

'ALL IRELAND SOURCES' NEWSLETTER

A Monthly Newsletter: Editor: Terry Eakin, 334 Burns Bay Road, LANE COVE, NSW 2066

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Introduction: 'All Ireland Sources' is a monthly newsletter distributed free by E-mail to Family History Societies and interested researchers near the end of each month. Distribution by Australia Post each three months (three issues) costs \$6.00 annually within Australia. The aim is to bring items of interest regarding Irish record sources to the Australian genealogist. The editor would appreciate being made aware of records relating to the Irish, particularly those held in Australia or new in the LDS Family History Library. Back copies available free for downloading from www.sag.org.au Note new email address.

THE LONDONDERRY SENTINEL: Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1829-1869. This CD ROM of the birth, marriage and death notices from the County Londonderry newspaper extracted by the volunteers of the Coleraine Branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society and published by the Society in September 2006. It is produced in a similar method to the very successful '*The Coleraine Chronicle: Births, Marriages and Deaths, 1844-1869*' published in book form (888 pages) in 2003 and long out of print but now reprinted as a CD ROM and available from the Society.

The first edition of this newspaper, dated 19 September 1829, and priced at five pence (5d.) was titled as '*The Londonderry Sentinel and North West Advertiser*'. It was published weekly on a Saturday until 1863 when it was published twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays. For almost two centuries, the Londonderry Sentinel has played a leading part in recording events that have had a direct effect on the people of the North West of Ireland. Some of these have been milestones in history, such as the Potato Famine, political reforms, coronations, funerals, world wars, catastrophes and civil strife. But others, a mainstay of the newspaper's continuing appeal to its readers, have been happier occasions such as the marriages and births recorded here.

For many years, the **Londonderry Sentinel** was a regional rival to the Belfast Telegraph, publishing on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. Now, in its new, tabloid format, it appears on Wednesdays. Archives dating back to 1829 continue to provide an invaluable resource for retrospective features and news stories.

Following on from their other two publications, the members of the Coleraine Branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society, under the guidance of Project-Co-ordinator David Beck, chose as their next project the abstraction of the Births, Deaths and Marriages from "**The Sentinel**" from its first publication in 1829 to 1869 – 41 years of valuable genealogical information, as civil registration for Protestant marriages did not commence until 01 April 1845 and 01 January 1864 for all marriages, births and deaths in Ireland.

Some 6,800 births, 18,700 deaths and 9,900 marriages were carefully and accurately recorded and indexed. Unfortunately records were not available for every year and every newspaper published; this was especially true of 1855 when only 'hard copy' of the newspaper was found and that for only part of the year. It should be noted that in the case of births, only the sex of the child was noted and not a first name.

The births and deaths are arranged by surname and first name(s) in alphabetical order, the date of the newspaper is given to enable the exact day of the event to be calculated. Marriages are arranged in chronological order in which they were printed each year and given an index number coupled to the last two digits of the year (e.g. 29-11 is the 11th marriage in the year 1829, 30-63 is the 63rd marriage in the year 1830, etc.) and the full notice of marriage is printed on this page. There is a separate index to marriages wherein all brides and grooms are listed in alphabetical order.

Each PDF file is fully word searchable, e.g. the word Australia found 101 death entries and more were noticed during browsing with Victoria, New South Wales, etc without the word Australia and not included in this total. There were also 83 marriages and 12 births containing the searched word Australia. There are 765 pages (A4) of deaths, 480 pages of marriages, 296 pages of marriage indexes (finding aids) and 181 pages of birth notices on the CD ROM

An Adobe Reader (v.7.0) is included on the CD ROM for those who do not have this free reader available for PDF files on their computer. Additional information about the Coleraine Branch of the North of Ireland Family History Society and its publications can be found at their website: www.coleraine-nifhs.org.uk. The CD ROMs are available from the **Coleraine Branch, North of Ireland Family History Society, W. F. Noel Black (Hon. Treasurer), 53B Causeway Street, Portrush, County Antrim, Northern Ireland BT56 8AD, price £15.00 each plus postage £2.00** or check the website. Excellent value for the money.

Some examples of the notices are included below.

Surname	Sex	Issue Date	Notice (Birth)
Carey	Son	05 Oct 1866	June 26, at Bunbury Western Australia, the wife of T. C. Carey, Esq., Government Surveyor, of a son.
Cochrane	Son	08 Apr 1859	January 05, at Bealiba, Avoca, Australia, the wife of J Cochrane, Esq., J.P. (late of Coleraine) of a son.
Higinbotham	Dau	10 Feb 1860	December 17, at Melbourne, Australia, the wife of George Higinbotham, of a daughter.
Jones	Son	11 Oct 1867	On 15 July, at Sydney, Australia, the wife of Frederick Jones, esq., of a son.
McCarron	Dau	26 Apr 1861	February 08, at Melbourne, Australia, the wife of Mr Edward McCarron, late of this City, of a daughter.
McFarland	Son	03 Dec 1858	August 23, in Western Australia, the lady of A McFarland, Esq., Judge of Western Australia, of a son.
Moody	Dau	04 Sep 1866	At Truro, South Australia, the wife of Solomon Moody, Esq., J.P. formerly of Gortmore House, Magilligan, of a daughter.

Year-Number	Issue Date	Notice (Marriage)
1839-70	27 Apr 1839	On the 24 th inst., at Castledawson, by the Rev. H. F. Stevenson, Robert Vincent Legge, Esq., of Australia to Elizabeth Graves, youngest daughter of the late Captain John Richards Lapenotiere, R.N. of Roseland, County Cornwall.
1842-19	22 Jan 1842	On 26 th May last by special license by the Rev. James Forbes, A. M., Mr Matthew Holmes (late of Strabane), of the firm Kerr & Holmes, Melbourne, Australia, to Anne, youngest daughter of Allan Maclean, Esq., of Strathallan, Port Philip.

1847-58	08 May 1847	September 29 th , in St George's Church, Perth, Australia by the Rev. T. B. Willinoom, Colonial Chaplain, the Honourable G. F. Moore, Advocate General and Acting Colonial Secretary of Western Australia, to Fanny May Jane, step-daughter to his Excellency the Governor, and daughter of the late Rev. E. Jackson, M. A. Cambridge, Chaplain to the Honourable East India Company.
1847-131	16 Oct 1847	On Wednesday, the 21 st April 1847, in St James Church, Sydney, by the Right Rev. the Bishop of Australia, Samuel J. Ussher, Esq. fifth son of the late Rev. Dr. Henry Ussher of Ramelton, County Donegal, Ireland, to Margaret Lillias, daughter of David Chambers, Esq., formerly of Magherafelt, County Londonderry, Ireland and now of Macquarrie Street in the City of Sydney, New South Wales.
1853-147	02 Sep 1853	On 3 rd February last, at Adelaide, South Australia, Miss Lee, niece of William Freckleton, Esq., Newport Trench, County Tyrone, to Henry T. Morris, Esq., nephew to G. A. Stevens, Esq., barrister-at-law.

Surname	First Names	Issue Date	Notice (Death)
Adams	George Hill	10 Feb 1865	On 06 February at 5 Mall Terrace, Notting Hill, London, George Hill Adams, Esq., M.D. formerly of Geelong, Australia, youngest son of the late William Adams, Esq., Portglenone, County Antrim.
Alexander	John	08 Sep 1854	On 1 st inst., of consumption, at the residence of Mrs Walker, Bishop Street, in this City, where he had returned but five weeks from Australia, Mr John Alexander, the youngest son of the late Andrew Alexander, Esq., of Kinnycally, near St Johnston, Co. Donegal.
Allen	Andrew	17 Feb 1860	On the 8 th December, at Myer's Flat, Australia, Mr Andrew Allen, merchant, youngest son of Mr A. Allen, merchant, Magherafelt, County Derry.
Beatty	James	25 Oct 1861	July 31, at Strawberry Hills, Australia, aged 72 years, Mr James Beatty, formerly of Fermanagh.
Beers	Philip G. (Captain)	27 Aug 1842	At the latter end of March last, at Port Philip, New South Wales, Australia, Philip Groves Beers, Esq., Captain of the 80 th Regiment and son of the late William Beers, Esq., Ballyward Lodge, County Down.
Beers	Matilda	08 Oct 1842	On 9 th May, on her passage to England from Port Philip, New South Wales, Australia, Mrs. Matilda Beers, after the sudden death of her devoted

			husband, Philip Groves Beers, Esq., late Captain of the 80 th Regiment.
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Probably more than 50% of the notices are from without the County (Londonderry) with more than 10% of these notices from events outside of Ireland. CD ROM purchase recommended for all libraries, FH Societies and genealogists with Irish interests. The Society's web site at www.coleraine-nifhs.org.uk gives details.

Book Review: *Strabane & West Ulster: History from the Broadsheets: Selections from The Strabane Morning Post, 1812-1837* edited by Faye Lynsly Logue (2006) ISBN 0-952892-03-0 and published by the Strabane History Society, 446 pages, 1.25 kgs, E£13.99.

The surviving issues of the Strabane Morning Post, 1812-1837 are an important source for genealogical research in North West Ulster. Faye has transcribed news, notices and advertisements from this provincial newspaper. Its notices of births, marriages and deaths all pre-date the civil registration of Protestant marriages from 1845 and are far earlier than the civil registration of births, deaths and Roman Catholic marriages from 1864. These events may not be recorded elsewhere. The first issue was published on 05 November 1811 and it was published every Tuesday, until 11 April 1837.

The readership was confined not only to Strabane, a prosperous market town, and its immediate neighbourhood but throughout counties Tyrone, Donegal, Fermanagh and Londonderry. All births, deaths and marriages announcements have been transcribed but the reports of royal and society weddings in London and Continental Europe have been omitted due to lack of space; such reports may be located in the London newspapers of the day. The majority of personal announcements reflect the general readership – clergy, gentry, merchants and large farmers; however there are many interesting reports of the poor and unfortunate who met untimely and accidental deaths.

It is the reporting of daily events affecting the lives of Ulster forebears that makes the Strabane Morning Post interesting and valuable. Contained within its broadsheet pages are reports of court proceedings at Strabane, Omagh, Lifford, Londonderry and Enniskillen, both criminal and civil, lists of freeholders, process servers, gamekeepers, civil appointments and school examination results. Reports of court proceedings contained the names of those charged, their crimes and punishment, and there are many references to sentences of transportation to the Australian colonies. These reports are often the only extant record of many criminal trials. In the preface, Faye follows the example of the trial of John Thompson at Strabane on 14 April 1835, his conviction and sentence to transportation for a period of 7 years. The convict indents and the Post's report really complete the story.

There are many items of interest from North America – marriages and deaths of emigrants and their families, reports of encouragement for intending emigrants and the inevitable shipping disasters. Many reports of shipwreck are tedious, the emphasis being loss and rescue, regrettably omitting passenger lists; where lists of survivors were printed, (generally copied from Londonderry papers), they have been quoted in full. Original spelling of names and places has been retained throughout.

A little known source for the family historian is the Freeholder Lists which pre-date the Tithe Applotment Books 1823-38. Some thousands of farmers and merchants in possession of a leasehold with a minimum annual valuation of £10 registered their intention to apply for voting rights during 1829-31, and names and addresses of all Tyrone and Donegal applicants were published within lengthy lists and supplements. These records are also extremely useful for descendants of middle-class Ulstermen as they pre-date Griffith's Valuation (1848-64) by a whole generation. The book is indexed by surname and page number, e.g. Aiken 7, 31, 225, 331, 352, 359; Aikin 102, 260, 275; Eaken 364; Eakin 6, 161, 171, 190, 199, 245, 263, 285. The index of 31 pages is thorough and this book by a North Queensland historian, Faye Logue, is recommended.

Articles, suggestions and information for this newsletter are welcome and may be E-mailed to: tea04055@bigpond.net.au
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