Includes free introductory guide to tracing your Irish ancestors

Discover your IRISH and SCOTS-IRISH

ancestors with the Ulster Historical Foundation

TILLIAT TINIAN

Founded in 1956, the Ulster Historical Foundation is a long-established, highly reputable research and publishing agency. We have been conducting genealogical research in the archives for 60 years and have helped tens of thousands of people discover more about their Irish and Scots-Irish roots.



The Corn Exchange, Belfast, the home of the Ulster Historical Foundation

The Foundation is an educational non-profit organisation. Our aim is to encourage an interest in the history of the province of Ulster; promote a positive image of Northern Ireland overseas; strengthen the links between Ireland and those of Ulster descent; broaden access to historical documents and records for Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy; and to inspire pride in Irish and Ulster heritage and culture.

ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO THE TOWNLANDS AND TOWNS OF IRELAND.

369

No, of Sheet of the Ordnance Survey Maps. 1 37, 38, 46 81, 82 34, 61 15, 20	Townlands and Towns	Area in Statute Acres.	County,	Barony.	Parish.	Poor Law Union in 1857.	Townland Census of 1851, Part I.	
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Research Officer, Gillian Hunt, USA, Spring 2016

Over these years the Ulster Historical Foundation has developed into one of the principal genealogical research agencies in Ireland and a leading publisher of quality historical, educational and genealogical books. It also operates a membership association called the Ulster Historical and Genealogical Guild, the aim of which is to bring together people from all over the world in their quest to discover Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

The Foundation is one of the few organisations that is actively engaging with family historians in Ireland and North America. Each year we organise a North American lecture tour while members of staff speak at other genealogy events in the United States and Canada. Through our family history conferences we bring genealogists to the archives in Belfast and Dublin and provide hands-on assistance with research.

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Ulster Historical Foundation is entirely self-funded. We depend on the support of our customers and

> members to continue to provide the range of services that we currently offer.



ULSTER

EMIGRATION

The Foundation's first publication: R.J. Dickson's 1966 classic study of eighteenth century migration from Ulster to North America The Foundation's family history conferences allow you to trace your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. You can learn about the history of Ireland and your ancestors' lives and migration experiences first-hand through assisted research with our expert genealogists in the Belfast and Dublin archives, complemented by excursions through Ireland's beautiful landscape to some of our most historic sites.

Information



Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim

DAY

- 1 Evening reception, registration and official opening of conference
- 2 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to Carrickfergus Castle, Sentry Hill and south co. Antrim
- 3 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to the Duke of Abercorn's home at Barons Court, the Ulster American Folk Park and Mellon Centre for Migration Studies
- 4 Tour of the Glens of Antrim and Giant's Causeway including Dunluce Castle, Glenarm, Ballycastle and Bonamargy Priory
- 5 Free day for delegates to explore Belfast, including *Titanic Belfast*
- 6 Research in Dublin archives (National Archives, National Library or Registry of Deeds) or tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Trinity College, Dublin
- 7 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to Derry City, including the famous Walls of Derry, St Columb's Cathedral, the Grianan of Aileach in Co. Donegal, and a stop at Ireland's highest pub.
- 8 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to the world famous passage tombs of Knowth and Newgrange at Brú na Bóinne Co. Meath, the Monasterboice high crosses and the medieval village of Carlingford.

For full details of this programme go to: www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/summer

Early bird offer: \$1,019.99 (£799.99) before 31 March 2017 Full price: \$1,084.99 (£849.99) after 31 March 2017 Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, Belfast

If you're wondering whether to engage UHF's services or attend one of their conferences I can assure you that you'll experience absolute quality. I attended the June 2016 UHF conference and to sum it up - I attended a genealogy holiday. If you want to: meet like-minded people, have professional research assistance, eat really well, enjoy field trips that will show you the things that make Ireland amazing, meet new friends from around the world and enhance your own genealogy knowledge - this is a high quality conference you won't be sorry you spent money on! On top of all that the staff at UHF are friendly, know their stuff, well organised and prepared to accommodate your last minute change (if they can). My only complaint is that it ended! But, I've already decided that I'm going to attend another one in a few years time. Yes, it's that good! Davina Hughes, Waipa, New Zealand



Throughout our conferences, our experienced and expert research staff will be on hand in the archives to provide you with the advice you need to help find your ancestors. They will be available to direct you to sources that could be helpful in your quest for more information on your forebears, and will be ready to assist with reading difficult handwriting and understanding more about the documents you will be consulting.



'What a wonderful week this was, I cannot believe just how many places that we all visited together, thank you so much to everyone involved in all the hard work for giving us such a wonderful time, I also met up with many new friends.'

Kay Howard, Essex, England

The Grianan of Aileach, Co.Donegal



In addition, our staff and expert colleagues from kindred organisations will be with delegates during the tours, so even if you are taking a break from actual research to visit one of our superb attractions, you will still be able to speak with them about your research interests and priorities throughout the week. And when we go to Dublin to visit the archives and repositories our staff will be joined by colleagues – some of the most experienced genealogists in Dublin – to help maximise your time during the day.

DAY

- 1 Evening reception, registration and official opening of conference
- 2 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to St Patrick's country in Downpatrick including Saul, Inch Abbey, Down Cathedral, Down Museum and the St Patrick Centre
- **3** Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to the Duke of Abercorn's home at Barons Court, the Ulster American Folk Park and Mellon Centre for Migration Studies
- 4 Tour to Derry City, including the famous Walls of Derry, St Columb's Cathedral, the Grianan of Aileach in Co. Donegal, and a stop at Ireland's highest pub
- 5 Free day for delegates to explore Belfast, including Titanic Belfast
- 6 Research in Dublin archives (National Archives, National Library or Registry of Deeds) or tour of Kilmainham Gaol and Trinity College, Dublin
- 7 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour of the Glens of Antrim and Giant's Causeway including Dunluce Castle, Glenarm, Ballycastle and Bonamargy Friary
- 8 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to Armagh city – the Cathedral City of St Patrick and Newgrange passage tomb at Brú na Bóinne, Co. Meath, finishing at the medieval village of Carlingford

For full details of this programme go to: www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference/autumn A CROWN



Participants are also able to avail of our research assessment service, where we complete a preliminary report, and advise on search strategies for the duration of the conference, for each delegate who submits a completed research questionnaire. These are prepared in advance of our conferences, providing you with the opportunity to consider the contents and plan your research accordingly or peruse the online catalogues for PRONI and the National Library prior to arrival. The research assessment is also an ideal tool to help those with limited archival experience get started in the archives in Belfast and Dublin.

Eastern passage at Knowth, Brú na Bóinne, Co. Meath

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- 8 Research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) or tour to the world famous passage tomb Newgrange at Brú na Bóinne, Co. Meath, the Monasterboice high crosses and the medieval village of Carlingford

For full details of this programme go to: www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference-2018 This very practical, hands-on support for family historians, blended with our array of fascinating tours to some of Ireland's most appealing attractions is what makes attending the Foundation's family history conference a truly unique and memorable experience.

'Loved this conference last month [September 2015] and so glad I visited the Antrim coast. Wonderfully organized and learned so much history. Highly recommend.' Maureen Hanlon, California, USA

The Giant's Causeway

Early bird offer: \$1,019.99 (£799.99) before 31 March 2018 Full price: \$1,084.99 (£849.99) after 31 March 2018 Should you prefer to spend more time savouring the enchanting landscape and historic sites of your ancestors, each day there will be a visit to some of Ireland's best visitor attractions.

Tour highlights include: visits to Brú na Bóinne, the Giant's Causeway and the Glens of Antrim coastal drive, the famous Walls of Derry and the hills of Donegal, the Ulster-American Folk Park and afternoon tea at Barons Court, home of the Duke of Abercorn.



DAY

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For full details of this programme go to: www.ancestryireland.com/family-history-conference-2018 This was one of the best organized events I have attended! The conference was fun, and I learned a lot about the people, history, and structure of not just Ulster, but all of Ireland. Logistically, the staff have it down. Everything works on time, and in a pleasant, helpful way. Presenters and staff are knowledgeable, and committed to helping everyone get the most out of the experience. They planned so many wonderful experiences, and the food was incredible! My scale tells me that every day. ... Having a chance to meet so many others interested in the same 'stuff' made it even more fun. An all around terrific conference – I would like to do it again in a few years. (Trip Advisor)

Patricia McClem, Arizona, USA

When we visit Dublin participants will have the opportunity to tour the historic Kilmainham Gaol, where the leaders of many Irish rebellions were detained, including Robert Emmet, Eamon de Valera, and those executed following the Easter Rising of 1916.

The Dublin tour will also visit Trinity College – renowned seat of learning, (the oldest university in Ireland) and home to the magisterial Book of Kells. This 9thcentury gospel manuscript is housed in the university's Old Library which also contains 200,000 of the library's oldest books (in the magnificent Long Room). Early bird offer: \$1,019.99 (£799.99) before 31 March 2018 Full price: \$1,084.99 (£849.99) after 31 March 2018

What is included in the price?

For all those taking part in our **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors** conferences the following is included:

- Five evening meals
- Six lunches
- Four morning teas/coffees
- Transport during the event (from the designated drop-off and pick-up point)
- Talks and tours
- Entrance fees
- Research assistance by professional genealogists

"The Ulster Historical Foundation's genealogy conferences can be summed up in one word: OUTSTANDING!" Marcia Falconer -Ontario, Canada

Travel and accommodation

Please note that travel to and from Northern Ireland and accommodation are not included in the price, and delegates will need to make their own reservations for accommodation during the *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* conferences. There are, however, a number of hotels in Belfast's historic Cathedral Quarter which would merit consideration. These include:

Holiday apartments close by in St Anne's Square and the Cathedral Quarter

http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/ac comfinder/

Malmaison Belfast

www.malmaison.com/locations/belfast

Merchant Hotel

www.themerchanthotel.com

Ramada Encore

www.ramada.co.uk/hotels/unitedkingdom/belfast/ramada-encore-belfast-citycentre/hotel-overview

Premier Inn

www.premierinn.com/gb/en/hotels/norther n-ireland/antrim/belfast/belfast-citycathedral-guarter.html



The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



Dinner at the Reform Club, Royal Avenue, Belfast

The Malmaison and Merchant hotels are located in historic buildings and have an excellent reputation but can be expensive. The Ramada Encore and Premier Inn would be cheaper options. Alternatively, you may wish to stay elsewhere in Belfast or its vicinity. Go to

www.discovernorthernireland.com to check out accommodation options.

Pick up point

The pick-up and drop-off point for the duration of the *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* conferences will be on Talbot Street at the junction with Dunbar Street (outside the Ramada Encore). Delegates not staying in the vicinity will be expected to make their own way here to take part in the tours and outings.

Guides and speakers

During the conference you will be assisted in your research and enjoy talks from a range of acknowledged experts in Irish genealogy, history, migration and archives. They include:

Fintan Mullan

Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and a regular speaker on the North American circuit, having given genealogical lectures in over 30 states and provinces.

Dr William Roulston

Research Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation and author of Abercorn: The Hamiltons of Barons Court and Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors.

Gillian Hunt

Research Officer with the Ulster Historical Foundation and regular presenter and speaker on Irish genealogy across the British Isles and North America.

Dr Des McCabe

Curatorial Officer at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and historian.

Dr Brian Lambkin

Director of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster-American Folk Park and co-author of *Migration in Irish History*, 1607–2007.

Dr Patrick Fitzgerald

Lecturer and Development Officer, Mellon Centre for Migration Studies and co-author of *Migration in Irish History*, 1607–2007.

Mellon Centre for Migration Studies

Located in the grounds of the Ulster-American Folk Park, the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies is an accessible and user friendly research library. The Centre houses an extensive collection of materials including 17,000 books, primary source documents, maps, periodicals and the Irish Emigration Database.

Libraries and archives

Participants at the *Tracing your Irish Ancestors* conferences will have the opportunity to visit the following libraries and archives:

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast is one of the best regional archives in the UK. It holds centuries of records relating to the province of Ulster and the families that have lived here. One of the main features of PRONI's collections is the fact that they cover both public (i.e. official) and private records.

National Archives of Ireland

The National Archives in Dublin holds the records of the modern Irish State which document its historical evolution and the creation of its national identity. Their holdings relate to all parts of Ireland and provide essential primary source material for people seeking to understand the political, economic and social forces which have shaped the Irish Nation.

National Library of Ireland

The National Library of Ireland, located on Kildare Street in the centre of Dublin, was established by the Dublin Science and Art Museum Act, 1877. In addition to its huge book and newspaper holdings, the National Library has an extensive collection of estate papers.

Registry of Deeds, Dublin

The Registry of Deeds in Henrietta Street, Dublin, holds material relating to land transactions from 1708 when it opened. It is one of the most valuable sources of ancestral information for the eighteenth century.



The Mellon Centre for Migration Studies, Omagh, Co. Tyrone

Irish Genealogy Essentials Family History Courses

Dates: 9–13 October 2017 5–9 February 2018

Researching your Irish and Scots Irish ancestors can be both exhilarating and frustrating. This taught course is recommended for those who are new to Irish family history and wish to get to grips with research techniques, archives and genealogical sources in Ireland.



It is also the ideal opportunity for those with more experience to learn about lesser-known sources, many of which are not yet online and are available only in the archives.

The *Irish Genealogy Essentials* course will be delivered by the Foundation's experienced staff and will offer participants five days of intensive learning, with practical demonstrations using relevant websites and other electronic resources and a day and a half of guided research in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Participants will have full access to the Foundation's research and newspaper library, electronic resources, and of course the expertise of our staff.

The course will cover topics such as Irish land divisions; nineteenth and early twentieth century census returns; church records; civil records; Griffith's valuation; tithe applotment books; wills and testamentary papers; landed estate records; school registers; and of course information on the archives and libraries in Ireland; plus much more!

The cost to participate in the Irish Genealogy Essentials courses is only £399.99 for non-Guild members and £374.99 for Guild members.

The dates for the next courses will be: 9–13 October 2017 and 5–9 February 2018.

More information on the details of these courses can be found at:

October 2017 www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials-2017 February 2018 www.ancestryireland.com/irish-genealogy-essentials-2018

Guild Member offer: £374.99/\$470.00/€440.00* Non-Member price: £399.99/\$500.00/€465.00*

(*Note: fees charged in UK pounds, dollar and Euro prices are for comparison purposes only)





Research Officer, Gillian Hunt presents a 'Causeway tartan' tie to door-prize winner, Memphis TN, March 2014

North American lecture tours

Ulster Historical Foundation has been bringing its historical research expertise and knowledge of Irish archives to North America since 1979, delivering Irish and Scots-Irish genealogy programmes through our annual lecture tours.

The Foundation is the only Irish historical research organisation undertaking regular and extensive family history lecture tours across the North American continent. The presenters are from one of Ireland's foremost genealogy research organisations and one of the very few agencies within the British Isles to travel regularly to share its knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for Irish archives with American and Canadian audiences.

Our workshops are in-depth and highly educational programmes. Offering full-day and half-day or evening events, the speakers deliver presentations on a wide-range of Irish historical and genealogical subjects. The seminars provide very practical and detailed information on how to trace your Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors.

Executive Director, Fintan Mullan, Williamsburg VA, March 2015 The sessions help the beginner and the seasoned genealogist alike: from the basics (for those new to Irish genealogy) to guidance and research tips on utilising obscure and unusual archival sources for 17th- and 18thcentury research. Moreover our programmes are of value to researchers, no matter where your ancestors originate on the island of Ireland.

These expert sessions demonstrate how to get the most out of Irish resources and records, provide strategies for breaking down brick walls, and provide important historical context that may help fill in gaps in your research. The programmes include 'Solving your brick-walls' – a practical internet tutorial where the speakers use online resources and their local knowledge to offer participants tips and specific advice about their personal research interests. The lecture tour dates for next year will be 04 to 20 March 2017. The tour will start in Phoenix AZ, with our Executive Director, Fintan Mullan, and Research Officer, Gillian Hunt, also speaking in diverse locations such as: Bolingbrook (Chicago) IL, Green Bay WI, Richmond VA; Pittsburgh PA, Philadelphia PA and Bentonville AR. The full programme will be made available on the Foundation's website. (See below).

The Foundation staff have already lined up some dates for March 2018, including: Denver CO, Ottawa ON and Sacramento CA.

If you belong to a society or group that would be interested in having the Foundation's staff deliver an Irish and Scots-Irish genealogical research programme in your area, please contact the Executive Director, Fintan Mullan, at: enquiry@uhf.org.uk



All of our events are open to the general public as well as members of the host organisations. Full details of March 2017 programme, including times, venues and booking information can be found on our website at:

www.ancestryireland.com/northamericantour2017

Our staff are happy to travel to any location where we are invited to speak and can offer a wide range of lectures which we tailor to suit a group's needs. Gillian Hunt, book stall, Ottawa ON, March 2015

Whether you are just beginning your Irish research or have been at it for years, you won't want to miss the Foundation's Irish and Scots-Irish workshops!



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ical Foundation is Jing publishers on And and as far as as are concerned, is for the quality of its Foundation has been oks that look at the between Ulster and North Dur very first book was Ulster in to Colonial America, 75, by R.J. Dickson; that has never been out of titles include: y in Scotch-Irish History (ed. E.R.R. en), Scotch-Irish Merchants in Colonial nerica (Richard MacMaster), m Ulster to America: The Scotch-Irish eritage of American English (Michael American English (Michael American English (Michael Notgomery), Them Wild Woods: An Irish Quaker Family's Transatlantic Correspondence (818–1877 (Bill Jackson), and From Ulster to Canada: the Life and Times of Wilson Benson (W.J. 'h and Cecil Houston)

coupon code to receive 15% discount on all books published by the Ulster Historical Foundation www.booksireland.org.uk

I have never known any distress that an hour's reading did not relieve.

MONTESQUIEU

Among the genealogical titles produced by the Foundation, *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The essential genealogical guide to*

Early Modern Ulster by William J. Roulston, provides a detailed overview of pre-1800 records for tracing your roots in the north of Ireland, including a parish by parish listing of available sources.

The Ordnance Survey Memoirs of the 1830s provide a fascinating account of life across much of the north of Ireland on the eve of the Great Famine. These have now been published in 40 volumes and are available to purchase from the Foundation.



CARRICKFERGUS

BALLYNURE



We have hundreds of Irish history and genealogy books and eBooks available on our bookstore, **booksireland.org.uk**.

Family

Research Starter Kit

Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors The Escurial Generalization Guide to Early Modern Ulters, 1600–1860 Our membership association, the Ulster Genealogical and Historical Guild, was established in 1978 to provide a forum for the Irish and Scots-Irish genealogical community to share their knowledge with other researchers across the world.



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- ERECTED 1799 - By JAMES GARTLAND OF DROGHEDA over his Family burial place Pray that they may meet a favourable Judgement.

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Trinity College, Dublin

It is designed to give you – the local and family historian – access to a range of specialist resources and services that you will find invaluable in your quest to complete your research. Consider the following member benefits:

Publications

Guild members receive two annual publications – Familia: Ulster Genealogical Review and the Directory of Irish Family History Research. Guild members are welcome to make submissions for publication in Familia and the Directory.

Share your research interests

A key attraction of membership is to have your own research interests shared with other members through our annual *Directory* as well as on an online searchable database. Members can place up to 6 research interests for free, and include names, dates, locations and occupations.

Very rare gravestone inscription in Monasterboice monastic site, Co. Louth, inscribed in Gaelic, Latin and English.

Product discounts

Guild members enjoy huge discounts on our products and services:

- 50% off all baptism/birth, marriage and death/burial records on www.ancestryireland.com.
- Free access to over 200 member-only databases, many covering all of Ireland; and free access to our research library in Belfast.
- Free access to over 50,000 gravestone inscriptions and to History of the Irish Parliament online.
- 15% off the Foundation's publications, when purchased through our online bookstore. Non-internet sales enjoy 10% discount.
- Discounts on research consultations and initial assessments as well as privileged access to the Foundation's research expertise.



glasgow

london

sydney

ILY HISTORY

Access to our members' area at www.ancestryireland.com/membership

The online members' area contains over 160 articles from previous issues of Familia 1985-2005 and further articles on research and guides to sources. san francisco

Celebrate Ulster's heritage: educational and social events

Be part of and contribute to a vibrant Irish research community. The Foundation frequently holds local and international lecture tours, book launches and other functions. Your membership ensures that you are kept informed of all events. Celebrate Ulster's connection with the wider world

Prices start from as little as US \$46.99 for one year's membership. Join at www.ancestryireland.com/membership

ireland

cape town

toronto 🦸

new vork

nashville

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'Your search established the blood relationship to our complete satisfaction and we are in constant correspondence with our relatives in Ireland and have visited them at their home. They are as thrilled as we are at the success of your research.'

Howard T. Pollock, USA

From Pomeroy to the Moon

One of Foundation's most successful research reports, certainly in terms of publicity, was that completed for Colonel James B. Irwin, whose family hailed from Altmore and Turnabarson, Pomeroy, County Tyrone. Col. Irwin was an astronaut who flew on the Apollo 15 mission 26 July–07 August 1971. This fourth manned lunar mission was distinguished by the first utilisation of the famous lunar rover.

The Foundation identified his ancestral line by locating the marriage on 29 April 1879 in Altedesert parish church, of John Irwin of Altmore, farmer, son of Thomas Irwin, to Mary Benson, daughter of Matthew Benson of Turnabarson.

In September 1979 Col. Irwin made a personal visit to Ulster. He visited his ancestral home in Pomeroy, and met many local people during his trip, which included a number of wellpublicised social events. In appreciation for helping him to reconnect with his Ulster roots, Col. Irwin presented the Foundation with two signed colour photographs of his moon flight. Ulster Historical Foundation provides a professional and comprehensive range of research services for the nine counties of the historic province of Ulster. Each year the staff at the Foundation answer thousands of genealogical enquiries. Since 1956 the Ulster Historical Foundation has offered its research services to clients all over the world, with over 15,000 detailed reports into family history being produced. We offer a range of research services:

Initial Assessment

The moonman meets

is Tyrone cousins

Ideal for those who are not sure how to get started with their Irish research. An initial research assessment explores the feasibility of archival research by identifying sources of potential relevance for your family history.

Specific Research

Ideal for those who have specific research that they would like carried out, for example, a particular church register or landed estate record they wish to have examined. Research services



Ideal for those who are clear about their

research objectives and want to have a detailed study of their family history carried out. Our reports are interpretative as well as factual as we seek to build up a profile of your ancestors by examining original documents and microfilm copies in archives and libraries.

Document Retrieval Service

For clients who have a very specific piece of research such as sourcing the details of and obtaining a copy of a birth/marriage/death record and certificate or obtaining copies of undigitised documents from archives which cannot be accessed remotely.

One-to-One/In-Person Research Consultation Service

A consultation with a member of our experienced research team could save you a considerable amount of time and greatly increase your chances of success. During the consultation the researcher will assess the information you already have, check any relevant indexes and then provide you with advice on the next steps.

Gift Certificates

Gift Certificates may be used to buy a family history report, the Family Research Starter Kit or books available at: booksireland.org.uk. It is the ideal present for the novice or experienced family historian for a birthday, Christmas or other special occasion. For more information, email: enquiry@uhf.org.uk.

'I have just received your incredible report. I want to thank you for all your amazing research. You have not only done a wonderful report, you and your researchers (angels) have filled a huge hole in my mother's heart and soul. We are so grateful to you all.'

Barbara McByrne, Irving, USA



'I can honestly say that the Ulster Historical Foundation was the only organisation to make any progress in my family research.'

R. Main, USA



Six steps to get started researching your Irish ancestors

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 world. Nonetheless, 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. **Research guide**

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.



High cross of Monasterboice monastic site, Co. Louth

2 Search digitised church records online

The National Library of Ireland has digitised its microfilms of Roman Catholic Church registers up to 1880 – these are available at www.nli.ie. This is helpful to search if you know the parish or area your ancestors came; 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. The website www.irishgenealogy.ie has begun indexing and digitising Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic Church records for Carlow, Cork, Kerry and Dublin city.

3 Search census returns online

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.



Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

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 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.

Self-service microfilm readers, search room, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland



www.irishgenealogy.ie also has recently added historic civil records – births over 100 years, marriages over 75 years and deaths over 50 years to its website enabling you to view the full records for free.

Conference participants, June 2014, with Dr Brian Lambkin (Director of the Mellon Centre for Migration Studies), exploring the Mellon homestead, Ulster American Folk Park, Omagh, Co. Tyrone

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/.



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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** 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 prefamine period. Those books for the Republic of Ireland (which include a few parishes in Northern Ireland which border the Republic) are now available online at:

www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie.

Additional valuation records are also available for free on the websites of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni) and the National Archives of Ireland (www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie).

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Irish round tower, Devenish island, Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh