

DONEGAL EMIGRANT WORKING LIVES IN SCOTLAND

Terms of Reference (April 2023)



Image courtesy of SSE Renewables



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



**An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council**



**MELLON CENTRE FOR
MIGRATION STUDIES**

*An Action of the County Donegal Heritage Plan funded by
Donegal County Council & The Heritage Council
in partnership with the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies*

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

There are few families in County Donegal that have not been affected by emigration or participated in seasonal migration. In the twentieth century, Scotland was a familiar destination for people leaving County Donegal in search of work. In recent years, the stories of some of their experiences have been documented but, for a long time, they have been overlooked or considered too 'ordinary' to be recorded. With the passage of time, the opportunities to record first-hand accounts of the experiences of Donegal people working in Scotland are declining. The focus of this research will be on the contexts, working conditions and types of employment that Donegal people found in Scotland. The County Donegal Heritage Office in partnership with the Culture Division, Donegal County Council and the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies is seeking to document the work experiences of those Donegal people who worked on farms, building sites and hydroelectric schemes in Scotland; those people who became 'tunnel tigers', 'McAlpine's fusiliers', 'tattie hokers', navvies and herring gutters; those people who worked as domestic servants and nurses, 'on the buses', in biscuit factories and in the religious life, and those people who undertook even more ordinary and less celebrated work. The study will blend some of the best-known stories of labour with personal experiences and culminate in a major exhibition in 2024.

To date, the focus has been on initial research to capture the first-hand accounts of Donegal people's experiences of working in selected occupations in Scotland. An oral historian has been commissioned to undertake and record some of these accounts. Short accounts of, and information on, four occupations and industries in which Donegal people worked have been compiled already also (herring gutting, tunnelling, bus and tram conducting, and tattie hoking). This initial background research and access to the oral recordings will be made available to the successful researcher.

The successful researcher(s) for this commission will focus on research on the working conditions of Donegal people working in Scotland (especially between 1940 and 1990) and the professions and businesses they worked in. The Culture Division of Donegal County Council will conduct a publicity campaign to solicit accounts from Donegal people who worked or work in Scotland and to source photographs of Donegal people at work in Scotland. Some of the proposed research for this commission will need to be undertaken in Scotland. The Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh, County Tyrone are partners in this three-year initiative as are Donegal County Council colleagues in Donegal County Museum, County Archives, Central Library & Regional Cultural Centre

1.2 Objective

The proposed initiative involves interrogation of primary and secondary research sources to create an engaging narrative account for a major exhibition and an accompanying booklet on the experiences of Donegal people working in Scotland. The research will contribute to the achievement of the following actions in the County Donegal Heritage Plan:

- "Pilot a social history / genealogy / emigration project in relation to the Donegal diaspora" (Action 3.6) and
- "Produce educational and information materials to assist in the interpretation of selected aspects of heritage in the county" (Action 4.1).

This will help to “Develop an enhanced awareness of our heritage internationally and amongst the Donegal diaspora” (Action 1.3) as advocated in the County Donegal Heritage Plan.

The research will involve archival research, interviews with key informants and an understanding of the built heritage and material culture associated with the working lives of Donegal people in Scotland. One of the challenges of this commission will be to condense a large amount of information on an extensive number of diverse occupations into engaging and concise narrative accounts.

1.3 Aims & Outputs

The aims of this Heritage Plan action are to:

- (i) commission initial investigative research on the experience of Donegal people and their working lives in Scotland;
- (ii) identify a number of key informants for interview;
- (iii) source photographs and illustrations of Donegal people working in selected occupations in Scotland and/or their places of work and prepare captions, and introductory text, for use in exhibition;
- (iv) identify aspects of material culture and archives of Donegal people’s experiences of work in Scotland and of Scottish industries who employed Donegal people that would be suitable for exhibition;
- (v) compile the content for an A5-size booklet (circa 30,000 words with images and maps) that includes concise, engaging narrative accounts of the historical context, working conditions and experiences of Donegal people in circa 20 occupations; and
- (vi) liaise with the Culture Division, Donegal County Council; Mellon Centre for Migration Studies based at the Ulster American Folk Park near Omagh, County Tyrone and institutions in Scotland to inform the exhibition content and format.

2. RESPONSE TO TERMS OF REFERENCE

Proposals in response to these terms of reference should set out how the research will be approached, methodology and any other relevant matters. The proposal should include:

2.1 Required Skills and Experience

Proposals should contain clear details of the skills and experience of the researcher(s) and the CV(s) of the researcher(s). Examples of previous relevant work and narrative style should be outlined. Please include examples of writing style (if available).

2.2 Methodology and Timetable

The researcher(s) shall furnish a method statement and timetable regarding the delivery of the work. It is expected that the proposal will include:

2.2.1 Method statement: including reference material to be used, methodology, consultation planned, analysis, outline of the research and a detailed timetable.

2.2.2 A Resource Plan: showing the breakdown of person hours and costs.

3. GENERAL ISSUES

3.1 Timescale

The project will start on Monday, May 22, 2023 and will be completed by Friday, November 3, 2023. The researcher(s) appointed must be in a position to begin immediately once appointed.

3.2 Project Management

A steering committee comprising representatives of the Culture Division, Donegal County Council and the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies will guide the development of this project. The main point-of-contact will be the Heritage Officer. The steering committee will meet regularly to review progress.

3.3 Budget

The maximum budget for this commission is €23,000 (**excluding VAT**) but including all other expenses. Please quote proposed costs excluding and including VAT.

3.4 The researcher(s) shall effect and maintain insurance necessary to cover their liabilities under this study.

3.5 Copyright and Confidentiality

The researcher(s) will be required to assign copyright of all research produced including text, illustrations, maps and/or photographs to Donegal County Council. Copyright for any illustrations or other material used should be cleared by the researcher(s). Separate funding will be made available for the purchase or use of copyright images in consultation with Donegal County Council. The study will be made available for public use by Donegal County Council.

3.6 Freedom of Information

Donegal County Council operates under the Freedom of Information Act 1997 and all information held by the Council (including proposals submitted in response to this brief) may be subject to requests under the Act.

3.7 Evaluation of Proposals & Selection of Researcher(s)

Evaluation of proposals will be based on the ability of the researcher(s) to deliver the skills and outputs detailed above within the specified timeframe. Interviews may be held with selected candidates prior to the final evaluation. Donegal County Council is not obliged to accept any proposal or the proposal with the lowest bid, and no person making a submission will be remunerated for any expense incurred in preparing a submission. It is envisaged that the successful researcher(s) will demonstrate:

- (i) proven experience of undertaking historical, archival and material culture research and/or qualifications in history, geography, archives, museum studies or other relevant discipline (30%);
- (ii) a knowledge of the sources of information for undertaking research on the working lives of Donegal people in Scotland (15%);
- (iii) a clear approach to the achievement of the aims and outputs of this study in the proposed methodology (20%);
- (iv) experience of writing a clear, concise and engaging narrative account for a general audience and provision of detailed timetable with key tasks and milestones to complete the research (20%);
- (v) an ability to liaise with key stakeholders (10%); and
- (vi) competitive price (5%).

The decision of the evaluation panel will be final.

3.8 Closing Date

E-mailed submissions to heritage@donegalcoco.ie will be accepted prior to the closing date. Submissions can also be sent by post to:

Donegal Emigrant Working Lives in Scotland
c/o Joseph Gallagher,
Heritage Officer,
County Donegal Heritage Office,
Donegal County Council,
Station Island,
Lifford,
County Donegal.

<p style="text-align: center;">The closing date for receipt of proposals is 4 p.m. on Friday, May 5, 2023.</p>

Proposals cannot be accepted after this deadline.