



IRISH LINES AND FEMALE FINDS – DETAILED PROGRAM

Time (EDT)	Topic	Speaker
<hr/> Sunday, 19 September <hr/>		
12.30 – 13.00	Welcoming and Introductory Remarks	
13:00 - 14:30	The Registry of Deeds, Dublin: Recording Irish Women Down the Generations (All levels)	Roz McCutcheon
	<p>Many researchers working on Irish records will be aware of the terrible losses caused by the destruction of the Public Records Office in Dublin in 1922. However, the Registry of Deeds was housed elsewhere and remained intact. In this talk, Roz will show you how to look for an ancestor in the registry and explained what sort of information can be gleaned. This is a huge, relatively untapped source, containing millions of names but very poorly indexed. The deeds, covering the whole of Ireland, were registered from 1708 onwards, and included all classes of people: from carpenters, servants and bricklayers to lords and ladies. The repository is full of references to family relationships, property handed down via the female line, marriage settlements, and even women who set up businesses and coped on their own. Roz will give examples of the many references to women and also describe the free Registry of Deeds Index that is slowly growing online, thanks to a small group of volunteers.</p>	
15:00 - 16:30	Targeting Your Irish Ancestors with DNA (Intermediate)	Maurice Gleeson
	<p>This talk will cover how to select a particular Irish line for investigation and characterize that line's brick wall as best one can (using naming convention and baptism records to identify possible parents and siblings, respectively). Maurice will then explore testing known cousins that triangulate on the brick wall and how a cluster of shared matches can be identified. As accessing family trees for each member of the cluster can be a challenge, he will offer various hints and tips for achieving this. He will also explain how to generate an autosomal DNA matrix, which helps you estimate the relationships between the cluster members, highlight close connections, and isolate specific ancestral lines down which the DNA has been passed. Ultimately, this exercise generates clues and leads that point you to a common surname, location or ancestor that you can focus on when studying the documentary records.</p>	
17:00 - 18:30	Finding Herstory in the Archives: Researching Female Ancestors (Intermediate)	Gena Philibert-Ortega
	<p>We are certainly lucky to live in a time where so many records of genealogical value can be found online. But not everything is online; nor will it ever be. In this presentation Gena will explore what items useful for researching female ancestors you can expect to find in an archive and what archives you should be researching in Canada and the UK.</p>	
<hr/> Monday, 20 September <hr/>		
16:00 - 17:30	Towards a Genetic-genealogy-driven Irish Reference Genome (All levels)	Gerard Corcoran
	<p>Several important scientific papers have been published outlining an Irish Reference Genome: The RCSI Irish DNA Atlas, The TCD Insular Genome, AncestryDNA Genetic Communities, Living DNA and a combination of ISOGG and FTDNA regional DNA projects. It is estimated that up to 40 million people have taken direct-to-consumer DNA tests. In this talk, Gerard argues for a cooperative</p>	

project between ISOGG, the genetic genealogy community and consumer testing companies to publish an open citizen-science-enabled Irish Reference Genome.

18:00 - 19:30 **Finding Molly Johnson: The Search for Irish Famine Orphans in Canada, 1847–1848 (All levels)** **Prof. Mark McGowan**

The Canadian Heritage Minute film on “Molly Johnson” left an indelible impression of the struggle of Irish orphan children during the Famine migration. Through Molly Johnson, Canadians came to know of the destitute orphans who were “adopted” by both caring and disinterested French-Canadian families. Intensive research reveals a much different set of circumstances and a much less romantic fate for 1,700 Irish orphans. This is the story of child-placement, indentured labour, and the myriad of tragic stories surrounding the fate of these children. Mark’s presentation includes children who landed in Saint John (NB), Quebec City, Bytown, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Hamilton, and Niagara. Research reveals that the orphans were not necessarily devoid of both parents and were not legally adopted; nor were they placed exclusively within French-Canadian families. In fact they served as cheap manual labourers, apprentices, domestic servants and farm hands, and many fled before spending more than a couple of years in their new homes.

20:00 - 21:30 **Working Wildflowers: How Three Generations of Women Turned CP Traill’s Field Notes into a Best Seller (All levels)** **Kyla Ubbink**

In 1861, at age 32, Agnes Fitzgibbon was left widowed with six children and in need of an income. She used her talent for art and recruited her daughters’ help to create 500 copies of a book combining the field notes of her aunt, Catherine Parr Traill, with beautifully hand-painted images. However, no printer was willing to take on the project, and the only way they could secure a publisher was to find 500 subscribers for the book. Kyla will reveal how Agnes and her daughters secured a publisher for the now renowned *Canadian Wildflowers* book, worked on its four editions, and helped Catherine with her later books. When Algrove Publishing reproduced *Canadian Wildflowers* in 2003, the process of digitization unfortunately damaged the Canadian Museum of Nature’s copy used for this reproduction, resulting in the need for conservation treatment to repair the binding and secure the pages. Kyla, a professional conservator, brought the manuscript back to life.

Wednesday, 22 September

16:00 - 17:30 **Rentals as a Source for Irish Family History (All levels)** **Dr. Jim Ryan**

Rentals are the records kept by landlords or their agents; they may include information on tenants’ names, rental income and payments, property, and dates, though they are hugely variable in their format. They exist from the 1600s to the 1900s and are important in Ireland, where land ownership was legally and economically restricted and tenancy was the norm for the vast majority. This talk will review the history, formats and availability of surviving rentals and what they offer as family history sources. Jim will outline the historical reasons for most land-occupiers being tenants; the 300-year evolution of the estate system and of landlord-tenant relations, along with their effects on the nature and survival of rental records; the nature and range of rentals, their formats and content; and where they are to be found. The talk is fully illustrated with examples of records and their content, along with the consequent difficulties presented for scanning and on-line availability.

18:00 - 19:30 **The Secret Lives of Women: Research Female Ancestors Using the Sources They Left Behind (Intermediate)** **Gena Philibert-Ortega**

Why is finding a female ancestor so difficult? One reason is the way we research their lives. Successful research must combine the study of familiar genealogical sources and of the sources that women left behind. In this lecture Gena will look at the women-specific sources, including signature quilts, community cookbooks, and diaries.

20:00 - 21:30	Jumping the Pond to Northern Ireland (Beginner to intermediate)	Mags Gauden
	<p>Genealogy and genetic genealogy can team up to help a family discover its way to Ireland; not an easy feat when the family believes itself to be Scottish, having lost the knowledge of its origins. Follow along as Mags, using this case study, reveals how discoveries turned a North American family's beliefs into an exceptionally large leap onto a small Northern Irish peninsula in the Irish Sea. Ireland is a place where records have burned and insights are hard to come by. But recent discoveries, using DNA and DNA group projects, have focused the research and placed the family's origins across the pond and squarely on a specific point in Northern Ireland. Mags will explain how answers to genealogy questions in the face of the lack of available documentation can identify specific locations. Jumping the pond is possible.</p>	

Saturday, 25 September

12:00 - 13:30	Church and State: Ireland's Vital Records (All levels)	Chris Paton
	<p>In this session Chris will explore how to locate ancestors in Ireland using the civil registration records of births, marriages and deaths from 1845 and 1864 onwards, both online and in Ireland itself, as held at both the GROI in Roscommon and the GRONI in Belfast. It will examine what the records contain, how they may assist with research, and how they may be located online and offline via the platforms of the respective General Register Offices and government platforms, north and south. Chris will then look at the various church denominations in Ireland, how they were structured, and the types of records they kept. He will explain how to locate surviving material, to equally identify what has not survived (and why), and to understand where Protestant and Catholic Ireland occasionally overlapped, with the role of the Church of Ireland as the state church. Where gaps in such records exist, Chris will discuss how other sources may be able to provide alternative information to plug those gaps, including resources in Britain.</p>	

14:00 - 15:30	Forgotten Women: Researching the Marginalised Women on Your Family Tree (Intermediate)	Dr. Janet Few
	<p>Even without meaning to, family historians often focus on the men on their family tree. It is usually the men who carry on the surname, who join the armed forces and who are more likely to write wills, to vote or to rent property, thereby leaving a trail in the documentary record. Merely by virtue of her gender, a female ancestor can become overlooked, and some women are even further on the margins than others. If we, as genealogists, do not research their lives and preserve their memories, who will? In this presentation Janet will use a series of case studies to describe the sources available to research the women who spent time in workhouses or asylums, the mothers of illegitimate children, prostitutes and those accused of witchcraft, amongst others.</p>	

16:00 - 17:30	The Irish DNA Atlas Project (Intermediate)	Dr. Edmund Gilbert
	<p>The extent of population structure within Ireland is largely unknown, as is the impact of historical migrations. Dr. Gilbert participated in a study of the Irish DNA Atlas, a dataset about a DNA cohort of individuals with four generations of ancestry linked to specific regions in Ireland. In this talk Dr. Gilbert will present the results of analyzing the genetic profiles of such individuals together with their genealogical profiles—revealing the relationship between Irish genetics and history along with the insights the researchers gained into both subjects.</p>	

Sunday, 26 September

12:00 - 13:30 **Seeking the Primrose Girls: 50 Irish Immigrants to Canada from a Small Galway Town (All levels)** **Gerard Corcoran/
Martin Curley**

Gerard and Martin will describe The Mountbellew Orphan Girls Project—the Primrose Girls, which is research on a group of workhouse orphan girls who were sent to Canada from Mountbellew, Co. Galway, as part of an assisted emigration scheme. On 16 July 1853, they sailed on *the Primrose* from Limerick, Ireland to Quebec, Canada, arriving on the 6th of September. The girls' passage was paid for by the Workhouse Board of Guardians as part of the same scheme which earlier had sent girls to Australia. In Quebec they were taken in charge by the Emigration Agent at the port, A.C. Buchanan, and sent to Toronto and Hamilton, where immediate employment opportunities were available. Through DNA and research the researchers are hoping to reconnect the girls to their families with whom contact was lost 170 years ago.

14:00 - 15:30 **Finding the Poor and Destitute Irish (All levels)** **Brian Donovan**

Poor relief, dispensed by the church, the state or private charities, was available in Ireland at almost all time periods. The poor relief records have left information about millions of impoverished people from all over the country. Often these records date from before the Great Famine (1845–52) with information unavailable anywhere else. Given that the poor Irish were the most likely to migrate to America, these records are an essential resource for Irish research, and Brian will explain how best to get the benefit of their information.

16:00 - 17:30 **Hunting Through Matches (All levels)** **Mia Bennett**

In this talk, Mia aims to help you identify who your DNA matches are and hence where they fit within your family tree. Often people are faced with just a list of names and no idea how to make them useful in expanding their family tree. Mia will present various hints, tips, tools and techniques to help make each match useful. The talk will cover many aspects: known people; tools to identify common ancestors; approaching a new match; grouping matches; dealing with matches where only limited information is provided; identifying overlapping trees; building quick and dirty trees; searching for surnames and places; and keeping records. Mia will also explain potential pitfalls of some of the tools and techniques. The talk assumes that the audience is familiar with traditional family history research.
