

Diploma in Family History Course Lecturers

Sandra Doble, MAGI, has been a Member of AGI since 2015, having been an Affiliate from 2013. Previously she had worked in accountancy, having qualified as a member of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. Having worked for over fifteen years in auditing and as a finance manager, she decided to turn to her true passion of genealogy and pursue it professionally. She successfully completed a diploma course in Family History / Genealogy and about the same time set up her own business. She is part of the AGI team that operates the Genealogy Advisory Service at the National Archives. Research on Church of Ireland families is one of her particular interests.

John Grenham, MAGI, FIGRS, has been a Member of AGI since its foundation. His *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* (5th ed.2019) is the most popular guide book on Irish genealogy, known worldwide. As well as writing several other books, he had a regular column in the *Irish Times* and he now has a highly regarded blog <http://www.johngrenham.com/blog/>. His Irish Ancestors site at <https://www.johngrenham.com/> is an important online resource. In 2007 he was awarded the fellowship of the Irish Genealogical Research Society. He was a presenter of the television show *The Genealogy Roadshow* on RTE in 2011 and 2014. He is a much in demand speaker at conferences around the globe. From 2014 to 2019 he delivered the City Colleges diploma in family history, the precursor of this course.

Máire Mac Conghail, MAGI, FIGRS, has been a Member of AGI since 1990. She began her career while a student at UCD, working part-time for the Genealogical Office. She returned to the field some years later and eventually applied for AGI membership. Later she took the Local Studies course at NUI, Maynooth, obtaining a diploma in 1997. Over the years she has taught Adult Education courses at a number of locations in Dublin. She has served on the Board of the National Library of Ireland, the Irish Manuscripts Commission and the National Archives Advisory Council. She is joint author of the guide book *Tracing Irish Ancestors*, published in 1997. In 2005 she was elected a Fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society.

Nicola Morris, MAGI, has been a Member of AGI since 2009. She is well-known to television viewers for her appearance in the British, American and Irish versions of *Who Do You Think You Are?*, as well as *Where were Your Ancestors During*

the Famine, The Genealogy Roadshow and *The Great House Revival*. Having graduated with a history degree from Trinity College Dublin, she gravitated towards a career in research. After several years conducting genealogical research she established her own business and applied for membership of AGI. She lectures widely on genealogical topics and writes in various family history publications, including a regular Q&A section in *Irish Roots* magazine. She also works on the AGI team in the Genealogy Advisory Service at the National Archives.

Sandy O’Byrne, MAGI, has been a Member of AGI since 2017, having been an Affiliate from 2014. Prior to working in ancestral research she was a journalist and features writer, covering particularly food, wine, travel and books. She also wrote three books and was a part-time lecturer. She had graduated from Trinity College Dublin with an Honours B.A. in History of Art and English, specialising in the eighteenth century Irish country house. Family history had always interested her and she began exploring her own ancestry. This resulted in tracing one line back to William the Conqueror. Having successfully completed a diploma course in Family History / Genealogy in 2012, she decided to work full-time in genealogy.

Georgina Scally, MAGI, has been a Member of AGI since 2016, having been an Affiliate from 2015. Prior to working as a genealogist, she had a successful career as a professional field archaeologist, excavating and carrying out research assignments throughout Ireland. One of her larger projects brought her to the west coast, where she spent almost a decade excavating a small Atlantic island monastery. This resulted in the publication in 2014 of her book, *High Island (Ardoileán), Co. Galway Excavation of an Early Medieval Monastery*. She has a keen interest in local history and house history, as well as genealogy. She holds a B.A. in Archaeology and Geography and a Masters in Rural and Urban Planning, as well as a Diploma in Family History / Genealogy.

Joan Sharkey, MAGI, has been a Member of AGI since 2003. She has been involved in genealogy and local history since the 1980s, when she joined a local group that became the Raheny Heritage Society. In 1998 she received a Diploma in Local History from NUI Maynooth. Undertaking further research on her diploma project resulted in the publication of her book, *St. Anne’s: the Story of a Guinness Estate*, in 2002. Embarking on a career in family history research, she worked from 1999 to 2002 as a genealogist with American Elderhostel groups visiting Ireland to research their ancestry. Since joining AGI she has worked

alongside her colleagues in the Genealogy Advisory Service at the National Archives. She has given many lectures on local and family history.

Steven Smyrl, MAGI, FSG, FIGRS, has been a Member of AGI since 1991. He is a leading legal and probate genealogist, and a specialist in non-conformist religions in Ireland. He is author of *Irish Methodists – Where Do I Start?* (1999) and joint author of *Irish Civil Registration – Where Do I Start?* (2000), both published by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations. In 2009 his definitive *Dictionary of Dublin Dissent – Dublin’s Protestant Dissenting Meeting Houses 1660-1920* appeared. The 2012 RTE television series *Dead Money* was based exclusively on probate research undertaken by his firm. He was elected to the fellowship of the Irish Genealogical Research Society in 2007 and to that of the Society of Genealogists (London) in 2019. He writes a regular column in *Irish Roots* magazine.

Pamela Bradley, FAGI joined Accredited Genealogists Ireland in 1980 and is now a fellow of the Association. In her role as a professional genealogist, Pamela has organised the AGI Advisory service which was provided at each of the four Genealogical Congresses held in Dublin. She also undertook research for the BBC series ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’. She has particular expertise in Quaker records and will be the City Colleges lecture team for a short lecture in these records.

Des Murtagh, MAGI, Ed.D., M.A., has worked in all sectors of the Irish educational system. He holds degrees and diplomas in Education, Adult Education, Theology and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership. He joined Accredited Genealogists Ireland in 2018 and runs his own business (Murtagh Genealogy Services) in order to provide assistance to others in tracing their ancestral family members.