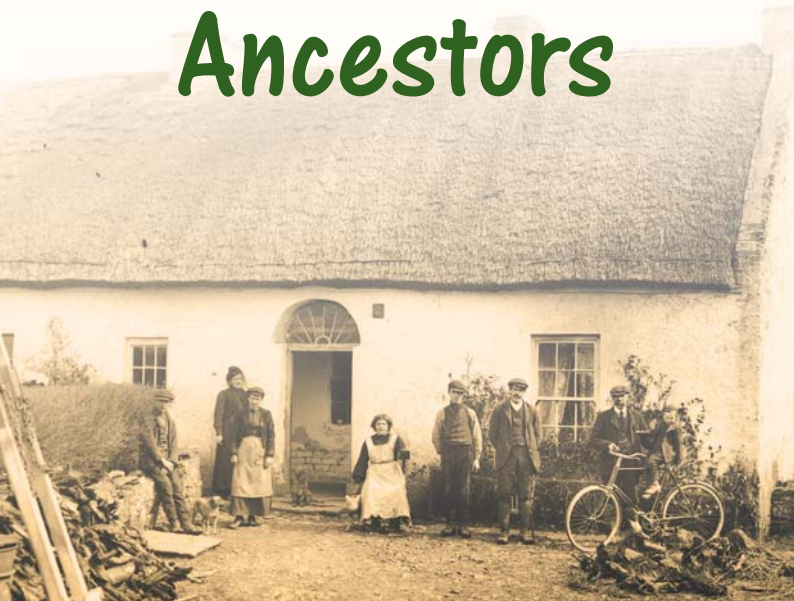



Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestors



A short guide to finding your
Irish and Scots-Irish roots

A scenic landscape of rolling green hills and a forested valley with a lake. The hills are covered in lush green grass and some trees. A dense forest of green trees is visible in the foreground on the left, bordering a calm blue lake. The background shows more rolling hills under a clear sky.

Celebrate the 300th
Anniversary of the
1718 Migration in 2018

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www.ancestryireland.com/scots-irish-tour

Preliminaries

Whether you are a seasoned family historian struggling with this one ‘brick wall’, or you are simply curious, whether your ancestor hailed from the Antrim Glens or Dingle Bay, this guide will help you identify the records and new sources that can aid you uncover where your Irish roots lie.

Interest in researching Irish ancestors is rapidly growing. Now that so many census records are available online an increasing number of people have discovered, often unexpectedly, that they have an ancestor who was born in Ireland. Naturally, many of them wish to find out more. The problem that most of them run up against is that they have no idea where in Ireland their ancestor came from. Census returns may indicate that an ancestor was Irish, but they rarely provide a more specific place of birth in Ireland.

This short guide identifies the main sources that can be used to explore family history in Ireland, and gives a number of suggested steps that have the potential to lead you in the right direction. For a fuller look at Irish genealogy the reader should refer to some of the books listed at the end of this booklet.

Prior to 1922 Ireland was under one jurisdiction. Since then the six counties situated in the north-east of the island have been known as Northern Ireland. The remaining 26 counties constitute what is now the Republic of Ireland. Where we refer to Ireland we mean the entire island. Where we are referring specifically to Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland we will try to make this clear.



1. GETTING TO GRIPS WITH THE BASICS

1.1 Starting off

As is the case anywhere, the best way for someone to begin researching their Irish ancestry is within their own family. In nearly every family there is at least one member with an encyclopaedic knowledge of who married who and how many children they had and where they lived etc., etc. Collect as much information as possible on names, dates and places relating to your family; write it down and begin to plot out the skeleton of a family tree. Occasionally wrong information may be given, yet it is surprising just how often an elderly person's reminiscences prove to be an accurate recollection of the facts.

A family Bible is another possible source of information on your ancestors. Gathering this information before you visit the archives can save a great deal of time. Once you find out what you do know you will then be aware of the gaps and will have a clearer idea of what you should be looking for.

1.2 Exploding a myth

A popular misconception about researching Irish ancestors is that it is a fruitless exercise because so many records were destroyed. There is no denying that the loss of so many records in the destruction of the Public Record Office, Dublin, in 1922 was a catastrophe as far as historical and genealogical research is concerned. Three main categories of record were destroyed in 1922:

Virtually all census returns, 1821–51

The registers from over 1,000 Church of Ireland parishes

Virtually all original wills probated before 1900

Many other records, including records relating to government and the courts, were also lost. However, not destroyed in 1922 were the registers from some 600 Church of Ireland parishes as well as church records for all the other denominations in Ireland. Neither were official

records of births, deaths and marriages destroyed. Since 1922 the work of archivists to gather records of historical importance has resulted in a vast amount of material being available for the genealogical researcher to peruse.



1.3 *The internet*

The internet has transformed genealogy around the world and Ireland is no exception. To list all the websites that deal with Irish genealogy would be impossible as they seem to be increasing almost by the day. Some websites focus on a particular county or district and contain extensive lists of digitised sources, while others concentrate on a particular family. It must be remembered that many Irish sources are not yet available online and it may be years before major sources such as church and estate records are fully digitised and available over the internet. Most of the main archives in Ireland now have a website and these are listed on page 30 of this booklet along with other contact details.

1.4 *Administrative divisions*

For those unfamiliar with them, trying to grasp the range of different land divisions in Ireland can be baffling. The following are the main units of land administration in Ireland:

PROVINCE

Provinces are composed of groups of counties. There are four provinces in Ireland: Ulster in the north, Leinster in the east, Munster in the south, and Connacht or Connaught in the west.

COUNTY

There are 32 counties in Ireland, six of which are now in Northern Ireland and the remaining 26 in the Republic of Ireland. The county system as a form of territorial division was introduced into Ireland shortly after the Norman Conquest in the late twelfth century. However the creation of counties was gradual, and the present arrangement of county boundaries was not finalised until the early seventeenth century.

BARONY

The barony was a unit used in Ireland between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries for administrative (census, taxation, and legal) purposes. Often





drawn on pre-existing Gaelic divisions, baronies consisted of large groupings of townlands within a county. The 1891 census is the last to use the barony as an administrative unit.

PARISH

This territorial division refers to both civil and ecclesiastical units. Civil parishes, which form one of the most important units of governance within the civil administration, largely follow the pattern that was established in medieval times. Following the Reformation in the sixteenth century, the Church of Ireland more or less maintained the pre-Reformation arrangement. Church of Ireland parishes are, therefore, largely coterminous with civil parishes. When the

Catholic Church began its institutional re-emergence in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it constructed a new network of parishes which did not necessarily follow the civil parish network.

TOWNLAND

This is the smallest administrative territorial unit in Ireland, varying in size from under a single acre to over 7,000 acres. Originating in the older Gaelic dispensation, townlands were used as the basis of leases in the estate system, and subsequently to assess valuations and tithes in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. They survive as important markers of local identity, especially in rural parts of the Republic of Ireland where they form the crucial element in postal addresses. Useful websites for exploring townlands, their names and meaning, include www.logainm.ie and www.townlands.ie, and for Northern Ireland researchers will find www.placenamesni.org helpful.



2. THE 3 Cs: CIVIL, CHURCH & CENSUS RECORDS

2.1 Civil registration

Civil registers of births, marriages and deaths provide basic family history information. However, their usefulness for the genealogist will depend on the period being researched. Civil or state registration of all births, deaths and marriages began in Ireland on 1 January 1864. Non-Catholic marriages, including those conducted in a government registry office, were required in law to be registered from 1 April 1845. In overall charge of registration was the Registrar General in Dublin. Certified copies of all registers compiled locally were sent to his office and, from these, master indexes covering the whole of Ireland were produced.

Birth certificates record the date and place of birth of the child. Normally the name of the child is also given, but in some cases only the sex is given, i.e. the child had not been given a name by the time the birth was registered. The name and residence of the father is given. Usually this will be the same as the place of birth of the child, but in some cases it will show that the father was working abroad or in another part of Ireland when the child was born. The



1888

Nomina Sponsorum.	Cognomina.	Eorum Residentia.	
John	Quinn	Makerison St.	Filius
Mary	Horne	Keble St.	Filia

father's occupation is also given. The mother's maiden name is provided as well as her first name. Finally, the name and address of the informant is given, together with his or her qualification to sign. This will usually be the father or mother or someone present at the birth, such as a midwife or even the child's grandmother.

Marriage certificates normally give fuller information than birth and death certificates, and are the most useful of civil records. Information on the individuals getting married includes their name, age, status, and occupation. The names and occupations of their fathers are also given. The church, the officiating minister and the witnesses to the ceremony are named. In most cases the exact age of the parties is not given, and the entry will simply read 'full age' (i.e. over 21) or 'minor' (i.e. under 21). If the father of one of the parties was no longer living, this may be indicated in the marriage certificate by the word 'deceased' or by leaving the space blank, but in many cases it is not.

Death certificates in Ireland are rather uninformative in comparison to other countries. The name of the deceased is given together with the date, place and cause of death, marital status, the age at death, and occupation. The name and address of the informant is also given. Usually this is the person present at the time of the death; this may be a close family member.

The indexes to civil marriages 1845–63 are hand-written, but thereafter all indexes are printed. From 1864 to 1877 indexes for births, marriages and deaths consist of a single yearly volume covering the whole of Ireland. From 1878 the annual indexes are arranged on a quarterly basis. In each index the surnames will be arranged alphabetically, followed by the first names. The name of the superintendent registrar's district is also given, followed by the volume number and page number of the master copies of the registers in Dublin. In the indexes to deaths the age of the deceased will be provided.

34
5

Nomina Parentum.	Eorum Residentia.	Denuntiationes
<i>Thomas et Elizabetha</i>	<i>Malpas</i>	<i>St. John</i>
<i>James et Maria</i>	<i>Bury</i>	<i>St. Mary</i>

GENERAL REGISTER OF IRELAND (www.groireland.ie)

Recently the Irish government website www.irishgenealogy.ie has digitised historic birth, marriage and death records held by the General Register Office of Ireland and these are available for free online. Currently the site has birth records from 1864 to 1915, marriages 1882 to 1940 (up to 1921 for Northern Ireland) and deaths 1891 to 1965 (up to 1921 for Northern Ireland). Earlier marriage and death records should be added in due course.

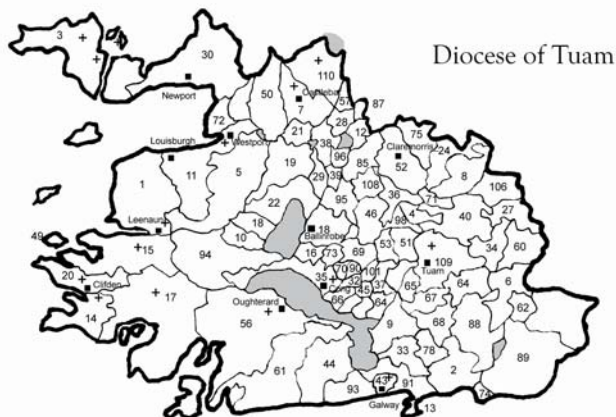
GENERAL REGISTER OF NORTHERN IRELAND (www.nidirect.gov.uk/groni)

The General Register Office of Northern Ireland has digitised all its records and made its historic records available online for a fee. This includes all births over 100 years, all marriages over 75 years and all deaths over 50 years. These can be accessed at <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>. Records up to the present-day can now be accessed at the GRONI computer terminals in PRONI (again for a fee).

2.2 Church records

Prior to the commencement of civil registration in 1864, the main sources of family history information are church registers. The availability of these varies from congregation to congregation. Some, mainly Church of Ireland, date from as far back as the seventeenth century, but many others, especially Catholic registers, start no earlier than the 1830s.

The single largest denomination in Ireland is the Roman Catholic Church. Following the Reformation in Ireland the Catholic Church went through a lengthy period when its activities were severely curtailed. The Penal Laws were a series of enactments of the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries designed to remove the rights of Catholics to public office and to careers in certain professions. In spite of the Penal Laws, Catholic priests and bishops operated freely in most areas. During the eighteenth century the Catholic Church was able to set up diocesan and parochial structures. It is important for



family historians to bear in mind that Roman Catholic parishes generally do not conform to civil parishes. Many Roman Catholic parishes have more than one church. Sometimes only one register was kept for the entire parish, but at other times each church had its own registers.

The Church of Ireland is the largest Protestant denomination on the island of Ireland. Until 1870 it was the established or state church and enjoyed various privileges in consequence of this. The Church of Ireland was required to keep proper records of baptisms, marriages and burials from 1634, but very few registers survive from the seventeenth century. In general, however, the records of the Church of Ireland start much earlier than those of other Protestant denominations and of the Roman Catholic Church. The Church of Ireland is organised into parishes which in general conform to civil parishes. In 1922 over 1,000 Church of Ireland registers were lost in Dublin in the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland.

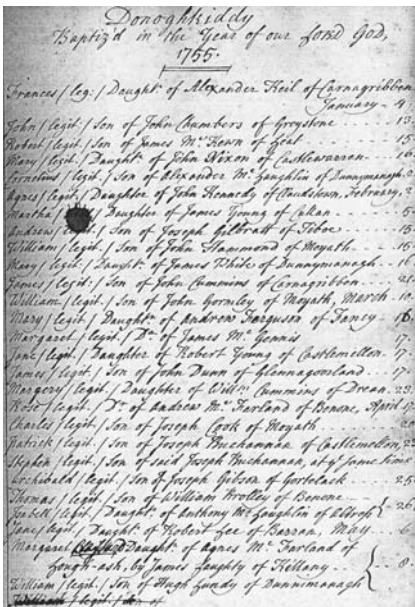
Presbyterianism came to Ireland from Scotland in the early seventeenth century. It did not become an organised denomination until the second half of the seventeenth century, however. The distribution of Presbyterian churches in Ireland is generally a reflection of the pattern of Scottish settlement on the island. As well as the main Presbyterian Church in Ireland there are two smaller historic denominations, the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church and the Reformed Presbyterian Church.

Methodism emerged in Ireland in the eighteenth century as a result of John Wesley's many visits to the island. To begin with the majority of Methodists belonged to the Established Church and they remained members of their own local churches. Therefore they continued to go to the parish church for the administration of marriages, burials and baptisms. In 1816 a split developed between the Primitive Wesleyan Methodists, who retained their links with the Established Church, and the Wesleyan Methodists, who allowed their ministers to administer baptisms. Other smaller religious denominations in Ireland include the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Moravian Church, Baptist Church and Congregational Church

The information found in church records can be categorised as follows:

BAPTISMAL REGISTERS

The basic information provided in a baptismal register is the name of the child, the name of the father and the date of baptism. The mother's name will usually be given as will a specific location. The occupation of the father and the date of birth of the child may also be provided. Roman Catholic registers will normally give the names of the sponsors of the child.



MARRIAGE REGISTERS

Prior to the standardisation of marriage registers in 1845 for non-Catholics and 1864 for Catholics, these will give in their simplest form the date of the marriage and the names of the bride and groom. The residence and the name of the father of each party are often provided. The names of the witnesses may also be given.

SURNAME VARIATIONS

In carrying out research in Ireland, or anywhere for that matter, it is important to take into consideration all possible variant spellings of a name. Frequently the O and Mc or Mac prefix will be dropped. For example, a Sarah McElhatton of County Tyrone became Sarah Hatton when she left Ireland in the late nineteenth century. Names can also change slightly. Two recent examples of changes between Ireland and Scotland that have been encountered by researchers at the Ulster Historical Foundation are Mooney to Moodie and McMahan to Maughan. Often names were changed slightly to remove some of the 'Irishness' about them and to allow newcomers to better assimilate into the host population.

BURIAL REGISTERS

Burial registers can be fairly uninformative, with the name of the deceased, the date of burial and occasionally the occupation and age at death given. The deaths of children will usually include the name of the father, while the burial of a wife may include her husband's name. Many Catholic 'burial' registers are actually registers recording payments made at the funeral of the deceased.

AVAILABILITY OF CHURCH RECORDS

For a listing of Catholic records in Ireland see John Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (4th edition, 2012). This includes details on the dates of the surviving registers, where copies of them may be found and also which genealogy centres have indexed the records. The website of the RCB Library, www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library, has a downloadable PDF providing details of Church of Ireland registers (including those destroyed in the Four Courts fire in 1922 and those that survive).

For a listing of records available for the northern province of Ulster see the *Guide to Church Records* which can be downloaded from the PRONI website at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/proni-guide-church-records

Some registers are still in local custody. Generally these post-date the introduction of civil registration and it is usually not necessary to check these if the details of the birth or marriage are available elsewhere.

2.3 Census records

The first true census was held in Ireland in 1821 and thereafter every ten years until 1911. Unfortunately, the earliest census that survives in its entirety for

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 276

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

No.	NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family	RELIGION	PROFESSION, OCCUPATION, or TRADE	AGE	SEX	MARRIAGE	WAGES	EDUCATION	SPEAKS ENGLISH	SPEAKS IRISH	SPEAKS OTHER LANGUAGE	IF DEAF AND DUMB, OR BLIND, OR LAME, OR PARALYSED, OR OTHERWISE INCAPACITATED, STATE THE NATURE OF THE DEFECT
1	William	Head	Protestant	Independent	31	M	Married						
2	Edgar	Son	Protestant	Student	16	M	Single						
3	Samuel	Son	Protestant	Student	4	M	Single						
4	John	Son	Protestant	Student	16	M	Single						

the whole of Ireland is the 1901 census. Census returns 1821–51 were almost entirely lost in 1922 in the destruction of the Public Record Office in Dublin. Census returns 1861–91 were completely destroyed by government order, many during the First World War as scrap paper.

1901 CENSUS

On 31 March 1901, a census was taken of the whole island of Ireland. The original returns are deposited at the National Archives in Dublin. The information in the census is listed under the following headings: name; relationship to the head of the household; religion; literacy; occupation; age; marital status; county of birth (or country if born outside Ireland); and ability to speak English or Irish. Every town, village and townland is represented and all inhabitants of Ireland on 31 March 1901 ought to be listed. The 1901 census is arranged by district electoral division (DED).

1911 CENSUS

The 1911 census was taken on 1 April of that year and contains additional information including the number of years a wife was married, the number of children born and the number still living.

The 1901 and 1911 census returns can be searched on the National Archives of Ireland website at: www.census.nationalarchives.ie.

3. RECORDS RELATING TO THE OCCUPATION OF LAND

3.1 The Primary or Griffith's Valuation, 1848–64

This Primary Valuation of Ireland, better known as Griffith's Valuation after the Commissioner of Valuation, Sir Richard Griffith, is the earliest comprehensive listing of property in Ireland. It is particularly useful if you are trying to locate where in Ireland your ancestor was living in the mid-nineteenth century. It is of especial interest to anyone wishing to trace their family tree, due to the fact that so little of the nineteenth-century census returns has survived.

The 1848–64 valuation gives a complete list of occupiers of land, tenements and houses. It is arranged by Poor Law Union. It includes the following information: the name of the townland; the name of the householder or leaseholder; the name of the person from whom the property was leased; a description of the property; its acreage; and finally the valuation of the land and buildings. It includes the most palatial of mansions as well as the humblest of labourers' cottages. A very useful online resource for Griffith's Valuation can be found at: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/.

Griffith's Valuation was updated on a regular basis. The so-called 'cancelled books' consist of manuscript notebooks kept by the valuation office and updated to take account of changes in tenure. When a change of occupancy occurred, the name of the lessee or householder was crossed off and the new occupier's name written above it, while the year was noted on the right-hand side of the page. Different-coloured ink was often used to differentiate between years with a key at the start of each book to indicate which colour went with each year.

The years in which changes in occupancy took place help to establish significant dates in family history, such as dates of death, sale or emigration. On rare occasions there can even be a comment to the effect that a family had emigrated or that an individual had died. Changes in the valuation of buildings can indicate when a new house was built or when the existing one was abandoned. Valuation revision books for Northern Ireland are available in PRONI (ref. VAL/12B) and these are searchable online via the PRONI website. For the Republic of Ireland the valuation revisions are in the Valuation Office in Lower Abbey Street, Dublin.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO THE TOWNLANDS AND TOWNS OF IRELAND.

369

No. of Sheet of the Ordnance Survey Maps.	Townlands and Towns.	Area in Statute Acres.	County.	Barony.	Parish.	Poor Law Union in 1857.	Townland Census of 1851, Part I.	
							Val.	Page
1	Derrygorry . . .	184 1 22	Monaghan . . .	Trough . . .	Errigal Trough . . .	Clogher . . .	III.	284
37, 38, 46	Derrygortinas . . .	252 1 33	Tyrone . . .	Dungannon Upper . . .	Desertcreat . . .	Cookstown . . .	III.	307
61, 62	Derrygortnacloghy . . .	173 3 0	Cork, W. H. . .	West Muskerry . . .	Inchigeelagh . . .	Dunmanway . . .	II.	157
54, 61	Derrygortreavy . . .	350 3 33	Tyrone . . .	Dungannon Middle . . .	Clontarfle . . .	Dungannon . . .	III.	299
15, 20	Derrygoos . . .	147 0 15a	Cavan . . .	Upper Loughtee . . .	Urney . . .	Cavan . . .	III.	86
49	Derrygowan . . .	145 2 27	Antrim . . .	Upper Toome . . .	Duneean . . .	Antrim . . .	III.	34
77	Derrygowla . . .	81 2 18	Mayo . . .	Barrishoole . . .	Islandsedy . . .	Westport . . .	IV.	121

3.2. Tithe Valuation

In 1823 the Composition Act was passed which stipulated that henceforth all tithes due to the Established Church, the Church of Ireland, were to be paid in money rather than in kind as they previously could have been. This necessitated a complete valuation of all tithable land in Ireland, the results of which are contained in manuscript form in the tithe applotment books arranged by parish. The tithe applotment books contain the name of the tithe-payer, the size of his farm and the amount of tithe he paid. Copies of the tithe applotment

Killybegs Parish 1818	
Dr. Mr. Christopher Ford	1 1
Dr. Mr. Hanterman	0 17 6
Dr. Mr. Fennell	0 6 9
<hr/>	
Clodagh John Morgan	1 1 6
Dr. Mr. Carson	0 19 8
Dr. John Dougherty	1 4 6
Dr. Ball Conway and Lewis	0 19 4
Dr. John Mulhenny	1 1 6
Dr. Ball McDevitt	0 19 1
Dr. The Wm	0 11 6
Dr. Ball Whelan and Macarty	2 5 8
Dr. The Wm	1 6 9

books for Northern Ireland are available in PRONI and for the Republic of Ireland in the National Archives of Ireland. The tithe books for the Republic of Ireland are now available online at: www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie. Indexes to tithe books for Ulster counties are available at www.rootsireland.ie.

3.3 Landed estate records

Until the early part of the twentieth century, most of the land in Ireland was possessed by landowners whose estates ranged in size from 1,000 acres or less to, in some cases, over 100,000 acres. Nearly all of the farmers in Ireland were tenants on such estates. The records generated by the management of landed estates are a major source of genealogical information. The best collection of Irish estate papers is housed in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

There are excellent collections of estate records in PRONI. The PRONI eCatalogue (www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-ecatalogue) can be used to

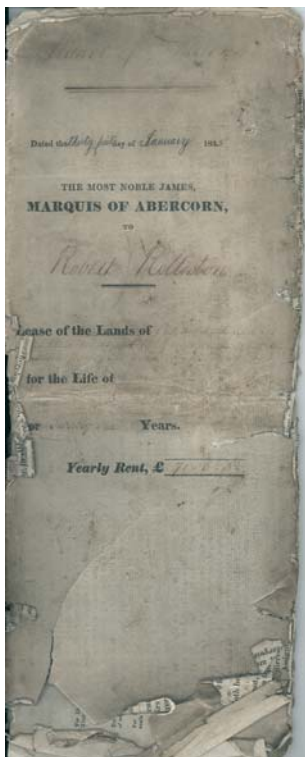


discover much useful information held in estate papers. For many of the larger collections, detailed introductions have been prepared. Most of these introductions are now available to read on the PRONI website. In the Republic of Ireland the best collection of estate papers is in the National Library. The catalogues of many of the estate collections in its custody can be downloaded as PDFs from its website (www.nli.ie).

4. OTHER USEFUL SOURCES

4.1 *Wills and testamentary papers*

Prior to 1858 the Church of Ireland was responsible for administering all testamentary affairs. Ecclesiastical or Consistorial Courts in each diocese were responsible for granting probate and conferring on the executors the power to administer the estate. Each court was responsible for wills and administrations in its own diocese. Unfortunately, nearly all original wills probated before 1858 were destroyed in Dublin in 1922. However, indexes to these destroyed wills do exist and are available on the websites of PRONI and the National Archives of Ireland.



CALENDAR OF WILLS

IN THE

DIOCESE OF FERNS,

1601 TO 1800.

	Date of Probate
ACTESON, William (clerk), Duncormuck 1759
Adams, Henry, Crosse of Killinick, co. Wexford	... *1707
Alcock, John, Arnistowne *1633
" Jones, New Ross 1655
Allen, Ann (widow), Wexford 1790
" Elnathan, Wexford 1770
" George, Colltore, co. Wexford 1663
Joseph, Wexford 1663

The testamentary authority of the Church of Ireland was abolished by the Probate Act of 1857. Testamentary matters were brought under civil jurisdiction and exercised through District Probate Registries and a Principal Registry in Dublin. The wills of wealthier members of society tended

to be probated at the Principal Registry. The district registries retained transcripts of the wills that they proved and of the administrations intestate that they granted before the annual transfer of the original records (20 or more years old) to the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin. The original wills were destroyed in Dublin in 1922 but the transcript copies in will books survived. These are now on deposit in PRONI and the National Archives.

Will indexes (Armagh, Belfast, Derry) 1858–1965 and images of wills from copy will books (1858–c. 1909) are available on the PRONI website. The testamentary calendars available in the Reading Room of the National Archives of Ireland are now available for 1858–1922 along with images of wills for 1858–1900 on the NAI website (www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie).

4.2 School records

A state-run system of education was established in Ireland in 1831. Prior to this (and for some time after it) there were several different organisations and institutions providing education in Ireland. These included the Capel Street Association for Discountenancing Vice, the Kildare Street Society, the London Hibernian Society as well as the different churches. From 1831 National Schools were built and supported with the aid of the Commissioners of National Education and local trustees. Between 1832 and 1870 about 2,500 National Schools were established in Ulster.

The records of over 1,500 schools in Northern Ireland are held at PRONI and many for the rest of Ireland are in NAI. Of particular interest are the enrolment registers. These record the full name of the pupil, his or her date of birth (or age at entry), religion, father's address and occupation (but unfortunately not his name), details of attendance and academic progress and the name of the school previously attended. A space is also provided in the registers for general comments, which might tell where the children went to work after leaving school or if they emigrated. Some registers have an index at the front that can greatly ease searching. As they include the age of pupils, school registers can be cross-referenced to other records such as baptismal records or birth certificates. An index to school records held in PRONI can be found at:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/publications/index-school-collections-proni

REGISTER OF <i>Glenties</i> NATIONAL SCHOOL. 51									
Date of Entrance, 18715.	Register Number.	PUPIL'S NAME IN FULL.	Age of Pupil at Birth Day.	Religion or Denomination.	RESIDENCE.	Occupation or Means of Living of Parents.	State the Name and County of the last National School at which the Pupil attended; and the Class in which he last passed.		
							School.	County.	Class.
27.9.15	206	1 John W. Brude	8-7-69	R.C.	Dunearbit	Farmer	St. Mary's	Leith	Infant
27.9.15	207	2 Francis W. Brude	25-7-62	R.C.	"	Farmer	St. Mary's	Leith	Infant
6.10.15	203	3 Edward Murray	12.00	R.C.	Ardsaghmore	Shepherd	St. Ann's	Antrom	Second
7.10.15	202	4 Edward Murray	12.00	R.C.	Ardsaghmore	Shepherd	St. Ann's	Antrom	Second

4.3 Election records

Election records come in various forms. Registers of freeholders list the names and addresses of individuals entitled to vote at parliamentary elections. Poll books (often in printed form before the Ballot Act of 1872) list the names of voters and the candidates they voted for. Until the late nineteenth century the qualification for voting was generally linked to the tenure of land, and only a small minority of men had the right to vote. In Ireland, from 1727 to 1793, only Protestant men with a 40-shilling freehold had the right to vote.

Between 1793 and 1829 both Protestants and Roman Catholics with 40-shilling freeholds had votes, although a Catholic still could not become a member of parliament. The 40-shilling freehold was property worth 40 shillings a year above the rent, and either owned outright or leased during the lives of named individuals. Many important and indeed prominent people had no vote because they leased their property on the wrong terms.

Surviving electoral records are available at PRONI and most of them up to c. 1840 have been digitised and are available as a database on its website:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-freeholders-records

Freeholders Name.	Residence.	Parish.
Eastwood Chad	Killeshock Co. South	Craggan
Eastwood Chad	Castletona Co. South	
Garnony Hugh	Drishputa Co. Longford	Kildownhamilton
Hamilton Alex	Yondera River County Dublin	Kildownhamilton
Henry William	Castleblaney County Longford	Kildownhamilton
Hamilton Alex	Riveland Quay City of Dublin	Kildownhamilton
Hamilton Robert	Marlawn	Killybeg and Kildownhamilton
Johnston James	Yammettsland City of Dublin	Craggan
Johnston John	Longfield Co. Monaghan	Craggan
Johnston James	Water Ridge County Sligo	Craggan
Noble Arthur	Camatty	Kildownhamilton

WAS YOUR IRISH ANCESTOR A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT?

The British and Irish Parliaments were united under the Act of Union in 1801. Before then an independent Irish Parliament sat in Dublin. The six-volume *History of the Irish Parliament 1692–1800* (published in 2002), with 2,300 detailed biographies of the members who served during the period, is available online at:

www.ancestryireland.com/history-of-the-irish-parliament/

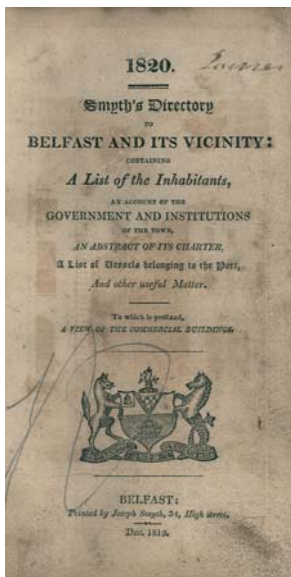


4.4 Street directories

Street directories contain a great deal of information on the gentry, the professional classes, merchants, etc. They can include information on even the smallest of market towns and ports in Ireland. Beginning with a description of the town and surrounding countryside, the names and addresses of the local butchers, pawnbrokers, blacksmiths and coach-builders are given, as well as the various places of worship, with the names of the local ministers etc., and the location of local schools. Street directories can therefore be useful if you wish to find out which church or school your ancestor attended.

The names and addresses of the local members of parliament, magistrates, Poor Law Guardians and town commissioners are also included in many street directories. In fact the only classes that will tend not to be found are the small tenant farmers, landless labourers and servants. There is a

good collection of street directories in the National Library of Ireland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and various other repositories and libraries. Many nineteenth century Ulster directories have been digitised by PRONI and are available at: www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-street-directories and it is also useful to examine street directories on www.lennonwylie.co.uk.



CARRICK-ON-SUIR DIRECTORY.

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**BREWERS AND SPIRIT
MERCHANTS.**
Feehan, Rd., Son & Co., Castle st
BUTTER MARKET.

Main st.
Wm. Boyd, toll lessee
BUILDERS.

Loughman, John, William st
Loughman, Ptk., New st
BUTTER MERCHANT.
Egan, Thos., New st
CATTLE DEALERS.

Murphy, John, Quay
COMMISSIONERS.
For Affidavits, see Co. Directory.

CONFECTIONERS.
Bain, Mrs. A., Main st
Lonergan, Mrs. M., New lane
Younge, Joseph, Main st

COOPERAGES.
Butler, James, Carrickbeg
Butler, Martin, Carrickbeg
Daniel, Michl., Kiekhm st
Fitzgerald, Rd. Carrickbeg

4.5 Records relating to Irish soldiers

Over the centuries thousands of Irishmen have served in all ranks in the British Army. From the early nineteenth century onwards significant numbers of Irishmen fought in British regiments in most major campaigns.

Records relating to the British Army are held by the National Archives, Kew. Various resources and guides are made available on its website www.nationalarchives.gov.uk such as a database of First World War campaign medals. A useful book is *William Spencer, Army Records: a guide for family historians* (TNA, 2008).

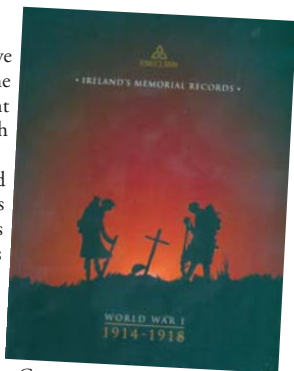
The website of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission www.cwgc.org is a good place to start looking for an ancestor who was killed in the First or Second World Wars.



Other resources for locating Irish soldiers include *Ireland's Memorial Records* available on the Foundation's website for members and reprinted from the limited 1924 edition eight-volume original, with engravings by Harry Clark, by The Naval & Military Press, 2003. Also available on CD, from the same publisher, *Soldiers Died in the Great War 1914–19* and *Army Roll of Honour 1939–45: Soldiers Died in World War Two*.

The National Archives of Ireland have made available online a collection of wills of Irish soldiers who died while serving in the British Army, mostly from the First World War, but also a small number from the period of the Anglo-Boer War, 1899–1902, at: <http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie/search/sw/home.jsp>

Used in combination these sources can give valuable clues to the origins, and the often mournful, final resting place of Irish soldier ancestors.



4.6 Records relating to the Royal Irish Constabulary

The local police force which eventually became the Royal Irish Constabulary (RIC) was originally established in 1816. It was disbanded in 1922. Between these dates there were over 85,000 registered officers.

Service records are held in the National Archives, Kew,

but there are microfilm copies in the National Archives of Ireland and at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Jim Herlihy's book *The Royal Irish Constabulary: a complete alphabetical list of officers and men, 1816–1922* (Four Courts Press, 1999) includes a list of all those who served in the RIC together with their service numbers. He has also written *The Royal Irish Constabulary: A Short History and Genealogical Guide* (Four Courts Press, 1997).



Service records can be searched on Findmypast (www.findmypast.ie).

IRISH NEWSPAPERS

Newspapers are excellent sources of information on family history. The first edition of the *Belfast Newsletter* appeared in 1737. Its readership included much of Ulster. Scanned page images of the *Belfast Newsletter* (1737–c. 1925) are available on Ancestry and a comprehensive index to the pre-1801 issues is available at: www.ucl.ac.uk/bnl. Researchers can also use the British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk) and the Irish Newspaper Archives (www.irishnewsarchive.com).

4.7 Early sources

Researching ancestors who left Ireland before the nineteenth century can certainly present a challenge. The further one goes back in time the more difficult it becomes to discover precise details about family history. Sources specific to the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are rarely more than lists of names, sometimes arranged by townland and parish. They will usually not provide information on family relationships, and because they almost always give the name of the head

of the household nearly all of the names will be those of men. Occasionally two men with the same name will be found in the one townland and may be distinguished with the words, 'senior' and 'junior', in which case it is reasonable to infer that they are father and son. At the same time, despite their limitations sources from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are useful if they can be used to demonstrate that a particular name occurred in a parish or townland at a certain date. The principal sources from this period include:

MUSTER ROLLS, 1630–31

A muster roll was a list of able-bodied men who were capable of military service. They were armed at their own expense. Several muster rolls survive for Ulster counties from the early seventeenth century, the most comprehensive being that of 1630–31. Muster rolls are usually arranged by estate and consist in the main of a list of names with perhaps the weapon, if any, possessed. They are the best source of information on the names of early settlers in Ulster. An index of the names of those listed on the muster roll is available at: therjhuntercollection.com.

HEARTH MONEY ROLLS, 1663–69

In the 1660s the government introduced a tax on hearths as a means of raising revenue. The returns,



arranged by parish and usually with townland locations, list the names of all householders paying this tax survive for half the counties in Ireland with coverage most complete in Ulster (although there is no hearth money roll for any parish in County Down).

CENSUS OF PROTESTANT HOUSEHOLDERS, 1740

What has generally been termed a 'census of Protestant householders' was compiled in 1740. The returns were made by the collectors of hearth money and it is likely that the names were taken from this list. Coverage is best for counties Antrim and Londonderry. It is arranged by parish with townlands only occasionally given. Only the names of householders (some 14,000 in total) are given.

RELIGIOUS CENSUS OF 1766

In 1766 Church of Ireland ministers were instructed by the government to compile lists of householders in their respective parishes, showing their religion. Some of the more diligent rectors listed every townland and household, but many drew up only numerical totals of the population. Most surviving transcripts of the returns can be found at PRONI.

FLAXGROWERS' LIST, 1796

In 1796 as part of a government initiative to encourage the linen industry in Ireland, free spinning wheels or looms were granted to farmers who planted a certain acreage of their holdings with flax. The names of over 56,000 recipients of these awards have survived in printed form arranged by county and parish.

To search some of these early records for Ulster visit www.ancestryireland.com/scotsinulster. Some early sources can also be checked on PRONI's website under the 'Name Search' database: www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/search-name-search.



5. KEY STEPS TO START YOUR RESEARCH

Success in Irish genealogy can never be guaranteed. The loss of so many records combined with poor record-keeping has made the task of searching out Irish forebears more difficult than in other parts of the British Isles. Nonetheless, as we have shown, there are many sources that can be checked and which do have the potential to reveal much about your family history in Ireland.

Below we have made a number of suggestions to help you kick start your research into your Irish ancestry. Some of the steps will be more applicable to some than others and their usefulness will depend to some extent on when exactly an ancestor left Ireland. It is unfortunately true that the earlier an ancestor crossed the Atlantic or the Irish Sea the more difficult it becomes to find out more about their life and family background in Ireland.

1. Search the online records of the Irish Family History Foundation

The Irish Family History Foundation is the co-ordinating body for a network of county-based genealogical research centres in Ireland. These centres have computerised over 20 million Irish genealogical records, including church and civil records, census returns and gravestone inscriptions.

Most of the centres have made their records available online via the subscription based website: www.rootsireland.ie. You may find it helpful to subscribe for a month to establish whether any relevant records can be found on this site. The site contains the largest collection of church and civil records for the island of Ireland that are searchable online.

To date records for the following counties have been made available online:

Antrim, Armagh, Cavan, Cork (North), Derry, Donegal, Down, Dublin, Fermanagh, Galway, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Tyrone, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow. In addition passenger lists from the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh, are available.



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your Irish ancestors
today

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Surname

First Name

Year

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Note: not all of the centres affiliated to the Irish Family History Foundation have made their records available online. In these instances it will be necessary to contact them directly. Details can be found at www.rootsireland.ie.

2. Search digitised church records

The website www.irishgenealogy.ie has been indexing and digitising Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Church records for Carlow, Cork, Kerry and Dublin city. The National Library of Ireland has digitised its microfilms of Roman Catholic Church registers up to 1880 – these are available at registers.nli.ie. This is helpful to search if you know the parish or area your ancestors came from; if you do not know the year or parish, you will find it more useful and efficient to first search the Roman Catholic databases available on www.rootsireland.ie.

3. Search census returns online

As explained above, the only two censuses which are available in their entirety for the island of Ireland were compiled in 1901 and 1911. These censuses are now available for free online at www.census.nationalarchives.ie. It is possible to download a scanned image of the actual census return for each household.

Although your ancestor may have left Ireland long before the 1901 census, other members of their immediate family may have stayed behind. Census returns may be a way of finding out more about them. Although ages given in census returns are frequently inaccurate, they can be a basis for searching for birth certificates. This website also holds scans of the surviving fragments of the 1821 to 1851 census returns.

4. Search civil registration records

Civil registration of all births, marriages and deaths began in Ireland in 1864. Non-Catholic marriages had been registered by the state from 1845. The website FamilySearch.org (www.familysearch.org) includes civil registration indexes, 1845–1958. Genealogists can now search a single name index of births, deaths and marriages for the period 1845–1921 for all of Ireland with additional indexes for the Republic of Ireland from 1922 to 1958.

www.irishgenealogy.ie also has the indexes to births, marriages and deaths – births over 100



years, marriages over 75 years and deaths over 50 years. It also has certificates of births 1864–1915, marriages 1882–1940 and deaths 1891–1965 (up to 1921 these records also include Northern Ireland).

The General Register Office of Northern Ireland has digitised all its records and made its historic records available online for a fee. This includes all births over 100 years, all marriages over 75 years and all deaths over 50 years. These can be accessed at: <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>.

5. Search the PRONI eCatalogue

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni) is one of the best regional archives in the British Isles. Many of its collections have been catalogued in some detail and its once voluminous paper catalogues are now available electronically.

It is worth spending some time going through the eCatalogue to see if any records of potential relevance can be discovered. These can then be searched if you are able to visit PRONI in person or you can commission the Ulster Historical Foundation to examine documents on your behalf. Other databases of records are available on the PRONI website and are worth perusing for information of relevance.

6. Search valuation records online

After civil and church registers, probably the most important nineteenth-century source for researching Irish ancestors is Griffith's Valuation of c. 1850–60, the first truly comprehensive survey of property in Ireland. The website www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/ provides a free search facility.

Tithe Applotment Books from the 1820s and 1830s only concern land liable for tithes so will not include ancestors who were, for example, labourers or lived in urban areas. Nonetheless it is an important source for identifying surname

locations in the pre-famine period. Those books for the Republic of Ireland (which include a few parishes in Northern Ireland which border the Republic) are available online at: www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie.

The National Archives of Ireland has also digitised the valuation office books (1824–56) comprising field, house, tenure and quarto books. These are available at: <http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/vob/home.jsp>.

7. Visit Ireland and carry out research for yourself

If planning a vacation to Ireland to research your ancestors, it is essential to gather as much information as possible prior to your visit. Check with repositories prior to travelling to find out opening hours and planned closures. Some records may be closed due to maintenance of the store in which they are held, or for preservation.

Identify beforehand the records you particularly wish to see. If you know the parish or district in which your ancestors lived try to find out what records, such as church registers, landed estate papers, etc., survive that could help you in your research. A simple list of items to look at can be extremely helpful.

While success in genealogical research can never be guaranteed, one thing you can be assured of is a warm welcome. For help with planning your itinerary go to: www.ireland.com.

IRISH AND SCOTS-IRISH FAMILY HISTORY CONFERENCES/WORKSHOPS

An ideal way to get a head start with your family history, learn more about Ireland's fascinating history, and to have great fun in the process is to sign up for one of Ulster Historical Foundation's conferences or workshops. For more information go to our website: www.ancestryireland.com.

For details of our programme, 5–12 September 2018, go to:

www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn



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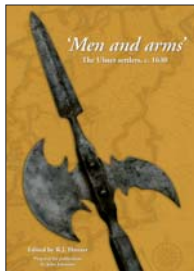
Published Resources



A number of publications are available from the Foundation, which will be of value to researchers interested in Ulster ancestors. The most important and useful resource is the new edition of *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors, 1600–1800*. This completely revised and enlarged updating of William Roulston's peerless research

guide to the nine counties of Ulster includes an expanded introduction; new items accessioned by PRONI since 2005; a more thorough listing of local, parish and congregational histories, and of material found in vestry books; an expanded discussion of sources relevant to particular historical episodes; and a review of material of interest in books and journals which have appeared since the first volume was published in 2005.

Published as *'Men and Arms'*, the Muster Roll of the province of Ulster, c. 1630 is a large, leather-bound volume in the British Library. The volume consists of 283 folio sheets on which are recorded the names of 13,147 adult males from the nine counties of Ulster. This edition includes much supplementary information on the settlers, drawn from numerous contemporary sources, making it one of the most important genealogical sources for the seventeenth century.



Useful books

Numerous books on Irish genealogy have been written. Probably the best general guide is John Grenham's *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* (2012), now in its fourth edition. Another useful guide is *Tracing Irish Ancestors* by Máire Mac Conghail and Paul Gorry (1997). A new entry into the market is Claire Santry's *The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide: How to Trace your Ancestors in Ireland* (2017).

Other volumes deal more closely with a specific area, period or theme. Ian Maxwell's *Tracing your ancestors in Northern Ireland* (1997) is primarily concerned with records in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. He is also the author of two county guides: *Researching Armagh Ancestors* (2000) and *Researching Down Ancestors* (2004). Guides for counties Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Limerick, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo and Westmeath have been published by Flyleaf Press.

William Roulston's *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: the essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, 1600–1800* (2005), by the Ulster Historical Foundation, provides a comprehensive overview of sources for studying family history before 1800, including a listing of sources for virtually every parish in Ulster. A completely new edition of this title is available (see opposite).

An indispensable book is *Irish Libraries, Museums, Archives and Genealogical Centres: A Visitors' Guide* by Robert K. O'Neill (third edition, 2013) which provides contact details, as well as summary information on collections held by the main archives in Ireland.

Useful books on Irish surnames include, Edward MacLysaght's *The Surnames of Ireland* (1964), considered to be the standard reference work on this subject. Although dated, but still of value, especially for Gaelic names, is Rev. Patrick Woulfe's *Sloinnte Gaedheal is Gall (Irish Names and Surnames)*, 1923, reprinted 2007.

For surnames in the province of Ulster, researchers should check Bell's *The Book of Ulster Surnames* and given the preponderance of Scottish names in Ulster, George F. Black's *Surnames of Scotland* (1946) can be helpful. Two further general surname guides worth consulting include Henry Harrison's *Surnames of the United Kingdom* (1912, currently out of print) and *A Dictionary of English Surnames* (1958) by P.H. Reaney and R.M. Wilson.



Useful addresses

ULSTER HISTORICAL FOUNDATION
 The Corn Exchange, 31 Gordon Street,
 Belfast, BT1 2LG
 E-mail: enquiry@uhf.org.uk
 Web: www.ancestryireland.com
www.booksireland.org.uk

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY FOUNDATION
 c/o Cavan Genealogy, Johnston Central
 Library, Farnham Street, Cavan
 E-mail: enquiries@rootsireland.ie
 Web: www.rootsireland.ie

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF IRELAND
 Bishop Street, Dublin 8
 E-mail: mail@nationalarchives.ie
 Web: www.nationalarchives.ie

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE
 OF NORTHERN IRELAND
 2 Titanic Boulevard,
 Belfast, BT3 9HQ
 E-mail: proni@dcalni.gov.uk
 Web: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND
 Kildare Street, Dublin 2
 E-mail: info@nli.ie
 Web: www.nli.ie

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF HERALD AT
 THE GENEALOGICAL OFFICE
 2–3 Kildare Street, Dublin 2, Ireland
 E-mail: herald@nli.ie
 Web: www.nli.ie

REGISTRY OF DEEDS
 Henrietta Street, Dublin 1
 E-mail: declan.ward@prai.ie
 Web: www.prai.ie

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
 OF NORTHERN IRELAND
 Northern Ireland Statistics and Research
 Agency (NISRA), Colby House,
 Stranmillis Court, Belfast, BT9 5RR
 E-mail: gro.nisra@dfpni.gov.uk
 Web: www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE
 OF IRELAND
 (administrative headquarters)
 Convent Road, Roscommon
 Web: www.groireland.ie
 (public research room)
 Werburgh Street, Dublin 2

VALUATION OFFICE
 Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1
 E-mail: info@valoff.ie
 Web: www.valoff.ie

REPRESENTATIVE CHURCH BODY
 LIBRARY
 Braemor Park, Churchtown, Dublin 14
 E-mail: library@ireland.anglican.org
 Web: www.ireland.anglican.org

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 17 Donegall Square North,
 Belfast, BT1 5GD
 E-mail: info@linenhall.com
 Web: www.linenhall.com

MELLON CENTRE FOR MIGRATION
 STUDIES
 2 Mellon Road, Castletown
 Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT78 5QY
 Email: mcms@librariesni.org.uk
 Web: www.qub.ac.uk/cms



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