

Welcome



to the July 2008 issue of the SEELB Local Studies e-bulletin. This issue will look at Downpatrick Family History Fair (27<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at Downpatrick Library), Killyleagh, useful Local History websites, the Mourne Observer newspaper, and civil registration and marriages

Photo – Headstone, St. Johns Anglican cemetery, Craighurst, Ontario, Canada

**DOWNPATRICK LIBRARY**  
**FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**

Downpatrick Library presents  
**DOWNPATRICK FAMILY HISTORY FAIR**  
Saturday 27 September  
10am - 4pm

**FREE** advice and guidance on searching for your ancestors  
**FREE** internet demos on family history websites - booking essential!  
**FREE** information sessions on local studies maps, newspapers & books  
**FREE ADMISSION!**

Exhibitors attending include the Ulster American Folk Park, Public Record Office of N Ireland, Ulster Historical Foundation, the Federation for Ulster Local Studies, Somme Heritage Centre and local and family history organisations

Enjoy a lunchtime musical performance/recital with Eamon Hanlon and singer/songwriter Jim Cobain - sponsored by Down Arts

Ask staff for details t. 4461 2895  
email: downpatricklibrary@ni-libraries.net

Delve into your past at our Family History Fair in Downpatrick Library. Admission is free to everyone. Receive free advice and guidance on searching for your ancestors and discover information on the history of the local area. Exhibitors attending this event include the Ulster American Folk Park (UAFP), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI), the Ulster Historical Foundation (UHF), the Federation for Ulster Local Studies, Down Museum, The Somme Heritage Centre, as well as local history and family history organisations,



There will also be a lunch-time musical performance by Eamon Hanlon and Tim

Cobain, which has kindly been sponsored by Down Arts Centre (Down District Council).



*“This is a great opportunity for anyone who is curious about where they come from, as enthusiastic friendly people, who have a wealth of knowledge and experience, will be able to guide you in the right direction. We hope that this event will encourage lots of people to find out about their family roots, discover their local history, and celebrate their heritage;”*

**Mary Bradley, Local Studies librarian, SEELB.**

A feature of the event will be the availability of Local Studies staff to host free Internet demos on family history websites as well as run designated information sessions demonstrating the useful resources available in the SEELB Local Studies collection. Places are limited for the information sessions and the internet demos so booking is advisable to secure a place. Please contact staff for details;

Phone – (028) 4461 2895

Email – [downpatricklibrary@ni-libraries.net](mailto:downpatricklibrary@ni-libraries.net)

## TOWNS KILLYLEAGH

*“Killyleagh is a charmingly situated on the western shore of Strangford Lough. It is in the barony of Dufferin, a little more than 4 miles, Irish, West by North from Crossgar, the nearest railway station. Lord Dufferin is the principle owner of the district, the land of which is good for pasture and tillage...Killyleagh had a population of 1,835 in 1881.*

**Bassett’s Directory of County Down, 1886.**

*“The town... consists of two nearly parallel streets, intersected by a longer street, which forms the principal thoroughfare; it contains*

*207 houses, built principally of clay-slate found in the parish, and is the property of Lord Dufferin and Archibald Hamilton, Esq. The cotton manufacture is carried on upon a very extensive scale. Some large mills were built upon a copious stream, in 1824, by Messrs. Martin and Co., and were greatly enlarged in 1828:”*

**Samuel Lewis – Topographical Dictionary of Ireland, published 1837**

*One dozen of boats from 1 to 5 tons employed in the herring and white fishing. Between 30 and 40 men employed in the trade and a few women and children employed making and mending nets in the spring. Herrings caught in the Lough and outside the bar at the mouth of the river, principally from the beginnings of June till the latter end of September*

**Ordnance Survey Memoirs of Ireland (PRONI – MIC/6)**

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## Local History On The Web

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootweb.ancestry.com/~rosdavies/>

The Ros Davies County Down website contains a great deal of useful information on the genealogy of County Down, with free access to its surnames database. There are also various



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databases dealing with topics such as place names, churches, photos, maps, schools, ships and the famine in County Down. Permission is granted to reprint research for non-profit use only.

<http://www.lecalehistory.co.uk/>

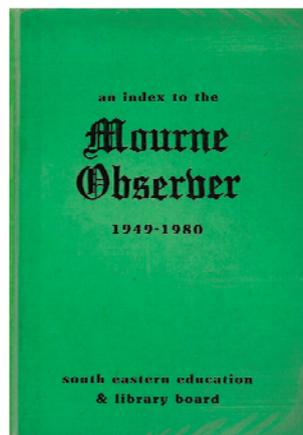
The Lecale Historical Society is based in Downpatrick. It's website contains a useful section on historical resources, which includes [Griffith's Valuation](#), the complete transcription of the [1901 Census of Ireland for the area](#), and several sets of correspondence - [The Martin Letters \(New - May 2007\)](#), [The Nannie Cinnamon and Kate Trimble Letters](#), [The James Cumine Parkinson Letters](#), [The Lascelles Family and Killough](#). The site also contains a listing of the 23 journals that the society has published since 1984, accompanied by some notes on their content.

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## Local Newspapers

The Local Studies Department, based at Library Headquarters, Ballynahinch, holds complete runs of most local newspapers on Microfilm. Microfilm Reader/Printers are available at Library HQ, Downpatrick,

Donaghadee, Newcastle and Lisburn libraries.



Mourne Observer Index 1949-1980

The Mourne Observer is only one of the local Newspapers held in SEELB stock, and we hold microfilm copies of the newspaper from when it was first published in October 1949 by Jim Hawthorne. We currently have available for purchase the **Mourne Observer Index 1949-1980**. Subjects, places and people are identified in this index, with references to the relevant news items.

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## FAMILY HISTORY



## **CIVIL REGISTRATION:**

All non-catholic marriages, including Protestant and Jewish marriages, were registered by law from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 1845. But from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 1864 the civil/state registration of all births, deaths and marriages was made law in Ireland. The General Registrar Office (GRO), Belfast, holds the original registers for births and deaths from 1864, and marriages registers from 1922 onwards (on and after 1 January 1922). The original marriage registers prior to 1922 are held at the District Registrar's offices of local councils. The General Register Office (Northern Ireland), contains registers of births and deaths (from 1864) and registers of marriages (from 1845). The District Registrars' offices keep marriage registers dating from 1 April 1845 for non Roman Catholic marriages and 1 January 1864 for all marriages. If you know that a couple married in the Downpatrick area, for example, then you can make an appointment at the local office to consult or purchase a copy of that particular marriage certificate. Follow the link to discover where your local District Registrar Office is located.

<http://www.groni.gov.uk/>

These civil registers make up the main series of records

maintained by the General Register Office.

***Marriage Certificates;*** are probably the most useful of the civil records. They detail the name, age, occupation and status of the married couple. However rather than the exact ages of the bride and groom, certificates frequently included the alternatives, "full age" (over 21), or "minor" (under 21). But if actual ages are given it is best to treat them with caution as some people may have lied about their ages while others may genuinely not have known their exact dates of birth and have given estimates. The names and occupations of both fathers are also included on the certificates. If one or both of the fathers was deceased this was sometimes indicated, but this wasn't always the case. Certificates additionally included the names of the witnesses, who frequently were family relatives or close friends. The church and the officiating minister were also named.

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If you have any photos or items which may be suitable for inclusion, please forward to: [joan.magee@ni-libraries.net](mailto:joan.magee@ni-libraries.net)

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