

COURSE I – SEARCHING FOR YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

Fairport Library Genealogy Club

www.fairportlibrary.org

2 pm January 21, 2019

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Slides are Online

- At www.dennisAhogan.com, click on Lectures and Handouts tab
- Select a handout and save on your computer, then you can click on links to try out websites
- The detailed handouts are:
 - “Course I - Searching US Records for your Irish Ancestors”
 - “Course II - Searching Irish Records for your Ancestors”

Top "Ten" List

13. The internet is a great tool, BUT experts estimate that 5% of the records relevant to genealogy are online.
12. Resist the temptation to make assumptions. Be skeptical.
11. The more you know about the history/culture of the time & place of your ancestors, the "luckier" you'll be as a genealogist.
10. Before 1900, dates & spelling were not as rigorously followed as today.
9. Develop a plan, select one ancestor, what do you want to learn, what resources should be searched
8. Don't wait for "the right time" to talk to the oldest family members
7. Transcribe records EXACTLY as they exist, not as you think they should be

Top "Ten" List

6. Don't stop with the info in an index, use the index to find the original record.
5. (**Reverse Genealogy**) Search forward (to present day). Find & contact all living descendants of a "brickwall" couple.
4. (**Whole Family Research**) Always thoroughly RESEARCH SIBLINGS at each level.
3. (**Cluster Genealogy**) Record & research all individuals with the target surname (and its variations) living in the locality where your ancestors lived as well as friends and neighbors.

Note - If you're faced with a brick wall, **Reverse/Whole Family/Cluster** techniques may very well solve your problem.

2. For every piece of information about your family history, RECORD THE SOURCE
1. VERIFY ALL NEW INFORMATION, whether from original records, the internet, a book or Aunt Susie

Searching US Records

- It's important to do your homework in US records BEFORE researching Irish records

What's the problem with searching Irish records?

- Irish records usually require knowledge of specific geographic info for your family (County is NOT enough).
 - **Solution:** Use US records to discover specific geographic info for your family in Ireland
- All Irish families seem to use the same group of names for their children.
 - **Solution:** Use US records to develop a knowledge base of "identifiers" about your family and especially your immigrant ancestor.

Traditional Irish Naming Pattern

- ***Sons' Names***
 - First Son named after Paternal Grandfather
 - Second Son named after Maternal Grandfather
 - Third Son named after Father
 - Fourth Son named after Father's Oldest Brother
 - Fifth Son named after Mother's Oldest Brother
 - Sixth Son named after Father's Second Oldest Brother
- ***Daughters' Names***
 - First Daughter named after Maternal Grandmother
 - Second Daughter named after Paternal Grandmother
 - Third Daughter named after Mother
 - Fourth Daughter named after Mother's Oldest Sister
 - Fifth Daughter named after Father's Oldest Sister
 - Sixth Daughter named after Mother's Second Oldest Sister

Basic Name & Search Tips

- For O names & Mc/Mac names, search indexes with & without the prefix (& don't forget Ma forms, ex: Magory for McGory)
- Don't assume 1 spelling of names when searching records (use Soundex, non-exact or wild cards when available)
 - O'Reilly, O'Riley, Reily, Riley, etc
 - O640, O640, R400, R400 (Soundex codes)
- Inconsistent punctuation in indexes:
 - O'Flynn, OFlynn, O Flynn, O_Flynn, O.Flynn
 - McGrath, MacGrath, Mc Grath, M'Grath, Mgrath, Magrath

Basic Name & Search Tips

- Don't assume 1 given name is used in all records (nicknames/synonyms, middle names)
- Nicknames/synonyms: BJ, Delia or Biddy for Bridget
- "Mc is Irish, Mac is Scottish" - Wrong! Mc & Mac are legitimate prefixes for both Irish & Scottish.
- For females, do a separate search with maiden name and with all married names.

Basic Name & Search Tips

- Alternate Forms for Given Names (another file on my [website](#)), examples:
 - Abbreviation, Jno.
 - Nickname, Nabby
 - Synonym, Delia
 - Irish, Moira
 - Latin, Ioannes

US Research Goal

- To be in a position to identify the correct family in Ireland, you need to find some of the following in US Resources:
 - Location in Ireland (County usually not enough) or...
 - At least 1 sibling of the immigrant or...
 - Immigrant's father's name and/or mother's maiden name or...
 - Sponsors for Baptisms for all children of the immigrant (siblings of the immigrant?)

US Sources

- **US Census (state or country of birth)**
 - Every 10 years, 1790-1930 currently available
 - Non-Population census: 1790 Slave, 1810-1820 & 1850-1880 Manufacturing, 1840 Pensioners, 1850-1880 Agriculture, 1850-1880 Mortality, 1880 Defective, 1890 Veterans (Kentucky through Wyoming plus DC exist).
- **NY State Census (county or country of birth)**
 - 1815, 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865, 1875, 1892, 1905, 1915, 1925
- **FamilySearch Wiki for Census Sources for NY**
https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York_Census

US Sources

- **US Census (and much more)**
 - Heritage Quest, Free at www.libraryweb.org/heritage.html with a Monroe County library card
 - Ancestry.Com, Free at the Rochester Public Library, Rundel Bldg, Local History Room (also Brighton, Fairport, Henrietta, Ogden, Greece, Penfield, and Pittsford Libraries) with a Monroe County library card
 - FamilySearch, free familysearch.org

Census Inventory

KEEGAN		1st	Michael	Mary	Mary	Joseph
		middle		Ann	Ann	
		(maiden)		(Fay)	(Keegan)	
		surname	Keegan	Keegan	Meal	Keegan
		birth	bCa1843	bCa 1849 IRL	bCa 1876	bCa1880 US
		marriage	m1868 Scot	m1868 Scot	mCa ?	
	Official	death	d1878-1884US	d1921 AmerNY	d?	dCa1915US
Census:	Date:	Source:				
1940 US	1-Apr	FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1930 US	1-Apr	FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1925 NY	1-Jun	ANY/FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1920 US	1-Jan	HQ/FS/A	deceased			deceased
1915 NY	1-Jun	ANY/FS/A	deceased			
1910 US	15-Apr	HQ/FS/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY		AmsterdamNY
1905 NY	1-Jun	FS/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY	NF NYS	AmsterdamNY
1900 US	1-Jun	FS/HQ/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY	NF NYS	NF NYS
1892 NY	16-Feb	FS/ANY/A	deceased	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS
1890 SUB	2-Jun	HQ/FS/A	deceased			
1890 VET	2-Jun	FS/A	deceased			
1890 Police	NYC only	FHC	deceased			
1880 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS
1880 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	ANY/A				
1875 NY	1-Jun	FS				
1870 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A				
1870 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	ANY/A				

US Sources

- **Military Records** (pension & WWI Draft may contain detailed info, including birthplace)
- **Vital Records (birth/marriage/death)** (includes birthplace, parents' names)
- **US Social Security Death Index (SSDI)** (leads to SS application form (SS-5) which has birthplace, mother's maiden name)
- **City Directories** (probably no birthplace, but excellent "census substitute")

US Sources

- **Tombstones, Cemetery Records, Death Certificates** (sometimes Irish county, parish or townland)
- **Church Records** (For immigrant, find marriage & baptism of all children - note sponsors)
- **Naturalization Records** (some include county, parish or townland of origin)
- **Immigration Records** (prior to late 1800's, no "last residence" info)

US Sources

- **Newspapers** (anniversary & death notices may include birthplace)
- **Family Bible** (may include birthplaces)
- **Court, Land, Probate** (may include birthplaces)

Other US Sources

Offline Resources

In the area where your ancestors lived, there may be a goldmine of information about your family which has not yet been digitized and made available online. Check out historical societies, public historians, genealogical societies, local history sections of libraries, and county and city archives in the locality that you are researching.

You *CAN* do it!

