



**Family History Conference  
Ballymoney, Co. Antrim**

**WEDNESDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**10.30am - 11.30am REGISTRATION & WELCOME**

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided for all delegates throughout the day in the Shiels Room, Ballymoney Town Hall.

**11.30am - 12.15pm NORTH OF IRELAND FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY**

Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall

The first session of the conference will be hosted by the North of Ireland Family History Society, Coleraine Branch. Many of the members come from the North Antrim area (or 'The Route') and will have invaluable advice on where, how and what is available for the visiting genealogist.

Web address: [www.coleraine-fhs.org.uk](http://www.coleraine-fhs.org.uk)

**12.15pm - 12.30pm Q & A**

Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall

Delegates have the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the lecture.

**12.30pm – 1.30pm BUFFET LUNCH**

Shiels Room, Ballymoney Town Hall

**1.30pm – 4.45pm COACH TRIP TO LOCAL STUDIES SERVICES, BALLYMENA**

Mary Bradley, Heritage Services Manager

Ballymena Library, Pat's Brae, Ballymena

Delegates will travel by private coach for an opportunity to use the specialist resources at the public library including website access, valuation records, newspaper archives, maps, journals, reference books and local history publications.

Web address: [www.librariesni.org.uk/libraries/local-studies-service-nee/b/](http://www.librariesni.org.uk/libraries/local-studies-service-nee/b/)

**7.30pm – 9pm BOOK LAUNCH “DERRYKEIGHAN OLD CHURCH GRAVEYARD”**

Dorothy Arthur, author and family historian

Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall

This is Dorothy Arthur's third book on the graveyards of North Antrim and it will include a comprehensive list of the headstones in the ancient burial ground at Derrykeighan village. This is a public event and delegates are invited to come along and enjoy an entertaining evening with an expert in North Antrim genealogy. Light refreshments will be provided.

Web address: [www.ballymoneygraveyard.com](http://www.ballymoneygraveyard.com)



**Family History Conference  
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**THURSDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**10.00am - 10.30am      TEA & COFFEE**

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided for all delegates throughout the day in the Shiels Room, Ballymoney Town Hall.

**10.30am - 10.45am      WELCOME      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall**

**10.45am – 11.30am      AMERICAN LINKS WITH NORTH ANTRIM**

S.A. Blair, author and historian      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
For centuries, families from the Route have travelled to North America and made it their new home. Some of them have become famous and this is the story of a few of the more interesting Ballymoney emigrants.

**11.30am – 12.15am      LOCATING FAMILIES & HOUSES IN NORTH ANTRIM c.1830-1911**

Dr. Bill Macafee, author and historian      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
Finding the exact location of a house or a farm in which an ancestor lived during the nineteenth and early twentieth century can, sometimes, prove difficult, particularly for researchers who live abroad. The purpose of this session is to demonstrate, through the use of case studies, how this can be done by using a set of sources that span the period c.1830 to 1911. The sources include the Tithe Records of the 1820s and 1830s, the Townland Valuation of the 1830s, the Griffith's [Tenement] Valuation of c.1860, the Griffith's Revision Books which cover the period c.1860 to c.1930, and the Census Returns of 1901 and 1911.

Web address: [www.billmacafee.com](http://www.billmacafee.com)

**12.15pm - 12.30pm      Q & A      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall**

Delegates have the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the lectures.

**12.30pm – 1.30pm      BUFFET LUNCH      Shiels Room, Ballymoney Town Hall.**

**1.30pm – 2.15pm      USING THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

Dr. Ann McVeigh, PRONI      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
The role of Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) is to identify, preserve and make available records of interest to present and future generations. This talk will explain how to start research into your family tree using the resources that are available at the new PRONI building.

Web address: [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

**2.15pm – 3.00pm      INTERNET RESOURCES FOR FAMILY HISTORY**

Dr. Glynn Kelso, PRONI      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
The internet provides a vast amount of information for family historians and is becoming an essential tool for genealogical research. This talk will focus on the on-line resources available on the PRONI website, including catalogues, street directories and the listings from the 1912 Ulster Covenant. It will also introduce other websites where researchers can access valuable data, such as census, Griffith Valuation etc.

Web address: [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

**3.00pm – 3.15pm**                      **Q & A**    Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
Delegates have the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the lectures.

**3.15pm – 3.45pm**                      **TEA & COFFEE**

**3.45pm - 4.30pm**                      **FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND MIGRATION HISTORY**

Dr. Paddy Fitzgerald, Centre for Migration Studies    Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall

This talk will explore the relationship between family, local community and migration history. Dr. Fitzgerald will highlight some of the important historical migration patterns which shaped the context against which Ulster families and communities lived out their lives in the past. Some examples, drawn from the Ballymoney area, will be presented to illustrate the subject.

Web address: [www.qub.ac.uk/cms](http://www.qub.ac.uk/cms)

**4.30pm - 5.00pm**                      **Q & A**    Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
Delegates have the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the lecture. Further information and a schedule for the PRONI trip will also be available.

**8.00pm – 9.00pm**                      **THE ULSTER COVENANT**

S.A. Blair, author and historian    Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall

This is a public lecture and delegates are invited to hear Mr. Blair tell the story of the turbulent events of a century ago. On the 28 September 1912, Protestant people across Ulster signed the Ulster Covenant in a mass demonstration in opposition to Home Rule in Ireland. In Ballymoney Town Hall, and other venues throughout the countryside, hundreds of people pledged their support for Sir Edward Carson's campaign. However, there was also opposition to the Covenant in North Antrim and Mr. Blair will cover this in his informative lecture. Light refreshments will be provided. To search the Ulster Covenant on-line, visit [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk) .



**Family History Conference  
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**FRIDAY, 21 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**10.00am – 5.00pm                    COACH TRIP TO PRONI**

Delegates will leave from Ballymoney Town Hall and travel by private coach to Belfast to spend the day at PRONI. PRONI staff have expertise and experience that is invaluable to researchers and they will be available to assist delegates with personal research. Lunch and refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Web address: [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)

**7.00pm – 10.00pm                    RECEPTION & DINNER                    Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall**

Delegates are invited to come together and enjoy an evening of delicious food, pleasant company and great entertainment. Please advise of any dietary requirements when booking for the conference. If you're coming to the Route Back Home 2012 with family or friends, they are very welcome to join the evening, although there is an additional charge of £20 per guest. If you require assistance organising travel arrangements from the Town Hall to your accommodation later in the evening, please advise the Museum Manager in advance.



**Family History Conference  
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**SATURDAY, 22 SEPTEMBER 2012**

**10.00am - 10.30am      TEA & COFFEE**

Tea, coffee and refreshments will be provided for all delegates throughout the day in the Shields Room, Ballymoney Town Hall.

**10.30am - 10.45am      INTRODUCTION      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall**

**10.45am – 11.30am      RESEARCHING COVENANTER ANCESTORS**

Dr. William Roulston, Ulster Historical Foundation      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
Today, the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland is a relatively small denomination, but one of the areas in which it is strongest is North Antrim. Reformed Presbyterians are also known as Covenanters because of their adherence to the National Covenant of 1638 and the Solemn League and Covenant of 1643. This talk will look at origins and early history of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland, with particular reference to North Antrim, and will discuss the sources that are available for the study of its members and adherents.

Web address: [www.ancestryireland.com](http://www.ancestryireland.com)

**11.30am – 12.15pm      THE 1718 PROJECT**

Colin Brooks, family historian      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
“The 1718 Project” was started by Colin Brooks and later enhanced by the Ulster-Scots Agency on their website. It focuses on the first mass migration of Ulster-Scots to America and explores their dispersal from Maine to New Hampshire to Massachusetts to Pennsylvania and ultimately the South. Colin’s lecture reveals the story of these Ulster folk who eventually became the true pioneers of America. Among them are Ballymoney families: Boyd, Barr, Bell, Crombie, Dinsmore, McClellan, McCurdy, McKeen, McBride, Nesmith, Wason, Calwell, Woodside, Agnew, Dunlop, Gamble, Henry, McFredrick, Reid, Templeton and many more. Their legacy continues today with a direct link to a current American Senator and Presidential nominee.

Web address: [www.1718migration.org.uk](http://www.1718migration.org.uk)

**12.15pm - 12.30pm      Q & A      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall**

Delegates have the opportunity to discuss issues arising from the lectures.

**12.30pm – 1.30pm      BUFFET LUNCH      Shields Room, Ballymoney Town Hall**

**1.30pm – 3.00pm      VISIT TO BALLYMONEY LIBRARY**

Leah Tweed, Branch Manager      Ballymoney Library, Rodden Foot  
The friendly and helpful staff from LibrariesNI will be available to guide you through their extensive resources and show delegates the best way to access the information you need in this excellent public facility. The library is ten minutes walk from Ballymoney Town Hall and directions are available from museum staff. If you require assistance with travel arrangements from the Town Hall to the library, please advise the Museum Manager in advance.

Web address: [www.librariesni.org.uk/libraries/ballymoney-library](http://www.librariesni.org.uk/libraries/ballymoney-library)



**3.15pm – 3.45pm                      TEA & COFFEE**

**3.45pm – 4.30pm                      DISCUSSION & CLOSE**                      Auditorium, Ballymoney Town Hall  
The final session of The Route Back Home 2012 will be an opportunity to provide your feedback on the content of the conference.

Please note that the speakers and content of each session may be subject to change at a later date.

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## **TOUR OF DERRYKEIGHAN OLD CHURCH GRAVEYARD**



**Delegates may be interested in a public tour of Derrykeighan Old Church Graveyard by the author DOROTHY ARTHUR on Sunday, 23 September 2012. More details will be available nearer the date.**