

**Offaly
History**
.com

**OFFALY HISTORICAL
& ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

Telephone: 057-9321421

Email: info@offalyhistory.com

Office & Family History Opening Hours 9-4.30 Mon-Friday

Facebook: Offaly History - Twitter: @offalyhistory

FIND YOUR PLACE

IN HISTORY

JOIN TODAY

Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society

An invitation to support Offaly History

Never too young to join, never a time to leave

Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society (Offaly History) will be fifty years old in 2019. The present society was founded in 1969 largely through the efforts of John Sweeney and Pa Martin. It was a second founding as the original society dates back to 1938, but waned during the war years. It was founded by James Rogers, the then Offaly County Registrar, but back in 1914-22 he was the main solicitor advising Sinn Féin in County Offaly (when it was neither popular or profitable). Sadly Rogers appears to have left no personal papers or memoir, but included in our archives are many of his office files and letter books. His business of Rogers & Co was founded in Tullamore in 1912. We plan to establish an Offaly History Archive worthy of the county. The society has acquired a new warehouse for this purpose and through a hard-working subcommittee we expect to make substantial progress on this project and bring it to completion. You can help by joining and supporting our work or making a donation. We have charitable status so a contribution however small can help greatly.

Why not call to see us at Bury Quay, Tullamore or visit us virtually at www.Offalyhistory.com and on Facebook and Twitter. Also sign up for our free Offaly

History Blog with a new post every week to provide good quality material on Offaly History. We welcome articles (info@offalyhistory.com).

Offaly History works with the Department of Social Welfare and in any one year we generally provide training and employment opportunities to upwards of twenty people. We also work with the Offaly County Council, Offaly Local Development and the local press. The aim is to secure employment so if you have a vacancy or a training opportunity please email us.

The objectives of Offaly History have always been to promote Offaly's rich history, heritage and culture while making it known throughout the county, Ireland and internationally.

Bookshop

Offaly History has an extensive stock of local publications, now for sale online also. Our bookshop offers a wide selection of publications and photographs of old Offaly for sale. We aspire to assist local authors by buying their books in quantity and stocking them for the public as a research tool into the future. We have the largest history selection in the midlands with over 500 pure history items of which over 100 are local.

Esker Press

The Society is a publisher of local books through its publishing imprint Esker Press (see our catalogues on our website), recent publications and special offers.

Offaly History Library and Archives

Offaly History is saving memories, ideas and traditions. A voluntary society, it is dedicated to preserving, protecting and understanding the history of our families, workplaces and communities. Offaly History is a treasure house of diverse historical materials, from family photographs and records to maps, old books, newspapers and manuscripts. Through its autumn/winter programmes of guest lecturers, extensive library and archives, its educational programmes and publications, Offaly History lets you *touch* history. Our library catalogue is online and in its own way is a useful research tool. Find it at our website shortcut or on **LibraryThing**. We have almost 20,000 volumes and over 11,000 titles in the catalogue. Our reading room is open to members from 10 to 4 each and on one evening a week (see www.offalyhistory.com for details).

Become a member and discover there's an exciting past. For more information call 05793-21421, email info@offalyhistory.com or see the website at www.offalyhistory.com and Facebook at Offaly History where there are over 1,000 photographs of historical places and events.

Scope of the Collections

The library and archives preserve books, manuscripts, photographs, maps, atlases, newspapers, estate records, films, oral recordings and memorabilia that document 10,000 years of life in the area. The library and archives foster historical and archaeological

research on Offaly, a county pivotal to the story of Ireland's settlement history from Lough Boora to the plantation of the sixteenth-century.

Offaly History is expanding its resources on the county's social, economic, military, political and sports history, health and welfare, work, small businesses and women's history. The library includes 20,000 volumes, manuscript materials, maps, 300,000 photographs that support research in every aspect of local history with strengths in the areas of:

- archaeology, early and modern history of Ireland
- commerce and business
- neighbourhood history - Offaly and other counties
- family history and genealogy (Laois and Offaly)
- church histories - Ireland
- industry and transport, particularly canals, distilleries
- sport, leisure, education, folklore and oral history

The Society collects photographs, postcards and prints of people and places documenting the history of Offaly. The collection depicts residential, religious, commercial and industrial buildings; bridges and waterways; views of local people and events. Images from the Offaly History collection are used by researchers, authors, publishers and advertisers. It includes the outstanding Hanly, Magan and Fetherstonhaugh collections and the Offaly History postcard and photograph collection. Recently we embarked on a new series of recording photographs covering the towns and villages of Offaly. We work with other organisations such as Tullamore Camera Club, Tullamore Lions and Tullamore Rotary to promote heritage tourism and publication. Offaly History works closely with the Offaly County Council Heritage Office, Offaly County Library and welcomes the local history facilities in Tullamore, Birr, Clara and other venues in the county. We organise events for the annual Heritage Week.

Monthly lectures/Summer tours

Offaly History holds monthly lectures and summer all of which are open to the public at a nominal voluntary charge. Members of the society receive a monthly newsletter (best by email) and can enjoy the opportunity to explore the past.

Family History Research

The Society operates **Irish Midlands Ancestry** and provides an ancestral research service covering the counties of Laois and Offaly. This is on a cost-recovery basis and queries and reports vary in price from €90 to €300. It is a non-profit making service to support people in their search for their family roots. Offaly History is also a member of

the Irish Family History Foundation and has placed almost one million records from Laois and Offaly on its Roots Ireland site. All income from this work is reinvested to promote the objectives of Offaly History. Using all the primary sources including church registers, civil records, census returns, etc., Offaly History has compiled a large database of information on Laois and Offaly families spanning several centuries. Most of the records relate to the 19th century, but some church registers date back to the 18th century. Since 1983 Irish Midlands Ancestry has a well regarded reputation for processing thousands of enquiries, mainly from Australia, Britain, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and USA. Increasingly it also receives queries from people living in Ireland.

The centre is in the unique position of having researchers with experience and unrivalled knowledge of the sources and the midlands region. On occasion vague enquiries are received but local knowledge can bring about a successful outcome. The research staff are professional in dealing with a wide range of enquiries be they from personal callers or through the mail. They provide a service of quality and efficiency.

For those who cannot yet make the vital connection with the correct location in Ireland, it is essential to search several sources in your home country which may hold that all important piece of information to get started. The web address is www.irishmidlandsancestry.com and the e-mail address is info@offalyhistory.com.

Irish Midlands Ancestry, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, Ireland or consult our data on Roots Ireland where it is located with 20 million records.

Telephone: 00353 5793 21421, e-mail: info@offalyhistory.com

Making a donation of time, historical materials or money

All the assets of Offaly History are held in the name of Offaly Heritage Centre Limited, a company with charitable status and accordingly are not available to the members for distribution. The officers and committee serve in an honorary capacity. If you would like to make a donation of €250 or more to Offaly History for its work please email for further details. At a net cost of a little over €140 a self-employed person gives €250 and a PAYE contributor providing €250 allows Offaly History to claim up to €350. If you would like to help with your time and expertise contact of our committee members or email info@offalyhistory.com re volunteering. We welcome donations however small. Your time and your interest mean a lot to us. Have you something to contribute by way of time, materials (books, photos, memorial cards, archival material) or money?

Why not email today for membership details. You can also subscribe to our annual journal. More than that you can help from wherever you are around the world in our various projects.

The committee

The current committee will be listed on our website as are all our newsletters.

Offaly History Membership / Renewal

I would like to renew my membership/become a member of the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Mobile

Number:

(saves time and money on post and paper)
on events)

(optional for free text alerts

Please Indicate Membership Choice	Rate	Please Tick
Individuals and families: €30	€30	
Overseas member: €30	€30	
Corporate subscription: €75	€75	
Friend of Offaly History: €100	€100	
Life membership: €500	€500	
Primary/Secondary School Student Rate: €5 (Letter required from your school confirming your current enrolment)	€5	

Payment Options:

Standing Order: Please complete form below

Credit Card

Card No. _____

Cardholders Name: _____

CSV Digit _____ Expiry Date: _____

Cheque: Please make cheques payable to Offaly Heritage Centre Ltd.

I enclose a cheque/cash/visa for €

Please call, post or email the completed form, together with your subscription to the OHAS Centre. **(You may use the PayPal payment system, which can be found on the home page of www.offalyhistory.com or www.irishmidlandsancestry.com.)**

For further details on membership please contact the Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society, Research Centre, Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 Y5V0 Tel: 057 93 21421 or info@offalyhistory.com

**Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society
Bury Quay, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
Membership Form (Standing Order Payment)
FOR MEMBERS PAYING BY STANDING ORDER**

**Please return the completed form to the Society Treasurer, who will note your name, address and e-mail, for journal mailings and e-mail circulars. The Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society treasurer will then forward the form to your bank. Please notify future change of address and/or e-mail to the Society.
Attention Membership Secretary**

Request for a Standing Order

To the Manager _____
Bank: _____
Branch: _____
Bank Address: _____

You are authorised to set up a Standing Order on my/our account as specified below. My/Our account will at all times contain sufficient funds to enable each payment to be effected on the due date.

Signed: _____

Date:

Member's Name: _____

Member's Address: _____

Member's E-mail: _____

Member's Mobile No. _____

(optional if you want notification of lectures)

Please charge to my account (Republic of Ireland Bank Accounts ONLY)

Member's Account Number: _____

Member's Sort Code: _____

Pay to: Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society

Account Name: **Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society**

Account Address: **Bank of Ireland, Bridge Street, Tullamore, Co. Offaly**

Account Number: **60237536** Sort Code: **90 -19-09**, IBAN 1E 57 BOFI 901909
60237536. BIC BOFIIIE2D Frequency of Payment: **Annual** The sum of €30
commencing now and on 1st January each year thereafter until further notice.

Return form to: Offaly Historical and Archaeological Society, Bury Quay, Tullamore
Co. Offaly, R35 Y5V0