

Church Records

Catholic baptism and marriage records for Waterford are relatively good in comparison to many Irish counties. There are 32 Catholic parishes (7 of which are within Waterford City) and 10 of these have records starting in the 18th century (including all of the City parishes). The earliest register (St. John's in Waterford City) starts in 1710. The factors which affected the start date of these records are detailed in 'Irish Church Records' (Flyleaf Press, 2001). The Catholic Church registers are available online and free to access on the National Library of Ireland website <http://registers.nli.ie/>. In addition, an index to these registers is available on the pay-for sites www.ancestry.com, www.findmypast.ie and www.rootsireland.ie. In the Church of Ireland there are 22 parishes with records, and several are particularly early, including Lismore whose records start in 1693, and Waterford Holy Trinity (1655). These records can be searched, for a fee, on-line through www.RootsIreland.ie while the originals are variously in the Library of the Representative Church Body (RCB) in Dublin, in the National Archives of Ireland, or at their church of origin in Waterford. A full list of availability of these records can be downloaded from the RCB library website at <http://bit.ly/2dKq4Ku>. There are also records for the Presbyterian and Quaker denominations.

Census Substitutes

Although there are no Government census records until 1901, there are local records which provide evidence of an ancestor. These include lists of voters, freeholders, petitioners, taxpayers, persons charged with crimes and others compiled for a wide variety of reasons. Some will provide a specific address and other useful details as to their circumstances or occupation. Examples, to demonstrate the diversity of sources, include the 1641 Books of Survey and Distribution (NLI Ms 971); a 1663 list of the inhabitants of Waterford City (J. Cork Arch & Hist. Soc. Vol. 51; a list of persons who suffered losses in the 1798 Rebellion (NLI Ms 94107); a 1792 list of the 'Leading Catholics' of Waterford (Irish Ancestor 8(2)); and lists of voters for 1807 (Irish Ancestor 8(11)); 1835 (NAI 1842/18), 1839 (Irish Genealogist 8(2)); and 1843 (NAI 1843/65).

There are also record sources which cover a long period of time. An interesting example is the records of local courts or Petty Sessions (1851-1910). They are available for several Waterford courts and are rich resources as they provide names of accused, witnesses, injured parties and usually state occupations. The originals are in the National Archives (NAI) but they are available in a searchable format

on www.findmypast.ie which also hosts Griffith's Valuation, commercial directories, and other material.

Newspapers

The classic information associated with newspapers are notices of births, marriages and death. However, until relatively recent times these notices are restricted to the more prominent members of the community. However, many others are mentioned because of appearances in court or in local incidents. Local newspapers also publish lists of persons attending meetings, signing petitions, or making donations to local causes. They also contain advertisements for local businesses. The earliest Waterford papers are *Ramsey's Waterford Chronicle* (1771-1910); and the *Waterford Herald* (1789-96). The *Waterford Chronicle* is being digitised and indexed by Waterford County Library (see www.waterfordcouncil.ie/departments/library). Original copies of these and other papers are available in NLI, the British Library and other archives. Note also, that newspapers in surrounding counties may also be consulted for early notices, and Waterford events are also reported in regional and national newspapers such as the *Irish Times* (1859 - current); *Finn's Leinster Journal* (1771) and *The Freeman's Journal* (from 1763). Both of the latter are indexed on the commercial website www.irishnewsarchive.com.

Gravestone Inscriptions

Gravestone inscriptions from the county have also been transcribed and indexed by different groups. These are available in local and national journals and books. Waterford County Library has a collection of burial and funeral books, see <http://bit.ly/2e56dcd>.

Commercial Directories

During the 18th century local directories of major towns were published by private companies. These contain listings of tradesmen, professionals, public officials, and sometimes local gentry. There is no specific local directory for Waterford until 1839 when Harvey's *Directory of Waterford* was first published. It also contains a house-by-house street directory. It was published again in 1866 and 1869 as Harvey's *Waterford Almanac and Directory*. However, information on major Waterford towns is included in a series of national directories (Pigotts 1824, Thom's 1844, Slaters 1846 etc) and these can be accessed on several websites and in libraries.

Estate Papers

Waterford has a good collection of estate papers and rentals, many of which are in public archives, particularly the National Library of Ireland <http://sources.nli.ie>

and Waterford County Library. The NLI's sources database collection (<http://sources.nli.ie>) is a goldmine of other local material. It lists 175 rentals from Waterford estates including the Boyle Estate rentals, (from 1691); Rentals of the Cavendish or Devonshire Estate (from 1812); and the Woulfe/Mansfield estate papers (NLI Ms. 9632). An example of a rental from the latter can be seen at www.ancestornetwork.ie/small-sources-18.

Local and Family Histories

Awareness of local history and culture is helpful in revealing useful sources of information. There are a range of local histories of Waterford towns, parishes and associations which provide such background information. One major source is the *Decies* journal, published by Waterford Historical and Archaeological Society www.waterford-history.org since the 1950s. Histories of local families have also been published and are particularly valuable documents for research as many contain personal recollections and knowledge of families. These are usually published in local or national journals, as short-run books or pamphlets (for circulation to family members), or as manuscript copies donated to libraries. [Sources for Family and Local history](http://www.sources.nli.ie), published by Flyleaf Press, contains an extensive list of such sources.

Waterford County Library has a good collection of local history sources, including Workhouse Board of Guardians records, Grand Jury Records, Town Council papers, Estate papers and some collections of private papers. Other material of Waterford relevance is in many archives worldwide.

A local genealogy service is also available in Waterford in association with the Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF), the all-Ireland network of genealogy centres that runs www.rootsireland.ie. It is available through Waterford Heritage, based in the Genealogy Centre, Jenkins Lane, Waterford. The genealogist, Michael O'Connor, can be contacted by email at: mnoc@iol.ie. *Image opposite page:- Lismore Castle, Co. Waterford.*



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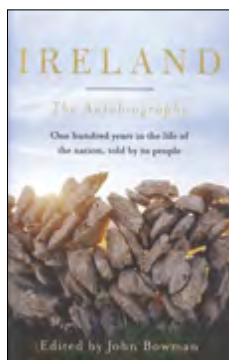
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The editor's books selection for this quarter are:-

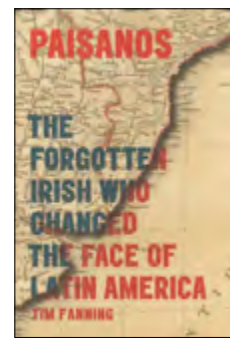
Figures in a Famine Landscape. Ciarán Ó Murchadha. Bloomsbury Academic; 239pp; £21.99 pb; 23cm; 978-1-4725-1155-3. This is an in-depth study of the Great Famine in an area of County Clare, focusing on the role of particular individuals such as clergymen, landlords and newspapermen.



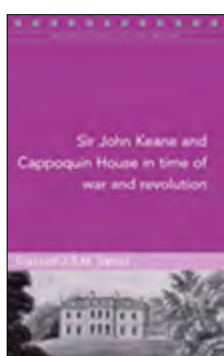
Ireland, the Autobiography: one hundred years in the life of the nation, told by its people. John Bowman (ed.). Penguin Ireland; 496pp; €25/£20/CAN\$42.95 pb; 23cm; 978-1-84488158-1. This is an autobiography in the sense that history is told through the writings and utterances of Irish people from 1916 to the present. Bowman provides notes to the texts.



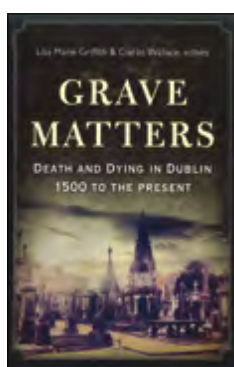
Paisanos: the forgotten Irish who changed the face of Latin America. Tim Fanning. Gill Books; 304pp; €24.99/£21.99 hb; 23cm; 978-0-71717181-1. It seems that in Latin America the role played by the Irish is not forgotten, but Irish readers need reminding of these revolutionaries, statesmen and pioneers who shaped nations.



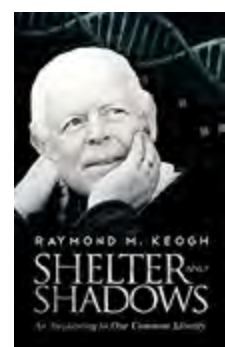
Sir John Keane and Cappoquin House in Time of War and Revolution. Glascott J.R.M. Symes. Four Courts Press; 66pp; €9.95 pb; 21cm; 978-184682-613-9. Part of the Maynooth Studies in Local History, this looks at the fortunes of a County Waterford estate and its owners in the revolutionary period.



Grave Matters: death and dying in Dublin, 1500 to the present. Lisa Marie Griffith and Ciarán Wallace (eds). Four Courts Press; 252pp + 16pp of illustrations; €24.95 pb; 23cm; 978-1-84682-6016. Articles on pandemic diseases, army deaths, capital penalty, funeral practices, attitudes to death and sources for research.



Shelter and Shadows: an awakening to our common identity. Raymond M. Keogh. 'Our Own Identity'; 183pp; €11 pb; 22cm; 978-0-99356520-5. Analyses how we live between two conflicting Irish traditions, and how coming to terms with cultural incompatibility 'awakens a revolutionary view of our common humanity'.



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Society Notes



PORTLAW HERITAGE CENTRE

The village of Portlaw is located ten miles from Waterford City in the beautiful south-east of Ireland. Portlaw's heritage is a different heritage to most villages in Ireland. It is an industrial heritage as the factory complex built in 1825 by the Malcomson's has provided a backdrop to the village, firstly as a Cotton Mill in the 19th century and as a Tannery in the 20th century.

The importance of Portlaw in the industrial history of Ireland is significant both locally and internationally. The Heritage Centre helps you discover how rich our heritage is covering early monastic settlements, Norman fortifications, the large demesne at Curraghmore and an industrial past.

Following the closure of the Cotton Mill in 1876 the population of Portlaw had fallen by 75% by the 1901 Census. Over this period almost 3,500 people left the village to follow work in England and further afield.

The 20th century industrial story of Portlaw begins in the 1930s as the Free State government established protectionist policies aimed at protecting existing domestic employment and promoting employment initiatives. This led to the establishment of Irish Tanners in the old cotton mill site in the early 1930s. Along with many other industries the tannery suffered from the recession of the 1980s and closed its gates finally in 1985 after a long and painful process of rationalisation and layoffs. The objective of the Centre has been to establish an archive of the industrial, social and cultural history of Portlaw.

For further details see www.facebook.com/pages/Portlaw-Heritage-Centre/117058221638852

Ger Crotty
Portlaw Heritage Centre

TELL US ABOUT YOUR SOCIETY

Keep readers up to date with what's happening in your Genealogy, History Society or Family Gathering.

*Email us by JANUARY 30th to:-
editor@irishrootsmagazine.com.*

(please limit to 250 words where possible)

IRISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY (IGRS)

The eightieth anniversary of the founding of the IGRS was celebrated with a reception at the College of Arms in London on the evening of Friday, 23 September. This prestigious location was chosen because the inaugural meeting of the Society had been held at the College on the 15 September 1936 in the rooms of the then York Herald, Aubrey J. Toppin. On this occasion we were the guests of the current York Herald, Peter O'Donoghue, who was joined by his colleagues, Patric Dickinson, Clarenceux King of Arms, and Timothy Duke, Norroy and Ulster King of Arms. Among the sixty or so guests was the Irish Ambassador, Dan Mulhall, President of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain & Ireland, Brian de Save, Head of the London FamilySearch Centre, Sharon Hintze, and Else Churchill, resident genealogist at the Society of Genealogists. Other guests well known within Irish genealogy and archives included Maurice Gleeson, Jill Williams, Anthony Camp and Aileen Ireland. Speeches were given by Roz McCutcheon, an IGRS vice-president, (who read an address written by another vice-president, Mary Casteleyn) and by Steven Smyrl, IGRS chairman.

In August a further tranche of years of the Society's annual journal, *The Irish Genealogist*, was launched on the Society's website. This time it was volume 11, covering years 2002-2005, linking scanned images of all articles to the relevant index entries. At the end of August record numbers enjoyed the Society's Annual Summer Outing, which this year visited Castletown House, Co. Kildare, Ballinamuck Heritage Centre, Co. Longford, and Tullyally Castle, Co. Westmeath.

Later, in October the Society's Early Irish Birth Index was updated, doubling in size to just over 20,000 entries drawn from lesser known and underused sources.

On Sunday, 4 December, evensong at St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, will be dedicated as a Service of Thanksgiving for the lives of past members and officers of the Society, including our former president, Sir David Goodall, who died on the 22 July aged 84.

Website: www.IrishAncestors.ie
Facebook: <http://goo.gl/mOifSC>

CORK HISTORICAL & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1891, the Cork Historical and Archaeological Society is one of the oldest local interest societies in Ireland and is one hundred and twenty-five years old in 2016.

CHAS has published a CHAS journal every year since its foundation as well as a full index of the journal. It is a valuable source of information.

The Society also runs a series of events including winter lectures and summer outings. There are also once-off events such as conferences, the Annual Weekend away and the Christmas Lunch.

The Winter lectures are usually held at 8pm on Wednesdays in the Crawford Art Gallery, Emmett Place, Cork. Occasionally lectures are held in other towns and locations. The Winter Lecture Series will run from October 2016 to April 2017.

The subjects of the lectures and outing are wide-ranging covering all aspects of matters historical and archaeological in Cork city and county. The speakers and outing leaders are highly qualified and experienced professionals including many authors and academics. The study and record of history and archaeology of Cork is fully served by the voluntary efforts of CHAS members. The Society is supported by Cork City Council and University College Cork.

The Society does not have facilities to answer research queries. There are other bodies in Cork better equipped to help in that regard. The Society has a Council consisting of twenty members.

The current President of the Society is Dr Clare O'Halloran of UCC.

Information about what's on and when is on the website <http://corkhist.ie>

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Society Notes



NORTH WEXFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

North Wexford Historical Society was formed in 2011 to cater for the historical interests of the people of Gorey and its hinterland. They hold a series of lectures over the winter months and in the summer months take trips of a historical nature. There is a sub-committee which is involved in transcribing and photographing headstones in the north Wexford area. To date 18 graveyards have been completed and are fully searchable online at:-www.northwexfordhistoricalsociety.com

The total number of headstones transcribed currently stands at 2670. For the headstone enthusiast the site is also searchable by stone sculptor.

www.northwexfordhistoricalsociety.com

NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

Over the years, the Society has built up a sizeable collection of resources. Members around the world continue to work on transcription projects which are then made available via our library, website or email look-up service. One resource to investigate is Ancestor Charts, a free list of 3,000 surnames being researched - can we put you in touch with a cousin? Look under Miscellaneous Records on our website.

A successful season of genealogy workshops was held at our Library this autumn and we are now preparing our spring programme. Please email our Education Officer if you have suggestions for venues or topics: education@nifhs.org

Our eleven branches are now well into their 2016/17 season of talks, visits and workshops. Visitors and new members are very welcome so please check out the calendar or branch pages on our website and call in to your local meeting.

Save the date! Causeway Coast & Glens Branch are organising a family history conference in September 2017. It is aimed at descendants from the area and an early bird discount is available. Please see the dedicated website for details of the talks, tours, research assistance and social events that are included: www.returntothecauseway.org.uk

Thank you to everyone who spoke with us or became members at the Back To Our Past Show in Dublin in October where, in a first for us, we had a speaking slot at the DNA talks. Overall we had a busy and enjoyable time, with our county research booklets proving particularly popular. We are now preparing to attend "Who Do You Think You Are? Live" in Birmingham in April.

Congratulations to Irish Roots on reaching this milestone and best wishes for the next 100 editions! Thank you for all your support.

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WATERFORD ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

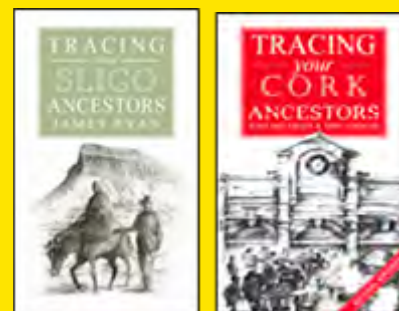
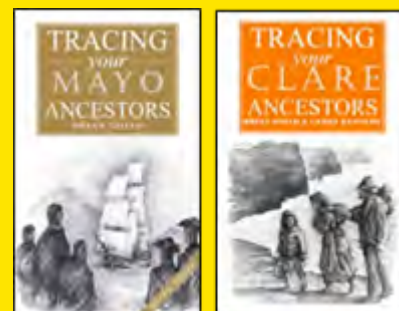
Founded in the mid 1950s the Waterford Archaeological and Historical Society is dedicated to recording and disseminating the history, heritage and folklore of the county and city of Waterford. The society organises a series of winter lectures from September to May and during the summer months visits are organised to sites of historical and archaeological importance in the region. There is also an annual coach trip organised during the summer. Decies the annual journal of the society was founded in 1976 and is published annually.

The annual subscription is €25. This fee entitles the member to admission to the lectures, outings and a copy of the annual journal.

For further information please visit:-

www.waterford-history.org or
www.facebook.com/waterfordhistory

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WAYS TO TRACE YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

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1. Brew a pot of tea and get older relatives talking about family history.

2. Make a record of the conversations. Details can be quickly forgotten.

3. Sketch out a family tree. It is easier to see where you need to focus your research when you can see your family tree in its entirety.

4. Make copies of old family letters and photographs, but try to leave the originals in place. Many families have fallen out over the 'disappearance' of an old photograph album.

5. Label all of the images and keep your records organised. You may have to put your research aside for a couple of months or even years and you want to make it easy to pick it up again.

6. Old memorial cards for deceased family members record ages, dates of death and maiden names of married women.

7. Check whether your local library has collected and digitised memorial cards from the local area.

8. Start your research with birth, marriage and death records.

9. Civil registration in Ireland commenced in 1864 when

it became compulsory to register all births, marriages and deaths. However, it is estimated that up to 15% of births and marriages went unregistered in the 19th century.

10. Birth registrations should state the name, date and place of birth, the name, address and occupation of the father and the maiden name of the mother.

11. Original birth registrations are now freely available online at www.irishgenealogy.ie from 1864 to 1916.

12. Non Catholic marriages in Ireland were registered with the civil authorities from 1845. All denominations were registered from 1864.

13. Civil marriage registrations are freely available at www.irishgenealogy.ie from 1882-1940.

14. A marriage certificate should record the names, ages and addresses of the bride and groom as well as the names and occupations of their fathers.

15. Full age on a marriage registration is usually 21 years and the address is only the address at the time of marriage and not always a long standing family address.

16. A death certificate should state the age of the deceased, indicating approximate year of birth, and in some cases the informant might be a family member, such as the widow, child or parent of the deceased.

17. Original civil death registrations are available at www.irishgenealogy.ie from 1891 to 1965.