

Tracing your Irish and Scots Irish Ancestors

Program for Chehalis, WA

1) Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research (Part 1) 09:15-10:00

2) Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research (Part 2) 10:00–10:45

BREAK (10:45-11:05)

3) Using land records: Griffith's Valuation, Tithe and Estate records (1hr) 11:15-12:15

LUNCH (12:15–1:15)

4) Irish education and school records: a valuable alternative to non-available census records for nineteenth century research (30 mins) 1:15-1:45

5) Printed sources for Irish family history (1hr) 1:45-2:45

BREAK (2:45-3:00)

6) The Plantation of Ulster and sources for finding seventeenth century families in Ireland (1 hr) 3:00-4:00

7) Q&A 4:00–4:30

Descriptions of the Presentations

Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish Family History Research

This presentation provides a broad overview of Scots-Irish and Irish research and sets the program up for the day, covering a range of topics which include: the geographical divisions of Ireland which are so invaluable in Irish genealogy, such as townlands, parishes and baronies; the 1922 fire and how it affects what can be found in Irish records; the importance of doing your homework on North American sources before starting your Irish research; as well as and exploring some of the major collections of records and how to access them, which will not be covered in the other presentations, such as census records and civil records of births, marriages and deaths.

Using Land Records: Griffith's Valuation, Tithe and Estate records

Land records are an extremely important part of genealogical research in Ireland due to the destruction of the majority of nineteenth century census records. We will look at the main valuation records – the tithe books from the 1820s and 1830s and Griffith's Valuation which covers the period 1848 to 1864, and the valuation revision books up to c. 1930, as well as looking at estate papers which can help take our family history back to the 1700s and 1600s.

Irish education and school records: a valuable alternative to non-available census records for nineteenth century research

Education records are an underused but invaluable part of Irish family history research due to the destruction of the majority of the nineteenth century census returns. In this talk, we shall look

briefly at the history of education in Ireland and the introduction of the national school system. We will then focus on the records of most use to genealogists, the information these documents can contain and where they are available.

Printed sources for Irish family history

In this talk, we will look at the main printed sources of use to Irish genealogy, including street directories, Ordnance Survey Memoirs and newspapers as well as lesser-known printed sources such as Parliamentary Papers. The presentation will also look at collections from, for example, the Irish Manuscripts Commission, the Deputy Keeper Reports of the Public Record Office of Ireland and various historical Irish journals which can contain valuable genealogical material.

The Plantation of Ulster and sources for finding seventeenth-century families in Ireland

This presentation will look at those sources which can throw light on families in the seventeenth century. It identifies documents relating to the Ulster Plantation (1610–41) which can be used to construct profiles of settler families. It also considers sources from the second half of the seventeenth century, such as hearth money rolls, the Civil Survey and poll books, which are of use to genealogists working in this period. This presentation will also present information on a range of new resources and materials recently published which can help researchers explore this early period. While giving a brief overview of the Plantation of Ulster, the archival sources discussed, in many instances, relate to the island of Ireland and not only Ulster.

General Questions and Answers and Brick Walls

The speakers will use online resources (where internet connection is available) and their local knowledge to offer participants practical tips about Irish and Scots-Irish research. The session combines straightforward Q&A for general Irish genealogy questions interspersed with database searches using a range of important online databases for specific research queries submitted by the participants. These sessions will help the beginner and the seasoned genealogist alike. The presenters try to cover as much ground as they can to provide specific advice for the individual family historian on their research query.

About the Speakers

Fintan Mullan has been Executive Director of Ulster Historical Foundation since 2001. With IT partners BRS Systems he pioneered the online births, deaths and marriages online record system for Antrim and Down, which led to www.rootsireland.ie, the Irish Family History Foundation's unique database with over 20 million Irish historical records, making it the most useful online resource for Irish research. He has ensured the Foundation has been at the forefront of digital database developments for Irish genealogy. Fintan's publishing experience is extensive, since 2001 he has managed the production of over 100 individual and diverse publications including the perennial favourite *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors*. He is a non-executive director of the Irish Family History Foundation; sits on the management committee of the Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR), and is a former member of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), Readers Forum. He is a regular speaker on the North American circuit; having presented Irish and Scot-Irish programmes in most of the lower 48 states, and was one of the Northern Ireland presenters at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival July 2007. He has also spoken in Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. He was educated at Queen's University Belfast. He has a bachelor's degree in Politics and Philosophy, and a master's degree in Organisation and Management.

Gillian Hunt is Research Officer with the Ulster Historical Foundation and is responsible for the management of the Foundation's many genealogical activities. As well as managing the genealogy side of the Foundation's work, Gillian carries out research for clients and is a hugely experienced user of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the General Register Office, and she sits on

the PRONI Stakeholders Forum. She regularly teaches courses in Northern Ireland and gives talks on family history in the rest of Ireland, the UK and the USA. Gillian has been co-presenting the Foundation's annual North American lecture tours since 2013. She has visited Stone Mountain Highland Games (Atlanta, GA) on a number of occasions and also presented at Tourism Ireland's 'Discover Northern Ireland' in Grand Central Terminal, NYC in 2010. For the past five years, she has taught a number of extra mural courses at Stranmillis College and at Queen's University, in Belfast, as well as to community groups across Northern Ireland. Gillian has carried out the research for a number of television programmes, as well as appearing in several of them. She has been with the Ulster Historical Foundation since 2001, and received a degree in History (BA Hons, 1998) and a Masters in Historical Studies (MA, 2000) from the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

About the organisation – Ulster Historical Foundation

Ulster Historical Foundation is a non-profit organisation and registered charity (Charity Reg. NIC100280) established in 1956, as a research division of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, it exists to promote interest in Irish genealogy and history, with particular reference to the historical nine county province of Ulster.

The Foundation is one of the leading genealogical research agencies in Ireland and a major publisher of historical, educational and genealogical source books. It has also devised a series of ground breaking online historical and genealogical digitised resources, which have helped to transform the availability of Irish records for family historians at home and abroad.

Education and community outreach are central to the Foundation's ethos and in support of this objective the organisation delivers community-based education programs in Northern Ireland, hosts conference, workshops, conferences and heritage tourism events. It maintains a membership society – a research co-operative – with a worldwide membership and seeks to strengthen links between Ireland and those of Irish descent by regularly taking its expertise to Great Britain, the Republic of Ireland and to North America.

Ulster is the northern most province of the island of Ireland. It is composed of the six counties of Northern Ireland – Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry/Londonderry, and Tyrone – and the three border counties of the Irish Republic – Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan.