



*NEWSLETTER No: 15.
September 2010*

Message from your Convenor/editor



Irish Booth FHF 16th-18th July 2010

Helpers: Yvonne Johnstone and Margaret Calman - Wanganui

Well, we survived the inaugural 'Family History Fair' just. We came home tired but very pleased with the outcome. The organising committee need to be congratulated in tackling a first for New Zealand and running it so successfully. We are looking forward to the next one!! Although run off our feet with the volume of attendees who were hungry for Irish information, I'm pleased to say we were, as a team able to send many home armed with new discoveries and direction to take. Those who were fortunate to use the paid sites came away with copies of certificates thus filling holes in their trees. There were many data bases a lot of people never even knew existed and these were made well use of. There was, heaps to see and cover and the only disappointment was that I could not utilise any due to the workload. Geraldene O'Reilly was extremely busy on the Irish help desk all day Saturday and thankfully Graeme McVerry assisted her on the Sunday. They both had people lined up all day and those working the Irish Booth were just as busy. We had ten helpers and could have done with ten more because of the volume of traffic. Everyone who participated was extremely busy for the entire weekend. The accommodation was excellent and everything was on site, making it so much easier for everyone. The Friday entertainment was about Jools Topp and her family tree. Both her parents joined us for dinner and Jan Gow gave a walk through the steps of finding family they were not aware of. The AGM was well attended and the change over went like clockwork.

Geraldene O'Reilly, our member and Tutor was stunned when her name was called out at the AGM as the winner of the 'Lucy Marshall Award' for her Irish Articles.

Congratulations Geraldene from us all on great articles. We would like to extend a big welcome to those who joined our Interest group at the fair. It is great to have you on board and hope we can help you. Already we have a possible match between an existing member and two who have just joined. Watch this space! This is what genealogy is all about and the rewards are tremendous.

Thank you to the many that promptly paid their first annual membership subscription. This is very much appreciated as we cannot cope without your input.

Those still to pay could you contact me for another membership form or if you don't wish to remain a member please let me know as the list is being revised.

Annette and I recently attended the Auckland City Library Lock-in. Karen Kalopulu, who instigated and ran these on behalf of the Ak City Library, as many know passed away last year and the Lock-ins have now been renamed 'The Karen Kalopulu Family history Lock-in' in memory of her. These are all night research sessions where we are locked in the Library from 8pm Friday till 8am the following morning. They are lots of fun and if you can't last the distance you can leave earlier but you cannot return till the Library opens at 10am Saturday morning. They feed us at midnight and this sustains us as well as the fresh fruit and nut nibbles, juice, tea and coffee supplied. If you have not attended one of these you don't know what you are missing. They are a researchers dream come true. They are held in September so keep an eye out for next years and book early as the places get filled up fast. This year was the sixth one to be held.

There is an Australian/New Zealand Road show coming your way in November so keep a look out for advertising. This is being run by the Australian 'Unlock the Past' organisation. There will be some good speakers so don't miss out. They are calling for volunteers to help work it and will give you free entry so if you are interested check out the site and look under events <http://www.unlockthepast.com.au>

We extend our congratulations to Geraldene O'Reilly on being elected as the Irish Group Auckland Convenor and her new committee. We wish her well and with our two groups we will work together to bring more Irish resources to everyone.

Jenny Martin

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1901/11 Census Ireland

Both Census have now been released and are FREE at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

Who were the Census Takers?

In both 1901 and 1911, the census takers were members of the Royal Irish Constabulary in rural areas and the Metropolitan Police in cities. Given the political climate, your ancestors may have been wary of telling the police officer or an authority figure from the Government, too much personal information. So beware of accepting the information on Census's as being "Always True and Accurate".

Irish Census Returns

Irish Census Returns are a peculiarly fragmented and widely dispersed body of records. The Census of Ireland circa 1659 was compiled by Sir William Pender and is available in the National Archives in Dublin. It only gives the names of titled landowners and the total number of residents in townlands. On 28th May 1821, Government appointed enumerators set forth to take a census of the population. For each household they listed names, ages, occupations and relationship to head of household plus the acreage held by the householder and how many stories were in the dwelling house. This goldmine of information was perhaps, the single most disastrous loss in the 1922 explosion at the Four Courts. Some fragments relating to parts of Cavan, Galway, Kings County, Meath and Fermanagh somehow survived and are at the National Archives.

In 1831, a census following the 1821 format was taken but it too was in the Public Records Office in June 1922. Some parts of Londonderry survived and are at the Archives as well. The 1841 census the only original returns to survive the fire are for the parish of Killeshandra, Co. Cavan.

The 1851 Census, some returns for Co. Antrim "and a few in Co Fermanagh" (1) survived.

The census returns for the 1861 and 1871 were destroyed, not by the accidental fire during the civil war but by government order. These census were used for statistical reasons and were then deliberately destroyed for confidentiality considerations shortly after the enumeration.

"The only transcripts are found in the Catholic registers of Enniscorthy, Co.Wexford, (1861), and Drumcondra and Loughbraclen, Co. Meath (1871)" (1)

The Census of 1881 and 1891 were also destroyed by government order. These precious returns were pulped during World War I due to paper shortages. Fortunately, the remaining census returns are being conserved by the National Archives.

The 1901 and 1911 Census were administered under the office of the Registrar General under the Census (Ireland) Acts 1900, 1910. The General Register Office retained custody of these returns until 1929. The GRO was located in Charlemont House, the present day Municipal Gallery of Art. This is how the returns escaped the destruction of 30th June 1922 when the treasury of the Public Records Office burned its way into history. To compensate for the loss suffered in 1922, the GRO released the 1901 and 1911 Census returns depositing them in the rebuilt Public Records Office at the Four Courts. Between 1990 and 1992 the Public Records Office was relocated to the new National Archives in Bishop Street, Dublin where they are available for research.

www.nationalarchives.ie

No census was taken in 1921 due to Civil War.

The first Census for the Irish Free State was taken in 1926 but as a privacy act is applied, the chances of this census being released before 2026 are remote.

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(Many people throughout the world are at present signing petitions (myself included) to get an early release of the 1923 Irish Census) Let us hope this comes about.

"How can I see the Irish Census Information?"

The First thing to try is your Local Family History Centre. The FHC has a lot of information in books, on Microfilm (and MicroFiche) and on Computer. In addition, they get new data in quite regularly. If they don't have any Irish Census Records, they may know who you can contact locally or where you can go to see the Irish Census. The Second thing to try is a search for Books containing Irish Census information. Get the ISBN and Book Information and go to your local Library to try to get the book through an Inter-Library Loan. The Library might be able to get the book in Book form or on Microfilm... it all depends on what is available.

Both of the items mentioned above are a lot cheaper than buying books or flying to Ireland, which brings up the third and fourth options. ☺ You can look for books which contain Irish Census Extracts, or you can go to Europe and check out the Irish Censuses first hand. "If you go to the National Archives, then they should have instructions to follow on "Accessing" the Census returns.

These are not the only ways to get the job of searching the Irish Census done. You can find people who don't mind doing look-ups or pay a professional genealogist to do the job for you. Eventually the Irish Census may follow the path of other records and be placed online. There are over 400,000 records of persons born in Ireland, but living in the UK at the time of the 1901 Census so check the UK census out for your Irish ancestors also.

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**The LDS church (FamilySearch) IGI** will be totally re-launched in a new format either later in 2010 or in 2011, with the extracted entries separated from the member submitted entries. This is going to be a major genealogy news event, so watch out for that. Meanwhile their Record Search pilot is adding new records almost every week. The pilot site is transcriptions from official records with people from all around the world assisting. You can join in and help via their website below. They give so much to everyone it is nice to return some assistance to them, after all it is for the good of us all in our research.

They also have a beta site which is digitisation of official records. These two sites will merge into one to bring you the best resources.

You can now search a prototype from What's New section on the Family Search home page.

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

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### **The Evening Post is back – and digital**

The DomPost of 20<sup>th</sup> April announced that all issues of The Evening Post up to the end of 1945 would be added to Papers Past by the end of June. We had understood that digitisation of some papers, including the Evening Post, would be extended into the 1920's. But, as a result of a special agreement with the current owners of the Evening Post (Fairfax NZ Ltd), searchable access will be up to 1945.

**Parish Records on line.** <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

The more-than two million church records comprise much of Dublin city including all of the Church of Ireland records. It also contains all of the Kerry Roman Catholic diocese records, all of the Kerry Church of Ireland records (Diocese of Ardfert), Carlow Church of Ireland records (Diocese of Leighlin) and Roman Catholic Records for South and West Cork (Diocese of Cork and Ross).

Further contracts are now being entered into to complete the remaining Catholic records of Dublin city and Cork (south and west). It is expected that a further one million records will be added to the genealogy website by the end of the year.

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Laos and Offaly added to Irish Genealogical Online Record Search System The Irish Family History Foundation's Online Research Service (ORS) are pleased to announce the availability of the records from Irish Midlands Ancestry covering the parishes of County Laois (Queens's County) and County Offaly (Kings Country). This adds another 800,000 records to our online database.

Just go to the following sites and login using your existing IFHF login details. <http://laois.rootsireland.ie> <http://offaly.rootsireland.ie>

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New CD ROMS available from the NZSG Office - [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

They are:

- NZ Combined Electoral Rolls 1881, 1893, 1896 for \$50
- A Return of Freeholders of NZ Oct 1882 for \$25
- The Jim Pearce Index Obituaries reported in the Evening Post 1929-1977 for \$25

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LDS FAMILY HISTORY CENTRE WANGANUI
4 Arundel Place, Springvale, Wanganui

Anybody wishing to use the LDS Family History Centre may have access by contacting the following person and make an appointment: Anita: (06) 344-1317; Mobile: 027-3701555; email: micklesbeanie@yahoo.com

Usual Hours Open: Tues: 9.30am-12.00pm; 6.30pm-8.30pm; Thurs: 9.30am-12.00pm; Sat: 1pm-4pm Hours are subject to change especially Saturday so please confirm day & time when making an appointment.

Golden Rules

suggested by Australian Genealogist Janet Reakes:

1. Never completely trust the spelling of surnames, place names, ships, etc, nor people's ages (consider the Chinese-whisper effect!).
2. Always check surname variants when researching. (most people were illiterate then!)
3. Always have at least two separate sources of proof for each event.
4. Remember that everything is only speculation until verified.
5. If a document exists, read it!

GENEALOGY POX.

Symptoms:

A continual complaint as to the need for names, dates and places. Patient has blank expression, often deaf to spouse and children. Has no taste for work of any kind except feverishly looking through records at libraries and court houses. Has compulsion to write letters, swears at mailman when he doesn't leave mail. Frequents strange places such as cemeteries, ruins and remote desolate areas. Makes secret night calls. Hides phone bill from spouse. Mumbles to self and has a far away look in eyes.

NO KNOWN CURE

Treatment:

Medication is useless. Disease is not fatal but gets progressively worse.

Patient should attend genealogy meetings, subscribe to a magazine and be given a quiet corner in the house where they can be alone.

The usual nature of this disease is that the sicker the patient gets the more they enjoy it.

Irish Quakers

There are many Ulster Quaker records from as far back as 1720. Quakers were better record keepers than the members of any religious denomination in Ireland.

The records they kept include minutes of men's and women's meetings, marriages, births (Quakers do not practice baptism), registers of members and disownment records.

Quaker meetings in Ulster with records from as far back as 1720 include Lisburn in County Antrim, Lurgan, Ballyhagen and Richhill in County Armagh, and Grange in County Tyrone.

For a full listing of all pre-1800 Quaker records for Ulster see 'Researching Scots Irish Ancestors' (Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation 2005) by William Roulston.

See also, 'Guide to Irish Quaker Records 1654-1860 (Dublin: Irish Manuscripts Commission 1976) by Olive C Goodbody. Source <http://ulsteramerican.org>

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**NZSG Look-up service**

A reminder to all about this fantastic service for NZSG members. [researchservice@genealogy.org.nz](mailto:researchservice@genealogy.org.nz) - this covers all area of research, not just Irish.

When requesting don't forget your membership Number. Indexes only of:

- **Births** for all Ireland from 1864-1921, which is the time of the North/South split
- **Marriages** for all Ireland from 1845-1921, which is the time of the North/South split although the early ones are protestant only
- **Deaths** for all Ireland from 1864-1921, which is the time of the North/South split.

The results will be emailed to you or send a ssae plus small charge for photocopying.

There is much more to research from Ireland as well as other places around the world.

For more check out the NZSG Library catalogue on line. [www.genealogy.org.nz](http://www.genealogy.org.nz)

## FreeBMD web site

Here's a useful little tip for when you are searching on the FreeBMD website for the entries of births, marriages and deaths of ancestors etc.

Leave the surname field blank and enter in the first name field, a surname with a + sign in front of it. This produces entries in which the name was used either as a forename or a middle name. (Entering with-out a timeframe also works better. – less information is better!)

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## Members Donations.

Nora Skinner \$50.00

Marie Perham \$50.00

Tom Hayes \$95.00

Rose Gibb has donated 2 PRONI church record microfilms:

**Salterland Presbyterian Church**, Magherafelt, Co Derry

**Culnady Presbyterian Church**, Maghera, Co Derry

These will go into the National Library in the LDS Microfilm area and will be available for everyone to look at.

Thank you also to all those who gave a little extra with your subscription. These will go towards purchasing resources.

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Collateral Research

By Genealogist and writer Mary Penner

In the genealogy world we have **lineal family lines** and collateral family lines. Lineal lines include direct ancestors and their descendants. These lines focus on parent/child relationships. We spend most of our time researching lineal lines. We hunt for our great-grandparents, then their parents, then their parents - on and on.

Collateral lines, on the other hand, refer to family members who aren't directly or lineally related to you. These are the aunts and uncles and the cousins. You may think you barely have enough time to uncover every genealogical tid-bit on your lineal ancestors. You may think research on collateral lines is a distraction, but here are five circumstances in which I pay a lot of attention to collateral lines.

1. Lineal dead-ends. When my lineal lines appear to be hopelessly silent, I veer over to the collaterals. We all know that we can find great family clues by looking at the aunts and uncles, but don't neglect the cousins. I'm especially interested in collateral relatives who never married or who died young without children. We typically think those lonesome relatives don't have much to offer our research efforts. But, they are the ones who named their parents as their next of kin on their military records, and they are the ones who left their property to their sisters, brothers, and cousins. Their obituaries mention their cousins (your ancestors) and where they lived.

2. Military records. You've got your great-great-grandfather's Civil War pension file, which is a dandy resource filled with family clues. What about his two cousins that also served? Do you have their pension files? Relatives often served in the same units. His cousin's file might provide fascinating details of a battle in which all of the relatives fought. It might mention residences before the war – places your ancestor lived that you didn't know about. Military files and pension records can be expensive, but I consider them invaluable to my research, so finding collateral relatives in the military rank high on my to-do list.

3. Probate records. Your great-grandmother didn't leave a will, but maybe her nephew did. What if you don't know her maiden name and have no clue who her collateral relatives were?

Cont:

Sometimes a little page by page research can pay off. For example, I didn't know the first or last name of Polly Fowler's mother. I couldn't find a marriage record for Polly's parents, and Polly's father never bothered to mention his wife's name in any documents. I searched through probate records in the county where Polly lived hoping to find her mentioned by one of her maternal relatives.

Jackpot! I found Polly's cousin, a man I would never have noticed because his surname wasn't Fowler.

Fortunately, her cousin never married and had no siblings, so this bachelor farmer left all of his property to his three cousins – Polly and her two sisters.

Discovering Polly's cousin led me to his father who turned out to be a brother to Polly's mother. Not only did I find the maiden name of Polly's mother through her cousin, I also found a whole new lineal line to trace.

4. Land records. For many of our ancestors, owning land was a family affair, buying and selling from each other, and dividing land among themselves. When I spot a collateral relative in a deed book index, I take the time to look up that deed. Even if the cousin didn't sell the property to my ancestor, he may have mentioned my ancestor's land that adjoined his.

5. Immigration and naturalization records. I scrutinize every known collateral immigrant in my ancestral family tree. Even if my ancestor's cousin landed on our shores twenty years earlier and they never saw each other again, I still want to check out that cousin's immigration documents. Where did the cousin's ship sail from? Were there others on his ship with the same surname? Did the cousin's naturalization documents mention a birth place?

You may be thinking these tips are fine if you know your ancestor's cousins. But, what do you do if you don't even know who the aunts and uncles and cousins are? You have to put on your advanced sleuthing hat and hope that your ancestors clustered with their kin. You have to look at the people in the neighbourhood with the same surname. Study the people your ancestors bought land from or sold land to. Who was the administrator of your ancestor's probate case file? Who was the witness at her marriage? Start looking at the people around them and try to determine if those people were more than just good friends and neighbours. Ask yourself if that person could be a relative.

Tracing the cousins is important because their lineal lines eventually merge with your lineal lines; those collateral family members just might hold clues that can help with your lineal research.

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Huguenot Society in UK

<http://www.huguenotsociety.org.uk/history.html>

Huguenot Surname Lists

www.rootsweb.com/~fianna/surname/hug1.html)

Till next time;

Éirinn go Brách.