



North of Ireland Family History Society

Programme of Events, Autumn 2017

The courses are open to everyone.

To book your place on a course, email Education@nifhs.org, giving:

Your name, email address, membership number (if any), course title & course starting date

All courses are held in the **Honeyman Room, NIFHS Research Centre, Unit C4, Valley Business Centre, 67 Church Road, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim, BT36 7LS.**

Also, NIFHS Branches hold talks & meetings across Northern Ireland, starting September.

“DNA for Genealogy: Family Finder 1”

Course Tutor Martin M^cDowell
When 3 sessions – **Tuesdays 5th, 12th and 19th September – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**
Cost £15 – payable at the first session.
Subject This 3 session course is designed for those who have already taken Family Tree DNA’s Family Finder Test and have received their results. You will learn how to use the tools on their website to further your genealogical research and discover what steps you can take to confirm relationships with your cousins. The course also covers how Family Finder can be used to verify your research and how the unique X chromosome can help to confirm a match. If you have a laptop, bring it, along with your log-on details to allow for practical learning.

This course is also available as **Family Finder 2** on Monday evenings in October.

“Starting your Genealogy – Beginner’s Course”

Course Tutor Rosemary Sibbett
When 3 sessions – **Saturday 9th, 16th and 23rd September – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost £15 – payable at the first session.
Subject Starting off your family history can be exciting but also is sometimes daunting. Where should you be looking for information? How do you organise your research? What are the first steps you should be taking? This course aims to give you the confidence and the necessary knowledge to allow you to make progress.

“Family History: Transcription Methods and Benefits”

Course Tutors Charlotte Murtagh, Sean Traynor & Sandra Ardis
When 1 session – **Saturday 30th September – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost FREE.
Subject This free session aims to explain the methodology used by the North of Ireland Family History Society when transcribing church records, school records and other documentation for the benefit of its members. What is involved and how do you gain permission to transcribe? The transcription and checking process will be explained and there will be some discussion regarding what records it is best for the Society to consider next. Whether you are interested in transcribing yourself or whether you just want to learn what is involved, this will be an informative session that is not to be missed!

“Family Tree Maker – Basics and Benefits”

Course Tutor Kathleen Morrison
When 1 session – **Tuesday 3rd October – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Cost £7 – payable at the session.
Subject A beginners’ class on the basics and benefits of using Family Tree Maker software. Some of the points that will be looked at are adding photographs, how to create a timeline, preparation of reports. We will also look at the different ways to print out charts and family tree layouts.

“Websites for Genealogy”

Course Tutor	Sandra Ardis
When	2 sessions – Tuesdays 3rd and 10th October – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Cost	£12 – payable at the first session.
Subject	Over the last number of years many new websites have come online and can be of great help in researching your Irish ancestors and finding family members overseas. This course will show you some of the useful sites that can help you with your research, explaining what types of records can be found online. You will learn about some sites which are free and about others which can be paid for. The course also aims to provide tips on the best ways to carry out searches that will maximise your chances of finding the information you are looking for. Come and join us, you never know what you might discover!

“Open Day: Family History Society Library, Newtownabbey”

Organiser	Brian O’Hara
When	Saturday 7th October, hours TBA.
Cost	FREE.
Subject	This event is for all new members - and existing members - and potential members. It is to introduce you to what the Society has to offer, including records, courses, meetings and help. It is to give you the opportunity to browse the large collection of transcriptions, books, maps, journals and material that you will not find anywhere else. It is to give you the opportunity to meet other members and to seek their advice on your family history problems. Lunch (not included) will be available in the café in the Valley Business Centre. Come, and bring a friend or two.

“Valuation Records for Family History”

Course Tutor	Anne Johnston
When	2 sessions – Tuesday 10th October – 10 p.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Cost	£12 – payable at the first session.
Subject	<p>This is a 2 part course –the morning session covers Griffith’s Valuation and the afternoon class covers the Valuation Revision Books. There will be an opportunity to do your own research, so bring your laptops and some relevant information from your own family history. After the morning session lunch (not included) will be available in the onsite café. Part 1 – The Primary Valuation of Ireland (better known as Griffith’s Valuation) is one of the most important resources for family historians researching in mid 19th century Ireland. In the absence of census records for the period, Griffith’s Valuation helps you to discover ancestors who rented or owned properties in Ireland between 1847 and 1864.</p> <p>Part 2 – The Valuation Revision Books are an underused resource for family historians. After Griffith’s Valuation, properties were valued annually from 1864 until about 1933. The Revision Books can help you to follow your family’s journey during often turbulent times in Irish history by establishing significant dates in family history such as dates of death, sale of property or migration and provide a socio-economic context to their lives.</p>

“DNA for Genealogy: Family Finder 2”

Course Tutor	Martin M ^o Dowell
When	3 sessions – Mondays 16th, 23rd and 30th September – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Cost	£15 – payable at the first session.
Subject	This 3 session course is designed for those who have already taken Family Tree DNA’s Family Finder Test and have received their results. You will learn how to use the tools on their website to further your genealogical research and discover what steps you can take to confirm relationships with your cousins. The course also covers how Family Finder can be used to verify your research and how the unique X chromosome can help to confirm a match. If you have a laptop, bring it, along with your log-on details to allow for practical learning.

This course is also available as **Family Finder 1** on Tuesday evenings in September.

"Writing Up Your Family History"

Course Tutor Michael M^cKeag
When 3 sessions – **Tuesdays 17th, 24th and 31st October – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.**
Cost £15 – payable at the first session.
Subject How do you write up your family history once you have gathered your material? Through talks and practical work this course will help you to organise your material, find stories and background material, use illustrations and photographs and incorporate source material. After each session lunch (not included) will be available in the onsite café, after which the Research Centre will be open for you to do practical work on your own family history. Bring a family tree.

"Researching Military Ancestors"

Course Tutor Alan Rosborough
When 2 sessions – **Tuesdays 17th and 24th October – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**
Cost £12 – payable at the first session.
Subject Between the years of 1914-1918, approximately 210,000 Irishmen served with the British Army in what was to become known as The Great War. Many more Irishmen from the provinces of Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connaught served with other armies such as the Canadians, or ANZACs from New Zealand and Australia. Many families living in rural farms and urban villages, towns and cities throughout Ireland had the dreaded visit from the telegram boy, delivering the news that their father, brother or son was dead or, at least, missing in action. Of those men who did return, their lives were affected for ever, as they lived with the nightmares of what they experienced while serving. There are very few families in Ireland who were not affected by the War and, as we commemorate the centenary years, more and more people want to research their ancestors, relatives, or even a group of men from a Church or village. These short workshops will suggest where to look for clues, to get your research started and where to turn to for assistance from some of the ever-growing sources of websites and books to aid you in your research. Come along and bring your family artefacts, War Medals and memorabilia from the Great War and you never know what you might discover.

"Halloween: Library Lock-In"

Event Organiser Martin M^cDowell
When 1 session – **Tuesday 31st October – 8 p.m. to 12 midnight**
Cost FREE.
Subject Why not celebrate Halloween in a different way, one where you get to find out more about your ancestors! Our research centre will be extending its Tuesday opening hours until midnight on Halloween to allow people to carry out their own research or enjoy the social side of things – or both! So make sure you are there by eight before the door is shut! Stay as long as you want ...your family tree may be very grateful. Complimentary hot and cold drinks and light refreshments will be available throughout the evening in the Journal Room.

"Understanding Heraldry"

Course Tutor Michael M^cKeag
When 2 sessions – **Tuesday 7th November – 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost £12 – payable at the first session.
Subject Have you ever looked at coats of arms and wondered about their significance? The first session explains the origins of heraldry and the work of heralds and the components of these colourful works of art. The second session introduces the language of blazon, which is the clue to identifying coats of arms that you may see on old buildings or in stained glass windows. After the morning session lunch (not included) will be available in the onsite café. An optional informal walkabout round Queen's University to spot memorials and armorials will be arranged.

"Genealogy: It's All About Me"

Course Tutor Kathleen Morrison
When 1 session – **Wednesday 8th November – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost £7 – payable at the session.
Subject We are all used to researching our ancestors but what record should we leave for our descendants who may be curious about our own lives? This course will help you think differently and how to research yourself. You will learn how to decide how best to leave a legacy for future generations describing your life and the things that were important to you.

“Family History: Making the Most of Your DNA Results”

Course Tutor Anne Johnston
When 2 sessions – **Saturdays 11th and 18th November – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost £12 – payable at the first session.
Subject This course is a follow up to the very successful Family Finder course and aims to reinforce and expand on some of the key concepts of autosomal DNA testing. It will also include a step-by-step guide to analysing your test results, how to use simple spreadsheets to record and organise your analysis and make suggestions on how you can maximise successful matching.

“Emigration to Australia and New Zealand”

Course Tutor Michael M^cKeag
When 1 session – **Tuesday 14th November – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost £7 – payable at the session.
Subject Organised British and Irish emigration to these countries began with the establishment of penal colonies in 1788 in New South Wales and was followed by the establishment of the free colonies of South Australia in 1836 and New Zealand in 1839. The gold rushes of the 1850s in Australia and 1860s in New Zealand boosted the populations considerably. Both countries offered assisted passage schemes to overcome labour shortages. The course covers pointers to many useful records and where they can be found.

“The Advantages of Y-DNA for Family History”

Course Tutor Martin M^cDowell
When 1 session – **Tuesday 14th November – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.**
Cost £7 – payable at the session.
Subject This course examines Y-DNA tests and explains how they can help you research your male (surname) line. We will look at interpreting results and the advantages of upgrading. The session also covers using project groups and how to make yourself aware of what free tests are on offer.

“Researching Your Ancestors: Using Family Search”

Course Tutor Martin M^cDowell
When 1 session – **Wednesday 15th November – 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**
Cost £7 – payable at the session.
Subject Have you reached a brickwall in your research? Familysearch.org is a rapidly growing free website which can be used to aid your research. Learn about their new records, and how to carry out searches to find new relatives to add to your family tree. Learn how to explore their free family history books, trees and photos. Your ancestors may just be waiting to be discovered!

“Life in Ulster in the 1830s”

Course Tutor Michael M^cKeag
When 1 session – **Tuesday 21st November – 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.**
Cost £7 – payable at the session.
Subject Most of us can trace some of our ancestors back to the 1830s, before the Great Famine. What were they, their lives, their homes, their work, their entertainments like? This is the sort of background information that helps to bring those people to life and can make a family history much more interesting than just a list of names and dates. Using the *Ordnance Survey Memoirs* and other sources we can better understand our own families.

“Land Records for Family History”

Course Tutors Brian O’Hara and Ann Robinson
When 2 sessions – **Wednesday 22nd November – 10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**
Cost £12 – payable at the first session.
Subject This course covers sources for finding information, linking people with places. It will include taxation, tithe applotments, Griffith’s valuation (and revision) records, ownership & tenancy, Registry of Deeds, wills and landed estate records. There will be an emphasis on the importance of maps including collections held in the North of Ireland Family History Society (NIFHS), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and online.