ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

ANNUAL REPORT 2010 - 2011

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Cover photograph: Daughters of Joseph Tomelty, Roma Carnegie and Frances Tomelty, with their families and Mayor of Ards Borough Council, Councillor David Smith, 5 March 2011

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Published by the Ulster History Circle

heritage lottery fund
LOTTERY FUNDED

Introduction
This report of the Circle's operations draws together the main strands of its activities in the year to 31 March 2011.

The Ulster History Circle is a small, voluntary, not for profit organisation that places commemorative plaques in public places, in towns and villages all over Ulster, in honour of men and women who have contributed to the Province's history. The Circle is recognised as a Charity by HM Revenue and Customs.

The Circle was formed in the 1980s to commemorate people of achievement. The Constitution is set out in Appendix 5. The work is entirely voluntary. The Circle has no earning capacity or trust funds of any kind and depends on District Councils, individuals and businesses to contribute to the cost of erecting individual plaques.

The Circle encourages nominations for plaques from the public and many of our projects are selected from such nominations. The eligibility criteria and information about how to make a nomination are set out on our website www.ulsterhistory.co.uk . The general rule is that a proposal to put up a plaque is not considered unless the person to be commemorated has been deceased for at least 20 years - less if the deceased person was born more than 100 years ago. An explanation of how the scheme works is set out in Appendix 4.

Heritage Lottery Fund
In 2007 the Heritage Lottery Fund provided a grant for a five-year project to erect 50 plaques, develop an on-line Dictionary of Ulster Biography and undertake a number of activities designed to extend the reach of the Circle's activities to the wider community including schools. We are now in year 4 of this *Celebrating Achievers* project. Progress is reported in Appendix 1.

Plaques erected in 2010-2011
In the year 10 plaques were erected in different parts of the Province.

The plaques (in alphabetical order) were for the following -

Kathleen Bridle – Artist and Teacher	- Enniskillen, Co Fermanagh
E. Godfrey Brown – Musician	- Holywood, Co Down
Sir Tyrone Guthrie – Broadcaster and Theatre Director	- Belfast
Mercy Hunter – Artist, Calligrapher and Teacher	- Belfast
Sir Henry Lawrence – Founder of Lawrence Schools, India	- Londonderry
Maritime Hotel – Birthplace of Rhythm 'n' Blues in Belfast	- Belfast
Alice Milligan & Charlotte Milligan Fox – Promoters of the Celtic Revival	- Omagh, Co Tyrone
W.R. Rodgers – Poet and Broadcaster	- Belfast
Dr. George Sigerson – Physician, Professor, Writer and Gael	- Strabane
Joseph Tomelty – Author, Actor, Playwright	- Portaferry

Short biographies of the recipients, and photographs of the events, are published on the Circle's website, and in Appendix 3.

There is a complete list of plaques in Appendix 6.

Future Programme
As the year ended, planning for 23 new plaques was well advanced, with funding secured or being sought. Another 19 were at earlier planning stages.

Missing Plaque
The missing plaque for George Dickson, Rose Grower, was restored to the Strangford Arms Hotel in Newtownards.

Publicity

Publicity for the Plaque Events is generated by targeted Press Releases to regional and local news media, TV, radio and regional and local newspapers. Some of the events have attracted considerable media interest e.g. Mercy Hunter, Sir Tyrone Guthrie, Joseph Tomelty. As well as news coverage, some events were featured on the BBC's "Arts Extra" programme. Sometimes a subject generates a lot of interest. For example, the plaque for Joseph Tomelty was unveiled on the centenary of his birth and coincided with contemporary media focus and exhibitions of his life and work in Belfast Central Library and Portaferry Library. This resulted in extensive coverage of the plaque in the regional and local press and on radio. There is a YouTube video of the ceremony.

Where possible the Circle seeks to identify and involve members of the families or descendants of the person being commemorated and all interested are involved in the planning and the unveiling ceremonies. As a consequence the events are happy occasions and much appreciated by the families.

Membership Attendance

The Circle met 13 times, including the Annual General Meeting. Two new members joined during the year; John Kennedy and Alan Boyd. The record of individual attendance is shown below. Mere attendance (travel and work requirements permitting) is not an indication of input (some members are unable to travel to the meetings) and members' contributions in research and support are counted in other ways – see page 8.

Name	Possible attendance	Actual attendance
Wesley McCann - *Chairman*	13	12
Sean Nolan - *Secretary*	13	11
Pat Devlin - *Treasurer*	13	12
Doreen Corcoran	13	8
Hugh Odling-Smee	0	0
Richard Froggatt	13	10
Annesley Malley	0	0
Trevor Parkhill	13	4
Victor Price	1	1
Chris Ryder	0	0
Chris Spurr	13	12
John Dooher	13	7
Peter Cavan	13	5
Linda Greenwood	13	9
John Kennedy	3	2
Alan Boyd	3	3

Plaque Selection

It might be helpful to record some of the issues that are involved for the Circle in accepting new plaque nominations. As a small voluntary body the Circle employs no staff and all the work has to be done in members' own time. As well as erecting plaques, the Circle is involved in a number of related and complementary activities including the development and maintenance of the on-line Dictionary of Ulster Biography, the preparation of a Blue Plaque Guide covering all the 120 or so plaques erected up to the end of 2009 and the development and delivery of an Outreach Programme involving local historical societies, community and other local groups and schools.

In relation to plaques, our current active programme list is 42, with another 90 or so in a longer-term list. New names are constantly being suggested from different sources. Of the 42, we are seeking or have secured full or complementary funding for 24. The others are at different stages in the research process. On average, we unveil about 10 plaques a year; some years more, some fewer. Each one involves a great deal of detailed planning, consultation with many interests and preparation that is very time consuming.

Another consideration is the geographical spread of the plaques. At present the plaques are concentrated in the east of the province, mainly in Belfast and Counties Antrim and Down. Although this is where the bulk of the population resides, the area has a disproportionate share of the plaques. We have over the last few years been trying to remedy this by encouraging nominations from the other Ulster Counties. We have made some

progress; for example, of the 24 plaques mentioned above, 14 are from these areas, which demonstrates some advancement towards a better balance.

Dictionary of Ulster Biography

In the year to 31 March 2011the Dictionary attracted over 2,700 visitors, from more than 40 countries, who on average viewed 10.3 pages each. Another 2,600 viewed only the home page, www.ulsterbiography.co.uk .

During the year the functionality was enhanced, adding full text search. This means that any instance of a name, place or phrase can be searched. This is particularly useful where there is uncertainty as to some details.

During the year, more than 50 additional biographies have been added to the Dictionary. For this we are indebted to one of our members, Richard Froggatt, for his scholarship, dedication and sheer hard work. With another 50 names to process up to the year 2000, there remains a significant amount of work to do, before we can begin to process the additional 400 names identified up to the year 2009. This aspect of the Dictionary will require work in perpetuity if the Dictionary is to be maintained up to date; a major undertaking for a voluntary organisation.

Blue Plaque Guide

Work on the Guide has been completed and as the year ended it was in the process of being printed. A strategy for distribution to Tourist Information Centres, local libraries, museums and other outlets has been prepared and it is intended to arrange a formal launch at a plaque unveiling scheduled for Autumn 2011.

Leaflets

During the year the Circle began to produce leaflets about the plaque events themselves. The leaflets are produced locally to reduce costs and are intended for distribution to people attending the event, passers-by, local tradespeople and for display in local libraries, museums etc.

Outreach Programme

The Circle aims to involve local historical societies in the planning of unveiling events and engages with them in local arrangements and publicity. The Circle works with the Federation for Ulster Local Studies to provide speakers to local societies to-

a. increase awareness of what we are seeking to do;
b. demonstrate how our objective of preserving and widening knowledge of historical personalities, local as well as national and international, is fully in tune with the thrust of their own work; and
c. encourage local historical societies to greater co-operation with and participation in the Circle's activities.

To further these objectives, the Circle is included on the Federation's Register of Speakers which is available on its website, providing societies with the opportunity to include a speaker in their seasonal programme of events. Since the Register was published in 2010 two societies have taken up the offer.

The Circle continues to give talks to a number of organisations including Rotary Clubs, Business and Professional Women's Association, University of the Third Age groups, Probus Clubs and Mother's Union.

The Circle has had useful discussions with Libraries NI on areas of mutual interest and broad agreement has been reached on a number of areas of co-operation. This includes the use of Libraries for Circle events, for the placement of plaques, which could otherwise not be erected due to the remoteness, or unavailability of e.g. a birth house. Two such plaques were erected in the year; the Milligan sisters on the Omagh Library and the Sigerson plaque on the Strabane Library. In both instances Libraries NI prepared complementary exhibitions on the life and work of the plaque recipient. Two other examples of co-operation were the E. Godfrey Brown plaque in Holywood and the Joseph Tomelty plaque in Portaferry where Libraries NI mounted exhibitions of their work to coincide with the plaque unveiling.

Further work will be undertaken to integrate the Dictionary of Ulster Biography into the Libraries NI website and its client services.

The Circle had a stand at the Ulster Museum's well-attended 'History of the World in 100 Objects' held on Saturday 11 September 2010. A three-panel display of the Circle's work was prepared that is used at suitable

venues during talks and unveiling events e.g. the Milligan sisters, the George Sigerson and the Joseph Tomelty ceremonies.

For schools, our discussions with two teacher-training colleges to explore the scope for developing mechanisms for involving students in the processes of identifying, documenting and selecting nominations for blue plaques have made slow progress. It is intended by the lessons learned from this process to develop a more comprehensive approach to the eventual involvement of primary schools. This is a major long-term process that will extend beyond the period of the *Celebrating Achievers* Project.

Guide on Commemorative Plaques and Plaque Schemes

Following a major conference representing organisations such as metropolitan and other local authorities, civic trusts, museums, libraries and plaque manufacturers, in which the Circle participated, English Heritage published a comprehensive Guide on all aspects of the preparation for and implementation of commemorative plaque schemes. In the Guide, English Heritage acknowledges the work of the Circle and draws on its approach as an exemplar of good practice, with illustrations of some of our plaques and other matters, such as the clarity and simplicity of plaque design and our compilation of the monetary value of the voluntary input involved.

Society Website

The Circle's web site www.ulsterhistory.co.uk was updated continuously. In the year the biography pages were visited 3,200 times and 2,000 of the events reports were viewed.

Financial Report

The Circle's Accounts are in Appendix 2.

Conclusion

On behalf of the Circle I would like to say how much we appreciate the generosity of our sponsors, the Heritage Lottery Fund, City and District Councils, individuals and organisations without whose help and support the Circle could not have continued the work of honouring the many distinguished people from the Province who are exemplified by those remembered this year.

Wesley McCann – Chairman **May 2011**

APPENDIX 1
CELEBRATING ACHIEVERS PROJECT

AGREED AIMS AND OUTCOMES

Aims	Measure of Success	Progress to Date
We will research and erect 50 Commemorative Plaques in honour of men and women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of ideas and the benefit of society, particularly in such fields as the arts and sciences, industry, religion, sport and public and community service.	By the end of the project 50 plaques will have been erected.	Fifty four Plaques erected at 31 March 2011.
We will research, compile, document and maintain on its own website an up-to-date Dictionary of Ulster Biography.	A revised edition of the Dictionary will be available on the internet.	1. Dictionary went live on 17 November 2009. [Objective achieved] 2. Dictionary updating ongoing.
We will develop a comprehensive Outreach Programme connecting with schools, universities and other educational institutions, local history societies, community development organisations, tourism interests and museum and arts organisations to create wider involvement, interest and direct, co-operative participation in our work.	A comprehensive Outreach programme will have been successfully implemented.	1. Working with local historical societies. 2. Working with FULS. 3. Working with Libraries NI. 4. Blue plaque Guide distribution. 5. Leaflet preparation and distribution. 6. Preparing schools outreach strategy.
We will research, compile and publish a Blue Plaques Guide containing information about each plaque and a range of leaflets about the Circle and about individuals which would include details about the sources of further and more comprehensive material about the subject.	Three editions of the Booklet will have been published. A range of appropriate leaflets will be available in a wide range of outlets throughout the province.	1. General leaflet printed and distributed. 2. CD of existing plaques available. 3. Guide prepared and being printed. 4. Distribution strategy in place. 5. Launch planning underway. 6. Leaflets for individual plaques routinely prepared for local distribution.
We will work pro-actively with the Tourist Board and other organisations to promote the plaques and our associated resources as a social and cultural tourism asset for the entire community and visitors and to stimulate interest in the individuals commemorated by means of associated publications, tours, visits, lectures and seminars.	Extensive and effective liaison and co-operative arrangements with the Tourist Board and other appropriate organisations will be operating effectively.	Blue Plaque Guide available for distribution to tourist centres etc.
We will exploit ongoing trends and developments in multi-media technology to maintain and further develop the Ulster History Circle Website as an easily accessible resource for the entire Northern Ireland community and a stimulus for tourists and others interested in exploring our history and heritage.	The Circle's websites will provide an enhanced range of information of use to tourism, further and continuing education and to those interested in exploring our heritage and history.	1. New on-line Dictionary launched on 17 November 2009 and integrated with website. 2. Additional features on website i.r.o. event coverage. 3. Web2 developments e.g. FaceBook, Twitter, blogs and YouTube under consideration.

APPENDIX 2

FINANCIAL REPORT 2010- 2011

Accounts

The Income and Expenditure account for the year is attached.

Financial Resources Received

In addition to the Heritage Lottery Fund grant that continues to underpin the Circle's activities, the Circle is grateful to the following for supporting the Circle's activities during the year.

From	Amount
AE Harvey Trust	£500.00
Ards Borough Council	£950.00
Belfast City Council	£1,400.00
BBC - NI	£700.00
Fermanagh District Council	£800.00
Friends of Sam Burnside	£1,258.00
Gaelic Athletic Association	£400.00
Londondonderry City Council	£400.00
North Down Borough Council	£1,600.00
Old Lawrencians Association	£800.00
Omagh District Council	£400.00
Strabane District Council	£700.00
Strangford Arms Hotel	£150.00
TOTAL	**£10,058.00**

Financial Code of Practice

The Code of Practice, adopted by the Circle at its meeting on 5 November 2004, sets out officers' roles and responsibilities and the processes of record maintenance, budgetary control, financial reporting, account preparation and audit.

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE
INCOME & EXPENDITURE 2010-2011

		2010/11	**2009/10**	**2008/09**
Opening Balance at Bank		**£21,144.51**	**£11,907.30**	**£22,859.81**
	Deficit in Petty Cash			£24.07
INCOME				
	Grants Received [1]	£7,850.00	£27,380.00	£1,100.00
	Other income [2]	£2,297.63	£160.00	£262.03
	TOTAL RESOURCES	**£31,292.14**	**£27,540.00**	**£1,362.03**
EXPENDITURE				
	Plaque Manufacture and fitting	£8,588.78	£10,006.63	£4,848.20
	Plaque replacement and repair	£184.00	£0.00	£164.51
	Bank Charges	£43.67	£41.18	£35.31
	Postage	£62.23	£111.66	£47.01
	Printing and Stationery [3]	£1,000.11	£668.25	£1,161.41
	Meeting Expenses [4]	£735.60	£640.87	£675.45
	Travel [5]	£291.20	£738.20	£546.00
	Audit Fees	£600.00	£600.00	£600.00
	Internet Charges [6]	£41.98	£111.31	£149.68
	Insurance [7]	£70.00	£28.00	£42.00
	Equipment [8]	£703.03	£98.49	£1,648.35
	Membership Fees [7]	£30.00	£30.00	£30.00
	Events [9]	£672.00	£1,618.30	£357.45
	IT Contract [10]	£166.06	£3,287.00	£1,900.00
	Other Expenditure	£619.40	£272.14	£85.10
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	**£13,818.06**	**£18,252.03**	**£12,290.47**
	Petty Cash	£34.01	£50.76	
Closing Balance at Bank		**£17,490.83**	**£21,144.51**	**£11,907.30**
Notes:	(1) Includes second instalment of HLF grant			
	(2) Various donations and talks			
	(3) Includes Annual Report			
	(4) Accommodation charges and refreshment costs at monthly meetings			
	(5) Visits to service suppliers, potential sites and some launch events			
	(6) Service charges for two websites plus email			
	(7) Membership of FULS and PL Insurance Costs			
	(8) Display Unit, Portable Sound System, External HD for backup, camera case			
	(9) Light refreshments at unveiling events			
	(10) For design, augmentation and hosting of Dictionary.			

VOLUNTARY INPUT

The Circle is required by the arrangements with the Heritage Lottery Fund to collect data on the extent and cost of the voluntary input of the Circle members in delivering the programme. No account is taken of the voluntary help made available by other organisations and individuals. Obtaining this information is far from easy since members do not routinely collect it. Each month most members provide a rough estimate of their input under different headings. Some members do not record their activity so no account can be taken of their contribution in financial terms. The figure is therefore an understatement of the overall value of voluntary activity.

Based on these returns the following table sets out the estimated cost of the voluntary activity involved in the year. It is an underestimate but does give an indication of the value of such effort. The cost of travel is additional to that paid in respect of Lottery funded activity. The increase in activity reflects the increased membership of the Circle and additional activity on the Blue Plaque Guide and the Dictionary of Ulster Biography.

SUMMARY								
	2010-2011		2009-2010		2008-2009		2007-2008	
Hours	2759	£68,975.00	2304	£57,600.00	1962	£49,050.00	765	£19,110.00
Miles	2580	£1,032.00	2771	£1,108.00	1919	£768.00	2650	£1,060.00
Calls	2563	£5,331.00	1420	£2,954.00	936	£93.00	510	£50.00
Letters	58	£145.00	67	£168.00	264	£660.00	120	£60.00
TOTAL		**£75,483.00**		**£61,830.00**		**£50,571.00**		**£20,280.00**

APPENDIX 3

THE YEAR'S EVENTS

The following pages contain short biographies and descriptions of the people and places honoured with a blue plaque in the year under review. Photographs from the events are included.

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Kathleen Bridle	11
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Alice Milligan & Charlotte Milligan Fox	17
W.R. Rodgers	18
Dr. George Sigerson	19
Joseph Tomelty	20

BRIDLE, KATHLEEN (1909 – 1990) | Artist and Teacher

Kathleen Bridle, the daughter of an Irish coastguard officer, was born in at Swalecliff, Kent, on 19 November 1897 and spent her childhood at Ramsgate. In Dublin she studied Life and Figure drawing at the Metropolitan School of Art, winning two silver medals for modelling and drawing, and in her final year the RDS Taylor Scholarship, which enabled her, in 1921, to travel to London to the Royal College of Art. There she met the sculptor Henry Moore, and worked with oils, watercolour and enamels, on portraiture, landscape and other genres. She won the George Clausen Prize for portrait art.

In no particular order - Marion Maxwell, Sean Nolan, Gerry Burns (Heritage Lottery Fund), Lord John Belmore, Leonore Sammon, Sarah McHugh (Fermanagh County Museums), Mme and M Durix, Brian Kennedy, Elizabeth Armstong (current head of Enniskillen Collegiate Grammar School), Florence Brunt (chair of B of Gov, Collegiate), Maureen McKeever (principal of Mount Lourdes), Toni Johnson, Gordon Johnson (successor to Bridle at Collegiate Art Dept.), Mary Herbert, Joanna McVey, Rev Geoffrey Bridle and Mrs Bridle, Kate Doherty, (retired principal of Collegiate), Sylvia Cooper, Michael Burns (owner of 15 Cooper Crescent), Helen Lannigan Wood, Cllr Stephen Huggett (Chairman Fermanagh District Council).

After a brief period working in the Harry Clarke stained glass studio in Dublin, she moved to Enniskillen to begin teaching. At first she worked part-time in several schools at once, eventually in 1955 being employed full-time in the Collegiate School in Enniskillen, where she taught until she retired. There she taught young artists including William Scott and TP Flanagan.

From 1921 to 1939 she showed more than 30 works at the Royal Hibernian Academy. She also exhibited at the Ulster Academy of Arts, where she was elected an Associate in 1935. Solo shows took place at Magee's Gallery Belfast (1936), 55a Donegall Place Belfast (1947) and the Belfast Museum and Art Gallery (1950).

TP Flanagan remembers his Arts Teacher

She travelled extensively in Europe throughout her life. She toured Yugoslavia by bus in her 60s and saw New Zealand in her 70s. Elected a full Academician at the RUA in 1948, a major retrospective of her work was held at the Fermanagh County Museum in 1998, which later toured to the Ulster Museum and the Armagh County Museum. Mainly a watercolorist and landscape painter, she produced a number of portraits in oils. She died on 25 May 1989.

Location of plaque: 15 Cooper Crescent, Enniskillen

Date Unveiled: 15 November 2010

BROWN, E. GODFREY (1874 – 1955) | Musician

Edward Godfrey Brown was born in Barrow-in-Furness, the son of Edward Brown, DMus, an organist and choral director. Godfrey studied violin, organ and piano at the Royal College of Music and for a time worked as an orchestral player in London. On his return to the north-west of England he held the position of organist in a number of parish churches as well as conducting a different choral society on four nights of the week.

In 1912 he successfully applied for the post of Conductor of the Belfast Philharmonic Society. The position of organist of Holywood Parish Church became available at the same time and Brown was successful in securing it, and so he and his wife settled in Holywood at Fernbank.

Wesley McCann, Barry Douglas, Mayor John Montgomery and Prof. Patrick Murphy

The 'Phil' was an amateur society that had been formed in 1874 from a merger of two pre-existing musical societies. Brown's first task was to try to create a symphony orchestra that could give orchestral concerts independently of the chorus. This proved problematic as Belfast had few professional players who could be called on to strengthen the orchestra, and the cost and difficulty (especially during the First World War) of bringing them over from England limited this option. In 1922 Brown was appointed Director of Music at Methodist College Belfast and at once set about enlarging the place of music in the school. In 1924 he was made Director of Music at 2BE, the BBC station in Northern Ireland. He was in fact the first person to join the staff and in the early years of the station he was in all but name the head of the service. This gave him the resources to recruit professional players from England and an orchestra of 17 players was quickly put together. In the early days music formed the largest part of the new station's output.

Now that there was a core of professional players Brown was able to strengthen the 'Phil' and in the Belfast Wireless Orchestra he had a band able to tackle a wide repertory. Under Brown's energetic direction the 'Phil's' repertoire and standard of performance grew and musicians of the calibre of Adrian Boult, Arthur Bliss and Ralph Vaughan Williams were invited to conduct the Society. But probably Brown's greatest coup was in persuading the Master of the King's Musick and England's greatest composer to visit Belfast to conduct his own works. Sir Edward Elgar was seventy-five when he made his only visit to Ireland to conduct his choral masterpiece *The Dream of Gerontius* in the Ulster Hall in October 1932. The performance was by all accounts a triumph and those who were present spoke about it for years afterwards.

Barry Douglas unveils the plaque

Brown was made OBE in 1936 and retired from the BBC in the following year. With the outbreak of war in 1939 the forty musicians found themselves out of work. Brown continued the 'Phil' with a largely amateur orchestra until his retirement in 1950. Fittingly his last concert featured *The Dream of Gerontius*.

Brown continued in his role of parish organist and teacher of private pupils. He had also established the Holywood Musical Festival in 1947 and remained as its Director until his death on 2 February 1955. He is buried in Redburn Cemetery.

Location of plaque: 'Fernbank' 117 Downshire Road, Holywood, Co. Down

Date of unveiling: 23 August 2010

GUTHRIE, SIR TYRONE (1900 – 1971) | Broadcaster and Theatre Director

Tyrone Guthrie was born in Tunbridge Wells, Kent, on 2 July 1900 but came to live in his parental home at Annaghmakerrig, Newbliss, County Monaghan when he was six months old. He was educated at Wellington College and St John's College, Oxford. In 1923 he was invited to join the Oxford Playhouse, which had such notable players as John Gielgud, Richard Goolden and Flora Robson. However after a short time he left to join the BBC in Belfast, where, on 15 September 1924 his was the first voice heard on the new service - then called 2BE.

Guests at the unveiling ceremony

Guthrie became director of the Scottish National Theatre Society in Glasgow for two years. He worked with the BBC in London and with the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, as well as with the Festival Theatre, Cambridge, and the Westminster Theatre, London. In 1931 he directed plays for Sadler's Wells and the Old Vic, where in 1933 he introduced Laurence Olivier as Hamlet. He became director of the latter in 1951.

Many of his productions were staged in Australia, England, America, Finland and Israel, and he became first director of the Old Minnesota Classical Theatre in Minneapolis. He was given honorary degrees by Queen's University, Belfast; Trinity College, Dublin; St. Andrews; Franklyn and Marshall University (Pennsylvania); Western Ontario; Ripon College (Wisconsin) and Citidel Military College, Charleston. From 1963 to 1970 he served as Chancellor of Queen's University. He was also Chairman of the Ulster Theatre Council and in 1961 was knighted for his service to the theatre. Among his publications are *Theatre Prospect; Top of the Ladder; In Several Directions* and *A Life in the Theatre*.

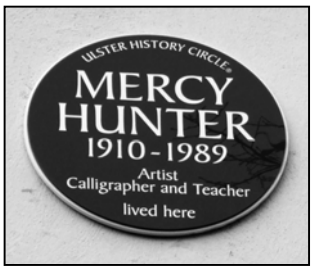
Playwright Brian Friel with BBC Controller NI, Peter Johnston

In 1962 he established a jam factory in Newbliss, in an attempt to alleviate high unemployment. It went into liquidation the year that he died. He died on 15 May 1971 in Annaghmakerrig House, and in his will left his house to the Irish state as a retreat for artists and writers.

Location of plaque: Rear of Broadcasting House, Linenhall Street, Belfast

Date of unveiling: 15 September 2010

HUNTER, MERCY (1910 – 1989) | Artist, Calligrapher and Teacher



Mercy Hunter was born in Belfast on 22 January 1910. Her mother was Russian. When she was four years old, she travelled on the Trans-Siberian Railway, to China, where she spent her childhood in Manchuria.

Wesley McCann, Chairman Ulster History Circle, addresses the guests

She was educated in Toronto and at Belfast Royal Academy. From 1927 to 1929 she studied art at the Belfast College of Art, and at the Royal College of Art, London from 1930 to 1933. Her special interest was calligraphy, and in London she met other Ulster artists including William Scott and F. E. McWilliam.

She returned to Belfast in 1937 and married George MacCann, the sculptor. She taught art in Dungannon High School for Girls, County Tyrone, Banbridge Academy, County Down, Armagh High School and Victoria College, Belfast, where she was head of the art department from 1947 until her retirement in 1970.

Mercy Hunter's extended family with Headmistress Patricia Slevin (2nd right)and pupils from Victoria College and, on right, Dorothy Pendry

As well as illuminated addresses and other calligraphic commissions, she lectured and broadcast extensively on art. She also designed costumes for the theatre, opera and ballet, and illustrated books. She was a member of the Royal Ulster Academy, served as its president, and was a founder member of the Ulster Society of Women Artists. She was awarded the MBE in 1970. Her work is in the Ulster Museum collection. She died on 20 July 1989.

Location of plaque: 23 Botanic Avenue, Belfast

Date of unveiling: 3 November 2010

LAWRENCE, SIR HENRY (1806 – 1857) | Founder of schools in India

Henry Montgomery Lawrence was born at Matara, Ceylon, on 28 June 1806, the fifth child of Alexander Lawrence of Coleraine and Catherine Letitia Knox of Strabane. In 1808, after serving abroad in the Indian Terrorities for several years, Alexander and family returned home to Coleraine. Henry attended Foyle College from 1815 until 1819 where his maternal uncle, the Revd James Knox, was headmaster. Henry's brothers, Alexander W, George and John Laird Mair (the first Lord Lawrence) also attended the College and Lawrence Hill, on which it stands, was named after the family. Henry moved to England to finish his schooling and in 1822, aged 16 years, he sailed for India and joined the headquarters of the Bengal Artillery at Dum Dum, near Calcutta. In 1825, he served in a short campaign in Burma, during which he was stricken by a malaria-type disease, which never completely left him. He was obliged to return home to convalesce until 1829, when he was able to resume duty in Calcutta.

From left: John Addy, Richard Candelin, Joan Hutchinson, Jim Glover, Elizabeth Gaw, Caron Gaw, Derek Gaw, Xan Chako, Prof. Heenan, Prof. Frazer, Anne Heron, Ann Coulter, Sean Nolan and John Dooher

In 1838, Henry and Honoria Marshall, from Fahan, were married and a year later Henry was given the civil charge of Ferozepore followed by important trusts in Nepal, Lahore and elsewhere. After he was knighted in 1848, Sir Henry continued to serve in the Punjab until March 1857, when Lord Canning, the Governor-General, appointed him as Chief Commissioner and Agent in Oudh. Realising the precarious situation in the Province, Sir Henry urgently arranged for the vulnerable population in the area to gather in the grounds of the Residency of Lucknow, which he had already fortified and supplied with stores and ammunition. On 2nd July 1857, while at breakfast, shrapnel from an exploding shell struck Sir Henry. He died two days later unaware that in London he had been appointed Governor-General-in-Waiting.

It was during his time in the Punjab that Sir Henry, ably supported by Lady Honoria, founded a boarding school at Kasauli, near Shimla, for orphans and children of British soldiers who had served in India. This asylum was a great success and later became known as the Royal Military School, Sanawar. A second smaller asylum, run by military personnel, followed at Mount Abu, a hill station in Southern Rajasthan. Shortly before his death, Sir Henry had put forward proposals for the establishment of a further asylum in South India, but the deadline set was not met and the project lapsed.

After his death, Committees were quickly formed in England, Londonderry and at Ootacamund, India, to honour Sir Henry's memory and implement his wish to provide for shelter and education for more children of British soldiers. From a small school at Ootacamund, opened on 6 September 1858, a large government sponsored estate was developed to become the Lawrence Memorial Royal Military School, Lovedale. A fourth Lawrence school at Ghora Gali College, Murree, (now in Pakistan) completed the tribute to Sir Henry and Lady Lawrence. Mount Abu closed soon after India's Independence in 1947, but the three remaining institutions continue as proud, significant and successful schools on the Sub-Continent.

Location of plaque: Foyle Arts Centre, Lawrence Hill, Londonderry

Date of unveiling: 30 April 2010

MARITIME HOTEL | Birthplace of Rhythm 'n' Blues in Belfast

In the early 1960s, Belfast nightlife largely consisted of a number of licensed cabaret clubs with genteel pianists and singers and an array of sedate ballrooms where smart-suited showbands pounded out cover versions of the latest top ten hits.

But in April 1964, in the aftermath of the popular music earthquake triggered by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, a spartan seamen's' hostel in College Square North, Belfast, which had formerly been a Royal Irish Constabulary police station, was transformed into the Club Rado and a new rhythm 'n' blues movement in the city was inaugurated.

A group called Them, sporting long, long hair and unkempt casual clothing, was in the vanguard of this new musical phenomenon and within weeks of its opening, long queues of fashionably dressed teenagers formed outside to ensure they got into the 200 capacity hall to enjoy the throbbing music.

In no time, the Maritime, as it was more widely called, had earned a reputation on a par with the famous Cavern Club in Liverpool, where the Mersey sound was incubated, for highlighting a new generation of exotic musicians who were inspired by the traditional American rhythm 'n' blues tunes but who gave the music their own twist laying the foundations for what would years later evolve as Celtic rock. Other Maritime alumni are still active musically, playing the blues around various venues in Belfast.

Among the regular Maritime favourites during its brief heyday from 1964 until it became a casualty of the civil disorder some five years later were Rory Gallagher and the Taste, Just Five (featuring Sam Mahood), the Lovin' Kind, the Mad Lads, the Alleykatz, the Interns, the Aztecs, the Deltones, Five by Five, the Method, the Few and the Fugitives.

John Braniff, Billy Harrison, Rob Braniff, Johnny Crawford, Albert Mills and Davey Hughes toasting the memories

But unquestionably the Maritime is still celebrated and renowned for nurturing the world class talents of Van Morrison, the lead singer with Them. There, his early iconic songs such as *Gloria* and *Mystic Eyes* were given their first airings, often at improvised length with their punchy style whipping the dancing crowd to a buzzing frenzy. It was during one of these performances that the Decca Records scout decided to sign the band up paving the way for Them to score several top ten hits, including *Baby Please Don't Go* and *Here comes the Night*, before Morrison departed to launch his own outstanding international career as a best-selling album artist and concert performer.

Among the earliest songs in Morrison's now vast repertoire are two directly linked to the formative days at the Maritime. "Joe Harper, Saturday morning", refers to the Maritime caretaker who frequently let the band use the hall for rehearsals when they could not get a room above Dougie Knight's record and bicycle shop in Great Victoria Street where many bands of all musical persuasions practised.

Location of plaque: College Square North, Belfast

Date of unveiling: 17 April 2010

MILLIGAN, ALICE (1866-1953) | and

FOX, CHARLOTTE MILLIGAN (1864-1916) | Promoters of the Celtic Revival

MILLIGAN, ALICE

Alice Letitia Milligan was born at Gortmore, Omagh, County Tyrone on 4 September 1866; the third of 13 children. She was educated at Methodist College, Belfast, Magee College, Derry, and King's College, London. She went to Dublin to learn Irish, and as organising secretary of the 1798 centenary celebrations in Ulster, she invited John O'Leary to Belfast. She was a friend of James Connolly, a member of Inghinidhe na hEireann and of Sinn Fein, and supported Winifred Carney when she stood for parliamentary election in Belfast in 1918.

Alisdair Moran, Councillor McAleer, Gerry Burns, Deirdre Nugent, Una Timoney, Muriel Todd, Doreen Corcoran

For some years Alice was organiser for the Gaelic League and gave history lectures throughout Ireland. She published poetry in the *United Irishman* among other journals, and in 1895, with Anna Johnston (pseudonym Ethna Carbery) founded and edited the *Northern Patriot*. She also edited the *Shan Van Vocht* from 1896 to 1899.

In 1900 she wrote a play, *The Last Feast of the Fianna*, for the Irish Literary Theatre, and *The Daughter of Donagh* for the Abbey Theatre. In 1898 she published a *Life of Wolfe Tone* and later a novel, *A Royal Democrat* as well as a book of poetry *The Harper of the Only God*. She published two other books; one of them, *Glimpses of Erinn*, in collaboration with her father, and the other, *Sons of the Sea Kings*, with her brother. She was a founder member of the Ulster Anti-Partition Council. In 1941 she received an honorary degree from the National University of Ireland. She died in Omagh on 13 April 1953.

Looking over the Exhibition prepared by the Library

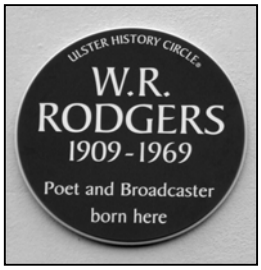
FOX, CHARLOTTE MILLIGAN

Charlotte Olivia Fox, eldest of the 13 and sister of Alice Milligan, was born in Belfast in 1864. She founded the *Irish Folksong Society* in 1904. She was a musician in her own right and collected folk songs and airs throughout Ireland on gramophone. She published *Annals of the Irish Harpers* from Edward Bunting's papers. She jointly edited, with Herbert Hughes, the early issues of the *Journal of the Irish Folksong Society*, first issued in London in 1904. She died in London in 1916.

Location of plaque: Omagh Library, 1 Spillars Place, Omagh

Date of unveiling: 23 September 2010

RODGERS, WILLIAM ROBERT (1909-1969) | Poet and Broadcaster



William Robert (Bertie) Rodgers was born in Belmont, Belfast on 1 August 1909 and educated at Queen's University, Belfast, and the Presbyterian Assembly's Theological College. He served as minister of Cloveneden Presbyterian Church near Loughgall, Co Armagh, from 1935 to 1946. Here he began to write, and his first published poem appeared in *The Listener* in 1938. A volume of verse *Awake and Other Poems* followed in 1941, and met with critical acclaim.

The Rodgers family with Rev Dr Robert Tosh, Douglas Carson, Prof Michael Longley, Prof John Robert Foster and Frank Ormsby

His talent as a writer for radio led to him being persuaded by Louis MacNeice to join the BBC in 1946 as a scriptwriter and producer for the Features Department. He was an innovative broadcaster, using new technology and techniques, and was especially associated with programmes of Irish literary interest. In 1951 he was elected to the Irish Academy of Letters, and in 1952 produced his second collection of poetry, *Europa and the Bull*.

That same year Bertie Rodgers resigned from the BBC, but continued to contribute to its radio programmes. A series of broadcast conversations begun in 1949 pioneered oral literary history, and employed a form of sound montage called the 'Rodgers technique', juxtaposing several voices together. Scripts of this landmark series were published as *Irish Literary Portraits* in 1972. In 1955 his most celebrated radio play *The Return Room*, a poetic drama of boyhood in 1920s Belfast, was broadcast on the BBC Home Service.

In 1966 Rodgers was appointed writer in residence at Pitzer College in Claremont, California. He died in Los Angeles on 1 February 1969 and is buried in Loughgall. Renowned as a conversationalist and remembered by one reviewer as 'a gentle genius', Rodgers is acknowledged by his fellow poet Michael Longley as "a latter-day metaphysical who apprehends the divine through the senses 'The Word through words'".

Location of plaque: 76 Belmont Avenue, Belfast

Date of Unveiling: 8 February 2011

SIGERSON, GEORGE (1836-1925)| Physician, Professor, Writer, Gael

George Sigerson was born in Holy Hill, Strabane, County Tyrone on 11 January 1836. He was educated in Letterkenny, France, Galway, Cork and Dublin, graduating as a Doctor of Medicine in 1859 at Queen's College Cork. Ten of his poems were published in the *Harp of Erin* in 1869. He taught himself Irish, for which

Guests at the ceremony listening to the addresses

he won a prize. He specialised in neurology and was appointed Professor of Botany and Biology in the Catholic University school of medicine and later in the National University of Ireland. He published, often under the pseudonym *Erionnach*, articles in newspapers such as the *Freeman's Journal,* the *North British Review* and *The Irishman*.

Aoghan O'Farrell, Deirdre Nugent, Sean O'Neill, Johnny Dooher Ulster History Circle

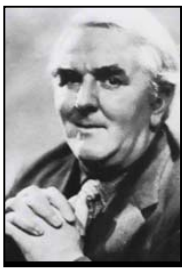
His first book, *The Poets and Poetry of Munster*, published in 1860 was followed by his *History of the Land Tenures and Land Classes of Ireland,* (which attracted the interest of Gladstone), *The Last Independent Parliament of Ireland* and medical works, which included a translation of Charcot's *Diseases of the Nervous System* into English. He published poems and translations from the Irish, such as the popular *Bards of the Gael and Gall* that appeared in 1897. His last book, *The Easter Song of Sedulius* was published when he was eighty-six. He was a Senator of the Irish Free State, President of the National Literary Society from 1893 until he died on 17 February 1925, and was a founder member of Feis Ceoil.

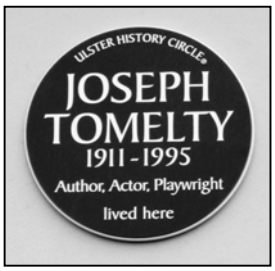
His lasting contribution to national life was the establishment of the Sigerson Cup in 1911, donating his salary from UCD for its purchase. The cup was initially for competition between the three universities, UCD, UCC and UCG, with QUB joining in 1923; TCD in 1963 and other universities such as UU and other institutions of higher education. It is the longest serving trophy in the GAA.

Location of plaque: Strabane Library, 1 Railway Street, Strabane

Date of unveiling: 18 February 2011

TOMELTY, JOSEPH (1911-1995)| Author, Actor, Playwright





Joseph (Joe) Tomelty was born in Portaferry, Co Down, on 5 March 1911. The eldest of seven children, he left the local primary school at 12 to be apprenticed to his father's trade of housepainter. He then moved to Belfast and attended classes at Belfast Technical College. His acting debut was in 1937 with St Peter's Players, and in the following year the Northern Ireland region of the BBC broadcast his first play *Barnum Was Right*, which became a record-breaking stage success as *Mugs and Money*.

Professor Patrick Murphy, Heritage Lottery Fund and Councillor and David Smith, Mayor of Ards Borough Council, address the assembled guests and visitors

In 1940, Tomelty was one of the founders of the Group Theatre, where he became general manager from 1942 until 1951. He wrote eleven stage plays, rich in vernacular language and metaphor, of which his masterpiece *All Soul's Night* (1948) is the most often revived. That same year saw the publication of *Red is the Port Light*, a novel set in his native Co Down. A second novel *The Apprentice* was published in 1953. His career as a character actor was also developing, and Tomelty appeared in feature films from 1947 to 1963, including *Odd Man Out* (1947), *Hobson's Choice* (1954), *Bhowani Junction* (1956) and *Moby Dick* (1956).

The BBC commissioned Joe Tomelty to write a weekly radio serial, *The McCooeys*, which was first broadcast in 1949. This comic drama ran for seven years, with a 6,000-word script written for each episode. Popular memory informs that the streets of Northern Ireland were empty when the Saturday evening broadcasts kept thousands indoors listening to the wireless. Other writing includes the two novels, short stories for the BBC Home Service, and *The Singing Bird* (1971); the first drama in colour broadcast by the BBC in Belfast.

Recognised as one of the most important cultural and artistic figures in Northern Ireland since the Second World War, in 1956 Tomelty was the first actor to be awarded MA for services to theatre by Queen's University, Belfast, a fitting recognition in the city whose character and people he depicted so vividly in his writing. In 1954 Joseph Tomelty was injured in a car accident while working in England, and although he recovered, this restricted his career. He died in Belfast on 7 June 1995, and is buried in Portaferry.

Location of plaque: 22 Shore Road, Portaferry

Date of unveiling: 5 March 2011

Appendix 4

Ulster History Circle blue plaque scheme

How the Scheme works

The Circle receives many nominations for blue plaques each year. The Circle broadly follows the selection criteria devised by the Royal Society of Arts in the 1860s when the first plaque scheme was established, which were used by the London County Council and its successors and which still inform its successor, English Heritage. Thus, the potential recipient of an Ulster History Circle plaque must -

- be dead for at least 20 years or, if less, have passed the centenary of his or her birth;
- be associated with the province of Ulster through birth, education, work or vocation and
- have made a significant contribution to the development or delivery of education, industry, commerce, science, arts and literature, politics, international affairs or other calling, in Ulster or anywhere in the world.

Proposals are considered for the commemoration of sites of special historical interest. There are three of these; the site of the 18th Century French Huguenot Church in Lisburn, Kelly's Cellars in Bank Street, Belfast and The Maritime Club in College Square North in Belfast.

A candidate who has already been publicly acknowledged, in Ulster, by way of an existing memorial e.g. statue, plaque, named building or thoroughfare will normally not be accepted for a blue plaque.

The Circle considers all the suggestions that meet the basic criteria. Where accepted for selection, detailed research is carried out into the surviving addresses of candidates using sources such as biographies, street and electoral registers, and census and valuation records.

Generally, only one plaque is allowed per person, so the building on which the plaque is to be placed has to be chosen very carefully. Where the candidate was born in Ulster the Circle will seek to erect the plaque on the birth house, or any suitable replacement building on the same site. Where there is no suitable replacement, where it is in an inaccessible location or where the place of birth can not be traced, an alternative building, in which the candidate was educated, lived or worked, will be selected. In suitable cases, the site of a benefaction, e.g. Magee College, Londonderry can be used. In some appropriate cases the plaque can be erected on a public building e.g. a Library in the area where the person was born or lived if the original building is too remote from public view or has been demolished or replace by an inappropriate structure, for example a car park. Where the candidate was born outside Ulster, the most suitable place, education, residence or work will be selected.

Except in rare cases, plaques must be visible from the public highway.

Before a plaque can be erected, the owners of the building in question have to give their consent. Where listed buildings are involved, the building owner must obtain consent from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. If granted, the plaque is produced and fixed to the building. The cost of plaque design, manufacture and installation is borne entirely by the Ulster History Circle from the grants and contributions paid.

Unveiling ceremonies are always held. These occasions, where possible attended by descendants, friends, relatives and colleagues of the person being commemorated, are often memorable, emotional events.

The presence of a plaque does not afford a building any statutory protection; it has, for example, no connection with listing. Plaques that have been removed in the course of redevelopment or renovation are recovered and replaced later in the same or an alternative location.

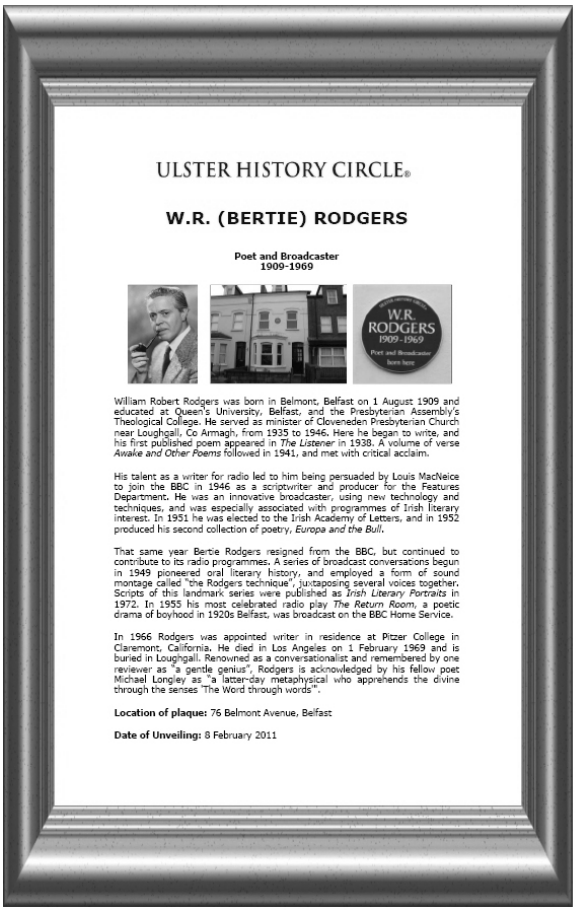
The Process

In all, it can take up to a year from the initial suggestion to the erection of a plaque. The process is lengthy because of the number of steps or stages that are required, some of which can be time consuming or be delayed for a number of reasons. Examples are: acceptance into the Forward Programme, assigning a Circle

member who will be responsible for progressing it, discovering historical material, search for the most appropriate location, tracing records and relatives, obtaining permissions, acquiring financial support, identifying and consulting interested people and organisations, reaching agreement of plaque design, wording and size, preparing invitations lists and invitations, press notices and promotional material. Also, organising the event: commissioning the plaque, identifying the speakers and the running order, organising the PA system and audio/visual material as required, arranging for photographs and organising refreshments. Finally, updating the website and the Dictionary of Ulster Biography.

Afterwards

The Circle does not simply abandon the plaque once it is erected. There is always the possibility that it may be vandalised or damaged in some way; the building might be demolished or a new owner might not want it to remain. For a voluntary organisation it is not feasible to do a physical check on all of the plaques and we depend on the building owner/occupier to alert the Circle of any such event. To help with this the Circle presents the owner/occupier with two laminated plates that can be framed. One is a short biography of the plaque subject, with images of the person, the building and the plaque; the second is some advice on maintaining the plaque and who to contact in the event of any damage etc. – as shown here.



ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

W.R. (BERTIE) RODGERS

Poet and Broadcaster
1909-1969

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Location of plaque: 76 Belmont Avenue, Belfast

Date of Unveiling: 8 February 2011

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE

W.R. RODGERS 1909-1969

CARING FOR YOUR PLAQUE

To the Occupier: 76 Belmont Avenue, Belfast BT4 3DE

The plaque erected on this property is made from high quality materials and will require minimum maintenance. Occasional cleaning, with warm water, ph-neutral soap and a sponge, is generally all that is needed.

In decorating the surrounding wall area e.g. new paint, it is recommended that the entire plaque be covered to avoid accidental splashing that can be difficult to remove successfully at a later stage.

Should the plaque be damaged, accidentally or through vandalism, we recommend that you contact the owner so that remedial work can be assessed.

In the event of the property being re-let, we ask that you please leave this note for the new tenant.

Thank you.

The Ulster History Circle

8th February 2011

Contact Ulster History Circle at
[illegible]

Appendix 5

CONSTITUTION

(As amended by AGM 11 May 2007)

1. Title

The name of the Circle is *The Ulster History Circle* (hereinafter called *the Circle*).

2. Aims

The aims of the Circle are

i. to erect commemorative plaques in public places in honour of men and women who have made significant contributions to the advancement of ideas and particularly in such fields as the arts and sciences, industry, religion or sport;

ii. to expand public knowledge of oft-neglected aspects of our history and to increase, through visible and permanent plaques, public awareness of cultural and historical strengths; and

iii. to co-operate with other historical and architectural groups with a view to promoting interest in the study of our history.

3. Membership

The Circle is non-political and non-sectarian. Membership shall be open to all who subscribe to its aims, are admitted to membership by the Circle, and who pay the membership fee.

4. Meetings

i. The Circle will meet at least eight times a year.

ii. Notification of meetings of the Circle, specifying the business to be transacted, shall be transmitted by post, or email, to all members seven clear days before the said meeting.

iii. All meetings of the Circle shall be called by the Secretary or Chairman or by such other of its members as the Circle may decide.

iv. The meeting in May will be deemed the Annual Meeting. The business of the Annual Meeting shall include presentation of the minutes of the previous annual meeting, reception of the report for the previous year and the audited accounts of the Circle; agreeing the annual subscription; election of Officers and the appointment of the honorary auditor.

v. In the absence of the Chairman, the Annual Meeting shall be chaired by such other member as may be temporarily elected by those present.

vi. At any meeting each member shall have one vote, except that in the event of a tie, the chairman of the meeting shall have a casting vote.

vii. The quorum for any meeting shall be five.

viii. In any matter of the interpretation of the constitution the decision of the Chairman shall be final.

ix. If any member fails to attend three consecutive meetings without apology, or alternatively at least six meetings in a twelve-month period, it will be open to the Circle, entirely at its discretion, to terminate that individual's membership without further explanation.

5. Officers

The Officers of the Circle shall be the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. With the exception of the Chairman, one person may undertake both of the other Offices.

6. Finance

i. The Treasurer shall keep a full record of the income and expenditure, and the assets of the Circle. The accounts of the Circle shall be audited annually and presented to the members at the Annual Meeting.

ii. If upon the winding up or dissolution of the Circle there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, including the repayment of any unspent grants or donations given for the erection of specific plaques or other Circle activities, any property or assets whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Circle, but shall be given to or transferred to some other charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the objects of the Circle, and which similarly prohibits the distribution of its or their income or property among its or their members, such institution or institutions to be determined by the Circle members within three months of the resolution passed initiating the winding-up, failing which, and if and so far as effect cannot be given to such provision, then to such other charitable objects as the Circle shall decide.

7. Amendment to the Constitution

i. Amendments to the constitution may only be made at an Annual Meeting, provided that notice of motion to propose any such amendment has been given in writing to the Secretary at least fourteen days before the date of the meeting.

ii. No amendment shall be made to the constitution of the Circle unless approved by two-thirds of the members present and entitled to vote.

APPENDIX 6

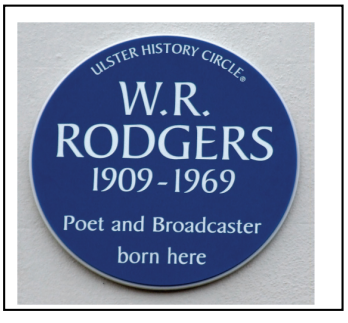
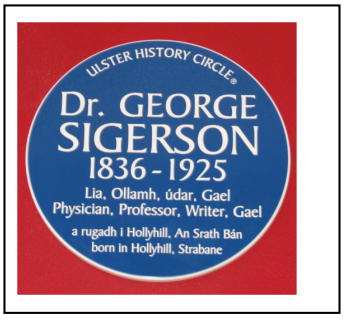
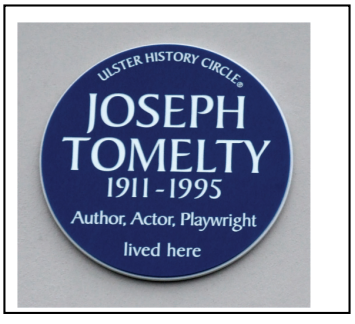
COMPLETE LIST OF PLAQUES

Alexander, Cecil Frances- Londonderry
Andrews, Thomas - Belfast
Annesley, Lady Mabel - Castlewellan
Bambrick, Joe - Belfast
Beckett, Samuel - Enniskillen
Bell, Sam Hanna - Belfast
Black, Dr Samuel - Newry
Bland, Lilian – Carnmoney
Bridle, Kathleen – Enniskillen
Brown, E. Godfrey - Holywood
Bunting, Edward - Belfast
Byers, Margaret - Belfast
Cambridge VC, Daniel - Carrickfergus
Campbell, Joseph - Belfast
Carey, Joseph William - Belfast
Carmichael, Amy - Belfast & Millisle
Cary, Joyce - Londonderry
Chesney, Francis, Rawdon - Ballymartin, Co. Down
Clarke (nee Crilley), Margaret - Newry
Coey, Sir Edward - Newtownabbey
Conor, William - Belfast
Coyle, Kathleen - Londonderry
Craig, James Humbert - Cushendun
Crichton VC, James Bell - Carrickfergus
Crolly, William - Downpatrick
Daly, Fred - Coleraine
De Wind VC, Edmund - Comber
Dickson, George - Newtownards
Dickson, William Steele - Portaferry
Dill, Field Marshall Sir John - Lurgan
Dillon, Gerard - Belfast
Drennan, William - Belfast
Dunlop, John Boyd - Belfast
Eaton, Timothy - Ballymena
English VC, Lt. Col. William John - Belfast
Evans, E. Estyn - Belfast
Ewald, Clara - Belfast
Farquhar, George - Londonderry
Ferguson, Henry George (Harry) – Belfast
Ferguson, Sir Samuel - Belfast
Foster, Vere Henry Lewis - Belfast
Gibson, William - Dromore, Co Down
Gilmore, Joseph (Joe) - Ardglass
Grand, Sarah - Donaghadee
Green, William Alfred - Belfast
Guthrie, Sir Tyrone - Belfast
Henry, Paul - Belfast
Henry, Robert Mitchell - Belfast
Hewitt, John Harold - Belfast
Herzog, Chaim – Belfast
Hucheson, Francis - Saintfield
Hugenot Community - Lisburn
Hughes, Barney - Belfast
Hunter, Mercy - Belfast
Johnston, James - Belfast
Irvine, Alexander - Antrim
Kelly, Sir Samuel - Belfast
Kelvin (Lord), of Largs - Belfast
King, John - Moy, Co Tyrone
Lanyon, Sir Charles - Belfast
Larmor, Sir Joseph - Belfast
Larkin, Philip - Belfast
Lavery, Sir John – Belfast
Lawrence, Sir Henry - Londonderry
Lever, Charles - Portstewart
Lewis, Clive Staples - Belfast
Lucas VC, Charles Davis - Poyntzpass
Luke, John - Belfast
Lynd, Robert - Belfast
McAdam, Robert Shipboy - Belfast
Mac Aingil, Aodh - Downpatrick
McCabe, Thomas & William Putnam - Belfast
Macassey, Luke L. – Belfast
Maritime Club - Belfast
McCaughey, Samuel - Ballymena
Macoun, John - Magheralin
McCracken, Henry Joy - Belfast
McCracken, Mary Ann - Belfast
MacCullagh, Prof. James - Plumbridge
McLaverty, Michael - Killard, Co Down
McKay, John - Belfast
McKimm, Charles - Belfast
MacNeice, Louis - Belfast
Magee, Martha - Londonderry
Magennis VC, James Joseph - Belfast
Marconi, Gugliamo - Ballycastle
Marshall, W.F. - Sixmilecross, Co. Tyrone
Middleton, Colin - Bangor
Milligan, Alice & Milligan-Fox, Charlotte - Omagh
Mitchel, John & Martin, John - Newry
Monaghan, John 'Rinty' - Belfast
Murray, Sir James - Belfast
Nichol, Andrew - Belfast
Noble, Margaret - Dungannon
O'Byrne, Cathal - Belfast
Parker, Stewart - Belfast
Phillips, H.B. - Londonderry
Pottinger, Sir Henry - Belfast
Praeger, Robert Lloyd - Holywood
Praeger, Rosamond - Holywood
Rowley, Richard - Belfast
Russell, Thomas - Belfast
Ritchie, William - Belfast
Robert the Bruce - Rathlin Island
Rodgers, Paul - Carrickfergus
Rodgers, W.R. - Belfast

Russell, George William - Lurgan
Scott, William - Enniskillen
Sheils, George - Carnlough
Sigerson - Dr. George - Strabane
Society of United Irishmen – Belfast
Staples, Sir Richard P. Bt. - Cookstown
Stewart, George Vesey - Martray, Co Tyrone
Sullivan, Robert - Holywood
Swift, Jonathan - Ballynure
Thomson, Hugh - Coleraine
Thompson, Sam – Belfast
Tomelty, Joseph – Portaferry
Trollope, Anthony - Belfast
Waddell, Helen - Banbridge
Wallace, Sir Richard - Lisburn
Walton, Ernest - Belfast
Welch, Robert John - Strabane
White, Sir George - Portstewart
Whitla, Sir William - Belfast
Wilde, Oscar - Enniskillen
Wilson, Guy - Broughshane
Yeats, John B. - Banbridge
Young, James - Belfast

ULSTER HISTORY CIRCLE®

The blue plaques draw attention to the association of buildings with individuals who have distinguished themselves in some way. This encourages local communities to identify with the people concerned, encourages local pride and often stimulates local activity such as summer schools, festivals, lectures, commemorative events and general tourism.

By actively involving local communities and schools in the plaque research and siting process, we are creating new opportunities to explore and learn about heritage issues.

Plaques erected in 2010 - 2011