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A Report for
the Centre for Cross Border Studies

The Local History Project

Co-operating North and South

Jacinta Prunty

Raymond Gillespie

Maeve Mulryan-Moloney

October 2001

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About the Centre for Cross Border Studies

The Centre for Cross Border Studies, based in Armagh, was set up in September 1999 to research and develop co-operation across the Irish border in education, health, business, public administration, communications and a range of other practical areas. It is a joint initiative by Queen's University Belfast, Dublin City University and the Workers Educational Association (Northern Ireland), and is financed by the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. Between February and October 2001 the Centre published research reports on cross-border telecommunications, cross-border health services, all-Ireland co-operation to tackle disadvantage in education, EU cross-border funding before and after the Good Friday Agreement, cross border co-operation in local government and cross-border co-operation between local history societies.

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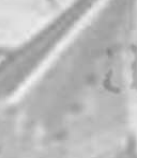
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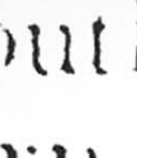
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Executive Summary

Local history is an important and popular pursuit throughout both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. In the local community setting the study of local history crosses social, political, religious and economic divides and fosters an understanding of the complex forces behind the making of local identity. It can play a vital role in improving community relations and fostering respect for cultural difference. Research in local history is greatly enriched by being conducted in an all-Ireland context.

This research project provides the basis for the first all-Ireland register of local history societies, including those affiliated to the Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS), those affiliated to the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS), and those with no formal affiliation to any federation, which comprise by far the largest group. It also assesses the existing linkages between local history societies north and south of the border, and investigates the provision of training/education in local history methodology. Through a major questionnaire survey, and the collaboration of the local history federations, it succeeds in identifying 330 societies, considerably more than was previously estimated, but still an incomplete listing. The research team predict that a complete list would exceed 500 societies north and south, involving an active membership of perhaps 28,000 persons, and reaching into most parishes on the island.

Recommendations are made on minimising the obstacles to cross-border co-operation, the promotion of visits to repositories in the other jurisdiction, and the strengthening of the institutional basis of cross-border co-operation, most notably the role of the local history federations. The Border Counties History Collective, Blacklion, Co Cavan provides a working model of effective grassroots, non-threatening, non-centralised collaboration that reaches across religious, cultural and political divides.



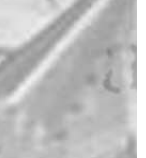
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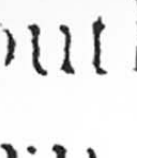
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Background to the research project

1.1 Why focus on local history?

Local history is an important and popular pursuit throughout both Northern Ireland and the Republic. Now well established as a university discipline,¹ it is the community-based local history/local studies/archaeology society that remains the backbone of the movement. In this setting the study of local history crosses social, political, religious and economic divides and fosters an understanding of the complex forces behind the making of local identity. It is one of the few areas of interest that can reach directly into the heart of the community: rural, small town, urban and suburban.

1.2 Defining 'local history'

By definition, the core concern of local history is "the people who created the social worlds which made particular places distinctive", and how they shaped "their particular places in response to stimuli both from within their communities and from the wider world".² Through case studies of particular areas and themes, local history provides insights on how life in Ireland in the past evolved in a variety of settings, both urban and rural. Local history research therefore allows glimpses into the diverse, interacting worlds that are the basis of the Irish historical experience. They allow an awareness of the regional diversity of Irish society in the past. Local history provides perspectives from the 'grassroots up' that require writers of national history to modify, change, revise, or reassert the claims of any 'given' history, ensuring in the process that the national story is more nuanced and soundly-based than would otherwise be the case.

International history, similarly, requires local history input. Migration to places far from home, and the sponsoring of family members to follow; newspaper accounts of happenings overseas; military postings to outposts of the empire; visitors from abroad and visits abroad, whether as migrant labourers or on the 'grand tour' favoured for young aristocrats, all brought the local world into contact at some level with the 'larger' world of overseas trade, travel and ideas. Investigation into local and family history can help unravel the complex network of international contacts and influences that are a feature of Irish history.

Most particularly, local history is not the amassing of facts or presentation of 'source material' in narrative form, but rather the rigorous questioning of these same sources to have them yield up their information. Asking questions – and asking the right questions – is a large part of the 'how' of local history. It is the

¹ Masters degrees are offered in local history at several universities in Ireland, the UK and overseas. Examples in Ireland include NUI Maynooth, University of Limerick, Queen's University Belfast, and NUI Cork.

² Raymond Gillespie, general editor, Introduction to Maynooth Studies in Local History series.



Background to the research project

key to the proper use of the historical imagination which brings the past to life and makes local studies of relevance beyond the boundaries of the townland, parish, town or county which is their primary focus.³

1.3 Local history: a cross-community force

By drawing the enthusiast into diverse, interacting worlds, local history invites, fascinates and challenges us to understand difference. Its role in improving community relations and fostering respect for cultural difference has been widely acknowledged. Edna Longley, approaching the matter from the perspective of the literary critic and cultural commentator, insists that “the more widely a sense of historical complexity is disseminated, the less clear-cut the cultural battle lines become”. Where Ulster Protestants and Catholics “lose even one per cent of their historical-theological certitude it promotes an inter-cultural Northern Ireland”. To that end, “collective work on regional history, even intensely localised history, has been perhaps the most successful ‘cultural diversity’ activity in the North.”⁴ Within the Republic, there is also much room for loosening the bonds of certitude and expanding understanding on a cross-cultural basis – well-informed local history has a significant role to play here also. The cross-border dimension in the research and activities of local history societies has the potential to move the local history project into deeper and ultimately more rewarding areas.

The expansion in tourism opportunities and the veritable boom in the ‘heritage industry’ have given an added urgency to researching local heritage in a competent manner. The movement towards cross-border co-operation at practical, grassroots level in areas such as tourism marketing has been anticipated by the local history federations which have fostered cordial cross-border relations since their foundation.⁵ In terms of sources, methodologies and philosophies, research in local history is greatly enriched by being conducted in an all-Ireland context.

It also should be noted from the outset that some long-established societies have always crossed the Irish border, for example Cumann Seanchas Ard Mhacha (archdiocese of Armagh) and the Clogher Historical Society (Clogher diocese). The Border Counties History Collective is a more recent manifestation of the desire to work across not only political but also religious and other communal boundaries.

3 Raymond Gillespie, ‘An historian and the locality’, in R. Gillespie and M. Hill (eds.) *Doing Irish local history, pursuit and practice* (Belfast, 1998) p. 8.

4 Edna Longley, ‘Multi-culturalism and Northern Ireland: making differences fruitful’, in *Multi-culturalism: the view from the two Irelands* (Cork University Press / Centre for Cross Border Studies, 2001), p. 22.

5 Federation of Ulster Local Societies (FULS) founded 1974; Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS) founded 1981.

Aims

This research project, undertaken by members of the Department of Modern History, NUI Maynooth⁶, with funding provided by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, aims to provide a solid basis for future practical collaboration in local history on an all-Ireland basis. The aims may be summarised as:

- Identification on an all-island basis of as many local history societies as possible, including those affiliated to the Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS), those affiliated to the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) and those with no formal affiliation to any federation.
- Assessment of existing linkages between local history societies both north and south of the border.
- Assessment of provision of training/education in local history methodology, and assessment of the role third level institutions might play in supporting quality scholarship at the local level.

⁶ The team consisted of Dr Jacinta Prunty and Dr. Raymond Gillespie, who are full-time lecturers in the Department of Modern History and have special responsibility for local history courses, and Ms Maeve Mulryan-Moloney MA (local history), research assistant.



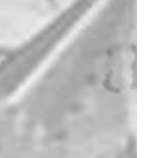
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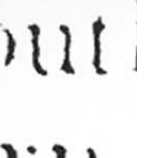
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Local history federations

The formal structures which currently foster all-Ireland/cross border co-operation among local history societies are the two federations: the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) and the Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS). FULS, founded in 1974, is in fact already a cross-border organisation, as it embraces the nine counties of Ulster.

The primary aim of the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS) is to further the development of local studies in Ulster. It works towards this goal firstly by publishing: it produced the journal *Ulster Local Studies* for almost twenty-five years, and from October 1999 has issued the magazine *Due North*. Its information flier *Local History Link* is circulated free of charge to the public through the library network and at meetings held by member societies. From its office in central Belfast (18 May Street), it also organises and hosts talks, tours, seminars, and local studies workshops, often in connection with libraries and state-funded archives.⁷

While FULS is in receipt of state funding through the Community Relations Council, this covers only a percentage of its running costs; most of the funding towards local history projects in Ulster comes from a separate Ulster Local History Trust Fund to which FULS (and other organisations) make application. Organisationally FULS is the key player in Ulster local history, but it does not play the role of patron in the sense of disbursing grants.

The Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS) was founded in 1981 for the purposes of promoting the interests of local historians and voluntary museums and to represent their views. It states its aims as follows:

- To encourage research in the fields of history, archaeology, folk-life and folklore.
- To exchange information among affiliated societies through the medium of newsletters, publications, seminars etc.
- To develop mutual support among affiliated societies.
- To encourage the publication of information of historical interest and the better utilisation of archives.⁸

Although once-off grants towards specific undertakings may occasionally be raised, FLHS operates without state funding of any sort, and has no central office or 'physical' presence in the Republic. As with so many other voluntary organisations, all mail is directed to the private homes and workplaces of committee members, and meetings are held at a variety of locations. While FULS covers Ulster, FLHS is concerned with the other three provinces of the island of Ireland. However, there are at least three Connacht societies (one in Sligo, two in Leitrim), which are affiliated to FULS. Affiliation numbers on a county and provincial basis are listed as table 1.

⁷ *Due North*, 1 (2), Spring/Summer 2000

⁸ Maeve Mulryan-Moloney, *Local History Review*, vol. 10, 2000, p. v.



Local history federations

In terms of coverage, FLHS has 113 member societies; FULS membership stands at 95. Taking a simple county average, there are an average of 11 affiliated societies per county in Ulster; in the remaining 23 counties there is an average of 5 affiliated societies per county. In Ulster coverage by FULS on a county basis ranges widely: from one only in Cavan to 31 in Antrim, 23 in Down, 15 in Tyrone and 11 in Londonderry. Some of this huge unevenness in coverage can be explained by demographic and political realities. Few societies in that part of Ulster south of the political divide have registered with FULS. County Antrim includes societies which have a Belfast headquarters but cover the province, such as the Ulster Archaeological Society, the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society and the Ulster Place-name Society, while the remit of FULS to cover local studies ensures that its membership is wider than local history, including such groups as the Belfast Geologists' Society. Counties Antrim and Down also have the highest concentrations of population in Northern Ireland, while within the Republic the overwhelming concentration of population in the Greater Dublin region is reflected in the large number of societies there (19 societies affiliated to FLHS in Dublin county). Other discrepancies in cover however are not so easily explained: there is one affiliated society only in counties Longford and Waterford and two in Kerry, compared to 17 in Cork and 10 in Tipperary.

The reasons for the failure of societies to affiliate to one of the two federations was not explored in depth for the entire island. However the explanation offered by those societies in counties Cavan, Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo which had no federation affiliation (either to FULS or FLHS), yet had affiliated themselves with the Border Counties History Collective (BCHC, introduced below), is instructive. These societies liked the region-based approach of the BCHC, which they felt knew their local situation and with which they had built up strong relationships. Feeling rather remote from FULS headquarters in Belfast (in the case of the west Ulster societies) they welcomed the support offered by the BCHC, which they saw as practical and relevant in providing services like public liability cover and training in the use of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) archives. They had been expressly invited to join by the BCHC and could see the advantages of membership for themselves. Satisfied with what was on offer through the BCHC, they saw no need to affiliate with yet another umbrella grouping such as the federations.

The practical reality that the registration records of neither FULS nor FLHS cover all the societies operating within their province(s) meant that it was necessary from the outset to try establish contact with non-affiliated or independent groups. The committee of FLHS is especially concerned with its failure to attract these groups.

Local history federations

There is a long history of support and friendship between both federations, with cross-border meetings held twice yearly at committee level. However the extent of practical co-operation involving the grassroots membership collaborating north and south is the subject of this investigation. It should be especially noted that this research was made possible by the full assistance of both federations, who now await its findings with interest.

Table 1: Affiliation of local history societies to FLHS and FULS, December 2000.

Ulster		Connacht		Leinster		Munster	
<i>Affiliated to FULS</i>		<i>Affiliated to FLHS</i>		<i>Affiliated to FLHS</i>		<i>Affiliated to FLHS</i>	
Antrim	31	Galway	4	Carlow	2	Clare	3
Armagh	7	Leitrim	1	Dublin	19	Cork	16
Cavan	1	Mayo	3	Kildare	7	Kerry	2
Donegal	2	Roscommon	4	Kilkenny	3	Limerick	7
Down	23	Sligo	2	Laois	3	Tipperary	9
Fermanagh	2			Longford	1	Waterford	1
Londonderry	11			Louth	4		
Monaghan	3			Meath	6		
Tyrone	15			Offaly	3		
				Westmeath	3		
				Wexford	4		
				Wicklow	6		
Provincial total	95	Provincial total	14	Provincial total	61	Provincial total	38



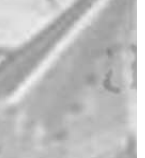
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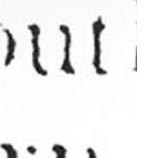
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Border Counties History Collective, Blacklion, Co. Cavan

One of the most successful and innovative projects in drawing local societies together north and south has been the Border Counties History Collective (BCHC), which was visited as part of this research project. It is a network of 23 local history groups (March 2001) in counties Cavan, Leitrim and Fermanagh, with some recent additions from Sligo. 13 of the groups come from Northern Ireland, 10 from the Republic, while the project also supports community groups (such as employment schemes and local development groups) and individuals who are not formally affiliated to the Collective. The high Fermanagh membership may be traced back to the support previously offered to local history groups here by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA). The Tempo Historical Society was among these groups, and had already distinguished itself in developing cross-cultural understanding, as noted in its submission to the Opsahl Commission in 1992:

"Commemorations and celebrations are divisive, but serious analysis and scholarly debate is a different matter. Certainly historians argue, but they always take into account the full picture. Theories are revised and reworked, but the aim is to get as near to the truth as possible, not to strengthen an already-held viewpoint".⁹

The Tempo Historical Society also noted how the churches' organisation of clubs and events in Northern Ireland had led to a lack of "non-aligned societies" with adult education being "one of the honourable exceptions". Within that context the Tempo group, and others, had long experience of the real difficulties of instigating truly cross-cultural exchange: "People's attitudes are so ingrained that it is difficult to convince them that you are a genuinely cross-community organisation...They will make judgements about your group by looking at the religion and politics of the majority of its members, rather than by seriously examining what you are doing".¹⁰ As founding members of the Border Counties History Collective, they were already well informed on the difficulties that would be faced, and how best they might be overcome.

Founded in late 1996, the Border Counties History Collective aims "to promote self-help, co-operation, communication and training among local history groups".¹¹ In November 1997 it opened a project office on Main Street, Blacklion, a small west Cavan village less than a mile from Belcoo, County Fermanagh, and so ideally situated to reach groups in all three counties and adjacent areas. Funded largely by the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation through Co-operation North (now Co-operation Ireland), it works with cross-community groups, single identity groups, and groups from both sides of the border, and claims that most of its member groups "have achieved a cross-community involvement".¹²

9 Quoted in Andy Pollak (ed.), *A Citizens' Inquiry, the Opsahl report on Northern Ireland* (Dublin, 1993), p. 332.

10 *Ibid.* p. 333.

11 Annual Report, Border Counties History Collective, 1999/2000, p. 5.

12 *Ibid.*, p. 20



Border Counties History Collective, Blacklion, Co. Cavan

The shopfront project office in Blacklion is an accessible, welcoming first stop for local history inquiries. Staffed on a job-share basis (March 2001) by Jack Johnston and Anita Gallagher, the Collective offers expert advice to personal callers and by telephone (and by email, to a small extent) on ways to go about collecting, presenting and publishing local history research. As well as providing a newsletter, circulated to all its groups, the project office hosts illustrated guest lectures and fundraising quizzes. The Collective publishes a local history magazine, *Spark*, and has produced its own Resource manual and directory (1999). It organises training seminars and study days on a cross-border basis. Self-publishing, family history, and resources for local history in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) were among the topics recently addressed by BCHC workshops. Day-long fieldtrips to museums and repositories islandwide are also organised. From September 2000 to July 2001 it hosted the National University of Ireland Certificate in Local History in conjunction with NUI Maynooth: this provides a university-recognised qualification in the methodology of local history.

The Border Counties History Collective has already built up an impressive local history reference section at its project headquarters in Blacklion, and the open access layout and attractive wall displays help to create an inviting and non-threatening environment. The presence of the first ever PRONI outreach facility, staffed by trained and experienced personnel (set up by Breege McCusker, outreach officer for PRONI), is a major boost to the development of local history scholarship in this region. As a Northern Ireland public institution setting up an outreach office in the Republic, this is a noteworthy cross-border initiative in its own right. The PRONI facility at Blacklion allows researchers to familiarise themselves with the updated subject, prominent persons and churches indexes of PRONI, and other computerised finding aids, in a supportive one-to-one situation.

This is a facility whose importance should not be understated. An understanding of how archival material is organised in any major repository is a pre-requisite to making the most of the resources. The kind of one-to-one personal advice and hands-on training provided by the outreach office in Blacklion is invaluable in enabling new researchers to maximise the value of their visit to PRONI, and allows more seasoned researchers to do significant preparatory work in advance of travelling to work on selected documents in the Belfast repository. The BCHC project office displays and sells local history publications relating to the border counties area, and as small-scale society publications usually have a very limited circulation, this is a particularly encouraging service. It also acts as a point of information on local history matters islandwide, advertising the publications and activities of the two federations, developments in heritage services, and advances in both national and regional/county repositories. In practice it operates as an effective point of contact between local societies, national/provincial federations, repositories and libraries, universities and others involved in the wider world of local history.

Strategy and implementation

5.1 Timetable

The contract for this research project was signed at National University of Ireland Maynooth on 15 September 2000. Approval had been granted some days earlier by the Centre for Cross Border Studies, allowing the project to be announced at the Maynooth annual local history day, 9 September 2000. Advertising was also undertaken through the newsletter of the FLHS.

Work began immediately on:

- The creation of an all-Ireland database of local history societies: those affiliated to the Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS), to the Federation of Ulster Local Studies (FULS), and 'independent' or non-affiliated groups.
- The production of the first-ever register (in both on-line and printed format) of local history societies currently active in Ireland. This is based on the mailing lists provided by FULS, FLHS, the returns of our own questionnaire survey, and from further communications (ongoing) with colleagues in the Border Counties History Collective (Jack Johnston), the Mayo heritage group (Joe McDermott) and others.
- The creation of a web site (<http://www.may.ie/localhistory>) for the dissemination of information relating firstly to this research project, and secondly as an entry point to the web sites of local history societies and key repositories for local history research, throughout the island, north and south.

The first stage of the research required the collation of mailing lists supplied by both federations; these 208 society contacts from every part of the island formed the core of the database. In an effort to identify societies which were active but operated outside the federation structure, it was decided to target north Connacht, as an area which we knew through our own contacts to have a large number of independent local history societies. To that end questionnaires were mailed to each Catholic parish priest in northern Connacht, resulting in the identification of 15 additional local history societies. While statistically this return was disappointing (almost 200 questionnaires were forwarded to priests in Connacht), nevertheless it did locate societies which would otherwise have been overlooked. On the basis that Ulster coverage is more comprehensive, member societies of FLHS were asked to submit the names of other non-affiliated societies in their locality of which they were aware; a further 11 societies were identified through this route. Yet further additions were made to the database from the list provided by Jack Johnston of the Border Counties History Collective.

An interim report was submitted to the Centre for Cross Border Studies on 8 December 2000. The draft final report was submitted 31 January 2001, and this final report on 12 March 2001, with some corrections made in October 2001 before publication.



Strategy and implementation

5.2 Questionnaire survey

The basis for this research was the returned survey sheets (sample enclosed as appendix A): 97 fully (or near fully) completed sheets, and a further 6 communications giving relevant information but not using the format of the questionnaire survey. The research basis therefore was substantial and representative of the island as a whole. The status of the respondents is relevant, whether affiliated (FULS/FLHS) or independent, and is noted as appendix B. Questionnaires to 113 FLHS and 95 FULS affiliated societies and about 100 non-affiliated societies resulted in response rates of FLHS (42%), FULS (18%), non-affiliated (29%). The low return from Ulster societies, relative to the island as a whole, may be due to the fact that FULS had undertaken a questionnaire survey for its own internal development purposes just before this research commenced, and those targeted may have considered the information we requested had already 'gone to headquarters'.

FULS colleagues also noted that the percentage return on all questionnaire surveys of this type is typically quite low. The timing was also unlucky, in that a postal strike in Northern Ireland delayed both the receipt of the mailing list and the posting out of questionnaires. However there was a sufficient response rate to allow fair conclusions to be drawn, and through extended discussions with Roddy Hegarty, development officer of FULS, Jack Johnston, newly-appointed as chairman of FULS, and other northern colleagues, a better understanding of the challenges facing Ulster societies was gained.

6.1 Scale of the practice of local history societies

The single most striking finding is the number of societies which were identified. Local history/local studies societies are far more numerous than anticipated, and many more people involved in the societies than previously thought. The figures are quite remarkable, and it is clear that the number of federation-affiliated societies bears no relation to the true extent of involvement in local history societies. There are, for example, 113 affiliated societies in the 23 counties covered by FLHS (table 1).

Focusing on County Galway, where there are four affiliated societies (FLHS), this research targeted the county north of Galway city and identified ten more societies. Trying to estimate the number of societies islandwide is impossible. However on the basis of the Galway figures, where only part of the county was surveyed through the use of questionnaires to parish clergy, a multiplier of 2.5 could be applied to the 330 known societies figure to produce an approximate total figure for existing societies in the island as a whole. This multiplier may be higher or lower in other parts of the country, and is probably lower in most parts of Ulster. On the basis of this multiplier it appears likely that the total number of societies in the island as a whole exceeds 500, and could be over 800. If an average membership of approximately 35 persons per society is estimated, this could result in an active membership of over 28,000 persons. This is an enormous figure from any perspective.

Directing state and other resources towards this underfunded (and in the Republic especially) largely ignored sector in terms of supporting lifelong learning, cross-cultural enrichment, local tourism, and understanding and ownership of local heritage is potentially enormous. FULS has identified itself as “the leading force in community-based education within the voluntary sector”, and claims to serve, at any given time, “upwards of ten thousand people across Ulster”.¹³ If properly resourced, the potential reach of local history societies is enormous. And as this is a movement which reaches into quite literally every barony, parish, suburb and village on the island, this is an unrivalled way of making contact with local populations, at quite literally the grassroots level.

As established by this research, only a fraction of local history societies in the Republic are affiliated to FLHS, while FULS has far greater penetration into the local history scene in Northern Ireland, and to a lesser extent in the three Ulster counties in the Republic. The Border Counties History Collective, which has 24 affiliated societies within its immediate area, illustrates the large number of societies which can be identified in a small geographical area by intense local fieldwork. It also illustrates the potential readiness of societies on a cross-border, cross-cultural basis to be connected with each other where they see tangible benefits to be gained from closer

¹³ Advertisement, *Due North*, 1 (2) Spring/Summer 2000

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association. The practical advantages of such association are many: efficient advertising of their own events; knowledge of what's happening in the field of local history in the region; access to insurance cover; training in methodology, and conducted field visits to repositories and heritage sites throughout the island. The founders of the BCHC, notably Jack Johnston, already had a track record of supporting local history groups through the Workers' Educational Association (WEA), and were thus well known and respected by groups from both religious and political traditions. The BCHC experience shows that the fostering of cross-border contacts can also have a substantial attitude on cross-community attitudes.

It is also important to appreciate that the boundaries which exist within Irish society are not just between north and south, or based solely on denominational or class differences. The provincialism displayed in the practice of local history is also clear in the fragmentation of the organisation of local societies. The low participation rate in the Federation of Local History Societies is one indication of this. The local history society can – and in some cases certainly does (for example, the BCHC in Blacklion) – provide a ideal platform for cross-community exchange, bringing very different perspectives on places, characters and projects of common historical interest.

However the local society can also be constructed around a small and well-defined interest group, without reaching out to the larger community and across divides. The extent to which societies fail to open out beyond a single interest group, denomination or class is difficult to quantify, as most operate (by definition) within small catchment areas. Some may see no need, keeping themselves to a strictly circumscribed view of what local history means in terms of identity, content and society membership. What is clear is that the practice of researching, writing and presenting local history can accommodate many viewpoints. The incentive to open up to 'other' local histories will be found where it is seen that collaboration brings practical and immediate benefits to all participants. Support for society exchanges and interaction, both cross-border and regionally, through the federations and in other ways, has the potential to significantly enrich the level and quality of cross-cultural exchange, as persons discover the similarities and differences of their and others' local history.¹⁴

The founding dates of the local history societies who answered the questionnaire ranged from the late nineteenth century through to the present day (in a few instances informal groups of local history enthusiasts constituted themselves as a society on receipt of our questionnaire!). Many are of recent (1990s) origin. Several have their roots in commemorations held over the last decade: these included the centenary of a local school, the 1790s Volunteer movement and associated uprisings, and the 1840s famine. Some groups founded to organise commemorative events locally (such as a school reunion or the anniversary of a church foundation), then disband, while others regroup and take on a larger

¹⁴ See also Annual Report, Border Counties History Collective, 1999/2000, p. 20

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local history role. The energies generated by these intensely local occasions show how one-task committees provide an ideal mechanism for developing local history interest over the longer term. The fact that new local history societies continue to be founded and defunct societies to be re-founded, is evidence of the vibrant and growing interest in the subject. It could fairly be represented as a growth industry in Ireland, north and south.

Up to the present there is no single register of local history societies currently active on the island of Ireland, or reliable measure of their number, size or membership. At the date of presenting this report the NUI Maynooth research team has assembled a computer database of about 330 active societies (names and contact addresses, appendix C), and is conscious that further research could uncover many more. As a direct result of this research project, discussions have been initiated on the production of a major cross-border directory, with funding sought for it north and south. It is intended that this would be produced as a searchable on-line database (regularly updated) as well as in traditional book format. It will include notes on aims, activities, usual times/days of meetings, publications including journal and monograph titles, key areas of interest and other details.

As a direct response to the questionnaires distributed for this research project, several societies requested further information on affiliating to one of the federations, and being otherwise included in local history networks. This illustrates how keen many practitioners are to be brought up-to-date with current developments and opportunities for learning and co-operation. Local societies appear anxious to reach a larger and younger audience, as evidenced in the questionnaire returns. Despite this wish to recruit younger members and so perpetuate the society, most societies are unsure about their future. In response to the question about future planning, 31% of FULS, 40% of FLHS, and 46% other (unaffiliated) societies did not reply to the question at all. This question of the future direction of local history is most appropriately dealt with within existing organisations such as the federations. As was made clear by the Border Counties History Collective membership, there is no desire on the ground for additional layers of organisation which would simply replicate what is being attempted already.

It was also due to this research that the FLHS undertook to compile a new brochure inviting societies to affiliate, and outlining the benefits of affiliation. The preparation of this has been undertaken by Pádraig Laffan and is expected to be ready shortly. A FLHS pamphlet on best management practices for local history societies is also being updated and prepared for re-issue.

It must also be appreciated that by their very nature local history societies tend to be parochial in their outlook. Their first responsibility is to their own local constituency, a right that must always be respected. If they feel that someone or



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something is trying to organise them, they may retreat and even disappear altogether. It is therefore important to realise that the introduction of new ideas is best done by the committee of each society, and its members should be encouraged to attend events organised by or through the Federations. They need to feel that there is some practical and immediate advantage to their participation in any larger collective or federation. For these reasons the recommendations which follow are contingent upon co-operation between the federations, the universities which offer local history courses, and those libraries with specialised local history collections, rather than being in any sense prescriptive.

Recommendations:

- FULS and FLHS to explore the possibility of cross-border exchange visits between societies as part of the state-sponsored European Heritage Day (second Sunday in September), and the 'local history week' organised around the same weekend by public library organisations in both jurisdictions.
- Local history societies throughout the island could prepare a tour of places of interest in their own areas, and provide a tour guide/host group to welcome visiting societies. Reciprocal arrangements could be made. The proposed Cross Border Directory of Local History Societies will be of immense value to tour organisers.
- Photographs and literature from outings should be available as an educational resource.
- Local media, at home and away, should be contacted to promote local history outings. Local radio could be particularly useful.

Key recommendation

- Further intensive work in identifying local societies, 'blitzing' on a county-by-county basis, to include very new foundations as well as longer-established groups, to be added to the current all-Ireland database maintained by NUI Maynooth.

6.2 Local history lecture series

The dissemination of local history findings through lectures open to the membership, and in almost all cases also open to other members of the public, is an established function of local history societies. Of the societies surveyed, the great majority of those societies affiliated to either federation ran lecture series [FULS 88%; FLHS 81%; Unaffiliated 59%]. Such lectures are socially inclusive, embracing persons from diverse age groups and a wide range of backgrounds. They are usually held from Monday to Thursday at about 8pm, and are an ideal way to integrate academia and local history societies. University staff and new graduates feature significantly among the guest lecturers, with the proportions as

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follows: FULS 39%; FLHS 60%; unaffiliated 29%. Ulster groups relied less on guest lecturers from institutes of learning than societies in the other provinces, drawing speakers largely from their own membership, while the unaffiliated or independent groups had the least college connections, not surprising considering that by definition they are the least networked and hence the least likely to know who might be approached, and on what topic.

Many societies invite members of the public to meet with them at a central venue on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis, usually during the months from September to June:

- FULS: 65% once a month; 25% quarterly; 10% not stated;
- FLHS: 58% once a month; 34% quarterly; 8% less frequently;
- Unaffiliated: 41% once a month; 41% quarterly; 18% less frequently.

Practically all societies expressed a concern with recruitment, and a real desire to include more people in their activities.

Lectures are treated as social occasions, and as an ideal way for people to maintain contact through their mutual interest in local history. They are also important as a vehicle through which new residents may be adopted and helped to integrate into the local scene. On a broader, more inclusive level, two county societies (Kildare and Meath) meet at various venues for lectures on Sunday afternoons. The members occasionally continue the discussion on the lecture topic far beyond the time and venue of the lecture.

While guest lecturers are important to the local society, these meetings are primarily a platform for local scholarship. This survey shows that lectures were delivered mainly by local residents: FULS 78%; FLHS 92%; unaffiliated 35%. The discrepancies in the figures between 'local' lecturers, guest lecturers and college staff are due to the fact that many societies have members who are academic staff and also resident locally. What is certain is that affiliated societies take pride in hosting presentations by local people, with or without academic credentials. Some recent graduates and current history students share the results of project or thesis research with their local community and by doing so contribute to building up a greater appreciation of local heritage.

The response figures for speakers from these groups were as follows:

- Graduates: 20% of FULS societies; 42% of FLHS societies; 16% of unaffiliated societies.
- Students: 5% (FULS), 16% (FLHS), 0%(unaffiliated).



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When societies were asked if a society member would be available to join an area panel of lecturers in local history, the response was encouraging:

- 39% of FULS, 66% of FLHS and 50% of unaffiliated societies were prepared to nominate members.

Clearly local societies, especially in the Republic, were keen to operate in a collegial fashion with neighbouring societies.

Recommendations:

- A panel of lecturers, stating their topic(s), should be made available in each region either through the Federations or through the County Libraries.
- Lecturers should be invited on a cross-border basis.
- Local history societies should pool their resources to invite lecturers.
- Lecturers should be booked at least six months in advance.
- Local newspapers, local radio and the Internet should be used to publicise forthcoming lectures.
- More flexible timetables for lectures, to bring in a wider audience.

6.3 Local history field outings

Field excursions and outings are an integral part of local history society activity. There is massive tourism and inter-community potential in the large and ever-growing number of members of local history societies who travel the length and breadth of the island, and some even further afield, in pursuit of knowledge of the past. 79% of FLHS-affiliated societies, 59% of FULS-affiliated and 37% of unaffiliated societies reported that they went on outings. In over half of the cases contact was made, prior to the visit, by the visiting local history societies [FLHS 50%, FULS 50% and unaffiliated 64%] with the local history society at their destination, revealing an appreciation of how much a visit is enhanced by working with residents of the place under study. Societies travelled as follows:

Within twenty miles: FLHS 31%; FULS 0%; unaffiliated 35%.

More than 20 miles: FLHS 57%; FULS 100%; unaffiliated 65%.

Not stated: FLHS 12%; FULS 0%; unaffiliated 0%.

Outings were already planned by 20 of the societies (autumn 2000) for the following year.

Field outings to heritage sites, museums and stately houses were among the visits undertaken by societies. Among the institutions in Northern Ireland which cater generously for local history groups are the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, the Ulster History Park and the Ulster American Folk Park. In the Republic the new National Museum at Dublin's Collins Barracks was a particular attraction. The publication of the *Irish heritage and environment directory 1999* (by Archaeology

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Ireland in conjunction with the Heritage Council) is to be welcomed. This landmark reference text covers museums, interpretative centres and heritage gardens, specialist libraries, resources and heritage education opportunities north and south. It could be most usefully promoted among local history societies (although its coverage of local history societies themselves is very limited).¹⁵ Where museum and heritage centre visits are part of a society's educational programme, with expert input and time to savour what is on display, they can be a major attraction for the membership and enhance the quality of local scholarship.

There is a great need in the future development of the local history scene for societies to plan visits to repositories. Considering that the need for induction and further training in the use of archival sources was noted by many respondents, it was surprising that so few societies intended to include a visit to a major library or archive in their forthcoming schedule [FLHS none, FULS two, and unaffiliated one]. With investment in electronic cataloguing and new accessions in the major repositories, there is a need for all local history practitioners to be regularly updated about the latest developments.

The survey shows that local history societies are particularly active in the area of north-south visits, but especially during European Heritage Day and the week of events that has grown up around it. The overall direction of European Heritage Day comes from Brussels, while the government heritage departments in both jurisdictions take on responsibility for its promotion, with each publishing a high-quality guide to the special events which will mark the weekend. *Local history link*, the newsletter of FULS, is used to promote interest in European Heritage Day, while the Education and Library Boards in Northern Ireland have run a local history week throughout the public library service, in conjunction with this day, since 1998. The FLHS newsletter is similarly used to invite the involvement of local societies in what is essentially a state-organised event, while individual public libraries, under their respective county council or municipal authorities, have also focused on this second week in September as an time to stimulate interest in local history. This is an obvious meeting ground that is common to societies – and local studies libraries – throughout the island, and has the potential to be utilised more fully.

Field outings are an ideal method of fostering an interest in local history among members at a cross-border level. They bring together groups of enthusiastic people, from disparate age groups and backgrounds, who share a common interest. Cross-border visits were made by a substantial number of societies, and there is scope for further contact. The survey revealed that 57% of FLHS member societies and 45% of FULS societies had crossed the border on a local history visit. Upper Ards (Co Down) and Skerries (Co Dublin) exchanged visits as part of their towns' twinning process.

¹⁵ See review by Anita Gallagher, *The Spark* (13) Spring 1999, p. 37



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Several of the reported north-south excursions involved a visit to a heritage town or other attraction in the other jurisdiction by society members, with the active assistance of members of the hosting local society, followed by a reciprocal visit. For example, the Old Carlow Historical Society established links with their counterparts in Banbridge, County Down. However other north/south excursions were held without apparent reference to the local society. Only 36% of unaffiliated societies had crossed the border, suggesting the importance of institutional support and structures in promoting such visits.

Another part of the outings process which should be addressed is post-outing follow-up. For too many societies the day of the outing is an end in itself, but the whole process could be enriched by some homework on their return. Some societies are already addressing this, as the figures for projects 'following on' from outings show:

- Follow-up lecture: FLHS (21%); FULS (18%); unaffiliated (27%).
- Slide show: FLHS (14%); FULS (18%); unaffiliated (27%).
- Photographic exhibition: FLHS (12%); FULS (9%); unaffiliated (36%).
- Newspaper article: FLHS (29%); FULS (27%); unaffiliated (36%).
- Local radio item: FLHS (18%); FULS (9%); unaffiliated (27%).

6.4 Local history 'twinning' processes

In the investigation of north/south and cross-border connections, the process of 'twinning' was highlighted as a proven way of linking across the border. This can operate at many levels, involving the larger community and municipal authorities or specific groups and their officers and members, as is the case with the local history societies. The study of local history is eminently suitable for this sort of process. The 1999-2000 'Our Town, Your Town' cross-curricular pilot project, initiated by Séamus Kelly (a geography inspector with the Department of Education and Science) and Vivien Kelly (an adviser with the Southern Education and Library Board), involved teachers and students from seven secondary schools in the SELB area (Armagh and Down) with seven from Kildare and west Dublin. It was regarded as a model scheme by several respondents: not alone did it educate teachers, students, their parents and the local community in the settlement history and geography of their own area, but it opened them up to other local worlds in the most intensely personal way. The process of researching and presenting their own place to outsiders, with the highlight of a residential visit/return visit, demonstrated the power – and potential – of such a shared local studies project. Unfortunately this project has since been discontinued because of lack of administrative support on the Southern side.

This is an area that has been little developed in the local history society world. One significant exception is the twinning between the local history society in Skerries, County Dublin and that in Upper Ards, County Down, established in 1998. Common features between the two areas were developed, including the maritime tradition.

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This twinning has led to shared cross-border field excursions, exchanges of speakers, invitations to local events, and ongoing contacts on a personal level which were found to be particularly important. Arising from this twinning, further developments have included school exchanges, while plans are in place to expand the project further. At federation committee level, FLHS and FULS have jointly facilitated cross-border visits by several societies (including a joint FULS societies visit to Kilkenny, and a joint FLHS visit to Armagh), and have drawn up a list of individuals who would be prepared to lecture in the other jurisdiction.

However, the process of twinning for history societies involves identifying common interests or shared heritage, reciprocal visits and presentations, and (ideally) joint publications. It involves leaders and participants at a deeper level than merely the one-day 'come and see' field trip, and the rewards are commensurate with the extra organisational effort required. This is an area that would most appropriately be further developed by the two federations.

Recommendation:

- That FULS and FLHS should assist in putting local societies, north and south, with shared historical and heritage interests in touch with each other with a view to developing this twinning process.

6.5 Institutional/state support of local history societies

Despite the widespread affirmation of the importance of local history to community identity, the call for heritage education, and the recognition that Irish history needs to be considered on an all-island basis and beyond, there has been little formal support to date of local history societies, especially in the South. Indeed many societies are unaware even of the holdings of their county library, while others expressed the need for training days in advance of visiting national/major institutions.

This research revealed firstly that much of the good work done locally stays locally, as the communications network between individual societies is grossly underdeveloped. In the South, the fact that some societies had no knowledge of the existence of the Federation of Local History Societies (FLHS), and others knew of its existence but had no idea of how it might support their research activities, is in itself an indictment of the communications network as it currently exists. While the FLHS represents about 113 societies, as already noted there are a further several hundred non-affiliated groups currently active in the Republic. The fact that FLHS has no permanent visible presence reduces its effectiveness as an institutional focus for local history societies in the three southern provinces. It does not even have a mailing address or telephone directory entry with which the public can associate.



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The Ulster situation is more closely networked, and also more physically visible due to the presence of a permanent office in Belfast, but even here there are non-affiliated groups. The very friendly working relationship between the two federations (FULS and FLHS) at committee level might be extended on an institutional basis, perhaps to the extent of providing a cross-border development officer to draw the activities of the two federations more closely together.

These relationships need to be seen in the context of a much wider network of relations between institutions north and south. Links between county libraries, education and library boards, the National Archives (Dublin) and PRONI (Belfast), will inevitably draw local historians from north and south together. While such institutional connections are outside the remit of this report, consideration might be given in a future project to investigating the development of such links.

Many local societies have warm relations with individual university scholars (often a native of the locality), and rely on college personnel both as occasional guest lecturers and as contributors to their local journals. This research however noted that overall there was little formal institutional support for the societies. While several universities now offer MA, PhD and undergraduate programmes in local history, and NUI Maynooth in particular runs a Friday seminar series and annual local history day open to the public, the collaboration between university departments, local societies and repositories has been fragmentary.

Within the public library 'local studies' sector there is room for much fruitful cross-border collaboration. While it was beyond the remit of this study to make a full investigation of library services north and south, several libraries were visited and their local studies sections explored. The difference in investment, for example, between Derry/Londonderry central city library and the new South Dublin County Library in Tallaght is striking.

South Dublin has invested heavily in its local studies reference and lending collection; hosts the NUI certificate course in local history on Saturday mornings; runs its own workshops/training days on aspects of local history; takes a leading role in the promotion of the September local history week, and has enthusiastic, highly qualified staff with a strong commitment to developing this long-awaited facility to the highest standards in the State. It has a small but quality collection of archival materials relating to the area, and is actively seeking donations to supplement this. Most recently, it has established its own map library with the needs of the local history researcher uppermost. The County Library in Tallaght is a flagship project, and the quality of the holdings and level of service are inspiring. Other county libraries with impressive collections include Longford, Waterford and Wexford.

However the Northern Ireland local studies public library provision is in a different league to even the best that this research found in the Republic. In Derry central library, for example, the extensive open access area devoted entirely

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to Irish studies/local studies is supplemented by a large secure storage area where second (reference) copies and rare/valuable/out-of-print items are kept. There is a dedicated local studies desk staffed by an expert librarian; extensive collections of official publications, and long-running newspaper, pamphlet and map collections, all testifying to the length of time over which this excellent collection has been assembled. Similarly impressive resources for local studies are to be found in Belfast central library, in Ballymena, and throughout Northern Ireland. In addition, PRONI has outreach centres in Blacklion (as already discussed), in Derry (the Foyle Outreach, located in the Harbour Office) and in Ballymena (Morrow's Shop Museum). Local history librarians and archivists in Northern Ireland have held regular quarterly meetings over the past 25 years to exchange information and to set up projects.

The network of support for their counterparts in the Republic is much less developed, while investment in library resources has been considerably less. Collaboration between the local history societies, and those libraries and archives upon which local scholars rely, needs to be further developed, especially in the Republic. There is much to be learned, by all parties, from investigating the services provided in different parts of the island. Each library has its own complex history (origins, donations, funding, staffing), but investigating 'on site' how each responds to readers' needs, the services they provide and how they are delivered, the physical layout and design of the research areas, the finding aids provided, and how each invests what are always limited resources, will prove instructive.

The need for education at the local level, and to the highest standards, has been clearly articulated. In this survey, all societies, without exception, expressed an interest in attending training in local history. However it is rather disturbing to note that the majority of these respondents were not aware of any courses on offer. This may be due to a) the lack of such courses; b) the cost of such courses; c) poor advertising/communication; d) no access to Internet; e) lack of promotion of courses on local radio. Existing courses, such as those offered by the continuing education/vocational sector; by the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) in the North; those offered by universities from certificate to BA to postgraduate level; the training workshops offered by the local history federations and some archives (such as PRONI), need to be brought to the attention of a much wider audience.

Within the societies there are some members who could be encouraged to develop their skills in historical research to MA level. This is needed so that they can in turn transmit skills, ideas and knowledge, and raise the standards of research at the local level. The provision of an MA course in Local History as a joint north/south partnership, drawing candidates and teaching staff from both jurisdictions, is worthy of consideration by those universities already involved in teaching local history at postgraduate level.

When small societies come together, the numbers required for a viable training course can be more easily reached, and a



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larger network of contacts created, facilitating the planning of future courses. There is also no reason why a course could not be offered at two or more venues (cross-border, inter-county, city/suburbs, cross-community), which would vary the distances any single participant would need to commute and also open up the membership to a wider world of ideas, perspectives and places in a way that is not contrived or forced.

Research visits to major repositories would appear to be the most immediate way of improving the knowledge and skills basis of individual groups. 27% of FULS societies had a society outing to repositories, but even knowledge of what is now available is limited. Among the FLHS respondents, not one group recorded a visit to PRONI in Belfast among their recent expeditions. This reveals a remarkable lack of knowledge of the holdings of PRONI, one of the major repositories on the island, among local history researchers living in the Republic. Overall the quality of 'archive access' was poor, north and south. And this is despite the very evident goodwill towards local history research, the keen desire to learn, and the personal generosity of so many practitioners, lecturers, librarians and archivists to all who seek their assistance.

There is also substantial and ongoing investment in making archive collections newly accessible. These include archives with all-Ireland coverage (e.g. the Ordnance Survey collection in the National Archives, Dublin); and collections relating to a particular place which are of importance both to students of that area, and to researchers working in parallel fields, e.g. the municipal archive of Belfast Corporation, currently being catalogued (before being made available to the public through PRONI), under the project title 'Belfast: A civic record'. At the time of publication (October 2001) this project is on public display in Dublin's City Hall, a small but welcome example of inter-city co-operation.

It is highly desirable that researchers north and south are regularly updated about sources which are newly deposited/catalogued/released, and that publicly funded work be made widely available to the citizens of both jurisdictions. In some cases this requirement to 'spread the news' has been embraced most zealously, as with the aforementioned Belfast civic record project, whose archivists (Ian Montgomery and Robert Corbett) have hosted groups in Belfast City Hall from north and south, and have themselves travelled extensively throughout the island to promote the project.¹⁶ Although this type of outreach is labour intensive, members of local societies gain greatly by expert introductions to collections before visiting.

¹⁶ For example, I. Montgomery and R. Corbett addressed annual conference of the Irish Economic and Social History Society of Ireland at NUI Galway (18 November 2000); addressed NUI Maynooth students in Belfast City Hall, 10 February 2001.

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Recommendations:

- That over the medium term the possibility of FLHS finding a visible headquarters be explored.
- That FLHS and FULS consider jointly what lessons could be learned from the model of co-operation among local societies developed by the Border Counties History Collective, with a view to future strategic planning for the enhancement of north/south, cross-border, and inter-regional networking.
- That the universities/colleges offering courses in local history collaborate more closely with FULS and FLHS to maximise the take-up of such courses, and that the course providers be more closely linked in to the needs and realities of societies at local level.
- That a directory of courses in local history be drawn up from (for example) a central listing maintained jointly by the two Federations (FULS and FLHS). To be effective this must be regularly updated, and thoroughly cross-linked: to existing and new local history society websites; to those institutions (libraries, repositories and museums) which have a local history interest; and to third level/adult education sector sites concerned with heritage/local studies/history/archaeology/geography education.
- That cross-border visits to local studies libraries by specialist librarians and by library policy makers be undertaken, with a view to learning from each other and enhancing the services to local societies.
- That the provision of fully staffed and equipped regional outreach centres be considered by the National Archives and the National Library, Dublin, along the lines of the model already put in place by the Public Record Office for Northern Ireland, Belfast.
- That the provision of an MA course in local history as a joint north/south partnership, drawing candidates and teaching staff from both jurisdictions, be examined by the universities already involved in the teaching of local history.

6.6 Local history societies and technology

The importance of new technologies in historical research is now beyond question. For access to national and university libraries, archives and other cultural repositories, their catalogues, guides/introductions to important collections, and online data, access to the Internet, and the skills to negotiate this very new world in a critical and efficient manner, are essential. For bibliography searches, including the location of manuscript materials, access to online journals, lectures and other publications, genealogical searches, and reprints of valuable historical texts, the Web is now an essential resource.

Some of the most significant recent developments include ARCHON [<http://www.hmc.gov.uk/>] (the National Register of Archives project, covering archives in the UK and Ireland, undertaken by the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts)



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and the Women's History Project (undertaken on behalf of the Irish Manuscripts Commission, and hosted on-line by the National Archives, Dublin <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/>). Many museums and galleries offer 'virtual' visits, including special online exhibitions with interactive displays of immediate interest to local historians. Web page design packages are now so user-friendly that most persons with basic computer literacy and some small assistance could reasonably design and launch an acceptable web page. The web is an ideal place for the advertising of local history activities, recruitment of new members, establishment of contacts with other societies, and for the publication and sale of local research.

A number of societies have an impressive web presence; the Ulster Historical Federation [<http://www.ancestryireland.com/>] maintains a comprehensive service in its own right (focusing especially on ancestry and genealogy), but also has links to other local history/family history sites with Ulster connections. The Border Counties History Collective [<http://homepage.eircom.net/~historycollective/>] advertises its services, including the PRONI Outreach Facility, through its site, while the Federation of Local History Societies [http://homepage.eircom.net/~localhist/flhs_home.htm] has launched its site as yet another way of reaching its dispersed membership, and as a means of encouraging unaffiliated societies to register with the federation. *Due North*, the FULS magazine, includes a regular feature on new web sites of interest to its membership. With a judicious selection of links any local history website can provide its membership/user group with immediate access to archives and libraries, and link them to groups committed to local history/community development, not alone operating cross-border but working beyond political and cultural boundaries of any sort. It is therefore an ideal area for all-island collaboration. Local scholars and local societies who are denied knowledge of and access to such resources are losing out on a world of opportunity.

This survey questioned whether local societies had created their own website, if they had contributed to another, such as a school or county website, or if they had ever requested any website to carry local history information. About a fifth of respondents had their own local history website: FULS 18%, FLHS 18%, unaffiliated 21%. A third had contributed to other local history websites [FULS 29%, FLHS 33%, unaffiliated 33%], evidence of a keen interest in the new technology. However there were still many respondents were unaware of local county or school web sites, and two-thirds had not contributed in any capacity to local information sites. The responses to this part of the questionnaire reflected the age profile of members of local history societies. However a significant percentage [FULS 22%, FLHS 13%, unaffiliated 22%] prioritised an 'information day on local history on the Internet' as an area of training in which they were particularly interested. Clearly this is an area that needs to be addressed urgently, and will be welcomed by the membership.

Research findings

The current climate of support for lifelong learning should ensure that education in the use of computers in historical research could be undertaken with state and local community support. It is likely also to address a further difficulty which was highlighted in the survey: limited contact between local history societies and schools and colleges in their areas. Many societies cited the dearth of younger members in their societies as a major challenge. While it is in the nature of local history to have a particular appeal for those with some experience of life behind them, it is important to cultivate an interest in heritage, history and their 'own place' among young children and teenagers. A system of joint society/schools involvement in projects and family membership of societies may go some way towards bridging that gap. Where computers are seen as a routine part of historical research – as indeed is now the reality – young and old can learn together, with the younger people bringing their more advanced skills to the societies.

Societies were also closely questioned on their use of local/community radio to advertise their own activities, and to promote the field of local historical research in general. However few among those surveyed had contributed to local radio programmes. Despite countrywide coverage at the community level, less than 20% of societies had availed of them [FULS 18%, FLHS 20%, unaffiliated 11%]. The proportions requesting an 'information day on local history on the radio' was also unimpressive, at FULS 10%, FLHS 13% , unaffiliated 20%. This is such an obvious resource that there is need to encourage its fuller use. Even where there is an established slot for local history (as on Radio Anna Livia, Dublin) respondents within that area appeared unaware of its existence or potential. A greater proportion of respondents expressed interest in an information day on video-making for local history [FULS 22%, FLHS 10%, unaffiliated 17%].

Recommendations:

- That an educational programme in the use of computers in historical research be offered to local history societies on a cross-border basis by the federations and university departments.
- That existing local history websites, such as those developed by FLHS [<http://www.localhistory.ie>], the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [<http://www.proni.nics.uk>], and the site developed by NUI Maynooth as part of this research project [<http://www.may.ie/localhistory>] be more widely advertised through newsletters and other circulars of the local history federations, and that electronic cross links be promoted and maintained.
- That the proposed directory of local history societies (both on-line and book form) incorporate a directory of web resources for local history research.
- That the question of promoting local history through local radio be addressed, with input from stations such as Radio Kilkenny which have significant experience in local history programming.



Research findings

6.7 Local history society publications

With the growth in desk-top publishing, many local history societies are involved in the production of journals, newsletters and books of local historical interest. Society publications can range widely in format, to include newsletters, compilations of photographs, and facsimile reprints of historic texts with a local appeal, such as a recent re-issue of Martin's Belfast directory for 1841-42 by the Mid-Antrim Historical Group (1992).

While the major journals and pamphlets are of a very high quality in both research and presentation, there is clearly ample scope for improvement in the research and production of other local history publications. It is a growth industry and many societies are clearly keen to go it alone since about one-third of respondents [FULS 29%, FLHS 25%, unaffiliated 38%] requested information on self-publishing. The Border Counties History Collective reports great interest in its seminars on publishing local history.¹⁷ The following research shows that about half the survey respondents are *not* yet involved in any form of publication:

- Journal: FULS (53%); FLHS (45%); unaffiliated (38%).
- Newsletter: FULS (12%); FLHS (30%); unaffiliated (33%).
- Book(s): FULS (53%); FLHS (48%); unaffiliated (57%).

In the societies that *do* publish, the research and writing is spread over anything from two to thirty members as the following shows:

- Joint authors: FULS (10-25); FLHS (2-30); Unaffiliated (2-17).

This broad involvement stimulates discussion and scholarship, but it has its drawbacks. Proliferation of authors can result in articles in journals being of an uneven quality since they are dependent on the differing research and writing abilities and experience of each author.

Among FULS members there was a greater level of joint authorship of papers and books, perhaps reflecting the higher participation among FULS members in visits to repositories. The figures show that sole authorship of local studies and local histories is moderately unusual in local history societies: 29% of FULS societies reported sole authorship studies, as did 23% of FLHS societies and 14% of unaffiliated societies. Here again there are some very good productions, and some which leave a lot to be desired in both quality and composition. It is significant to note the disparity in the holding of copyright between the various groups of respondents as revealed by the survey:

¹⁷ Border Counties History Collective, Annual Report 1999/2000, p. 14

Research findings

- Author: FULS (29%); FLHS (11%); unaffiliated (19%).
- Society: FULS (53%); FLHS (27%); unaffiliated (33%).
- Not stated: FULS (18%); FLHS (61%); unaffiliated (48%).

This is something that should be included in a general review of practice in local history societies. The initial printing costs of most society publications are met from the members' subscriptions and/or contributions from the authors. Increasingly there are grants available for publications from local history societies. Respondents received grants as follows: FULS societies 41%, FLHS societies 39%, unaffiliated societies 62%. The amount of sponsorship was not given, nor (in most cases) its source; however banks, government and EU programmes (Leader, Heritage Council, local authority) all featured as significant local patrons.

It is important to remember that these grants are usually paid out of the public purse. To give value for this largesse it is essential that some form of standardisation in production of local history publications be established and maintained. Models of good international practice are available, for example in the citing of sources in footnotes, and the organisation of a bibliography. A style manual for local historians on the island of Ireland should be compiled, in close consultation with both federations, and copies made readily available to societies through the federations, through libraries, and through the general book trade. The whole publishing process needs to be reviewed, so that societies can look to their handbook as a source of reference for all aspects of publishing their local history. Publications by local history societies vary from the modest fifty-page pamphlet to the 400-page volume; the most common is between 60 and 200 pages. The usual print-run is between 500 and 1000 copies. Nearly fifty percent of societies receive only one or two quotes for printing, and most of the remainder solicit three or four quotes. Retail prices vary from £4-£10 in Ulster to £3-£15 elsewhere. The books are sold locally. Most societies receive orders from abroad despite the fact that less than 10% are advertised on the Internet.

Recommendations:

- Encourage society members to be less passive in their societies and to be actively involved in research and writing.
- Marketing needs to be addressed. The Internet is a powerful means of communication, but other outlets also need to be explored.
- Minimum scholarly standards need to be established for the production of journals and monographs, particularly where they are publicly funded. To this end guidelines need to be issued in the form of a style manual or other standards of citation for publications in the field of local history.



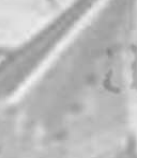
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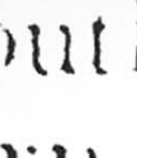
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Summary of key findings

- 7.1 North-south co-operation already pervades the practice of local history in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland. The local history federations (FULS and FLHS), the Border Counties History Collective and some individual local societies have to date already taken initiatives in this area, albeit on a modest scale. In the shared meetings at federation committee level, the provision of cross-community training courses, study visits to repositories and heritage sites in the other jurisdiction, society and town twinning, and joint activities to mark European Heritage Day, there have already been instances of collaboration, which those involved are keen to expand.
- 7.2 The potential for expanding and deepening north-south collaboration is immense. The key findings below must be read in this context.
- 7.3 Local history societies north and south are far more numerous than was anticipated, and many more people are involved in the societies than was previously thought. On the basis of this pilot study, it appears certain that the total number of societies island-wide exceeds 500, and could be as high as 800.
- 7.4 With an average membership of approximately 35 persons per society, this could result in an active membership of over 28,000 persons.
- 7.5 Directing state and other resources towards this sector, which reaches into practically every parish north and south, could yield enormous dividends in terms of supporting lifelong learning, cross-cultural enrichment, local tourism, understanding and ownership of local heritage.
- 7.6 The majority of societies in the Republic are not affiliated to the Federation of Local History Societies. Affiliation to the Federation of Ulster Local Studies in the nine counties of Ulster is more comprehensive but still incomplete.
- 7.7 Because so many societies are not affiliated to any federation, and new societies are still being founded, there is to date no single register of local history societies currently active on the island of Ireland. The NUI Maynooth database lists 330 active societies, but many more are to be added.
- 7.8 The organising of public lecture series is one of the key activities of local history societies; these play an important social as well as educational role, including the inclusion of new residents. While guest lecturers contribute significantly, these occasions are primarily for the sharing of local scholarship by local experts.



Summary of key findings

- 7.9** Field excursions and outings are an integral part of local history society activity, and have great potential for the fostering of cross-border activity.
- 7.10** European Heritage Day, and the 'local history week' which has developed in association with it, features largely in the diaries of most local history societies and could become the special focus of cross-border and other exchanges.
- 7.11** Despite widespread affirmation of the importance of local history, there has been little formal support to date of local societies by local authorities or central government. The main avenue of support both north and south has been through the public library system, which has been seriously underfunded over many decades in the Republic.
- 7.12** There is widespread interest in the provision of training in local history in a wide range of areas, but little knowledge of what is already available.
- 7.13** Despite the undoubted importance of computer resources for historical research, and the Web as an ideal way for local societies to advertise their activities, there was limited experience and knowledge of computer matters among two-thirds of the respondents.
- 7.14** Local societies have an ever-growing output of journals, newsletters and books. While some are produced to very high standards, there is ample scope for improvement in the research and presentation of many of these publications, including some produced by the smaller societies. There is an especially urgent need to establish minimum scholarly standards for the production of journals and monographs, particularly where they are publicly funded.

Key recommendations

8.1 That the obstacles to cross-border co-operation be minimised.

The major obstacle to cross border co-operation identified in this research is the lack of an effective communication network. Basic, up-to-date information is lacking under several headings: names and addresses of contact persons of local history societies throughout the island, e-mail addresses and websites, societies' geographical areas of interest, information on the schedule of activities and upcoming special events, society publications and where these may be acquired. The paucity of reliable, accessible and current information on local historical attractions, such as repositories, landscapes, monuments, heritage houses, special exhibitions, folk parks and museum collections, make the planning of visits more difficult. Above all, successful local history co-operation depends upon the extent and quality of personal collaboration between officers and members of societies. There is an urgent need for a comprehensive, regularly updated cross-border directory, freely accessible throughout the island of Ireland both online and in hard copy.

8.2 That visits to repositories in the other jurisdiction become a priority

Visits to repositories north and south are an essential pre-requisite for fruitful local history research. The holdings of the National Archives, National Library of Ireland, and Photographic Archive (Dublin) relate to the island as a whole, while similarly there is a massive amount of material in the Public Record Office in Belfast which deals with the provinces beyond Ulster. This investigation noted that none of the southern-based respondents recorded a visit to PRONI among their activities, while among those affiliated to FULS a small but significant percentage visited Dublin for the purpose of research. Cross-border study visits, possibly based around visits to repositories, are an obvious and very immediate area of cross-border collaboration to be encouraged. To that end there need to be more flexible arrangements by the repositories to accommodate groups at weekends/evenings. One way of developing this is through twinning arrangements, which would include local exchanges of societies and teacher/student exchanges. This is an area that should be further developed. It is appropriate that the two federations should assist in putting local societies with shared historical and heritage interests in touch with one another.

8.3 That the institutional basis of cross-border co-operation be strengthened.

This survey has shown that societies associated with FULS and FLHS are more likely to undertake cross-border visits than societies which are not affiliated to any federation. The reach



Key recommendations

of FLHS is greatly underdeveloped; this was highlighted both by the officers of FLHS and by the responses to this survey. The appointment of a development officer for FLHS, with a permanent base, should be given priority. In addition, the appointment of a cross-border development officer, to work jointly with FLHS and FULS and other cross-border bodies with a local history interest, is strongly recommended.

The funding of local history at federation level is highly unsatisfactory. In the case of the Ulster federation (FULS) funding is limited and most precarious, preventing long-term strategic planning, while its counterpart in the Republic (FLHS) is not in receipt of any statutory funding, and operates without a mailing address or central office. While the federations, operating jointly, are ideally placed to further cross-border and inter-regional collaboration, any developments in this area, such as the appointment of a cross-border development officer, are contingent on future funding.

European Heritage Day and the associated local history week has not been developed to the degree that it might in this regard. Consideration should be given to approaching the co-ordinating bodies north and south to provide facilities, and possibly finance, to support cross-border co-operation during this period.

Major cultural institutions, especially archives and libraries, are clearly important resources, access to which this survey demonstrates is much in demand by people both north and south. They can therefore provide an important institutional context for the study of local history in both jurisdictions. They can and may act as centres in which people from all parts of the island can meet around the relatively neutral ground of archival study. To this end, outreach programmes might be established by the National Archives/National Library on the model pioneered by PRONI at the Border History Collective, Blacklion, Co. Cavan, where the PRONI outreach service is offered within the context of an active and highly supportive local history network.

The county libraries/library boards, especially in border counties, might be encouraged to develop similar services. This would be the most feasible and realistic way of developing institutions to span the border. The libraries are cost-effective (in the range of services offered); provide local, non-threatening, non-centralised bases for co-operation, and are intimately connected with the grassroots membership. They provide linkages to the wider world of universities and other research institutions on a national and all-island basis.

Practical outcomes from this research project, to date

- 9.1 An all-island database of local history societies, both affiliated (to FULS and FLHS) and non-affiliated, and the first ever register (in both online and printed format) of local history societies currently active in Ireland, have been created. A firm foundation has been laid, with 330 societies already identified (see appendix C).
- 9.2 The establishment of a website for the dissemination of information relating firstly to this research project, and secondly to act as an entry point to the websites of local history societies throughout the island, north and south, has been established. This may be accessed at <http://www.may.ie/localhistory>.
- 9.3 Forthcoming local history events which have a cross-border appeal have been advertised through this website, and also through the newsletters of federations (FULS and FLHS), the Border Counties History Collective, and through the regular mail service.
- 9.4 The advertising of training courses in the methodology of local history, through the NUIM website, and by the traditional means, has also been undertaken. The spring 2001 FLHS newsletter has highlighted the availability of off-campus university courses in local history, as has the Border Counties History Collective publication *The Spark*.
- 9.5 Cross-border projects which have been contemplated for some time received an added impetus from the energies generated by this research project and the additional north-south contacts established and renewed. In particular, the Millennium Capsule project will now go ahead. The four sites chosen, to represent each province, are Ballintubber Abbey, Belfast, Kinsale and Longford.
- 9.6 Arrangements for a series of collaborative research training days, co-hosted by FULS and FLHS, are at an advanced stage of planning, as a consequence of this research project. The first such meeting is scheduled for a location in Connacht (two alternatives are under consideration), to be held in 2002.
- 9.7 The AGM of FLHS took place in Tipperary on 13 October 2001. As a direct response to the needs of local history practitioners as expressed in this questionnaire survey, FLHS organised three presentations on computers in local history research.
- 9.8 A major cross-border local history conference, entitled 'The Debatable Land', will be held in Monaghan on 16-17 November 2001. The chief organisers are Dr. Myrtle Hill (Queen's University Belfast) and Mr Jack Johnston (chairman, FULS), while the Heritage Council and the Ulster Local History Trust are the major sponsors. The database resulting from this



Practical outcomes from this research project, to date

research project will provide the first ever islandwide mailing list and the first opportunity directly to reach the large proportion of societies which are currently not affiliated to either federation. It is expected that all the major interests in local history, north and south, will be represented at the Monaghan conference: officers and members of FULS, FLHS, and unaffiliated societies; universities; major repositories, county libraries and education and library boards; museum and heritage bodies. It will provide an ideal forum in which to launch this report, and to generate interest in strategic planning.

- 9.9 Planning meetings have been held with members of Longford County Council, which has expressed an interest in hosting a major conference drawing together all those on the island of Ireland interested in the practice of local history, to be held around May 2002. This will address many of the concerns raised in this research, and with an accompanying major publication, will be a landmark occasion in cross-border collaboration.
- 9.10 In response to approaches from a range of local history interests in Dundalk, the feasibility of offering the NUI certificate in local history on a cross-border and cross-community basis between Dundalk and Newry is currently under investigation.

Further developments from this research project

Given the widespread enthusiasm for local history, and the scale of involvement by people throughout the island, it is clearly an area that would repay considerable attention from those wishing to stimulate cross border development and community development generally. In the short term the following are imperative:

- Further intensive surveying, on a county by county basis, to develop the database established under this project of local history societies active in Ireland.
- The completion of data collection for the directory of local history societies, preparation for publication, and launching online.
- The development of communications networks north and south operating through the institutional basis of FULS, FLHS, and the local history website established under this project at NUI Maynooth.
- The production of a manual to establish common scholarly standards north and south in the writing of local history.



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NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, MAYNOOTH
MAYNOOTH, CO. KILDARE, IRELAND
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN HISTORY



NUI MAYNOOTH
Ollscoil na hÉireann Mú Nuad

THE LOCAL HISTORY PROJECT:
CO-OPERATING NORTH AND SOUTH

Tel: (01) 628 6616 Fax: (01) 628 9063
Email: maeve.mulryanmoloney@may.ie
Website: <http://www.may.ie/localhistory/>

Contact person: Ms Maeve Mulryan Moloney MA

Name of society
Address

Your society deals with the local history of:

county	town	townland	village	other
--------	------	----------	---------	-------

Founded Why?

Where do your members come from?

Has your society a written constitution?

Where do you meet?

Do you pay rent?

Membership fees

Membership cards

Profile of paid-up members

Within (miles)		1	3	5	10	15	20+
Yes	No						
Church	House	Hall	Library	Pub	School		
Yes	No						
Junior	Single	Couple	Family				
Yes	No						
Male				Female			
under 30	30-50	50+	under 30	30-50	50+		

Local History Societies and Federations Is your society a member of:

Federation of Ulster Local Studies

currently		previously	
Yes	No	Yes	No

Federation of Local History Societies

currently		previously	
Yes	No	Yes	No

Do you send delegates to

Annual General Meetings

Yes No

Attend seminars organised by the Federation

Yes No

Should the Federation have a permanent salaried development officer?

Yes No

Would your society be prepared to contribute, (annually), towards that salary?

£200	£150	£100	£50
------	------	------	-----

Could this operate on a cross-border basis?

Yes No

For non-affiliated societies

Would you like to receive information about:

Federation of Local History Societies

Yes No

Federation of Ulster Local Studies

Yes No

Training/Education in Local History

What specialised courses on 'how to do' Local History are you familiar with?

Have any of the active members of your society undertaken specialised training/education in Local History?

Yes No

Are any of your members interested in such training/education?

Yes No

Would they attend a course at a venue

distance from home

40 miles+	25 miles	10 miles	
morning	afternoon	evening	once a week

Time of course

What particular aspects of the history of your local area are you interested in?

Lectures

When was your last lecture last

Month	Quarter	Year
-------	---------	------

Topic

Lecturer

How often do you have lectures once a

Month	Quarter	Year
-------	---------	------

What day is your lecture? S M T W T F S

What time is your lecture?

morning	afternoon	evening
---------	-----------	---------

What was the average attendance at your lectures in 1999?

--

How do you decide on a particular topic?

How far in advance do you book a lecturer?

Week	Month	Quarter	Year
------	-------	---------	------

Where do you get your lecturers?

local	student	graduate	college staff	visitor	other
-------	---------	----------	---------------	---------	-------

Do members of your own society lecture?

Yes	No
-----	----

What fee do you pay your lecturers

None	£20-£35	£36-£50	£51-£75	£76-£100	£100+
------	---------	---------	---------	----------	-------

Would any members of your society like to join a panel of lecturers in your area?

Yes	No
-----	----

Who is your target audience?

Where do you advertise your lectures?

Newspaper	School	Health centre	Shop	Library	Leisure centre	Pub	Mart
-----------	--------	---------------	------	---------	----------------	-----	------

Have you liaised with local schools?

Yes	No
-----	----

Have you liaised with Senior Citizens?

Yes	No
-----	----

Why do people continue to attend your lectures?

Local History sources in your area

What is available?

Where is it available?

Local Library

Name of local library

Has it a local history section?

Yes	No
-----	----

If not, has your society requested it?

Yes	No
-----	----

County Library

Does it publicise its holdings of local source material?

Yes	No
-----	----

Is the Local History material easily accessible?

Yes	No
-----	----

Schools Folklore Collection for your area?

Yes	No
-----	----

1901/1911 censii for your area?

Yes	No
-----	----

Has your society visited the National Archives?

Yes	No
-----	----

National Library?

Yes	No
-----	----

Public Record Office Northern Ireland?

Yes	No
-----	----

Would you attend information days in your nearest county library?

Yes	No
-----	----

Suggest topics for library information day



Publications

Has your society published :

journal	Yes	No	Retail price of book?	
newsletter	Yes	No	How many joint authors?	
book	Yes	No	How many copies of book?	
Was there a sole author?	Yes	No	How many pages in book?	

Did your society make a financial arrangement with the author?

Yes	No
-----	----

Did your society make a financial arrangement with the editor?

Yes	No
-----	----

How many quotations for printing did you obtain?

--	--

What arrangements did you make for marketing?

How did you publicise your book?

Did you get orders from abroad?

Please give details of above

Who retains copyright to publications?

Author	Society	Other
	No	Yes

Did you get a grant towards publication

From whom?

Would you be interested in an information day on book design?

self-publishing?

Yes	No
-----	----

local history video-making?

Yes	No
-----	----

computer training for local historians?

Yes	No
-----	----

local history on the internet?

Yes	No
-----	----

local history on radio?

Yes	No
-----	----

management in local history societies

Yes	No
-----	----

Rank the above 1-7 in order of importance

Yes	No
-----	----

Website

Has your society:

a web site

Yes	No
-----	----

contributed to a local history web site?

Yes	No
-----	----

Has your county a web site?

Yes	No
-----	----

Has your local school a web site?

Yes	No
-----	----

Have you asked any local web site to carry a local history spot?

Yes	No
-----	----

Have you asked local radio to carry a local history programme?

Yes	No
-----	----

In two years time I would like to see my local history society achieve:

In five years time I would like to see my local history society achieve:

Outings

From where to where?

Why did you select that outing?

Whom did you contact for information prior to that outing?

Did you contact the local history society at your destination?

Yes	No
-----	----

How did you travel?

What did you do there?

Was the trip subsidised?

Yes	No
-----	----

By whom?

Was there any follow-up on the trip:

Lecture

Yes	No
-----	----

Slide show

Yes	No
-----	----

Photo exhibition

Yes	No
-----	----

Newspaper article

Yes	No
-----	----

Radio programme

Yes	No
-----	----

Where are you planning to go next?

Have you crossed the border on any outing?

What can your society offer to other societies planning a visit to your area?

Any other local history societies in local area/adjoining parishes
Name and address of contact person

Name
Address

Phone/Fax/e.mail

Please return this questionnaire as soon as possible. Closing date 30 November 2000

All replies received before closing date will be sent a Lottery scratch card.

Thank you for your assistance with this survey of Local History Societies.



Geographical Spread of Respondents to Questionnaire

Connacht	FLHS		Completed		Leinster	FLHS		Completed		Munster	FLHS		Completed		Ulster	FULS		Completed	
	FLHS	New	FLHS	New		FLHS	New	FLHS	New		FLHS	New	FULS	New		FULS	New		
Galway	4	2	10		Carlow	2	0	0		Clare	3	1	2		Antrim	31	4		
Leitrim	1	1	*2		Dublin	19	7	2		Cork	16	5	0		Armagh	7	1		
Mayo	3	2	3		Kildare	7	4	1		Kerry	2	1	0		Cavan	1	0		
Roscommon	4	0	1		Kilkenny	3	1	0		Limerick	7	2	0		Donegal	2	1		
Sligo	2	1	*1+1		Laois	3	1	0		Tipperary	9	2	3		Down	23	3		
Total	14	6	15		Longford	1	0	1		Waterford	1	0	0		Fermanagh	2	0		
					Louth	4	2	1		Total	38	11	5		Londonderry	11	2		
					Meath	6	4	1							Monaghan	3	1		
					Offaly	3	2	0							Tyrone	15	3		
					Westmeath	3	2	0							Total	95	15		
					Wexford	4	1	0											
					Wicklow	6	2	0											
					Total	61	26	6											
Total FLHS	14					61					38				Total FULS	95			
% responded	43					43					29				% responded	18			
New	*15					6					5				*3 societies in Connacht are affiliated to FULS				

FLHS: Federation of Local History Societies

FULS: Federation of Ulster Local Studies

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY ANTRIM

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Abbey Historical Society	FULS	Mr Bob Armstrong	The White House, White House Park, NEWTOWNABBEY, Co. Antrim BT37 9SQ
Antrim Historical Society	FULS	Dr R Foy	13 Inishgarry Park, ANTRIM BT41 4LA
Art Society of Ulster	FULS	Mr Dennis Kelly	Glendhu, 427 Cregagh Road, BELFAST BT6 0LG
*Ballyclare & District Historical Society	FULS	Mr Archie R Reid	3 Collin View, BALLYCLARE, Co Antrim BT39 9AR
Belfast Geologists' Society	FULS	Mr Peter Millar	31 Knock Eden Park, Rosetta, BELFAST BT6 0JF
*East Belfast Historical Society	FULS	Mr Keith Haines	6 Beechgrove Avenue, BELFAST BT6 0NF
North Belfast Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Peggy Weir	8 Shaneen Park, BELFAST BT14 8JP
*South Belfast Historical Society	FULS	Mr George E Templeton	15 Cotswold Avenue, BELFAST BT8 4NA
West Belfast Historical Society	FULS	Mr Robert Pimley	38 Cloona Crescent, Dummurry, BELFAST BT17 0HG
Belfast Naturalists' Field Club	FULS	Professor R S J Clarke	78 King's Road, BELFAST BT5 6JN
Carrickfergus & District Historical Society	FULS	Mr Mervyn McDowell	7 Ravenscroft, Belfast Road, CARRICKFERGUS, Co Antrim BT38 8SQ
Carrickfergus Gasworks Preservation Society Ltd.	FULS	Mr L Waddell	20A Boneybefore, CARRICKFERGUS, Co Antrim BT38 7EQ
Dunmurry Local History & Heritage Group	FULS	Ms Nonagh Boyd	Ardavon, 32 Church Avenue, Dunmurry, BELFAST BT17 9RS
*Glens of Antrim Historical Society	FULS	Ms Eileen McAuley	Unit 4, Old School House, Mill Street, Cushendun, BALLYMENA, Co Antrim BT44 0RR
Killultagh Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Frances Larkin	Tullynewbank, 3 Bann Lane, Glenavy, CRUMLIN, Co Antrim BT29 4HP

*participated in this survey



Ulster

*Larne & District Folklore Society	FULS	Mrs Nella Buckley	45 Bay Road, LARNE, Co Antrim BT40 1DG
Larne & District Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Joan Morris	Museum Assistant, Carnegie Arts Centre, 2 Victoria Road, LARNE, Co Antrim BT40 1RN
*Lisburn Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Hazel Ervine	38 Kennedy Drive, LISBURN, Co Antrim BT27 4HZ
North of Ireland Family History Society	FULS	Georgie Siberry	10 Carol Park, NEWTOWNABBEY, Co Antrim BT36 6SF
The Pastel Society of Ireland	FULS	Mr Wilson M Barron	42 Glenhugh Park, Saintfield Road, BELFAST BT8 7PQ
Randalstown Historical Society	FULS	Mr A Houston	48 Shanes Street, Randalstown, ANTRIM BT41 2AA
Saintfield Heritage Society	FULS	Miss Cynthia Cole	12 Thorndale Park, Carryduff, BELFAST BT8 8HZ
Templecorran Historical Society	FULS	Miss B Mitchell	4 Lough Drive, Islandmagee, LARNE, Co Antrim BT40 3RB
Ulster Archaeological Society	FULS	c/o Mr Declan Hurl	Built Heritage, DoE, 5-33 Hill Street, BELFAST BT1 2LA
Ulster Architectural Heritage Society	FULS	Miss Joan Kinch	Secretary, 66 Donegall Pass, BELFAST BT7 1BU
Ulster Place-Name Society	FULS	Dr P McKay	Celtic Studies, School of Modern Languages, Queen's University Belfast, BELFAST BT7 1NN
Ulster-Scots Heritage Council	FULS	Ms Freda Waite	218 York Street, BELFAST BT15 1GY
Ulster-Scots Language Society	FULS	Mr Lee Reynolds	c/o Ulster-Scots Heritage Council, 2nd Floor, 218 York Street, BELFAST BT1 1GY
Ulster Titanic Society	FULS	Mr Philip Armstrong	P.O. Box 401, CARRICKFERGUS, Co Antrim BT38 8US

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY ARMAGH

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Armagh Art Club	FULS	Mrs Roberta Hanlon	183 Mahon Road, Portadown, CRAIGAVON, Co Armagh BT62 3SG
Armagh Diocesan Historical Society	FULS	Ms Caroline McKee	228 Clonmore Road, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT71 6HX
Armagh Field Naturalists Society	FULS	Mr S McClure	17 Currans Brae, Moy, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT71 7SX
Armagh Natural History & Phil. Society	FULS	Mr Raymond Oakes	17 Killuney Park Road, ARMAGH BT61 9HG
Brontë Society – Irish Section	FULS	Miss M K Livingston	90 High Street, Lurgan, CRAIGAVON, Co Armagh BT66 8BB
Brownlow Archaeology Group	FULS	Ms Lauri McAleenan	109 Clonmeen, Drumgor, CRAIGAVON, Co Armagh BT65 4AR
Craigavon Historical Society	FULS	Mr John Trimble	103 Drumgor Park, CRAIGAVON, Co Armagh BT65 4AH
Crosscurrents Study & Activities Group	FULS	Ms Cecilia Gartland	29 Brookhill Crescent, ARMAGH BT61 7LR
Dromore Diocesan Historical Society	FULS	Dr Francis McCorry	10 Parkview Street, Lurgan, CRAIGAVON, Co Armagh BT66 8QL
Markethill & District Historical Society	FULS	Mr Edgar Hunter	7 Mowhan Road, Markethill, ARMAGH BT60 1RQ

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY CAVAN

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Briefne Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Bridie Fay-Kennedy	37Castle View, Clowninny, BELTURBET, Co Cavan
Clogher Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Maisie Guy	12 Killynure Crescent, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh



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Glangevlin Local Hist.Group	BCHC	Mr Tomas MacShamhrain Crea,	GLANGEVLIN, Co Cavan
Ballyconnell Heritage Group	BCHC	Ms Brid O'Reilly	Annagh, BALLYCONNELL, Co Cavan
Cumann Seanchais Bhreifne	BCHC	Mrs Bridie Fay-Kennedy	37 Castle View, Clowninny, BELTURBET, Co Cavan
History Group	BCHC	Mr Oliver Brady	Cloneary, BAWNBOY, Co Cavan
Killinagh Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Harold Johnston	Main Street, BLACKLION, Co Cavan

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY DONEGAL

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
*Co. Donegal Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Kathleen Emerson	61 Cluain Barron, BALLYSHANNON, Co Donegal
Rathmullan & District Local History Society	FULS	Ms Mary Bowden	Meenreagh, Rathmullan, LETTERKENNY, Co Donegal

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY DOWN

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Ards Historical Society	FULS	Mr T R Ward	1 Bowmount Park, NEWTOWNARDS, Co Down BT23 8SS
Ards Art Club	FULS	Mrs Elizabeth Sinclair	33 Ballyhaft Road, NEWTOWNARDS, Co Down BT22 2AW
Banbridge & District Historical Society	FULS	Mr Jason Diamond	21 Iveagh Drive, BANBRIDGE, Co Down BT32 3YE
*Bangor Historical Society	FULS	Mr Paul McKay	19 Kensington Park, BANGOR, Co Down BT20 3RF
Bay-Burn Historical Society	FULS	Mr Adrian Mencarelli	10 Meadow Park, Crawfordsburn, BANGOR, Co Down BT19 1JN
Creggan Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Geraldine Hanratty	Teer, Crossmaglen, NEWRY, Co Down BT35 9BB
The Downe Society	FULS	Mrs R Wheeler	2 Finnebrogue Road, DOWNPATRICK, Co Down BT30 9AA

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Downpatrick Railway Society	FULS	Mr C Leathers	24 Hill Street, Ardglass, DOWNPATRICK, Co Down BT30 7TX
Dromore & District Historical Group	FULS	Ms Hannah Dewart	83 Diamond Road, DROMORE, Co Down BT25 1PJ
Friends of Down County Museum	FULS	Mrs Aveen Flynn	193 Main Street, Dundrum, NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0LY
Grey Abbey Historical Society	FULS	Mr R J Trayte	2 Cuan Gardens, Grey Abbey, NEWTOWNARDS, Co Down BT22 2QG
ICOMOS Irish National Committee	FULS	Mr Dick Oram	46 Bryansford Road, NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0DW
Kilkeel Art Society	FULS	Mrs Aileen Midgley	4 Quarter Road, Annalong, NEWRY, Co Down BT34 4QY
*Lecale Historical Society	FULS	Mr Colm Rooney	8 Castle Street, Strangford, DOWNPATRICK, Co Down BT30 7NF
*Mourne Local Studies Group	FULS	Mrs V E Stephenson	199 Kilkeel Road, Moneydarragh Beg, Annalong, NEWRY, Co Down BT34 0QB
Newcastle & District Gardening Society	FULS	Mrs E McCombe	24 Trassey Road, NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0QB
Newcastle Art Society	FULS	Ms Ann K Smith	Garrybeg, 2 Shimna Park, NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0ED
Newcastle Field Club	FULS	Mr Thomas P Walsh	41 Slievenamaddy Avenue, NEWCASTLE, Co Down BT33 0DS
Old Newry Society	FULS	Ms Anne Smyth	Glenault, Chequer Hill, NEWRY, Co Down BT35 6DY
*Poyntzpass & District Historical Society	FULS	Ms Barbara Best	Brannock, 9 Acton Road, Poyntzpass, NEWRY, Co Down BT35 6TB
Rathfriland Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Maude Harbinson	34 Downpatrick Street, Rathfriland, NEWRY, Co Down BT34 5DQ



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Ulster Folklife Society	FULS	Mrs Linda M Ballard	Ulster Folk & Transport Museum, Cultra, HOLYWOOD, Co Down BT18 0EU
*Upper Ards Historical Society	FULS	Dr D Birkett	2 Ballyfounder Road, Portaferry, NEWTOWNARDS, Co Down BT22 1RE
Warrenpoint Historical Group	FULS	Mrs Eileen McPolin	Summer Hill, Warrenpoint, NEWRY, Co Down BT34 3JB

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY FERMANAGH

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Ardess Historical Society	FULS	Mrs T McClaughrey	Leehan, Kesh, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh BT93
Belcoo & District Historical Society	FULS	Ms Patricia Timoney	Gorteen, Belcoo, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh BT93
Fermanagh Naturalists' Field Club	FULS	Mr Edmund Richey	4 Algeo Drive, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh BT74 6JL
Aughakillymaude Local History Society	BCHC	Mr John Martin	Curragh, DERRYLIN, Co Fermanagh
Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Michael McPhillips	Bridge Street, NEWTOWNBUTLER, Co Fermanagh
Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Oonagh MacAvinney	2 Brookborough Road, MAGUIRESBRIDGE, Co Fermanagh
Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Henry Robinson	Drumkeen, BALLINAMALLARD, Co Fermanagh
Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Gabriel Murphy	Shanmullagh, Ballycassidy, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh
Knocks Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Anna Kearns	18 Drumma Lane, ROSLEA, Co Fermanagh
Lisnaskea Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Philip Pat Cassidy	Main Street, LISNASKEA, Co Fermanagh
Topped Mtn. Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Vera Cleary	Lissan, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh
Killesher Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Roberta Johnston	Lisderry, FLORENCECOURT, Co Fermanagh
Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Basil Fawcett	Corraclon, Churchill, DERRYGONNELLY, Co Fermanagh
Historical Society	BCHC	Mr Trevor Ewing	96 Drumadravey Road, Cullaghmore, IRVINESTOWN, Co Fermanagh

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Co Fermanagh Naturalists Field Club	BCHC	Mr Edmund Richey	4 Algeo Drive, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh
Clogher Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Maisie Guy	12 Killynure Crescent, ENNISKILLEN, Co Fermanagh
Tempo Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Mary Hamilton	Furnish, FIVEMILETOWN, Co Fermanagh BT75 OQY

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY LONDONDERRY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
*Ballinascreen Historical Society	FULS	Mr Graham Mawhinney	Labby, Draperstown, MAGHERAFELT, Co Londonderry BT45 7BE
*Bellaghy History Society	FULS	Mrs Patricia Lowry	15 Deerpark Road, Bellaghy, MAGHERAFELT, Co Londonderry BT45 8LB
Coleraine Historical Society	FULS	Miss Peggy Vowles	16 Millbank Avenue, PORTSTEWART, Co Londonderry BT55 7DQ
Desertmartin, Local History Group	FULS	Ms Alice Gribbin	Annagh, Desertmartin, MAGHERAFELT, Co Londonderry BT45 5NB
Faughan Area Study Group	FULS	Ms Patti Holly	189 Culmore Road, LONDONDERRY, BT48 8JH
Kilrea Local History Group	FULS	Mrs Jo Kane	7 Gortin Road, Kilrea, COLERAINE, Co Londonderry BT51 5YG
Limavady Naturalists' Field Club	FULS	Mrs E Conacher	40 Bell's Hill, LIMAVADY, Co Londonderry BT49 0DQ
Londonderry Naturalists Field Club	FULS	Miss Harriet Little	31 Rockport Park, LONDONDERRY, BT47 1JH
Moneyneena Local History Group	FULS	Mr Patsy McWilliams	c/o Moneyneena & District Development Group, 6 Fivemilestraight, DRAPERSTOWN, Co Derry BT45 7EB



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North West Archaeological Historical Society	FULS	Mr Roy McCullough	22 Harberton Park, & Altnagelvin, LONDONDERRY BT47 2NB
Roe Valley Historical Society	FULS	Mr Robert Guthrie	36 Drumachose Park, LIMAVADY, Co Londonderry BT49 0NZ

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY MONAGHAN

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Clogher Historical Society	FULS	Ms June Brown	41 Manor Wood, The Glen, MONAGHAN, Co Monaghan
*Clones Historical Society	FULS	Mr Dermot McCabe	8 Roslea Road, CLONES, Co Monaghan
Corduff/Raferagh Heritage Group	FULS	Ms Rosie Mills	Corduff National School, CARRICKMACROSS, Co Monaghan
* Local History Group	None	Ms Margaret Fox	Greaghlane, Laragh, CASTLEBLAYNEY, Co Monaghan

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY TYRONE

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Armagh Diocesan Society	FULS	Ms Caroline McKee	228 Clonmore Road, Historical DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT71 6HX
Armagh Field Naturalists Society	FULS	Mr S McClure	17 Currans Brae, Moy, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT71 7SX
*Ballygawley Local History Group	FULS	Ms Ursula McAleer	8 Knock Crescent, Ballygawley, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT70 2JN
Coagh & District Local History Group	FULS	Mrs Mary Mullan	14 Derrygonigan Road, COOKSTOWN, Co Tyrone BT80 8SU
Cookstown Local History Group	FULS	Mr Michael McFadden	27 St. Jeans Avenue, COOKSTOWN, Co Tyrone BT80 8DQ
*Donaghmore, Historical Society	FULS	Ms Lorraine Anderson	21 Carrowcolman Road, Eglisli, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT70 1LF

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Gortin & District Historical Society	FULS	Ms Kathleen McSwiggan	106 Gorticashel Road, Gortin, OMAGH, Co Tyrone BT79 8NT
Muintirevlin Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Kate Lavery	72 Battery Road, Coagh, COOKSTOWN, Co Tyrone BT80 0HH
*O'Neill Country Historical Society	FULS	Mrs Maureen Daly	Sessiamagorroll, Benburb, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone
*Rock & District Historical Society	FULS	Miss Ellen Doris	Clare, COOKSTOWN, Co Tyrone BT80 8RJ
Stewartstown & District Local History Society	FULS	Mrs Anne Laverty	Gortatray, Stewartstown, DUNGANNON, Co Tyrone BT71 5AA
Strabane History Society	FULS	Mr John Dooher	3 Greenlaw Park, Ballymagorry, STRABANE, Co Tyrone BT82 0BH



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY CLARE

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Clare A. & H. Society	FLHS	Ms Mary Kearns	Ballycarroll, Barefield, ENNIS, Co Clare
North Clare Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Francis Madigan	26 Circular Road, ENNISTYMON, Co Clare
Shannon A. & H. Society	FLHS	Ms Finola McNamara	Magh da Cleo, COROFIN, Co Clare
* Old Kilfarboy Society	FLHS	Mr Jim Carroll	Mullagh Road, MILLTOWN MALBAY, Co Clare
* East Clare Heritage	None	Mr Gerard Madden	St Cronan's, TUAMGRANEY, Co Clare

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY CORK

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Ardmore Local History Society	FLHS	Mr James T Quain	Garry Rhu, Windsor Hill, GLOUNTHAUNE, Co Cork
* Bandon Local History Assoc.	FLHS	Mr Patrick MacCarron	Mishells, BANDON, Co Cork
* Bantry Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Donal Fitzgerald	Gurteen Roe, BANTRY, Co Cork
Beara Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Brendan Finch	Derrmihan W., CASTLETOWNBERE, Co Cork
Blackpool Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Jim Fitzpatrick	10 Park Lawn, Parklands, Commons Road, CORK
Canovee H. & A. Society	FLHS	Mr Denis C Long	Glenville House, FARNANES, Co Cork
Carrigaline Historical Association	FLHS	Ms Helen Dennehy	The Bungalow, Kilnagleany, CARRIGALINE, Co Cork
Charleville and District Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Breda Leahy	The Turrets, CHARLEVILLE, Co Cork
Clonakilty History Group	FLHS	Mr Traolach O'Donnabhain	Inis Duine, CLONAKILTY, Co Cork
* Cloyne Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Helen Duggan	20 Laurel Court, MIDLETON, Co Cork
Cork H. & A. Society	FLHS	Mr John J Sheehan	45 Benvoirlich Estate, BISHOPSTOWN, Co Cork
* Great Island Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Patricia Donovan	Cuskinny Hill, COBH, Co Cork
* Kinsale Local Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Dermot Ryan	Winter's Hill, KINSALE, Co Cork

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Mallow Field Club	FLHS	Mr John Caplice	Old Dromore, MALLOW, Co Cork
* Mizen Peninsula A. & H. Society	FLHS	Ms Deirdre Collins	Poll an Uisce, High St., SCHULL, Co Cork
O'Mahony Society	FLHS	Ms Emer O'Mahony	Rosbrin, St. Joseph's Lawn, BISHOPSTOWN, Co Cork
Youghal Heritage Society	FLHS	Mr Michael Kelly	12 de Valera St., YOUGHAL, Co Cork
Cobh Oral History Project	None	J Hennessey	COBH Co Cork
Rosscarbery History Society	None	Secretary	ROSSCARBERY, Co Cork

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY KERRY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Kerry Arch. & Hist. Society	FLHS	Ms Kathleen Browne	Co. Library, TRALEE, Co Kerry
* Valentia Heritage Society	FLHS	Ms Clare Ring	Knightstown, VALENTIA ISLAND, Co Kerry
Abbeydorney Historical Society	None	Mr Tony O'Callaghan	Tonaknuck, ABBEYDORNEY, Co Kerry
Ballybunion Heritage Society	None	Mr Danny Houlihan	BALLYBUNION, Co Kerry
Kenmare L. & H. Society	None	Mr Danny Moriarty	Rock St., KENMARE, Co Kerry
Ionad na Blascaod	None	Mr Michael O Mordha	Dún Caoin, TRÁ LÍ, Co Chiarraí
Killorglin Historical Society	None	Mr Sean O Suilleabhain	Foilnagower, KILLORGLIN, Co Kerry

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY LIMERICK

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Lough Gur District H. S.	FLHS	Ms Elizabeth Clifford	Crean, BRUFF Co Limerick
Knockfierna Heritage , Folklore Group	FLHS	Pat O'Donovan	Rathkeale and Keyhouse, and NEWCASTLE WEST, Co Limerick



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Newcastle Historical Society	FLHS	Mr John Cussen	Cloneen, Gortboy, NEWCASTLE WEST, Co Limerick
O'Mahony Record Society	FLHS	Dr S C O'Mahony	The Granary, Michael St., LIMERICK
* Rathkeale Local History Soc.	FLHS	Mr Patrick Coleman	Glebe Castle, RATHKEALE, Co Limerick
* Thomond Archaeological Soc.	FLHS	Ms Anne Yeoman	19 Ashbrook, Ennis Road, LIMERICK
Irish Palatine Society	FLHS	Mr Austen Boveneizer	Killaheen, RATHKEALE, Co Limerick
Local History Society	None	Mr Dermot O'Gorman	OOLA, Co Limerick
Adare Historical Society	None	Secretary	ADARE, Co Limerick

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY TIPPERARY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Clonmel and District H. & A. Soc..	FLHS	Ms Helen O'Rourke	12 Powerstown Road, CLONMEL, Co Tipperary
Nenagh District Heritage Society	FLHS	Ms Nancy Murphy	Tyone, NENAGH, Co Tipperary
* Newport H & A Society	FLHS	Sr Consilio O'Toole	Convent of Mercy, NEWPORT, Co Tipperary
Ormond Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Donal A Murphy	NENAGH, Co Tipperary
Roscrea Heritage Society	FLHS	K A Carmody	Rosemary St., ROSCREA, Co Tipperary
Templemore Historical Society	FLHS	Mr John Lanigan	Richmond Grove, TEMPLEMORE, Co Tipperary
Tipperary Clans Heritage Assoc.	FLHS	45 West Main Street	www.iol.ie/tipp/CSRC.htm . e.mail: tippclan@iol.ie
* Tipperary Heritage Society	FLHS	Ms Mary O'Connor	Thomastown, GOLDEN, Co Tipperary
* Co. Tipperary Historical Soc.	FLHS	Mr Denis Marnane	20 Main Street, TIPPERARY
Fethard Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Gemma Burke	Red City, FETHARD, Co Tipperary
* Old Cashel Society	None	Ms Margaret Leahy	Tubberadora, THURLES, Co Tipperary
* Boherlahan/Dualla H. Jour. Soc.	None	Mr Thomas A Ryan	Ballinree House, BOHERLAHAN, Co Tipperary
Ardmayle Heritage Society	None	Chairman - Wallace	Woodstown, CASHEL, Co Tipperary
Local History Society	None	Secretary	BORRISOKANE, Co Tipperary
Local History Society	None	Mr Jimmy Duggan	THURLES, Co Tipperary

Munster

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY WATERFORD

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Waterford Hist. & Arch. Society	FLHS	E Synnott	Kilbride, GLENMORE, Co Kilkenny



LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY GALWAY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Galway A. & H. Society	FLHS	Mr William Henry	25 Monivea Park, GALWAY
* Glenamaddy Arts & Hist. Soc.	FLHS	Mr Anthony Ward	Loretto, Ballyhard, GLENAMADDY, Co Galway
* Kiltartan Gregory Cultural Soc.	FLHS	Sr de Lourdes Fahy	Convent of Mercy, GORT, Co Galway
Old Galway Society	FLHS	Ms Elizabeth Byrnes	Merville by the Bridge, ORANMORE, Co Galway
Ballygar Heritage Group	FLHS	Ms Peggy Davis	Plunkett Park, BALLYGAR, Co Galway
Western Family History Assoc.	FLHS	Mr Thomas Cuffe	PO Box 30, MOYCULLEN, Co Galway
Ballinasloe Hist. & Arch. Society	None	Mr John Roche	Kidlaw, BALLINASLOE, Co Galway
* Claregalway History Society	None	Mr Seamus O'Connell	Cloonbiggen, CLAREGALWAY, Co Galway
* Kilbegnet/Ballinakill Hist. Society	None	Mr Laurence Kilcommins	CREGGS, Co Galway
* Williamstown Heritage Society	None	Mr Leo Finnegan	WILLIAMSTOWN, Co Galway
* Aughrim History Project	None	Mr Seamus Kerins	Aughrim, BALLINASLOE, Co Galway
* Lackagh Museum and Heritage Centre	None	Mr Jarlath McDonagh	TURLOUGHMORE, Co Galway
* Dunmore History Society	None	Mr Hubert Bermingham	Church St., DUNMORE, Co Galway
* Killererin Historical Society	None	Ms Eileen O'Connell	Dangan, TUAM, Co Galway
* Maree, Oranmore	None	Mr Michael J Burke	Prospect, Maree, ORANMORE, Co Galway
* Old Tuam Society	None	Mr John A Claffey	Vicar Street, TUAM, Co Galway
* Corofin Parish History Society	None	Mr Sean Cunningham	Corofin, TUAM, Co Galway
* Kilconly Community History	None	Ms Maria Burke	Kilconly, TUAM, Co Galway
Glinsk Heritage Group	None	Mr Martin Ward	Glinsk, CASTLEREA, Co Galway

Connacht

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY LEITRIM

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Carrick on Shannon & District Historical Society	FLHS/ BCHC	Ms Jenny Kellitt	Sranagarvanagh, Ballinaglera, CARRICK-ON-SHANNON, Co Leitrim
* Killargue Historical Society	None		Killargue, DROMAHAIR, Co Leitrim
* Manorhamilton Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Maureen Keaney	Clooneen, MANORHAMILTON, Co Leitrim
Rossinver Historical Society	BCHC	Ms Una de Bréadún	Glenaniff, ROSSINVER, Co Leitrim

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY MAYO

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Kiltimagh Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Betty Solan	KILTIMAGH, Co Mayo
* Mayo N. Family Heritage Centre	FLHS	Ms Bernadette Lynn	Enniscoe, Castlehill, BALLINA, Co Mayo
* Westport Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Marian Irwin	Clew Bay Heritage Centre, WESTPORT, Co Mayo
* Museums of Mayo Network	Network	Ms Grace Mulqueen	Knock Folk Museum, KNOCK, Co Mayo
Mayo H. & A. Society	None	Mr Noel O'Neill	Fr Meehan Place, CASTLEBAR, Co Mayo
	None	Fr Sean Noone	Pullathomas, BALLINA, Co Mayo
* Newport Historical Society	None	Ms Nancy Mulhern	Bridge St., NEWPORT, Co Mayo
	None	Deasun Grogan	PARTRY, Co Mayo
* Swinford Historical Society	None	Ms Brenda Ormsby	Park Road, SWINFORD, Co Mayo



Connacht

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY ROSCOMMON

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Aughrim/Kilmore Hist. Soc.	FLHS	Ms Kathleen O'Dowd	Kilcroy, HILLSTREET, Co Roscommon
Ballaghderreen Museum & Arts	FLHS	Ms Bernadette Jordan	Corteen, BALLAGHDERREEN, Co Roscommon
Co. Roscommon H.and A. Soc.	FLHS	Mr Albert Siggins	Castlestrange, CASTLECOOTE, Co Roscommon
Tisara Heritage Society	FLHS	Ms Eileen Healy	Carroward, MOUNT TALBOT, Co Roscommon
Local History Group	None	Christy Hannon	Cloverhill, ROSCOMMON
Local History Group	FLHS	Ms Marion Harlow	Mullymux Lr., ROSCOMMON
* Ballinaheglish Local History Group	None	Ms Catherine Jordan	Runnamoat, ROSCOMMON

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY SLIGO

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Ballymote Heritage Group	FLHS	Ms Eileen Tighe	Corrigeenmore, BALLYMOTE, Co Sligo
* Sligo Field Club	FLHS	Mr Martin Timoney	Kesh, BALLYMOTE, Co Sligo
* Rosses Point Heritage Assoc. Ltd.	None	Mr Rory Callagly	2 Ros Bedlain, ROSSES POINT, Co Sligo
Curry History	None	Mr Pdraig Owens	Cloonauchill, CHARLESTOWN, Co Mayo
* Cashel History	None	Mr Brian Cahill	Cashel, TUBBERCURRY, Co Sligo

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY CARLOW

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Old Carlow Society	FLHS	Rev Dermot McKenna	20 Sherwood, CARLOW
Tullowphelim Historical Society	FLHS	Mr John Keogh	56 Dublin Road, TULLOW keoghj@itcarlow.ie

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in DUBLIN CITY AND COUNTY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Balbriggan Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Angela Bissette	18 Quay Street, BALBRIGGAN, Co Dublin
* Clontarf Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Bernardine Ruddy	5 Dollymount Avenue, DUBLIN 3
* Dun Laoghaire Borough LHS	FLHS	Mr Colin Scudds	Northumberland Park, DUN LAOGHAIRE, Co Dublin
* Knocklyon Historical Group	FLHS	Ms Aoife O'Tierney	15 Knocklyon Grove, DUBLIN 16
* Mount Merrion Hist. Society	FLHS	Ms Sheila Casey	38 The Rise, Mount Merrion, DUBLIN
* Skerries Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Eugene Coyle	1 The Brambles, Townparks, SKERRIES, Co Dublin
* Tallaght Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Josephine Lavin	25 Parkwood Lawns, Old Bawn, TALLAGHT, Co Dublin
Association of Fingal Hist. Societies	FLHS	Ms Bernadette Marks	Mountgorry, SWORDS, Co Dublin
Clondalkin History Society	FLHS	Lt Col Pdraig Murphy	13 New Road, Clondalkin, DUBLIN 22
Crumlin H./ Preservation Society	FLHS	Ms Finola Watchorn	39 St. Agnes Road, DUBLIN
Dublin Archaeological Society	FLHS	Ms Jane Behan	54 Meadowbrook, BALDOYLE, Co Dublin
Fingal An Taisce	FLHS	Ms Doreen Scally	8 Shanowen Drive, Santry, DUBLIN 9
Foxrock Local History Club	FLHS	Ms Dorothy Donnelly	Harwood, Torquay Road, DUBLIN 18
Lough Shinny and Rush HS	FLHS	Ms Margaret McCann Moore	Harbour Road, RUSH, Co Dublin



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Military History Society	FLHS	Dr Patrick McCarthy	29 Lea Road, Sandymount, DUBLIN 4
Mining Heritage Soc. of Ireland	FLHS	Dr Matthew Parkes	Geological Survey of Ireland, Haddington Road, DUBLIN 4
Old Dublin Society	FLHS	P Mullane	City Assembly House, South William Street, DUBLIN 2
Rathcoole/Saggart Hist. Group	FLHS	Ms Brona Long	Redgap, RATHCOOLE, Co Dublin
Rathfarnham Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Gregory O'Connor	103 Fairways, DUBLIN 6
Rathmichael Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Stephen Harrison	126 Ballinteer Close, DUBLIN
Rathmichael Local Hist.Society	FLHS	Mr Rod Goodbody	Old Connaught Avenue, BRAY, Co Wicklow
Royal Society of Antiquaries Ireland	FLHS	Dr Dorothy Kelly	63 Merrion Square, DUBLIN 2
* Ballinteer Local History Society	None	Mr Christopher Ryan	29 The View, Woodpark, BALLINTEER, Co Dublin
* Dundrum & District Hist Soc.	None	Mr John G Lennon	8 Frankfort Park, DUNDRUM, Co Dublin
Raheny Heritage Society	None	Ms Joan Sharkey	68 Raheny Park, DUBLIN 5

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY KILDARE

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Athy Museum Society	FLHS	Mr Frank Taaffe	Ardreigh House, ATHY, Co Kildare
Curragh Local History Group	FLHS	Mr Oliver McCrossan	Kilbelin, NEWBRIDGE, Co Kildare
Donadea Local History Group	FLHS	Mr Des O'Leary	DONADEA, Co Kildare
* Co Kildare Archeological Soc.	FLHS	Ms Elizabeth Connelly	Newington House, Christianstown, NEWBRIDGE, Co Kildare
* Naas Local History Group	FLHS	Mr Nick Coy	16 Lakeside Park, NAAS, Co Kildare
Newbridge Local History Group	FLHS	Ms Mary Ryan	St. Judes, Hawkfield, NEWBRIDGE, Co Kildare
St. Mochua's Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Eileen Fitzharris	Staplestown, DONADEA, Co Kildare
* Maynooth LH & Civic Forum	FLHS	Mr Pádraig O Murchú	3 Woodlands, MAYNOOTH, Co Kildare
* Kilcullen Local History Society	None	Pat Foley	51 Bishop Rogan Park, KILCULLEN, Co Kildare

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Kilcock Local History Group	None	Mr Seamus Cullen	Baltracy Farm, DONADEA, Co Kildare
Kildare Local History Group	None	Mr Adrian Mallowney	5 Frenchfurze Grove, KILDARE
Clane Local History Group	None	Hart Dorsch	14 Liffey Lawns, CLANE, Co Kildare

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY KILKENNY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Fassadinan History Society	FLHS	Ms Marie Downey	Lartigue, Kildown, CASTLECOMER, Co Kilkenny
* Kilkenny Archeological Society	FLHS	Ms Ann Tierney	1 Hayden Road, KILKENNY
Tullaheerin Heritage Society	FLHS	Mr Edward Law	Bishopslough, BENNETTSBRIDGE, Co Kilkenny
Callan Heritage Society	None	Mr Joe Kennedy	Moonarc, CALLAN, Co Kilkenny
Graignamanagh Historical Society	None	Mr Colm Walsh	Tinnahinch, GRAIGNAMANAGH, Co Kilkenny
Lory Meagher Center	None	Mr Patrick Molloy	TULLAROAN, Co Kilkenny

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY LAOIS

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Abbeyleix Heritage Co. Ltd.	FLHS	Mr Dermot Mulligan	Heritage House, ABBEYLEIX, Co Laois
*Laois Heritage Society	FLHS	Mr Teddy Fennelly	5 Parkview, PORTLAOISE, Co Laois
The People's Museum	FLHS	Ms Eileen Powell	Spa Street, PORTARLINGTON, Co Laois



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LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY LONGFORD

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Longford Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Seamus Mulvey	Dublin Road, LONGFORD jmulvey@tinet.ie
*Community Enterprise	None	Ms Betty Cregan	BALLINAMUCK, Co Longford
Edgeworthstown LHS	None	Mr John McGerr	Aughafin, EDGEWORTHSTOWN, Co Longford

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY LOUTH

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Darver Hist. Research Group	FLHS	Ms Kathleen Brennan	Killencoole House, Readypenny, DUNDALK, Co Louth
Old Drogheda Society	FLHS	Ms Moira Corcoran	5 Crushrod Avenue, DROGHEDA, Co Louth
Old Dundalk Society	FLHS	Jan Van Dessel	Mount Avenue, DUNDALK, Co Louth
* Co Louth Arch. & Hist. Society	FLHS	Mr Noel Ross	5 Oliver Plunkett Park, DUNDALK, Co Louth
Clogherhead Historical Society	None	Mr Kieran Burke	Almondstown, CLOGHERHEAD, Co Louth
* Burn's Cottage, Centre & Park	None	Burn's Cottage Centre	Knockbridge, DUNDALK, Co Louth

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY MEATH

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Ashbourne Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Ann Kavanagh	53 Bourne View, ASHBOURNE, Co Meath
Old Dunboyne Society	FLHS	Mr Denis Kenny	68 Beechdale, DUNBOYNE, Co Meath
* Meath A. & H. Society	FLHS	Mr Oliver Ward	Spiddal, NOBBER, Co Meath
Oldcastle Hist. & Arch+ A67. Society	FLHS	Ms Ann Fox	Patrickstown, KELLS, Co Meath
* Rathfeigh Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Joan Gallagher	Loughanstown, RATHFEIGH, Co Meath

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* Slane H. & A. Society	FLHS	Ms Sheila Crehan	SLANE, Co Meath
Local History Society	None	Secretary	TRIM, Co Meath
Local History Society	None	Secretary	DULEEK, Co Meath
Local History Society	None	Secretary	ATHBOY, Co Meath
Local History Society	None	Secretary	DUNSHAUGHLIN, Co Meath
* Enfield Parish Local Hist. Group	None	Ms Lucy Greaney	Ballinaskea, ENFIELD, Co Meath

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY OFFALY

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* Birr Historical Society	FLHS	P Cavanagh Neavyn	Lisheen Lodge, BIRR, Co Offaly
Edenderry Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Therese Abbott	Clonmullen, EDENDERRY, Co Offaly
* Offaly Hist. & Arch. Society	FLHS	Mr Michael Byrne	Bury Quay, TULLAMORE, Co Offaly

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY WESTMEATH

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
* The Old Athlone Society	FLHS	Mr Gearoid O'Brien	Library, ATHLONE, Co Westmeath
* Moate Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Teresa Sheehan	Avila, MOATE, Co Westmeath
Westmeath A. & H. Society	FLHS	P Raleigh	Bishopsgate St, MULLINGAR, Co Westmeath

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY WEXFORD

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Bunclody Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Rory Murphy	BUNCLODY, Co Wexford
Fethard Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Mary Hanrahan	Rathcoole, FETHARD, Co Tipperary
Taghmon Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Maria Colfer	The Rose, Camross, FOULKSMILLS, Co Wexford



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* Wexford Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Jarlath Glynn	Wexford Co Library, Redmond Square, WEXFORD
Arklow Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Peggy Kelly	12 Upper Tinahask Street, ARKLOW, Co Wexford
Ui Cinsealaigh History	None	Ms Ita Ormonde	BROADWAY, Wexford
New Ross L. & H. Society	None	J Sutton	South Knock, NEW ROSS, Co Wexford

LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETIES in COUNTY WICKLOW

Society	Affiliation	Contact	
Bray Cualann Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Brian White	27 Ardmore Crescent, Ardmore, BRAY, Co Wicklow
* Old Bray Society	FLHS	Mr James Scannell	19 Hazelwood, Shankill, DUBLIN 18
Greystones A. & H. Society	FLHS	Ms Aileen Short	Brookfield, Glen Road, DELGANY, Co Wicklow
* Rathdangan Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Kathleen Cullen	Killamoat, RATHDANGAN, Co Wicklow
West Wicklow Historical Society	FLHS	Mr Peadar Cullen	Killamoat, Rathdangan, KILTEGAN, Co Wicklow
Wicklow Historical Society	FLHS	Ms Ann Carr	Fitzwilliam Square, WICKLOW
Avoca Heritage Committee	FLHS	Ms Marie Merrigan	Ballymoneen, AVOCA, Co Wicklow
Heritage Center Advisory Committee		FLHS	Ms Kathleen Kinsella Old Courthouse, BRAY, Co Wicklow
Enniskerry Local History Society	None	Mr John Callan	Rose Villa, KILLEGAR, Co Wicklow

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The Centre for Cross Border Studies, based in Armagh, was set up in September 1999 to research and develop co-operation across the Irish border in education, health, business, public administration, communications and a range of other practical areas. It is a joint initiative by Queen's University Belfast, Dublin City University and the Workers Educational Association (Northern Ireland), and is financed by the EU Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation. Between February and October 2001 the Centre published research reports on cross-border telecommunications, cross-border health services, all-Ireland co-operation to tackle disadvantage in education, EU cross-border funding before and after the Good Friday Agreement, cross border co-operation in local government and cross-border co-operation between local history societies.

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