



A.N.D.F.H.G. Inc. News Sheet

Issue 68 – June 2015

ELECTED COMMITTEE 2014-2015

PRESIDENT	Peter Applebee
VICE PRESIDENT	Ivan Randall
SECRETARY	Margaret Flaiban
TREASURER	Shirley Bulley

APPOINTMENTS

LIBRARIAN	Gillian Swansson
DOCUMENT SCANNER	Sharon Norman

GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

MINUTE SECRETARY	Tammy Martin
	Helen Stein
	Jeff Cook
	Ian Cowley
FAMILY TREE MAKER CONVENER	Peter Applebee
LEGACY USERS GROUP CONVENER	Shirley Bulley

From the Committee

Hello Members,

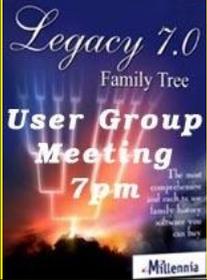
Now that Winter is on the horizon and we are all thinking of sitting in front of a heater of some kind, it is also a good time of year to put your family history into order, such as our Legacy or Family Tree Maker Programs. Laptops are great for these programs, so if you do not belong to either of these Users Groups, it may be time to re-think and to get organised.

As you can see from the contents of this month's newsletter, we are approaching the serious end of the year with the AGM on the horizon. Your membership subscription is due on or before the 1st July and in order to vote at the Annual General Meeting, you need to be a financial member.

You will see that we have included a Nomination Form, which we would ask that you COMPLETE AND RETURN before the **18th JULY 2015**. You can complete your nomination form either by scanning and forwarding it by email, or completing it and posting it in to our post office box address, or hand it personally into Ann Street. Whichever way you choose, your nomination will be confidential. The nomination forms will be handed over to the Returning Officer, in readiness for the AGM on the 25th July. Your attendance will be appreciated on that day. Our usual Sausage Sizzle event will be after the formalities.

Whilst thinking about your nominations, please take note that our current Treasurer Shirley Bulley will not be standing again in this position. Therefore there will be a vacancy on the committee. If anyone is interested in filling this role, then please let us know, or have a member nominate you. We will have more to say about our AGM in our next newsletter.

Thank You.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<p>1st June</p> 			<p>4th June</p> <p>Mid-Week Open Day 10 am – 4 pm</p>		
				<p>11th June</p> <p>We are Closed due to a all day booking of the History Centre.</p>		<p>13th June</p> <p>Research and Networking Day 1 pm – 4 pm</p> <p>Committee Meeting 2 pm</p>
				<p>18th June</p> <p>Mid-Week Open Day 10 am – 4 pm</p>		<p>20th June</p> 
				<p>25th June</p> <p>Mid-Week Open Day 10 am – 4 pm</p>		<p>27th June</p> <p>Research and Networking Day 1 pm – 4 pm</p> <p>Guest Speaker 1.30 pm</p>

National Library of Ireland Announces Launch Date for New Online Genealogy Resource

– Almost 400,000 images of Catholic parish register microfilms to be available online for free from 8th July 2015 –

The entire collection of Catholic parish register microfilms held by the [National Library of Ireland \(NLI\)](#) will be made available online – for free – from **8th July 2015** onwards. On that date, a dedicated website will go live, with over 390,000 digital images of the microfilm reels on which the parish registers are recorded.

The NLI has been working to digitise the microfilms for over three years under its most ambitious digitisation programme to date.

The parish register records are considered the single most important source of information on Irish family history prior to the 1901 Census. Dating from the 1740s to the 1880s, they cover 1,091 parishes throughout the island of Ireland, and consist primarily of baptismal and marriage records.

Commenting today, the NLI's Ciara Kerrigan, who is managing the digitisation of the parish registers, said: "We announced initial details of this project last December, and received a hugely enthusiastic response from people worldwide with an interest in Irish family history. We are delighted to announce that the project has been progressing well, and we will be able to publish all the digitised records online from 8th July onwards.

"This is the most significant ever genealogy project in the history of the NLI. The microfilms have been available to visitors to the NLI since the 1970s. However, their digitisation means that, for the first time, anyone who likes will be able to access these registers without having to travel to Dublin."

Typically, the parish registers include information such as the dates of baptisms and marriages, and the names of the key people involved, including godparents or witnesses. The digital images of the registers will be searchable by parish location only, and will not be transcribed or indexed by the NLI.

"The images will be in black and white, and will be of the microfilms of the original registers," explained Ms. Kerrigan. "There will not be transcripts or indexes for the images. However, the nationwide network of local family history centres holds indexes and transcripts of parish registers for their local areas. So those who access our new online resource will be able to cross-reference the information they uncover, and identify wider links and connections to their ancestral community by also liaising with the relevant local family history centre."

The NLI is planning an official launch event for the new online resource on 8th July. Further details will be available in the coming weeks.

Taken from Northumberland Archives.

The prices are reasonable!



THE YEAR 1752, AND THE EVENT THAT CHANGED HISTORY:-

In England and Wales, the legal calendar year of 1751, was a short one consisting of only 282 days. The year 1751, began as normal on New Year's Day the 25th of March, but what was not normal was that the year ended on the 31st of December, and not as previously on the 24th day of March. ⁱ

With the passing of December, so ended an era that had began in England and Wales almost Fourteen Hundred years previously, when in 352 A.D the Catholic Church officially adopted the Julian calendar at the meeting of Churches held at Nicea. they also decreed that Easter would be celebrated following the Equinox of March 21st.

The Julian calendar was established in 46 BC, during the rule of the Roman dictator Julius Caesar, and named in his honour, under the calendar the year began on the 25th of March and ended on the following 24th of March, and consisted of 365^{1/4} days, with an extra day added every fourth year. ⁱⁱ

However, in 1582, when during the reign of the Catholic Pontiff, Pope Gregory XIII, it was found that the Julian calendar was adrift by ten days of the solar year. Scholars had discovered that the calendar was inaccurate by Twenty-four hours every One Hundred and Thirty One years, or Three days every Four Hundred years.

Thus the inaccuracy between the years 352, and 1582, amounted to ten days, by which time the equinox had been put back from the 21st March to the 11th March resulting in the calculation of Easter being thrown out. To rectify the inaccuracy, and enable the fixation of Good Friday, Pope Gregory ordered that ten days be dropped from the calendar, ruling that the 5th October, should become the 15th October, so as to comply with the solar year calculations, and by doing so the equinox as restored to the 21st March, enabling the calculation of Easter. ⁱⁱⁱ

Pope Gregory also ruled that every Four Hundred years, leap year's day would be omitted three times, that is in 1700, 1800, and 1900, but not in the year 2000, but will be in 2100

The Catholic countries of Europe generally adhered to this ruling, but the Protestant countries such as England, Germany and the Northern Europe did not adopt the adjustment, Scotland and Ireland did, and the adjustment of the Julian Calendar became known as the Gregorian calendar, with New Year fixed as being the 1st of January, and ending on December 31st.

England remained steadfastly anti Papist, under Queen Elizabeth 1st, who was suspicious of anything Catholic seen as being a Papist plot to undermine her rule, and replace her with a Catholic Monarch; consequently, England's calendar remained Julian.

There were some attempts in the middle 17th Century to change the calendar, but the Commonwealth under the Protectorate of Oliver Cromwell, over ruled this in the 1640's,

ⁱ The calendar months were New Years Day, March 25th, and 1st month. April 2nd, May 3rd, June 4th, July 5th, August 6th, September 7th, (Latin. Septimus = Seventh) October 8th (Latin. Octavus = Eighth) , November 9th (Latin. Nonus = Ninth) , December 10th (Latin. Decimus = Tenth.), January 11th, February 12th, which also contained part of March, i.e. 1st to 24th.

ⁱⁱ It is recorded that Gaius Julius Caesar who was born in July gave his name (Juli) to the new calendar month, and to mark this important occasion he allotted 31 days to the month, by taking one day from the month of February, which had at that time 31 days. When his adopted son Gaius Julius Caesar Octavianus (later Caesar Augustus) succeeded him in 27 BC, after defeating Mark Antony, he adopted the name Augustus (Noble), and added his name to the calendar by creating the month of August. Augustus considered himself to be equal with that of Julius Caesar, and wished to be remembered as the first Emperor of Rome, and wanted an extra day added to his namesake month to mark his importance. However, when told that the calendar would not be workable because of the extra day within the year, he also removed a day from the month of February, and added the day to August. This is why the only two consecutive months in the calendar with 31 days, are July and August, and why the month of February is the only month with 28 days, to which leap year is added every fourth year.

ⁱⁱⁱ Easter is a moveable feast that is it is not fixed in relation to the civil calendar; the First council of Churches in Nicea(352A.D) established the date of Easter as being the first Sunday after the full moon, on, or soonest after, the 21st March, taken to be the date of the Equinox.

consequently, it was not until 1751 that England decided to alter the Calendar, and adopt the calendar used by all other countries.

However, by 1752, the solar year was now found to be out by eleven days, and needed adjusting accordingly. To align the calendar used in England to that on the continent, the Gregorian calendar was adopted, and the calendar advanced eleven days, when Wednesday 2nd September was followed by Thursday 14th September, thus making the year 1752, and only 355 days in length. Note that the month of September was only nineteen days in length.

SEPTEMBER 1752 Great Britain and Dominions						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	

When the calendar was printed and presented to the populace, there were demonstrations against it, with the claim that the Government had stolen eleven days out of the lives of the people. Consequently, we find that officially between the 2nd September and the 14th, there were no births, marriages, or deaths, and any of these occurrences all took place on the one day, viz Thursday 14 September.

Many people complained that they could not celebrate their birthday, because the Government had taken it away. whilst it is claimed that there were riots demanding the restoration of their eleven days of their life, there are no official records of such events, however the criticism was highly inflammatory .

However, once the Government discovered that they were also losing eleven days of Taxation income, so devised a solution to compensate for this loss, by proclaiming that January 1st next would become henceforth New Years Day instead of March 25th. Thus in 1753, the Gregorian calendar was declared the official English calendar and January 1st was used for the first time on all documents.

As well as adopting the Gregorian, rule for leap years, Pope Gregory's rules for the date of Easter were also adopted. However, with the anti Catholic feelings still engrained in their thinking, the Government and Church could not bring themselves to adopt the Catholic system explicitly. The rule of computing the date of Easter, whilst being the same, did not refer to the system as being of Gregorian origins.

A BRICKWALL DEMOLISHED:

For some time I had been trying to locate one of my ancestor females, Hannah Withall in 1639, try as I might I could not find anything about her, that is apart from her baptism in the Church of England Parish of Topsham, near Exeter. There was no burial registered for her, unlike her parents and siblings, nor any marriage, it seemed that I would not locate anything about her at all, and had confined her to that file marked BRICKWALL.

Then one day, years later, I stumbled, yes that is the word, stumbled, across a reference in an old book found in a search of "Google Books," to a Hannah Withall, Quaker.

I recollected that Ancestry had a search of Quaker records, albeit limited, but knowing that the ancestral families were of the official Church of England, and Non Conformity was not a question at this time in England.

The offshoot being, that during the mid 1600s Quakerism was making inroads into the official Church worshiping practice, and was on the rise as an alternative religion; consequently, many people turned their backs on the Church and adopted this new form of worship.

It is worthy to consider looking at the Quaker records in Ancestry, should there be a missing link in your family. However, the Quaker or Society of Friends has not released their records for perusal and only those that are deposited with the National Archives are available, nevertheless it is worth a try.

So began a thorough search of their and later the National Archives records, the following is what I have successfully located in my research.

Colin Withall
Member 03.

Important Irish artefact from WWI discovered at British yard sale

Frances Mulraney April 11,2015 04:00 AM



The Last General Absolution of the Munster Fusiliers at Rue du Bois. Painting commissioned by Jessie Louisa Rickard, the original of which was destroyed during the bombing of London in World War II. Photo by: Public Domain

Seven years ago, an English couple paid \$36 for a print at a yard sale in Lincolnshire, East England. It wasn't until a recent Irish Times article about the painting the print depicts, that the couple became aware of the enormous historical and financial value of what lay in their home.

The print depicts the famous World War One painting by Fortunino Matania, "The Last General Absolution of the Munsters at Rue du Bois," one the most poignant events in the history of Irish involvement in the war. Not only this, but the print is inscribed by the chaplain who appears in the painting.

The painting shows a Catholic chaplain from Co. Tipperary, Fr. Francis Gleeson, on horseback before soldiers of the Second Battalion, Royal Munster Fusiliers in Northern France, almost 100 years ago in May 1915. The men, led by Lieut-Col Victor Rickard (also depicted on horseback in the painting), are receiving “general absolution” on the eve of battle as they stopped by a shrine outside of the northwestern French town, Rue du Bois, on May 8 1915. Many of these men were to die the following day, including Rickard.

This particular print is inscribed with a greeting to an unknown receiver by Fr. Francis Gleeson and dated April 7, 1919, after the end of the war. Fr. Gleeson, from Templemore, Co. Tipperary, volunteered as a Catholic chaplain in the British army on the outbreak of the war. He served with distinction with the Royal Munster Fusiliers before returning to Ireland and serving as a priest in Dublin until his death in 1959.

Prints of the painting were very popular after it was first used in “The Sphere” magazine in London in November 1916. Although there are other copies in private collections and in museums in Ireland, this is the only known print to include an inscription by Fr. Gleeson. The original painting is thought to be lost.



Irish soldiers at Mass in England. Public Domain.

Upon learning of the potential value, the English couple consigned the print and it will now go up for auction with Whyte’s auctioneers in Dublin next month. The print is expected to sell for between \$3,200 and \$5,300.

Just last year, the vestment worn by Fr. Gleeson in the painting was also discovered in storage in a museum in London. Gleeson’s bravery during the war is renowned as he comforted members of the Royal Munster Fusiliers.

An entry from the eve of the battle in his diary, which is housed in the Dublin Diocesan Archives, reads, “The scenes of enthusiasm are extraordinary. I ride on my horse. Give absolution to [the] battalion during rest in [the] road...The men all sing hymns, ‘Hail Glorious St Patrick’. I go further up — near the trenches, and bid goodbye to all. So sad.”

The following day, he writes, “What a day for all the Munsters. We lose at least 350 men, between killed and wounded and missing. Spent all night trying to console, aid, and remove the wounded. It was ghastly to see them lying there in the cold, cheerless outhouses, on bare stretchers with no blankets to cover their freezing limbs... Hundreds lying out in cold air all night at Windy Corner. No ambulances coming. They came at last — at daylight

1.30 pm Saturday 27th June.

Peter Applebee.

“Looking at Find My Past.”

Raffle Prize for this afternoon is a Free World 12 Month Subscription to Find My Past.

The image shows a screenshot of the Find My Past website. The top navigation bar includes the logo, 'Family tree', 'Search', 'My records', 'News', 'Help', 'Subscribe', and 'Sign in / Register'. The main content area features a search form with fields for 'Who' (First name, Last name), 'When' (Born, YYYY, +/- 2yrs), and 'Where' (World, Location). A prominent blue banner reads 'Discover your ancestors' with the subtext 'Bring your past to life and build your family tree' and a 'Start a 14 day free trial' button. A large white overlay with green polka dots says 'congratulations You have won a 12 month World subscription to findmypast.com.au' and 'Usually worth \$199.50'. Below the main banner are three smaller promotional tiles: 'Build your family tree and get new Hints!', 'Discover and commemorate your ANZAC ancestors', and 'Search 2 billion records and exclusive Newspapers'.

Findmypast is a British-owned world leader in online genealogy. It has an unrivalled record of online innovation in the field of family history and 18 million registered users across its family of online brands, which includes Mocavo, Genes Reunited, The British Newspaper Archive amongst others.



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