

- **Caution!** If you do not have a good collection of “identifiers” garnered from prior research, you will have no way to determine your correct ancestor from a potentially large list of Irish candidates.
- **If you only know the county**
 - The Heritage Centre for that county may have a county-wide index that can yield the civil parish and/or the townland
For Heritage Centres in Ireland, see <http://www.irish-roots.ie/counties.asp>
- **If you aren't sure about even the county** prioritize research of counties based on distributions of surnames from:
 - R.E. Matheson's *Special Report on Surnames in Ireland* (based on 1890 data) in the Begley book in resources.
 - <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/index.htm> (based on 1847-64 data) .
 - Note that this won't help for common names which are found throughout Ireland.
 - DNA may help. If you find an exact 37 marker (or more) match with someone who knows where their ancestor was from, your ancestor may be from there also.

- **During the 1922 Civil War, the Public Record Office in Dublin was destroyed. Records lost:**
 - Pre-1858 wills and administrations (most did not have wills) Copies of some of these wills exist as well as indexes.
 - 1821 to 1851 census records (1861 - 1891 were "pulped")
 - About half of the Church of Ireland parish registers (Church of Ireland represented about 10% of the population)

- **Searching Irish records from the US**
 - LDS Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT - largest collection of Irish records outside of Ireland
 - Other major repositories: Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN; New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, MA; Irish Genealogical Society International, St. Paul, MN; Emigration Library of the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, Milwaukee, WI
 - LDS Family History Centers (FHC) like 1400 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY
 - Internet, see Resources

- **Searching Irish records when you're in Ireland**
 - The National Library of Ireland (Kildare Street, Dublin) offers a free Genealogy Advisory Service. This is a good chance to discuss your research with an experienced Irish genealogist. <http://www.nli.ie/en/genealogy-advisory-service.aspx>
 - The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin) also offers a free Genealogy Advisory Service. <http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/service.html>

- **Administrative Divisions & Place Names**
 - Province (4) - Connaught, Leinster, Munster, Ulster
 - County (32)
 - Connaught - Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo
 - Leinster - Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Leix (Queens), Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly (Kings), Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow
 - Munster - Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford
 - Ulster - Antrim(NI), Armagh(NI), Cavan, Donegal, Down(NI), Fermanagh(NI), Londonderry(NI), Monaghan, Tyrone(NI)
 - Barony (270) - collection of civil parishes (or parts)
 - <http://www.searchforancestors.com/locality/ireland/townlands.html> for baronies within counties
 - Civil Parish (2,508) - these are not church parishes) - Repositories often catalogued by civil parish
 - <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/counties/civilmaps/index.cfm> for parishes within counties
 - <http://www.searchforancestors.com/locality/ireland/townlands.html>
 - Townland (~64,000) - Smallest official geographic unit, but doesn't have it's own government. Townland indexes:
 - <http://www.seanruad.com/>
 - <http://www.searchforancestors.com/locality/ireland/townlands.html>
 - Reprint of 1851 Townland Index by Genealogical Publishing Company (see resources)
 - Poor Law Union (163) - Poor Law Act of 1838, unions of townlands responsible for poor. **Each had a workhouse. FHC (Poor Law Union was usually the same as the Superintendent Registrar's District)**
 - District Electoral Division (3,751) - a division of the Poor Law Union, important when using Griffith's Valuation
 - City or Town or Village (different from Townland)
 - To locate a placename, try the Lewis book or *General Alphabetical Index* in resources
 - The Mitchell book in the resources is probably the best aid to sorting out Administrative Division issues - includes maps
 - The Ryan, Grenham, and Mitchell books complement each other and are often sited as goto resources for Irish research.

- **Census & Substitutes**

- o Irish Records Extraction Database (1600-1874) 100,000 name database of Irish vital records ancestry.com
- o **1766 Religious Census (FHC)**
- o **1796** Spinning Wheel Survey - FHC or Family Tree Maker CD #271 (also known as Irish Flax Growers List, 1796)
 - <http://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php> Included on www.ancestry.com
- o Royal Irish Constabulary **1816-1921** was staffed mainly by Irish-born men. ancestry.com
- o **1821** County Cavan census exists (FHC) and other **1821 census remnants & abstracts (FHC)**
- o Tithe Applotment Composition Books (1823-1838) ancestry.com
 - Records the head of household of each house, not just the landlord
 - Some Heritage Centres have indexed their county
 - *An Index of Surnames of Householders in Griffith's Primary Valuation and Tithe Applotment Books* (commonly called Householders Index), surname index by county, barony, and civil parish - FHC
 - *Tithe Applotment Index for Northern Ireland Counties* - FHC & Family Tree Maker CD #262
- o **1831** County Londonderry census exists (FHC)
- o **1831 Tithe Defaulters**, <http://www.irishorigins.com>
- o Valuers' Notebooks (1840-1847)
 - Records the head of household of each house, not just the landlord
 - Also known as Perambulation Notebooks, Surveyors' Notebooks, or Field Books
 - Available in Ireland at National Archives of Ireland and Valuation Office. Currently being microfilmed by Family History Library
- o **1841 census remnants & abstracts (FHC)**
- o Census searches for old pension applications. Old age pensions began in 1908. People could request searches of the then surviving **1841 & 1851** censuses. Census Search Forms or Form 37s – FHC. **Records (database not complete yet) at <http://www.pensear.org/search/searchirishgenealogy.php> (search free, \$ for details)**
- o Griffith's Primary Valuation (1844-1864, varies by county)
 - Records the head of household of each house, not just the landlord
 - Some Heritage Centres have indexed for their county
 - *An Index of Surnames of Householders in Griffith's Primary Valuation and Tithe Applotment Books* (commonly called Householders Index), surname index by county, barony, and civil parish - FHC
 - *Index to Griffith's Valuation of Ireland. 1848-1864*, Family Tree Maker CD #? (this index is not complete)
 - All-Ireland Heritage has name indexes for counties: Carlow, Cork, Fermanagh, Limerick, Longford, Monaghan, Tipperary, Waterford and cities: Belfast, Cork, Dublin.
 - New & free site: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/>
 - Available at <http://www.irishorigins.com> (fee) & ancestry.com
- o William Smith O'Brien Petition (1848-1849)
 - 80,000 names, including addresses and sometimes occupations
 - Available at <http://www.irishorigins.com> (fee)
 - Available on CD (ISBN 0 9537557 2 X)
- o **1851 census remnants & abstracts (FHC)**
- o Valuation Office Revision Books or Cancelled Books (1860s - present)
 - A follow-up to Griffith's Valuation containing updated information
 - Changes to occupier column usually indicate significant event like death, emigration, marriage, etc.
 - Available via FHC
- o **1901 & 1911** Census
 - **1901 & 1911** available at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie> Includes forms filled out by head of household.
- o For cities, check Ireland **1901** Census Street Index - FHC (need street name)
- o **1912 Ulster Covenant** at <http://www.proni.gov.uk/>
- o *Register of Irish Census and Census Substitutes* — FHC
- o See Ryan book in resources for many census substitutes by county

• **Protestant vs Catholic Research**

- o Probate, land, tax, voting, occupation records usually only include Protestants
- o Civil Registration, church records, census/substitutes and Poor Law records include Catholics.

• **Civil Registrations**

- o Civil Registrations (bmd), 1845-1958 (non-Catholic marriages start 1845, all bmd 1864) FHC & pilot.familysearch.org
- o Pre-1870 marriages and pre-1880 births may be in the International Genealogical Index, see www.familysearch.org
- o *Vital Records Index: British Isles* at FHC or www.familysearch.org

• **Church Records**

- o For detailed info see Ryan, Grenham, and Mitchell's book in resources below.
- o Ryan includes Catholic parishes within civil parish
- o Rural Catholic records begin ~1820, while some urban records begin ~1760.
- o Catholic records in Latin - see Latin resources under Course I
- o Church of Ireland records may include all denominations.
- o UK & Ireland Records Collection, Parish and Probate Records, 15 million names covering 1538 - 1837, at www.ancestry.com Most Heritage Centres have indexes of some church records.
- o RC & Prot parish records, <http://www.irish-roots.ie/>, FHC has records for many religions.
- o Church records by county at <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/counties/index.htm>

• **Cemetery Records**

- o Often great info on tombstones, however many did not have stones.
- o Most cemeteries did not have written records, but the church may have records
- o Burial records for Limerick's largest cemetery are free online, <http://limerick.ie/Archives/MountStLawrenceBurialGroundRegisters1855-2008/>
- o Church of Ireland cemeteries had all denominations.
- o Sometimes immigrant children sent money home to erect tombstones for family members (and the stone may indicate where the immigrant was living).
- o Memorials of the Dead, 70,000 tombstone transcriptions for 1500s-1800s, FEE, <http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/MEMS.HTM>
- o FHC has some records.
- o Cemetery records by county at <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/counties/index.htm>
- o Annual Irish Catholic Directory lists dioceses, parishes, churches including historic & current parish names

• **Land Records**

- o Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1824-1846). Survey commissioned as preparation for Griffith's Valuation. The original maps are at the Trinity Map Library, Trinity College, Dublin. Microfiche is available from FHC
- o Memoirs recorded during Ordnance Survey of Ireland (only Northern counties). Published as a 40 volume set by the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University of Belfast.
- o Valuation Maps at the Valuation Office in Dublin. During Griffith's Valuation, plot numbers were added to the ordnance survey maps yielding the Valuation Maps.
- o Finding your ancestor in Griffith's Valuation yields a townland and plot number which can be used to find your ancestor's plot in the Valuation Maps
- o Features on these maps include: cemeteries, police stations, mills, church, church ruins, castles

• **Famine Conditions for Precise Localities**

- o See Famine Series in References. Available at Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN, not in Rochester, NY.
- o "Correspondence from local officials can be graphic in its description of conditions, sometimes mentioning specific individuals and poignant episodes. In addition to statistical data, some tables provide the names, ages, relationships, and residences of individuals affected by the famine." Arranged in alphabetical order by the name of the Poor Law Union.

• **Other Records**

- o Estate Records (may include details on tenants)
- o Registry of Deeds, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds/>, 1708 on.

Resources [MCLS= [Monroe County Library System](#) (Monroe County, NY, US), GB= [Google Books](#)]

- *Ireland Research Outline* (Salt Lake City, Utah: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1993). www.familysearch.org
- *Ireland Householders Index* (Salt Lake City, Utah: Corp. of the President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1997). www.familysearch.org (This is another name for Griffith's Primary Valuation.)
- *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes, and Baronies of Ireland* (1851, Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2006). **GB**
- Begley, Donal F., ed. *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder* (Dublin: Heraldic Artists, Ltd., 1987). **MCLS**
- Falley, Margaret Dickson. *Irish and Scotch-Irish Ancestral Research: A Guide to the Genealogical Records, Methods and Sources in Ireland* (1962. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981). **MCLS**
- Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide* (2d ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, Ltd., 1999). **MCLS**
 - Lewis, Samuel. *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*. (London: S. Lewis, 1837). Included in AncestryPlus. **GB**
- MacLysaght, Edward. *The Surnames of Ireland*. (6th ed. Dublin: Irish Academic Press, 1985). **MCLS**
- Matheson, Robert. *Surnames in Ireland*. (1901,1909. Reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1994). **MCLS**
- McCarthy, Tony. *The Irish Roots Guide* (Dublin: The Lilliput Press, Ltd., 1991).
- Mitchell, Brian. *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988). **MCLS**
- Mitchell, Brian. *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986). **MCLS**
- Radford, Dwight A and Kyle J. Betit. *Discovering Your Irish Ancestors*. (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2001). **MCLS**
- Ryan, James G. *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992).
- Ryan, James G. *Irish Records: Sources for Family & Local History* (rev. ed. Salt Lake City, Utah; Ancestry, 1997). **MCLS**
- <http://www.catholicireland.net/church-in-ireland/dioceses> Directory of present day dioceses, parishes, churches
- www.eneclann.ie Irish genealogy resources for sale & how to info.
- www.fxgs.org/Ireland_Mfhc.htm, excellent guide for Irish (Rep & NI) genealogy by Linda Jones for Fairfax (VA) Gen. Soc. Specific to resources at a VA FHC, but most would be applicable to any FHC.
- www.genuki.org.uk UK + Ireland Genealogy
- http://homepage.ntlworld.com/tomals/Irish_maps_of_S_Lewis_1839.htm, maps ca 1839
- <http://indigo.ie/~gorry/> What's What in Irish Genealogy
- <http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/> Placename & John Grenham Surname info
- www.irishgenealogy.ie. This is the official web site of the Irish Genealogical Project. **Church records, Griffith's Valuation, Tithe Applotments' and 1901 Census returns – not all counties.**
- www.irishorigins.com Fee based, total of 3 million names including Griffith's Valuation (1 million households). Wills, O'Brien Petition, passenger lists, census, church records (72 hr: \$8.51, per Month: \$16.93, per yr: \$88.88)
- www.irish-roots.ie/counties.asp Irish Family History Foundation & details of resources held by each Heritage Centre
- www.nationalarchives.ie National Archives of Ireland. Home of the 1901 & 1911 Irish Census plus more.
- Rootsweb.ancestry.com/~irlkik/ihm/iremaps.htm Ireland's history in Maps
- www.rootsweb.com/~irlwgv Ireland World GenWeb Project
- www.rootsweb.com/~nirwgv Northern Ireland World GenWeb Project
- www.ancestryireland.com/fileadmin/uhf_pdfs/My_Roots_LR.pdf Excellent guide to research in Northern Ireland
- www.irishgenealogical.org Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) – includes research guide
- <http://lists.rootsweb.com/>, then select Ireland for Mailing Lists for Ireland
- www.vitalrec.com/links2.html, How to get foreign vital records
- www.irishdiaspora.net Irish Diaspora
- www.genealogylinks.net/uk/ireland/index.html links to transcriptions of many Irish records
- [1876 Irish Catholic Directory](#) lists Dioceses, parishes and churches. **GB**

Subscriptions made available by Monroe County Library System:

- Heritage Quest, Free at www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a valid Monroe County library card
- Ancestry.Com, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Henrietta, Ogden and Penfield Libraries) with a valid Monroe County library card
- NewEnglandAncestors.org, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room with a library card