



March Newsletter



March is the perfect time to reflect on Irish heritage. With St Patrick's Day just around the corner, many will celebrate with parades, music, and perhaps a nod to their Irish ancestry. But beyond the shamrocks and festivities lies a deeper story—one of resilience, migration, and connection across generations.

On 21 March at [Connections 2025](#), I'll be sharing the story of six Irish sisters, one of whom was my great grandmother. In the 1880s, five of the sisters left County Carlow in Ireland for America and Australia. Their journeys were shaped by the

same forces that impacted the lives of millions of Irish families—economic hardship, political unrest, and the search for new opportunities. But what did they leave behind? And how did migration shape their identities and the generations that followed?

Irish ancestry research comes with its challenges—missing records, shifting borders, and common surnames—but it also holds incredible rewards. If you're tackling tough research puzzles, our [Brick Wall Bootcamp](#) course in April may offer new strategies to untangle Irish family mysteries. And if you're looking to expand your family history skills, we have a great lineup of courses in the coming months, including **Editing Genealogical Publications** (March), **Forensic Genealogy: Becoming an Expert Witness** (March), and **The Digital Toolkit** (April). Plus, don't miss this month's **SnapShot Interview** with Blaine Bettinger, where we'll dive into the latest in genetic genealogy and AI.

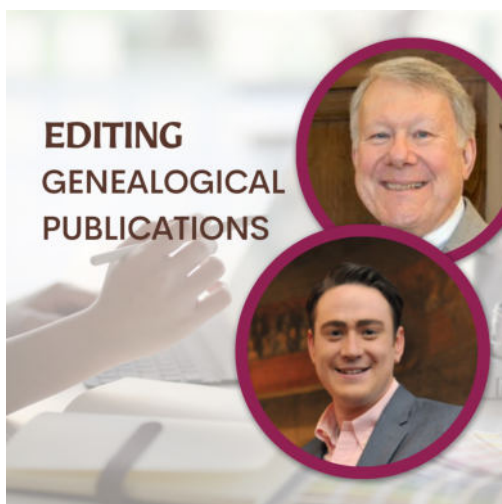
Go n-éirí an bóthar leat – May your journey through life be successful.

Cathie

[Image: Irish sisters generated by Midjourney.]

Don't miss these classes!

There's still time to grab a spot in one or both of these popular classes—but only **for a few more days!** Discover the skills needed to be a forensic genealogy expert witness, or sharpen your editorial eye and learn how to craft compelling genealogical publications.



Learn how to edit and refine genealogical publications, from



Gain the confidence to testify and build a thriving forensic genealogy

journals to newsletters, with expert techniques for clarity, consistency, and credibility. Whether you're polishing your own work or editing for others, this course, with **Tom Jones** and **Josh Taylor**, will help you craft professional, engaging publications that stand out.

Dates: 4, 11, 18, 25 March 2025

career. Join **Melanie Proctor** and learn what it takes to be an expert witness, craft challenge-proof reports, and navigate legal differences across jurisdictions.

Dates: 5, 12, 19 March 2025

REGISTER NOW!

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Digital Toolkit for Family Historians: Essential Skills and Techniques

Join Andrew Redfern and unlock the full potential of your family history research with the [Digital Toolkit for Family Historians!](#) This hands-on course will sharpen your digital skills, helping you stay organised, improve research efficiency, and present your findings in creative, engaging ways. Whether you're managing files, mastering search techniques, or designing visual family trees, you'll gain practical strategies to streamline your workflow and bring your family history to life.

Dates: 15 & 29 April @ 7 PM Eastern US

The SnapShot Interview

A Conversation With Blaine Bettinger



13 March 2025 @ 7.30 PM Eastern US

Coming Up - Mark Your Calendar

Join us on **13 March** for an exclusive and free *SnapShot Interview* with **Blaine Bettinger, PhD, JD**, one of the world's leading experts in genetic genealogy! Blaine has been at the forefront of DNA research in family history for nearly two decades, from launching *The Genetic Genealogist* blog in 2007 to co-authoring essential guides like *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*.

In this interview, we'll dive into the latest in DNA analysis and AI tools, the evolving role of genetic genealogy, and how you can make the most of DNA and AI in your research. You won't want to miss this conversation!

How to Access the SnapShot Interview with Blaine Bettinger

📌 Step 1: Subscribe & Confirm

To access the interview, first [subscribe via our website](#). After subscribing, check your email and **confirm your email address** to complete the process.

📌 Step 2: Register for This Interview

Once your email is verified, you'll receive a **confirmation email** with exclusive **subscriber-only access** to the recordings page. From there, you can also register via Zoom for the upcoming interview with Blaine Bettinger on **13 March**. Simply click on the REGISTER NOW button! Enter your details for the session, and you're all set!

✅ Subscribers also receive periodic emails with a direct link to register for future interviews.

🔒 This two-step process helps prevent spam and ensures you only receive access to the interviews that interest you.

🗣️ See you on **13 March or 14 March Down Under!**

Already subscribed but didn't receive the confirmation email? Check your spam folder. VPNs and pop-up blockers may also impact on the subscription process. You must confirm your email address to be added to the list.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

Bits & Pieces (Irish Edition 🍀)



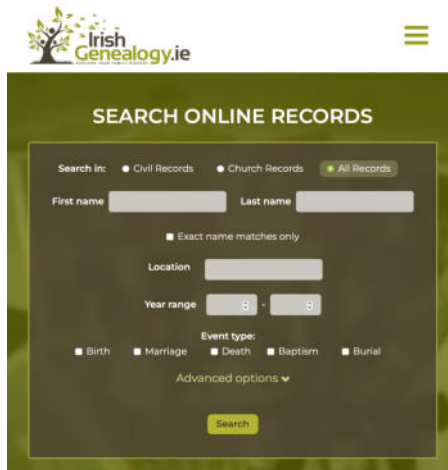
Intermediate Irish course - Society of Genealogists

Join Jill Williams, a Fellow of the Irish Genealogical Research Society, for a **4-week practical course on Irish records** via Zoom. Designed to highlight key differences between English and Irish records, the course covers occupational records, 1912-1922 historical documents, and migration patterns, with a focus on online resources. The **early bird window may have closed, but places are still available.**

[Find out more.](#)

Virtual Celtic Connections Conference 2025

This year's theme, **Finding Missing Family**, explores the tools, records, and methodologies to locate relatives separated by history, life circumstances, or other challenges. You can find out more at: <https://celtic-connections.org/>



Irish Genealogy site gets a makeover

The go-to site for Irish civil registration records, **irishgenealogy.ie**, recently underwent a makeover. **Claire Bradley**, an Irish researcher, has published a blog post detailing the changes—[read it here](#). You can also watch **Daniel Loftus'** take on the updates on [YouTube](#).

RootsTech is next week

RootsTech 2025, the world's largest family history conference, is happening next week from **6–8 March**, both in-person at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City, Utah, and online. The event offers a diverse range of sessions, including several focused on researching Irish ancestors. This [list of 50 topics with an Irish focus](#) will help you get started.



REMEMBER - all Family History Academy courses are recorded.

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