

GSQ e-NEWS

Issue 167 September 2020

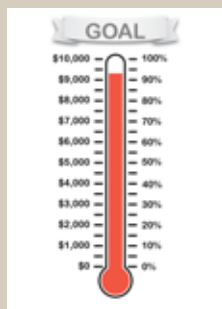
25 Stackpole Street, Wishart Q 4122
PO Box 1467, Carindale Q 4152
Phone: (07) 3349 6072
E-mail: info@gsq.org.au
Web: www.gsq.org.au

OPEN

- Monday • Closed
- Tuesday • 10am - 2pm
- Wednesday • Closed
- Thursday • 10am - 2pm
- Friday • Closed
- Saturday • 12noon - 4pm
- Sunday • Interest Groups

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From the President

September 2020

Thanks so much for your support! As our unprecedented Donation Drive is drawing to a close I would like to thank all who have contributed so generously. At the time of writing (24 August) we have reached the magnificent total of \$9,300.00. A wonderful show of support for GSQ!! It's not too late to donate, if you haven't already done so. When conditions allow, we certainly intend conducting a big Thank You function. Once the Drive is concluded, those who have donated one of the larger amounts (\$500 and \$250) will be contacted to ascertain needs in relation to research to be undertaken on your behalf.

Do you have Irish Ancestry? Up to one third of Australians have. You may well be one of these and perhaps have experienced the frustrations that can accompany searching for Irish ancestors. GSQ is organising something which may help you in this regard – a virtual seminar (via Zoom) on Saturday 24 October (9.30am – 4.30pm) titled simply "Exploring Irish Ancestry". *Speakers include our Patron, Dr Jennifer Harrison, Pauleen Cass, Cathie Sherwood and Helen V Smith from Australia and international speakers, John Grenham and Chris Paton.* The presentations from our Australians will be live with Q & A at the end of their talks, while those from John Grenham and Chris Paton will be pre-recorded, BUT there will be a live Q & A with John and Chris at 5.30pm on the day of the seminar. An Early Bird Booking facility has been arranged with costs for this Seminar set at \$50 for Members and \$65 for Non-Members until 30 September. After this date the cost will be \$60 for members and \$75 for Non-Members. Attendance is capped at 100 - already 40 people have booked, so, if interested in attending, early booking is recommended. A Raffle is being organised in conjunction with the Seminar with tickets priced at \$2.00 each/5 for \$10.00. A wonderful array of prizes has been organised, thanks largely to Bobbie Edes – these include: from Ancestry a 1 year subscription to Ancestry World and a 1 year subscription to UK Plus, from Albox Archival Supplies 1 Stand Up and 1 Desk Mat and 2 40mm Archival Albums, from Family Tree Maker, a 2019 Family Tree Maker Program, from Gould Genealogy 2 \$50 ebook vouchers, from Irish Newspapers Archives 6 one year subscriptions to Irish newspaperarchives.com, from Legacy Family Tree 1 Legacy Family Tree Program and a one year subscription to Legacy Webinars, from MyHeritage 2 full My Heritage subscriptions and from Ulster Historical Foundation a Researching Presbyterian Ancestors book. Wow! Wow! Wow! Tickets can be purchased on the website at the time of booking, or if you're unable to attend the seminar, on the website on the booking page. Tickets will also be available at GSQ.

GSQ's AGM will be held on **Saturday, 10 October 2020 at 10.00am.** Full details as to venue and vacant positions are available within this edition of eNews. Please consider whether you would like to become more involved in your society by nominating to become a member of the Management Committee 2020-2021 or by taking on one of the many roles that "make GSQ tick".

With my best wishes
Helen Veivers

As mentioned by Helen Veivers there is a mega raffle happening. The prizes will be drawn at the Exploring Irish Ancestry seminar on Saturday 24th October. You do not have to be present to win except for the Lucky Door Prize however the seminar will be a great opportunity to find out more about your Irish family.





**Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc.
Annual General Meeting
Saturday 10 October 2020 at 10am sharp**

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc. will be held on Saturday, 10 October 2020 commencing at 10:00am sharp. Because our premises are not large enough to accommodate the meeting under present COVID Safe conditions, the meeting will be conducted at the Mt Gravatt Progress Hall, 1873 Logan Road, Upper Mt Gravatt.

All financial members are asked to consider nominating for a Management Committee position as some current members are not planning to renominate this year.

Positions are:

- President
- Vice-President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- General committee member (7 positions)

Nominations close fourteen days before the AGM. Nomination Forms must be returned to the Secretary, either by post to PO Box 1467 Carindale QLD 4152 or at the registered office, 25 Stackpole St, Wishart QLD 4122, by the close of business 5:00 PM, Friday 25 September 2020.

Proxies

A member who is entitled to attend and vote at the general meeting, may appoint a person to attend and vote at the meeting as the member's proxy.

A proxy may be appointed by returning a completed Proxy Form to the Secretary at the Society's registered office, 24 hours prior to the commencement of the meeting, i.e. by 10:00 am Friday 25 September 2020.

Inquiries

All inquiries should be directed to the Hon. Secretary, Ms Claire Rodwell Genealogical Society of Queensland Inc., either by post to PO Box 1467 Carindale QLD 4152 OR, 25 Stackpole St, Wishart QLD 4122.

Phone: 07 3349 6072

Email: secretary@gsq.org.au

Claire Rodwell, Secretary

[by authority of the GSQ Management Committee]

Additional information

A number of other positions are available which do not require membership of the Management Committee. Why not take up the challenge and put your name forward for one of these positions?

- Education Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Membership Officer
- Events Organiser
- Projects Officer
- Publicity Officer
- Minutes Secretary
- Webmaster
- Bookshop Coordinator



Exploring Irish Ancestry



Saturday October 24th 2020

9:30am - 4:30pm AEST

Q & A live with John Grenham & Chris Paton 5:30pm

Virtual Event via Zoom

Program

- Past and furious: Ireland and its shaping of family history — *Jennifer Harrison*
- Accessing Republic of Ireland archives & online collections — *Pauleen Cass*
- Irish land records, valuations and online collections — *John Grenham pre-recorded*
- Northern Ireland archives: PRONI and online collections — *Chris Paton pre-recorded*
- Workhouses and poor law in Ireland — *Cathie Sherwood*
- Irish Migration to Australia — *Helen Smith*

Drawing of raffles, lucky door prizes

Live Q&A with John Grenham & Chris Paton



Pauleen Cass



Dr Jennifer Harrison



Cathie Sherwood



John Grenham



Chris Paton



Helen Smith

Booking & Payment

Early Bird Price if booked by 30th September:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$50 / Non-Members \$65

Price from 1st October:

GSQ/QFHS Members \$60 / Non-Members \$75

Book online at: www.gsq.org.au/event/annual-seminar-irish-ancestry/

Payment may be made by:

- Credit card (online, by phoning GSQ or at GSQ)
- Cash (at GSQ)
- Bank transfer (note details at time of ordering) OR
- Cheque by post: GSQ, PO Box 1467, Carindale, QLD 4152

Exciting Raffle and Lucky Door Prizes info coming soon

Subject to the restrictions regarding the Covid-19 situation, some interest groups will be holding their meetings at GSQ. There is a limit of 20 people attending the groups. Some groups are conducting virtual meetings through the use of the Zoom platform.

Family Tree Maker Users' Group

The next meeting of the FTM User Group should be on **Sunday 13th September 2020** at 10.30 am. The library will be open from approximately 9.00 am. **However, it will only take place if Covid 19 restrictions are not reintroduced.**

Anyone upgrading their Microsoft operating system to Office 365 should ensure you do a new FTM backup first. You can then retrieve your FTM data from your hard drive if necessary. Also, while on lockdown, check the GSQ website and your local library for free access to various genealogical databases.

This group is a networking group that can help beginners and assist both Mac & Windows users and hopefully overcome any FTM problems they may face. GSQ members and researchers contemplating purchasing a family history programme, are welcome to attend our future meetings when GSQ advise us that the meeting room is open again.

People with laptops should bring them along so the participants can help solve your particular problem(s). Advance notice to the convenor on lesmcfadzen@outlook.com of your problem(s) will assist in setting the meeting Agenda.

Scandinavian Interest Group

The next meeting of the Scandinavian Group will be on **Sunday 20th September**, 12.30 - 2.30pm.

Writing Group

The Writing Group held its August meeting via Zoom with 14 members attending. We reviewed stories provided by two members and the authors found the comments very helpful. The rest of the meeting focussed on 'Finding our Voice'. Several follow-up exercises were provided to help members to write in different 'voices' to discover the wide variety of options for writing a story.

Our next meeting, the final meeting for 2020, is scheduled for October. At this stage, it is likely this will also be held via Zoom. Contact Pauline at ptstirland@hotmail.com if you wish to be added to the Group mailing list.

English/Irish Interest Group

The English/Irish group plans to meet, for the first time since February, on **Sunday 5th October**.

As usual the meeting will start at 10.30am with the doors of GSQ opening at 10 o'clock. The library will remain open until 1.30 to allow attendees time to pursue their own research or continue conversations arising from discussions during the meeting.

We look forward to seeing GSQ members at our meeting.

German Interest Group

The German Group will be holding their meeting on the **27th September 2020**. Speaker Karen Hawke "*The Schodel Family*". The meeting will be held under Covid guidelines put in place by GSQ. The talk will start at 10.30 a.m. and I will open the door at 10.00 a.m.

As this is our first meeting for such a long time I will close the doors at 1.30 p.m. to allow the necessary cleaning procedure. I hope to see as many of you as possible.

An email will be sent out to everybody who has given me their address.

Legacy Users' Group

As emailed to all members of the SIG earlier please make contact if you have any questions. Remember that at this time you can watch Legacy webinars that are on each week and available free for the 7 days after showing.

Monday Morning Natters

September Natters is on **Monday 7th September 10am -12noon** as a Zoom meeting.

Topic for September: *A brief look at The Genealogist website that our group sponsored.*

Convict Connections Group

Our next meeting is on **Sunday 11th October**. Although only a small number attended our August meeting, it was a very productive day with all rallying to help with Margaret's convict and Robyn's newly discovered convict. We were all amazed at the registered NSW birth certificate Robyn had received – a timely reminder that information on certificates may not always be correct. The date of birth was after the date of baptism and both the mother and father were females. Margaret's convict had been sentenced to life but appears to have had the sentence reduced to 7 years before being transported. He received his timely certificate of freedom after 7 years, but why was he getting tickets of leave to work in various areas well after that date? On October 11th we will look at diaries of parsons during the colonial era.

Scottish Interest Group

The next meeting of the Scottish SIG will be on **Sunday 6th September**. At the meeting Bill Cunningham will give a *Presentation on the County of Moray*

Sláinte Alistair & Ian



As advised previously a Giant Zoom Meeting has been organised for **Monday 31st August 2.00pm – 4.00pm** to facilitate the sharing of research findings and queries. If attending, please email Secretary, Claire Rodwell at secretary@gsq.org.au. Details for accessing this meeting are as follows.

<https://zoom.us/j/94792606860?pwd=cTddWnNnaDFoMWhicGNWUENLSHREQT09>

Meeting ID: 947 9260 6860

Passcode: GSQZOOM

DNA Interest Group

The GSQ DNA group has had two new members through the month, welcome to Reg Brown & Claire Rodwell. Both have also joined our active closed Facebook group for DNA group members only.

Our monthly meeting was held on Sunday 23 August with 40 logged in members. It was our long meeting when we had three presentations. They were 'How to export your DNA to other companies' (a short combination of presentation by Ailsa, Judy & Bobbie) followed by our special guest, Michelle Patient, doing a very informative presentation on the 'WATO update' and using the new tools. We had many questions during the Q&A following Michelle's great talk and then went onto the usual 'DNA Update' by Helen, this was mainly focusing on Ancestry's changes to the stated longest segment.

Once again we then had our Mentoring Groups roundup which brought forward many more questions and answers. PDFs of talks will be in the left Files menu on our Facebook group page when available. If you aren't a member of Facebook, can you please email me separately via dna@gsq.org.au to receive these.

GSQ DNA Drop In Clinic was held a few days later when a few of our members received assistance during one on one Zoom / GoToMeeting appointments. This bi-monthly feature is a huge benefit to any GSQ member experiencing DNA problems and thanks to Greg Carlill and Gary Lambridges for providing support to the DNA Admin team on this evening.

Our next meeting is on the **20th September** from 9:30am - 12:00pm via GoToMeeting.

A Genealogist's Guide to Researching German Church Records

Do you have German ancestry? Have you traced your line back to an immigrant? Take the next step and continue your research in your ancestor's homeland. Your first target: German church records.

As in most European research, they're your most important source for tracing German ancestors—they could help you extend your tree as far back as the 1500s. Sure, you'll face scattered records, a foreign language and hard-to-read handwriting. But with online resources, accessing German church records is easier now than ever. And with our guide, you can find your ancestors' records in just a few steps—or with a little luck, even fewer.

Click [HERE](#) to read the *familytree* magazine article.

Upcoming GSQ Education Events

These education events will be at your place via ZOOM unless otherwise notified.



British Newspapers

September 12 @ 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Cost: \$25 – \$40

Presenter: Pauline Williams

Pauline has been researching her family history for over 30 years and has regularly presented talks for GSQ and other organisations on a wide range of topics. She convenes GSQs Writing Group, contributes to GSQs blog, and regularly writes for Generation.

Click [HERE](#) to book for this event.



Researching military ancestors

September 19 @ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: \$25 – \$40

Presenters: Cathie Sherwood and Sharyn Merkley

This course is designed to take you through the various record collections in Australia and overseas to help you locate your elusive military ancestors. Through your research, you may be able to glimpse what life could have been like for an individual during a time of great upheaval and unrest. Muster rolls, service records, maps and war diaries all help to build a clearer picture. Whether your ancestor came as an escort for a convict ship or served in World War 1 or World War 11 or any other military conflict in which Australians were involved, then this is the course for you. (Limited to 14 participants).

Click [HERE](#) to book for this event.



New Zealand Research

October 17 @ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: \$25 – \$40

Presenter: Ailsa Corlett

Have you come across Ancestors who went to New Zealand, but not sure how to find out more about them?

New Zealand has been the First in the World for many Global Events – did you know that in 1893 NZ Women were the first in the World to be granted Voting rights, and you can see on the Women Suffrage Petition Roll, the Signatures of the Ladies who signed it – and All for Free. Now isn't this a Great idea to get a copy of Great Aunt Mary's Signature to add to your Family History!

Come along and learn just what resources are available to help solve your New Zealand puzzles. Click [HERE](#) to book.



Using social media

November 7 @ 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Cost: \$25 – \$40

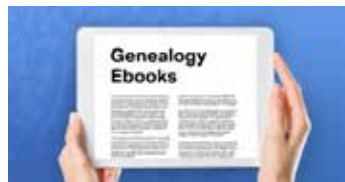
Presenter: Lyndal Maag

Social media can be such a useful tool in genealogy. Come along to discover how it can work for you. Click [HERE](#) to book.



IRISH SEMINAR RAFFLE & DOOR PRIZES

GSQ thanks the organisations listed below



ANCESTRY

1 x year subscription to Ancestry World
1 x year subscription to UK Heritage Plus

ALBOX ARCHIVAL SUPPLIES

1 x Stand up Mat
1 x Welcome Door Mat
2 x 40mm Albox Archival Albums

ARCHIVAL SURVIVAL

Voucher for \$50 to spend on their supplies

FAMILY TREE MAKER PROGRAM

1 x 2019 Family Tree Maker Program

GOULD GENEALOGY

2 x \$50 ebook vouchers

\$50 discount voucher off FHDU 2021 extras
(which will include workshops, recordings, dinner)

IRISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES

6 x 1 year subscriptions to irishnewspaperarchives.com

LEGACY FAMILY TREE

1 x Legacy Family Tree Program
1 x one year subscription to Legacy Tree Webinars

LUCKY DOOR PRIZE

Book *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* 5th Edition
by John Grenham

MYHERITAGE

2 x Full My Heritage subscriptions

ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION

1 x *Researching Presbyterian Ancestors* book

MORE TO COME ...



<https://www.gsq.org.au/event/annual-seminar-irish-ancestry/>

GSQ Notices



Did you know that GSQ has an active & informative Facebook page?

As folk advise us of new groups & records on the different genealogy sites we publish them, so if you learn of anything coming up then please email facebook-twitter@gsq.org.au so we can share.

Alternatively you can send a message to our Genealogical Society of Queensland Facebook page, either is fine.

We're currently featuring the main GSQ fund-raising event for this year, the fabulous Exploring Irish Ancestry. The Events listed on our Facebook page directly link to the GSQ website booking page which you must use to make a presentation booking.

If you visit our Facebook page and tick Like, you should have our posts come up in your feed as they appear.



Our GSQ bloggers and guest bloggers continue to supply us with great content each week. We don't have a system to automatically email the blogs to you each week, but you have a few options to catch them.

- Google 'GSQ blog' and it should take you to the webpage <https://gsq-blog.gsq.org.au/>
- Go to GSQ's Home page and down the bottom you can click on the 'GSQ Blog' at the bottom of the Blog box
- Go to our Genealogical Society of Queensland GSQ Facebook page and Like the page. You should then get all posts by GSQ and our Blogs are published on Monday each week.

Read our blogs and you'll be surprised at the seaching hints and aids you can find there as well as lots of interesting stories from our blogging community.



Fire Safety at GSQ: The Management Committee takes Fire Safety at GSQ very seriously. In addition to the two Extinguishers in the premises, 2 Fire Blankets have now been purchased and have been positioned close to where the Extinguishers are – one in the Reception Area and the other in the Library Area, adjacent to the Exit Door. Fire Blankets would be most useful in a fire involving electrical/computer equipment and can also be used to wrap around a person, should that person be flame involved.

Check out the position of GSQ's Fire Safe equipment when next you visit.

Interested?

Wednesday Nights at GSQ via Zoom:

It's been pointed out that those members still in the workforce have been unable to access any of the daytime Zoom Discussion meetings. This is being amended!!

A Zoom meeting has been organised for **Wednesday, 9 September, commencing at 7.00pm**. This meeting will, of course, be open to all GSQ members and will be similar in format to the Monday, Wednesday and Thursday Zoom sessions – members can share their discoveries, seek advice and view demonstrations of various family history related matters.

If interested in joining in the very first Wednesday night Zoom on 9 September, please contact Ailsa at tag@gsq.org.au Ailsa will send the required Log In information via email closer to the actual date.

GSQ Notices

Research Support and Chat for GSQ Members Only

Put in your Diaries

Monday 2-3pm – Weekly

Monday afternoon Zoom meetings are still proving to be very informative, with a large number of GSQ members joining in to share and chat about their Genealogical Journey.

Newspapers and Trove are still a great resource to use, and despite a learning curve on using the new site, Trove is still producing great results for assisting in your research.

Up coming events are discussed so that everyone is well prepared to join into these Presentations.

The group is growing and staying strong, and will continue to be held each Monday afternoon from 2 – 3pm. Email Ailsa Corlett of tag@gsq.org.au to be added to the invitation which gets sent out each week.



Research Support & Chat for GSQ Members Only

Put in your Diaries

Thursday 11 - 1pm – Weekly

The Thursday Zoom group which is between 11 am – 1 pm is also still going well at this stage. Many have returned to GSQ to do research there as the Library is open that day between 10am – 2pm. But we still have a large number keen to join in and discuss their research problems, joys and generally see if we can help each other with our family history.

Please send to Ailsa at tag@gsq.org.au your email and questions so that you be added to the list regarding the Zoom invitations

Bookshop Specials for September, 2020



Perhaps shoe-boxes are not the best place to store those precious old photos and documents. And perhaps these strange times of COVID-19 present the ideal opportunity to sort and think about the safe storage of these.

GSQ has researched and selected a range of archival storage stock which is on sale in the bookshop. To provide an extra service to our members, our Photo Archival Storage stock is on Special for the month of September – with **20% discount** applying to existing stock while it lasts:

- 35mm negative pockets - 6 strips per page (60 micron) – high quality acid-free polypropylene holding 42 negatives per pocket - pack of 5 @ \$4.00 per pack **35 packs available**
- Photo pockets 6" x 4" – high quality acid-free polypropylene with each pocket holding 4 photos, or 8 photos back-to-back - pack of 5 (90 micron) @ \$4.00 per pack **12 packs available**
- Photo pockets 8" x 6" – high quality acid-free polypropylene with each pocket holding 2 photos, or 4 photos back-to-back - pack of 5 (60 micron) @ \$4.00 per pack **26 packs available**
- Photo pockets A3 – heavyweight acid-free polypropylene (90 micron) - pack of 5 @ \$8.00 per pack **3 packs available**
- Photo pockets A4 – heavyweight acid-free polypropylene (90 micron) - pack of 5 @ \$4.00 per pack **3 packs available**
- Photo pockets Foolscap – acid-free polypropylene - pack of 5 @ \$6.52 per pack – BEST BUY **4 packs available**
- Photo Album – binder and cover (black only) @ \$16.00 each – take all pockets except Foolscap **9 albums available**

To purchase go to GSQ Shop: <https://www.gsq.org.au/product-category/photo-storage/>



FAMILY HISTORY NEWS

Strategies for Finding Female Ancestors

Throughout history, even the most enlightened societies often discounted women—leaving little “official” documentation of their lives and contributions. So take extra effort to uncover and discover more about your female ancestors with unconventional records, using the following tips:



Consider the whole lifetime. Much like your own, your female relative’s life story was comprised of more than the major milestones. Don’t stop at censuses and vital records. Think about her generation and its social history. What was happening locally, nationally and globally? What were the societal and cultural values of the time? This may point you to additional research options.

Think local. There’s a good chance your ancestor was an active member of her community. From rural towns to bustling cities, women participated in local school events, church functions, war efforts and chapters of ladies-only societies. She may have even owned her own business or been part of a professional organization. Other, less-pleasant sources may include asylum or sanitarium records. All of these institutions and organizations kept records, many of which survive today.

Begin your search online (but don’t stop there). Don’t rely on digitized sources only. Many of these smaller records remain offline (in books, files and microfiche), and in the care of historical societies, libraries, and universities. With some persistence (and savvy Google skills), you can find where collections are archived. Then, contact the holding institution directly for more information and assistance.

From equality to social reform, our foremothers didn’t give up—and neither should you!

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What’s in a Name? Tips for Finding An Elusive Ancestor

One of the things about genealogy is the fascinating variety of names and the many forms that one particular name can take. One memorable name that I encountered recently was Cadwallader Slaughter, often shortened to Cad Slaughter. What a name! It’s a delicate science using names to determine the identity of one person, or distinguishing between many people. Here are the most significant things to remember about names in your genealogy research.

Tip #1: Pronunciation is More Important Than Spelling

Before the standardization of spelling in the twentieth century, people spelled names according to how they sounded. As long as a name was pronounced correctly, it often didn’t matter which letters were used to spell it. The less common a name was, the more likely it was spelled in a variety of ways. A name could be spelled one way at the beginning, and another way at the end of the very same document.

Tip #2: Nicknames and Abbreviations Might Not Resemble Birth Names

A genealogist must be aware of common nicknames and abbreviations for common birth names in order to determine if they are dealing with the same person. Here are some related names that I often come across in my research:

- Mary, Polly, Molly, Maria, Marie, Mariah
 - Anne, Hannah, Nancy, Annie, Ane, An
 - Margaret, Peggy, Maggie, Meg, Marge, Marguerite, Daisy
 - Elizabeth, Bettie, Betsy, Eliza, Lizzie, Beth
 - Eleanor, Nellie, Ellen, Ellie
 - Frances, Fannie, Veronica, Fran
 - Jane, Jenny, Janet, Genevieve
 - John, Jno., Johann, Ian, Jack, Ivan
 - William, Wm., Bill, Liam, Will
 - James, Jas.
 - Henry, Heinrich
 - Peter, Patrick
 - Francis (male), Frank, Franz
 - Robert, Robt., Bob
-



Essential Sites for Researching Your UK Ancestry Part 1

The United Kingdom is truly an amazing place to discover your ancestors. Rich with history, each country's heritage is unique to the land and its people.

Record Collections for England

1. General Register Office

Civil registration records for England and Wales can be found right here. Their archives date back to 1837 and include births, marriages and deaths. Start your search by locating the index from your record. Be sure to note that records were recorded quarterly and dates will be approximate – so be loose with date ranges when searching. Special features of the GRO are adoption records and the “Abandoned Children” and “Thomas Coram” registers.

2. The UK National Archives

With 195 family research guides available, the sky's the limit. The most popular guides include Census Records, the 1939 Register, and Wills from 1384-1858. Lesser known records include Insolvency, British Army Nurses, British Army War Diaries from 1914 to 1922, and Manorial Documents and Lordships. This site is so comprehensive and diverse, you may wish to set aside an entire day just to browse before committing yourself to specific research.

3. Free UK Genealogy

Free UK Genealogy is the umbrella organization that oversees FreeBMD, FreeREG and FreeCEN. It was developed as a Charitable Incorporated Organization with a belief in free public access databases and the organization has been actively transcribing documents for over 19 years. FreeBMD includes 270 million vital records like birth, marriage and death. FreeREG includes 43 million parish records, while FreeCEN focuses on census records from 1841 to 1891. This is such a remarkable resource for both England and Wales.

Collections for Northern Ireland

4. General Register Office of Northern Ireland

With vital records, of course! Those found within the GRO include civil births, marriages, and deaths. Northern Ireland is currently part of the UK, which requires you to distinguish where records might be held from varied historical times. Before 1921, records were generated by Ireland, with no further distinctions. Therefore, for records before this time, search within the Republic of Ireland. When in Belfast, do take the time to visit GRONI's (*General Register Office Northern Ireland*) Public Search Room.

5. Find My Past

Find My Past offers over two billion records from the UK, Canada and the US. It is a wonderful resource for census, church and immigration, newspapers and vital records. Imagine locating an image of your ancestor's baptism, written in Latin! You can find those records right here, many without a subscription. Some records unique to FMP include Workhouse and Poor Law Books, Poverty Relief Loans, Police Registers, and even Dog License Registers, which practically every farmer submitted.

6. National Library of Ireland

Griffith's Valuation is a key record collection that should be at the top of your list when conducting Irish genealogy research. It represents the first full-scale property tax assessment of Ireland residents, which was supervised by Sir Richard Griffith, a Dublin geologist. Extremely thorough, it included every parcel of land and its owners, not only in transcript form but also in detailed maps. Knowing the surname, county, barony, union and parish of your ancestor will be most helpful, but is not necessary.

Enjoy the search for your UK ancestors! *Next month Scotland & Wales.*



Did you know that NSW State Archives has an index of 49,501 of Gaol Inmates/Prisoners Photos Index 1870 - 1930 and that 48,978 are digitally available? Click [HERE](#) to go to the Index page.