO Roscommon can issue long-form certificates of BMDs as follows:

- Marriages – 1845 to 1921: island-wide
- Births & Deaths – 1864 to 1921: island-wide
- All BMDs 1922 to present: Republic only.

The online facility can currently issue only these BMD certificates:

- Births – 1864 to 1921: island-wide
- Marriages – 1920-1921: island-wide
- Births – 1922 to present: Republic only
- Marriages – 1922 to present: Republic only
- Deaths – 1924 to present: Republic only

Fortunately, certified copies of BMDs are not required for most genealogical research, and the GRO has not increased the cost of the uncertified 'research' photocopies that most family historians prefer to purchase.

Bought from either the [GRO Roscommon](http://www.gro.gov.ie) by post or the GRO Research Room in Dublin (in person), these photocopies cost €4 each, plus €2 if the reference from the civil registration indexes is not provided. This €2 is called a 'search fee' and is raised because the member of staff has to manually seek out the requested record.

Via the Republic's local registration offices, however, the uncertified research copy was often charged at €6, whether or not the researcher supplied the reference.

This inequity had been brought to the attention of the Civil Registration Service many times by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations ([CIGO](http://www.cigo.ie)) and their campaign has finally paid off.

Local Registration Offices have now been told not to charge the search fee unless it has been earned.

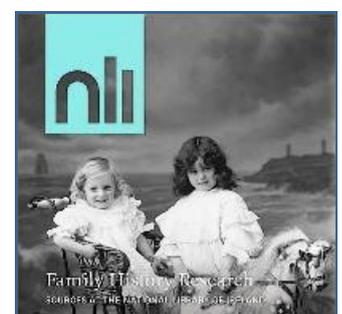
If you know someone who might like to join the IGRS, please feel free to pass on this e-bulletin and direct them to the membership application form on the last page.

NLI publishes introduction to Irish family history

The National Library of Ireland has produced a handy and well-presented introduction to Irish genealogy research in the form of a free to download pdf.

The 24-page document covers all the main areas of research that are of interest to beginner family historians and provides details of the Library's own most genealogy-relevant collections.

You can download the free booklet [here](#).



FMPie adds civil registration indexes

FindMyPast Ireland has added 21million birth, marriage and death records to its database.



The collection is made up of the same records offered free by Family Search but it has a superior search engine and a feature that it calls the Marriage Finder.

The latter allows you to search for a marriage record using the names of both bride and groom.

If, however, you are searching for a marriage without knowledge of the spouse's name, the search engine returns up to four potential spouses for each marriage record. These are the names of the grooms or brides on adjacent pages of the civil registration register.

The FindMyPast collection has three sections:

Ireland Births 1864-1958
Ireland Marriages 1845-1958
Ireland Deaths 1864-1958

BMDs in Antrim, Armagh, Derry-Londonderry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone are included in this collection up to 1921 only.

The real value of the indexes lies in providing the GRO reference with which you can purchase a copy of the birth, marriage or death certificate.

The new Irish bmd collection is available across all FindMyPast's international sites ([FindMyPast-UK](#), [FindMyPast-US](#), [FindMyPast-Australia](#)) as part of a World subscription, and in FindMyPast-UK's Britain & Ireland package, and in all [FindMyPast-Ireland's](#) subscriptions.

To encourage researchers to try out the new collection, FindMyPast has a promotion running until 31 January . If you act quickly, you can take advantage of 50 free credits.

Go to any of the FMP Ireland, US or Australia/ NZ sites linked above and click 'Redeem Coupon' on the Home Page. Enter the Coupon code **FMPIEBMD** and register. Only your name and email address is requested. You'll then receive 50 credits. They can be used on any records.

You can go through the same procedure on all three sites and take advantage of 150 credits in total!

Although you need to act quickly to redeem the Coupon Code, the credits will remain valid for up to 30 days.

Note: FindMyPast-UK is not offering free credits to support this promotion.

RootsIreland adds North Tipp records

[RootsIreland](#) has added 109,082 Roman Catholic Baptisms and Marriages and 116,700 new Census Substitute Records from the North Tipperary Genealogy Centre to its database.

The new additions to the church records collection are for the following parishes:

- **Drom-Inch:**
Baptisms 1809–1900
Marriages 1807–1880
- **Holycross-Ballycahill:**
Baptisms 1835–1900
Marriages 1835-1900
- **Moycarkey-Two-Mile-Borris:**
baptisms 1793-1900 (with gaps)
marriages 1793-1899
- **Templemore-Clonmore:**
Baptisms 1807– 1900
Marriages 1807–1900 (with gaps)
- **Upperchurch-Drombane:**
Baptisms 1829–1900
Marriages 1829–1900

The new census substitutes are as follows:

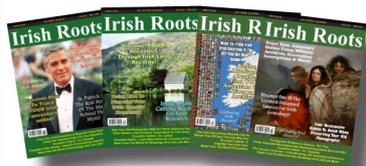
- 19,410 records from the Tithe Applotment Books, 1820 to 1840
- 76,942 records from the Poor Law Rate Books for Nenagh and Thurles, 1842-1858
- 7,454 entries from the Hearth Money Rolls, 1665.
- 12,897 records from North Tipperary Street Directories, collection from 1846-1919

It's good to see that RootsIreland has started to clearly identify which of its records are new or updated. A welcome improvement.

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Celebrating Irish Ancestry

Volunteers sought for genealogy trials

The Irish Ancestry Research Centre at the University of Limerick is looking for volunteers to help them trial new software and programme developments.

They want the volunteers to try out these genealogy products as end-users.

The trials will be held at the IARC in the University's Tierney Building.

If you're interested to discover more detail, contact Lorna Moloney by [email](#).



Start Here for TNA

The National Archives (TNA) in Kew, London, has launched a new website section to help those who are either just starting out on their family history research or find the site's catalogue rather overwhelming.

[Start Here](#), as the new section is called, aims to explain what information is available at TNA and where to find it. It also aims to tell researchers what is online. Importantly, *Start Here* also spells out what is NOT available, both online and offline.

Guidance is provided in both written and video format and there are easy to navigate lists of themes/subjects. There are also short animations explaining what archives do, and how to prepare for research in them, and the section links to relevant features, podcasts and tutorials.

It's still in development, so feedback is being requested via a link.

TNA has significant holdings of material relevant to Irish genealogy research (not least military records and maps).

More Church of Ireland transcripts go online

A second batch of Church of Ireland parish register transcribed by the Anglican Record Project has been released by the Representative Church Body Library.

This release covers the Newtownbarry (Bunclody) Union, which includes parishes in the vicinity of Bunclody in County Wexford and along the county's north western boundary with County Carlow.

The names of those parishes and the years covered by the registers are to the right. It is the first time they have been made available online

You can view or download the transcripts free of charge in pdf format [here](#).

Newtownbarry - St Mary's Church
Baptisms 1799-1903
Marriages 1799-1903
Burials 1799-1903

Barragh - St Paul's Church
Baptisms 1799-1805 and 1831-1879
Marriages 1799-1805 and 1830-1903
Burials 1799-1805 and 1838-1878

Clonegal - St Fiacac's Church
Baptisms 1792-1903
Marriages 1792-1906
Burials 1792-1903

Kilrush - St Brigid's Church
Baptisms 1878-1903
Marriages 1845-1903
Burials 1878-1903

IGRS at WDYTIA?Live

The IGRS will on Stand 443 at Who Do You Think You Are?Live at Olympia, London from Friday 22 to Sunday 24 February.

If you're going to be there, please do pop by the stand to say hello!

We could still do with some more help from members on the stand, so, if you're planning to attend, and could offer an hour or so of your time, please get in touch as soon as possible by [email](#).



PRONI overhauls Street Directories

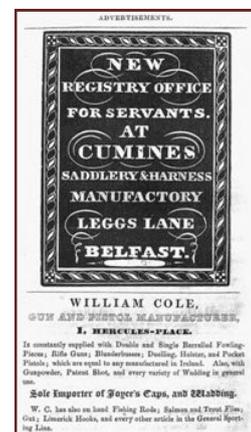
The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has given its free online Street Directories database a major overhaul.

In the new version of Street Directories, keywords which match the search criteria are highlighted on the scanned directory pages, so relevant information is immediately visible. A roll-over zoom function also greatly enhances viewing of the digitised directories on screen.

The Street Directories database, which was originally launched in 2009, holds 29 publications covering the years 1819-1900 and makes a great starting point for many areas of research.

The huge number of individuals named in the 20,000 pages makes it a valuable resource for family historians, while those investigating local, social or economic history can research the growth and decline of towns and villages, explore the social fabric of localities and trace the development of commerce and industry.

To search the revised database, click the image above.



Call for privately published histories

Flyleaf Press is working on a new edition of *Sources for Irish Family History* and has put out a call for privately published family histories.

The new edition will list all published sources on Irish families including books monographs, periodical articles, major manuscripts and other items.

If you have published a family history and your work is accessible to other researchers via libraries or, in book/article format, online, contact [Flyleaf](#).

Please note that while Flyleaf recognises that many individual family history websites contain useful information, they will not be included in the new book unless the family history is presented in book or article format.

Limerick Genealogy Day

A genealogy and family history day will take place on Saturday 16 March in Christchurch Limerick as part of the church's 200-year anniversary.

The church, on O'Connell Street, became a United Presbyterian and Methodist church some 40 years ago (it was previously a Methodist church), and will be bringing together local family history records not only from its own combined churches, but also from the area's Church of Ireland parishes. The organisers plan to have the following records available on the day:

- Limerick Methodist Registers from 1842
- Limerick Presbyterian Registers from 1829
- Christ Church Limerick Minute Books
- Adare/ Ballygrane registers
- Limerick Church of Ireland registers
- Limerick Baptist Church registers
- St. Michael's National School Roll books
- Villiers School roll books

It is hoped that some RC registers will also be available for review.

To help beginners start their family research, volunteers will be on hand with online access to the main genealogy databases.

Local genealogist Michael Wheeler will also be presenting a talk - *Silver Bells of Memory* - which focuses on his family research and on Irish history from a Protestant perspective.

Expert Tips

In each issue, an IGRS member suggests an unexpected or overlooked source for research. This month, Mary Casteleyn points us in the direction of ...

Portraits and Miniatures

The art galleries of England and Ireland have large collections of portraits and miniatures. Through lack of space, fragility or damage many of these portraits are not on immediate display. These holdings often include portraits in oil, watercolour or pencil of some surprisingly little-known people and the catalogues of these collections are well worth examining.

The [Crawford Municipal Art Gallery](#) in Cork has a printed illustrated summary catalogue. Examples of its holdings include the death mask and a bust of Austin Stack, a portrait of Robert French of Monivea, a lady named Lilah McCarthy (1920s), a Jerome Daly (19th century) and an oil of the Secretary of the City of Cork Steam Packet Company; this latter painting is unnamed but some research should reveal the name of the sitter.

Online it has some miniatures by Frederick Buck who worked for some time in Cork, and also of the Crawford family.

The [National Gallery of Ireland](#) in Dublin has an online database for its collection. The archives include letters as well as drawings and paintings.

London's [National Portrait Gallery](#) is rich with Irish people and has online databases including British Picture Restorers 1630-1950, which includes those based in Dublin.

Artists moved easily from Dublin to London and vice versa. Books such as Daphne Foskett's *A Dictionary of British Miniature Painters* (1972) should not be overlooked as some Irish artists and sitters will be found within; Paul Caffrey's *John Comerford and the Portrait Miniature in Ireland 1620-1850* (Kilkenny Archaeological Society 1999) is full of named Irish sitters.

Not to be ignored are auction house catalogues which often have named portraits for sale. These portraits frequently disappear into private hands, making the catalogue important as the only published record. Catalogues to look for, as well as Irish auction houses, include those of the London Sotheby's and Christie's, both of whom have, since c1999, held annual Irish Sales.

Exploration of other collections such as those held in Regimental Museums, special Societies or local history collections may also have portraits and miniatures waiting to be found. You won't know unless you ask.

Monaghan Roots course: Invitation to tender

Clogher Historical Society (CHS) has issued an invitation to tender for the development, delivery and evaluation of two training courses for roots tourists.

The course programme - *County Monaghan - Home to the Little Hills* - is expected to attract at least 150 participants and will be part of the County Monaghan Gathering.

The project will run from March to December 2013, with the training courses taking place in North Monaghan and Carrickmacross in September or October (Monday to Thursday) but promotional materials will be issued in mid-March so the full-course timetable needs to be finalised by then.

If you are interested in applying for the contract, see the official details on e-tender.ie and follow the *Attached Information/ Documents* link to view the full description of the project.

The CHS aims to promote the study of local history in the diocese of Clogher and to promote the area's historical links with other places. As the diocese straddles the border, the CHS has a strong a cross-border and cross-community ethos. The project is subject to successful approval for funding through Cavan-Monaghan LEADER.

The deadline for receipt of tenders is 12 noon on Monday 11 February 2013.

Events to the end of February

Dublin Evening Mail joins BNA line-up

The British Newspaper Archive has added more editions of the *Dublin Evening Mail* to its ever growing database.

- Some 117 editions from 1854 of the three-times weekly paper have now joined the 1855 collection. This leaves some gaps for 1854, but there are copies from every week of the year.
- All editions of the newspaper from July to December 1871 have also been added. By this time the paper was published daily, Monday to Saturday.

In addition to the *Dublin Evening Mail*, the Irish newspaper line-up on the BNA website is starting to look impressive with *Belfast Morning News*, *Belfast Newsletter*, *Cork Examiner*, *Freeman's Journal* and *The Sligo Champion*.

You can check out the editions covered on the [BNA](#) homepage.

Tuesday 29 January: *An Introduction to Researching Family History*, with Karel Kiely. Castledermot Historical Society. Castledermot Community Centre, **Castledermot**, Co Kildare. 8pm.

Wednesday 30 January: *Flowers of the flock: child migration schemes to Australia*, with Ann McVeigh of PRONI. LinenHall Library, **Belfast**. 1pm. Free.

Thursday 31 January: *An introduction to family history resources online*. **Donaghadee** Library, Co Down. Basic computer skills needed. 11am to 12.30pm. Free. Booking essential: 028 9188 2507.

Thursday 31 January: *Law, Order and Violence*, with Barry Sheehan. Part of PRONI/OU 'Exploring Urban History' series. PRONI, **Belfast**. 6:30pm. Free.

Thursday 31 January: *Holocaust Memorial Day Conference/Jewish Community in the North of Ireland*, an afternoon seminar. Four speakers will present talks: Dr Leon Litvack (QUB), Stuart Rosenblatt of IrishJewishRoots.com, and Dr Bethany Sinclair of PRONI and Pamela Linden (QUB). Venue: PRONI, **Belfast**. 2:00-4:45pm. Free. Booking [email](#)

Wednesday 6 February: *Hedge School. Genealogy: Who does it think it is?* National Library of Ireland. **Dublin 2**. All welcome. Free. 7pm.

Wednesday 6 February: *Piracy and Predation in early 17th century Ireland* with Connie Kelleher. Part of the *Below The Surface* series of maritime stories on board the *Jeanie Johnston*, Custom House Quay, **Dublin 1**. 8pm. [Tickets €15](#).

Thursday 7 February: *'No Irish Wanted Here'*, with Professor Don MacRaild. Tyneside Irish Centre, **Newcastle Upon Tyne**, UK. Details: 0191 261 0984.

Wednesday 12 February: *The Talty Millions: A genealogical journey from Miltown to Miami*, with Paddy Waldron. Host: Old Kilfarboy Society. Venue: The Malbay, The Square, **Miltown Malbay**, Co. Clare. 8pm.

Thursday 13 February: *Edward Brice and the Origins of Irish Presbyterianism*, with Rev Dr John Nelson. Host: Presbyterian Historical Society. Venue: **Ballycarry** Old Presbyterian Church, 8pm

Tuesday 18 February: *Reading graveyard inscriptions*, with Michael Tierney. **Birr** History Society. Dooly's Hotel. 8pm. All welcome.

Saturday 16 February: *The Royal Irish Fusiliers at Gallipoli - Memoirs of John David Purcell*, with Margaret Purcell. Host: The NW Region of the Catholic Family History Society. Venue: Talbot Library, Weston St., **Preston, UK**. 2pm. Free. All welcome.

Wednesday 27 February: *Obituaries in Irish provincial newspapers 1860-1900*. A Bibliofiles lecture at the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, **Dublin 2**. All welcome. 7pm. No booking.

Thursday 28 February: *The Poor Law and Public Health*, with Olwyn Purdue. Part of the PRONI/OU lecture series entitled Urban History. Venue: PRONI, **Belfast**. 6:30pm. Free.

Forward dates for IGRS events

Details will be published in later editions of the e-bulletin.

Friday 22 February to Sunday 24 February: IGRS stand 443, WDYTIA?Live, Olympia, London.

Saturday 20 April: Ireland Branch AGM & Lecture: Dublin.

Saturday 11 May: IGRS AGM & Lectures: 34 Chepstow Villas, Bayswater, London.

Saturday 25 May: Ireland Branch Open Day: Dublin.



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Where did you hear about the Society? _____

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US\$ cheques are acceptable; the amount sent should be \$40.

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