Online Sources for Irish Research

Donna M. Moughty
14909 Secret Harbor Place
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Email: moughty@mac.com   Website: www.irishfamilyroots.com
Facebook: DonnaMoughtyGenealogy   Twitter: @DMoughty

20th Century Records

If your ancestors left Ireland in the 20th century you are likely to know the locality in Ireland as both immigration and naturalization records give the specific place. You can check the 1901 and 1911 censuses (the only surviving complete census records for Ireland) to identify their family (available at the National Archives of Ireland). Indexes to civil registration in Ireland, which began in 1864 for all births, deaths and marriages (1845 for Protestant marriages) are available at FamilySearch.org, Findmypast.com, Ancestry.com and IrishGenealogy.ie (indexes at IrishGenealogy have the government restriction of 100 years for births, 75 years for marriages and 50 years for deaths). In September of 2016, IrishGenealogy.ie linked the images of birth, death and marriage records to their index. As of May 2021 only images of deaths 1864-1870 are missing.

19th Century Records

Although no complete census records exist for the 19th century, the major substitute, Griffith's Valuation (1846 - 1864) is available to search on multiple websites (AskAboutIreland, Findmypast, Ancestry). It's important to understand that this is a tax list, and the person named is the person responsible for paying the tax (typically the occupier of the land). It is also possible that your ancestor will be named multiple times if they leased more than one piece of property. Check the description of the property…is there a house listed? If not, where did your ancestor live? You need to look for another listing that includes a house. If there are multiple listings with the same name in the *same townland,* it is the same person. Different people with the same name had to be differentiated, so you will see an additional word (usually in parenthesis) after the name. This is called an agnomen (second name).

The Tithe Applotments (1821-1838) are another tax list and although they are not as complete as Griffith's Valuation, they might name your farming ancestors. They are available (free) at the National Archives website for the Republic of Ireland and for some locations in Northern Ireland. Not all have survived. PRONI has released the Tithe Applotment books for the six counties through their e-Catalog as PDF documents. To find them, search on the name of the civil parish with the words "Tithe Applotment." At the bottom of the entry you will see "Digital Record." Click on "View" to download the PDF. Indexes are also available at Ancestry.

There are a number of other databases of records, but none are complete. Many are specific to a locality increasing the importance of knowing where your ancestors lived in Ireland. For example, the Tithe Defaulter's Lists, available at Findmypast, include names of those individuals who refused to pay their tithe. The lists were compiled in 1830 and 1831and include less than 30,000 names. If your ancestors were from Kilkenny or Tipperary this can be a good source, however many counties include only a few names and some counties have no names at all.

The list below highlights the number of Irish collections found in the major databases. To see the specifics, do a title search for Ireland or click on the locality. You will find that there is overlap in all of the sites with the large companies sharing information. Many of the databases listed are free databases that are located on websites in Ireland, for example, the 1901 and 1911 censuses which are free at the National Archives

of Ireland. There are also many databases that have been shared from FamilySearch which contain data provided by members of the Church, rather than original records. Always read the description of the database.

FamilySearch - 21indexed collections (click on Ireland on the map)*
Ancestry.com - 177 collections (use the card catalog)*
Findmypast.com - 248 collections (does not include British Military records* or Irish Newspapers)
MyHeritage.com - 100 collections (search by location)

*If you are looking for military records, up until 1922, the Irish served in the British military. Check the many resources at The National Archives (UK).

Irish Ancestors - This site was created by John Grenham, author of *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*. It is not a database of names, but rather a site which can help you understand what records are available for the time and place where your ancestors lived. It is an excellent resource with maps by both civil parish (listing all of the townlands) and Roman Catholic parish (listing the surviving records by date). The surname distribution from the home page allows you to type in a name and see where the name exists during the period 1846-1864. There is also a Wizard allowing you to input the information you know about your ancestor, which then provides a report of possible sources and alternate name spelling. Free (5 clicks each day)/Subscription

National Archives of Ireland - The National Archives has digitized the surviving 1901 and 1911 censuses as well as the fragments of the 1821-1851 censuses (the 1861-1891 censuses were destroyed by the government and nothing survived). Other records digitized on this site include: *Census Search Forms* used in the early 1900s to document the age of individuals applying for a pension (they used the 1841 and 1851 censuses prior to their destruction); the *Tithe Applotment Books*; *Soldier's Wills 1914-1918*; and *Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858-1922* (note that almost all of the original documents prior to 1900 were destroyed in the 1922 fire); *Diocesan and Prerogative Wills* and *Marriage License Bonds*, *Catholic qualification and convert rolls*; the *Valuation Office house, field, tenure and quarto books 1824-1856* which pre-date Griffith's Valuation; *Will Registers 1858-1900* and some *Crew lists 1863-1921*. Free

National Library of Ireland - The National Library holds the Roman Catholic parish registers on microfilm. In July of 2015 the digitized images of this collection were placed on their website. These registers are extensive covering all of Ireland, although some parishes never provided copies to the National Library so not every parish is available. In addition, the dates vary by location. The images can be browsed by location and date, but the National Library has no index. In 2016, Ancestry.com (subscription) and Findmypast (free) in a joint project, added indexes with links to the National Library images (free). Indexes were also created by the Irish Family History Foundation and IrishGenealogy.ie. Another resource available through the National Library website is the Sources database. This database contains entries of manuscripts (catalogued up to the 1980s), as well as articles and journal entries (up to 1969) available not only at the National Library, but at other libraries and archives worldwide. The origin of this material is the *Manuscript Sources of the History of Irish Civilisation,* a project launched by National Library Director Richard J. Hayes in 1941.

AskAboutIreland - This website contains images and maps for Griffith's Valuation. Free

Irish Family History Foundation (RootsIreland) - This site contains primarily church and civil record transcriptions. Check the online sources to verify the parish and dates of the records. This database covers most denominations and areas of Ireland with the exception of Kerry, western Cork, Dublin City, and

Carlow. The site requires a subscription but you can sign up for as little as one day. Records other than church and civil will vary depending on the local Heritage Centre. Subscription

IrishGenealogy.ie - This site, produced by the *Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*, contains transcriptions of church records from Kerry, western Cork, Dublin City and Carlow (Carlow-Church of Ireland only). In some cases the digitized page of the register is viewable (so far, this is mostly COI records in Dublin). This site also contains the Civil Registration Indexes covering all of Ireland until 1921, and after that, the Republic of Ireland with the restriction of 100 years on births, 75 years on marriages and 50 years on deaths (the FamilySearch Index goes to 1958 for the Republic of Ireland).   Free

GRONI **-** If your ancestors were from one of the six counties that are currently part of Northern Ireland, the General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI) contains the civil registration records. Their records cover from 1864 (1845 for Protestant marriages) and they have an enhanced index to births that includes the mother's maiden name. For records prior to 1922, you can get copies of the registrations for free at www.irishgenealogy.ie, but after 1922, with the same restrictions of 100 years on birth, 75 years on marriages and 50 years on deaths, you need to obtain the records from GRONI. You must register and purchase one credit (£.50) to search, but the searches are free. To purchase a full digitized image of the record costs 5 credits or £2.50 (about $3.55) Free to search; $ to purchase images online

PRONI - The Public Records Office of Northern Ireland has been active in adding not only indexes, but also images to their website. The Valuation Revision Books allow you to follow the property identified in Griffith's up to about 1930 for the six counties of Northern Ireland. (The books for the Republic are housed at the Valuation Office in Dublin and are not available online.) Other databases on the PRONI website include *Will Calendars*, some with images; *Freeholders Records*; *Directories*; and the *Ulster Covenant*. In addition, the *Name Search* searches *Pre-1858 Wills, Coroner's Inquests,* the *1740 Protestant Householder Returns,* the *1766 Religious Census* and the *1775 Dissenters Petitions* (these are all partial records and fragments). Free

Ulster Historical Foundation - This site has a large number of databases available to members, along with birth/baptismal, marriage and death records for Antrim and Down that are available as pay-per-view (the church records are the same records available at the Irish Family History Foundation, but the UHF index provides the father's first name). Many of the member only databases are small and specific but valuable if they cover an area where your ancestor resided. Membership

The Registry of Deeds Project - This is a worldwide volunteer project to create an index for all of the names that appear in the memorial books at the Registry of Deeds. These include wills, land transactions and marriage settlements since the founding of the Registry in 1709. Although the majority of these entries are for Protestants, there are entries for others, especially later when the restrictions on Catholics were reduced. If your Roman Catholic ancestors were merchants, you should definitely check this database. Free

There are a large number of databases that cover only a specific area or name. Use your search engine to develop a query searching for a county, parish or townland along with "genealogy." You can also check out Irish County Links and Resources.

Bibliography

General Sources for Irish Research
1.   Grenham, John, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, Gill Books, Inc., Dublin 2019, 5th Edition. https://amzn.to/2WgbipT
2.   Mitchell, Brian, *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, 2017. https://amzn.to/2VGnrTM

3. Moughty, Donna, *Quick Reference Guide for Irish Research*, 2019. https://www.irishfamilyroots.com/store
4. Roulston, William J., *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors, The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800*, Ulster Historical Foundation, Belfast, 2018. https://amzn.to/2QEukn1

Web Sites

5. Ancestry *   https://prf.hn/l/rvqv5Z7
   Roman Catholic Church Index   https://prf.hn/l/rGxXoD6
6. Ask About Ireland (Griffith's Valuation)   http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/
7. Church of Ireland (RCBL)   http://tinyurl.com/jjjb8sf
   COI List of Parish Registers (Oct 2020)   tinyurl.com/h8vtgs6
8. Cyndi's List   http://www.cyndislist.com/uk/irl
9. Donna's Website & Blog   https://www.irishfamilyroots.com
10. FamilySearch   http://www.familysearch.org/
    Irish Civil Registration Index   http://tinyurl.com/cfz48sq
11. FindMyPast.com*   https://tidd.ly/3ioOwmn/
    Roman Catholic Church Baptisms   http://tidd.ly/b743de53
12. General Register Office – Dublin   https://tinyurl.com/lybguf8
13. General Register Office – Belfast*   https://tinyurl.com/y7mou5rw
14. Grenham's List of Online Sources   https://www.johngrenham.com/browse/
15. Irish American Newspapers*   http://tinyurl.com/o9vda3x
16. Irish Ancestors*   https://www.johngrenham.com/
17. Irish Family History Centre   https://www.irishfamilyhistorycentre.com
18. Irish Family History Foundation*   http://ifhf.rootsireland.ie/
19. Irish Family Roots: Links and Resources https://www.irishfamilyroots.com/links-and-resources
20. Irish Genealogical Society International http://irishgenealogical.org/
21. National Archives of Ireland   http://www.nationalarchives.ie/
22. National Library of Ireland   http://www.nli.ie/
23. Public Records Office Northern Ireland   http://www.proni.gov.uk/
24. Registration Districts   https://tinyurl.com/r2ubcp3
25. Registry of Deeds Index Project   https://irishdeedsindex.net/search/index.php
26. Townland Index   http://tinyurl.com/okh734f
27. Ulster Historical Foundation*   http://www.ancestryireland.com/

*Databases require a subscription or Pay-Per-View. Some articles and general information are free.

Blogs

28. IrishFamilyRoots Blog   https://www.irishfamilyroots.com/blog/
29. Genetic Genealogy Ireland   http://ggi2013.blogspot.com/
30. Irish Genealogy News   http://irish-genealogy-news.blogspot.com/
31. John Grenham's Irish Roots Blog   https://www.johngrenham.com/blog/
32. The Scots-Irish   http://thescotsirish.blogspot.com/

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Links and information is accurate as of 15 May 2021.

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