

CITY COLLEGES DIPLOMA IN FAMILY HISTORY

Spring/Summer 2021

This diploma course is being delivered by
Members of *Accredited Genealogists Ireland* (AGI)

Co-ordinators / Tutors: Sandy O'Byrne & Sandra Doble.

Duration & Structure:

1 evening per week (Thursday) for 3 hours. Classes run from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Course runs for 10 weeks.

Two one-hour sessions with a 30 minute tea break between them and a 30 minute tutorial session to conclude.

WEEK 1

Thurs. 29 April 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Introduction to Irish Genealogy

Sandy O'Byrne

In this class we will begin with a brief overview of genealogy and a discussion of family sources: documents, photographs and stories which provide the basis of family history.. An overview of the records we will be studying in depth during the course will be presented. An introduction to the administrative divisions of Ireland will be provided.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Overview of Online Sources

Sandra Doble

Sources online will feature throughout the course and they will be dealt with in depth in later sessions. This session plans to give a broad overview of the material available online and the pitfalls researchers may encounter in using it. Surname, place spelling and potential age variations in records will be discussed.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

Sandy O'Byrne & Sandra Doble

A chance for students to get a better feel of how the course will develop and Assignment 1 will be explained.

WEEK 2

Thurs. 6 May 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Civil Records of Birth, Death & Marriage

Sandy O'Byrne

This presentation will include a brief history of civil registration in Ireland, an explanation of the registration districts and the division of civil records in 1922. Birth, marriage and death records will be examined, while online and in situ (in Dublin and Belfast) access to the indexes and records will be discussed.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Census Returns

Des Murtagh

In this class an overview of Irish census records will be provided. As the 1901 and 1911 Censuses are the only existing complete returns for all of Ireland, these will be studied. Surviving nineteenth century census material and Census Search Forms will also be discussed.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

Sandy O'Byrne

A review of week 1 and the homework tasks set. A chance for questions about assignment 1.

WEEK 3

Thurs. 13 May 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Roman Catholic Parish Records

Joan Sharkey

This class will concentrate on Roman Catholic parish records. Background will be provided on the variation of quality, condition, dates, etc., of parish registers. The information they may provide and the range of access options will be explained.

Session 2 8.00-9.00

Research Techniques, Report Writing & Assignment 1

Nicola Morris & Sandy

O'Byrne

This session will concentrate on the best approaches to systematically researching sources, taking notes and analysing results, as well as writing up the findings. Students will be advised on how research skills should be applied to the assignments. In relation to Assignment 1, its parts will be discussed and advice will be given on the preparation for the report. Students will be given guidance on standards and general practices in report writing, including citation of sources. This will equip students for completing the report on their first assignment, due two weeks later, as well as preparing them for the more elaborate report on Assignment 2.

Session 3 9.00-9.30

Tutorial Session

Sandy O'Byrne

Recapping on previous week's lectures and general discussion, giving students the chance to ask questions about any aspect of the course so far.

WEEK 4

Thurs. 20 May 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Land Records 1****Michael Walsh**

In this session students will be introduced to Griffith's *Primary Valuation* and related land records, as well as the earlier Tithes Applotment Books. The various ways of gaining access to these records will be explained.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Land Records 2****Tony Hennessey**

In this class, following up on the first Land Records presentation, the records held in the Valuation Office in the Irish Life Centre will be dealt with in more detail.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial Session****Sandra Doble**

A last chance for questions on assignment 1 before submission next week and a review of the previous week's lectures and homework.

WEEK 5

Thurs. 27 May 2021 [HAND IN ASSIGNMENT 1]

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Church of Ireland Records****Sandra Doble**

In this session the students are given an overview of the records available for Church of Ireland parishes. Historical background, contents of parish records, survival and various avenues of access will be discussed.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Newspapers as a Resource for Genealogy****Nicola Morris**

Newspapers provide a wealth of information of potential relevance to individual ancestors. This session examines the changing nature of the content of Irish newspapers and the various ways in which the information may be accessed.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial Session****Sandra Doble**

A chance for students to talk about their experience of completing assignment 1 and a review of the land records lectures and homework from week 4.

WEEK 6

Thurs. 3 June 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Feedback on Assignment 1 and General Discussion****Sandra Doble**

This session gives the opportunity to assess the progress made so far and to prepare for Assignment 2. It also allows students to ask broader questions and generally assess their strengths and weaknesses.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Research without Frontiers****Sandy O'Byrne**

An introduction to records in other jurisdictions of interest to those with Irish family background. This lecture will cover various US and UK records with a focus on using census returns to trace families back to Ireland. Records of the British India Office will be introduced, and the Ireland-Australia Transport database will be examined.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial Session****Sandy O'Byrne**

An introduction to assignment 2 and a review of the lectures and homework from week 5.

WEEK 7

Thurs.10 June 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Testamentary Records****Steven Smyrl**

Today most people make wills or, if they die intestate, administration of their estate is granted by the Probate Office. Before the mid-twentieth century this was not the case. However, when wills are found they can provide a wealth of information. This lecture introduces the students to the sometimes bewildering area of such records.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Registry of Deeds****Máire Mac Conghail**

The Registry of Deeds was set up in 1708 as part of the mechanism associated with the Penal Laws designed to control and reduce Catholic land ownership. Not all deeds were registered but the records of 'the Deeds' contain a wealth of information on eighteenth and nineteenth century Ireland. Though the records primarily relate to the propertied classes, they are not limited to them. Memorials of such documents as property sales, leases, mortgages, marriage settlements and (to a lesser extent) wills can open up new areas of research for family historians.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial Session****Sandra Doble**

Recap on week 6 and a look at copyright considerations.

WEEK 8

Thurs. 17 June 2021

Session 1 6.30-7.30**Estate Papers****Nicola Morris**

For anyone whose ancestors were tenants on the great estates of Ireland, an understanding of the records of these estates is essential for genealogical research. An overview of the locations of these records, the information they contain and the diversity of their formats will be presented.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Non-Conformist Church Records****Steven Smyrl - Update,**

This lecture on Protestant church parish records concerns Dissenting or Non-Conformist denominations. While an overview of history of such groups will be given, emphasis will be placed on the larger denominations such as Presbyterians and Methodists in relation to the contents of church records and access.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial (including Quaker Records)****Sandy O'Byrne**

This tutorial will include a short presentation on Quaker records in Ireland with **Pamela Bradley**.

WEEK 9Thurs. 24 June 2021 {HAND OUT **FEEDBACK FORM**}Session 1 6.30-7.30**Trade Directories & Occupational Records****Nicola Morris**

This lecture will give a brief overview on the wide range of trade and street directories available, as well as a select number of other records relating to occupations. The type of information they may reveal, where they may be accessed and how they are most productively searched will be covered.

Session 2 8.00-9.00**Introduction to Irish Repositories****Nicola Morris (TBC)**

An important component of Irish genealogy is understanding what records exist, where they can be found and how to access them. While a great deal of research material can be found online, there is still plenty of material that is held in Irish libraries, archives and repositories. An introduction to Irish repositories, how to access them and interrogate their catalogues.

Session 3 9.00-9.30**Tutorial: Final Discussion on Assignment 2****Sandra Doble**

This is the last session before Assignment 2 is to be handed in. It is a chance to clarify any points students may wish to discuss.

WEEK 10

Thur. 1st July 2021

[HAND IN ASSIGNMENT 2]

Session 1 6.30-7.30

Taking it one Step Further

Paul MacCotter

Pre-19th century research including early type census and survey records and records of the Genealogical Office.

Session 2 8.00-8.30

Use of DNA in Genealogy

John Grenham

DNA testing is now a popular aspect of attempting to find clues to genealogical connections beyond the written records. The options for this and the type of results that may be revealed will be explored.

Session 3 8.30-9.30

Tutorial : Beyond the Course

Sandy O'Byrne & Sandra Doble

In this 'wrap up' session the tutors will offer suggestions on how students may get more involved in the world of family history research, whether they wish to pursue genealogy further as a hobby, apply it to some aspect of their working lives or develop a career in ancestral research.