

Video tutorial 4: Getting the most out of your Guild membership

The Ulster Genealogical & Historical Guild was established in 1978 to provide a forum for the Irish and Scots-Irish community worldwide. Membership of our Guild begins at just £33 per year!

There are many benefits to being a Guild member. All our birth, marriage and death records covering Counties Antrim and Down are half-price for members and members receive a 15% discount on all books published by the Ulster Historical Foundation through our online bookstore www.booksireland.org.uk.

Guild members receive 2 yearly publications, Familia: the Ulster Genealogical Review & the Directory of Irish Family History Research, which contain articles on family history as well as genealogical sources. Members can also publish their research interests in our Directory of Irish Family History Research and in the Members' area of our website. This list of research interests can then be searched for others who are researching the same family and contact can therefore be made between guild members in order to share family history information.

In addition, members have free access to our gravestone inscription database which contains over 50,000 entries for all 6 counties in Northern Ireland. Check out our video tutorial on getting the most out of this gravestone database. Members also have free access to our database of biographies of the Members of the Irish Parliament from 1692 to 1800, which lists 2300 MPs' details including their family life, career and political life. This searchable database can be found in the Family Records section of our website, under the birth, marriage and death databases.

Guild members have access to the Members' area of our website which contains a wealth of information of use to family historians. This includes past articles from our annual publications – Familia (1985 to 2013) and the Directory of Irish

Family History Research as well as many other useful articles & resources on family & local history such as information on the old mills of Ireland and records from Ballynahinch Presbyterian Church in County Down from 1695 to the 1730s.

There are also copies of the 2nd edition of Robert O'Neill's *Guide to Irish Libraries, Archives, Museums & Genealogical Centres: A Visitors' Guide* and an abridged version of Dr William Roulston's *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800*.

We have recently added a new lecture series 'Voices from the past' to our members' area. These are digitised audio recordings from some of our past conferences and as some of these speakers unfortunately are no longer with us, the recordings are thus a rare opportunity to enjoy some very distinguished academics and archivists giving advice on using historical sources in Ireland. Talks include:

- Valuation records: A valuable resource for Genealogists by Trevor Parkhill
- New Light at the Cape of Good Hope by Prof. Leslie McCracken
- Family Research in the Registry of Deeds by Dr Katharine Brown
- Sources in PRONI relating to education by Dr Roger Strong

Members have access to over 200 databases that are not available to pay-per-view users. These are accessed through the Family Records section of our website and are added to regularly. Some of these databases cover a very specific area and may only contain a few hundred names but nonetheless they can contain the details to enable you to continue in your research. The records cover the 17th century right through to the 20th century, with one database even containing records from the 16th century!

We also have a number of much larger databases, for example the burial records of Milltown Cemetery in Belfast from 1869 to 1895 which contains over 27,000 names, addresses and ages.

Our databases do not only cover Ulster. We have a register of the students, graduates, professors and provosts of Trinity College University of Dublin between 1593 and 1860, containing over 32,000 entries.

Finally our largest members' database of nearly 150,000 is an enormously useful resource for those searching for their ancestors. This lists by parish the occurrences of surnames in the nine counties of Ulster (Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Derry/Londonderry, Donegal, Down, Fermanagh, Monaghan and Tyrone). This list of names, originally in the Householders' index contains information from the tithe applotment books of the 1820s and 1830s and Griffith's Valuation from the 1850s and 1860s. This database can help researchers who may know only that their ancestor came from a particular county or even just somewhere in Ulster, focus their search on specific areas where their ancestor's surname was known to be found.

Thank you for watching this tutorial, we hope it helps you get the most out of your guild membership. If you are not already a member and would like to join, please visit <http://www.ancestryireland.com/membership/> where you can join online.