

**NATIONAL ARCHIVES
IRELAND**

**SOURCES FOR FAMILY AND LOCAL
HISTORY**

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SOURCES FOR FAMILY AND LOCAL HISTORY

This guide is a general introduction to what records may (or may not) survive for those who are beginning a search on the history of their family in the National Archives. It hopes to provide information on what sources are available for research and where they may be found, especially those in the National Archives. If you read it carefully, the staff of the Reading Room and the professional genealogists providing the Genealogy Service will be better able to deal with individual problems and enquiries.

1. INTRODUCTION

Sadly, almost all the archives accessioned by the Public Record Office of Ireland before 1922 were destroyed by fire and explosion at the beginning of the Civil War in June 1922. Consequently, the archives now held by the National Archives date mainly from the 19th and 20th centuries, although some date back as far as the 13th century. However, abstracts and transcripts of original records may be used to supplement research.

2. BEGINNING A SEARCH

Before beginning a genealogical search in the National Archives it is essential to collect as much information as possible about the family which is to be investigated. In order to have a reasonable chance of success, it is generally necessary to know at least three things:

- the name of the family;
- the parish or townland in which they lived;
- the approximate date.

If you know a name, a place and an approximate date, the best point at which to begin is probably:

- for a person living around 1901 or 1911 the census returns (see section 3 below);
- for a person living in the 1840s, 1850s or 1860s the *Primary Valuation* (see section 4 below);
- for a person living in the 1820s or 1830s the Tithe Applotment books (see section 4 below).

If you also know the date of a birth, marriage or death, further details may be sought in the records described in sections 5 and 7 below.

If you do not know the parish or townland in which the family lived, the following indexes may be searched:

- (a) "Indexes of Surnames" in the *Primary Valuation* and Tithe Applotment books (one or more volumes per county - available in the National Archives and National Library of Ireland);
- (b) table showing surnames with five or more entries in the birth indexes of 1890, and the main counties in which they were found (*Irish Genealogy, a Record Finder*, 199-232);
- (c) Testamentary card index in the Reading Room of the National Archives and other indexes to wills and administrations (see section 5 below);
- (d) indexes to marriage licence bonds in the Reading Room of the National Archives, (see section 7 below);
- (e) indexes to genealogical abstracts in the Reading Room of the National Archives;
- (f) Miscellaneous card index in the Reading Room of the National Archives.

However, searches of this kind are generally of value only if the name is fairly unusual. Otherwise they are likely to yield only a long list of people with the same surname, with no way of knowing which, if any, are connected with the family being investigated.

3. CENSUS RETURNS

A census of the Irish population was taken every 10 years from 1821 until 1911. The original manuscript returns for each household survive for all thirty-two counties of Ireland for 1901 and 1911 - www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/censusrtns.html. The returns are arranged by county, townland or, in urban areas, by street. The returns for each townland or street in 1901 and 1911 consist of:

- (a) forms (Form A) filled in by the head of each household, giving the names of all people in that household on census night and their age, occupation, religion and county or city of birth (or country of birth if born outside Ireland); and
- (b) forms (Forms N, B1 and B2) filled in by the official taking the census, summarising the returns for that townland or street.

The 1901 and 1911 Census returns are now fully searchable on-line, free of charge, across fields which were filled in on the original census forms - www.census.nationalarchives.ie. Thirteen fields were returned in 1901 and fifteen in 1911. The returns may be searched by religion, occupation, relationship to head of family, literacy status, county or country of origin, Irish language proficiency, specified illnesses, and child survival information. This site also provides background information on evictions, industry, literature, sport and transport as well as an illustrated account of the country in 1911.

No manuscript returns survive for 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891. There are some returns for 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851. These cover parts of counties :

Antrim	1851
Cavan	1821, 1841
Cork	1841
Fermanagh	1821, 1841, 1851
Galway	1821
King's County (Offaly)	1821
Londonderry (Derry)	1831 (supplemented 1834)
Meath	1821
Waterford	1841

There are lists of names of heads of household taken from the returns of 1851 for part of Belfast City and most of Dublin City (see list of 19th century census returns in the Reading Room or consult *The 1851 Dublin City Census, Chart's Index of Heads of Household* CD-ROM compiled and edited by Seán Magee - Eneclann, 2001).

There are also Census Search forms for each of the thirty-two counties giving the results of searches made in the returns of 1841 and 1851 (largely) for Old Age Pension purposes covering the years c. 1908 - 1922 but mainly c. 1915 - 1922 - (see separate lists for each county available in the Reading Room). These are organised, within each county, by barony, parish, townland or urban street and the name of the applicant (including maiden name, where applicable). The result of the search is also noted, although a positive search, which located the family, did not necessarily locate the applicant. An index to the census returns for 1841 and 1851 that appear in the Old Age Pension claim forms (T550) is available on microfiche in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast (P.R.O.N.I.- see P.R.O.N.I. Reference MF9/1-15. The final version of this index is still being worked on - www.proni.gov.uk/index/family_history.

There are also some other copies made from the original returns of 1821 - 1851 (see list of 19th century census returns - miscellaneous copies and certified copies available in the Reading Room).

Other partial and localised census returns exist for various dates and various parts of the country in the National Archives. The best guide is - John Grenham, *Tracing your Irish Ancestors, the Complete Guide* (3rd edn, Dublin, 2006).

The (so-called) Agricultural Censuses for County Antrim (a Return of the Live and Dead Stock etc.) 1803 - 1804 and County Louth (an Account of the Corn in the Possession of the Inhabitants of the County of Louth) c. 1800 - 1816 are available in the National Archives under Official Papers O.P. 153/103 and O.P.A. 163 respectively. They are not a census return but seem to be returns of live and dead stock as well as corn and implements - returns taken when the country was in a vulnerable military state.

Not a census, but useful for the 1790s is the Flax-Growers listing of those eligible for a spinning wheel from the Linen Board. It lists names and parishes, sometimes baronies but not townland. The information is available on - www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php.

Not strictly a census, but none-the-less of genealogical importance, is the so-called Religious Census of 1766. A guide to surviving material and where it may be located, will be found at www.nationalarchives.ie/ReligiousCensus. It was authorised by a resolution of the Irish House of Lords, survives in original or transcript form and is organised under the headings of parish, county and diocese. It is a return of both Protestant and Papist (Roman Catholic) heads of households sometimes listing names, sometimes numbers merely.

The Elphin Census in the National Archives (M 2464), for the Church of Ireland diocese of Elphin, has now been edited by Marie-Louise Legg as *The Elphin Census, 1749*, (I.M.C., 2004). The data collected for this Census was taken under the direction of Edward Synge, the bishop of Elphin. It was recorded that Bishop Synge was anxious to know the proportion of Protestants to "Papists", the census revealed the ratio to be 3 Protestants to 39 "Papists". There are no surviving details as to how the census was conducted, nor who the enumerators were.

“Some Inhabitants of the Baronies of Newcastle and Uppercross, Co. Dublin, c. 1650” held by the National Archives (M 2467) has been edited by Richard Flatman for *The Irish Genealogist*, vols 7-8, 1989 - 1993. It details lists of householders and servants organised according to parishes and townlands - the fullest entries include name, age, stature, face, hair, occupation and disability. About 4,000 names are returned.

4. TITHE APLOTMENT AND PRIMARY VALUATION

While no complete set of census returns survives for the period before 1901, there are two record classes which provide partial substitutes:

- (a) the **Tithe Applotment** books were compiled between 1823 and 1837 in order to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland (the main Protestant church, and the church established by the state until 1871). There is a manuscript book for almost every parish in the country, giving the names of occupiers, the amount of land held, and the sums to be paid in tithes. These records are now available on microfilm. The books for the six counties now in Northern Ireland are held in P.R.O.N.I. but there are microfilm copies in the National Archives.

The **Tithe Defaulters** lists (held by the National Archives under O.P.M.A. series) detail people involved in the infamous Tithe War of 1831 - 1838. From 1831 onwards many people refused to pay the tithe, and so started the Tithe War, which was fiercest in Leinster and Munster. The names of people who refused to pay their tithe were recorded by the Church of Ireland clergy. The Clergy Relief Fund was established in 1832 to assist affected clergy. Defaulters are listed in the surviving 127 schedules. Each schedule lists the defaulter's address and the sum due. Some also list defaulter's landholding and occupation. A complete list has been published as “The Clergy Relief Fund, 1831 : tithe defaulters” by Suzanne C. Hartwick in *The Irish Genealogist*, vol. 8, 1990. A partial list, covering twelve counties, is available as *The 1831 Tithe Defaulters* CD-ROM compiled and edited by Stephen McCormac (Eneclann, 2004).

- (b) the **Primary Valuation** (also known as Griffith's Valuation) was published between 1847 and 1864. There is a printed valuation book for each barony or poor law union in the country, showing the names of occupiers of land and buildings, the names of those from whom these were leased, and the amount and value of the property held. These records are now available to search, free of charge, on www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.

The National Archives also holds the following preliminary records for the Primary Valuation : Field Books, House Books, Mill Books, Quarto Books, Tenure Books.

The following finding aids are available in the Reading Room:

- (i) list of the Tithe Applotment books arranged by Church of Ireland parish;
- (ii) list of the *Primary Valuation* books arranged by civil parish;
- (iii) combined list of the Tithe Applotment books and *Primary Valuation* books arranged by county, barony and parish;
- (iv) “Indexes of Surnames” in the Tithe Applotment books and *Primary Valuation* books (one or more volumes per county);
- (v) list of volumes relating to the preliminary valuation arranged by type and then by county, barony and civil parish.

A CD-ROM index to the Tithe Applotment books for Counties Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh and Tyrone is available as Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-1838 (Genealogical Publishing Co. Ltd, Baltimore, U.S.A.).

5. WILLS AND ADMINISTRATIONS

These are of use to genealogists as evidence of the date of a person's death, and for other information which they may contain concerning the deceased person's family, place of residence and property.

Before a will can take effect, a grant of probate must be made by a court. If someone dies without having made a will, the court can grant letters of administration for the disposal of the estate. Since 1858 grants of probate and administration have been made in the Principal and District Registries of the Probate Court (before 1877) or High Court (after 1877). They are indexed in the Calendars of Wills and Administrations (one or two volumes per year in the Reading Room). There is a consolidated index for the period 1858 - 1877 also in the Reading Room. Up to 1917 the Calendars cover the whole of Ireland, but since 1918 they exclude the District Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry.

For the period from 1983 onwards the indexes of wills and administrations are held in the Reading Room in hard-copy format or are available to search electronically at www.nationalarchives.ie/search/index.php under "Probate Offices."

Indexes covering the six counties now in Northern Ireland as well as a further set of post 1858 indexes are in P.R.O.N.I. The pre and post Calendars of Wills and Administrations for Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry are searchable on-line up to 1919 at www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/will_calendars/wills_search.

Before 1858 grants of probate and administration were made by the courts of the Church of Ireland (the Prerogative Court and the Diocesan or Consistorial Courts). There are separate indexes of wills and administrations for each court in the Reading Room of the National Archives. Some of the indexes have been published. Of these the most important are *Vicar's Index to Prerogative Wills, 1536-1810* and the *Indexes to Dublin Grant Books and Wills, 1270-1800* (now on CD ROM - *Index of Wills & Marriage Licenses for Dublin Diocese up to 1800*, Flyleaf Press, n.d.) and *1800-58*.

The records of wills and administrations now in the National Archives include the following:

- (a) **Original wills and administration papers** lodged in the Principal Registry since 1904, and in most District Registries since 1900 (indexed in the annual Calendars). Wills and administration papers lodged in Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry are in P.R.O.N.I.

Original wills and administration papers are transferred to the National Archives once the grant is twenty-years old.
- (b) **Schedules of assets** are, in most cases, contained in the testamentary envelopes with the original wills and administration papers. In the case of the Principal Registry (known as the Probate Office since 1963) the schedules are bound separately and from 1924 onwards they are complete. Some partial schedules of assets for the years 1873, 1877, 1885, 1890 survive.
- (c) **Will Books** containing copies of most wills proved in District Registries since 1858, and of some wills proved in the Principal Registry in 1874, 1878, 1891 and 1896 (indexed in the annual Calendars). For the pre-1858 ecclesiastical courts there are earlier, partial will books for the Prerogative Court (1664 - 1684, 1706 - 1708, 1726 - 1728, 1728 - 1729, 1777, 1813, 1834) and some Diocesan Courts - Connor (1818 - 1820, 1853 - 1858) and Down (1850 - 1858).

The will books for Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry are in P.R.O.N.I.
- (d) **Grant books** containing copies of grants made in the civil Principal Registry since 1922 and in 1878, 1883 and 1891 and of most grants made in the civil District Registries since 1858 (indexed in the annual Calendars). The grant books for Armagh and Belfast up to 1885 are in the National Archives; later grant books for Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry are in P.R.O.N.I.

For the pre-1858 ecclesiastical courts there are earlier, partial, grant books for the Prerogative Court (1684 - 1688, 1748 -1751, 1839) and some Diocesan Courts - Cashel (1840 - 1845), Connor (1818 - 1820, 1853 - 1858), Down (1850 - 1858), Derry and Raphoe (1812 - 1851) and Ossory (1848 - 1858).

- (e) **Betham's abstracts** of wills proved in the Prerogative Court before 1800, of administrations granted in the Prerogative Court before 1802, and of wills proved in the Kildare Diocesan Court before 1827 (indexed in Vicar's *Index*, the *Indexes to Dublin Grants*, and the "Index to Wills of the Diocese of Kildare" reprinted from the *Journal of the Kildare Archaeological Society*, (iv, no. 6, 1905)). Also an index to Tuam wills from 1652 - 1809.
- (f) **Inland Revenue registers** of wills and administrations, containing abstracts of wills and administrations for 1828 - 1839 (indexed in separate volumes which cover the period 1828 - 1879; for the years 1840 - 1857 these indexes give details which do not appear in the diocesan and Prerogative indexes referred to above).
- (g) **Charitable Donations and Bequests** will extract books holding abstracts of wills which contained charitable bequests, 1800 - 1961 (there is a separate card index for the period 1800 - 1858 in the Reading Room).
- (h) **Other copies** and abstracts of wills and administrations for the period both before and after 1858 (indexed in the main Testamentary card index in the Reading Room).
- (i) **Grant books indexes** in eight volumes for the years 1811 - 1834 and 1835 - 1858 (held by the National Archives, accession 999/611), originally compiled for a Dublin legal firm.

Researchers should consult the CD ROM *Index of Irish Wills, 1484-1858, Records at the National Archives of Ireland* (Eneclann, 1999) for an indication of holdings of abstracts, indexes and transcripts (including the Crosslé, Jennings and Thrift genealogical abstracts) though not all original records survive.

6. GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

All births, marriages and deaths occurring since 1 January 1864 (and Jewish and non Roman Catholic marriages occurring since 1 April 1845) should be on record in the General Register Office, 3rd Floor, Block 7, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin 1. All written communication for the General Register Office should be addressed to the General Register Office, Government Offices, Convent Road, Roscommon, Fax: + 353 90 6632999, + 353 90 6632988.

For the six counties which comprise Northern Ireland (Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry/Derry and Tyrone) from 1922 onwards records of births, marriages and deaths should be held by General Register Office Northern Ireland, Oxford House, 49-55 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4HL, Fax: + 44 28 90 252120. The General Register Office Northern Ireland also holds all local register books for Northern Ireland from 1864 (for births and deaths) and from 1922 (for marriages).

A data-base of the indexes is available, free of charge, on <http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch/start.html#p=collectionDetails&c=f s%3A1408347> for the period 1845 - 1958. All of Ireland is covered from 1845 until 1922 and the Republic of Ireland from 1922 onwards.

For a comprehensive guide researchers should consult Eileen Ó Dúill and Steven C. Feary-Smyrl, *Irish Civil Registration - where do I start?* (Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations, Dublin, 2000).

7. PAROCHIAL RECORDS AND MARRIAGE LICENCES

For the period before 1864 church records provide the only record of most baptisms, marriages and burials.

Original parochial records (*i.e.* baptisms, marriages and burials) of the Roman Catholic Church remain with the relevant parishes. Microfilms of parochial registers are available at the National Library of Ireland - www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx for most Roman Catholic parishes in Ireland for the years up to

1880 and in some cases up to 1900. For further information on these registers, please read the Family History Research leaflet entitled "Parish Registers in the National Library of Ireland." The National Archives has a copy of the National Library's list of the parish registers. The names and addresses of the clergy are given in the annual *Irish Catholic Directory*.

Parochial records (*i.e.* baptisms, marriages and burials) of the Church of Ireland (Anglican Church) often remain with the relevant parishes. They survive for about one third of the parishes throughout the country. Those for the pre-1870 period are public records. The registers may also be available in original or microfilm form at the Representative Church Body Library (R.C.B.) - www.ireland.anglican.org/cmsfiles/pdf/AboutUs/library/parregs.pdf. The parochial registers may also be available in original, copy or microfilm form at the National Archives - www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/church.html. Generally records held at the National Archives do not post-date 1880 though some range into the twentieth century.

There are microfilm or other copies in the National Archives of the surviving Church of Ireland parish registers for the Dioceses of Ferns, Glendalough, Kildare and Meath, as well as many from other parts of the country.

P.R.O.N.I. holds copies of all surviving Church of Ireland registers for the Diocese of Armagh, Clogher, Connor, Derry, Dromore, Down, Kilmore and Raphoe. As well as covering all six counties of the present Northern Ireland these Dioceses also cover Counties Cavan, Donegal, Louth, Monaghan and part of County Leitrim which are in the Republic. Copies of those parish registers from within the Republic, microfilmed by P.R.O.N.I., are held by the R.C.B. Library.

A list of all Church of Ireland parish registers, indicating whether they survive and where they might be held, is available in the National Archives. This is reproduced in *A Table of Church of Ireland Parochial Records and Copies* ed. Noel Reid (Naas, 1994) with an *Addendum* of 2001. The names and addresses of the clergy are given in the annual *Church of Ireland Directory*. A list and a card index of registers held in the National Archives, as well as lists of transcripts and abstracts, may be consulted in the Reading Room.

Records of marriage licences provide information concerning some Church of Ireland marriages before 1845. People wishing to obtain a licence to marry without having banns called were required to enter into a bond with the bishop of the diocese. The licence and bonds do not survive (in most cases), but the indexes to the bonds lodged in each Diocesan Court and the Prerogative Court are available in the National Archives Reading Room.

Some of the indexes have been published. Betham's abstracts of Prerogative and Dublin Diocesan marriage licences give further details. Some other records of marriage licences are indexed in the Testamentary card index.

The Parish Searches consist of thirteen volumes of searches made in Church of Ireland parochial returns (generally baptisms, but sometimes also marriages). The searches were requested in order to ascertain whether the applicant, in the period c. 1908 - 1922 but mainly c. 1915 - 1922, was entitled to an Old Age Pension based on evidence abstracted from the parochial returns then in existence in the Public Record Office of Ireland. Sometimes only one search - against a specific individual - has been recorded from a given parish. Multiple searches against various individuals in city parishes have been recorded in volume thirteen, listed in "Parish Registers and related Material" which is available in the Reading Room.

At present transcripts (and some digitised images) of Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parochial registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, for the pre-1900 period, are being up-loaded, free of charge, on www.irishgenealogy.ie/index.html. Further indexes and records will be up-loaded when they become available. This site is hosted by the Department of Tourism, Culture and Sport.

Other records, which are not organised on a parochial basis may also be of interest :

Records of the Jewish community in Ireland, including birth records, may be held in the Irish Jewish Museum in Dublin at 3 Walworth Road, Dublin 8.

Records of the Methodist Church in Ireland include registers of baptisms and marriages of the Irish Methodist circuits and chapels. Many are held by the

Wesley Historical Society in Ireland in Belfast (which also has a small archive collection in Dublin) - www.irishmethodist.org/about/genealogy.php. Many Methodist records have been microfilmed by P.R.O.N.I. Researchers should consult Steven C. ffearry-Smyrl, *Irish Methodists - where do I start?* (Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations, Dublin, 2000) for a guide to Irish Methodist records.

Records of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland comprise registers of baptisms and marriages. Many are held by the Presbyterian Historical Society in Belfast - www.presbyterianireland.org/phsi. Most Ulster Presbyterian records have been microfilmed by P.R.O.N.I.

Records of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Ireland contain transcript registers of births, marriages and deaths from the seventeenth century onwards. These are held by the Religious Society of Friends Historical Library in Dublin or the Religious Society of Friends, Ulster Quarterly Meeting in Lisburn - www.quakers-in-ireland.org.

Most parochial registers (regardless of denomination) for the northern counties of Ireland are available on microfilm in P.R.O.N.I. - [www.proni.gov.uk/03 - your family tree series - church records.pdf](http://www.proni.gov.uk/03-your-family-tree-series-church-records.pdf). The best guide is *An Irish Genealogical Source: Guide to Church Records* (P.R.O.N.I., 1994).

The best general introduction to church records are by James G. Ryan (editor), *Irish Church Records* (Dublin, 1992), and by Steven C. Smyrl, *Dictionary of Dublin Dissent: Dublin's Protestant dissenting meeting houses, 1660-1920* (Dublin, 2009).

8. PENAL TRANSPORTATION RECORDS : IRELAND TO AUSTRALIA, 1788 - 1868

Although not all records from the Chief Secretary's Office in Dublin Castle survive, especially from the period before 1836, there is sufficient material to make Irish archives a major source for Australians researching Irish convict ancestors. Penal transportation to Australia (and later to Bermuda or Gibraltar)

covered the years 1791 until 1853 when the sentence of penal transportation was commuted to a prison sentence in Ireland.

The National Archives holds a wide range of records relating to the transportation of convicts from Ireland to Australia covering the period 1788 to 1868 which are available on a fully searchable data-base. In some cases these include records of members of convicts' families transported as free settlers. While the collection of convict petitions dates from the beginning of transportation from Ireland to Australia in 1791, all transportation registers compiled before 1836 were destroyed in 1922. Therefore, if the person you are researching was convicted before 1836, but was not the subject of a petition, he or she will not appear on this database. In other words, the records from which the transportation database was compiled such as the transportation registers, convict reference files and petitions to government for pardon or commutation of sentence, are incomplete.

A successful search in the records may produce not just a bald official summary, but perhaps one of the thousands of petitions submitted by or on behalf of prisoners. The records, in the order in which they have been microfilmed are as follows :

- (a) Transportation Registers, 1836 - 1857;
- (b) Prisoners' Petitions and Cases, 1788 - 1836;
- (c) State Prisoners' Petitions, 1798 - 1799;
- (d) Convict Reference Files, 1836 - 1856 : 1865 - 1868;
- (e) Free Settlers' Papers, 1828 - 1852;
- (f) Male Convict Register, 1842 - 1847;
- (g) Register of Convicts on Convict Ships, 1851 - 1853.

A computer index giving the names and other details of the prisoners is available in the Reading Room and on the National Archives website - www.nationalarchives.ie/search/index.php?category=18. The index is designed to be searched by surname but may also be searched under place of trial, crime or date. Microfilms containing full copies of the records are available in the Reading Room and the index and microfilms are also available in libraries in Australia.

If the search of the computer index and the microfilms has been successful there may be enough information to pursue the search in the National Archives sources (Chief Secretary's Office Registered Papers, Outrage Reports etc.) or in newspapers held in the National Library of Ireland.

9. FURTHER READING

Irish libraries, archives, museums and genealogical centres : a visitors' guide by Robert K. O'Neill (U.H.F., 2007) introduces readers to printed and manuscript resources available in Irish libraries, archives and heritage centres. Other excellent publications are *Tracing Irish ancestors, a practical guide to Irish genealogy* by Máire Mac Conghail and Paul Gorry (Collins, 1997), *Irish Records: sources for family & local history* by James G. Ryan (revised edn, Salt Lake City, 1997), *Tracing your Irish ancestors, the complete guide* by John Grenham (3rd edn, Dublin, 2006), *Your Irish ancestors, a guide for family historians* by Ian Maxwell (Barnsley, 2008), *How to trace your Irish ancestors: an essential guide to researching and documenting the family histories of Ireland's people* by Ian Maxwell (Begbroke, 2008). Also *Tracing your ancestors in Northern Ireland* by Ian Maxwell (S.O., 1997), *Researching Scots-Irish ancestors : the essential genealogical guide to early modern Ulster, 1600-1800* by William Roulston (U.H.F., 2005). For a short introduction to Irish genealogy *Irish Genealogy, a record finder* (2nd impression, Dublin, 1987 - out of print) contains guides to census returns, directories, newspapers, the Registry of Deeds, wills and other sources.

Sources for particular counties are introduced in : Ian Maxwell, *Researching Armagh ancestors* (Belfast, 2000), William Roulston, *My roots - tracing your Belfast ancestors* (U.H.F., 2008), Tony McCarthy & Tim Cadogan, *Tracing your Cork ancestors* (Dublin, 1998), Helen Meehan and Godfrey E. Duffy, *Tracing your Donegal ancestors* (Dublin, 2008), Ian Maxwell, *Researching Down ancestors* (U.H.F., 2004), James G. Ryan & Brian Smith, *Tracing your Dublin ancestors* (3rd edn, Dublin, 2009), Peadar O'Dowd, *Tracing your Galway Ancestors* (Dublin, 2010), Michael H. O'Connor, *Tracing your Kerry ancestors* (Dublin, 1994), Karel Kiely, *Tracing your ancestors in Co. Kildare* ([Newbridge], 1992), Margaret Franklin, *Tracing your Limerick ancestors* (Dublin, 2003), Brian Smith, *Tracing your Mayo ancestors* (2nd edn, Dublin, 2010), Noel E. French, *Meath Ancestor, a guide to sources for tracing your ancestors* (Trim, 1993), John Hamrock, *Tracing your Roscommon ancestors* (Dublin, 2007), *Sources for family history in Waterford County* (Waterford County Council, 2005).

Another useful series is the *Exploring Family Origins Series*, edited by Noel Farrell, which is specific to towns in various counties. Sources in the National Archives are covered by *Counties in Time, documents and commentaries from the National Archives of Ireland* (National Archives of Ireland, [2003]) which also contains images.

For notes on the origin and history of Irish surnames see E. MacLysaght, *Irish Families* (3rd edn, Dublin, 1972), *Supplement to Irish Families* (Dublin, 1964) and *The Surnames of Ireland* (3rd edn, Dublin, 1978).

Information on church records will be found in *A table of Church of Ireland parochial records and copies* ed. Noel Reid, (Naas, 1994), *An Irish genealogical source : guide to church records* (P.R.O.N.I., 1994) and *Irish church records* edited by James G. Ryan, (Dublin, 1992). Detailed information on congregations and records of all Dublin non-conformist (or dissenting) denominations will be found in *Dictionary of Dublin Dissent : Dublin's Protestant dissenting meeting houses, 1660-1920* by Steven C. Smyrl (Dublin, 2009).

Many of the sources referred to in this booklet are described in more detail on the National Archives website and in the CD ROM *Counties in Time*. Further information concerning the holdings of the National Archives will be found in the *Short Guide to the Public Record Office of Ireland* (out of print), in the 55th-59th *Reports of the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records in Ireland*, and in the annual *Reports of the Director of the National Archives*.

Two very informative booklets produced by the Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations in the "Exploring Irish Genealogy" series are Steven C. ffeary-Smyrl, *Irish Methodists - where do I start ?* (Dublin, 2000) and Eileen Ó Dúill and Steven C. ffeary-Smyrl, *Irish Civil Registration - where do I start?* (Dublin, 2000).

Useful articles on genealogy are contained in *Aspects of Irish Genealogy 1, 2 and 3* which are papers from the proceedings of the First, Second and Third Irish Genealogical Congresses - www.cigo.ie as well as in the quarterly *Irish Roots* genealogical magazine - www.irishrootsmedia.com.

10. COMMISSIONING GENEALOGICAL SEARCHES

The National Archives cannot carry out genealogical searches on behalf of readers or correspondents. A list giving the names and addresses of some genealogical and historical researchers, who carry out searches for a fee, is available on request or from the National Archives website though the National Archives does not accept any responsibility for either the work done or the fees charged by any of the researchers listed - www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/researchers.html.

The listing is updated regularly.

11. GENEALOGY SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Before undertaking research in the National Archives visitors may find it helpful to visit the Genealogy Service which is provided, free of charge. The consultants are accredited professional genealogists.

The Genealogy Service is intended primarily for first-time researchers and visitors but more experienced researchers are also welcome to use it.

The Genealogy Service is situated on Floor 5, adjacent to the Reading Room. Opening hours are the same as those for the Reading Room. No appointment is needed.

12. READING ROOM

The Reading Room is open to the public from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding public holidays, the December media preview and a period over Christmas and the New Year. For further information on opening / closure dates please consult the National Archives website - www.nationalarchives.ie/contactus/closures.html.

An application for a Reader's Ticket may be downloaded from www.nationalarchives.ie/contactus/tickets.html.

For information on ordering records - www.nationalarchives.ie/services/index.html and www.nationalarchives.ie/contactus/news/docs/DFAFiles.pdf.

13. WEB ADDRESSES

Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland - www.apgi.ie
Council of Irish Genealogical Organisations - www.cigo.ie
General Register Office - www.groireland.ie
General Register Office (N.I.) - www.groni.gov.uk/index.
Irish Family History Society - www.ifhs.ie/index.htm
Irish Genealogy Research Society - www.igrsoc.org
Irish Manuscripts Commission - www.irishmanuscripts.ie
National Library of Ireland - www.nli.ie
Public Record Office of Northern Ireland - www.proni.gov.uk
Representative Church Body Library - www.ireland.anglican.org/index.php?do=about&id=42
Valuation Office - www.valoff.ie

CONTACT ADDRESS

National Archives, Bishop Street, Dublin 8.

Tel. (01) 407 2300 (from abroad + 353 1 407 2300)

Lo Call 1890 252424.

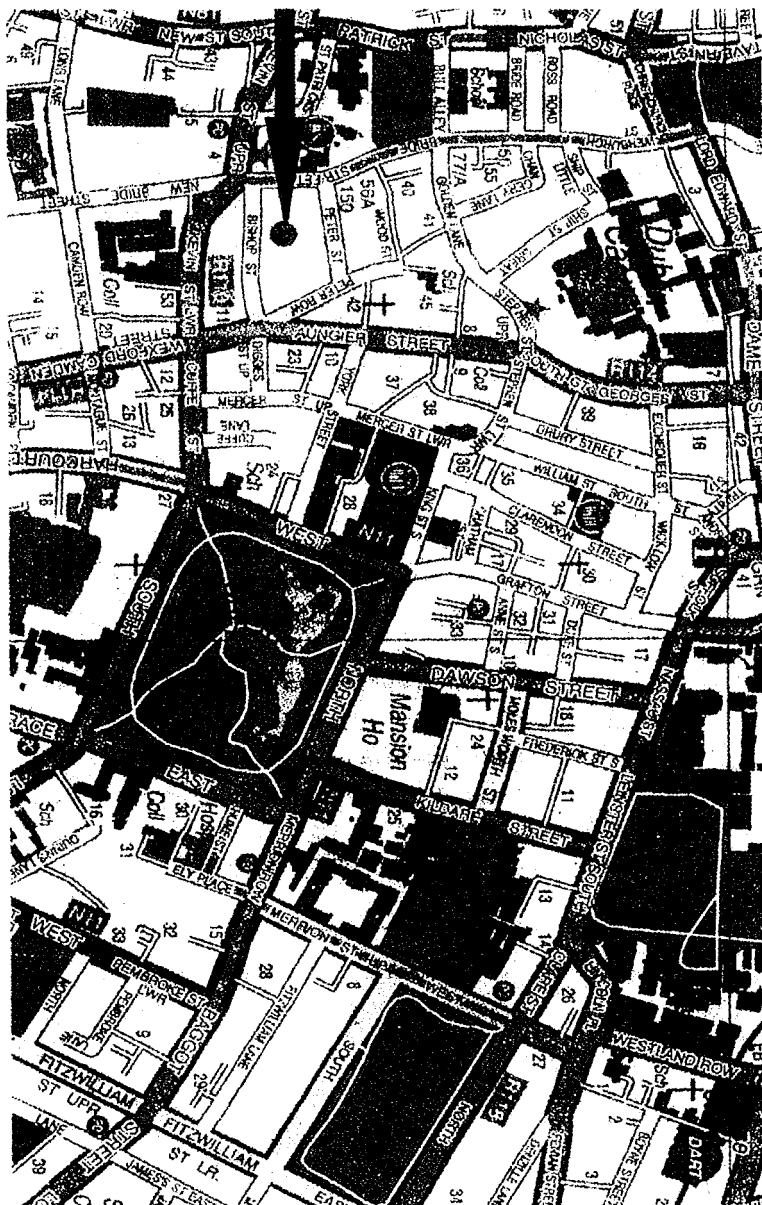
Fax. (01) 407 2333 (from abroad + 353 1 407 2333)

E-mail : mail@nationalarchives.ie

Website : www.nationalarchives.ie

LOCATION OF NATIONAL ARCHIVES

National
Archives



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