

Born Irish

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By 1790 1/6 of the 3million citizens of the United States were of Irish birth or descent.

The first step in researching your Irish born ancestors is to find their townland.
It will be very difficult to proceed if you do not at least have a home County.



Some important resources for Irish

Research

General Register Office, Joyce House [GRO]

8-11 Lombard Street East, Dublin 2.
Tel:+353 1 635 40 00
email from website

<http://www.groireland.ie/>

General Register Office: Oxford House

Chichester Street
Belfast BT1 4HL Northern Ireland
232 252 000

www.groni.gov.uk/

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland [Proni]

66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY
Northern Ireland
phone: (+44) 028 9025 5905 fax: (+44) 028
9025 5999

email: proni@dcalni.gov.uk

<http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

The National Archives,

Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Ireland.

Phone: + 353 (0)1 407 2300 **Fax:** + 353
(0)1 407 2333

E-mail: mail@nationalarchives.ie

<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/index.html>

National Library of Ireland

Kildare Street, Dublin 2

Tel. +353-1-6030200 Fax: +353-1-6766690

info@nli.ie

<http://www.nli.ie/en/homepage.aspx>

Finding a Homeland

Home Sources *don't forget the relatives homes!*

- ☞ Bibles
- ☞ Letters
- ☞ Photographs
- ☞ Heirlooms
- ☞ Record Files

Death Records

- ☞ Death Certificates
- ☞ Obituaries
- ☞ Probates
- ☞ Mortuary
- ☞ Cemetery
- ☞ Insurance

Marriage Records

- ☞ Birth Records of Children
- ☞ Immigration Records
- ☞ Naturalization Sources
- ☞ Ship Records
- ☞ Military Records
- ☞ Service Records
- ☞ Pensions
- ☞ Local Records
- ☞ Town Histories
- ☞ Biographies
- ☞ Newspapers
- ☞ School Records
- ☞ Special Interest Groups/ Ethnic & Fraternal Groups
- ☞ Church records
- ☞ Land Records
- ☞ Homestead records
- ☞ Tax records
- ☞ LDS Holdings
- ☞ IGI
- ☞ Ancestral File

LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED

Irish Vital Records

Birth Registration began in 1864 – Records usually give the following information: Full name, date of birth, exact place of birth including townland , Maiden Surname of Mother, full name and occupation of father

Death Registration began in 1864 – Records usually give the following information: Full name, date of death, exact place of death

Marriage Registration began in 1845 for protestant marriages and in 1864 for all marriages. Records include the following information: Full name of both parties, date of marriage, exact place of marriage.

Registration was by District Consult LDS microfiche 6020383-384 for lists and maps of the districts in each county.

Location of Records: Births, marriages and deaths for all of Ireland before 1921 and for the Republic of Ireland after 1921 are available from the General Register Office. The GRO will search up to three years. Births, marriages and deaths for Northern Ireland after 1921 can be obtained from PRONI

The LDS has filmed the following certificates.

- a. Births: All Ireland 1864-Mar 1881; 1900-1913; Republic of Ireland - 1930-1955; Northern Ireland 1922-1959
- b. Marriages: All Ireland 1845-1870; Northern Ireland 1922-1959
- c. Deaths: All Ireland 1864-1870, Northern Ireland 1922-1957

Note: The Santa Clara Family History has the indexes to the Civil Registrations

Some of the county genealogy centres have copies of the vital statistics for their county and will use them for initial assessments. Mainly, however, the records are available at GRO and PRONI. Service is usually quick and the cost inexpensive for searching up to five years.

Suggested Reading:

Radford, Dwight A and Kyle Betit, *A Genealogists Guide to Discovering Your Irish Ancestors*, Cincinnati, OH, Betterway Books, 2001

Begley, Donal F. (editor). *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder*. Dublin, Ireland: Heraldic Artists Ltd., 1987.

Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide*. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, 1992.

Ryan, James G. [ed.], *Irish Church Records*, Flyleaf Press

Irish Church Records

Christening – Marriage – Burial

It is important to know the religion of your ancestor to search parish registers. Griffith's Valuation or the Tithe Applotment Records (see next section) will provide that information. Check the Church of Ireland records if you do not find them elsewhere.

Where to Find Church Records

Church of Ireland - 11% of population in 1834. Established Church from 1560 until disestablished in 1869. Approximately 2/3 of records destroyed in 1922, many of those available have been filmed by LDS. <http://www.ireland.anglican.org/> Click on Genealogy and follow links to the Representative Church Body Library in Dublin .

Roman Catholic - 81% of the population in 1834 - the 1703 penal laws forbidding registers were repealed in 1829. Registers vary by County and Parish Availability is up to bishops: NLI has all registers prior to 1880. Some have been filmed. Many Heritage Centres have indexed records.

Presbyterian - 8% of population in 1834 (50% in Co. Antrim & Down) - a split in 1746 over internal disputes created the Session Synod and the Synod of Ulsters which rejoined with the main Synod in 1840. Resources: Presbyterian Historical Society, Church House, Fisherwick Place, Belfast - Which can supply information about Presbyterian Church Registers, some of which are held , Guild Hall Library in London; PRONI; LDS

Primitive Wesleyan Methodist & Wesleyan Methodist Records begin in 1816 most still in local churches although PRONI has some [ffearry-Smyrl, Steven, Exploring Irish Genealogy, Nol 1. Irish Methodists -Where do I start?, Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations, Dublin 2000]

Society of Friends (Quakers) 1653 - Records to quarterly meetings begin in 1655. Contact : Republic of Ireland - Dublin Friends Historical Library, Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, Swanbrook House, Morehampton Road, Donnybrook, Dublin 4 Ireland ; Northern Ireland - Religious Society of Friends, Ulster Quarterly Meeting, Friends Meeting House, Railway Street, Lisburn, County Antrim BY28 1EP Northern Ireland - Records can contain births, marriages, deeds and wills. Many have been filmed by the LDS. [Goodbody, Olive:Guide to Irish Quaker Records, 1654-1860]

Congregational - most were soldiers under Cromwell in 1640-55 who stayed in Ireland. See Thom's Irish Almanac & Official Directory 1847 for a list of churches at the time. Where Congregational congregations still exist records are usually in local custody. Many congregationalists joined Church of Ireland for lack of a close congregation.

Baptist - see Congregational

Huguenot - 1669-1700– check publications of Huguenot Society of London. Many joined Presbyterian congregations when there was no congregation

Church of Latter Day Saints - beginning in 1850 in Belfast and Dublin

Jewish - IrishJewishMuseum, 3/4 Walworthroad, South Circular Road, Dublin 8, Ireland

Other Sources of Vital Statistics

Tombstone Inscriptions – few stones dated before 1800 are readable and many have sunk in bogs. Look for inscriptions online and in journals

Newspapers - some date as early as the 1600's, but they were more widespread by the late 1700's. There could be references to all but the poorest farmers and tenants. NLI holds many of these newspapers and many of the county Genealogy Centres have indexed the local newspapers.

Census Records & Substitutes

- 1821-1851** Most of the census records for Ireland were destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922. You can find a list of surviving census records in **Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder**
- 1861-1891** Records were destroyed by Government order
- 1901** Census records include name, relationship, religion, education, age, sex, occupation, marital status, and where born. Actual census pages were signed by all of those able to write. This census has been filmed by the LDS and is available in the National Archives in Dublin.
- 1911** National Archives in Dublin- see 1901, in addition if husband and wife both alive lists # of years married, # of children born alive to couple and number still living
- Old Age Pensions** The Pension act of 1908 provided pensions to those over 70 years of age. Between 1910 and 1922 many citizens used the 1841 and 1851 census to prove their age. If your ancestor reached this age and was still in Ireland do not neglect this wonderful source. Pension records unfortunately are unindexed. Those for Northern Ireland are housed at PRONI and for the Republic of Ireland at the National Archives. Both have been filmed by the LDS, check under subject.
- Links to Census Records online** Ireland Census Records - Free links to Irish census records online <http://www.censusfinder.com/ireland.htm>
- Tithe Applotment Books** 1820-1840 - Lists all the people who paid tithes and the amount that they were assessed. The names are arranged by townland. Indexed in Householders index. Beginning in 1823 tithes had to be paid in cash rather than in kind, thus the valuations were necessary
- Griffith's Primary Valuation** - Sir Richard Griffith was responsible for the valuation of tenements from 1848-1864. The survey determined the amount of tax each tenant was to pay toward the support of the poor in his Poor Law Union. The Valuation was printed in 30 volumes and gives a complete list of the occupiers and landlords (lessors) of land, tenements and houses. It is arranged by counties. The Second Valuation (approx 1860) is indexed in Householders Index)
- Charleton Trust Fund Marriage Certificates [1795-1862]** – The CharltonTurst Fund offered a small marriage gratuity to members of the Protestant labouring classes. A marriage certificate had to be submitted which included fathers names and occupations. The area covered was mainly Meath and Longford, but there are a few in Cavan, King's Louth, Westmeath and Dublin City. [Indexed in NA Accessions Vol 37]
- Spinning Wheel Survey of 1796**, listed all those families that grew a sufficient amount of flax to qualify for one or more spinning wheels and/or looms. These surveys are available on microfilm from the Family History Library.
- National School Records** - [1831-1921] The Board of Commissioners for National Education was established in 1831. School registers produced by the system record: Pupil name, age, religion, father's address and occupation and might also have notes. Records are scattered in the Republic of Ireland. PRONI holds 1500 registers for Northern Ireland. The National Archives in Dublin holds the administrative records which include teachers salary books.