

Blog / Toolkit /Overview

Note (£) indicates a pay to use site

www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com

Site written by Claire Santry to aid Irish research, many useful pages and links e.g. Irish naming patterns. No records but links and explanations.

Keep up to date with the world of Irish genealogy- you do not need to be a Facebook member to read this, & it is regularly updated with news. www.facebook.com/IrishGenealogicalResearchSociety

www.swilson.info A treasure trove, including surname incidence, Directory database, registration district listings, help locating townlands and parishes +++

Civil Registration: Marriages registered from 1845 in non-Catholic churches + all births, marriages & deaths available from 1864. Original images of birth, marriage and death registers now free online at www.irishgenealogy.ie/ (use www.swilson.info to identify the Registration District)

Images currently available are as follows:

Births: 1864 to 1916, Marriages: 1871 to 1941, Deaths: 1878 to 1966. **Pre-1922 images cover all 32 counties** North and South. Try all options & spellings e.g. Tom O Connor you may need to try Connors, O Connor, Oconnor, & O'Connor, as spelling of names in Irish records can be quite flexible.

Indexes available at <https://familysearch.org/> & www.irishgenealogy.ie/ Note marriages up to 1870 can be read free at LDS centers. Note volume and page no. before ordering certificate.

TIP Certs. from North of Ireland cost £15 but records can now be searched & ordered online at <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/> for births over 100 years ago, marriages over 75 years ago and deaths over 50 years ago, using pre- purchased credits at a cost of approx. £2

If getting historic Irish certs in the Republic just order a photocopy / research copy for 4 euro if all references supplied, cheaper than 20 euro for full certificate, this includes all information from certificate. www.groireland.ie www.groni.gov.uk

www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie Contents of this site include

- **Census of Ireland, 1901 and 1911** & most earlier census scraps & census search forms
- **Tithe Applotment Books, 1823 - 37** **Soldiers' Wills, 1914 - 1917** **Marriage License Bonds**
- **Calendars of Wills and Administrations, 1858 - 1922** **Will registers 1858-1922**
- **Transportation lists Australia 1791-1853** **Valuation Office Books**
- **Shipping Agreements and Crew Lists 1863-1921** **Office,house, field, tenure books 1824-1856**

Census Tip: - Use Wildcards E.g. Michael O'Donaghue. Did he enter his name in Irish or English? Was Michael input as Mick/Michl/Michael/Mickie/

Use Mic* and then you can refine the list

Tip: - If you're looking for the name of a street/road/avenue...you don't type in street/ road/avenue. For example: If you're looking for Glenbay Road...just type in Glenbay. DED1 & DED2 are often the main town - (DED stands for District Electoral Division).

Pension searches: You can quickly search through the database of thousands of names from the lost Irish census of 1821 to 1851. This collection is especially rich for Ulster.

Parish Records:

www.irishgenealogy.ie Free Church records as follows (most stop pre- 1900)

Carlow - C of I registers **Cork** - R Catholic registers for Cork & Ross diocese excluding some of Cork City **Dublin** - Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic registers

Kerry - All Roman Catholic registers for Diocese of Kerry and some County Kerry Church of Ireland. Site has very good links section for other useful sites.

www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com/ (£) Irish Presbyterian records

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www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx List of microfilmed RC parish records (most stop at 1880).

Parishes are listed alphabetically by diocese along with the dates of the registers in each parish. Not indexed on this site but good filters allowing you to narrow down by event, parish, year and month.

March 2016 both FindMyPast and Ancestry (£) released an index to these registers

If you have registered for an account with FindMyPast - (Free Account with limited Free records) use their search facility for "Free" which provides a transcript and link to the actual page of the register on NLI site. Find this under "Search" then "A-Z of Record Sets" then "Ireland Roman"

www.ireland.anglican.org/news/6518/a-colourcoded-resource-of-what A detailed list of Church of Ireland registers -what survives, where it is and information on copies, transcripts and online indexes.

www.irishjewishroots.com/ (£) Great source for Irish Jewish records

<http://methodisthistoryireland.org/family-history-genealogy/> Irish Methodist records

www.findmypast.co.uk/quakers (£) Irish Quaker records. The Society of Friends did not keep registers but did keep records of their weekly and monthly meetings at which events such as births, marriages and deaths were reported

www.rootsireland.ie (£) transcripts of parish records for most counties - 24 hours subscription possible but do check first that the parish and time period of your interest is covered.

www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=6861 The Dublin Presbyterian Colporteur's Notebook, 1875

PRONI: www.proni.gov.uk

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland: Has a huge digitization programme. Covers mainly the province of Ulster, but does also hold quite a lot of material for other provinces. - plenty of useful info on website including trade and postal directories, cancelled land valuation books, and useful guides.

Ulster Covenant 1912 includes over half a million names many with townland address.

Graves & Monumental Inscriptions

www.historyfromheadstones.com Gravestone inscriptions in Ulster

<http://historicgraves.com/> Country wide but particularly strong in Munster

www.irishgraveyards.ie/ Gravestones Mayo and Galway and Donegal +

Land

www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/Irish-land-divisions.html good article and explanation given of Irish land divisions

www.thecore.com/seanruad/ Know the townland but not sure which civil parish, poor law union, barony, county etc? www.swilson.info/explorerb.php Shane Wilson's townland explorer a handy tool.

Griffiths Valuation 1848-1864: Owing to the destruction of the first eight national censuses, 1821-1891, this is used as the main census substitute for the 19th century. Site also has links to free e-Books by county www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/

Registry of Deeds http://irishdeedsindex.net/guides/beginning_research.php Deeds from 1708

Military Service Records -pre- 1922 at National Archives Kew

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/?research-category=military-and-maritime

www.militaryarchives.ie Many Irish nationalist collections including Military Service (1916-1923); Pension Collection over 13000 files; 1922 Military Census; Military Witness Statements relating to 1913-1921 collected between 1947& 1957

List of 2558 veterans of Easter Week 1916 with recognized military service

www.fold3.com (£) Pension records for Irish in the American Civil War over 200,000 Irish born served. <http://irishamericancivilwar.com> Damien Shiels wonderful site for Irish in American Civil War.

www.coastguardsofyesteryear.org/news.php Irish coastguard's website

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http://irishconstabulary.com/directory#.UvRN-T1_suc Royal Irish Constabulary Forum

Newspaper sources: Vast holdings in both the National Library of Ireland & at the British Newspaper Library. Many collections of biographical extracts are available at the *Irish Genealogical Research Society* (IGRS) Library in London, - the intention is to digitise & load these onto the IGRS website.

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk (£) Now has 164 Irish titles online. (Also available on FindMyPast)

For other Irish papers, see: www.irishnewsarchive.com/ (£)

Abroad <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> Trove free search of Australian papers e.g. The Mercury (Hobart) and The Argus (Melbourne) and many more

<http://paperspast.natlib.govt.nz/> Free search of New Zealand papers (1839-1950)

<http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/> Free Welsh newspapers over 1.1 million pages

<http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html> 30M+ Historical newspaper pages from the US & Canada - free

Libraries, directories

www.libraryireland.com/ Includes a number of free e-books and pedigrees and also great source book *A Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* by Samuel Lewis, 1837.

Do check local county library online collection - county Clare and Limerick especially good.

www.swilson.info/dirdb.php links to over 1000 directories on both free and on pay to view sites

www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=840 Irish Genealogical Research Society -many resources, some (£) library in London

Pay to view Sites

www.findmypast.ie (£). It has added an **index to Irish Catholic Registers** (up to approx. 1880) and holds **Irish prison registers 1790-1924** (3 million+ records), **Petty Sessions Courts** (23million+ records). **Royal Hospital Kilmainham Pensioners' records 1783-1822**. **Landed Estate Court Rentals**, **Dog licenses** annual from 1866 (7.3 million); **Dublin, Clare & Sligo Poor Law Union / workhouse** records. **Fermanagh parish records 1796-1873**, **Earl Grey scheme** - young women sent from workhouses to Australia & **Reproductive loan funds**. **Irish newspaper titles** via British Library Newspaper collection 164 Irish titles. Has recently produced an index to Irish Civil Registration. **Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC)** service records, **Quaker Records**.

www.ancestry.co.uk (£) Irish collection - **index to Irish Catholic Registers** (up to approx. 1880).

Irish casualties of WWI which are also available elsewhere; and the **names list of Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) 1816- 1921** which includes their service numbers, **Famine Relief Papers** - this database consists of letters and other documents received by the Famine Relief Commission 1845-1847 contains more than 10,000 names. **Lord Viscount Morpeth's Testimonial Roll, 1841**, **The Belfast Newsletter, 1738-1925** **Irish Flax Growers List, 1796**; **O'Hart, John. Irish Pedigrees Vol 1 & 2**, various will abstracts & emigration lists.

www.johngrenham.com (£) useful wizard, surname locator and links - limited free access daily

Recommended Books / Reading:

- **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**, by John Grenham. Published in Dublin: Gill and Macmillan 4th Edition.
- **The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide** by Claire Santry. Aimed at an American audience but very clear.
- www.flyleaf.ie Flyleaf Press - books focusing on researching individual Irish counties
- www.nifhs.org/product-category/booklets North of Ireland Family History Society individual county booklets
- <http://freeirishebooks.blogspot.co.uk/> free books to download on Irish genealogy.

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The **Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS)** was founded in 1936. It maintains a valuable library of rare books & unique manuscripts in London, and publishes a substantial Journal plus two newsletters a year. There is a members' section on the website where a rolling programme of material is uploaded. www.irishancestors.ie There is also a forum on the website where members can get help and advice. It has a Facebook page - you do not need to be a Facebook member to read this, & it is regularly updated with news www.facebook.com/IrishGenealogicalResearchSociety/ The IGRS also publishes a monthly e-bulletin for its members, In addition to the large amount of material in the members' area of the website, there are other valuable resources available free to all in the main website area. These include the Early Irish Marriage Finder: www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=1926 First launched in Spring 2013, this is intended to provide a pointer to sources other than parish registers for the period 1650 down to the launch of full civil registration in 1864.; the index currently stands at over 91,000 marriages -Early Irish Birth, Marriage & Death indexes - almost 300,000 names. Site also allows name search of IGRS Journal from 1937 - over 250,000 names.

Tips for Irish Research

- Find where in Ireland your people come from - ideally a townland, or at least a parish, absolute minimum is a county. Note their religion.
- **N. B.** In Ireland a civil parish is commonly similar to the Church of Ireland parish but different to the Roman Catholic or Presbyterian parish, even if they have the same name.
- If you cannot find your relations remember spelling was fluid - try other variant spellings Smith may have been recorded as Smyth, Smythe, Smithe, McGowan, Try adding or subtracting O or Mc to the surname.
- Consider using social media - most Irish counties have a genealogy page on Facebook.
- Join your parish of interest on Ireland Reaching Out www.irelandxo.com
- Consider joining an Irish family history society e.g. www.irishancestors.ie/members/membership-benefits/ or one local to where your ancestors come from.
- Don't be too ambitious. If you come from a poor labouring family in the west or north west of Ireland, that did not own any land, you may do very well to get your family tree back to the middle of the 19th century.

Ancestor from Ireland but you don't know where from?

- Gather what you already know about your family - certificates, old letters, family bible, in memoriam cards, newspaper cuttings, medals, old photos of gravestones etc. etc. do any of these disclose where the family came from?
- Have you checked all census records for the family - looking at the originals not just the transcripts?
- For any child in Scotland or who went to Australia check their marriage records there?
- Have you noted all baptism sponsors, witnesses at marriage? Baptism sponsors are normally members of the extended family, of a similar generation to the parents. Can you establish where these sponsors / witnesses came from?
- Have you checked your ancestor's military records for place of birth?
- How common is the surname in Ireland? Check at www.johngrenham.com
- Have you any old In Memoriam cards from Ireland? Where are they from?
- What do church records for the family show? Were they mentioned with their Irish origins in the parish newsletter?
- If sportsmen /women did their local sports club, local newspaper note their origins? - Particularly common if Gaelic sports.

Done all the above and still no answer?

If the family was not well-off, check for the family in the Poor Law Records? As most of these are not online this could be a very large task.

If all else fails test your **DNA** and join an Irish DNA project.