

Video tutorials

Tutorial 1

In the first of our video tutorials, we are going to look at the marriage records which are available on our website.

Once you are on our homepage at www.ancestryireland.com, click on 'Search for Irish Ancestors' box which will take you to our databases containing over 2 million birth, marriage & death records.

Next click on Irish Marriage records. The Ulster Historical Foundation holds almost 900,000 marriage records for Counties Antrim and Down. This includes almost all civil marriage records from 1845 to 1922 and almost all pre-1900 Roman Catholic marriage records as well as many Church of Ireland and Presbyterian marriage records. We are always adding new records to our database.

We would recommend that you don't complete every field in this search box as this may lead to a negative result when there are actually relevant results in our records. Begin with the names of the bride and groom where this is known.

For example, if we search for the marriage of John Fitzpatrick and Ann Kane, we find just one result which shows the name of John's father. Although this free index result doesn't show Ann Kane, as we had included her name in the search field, the results will only show those records including Ann Kane so you can therefore be sure that this is a relevant record before you pay for it.

At this point you will be asked to buy credit, if you haven't already some in your account. Otherwise you can click 'View' and the credits will be debited from your account. This is the full record containing everything that was on the original. In some Church records, for example, some of the fields may not contain information, that is because the minister or priest did not enter this information in the original registers, we transcribe everything that was on the record. You now have this record to view for 100 days, we would recommend that you print it or save a copy to your computer right away as the 100 days can pass quickly!

A few techniques to be aware of. You may perhaps have found your ancestors on the 1901 census, for example 30 yr old Thomas Mullen, spelt Mullen and his 24 year old wife Margaret and their infant daughter Sarah, who were living in the townland of Kernan, Tullylish, County Down. If you were to search our database for the marriage of Thomas Mullen and Margaret, you'd find two results, one in 1865 which is much too early to be of relevance and one in 1918 which is too late.

However if you were to change the surname from Mullen to Mull (the drop down box defaults to 'begins with') we then find a record that looks much more likely to be of relevance – Thomas Mullin who married in County Down in 1899 and when we view the full record we find that both bride and groom were from the townland of Kernan and married in Tullylish Church of Ireland.

Finally, if we know for example that we are searching for the marriage of a John Moreland (spelt Moreland) and his wife Mary Jane in County Down, we may initially

find no results in the database. In this case, the spelling variants of Moreland tend to be at the start of the name so we cannot use the same procedure as we did with the surname Mullen. Instead we need to manually try a variant spelling such as Murland (spelt Murland) and we then find the relevant record.

Check our website for more video tutorials on getting the most from our records!

