



IRELAND CHURCH RECORDS & INDEXES

GETTING STARTED

- Use www.familysearch.org & other shared databases online
- Review published family histories & biographies for clues

BACKGROUND SOURCES – Church of Ireland Jurisdictions

- Province of Armagh
- Province of Dublin

BACKGROUND SOURCES – Must know name of civil parish in Ireland

- Understand jurisdiction levels
- Understand parishes
- Use Gazetteers & Maps

Understanding Parishes

- Two types of parishes in Ireland: civil and ecclesiastical
- Civil parishes – typically the share same names & boundaries as ecclesiastical parishes of the Church of Ireland (Anglican Church)

Understanding Jurisdictions Levels

- Ireland was one country until 1922 – then divided into the Republic of Ireland (southern) & Northern Ireland - Antrim, Down, Armagh, Fermanagh, Tyrone, and Derry [Londonderry]
- Large cities – may contain several parishes
- Organized from smallest to largest: town/townland, civil parish, barony/poor law union, county, country
- Civil Registration Districts are the same as Poor Law Unions

Tools for Finding Place Names: Gazetteers/Maps

- *Lewis' Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* – www.libraryireland.com/topog
- *Parliamentary Gazetteer of Ireland* – online at Google Books; use other search engines
- *New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland* (2nd Edition, Brian Mitchell); www.visionofbritain.org/uk/descriptions
- *Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns of Ireland* - www.seanruad.com
- Maps and Gazetteers -- www.genuki.org.uk – check under both country & county level

CHURCH RECORDS

Church of Ireland

- The established Church was Anglican; less than half of the records were destroyed in the 1922 fire
- These records were only ones considered legal in court of law until 1800's
- Church of Ireland records at FHL:
 - Very little on microfilm - some published and donated transcripts, e.g. Dublin, Limerick – check FHLC with Place/Keyword search for desired parish
 - Check indexes to Marriage License Bonds – check FHLC > Place search “Ireland” > ‘Church Records—Indexes’ (NOTE: Only indexes survive, not the actual licenses)
- Church of Ireland records not at the FHL:
 - Representative Church Body Library (www.ireland.anglican.org/library) has originals
 - PRONI (www.proni.gov.uk) holds many copies for Northern Ireland
 - Many have been indexed by Heritage Centers (see section below)
 - For local custodial information – Same as above for Catholic records

Information contained in the records:

- Baptisms - Child's name, father's name, mother's name (but not maiden), date of baptism, (from 1820s onwards) date of birth, occupation of father, and “abode”
- Marriages - Names of groom & bride, marriage date, & from 1820s onwards - addresses of parties, names and addresses of witnesses
- Burials - Name of deceased, date of burial

ONLINE RESOURCES

- www.familysearch.org
- <http://ireland.anglican.org/about/42> -- Representative Church Body Library
- www.seanruad.com – important Irish place-names database
- www.nationalarchives.ie
- www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx – National Library of Ireland
- www.irishgenealogy.ie

GOOD BOOKS FOR IRISH RESEARCH

Grenham, John. *Tracing your Irish Ancestors, 3rd edition*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2006. Much of this book is on-line at www.ireland.com/ancestor/browse/.

Maxwell, Ian. *Tracing your Ancestors in Northern Ireland*. Edinburgh: The Stationary Office, 1997.

Radford, Dwight and Kyle Betit. *Ireland: A Genealogical Guide*. Salt Lake City: The Irish at Home and Abroad, 1998. (FHL film 1145947 item 3); *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering*

your Irish Ancestors. Cincinnati, Ohio: Betterway Books, 2001.

Reid, Noel. *A Table of Church of Ireland Parochial Records and Copies*. Naas, Ireland: Irish Family History Society, 1994.

Ryan, James. *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History*. Provo, UT: Ancestry Inc., 1997. (now in 2nd ed.) *Irish Church Records : Their History, Availability and Use in Family and Local History Research*. Glenageary, Dublin, Ireland: Flyleaf Press, 2001.

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