

Children's Fashion In Nineteenth Century Ireland



By Dr. Mary Hatfield

One of the many sources that historians of childhood use to gain insight into the experience of childhood in the past is clothing. How children were dressed, and what was considered fashionable for children, manifests something of the cultural ideas and values of a particular historical moment. For example, in contemporary culture we distinguish boys and girls by dressing them in blue and pink, or we see teenagers emulating the styles of musical acts or celebrities. Dressing a certain way can signify our membership in a religious community or our allegiance to a favorite sports club. Historians of childhood often point to the nineteenth century as the origin point of 'modern' childhood. Many of the hallmarks that we now firmly associate with the experience of childhood, compulsory schooling, leisure activities, commercially produced toys and games and mass-produced children's clothing, all gained in popularity during this century.

The end of the eighteenth-century saw a 'new world of children' characterised by a wider array of goods and services aimed directly at children, and a parental willingness to spend money in order to entertain and educate their children. For middle- and upper-class families, buying clothes for children was more than an exercise in providing basic care, it signalled their status and position in society, as well as solicitude for their offspring.

Special Occasions

Children were dressed carefully for ceremonious occasions like christenings and first communions. Christening

gowns were passed from generation to generation, adorned with lace and ribbons and made of high-quality silk and linens. Because they were such valued garments, we have lots of surviving examples. These can be seen at the National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks, Dublin and the National Museum of Ireland - Country Life, Castlebar, Co. Mayo. There are over 70 items of children's clothing held in these collections, spanning from 1750-1898. The range of information available for each artefact varies widely, with some dates and provenances unknown, while others have more specific histories.

The items preserved in the museum's collections can largely be divided into two categories, items which were tokens

of affection and served a ceremonial purpose, and those items which were more utilitarian. One of the earlier examples in the museum was donated with a note stating 'Worked by Lady Hoare for my Darling Ellen, in Youghal, [Co.Cork] 1807.' The painstaking embroidery and hand-made designs certainly demonstrate the care and attention which many parents, and mothers in particular, dedicated to clothing their children.

Everyday Clothing

When it comes to everyday clothing there are fewer artifacts to look at, because these garments were likely worn until they were threadbare and not considered especially nice or valuable.



Local Resources For Family History Research County Antrim

By James G. Ryan

County Antrim was historically the territory of the O'Neills called Dalriada. The major Gaelic families include McQuillan and O'Quinn. Scottish Gallowglass families, McDonnells, Bissels, McNeills and McAllisters settled here in the 13th and 14th centuries. In the early 17th century the Gaelic families were dispossessed following the Rebellion of O'Neill and O'Donnell, and the county was 'planted' with settlers from England (mainly from Devon, Lancashire and Cheshire) with names including Bradshaw, Bradford, Watson and Jackson. Further plantations from Scotland brought families such as Boyd, Fraser and Lindsay. The clearance of Gaelic people, which was the purpose of the Ulster Plantation, was most successfully achieved in Antrim.

During the 18th century there was significant repression of Catholics and Presbyterians, through a series of 'Penal Laws'. As a result, many Presbyterian Scots-Irish settlers left to settle in America. In 1922 the Irish Free State was created but Antrim remained part of the United Kingdom. The main towns are Carrickfergus, Ballymena, Lisburn, Larne and Belfast, which borders with Down to the south.

Antrim has a diverse set of genealogical records: Civil records of birth, death and marriage start in 1864 and most are now free on-line at www.irishgenealogy.ie. *Griffith's Valuation* (a survey of land occupiers in 1861-62) is available on many websites; and the 1901 and 1911 Census returns are available at www.nationalarchives.ie.

If you do not know where in Antrim your family was located, a useful starting point is *Griffith's Valuation*, which will show where families with your name

are located (e.g. a civil parish). A free way to do this search is through www.askaboutireland.ie. If you locate a possible ancestor, a search of church or civil records from that area may provide verification. The 1901 census, although compiled long after the major period of emigration, may also indicate local prevalence of a surname. When you have identified a likely area, or a definite ancestor, the following records can extend your search.

Church Records

There are 28 Catholic parishes, but many date only from the mid-1800s. Less than half have records starting before 1840. Factors which affected record-keeping are detailed in *'Irish Church Records'* (Flyleaf Press, 2001). Catholic registers are available free online at <http://registers.nli.ie/>. There is no index, but one is available on www.ancestry.com and www.findmypast.ie. Roots Ireland also provides searches of original registers at www.rootsireland.ie.

There are 46 Church of Ireland parishes with records, the earliest being 1637 (Lisnagarvey). Three parishes have records beginning in the 17th century and eight in the 18th century. These can be searched, for a fee, through www.RootsIreland.ie. A full list of records can be down-loaded from the Representative Church Body (RCB) library <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library>

Presbyterian Records

Presbyterian records are complex as sub-divisions within the church resulted in separate administrations. These are described in *'Irish Church Records'* (Flyleaf Press). Of the 68 churches or Kirks the earliest (Dundonald, Belfast) has records from 1678. However, most date from the 19th century. Their major repository is the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), and information is also available from the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland (www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com).



Society Notes



IRISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH SOCIETY (IGRS)

On 15 February we formally launched our new website. It has a fresh new look and feel and will allow both members and visitors to easily navigate the public and Members' Area. The rapid growth in databases and indexes meant that we soon outgrew the old website and in 2020 we began work on a new and improved one. The pandemic caused some delays, but at the end of last year we were finally ready for a soft launch followed by a formal launch in February.

The new Members' Area lists the resources under headings: BMD Indexes, Census, Directories, Journals, Family Histories & Papers, Wills, Special Collections, Books & Manuscripts, Finding Aids, and Research Advice. For virtually all of the resources there are free indexes which non-members can use. Much of the improvements are behind-the-scenes, which enable the website to run much more efficiently and quickly than hitherto.

We have begun decanting our library and manuscript collections from storage and getting them cleaned and appraised. It is the plan to make much of our manuscript holdings available online. We intend that our book collection will become accessible again once the Society of Genealogists has found new premises. Once this has been done we expect to be able to upload our library book catalogue to the new website.

Website: www.IrishAncestors.ie
 Facebook: @irishgenealogicalresearchsociety
 Twitter: @IGRS_1936

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Family History Notes To Us By:-

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editor@irishrootsmagazine.com

All Welcome!

NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY

The spring edition of our journal, North Irish Roots is being prepared for publication and is jam-packed with articles. A special focus is on tracing Irish ancestors in India. A record number of surnames that our members are researching have been submitted so we hope that many connections will be made.

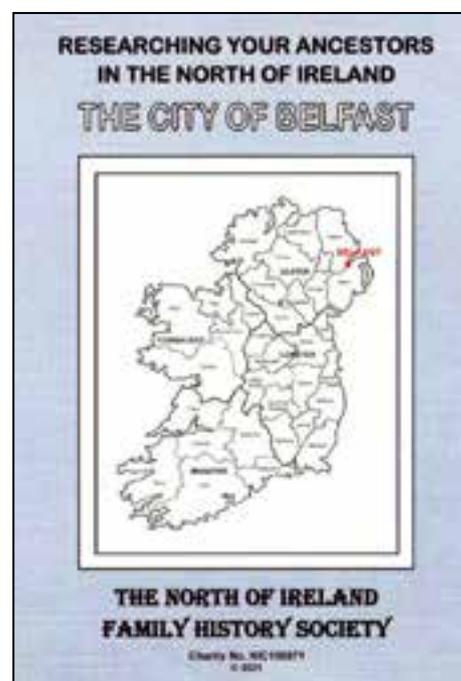
A new index to useful genealogical information within our journal has just been launched. The new resource lists 2000 family surnames and 2100 locations. It is a substantial piece of work of over 40 searchable pages. The index makes research easier, especially as the journals are digitised and NIFHS members get free access via the Irish Collection on the JSTOR website. The help of two overseas members has been invaluable during this project.

The next book in our series of research guides *Researching Your Ancestors in the North of Ireland: The City of Belfast* has been published and is our biggest book to date. This 106 page book opens with a brief history of the making of the city, and includes maps illustrating the growth, and showing changes to the municipal boundary, and the townlands that lie within.

The book also includes a vast range of records under main headings, such as land records, census records and substitutes, education, graveyards, and many more. Dozens of lesser-known records have been sourced and all have details of where they can be accessed.

The section on church records describes any changes to a church's location and/or amalgamation. The surviving records are listed, showing the years covered and where they are held. Web links are noted where applicable, and the Society's own transcribed records are also included.

Contact details for the main record repositories are listed and the book



is illustrated with photographs old and new, and rounds off with source books and websites not previously mentioned. Selling at £12 it is available to buy online at:- www.nifhs.org/product/researching-your-ancestors-in-the-north-of-ireland-belfast/

The society has many branches within or near the borders of County Antrim. Why not attend a meeting or three and make connections with local researchers? We'd love to welcome you – more here: www.nifhs.org/events/

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As a genealogist with over 15 years' experience, like most, I started with my own family tree and now use my skills and expertise to help others with their research.

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