2016 Family History

WORKBOOK





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Introduction

Welcome to Family Research 2016. This website and workbook has been created by the National Archives of Ireland to help you find your ancestors online. There was a revolution in Ireland 100 years ago in 1916, but there has been another revolution over the past 20 years in family research. It has never been so easy to find your ancestors, because so many records containing their details have been put online. This website will guide you through the free online resources that now exist to help you with the exciting search for your forebears, with a workbook, detailed guides to the different kinds of records, case histories and targeted tasks, which are fun as well as helpful.

Enjoy the adventure! It's never been easier!

Hints & tips



Before you start the modules, here are some simple hints and tips that will help you with your research;

Before you go near the records.

Talk to your family. It makes no sense to spend days trawling through websites to find out your great-grand-mother's surname if someone in the family already knows it. So first, talk to parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, grandparents and find out what they know. Most families have at least one individual who keeps track of the extended network of relatives, and if you can trace her (it usually is a her), you're off to a good start.

Surnames and naming

Don't place any importance on the precise spelling of any of the surnames you're dealing with. Although the spelling matters to us now, before the 20th century extraordinary variations regularly occur in different records - illiteracy was rife, for large numbers Irish was their native language, and most people simply had more important things on their minds.

Record everything

The amount of information you're dealing with can grow very quickly, especially in the early stages, so it's a good idea to decide at the outset on a way of storing information that makes it easy for you to find things quickly. Most people pick up and put down their family history project as time allows, and the less time you spend hunting for something you know you wrote down somewhere, the easier the search will be. A shoebox with alphabetical index cards for each individual is perfectly fine. So is a loose-leaf binder. There are also some inexpensive software packages and websites that allow you easily to store and retrieve complex family information.

Start from what you know

The only cast-iron rule of family history is that you start from what you know and use it to find out more. It is almost impossible to take a historical family and try to uncover what your connection might be. Instead, think of yourself as a detective, taking each item of information as potential evidence and using it to track down more information that in turn becomes evidence for further research.

Get help

Get some idea of the background to your family surnames and have a look at some of the recommended basic guides to tracing family history. Your library's Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) will show you relevant material available in Public Libraries. Most county libraries now also have their catalogues available on the Internet. The National Library and National Archives both run walk-in genealogical advisory services, where you can get personal advice on records and research. There are detailed guides to starting out at the Irish Times Irish Ancestors site and at Seán Murphy's Directory of Irish Genealogy.

What will you find?

Every family history is different, so you can't say what you will find until you start looking. However, as a general rule, the limit for research is the start date of the relevant parish registers. This varies, with records beginning in the late 1700s in Dublin and some of the more prosperous parts of the east of Ireland, but not until the 1840s or 1850s in many places in the west.

MODULE 1 Surnames

Surnames

What we understand a surname to be is the hereditary name we bear along with other members of our family, usually inherited from our father and persisting from one generation to the next.



THIS IS THE MOST common form of surname in Western Europe, America and Australia, but it is not the only form. In Iceland, there are still no hereditary surnames: if your father is Michael and you're Martin, then your name is Martin Michaelson. If you have a son called Peter, his name is Peter Martinson. Each name lasts only a single generation.

How surnames began

In Europe, the adoption of hereditary surnames began in the Middle Ages, over the period between about 900 and about 1300 and continued at very different paces in different locations. In Wales, up to the mid 1800s, most people in rural areas used single-generation patronymics, as in Iceland. In Turkey, people were required to use a surname only from 1934.

Initially, surnames were common only among the aristocracy. With literacy and the broadening of government record-keeping, the practice slowly spread among other classes. In urban areas, at least, most surnames were fixed and hereditary by the 1700s.

In Ireland

Ireland was one of the first places in Europe to adopt hereditary surnames, with some evidence of persistence from around the early goos. The reason is simple. Medieval Irish society was organised around the extended family. Who you were related to determined what you could own, what work you could do, who you fought with and against ... Hereditary patronymic surnames were wonderful badges of allegiance, showing everyone immediately who 'your people' were.

In the rest of Europe, surnames could be locational - Leonardo da Vinci, 'Leonard from Vinci' - occupational - Baker, Smith, Thatcher - or derived from descriptive nicknames - Belcher, Little, Short. But in Ireland almost all surnames were patronymic, using Mac 'son of' or Ó 'grandson of'.

Surname adoption here was not static. For more than six centuries, there were explosive waves of surname-creation, with great networks of extended family names budding and sub-budding off central stems as families grew or waned in importance. For example, the grandchildren of Brian Ború (d. 1014) understandably wanted to flag their connection and started the surname O'Brian (Ó Briain). But the sons of one of those grand-

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children, Mathghamha Ua Briain, picked their own father as a starting point and became (in modern Irish) Mac Mathúna, McMahon. Four generations later, Constantine (Consaidín) O'Brien, bishop of Killaloe, was the source of the Mac Consaidín line, the Considines.

Into the middle of this, in the mid 1100s, came the Normans, who as yet had no hereditary surnames themselves. They took up the Irish practice with relish. The De Burgo family, who acquired most of Connacht for themselves, spun off dozens of modern names: (Mc) Davey, (Mc)Davitt, (Mc)Doak, (Mc)Nicholas (Mc)Philbin, McRedmond: all stemming from the forenames of prominent de Burgos, and all following precisely the Gaelic Irish tradition.

Gaelic surnames in English

After the collapse of the old Gaelic order in the seventeenth century, the only public administration was in English, even though most people spoke Irish as their first language for the following two centuries. So if administrators wanted to identify people, they had to make English-language versions of their surnames. In the process, extraordinary changes were forced on these names. First, Mc and O were treated as almost

entirely optional. Then the stems of the names could be phonetically transcribed, or (mis-)translated or simply turned into already-existing English surname. So Ó Foghlú, from foghlaí, 'a robber', became Foley. Mac an Bhreitheamhan, 'son of the judge', became 'Judge'. And Ó Brolacháin was turned into the common English name 'Bradley', derived from an Old English placename meaning 'broad meadow'.

So if Irish surnames are misspelt and mangled in English-language records, you know why.

Continuing change

With the revival of interest in Irish at the end of the nineteenth century, individuals began to reclaim the O and Mc prefixes. After 1916 and Independence in 1921, that reclamation accelerated dramatically. In the 1850s, there were almost 3000 households in Ireland with the surname 'Shea' and less than 100 called 'O'Shea'. Today Shea is very rare and O'Shea by far the most common.

So the surname you have today might not be the same one your great-grandparents are recorded under. Search with an open mind.

Tasks

- I. List three surnames that are common only in your county.
- нит: See here >
- 2. What would your name be if you were Icelandic?
- 3. Find three Irish Viking surnames.

 HINT: Google 'Irish Viking surnames'
- 4. Find three Irish Norman surnames.
- 5. Find three Gaelic Irish surnames.
- 5. Find three Polish surnames present in Ireland.

 HINT: Google 'Polish surnames', pick a few (e.g.
 'Adamczak') and Google for that name in Ireland
 ('Adamczak in Ireland').
- 6. How many variant spellings of Lenihan are there at www.johngrenham.com/surnames?

Answers: See page 31



Placenames

In Ireland, loyalty to a place of origin is unusually strong. The history of that loyalty goes back thousands of years, as reflected in the vast collection of traditional placename lore, dinnseanchas, stories explaining how townlands and parishes got their names. Much of that lore is now collected online at www.logainm.ie.



TOWNLANDS, OF WHICH there are more than 60,000, are still the basis of rural addresses and are unique to Ireland. It seems likely that similar place-name systems existed elsewhere in Europe in the Middle Ages and earlier, but Ireland today is the last place they exist.

Of course, place-names are also important for family history research - almost all the records of value depend on knowing where people were living, so identifying the relevant place can be vital. It can also be quite difficult.

How Irish place-names have evolved and deformed

The main reason for this is the way place-names were transposed out of the Irish language into English. This happened in the first three decades of the nineteenth century, after the Act of Union (1800) had brought the administration of Ireland under the control of London. The first step in that administration was to measure the country, a process which the Ordnance Survey began in the 1820s. But there was no systematic listing of where places were or what they were called. So one of the Ordnance Survey's first tasks was to standardise the spelling (in English) of all of the rural place-names on the island of Ireland.

The Topographical Section of the Ordnance Survey, charged with carrying out this standardisation, went to great lengths to research local traditions and customs and any documentary references to the place in early histories before settling on an English-language version. In fact, their research preserved a great deal of placename lore. But the process also inevitably impoverished local place-name traditions. For one thing, if there was a difference between the local landed estate owner and his tenants about the correct name, the owner's version was accepted. For another, there were many areas where traditional sub-townland names were in common use: these were simply ignored by the Ordnance Survey.

But the standard works we still use to identify a historical place-name, the 1851 and 1901 Townlands Indexes came out of the work of the Ordnance Survey.

Origins of parishes and counties

Civil parishes were the geographical units used in almost all state records before the twentieth century. Their boundaries were set in the twelfth century, at the Synod of Kells. After the Reformation, the Anglican Church of Ireland became the state Church, and retained the old,

medieval parishes. These then became the administrative areas used by government.

Counties came into existence in two distinct phases. In areas where Norman and English influence was strongest, counties were introduced as administrative divisions between 1169 and 1300, in a process known as 'shiring'. Counties Dublin, Louth, Meath, Wexford, Carlow, Kilkenny, Kildare Waterford, Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Limerick and Roscommon were created in this period. The remainder of Ireland was shired during the Tudor reconquest of Ireland, between 1534 and 1603. The last county to be created was Wicklow, in 1606.

Searching for a place-name online

The two main historical sources for place-names are the 1851 Townlands Index (www.johngrenham.com/places) and the 1901 Townlands Index (www.irishancestors.ie). At the former you can use wild-cards: remember that vowels are much likelier to change than consonants. Take out the vowels and replace them with '*'. The latter doesn't allow wildcards, but is slightly more comprehensive.

The Townlands indexes often omit sub-townland names and the names of geographical features such as rivers and mountains. The fullest contemporary list of these is at www.logainm.ie.

The fullest published English dictionary of Irish place-names is P.W. Joyce's Irish Names of Places, all three volumes of which are at www.askaboutireland.ie

Common elements of Irish place-names

| Element | Translation | Variation (In English) |
|----------|----------------|---|
| Ath | ford | Agha-, Ath-, Aha-, Agh-, A- |
| Baile | town/homeplace | Bally-, Bal-, Ball-, Ballina-, Ballyna- |
| Carrig | rock | Carrig-, Carrick- |
| Ceathru | quarter | Carra-, Carrow-, Curra-, Curragh-, Car-, Curry- |
| Cill | Church | Kil-, Kill- |
| Cluan | meadow | Cloon-, Clon- |
| Cnoc | hill | Knock- |
| Cúl | rear | Cool-, Cul |
| Domhnach | Sunday/Church | Donny-, Dunna-, Donna- |
| Dún | fort | Dun-, Don- |
| Drum | hillock | Drum-, Drim-, Drom- |
| Gort | field | Gurt-, Gort- |
| Inis | island | Inis-, Inish-, Inch-, Insh- |
| Leath | half | Le-, La- |
| Rath | fort | Rath-, Ra- |
| Tamhlagh | grave | Talla-, Tamla- |
| Tullach | hill | Tulla-, Tul-, Toll- |

Tasks

I. How many townland names starting with 'Bally' were there in your county in 1851?

ADVICE: www.johngrenham.com/places
HINT: Enter Bally* and choose the county from the dropdown list.

2. How many with 'Kill'?

ADVICE: www.johngrenham.com/places
HINT: Enter Kill* and choose the county from the dropdown list.

3. Find three townlands named after a hill.

ADVICE: www.johngrenham.com/places

4. Find three townlands named after a fort.

ADVICE: www.johngrenham.com/places

- 5. Find three townlands in your county named after a person or family.
- 6. List three Dublin streets whose names were changed just before or after Independence.

 ADVICE: Google

Answers: See page 31



Census

Census

Censuses are a necessary part of government. Without accurate information about how many people there are, where they are living and what ages they are, it is impossible to plan health services, public transport, taxation and many other essentials of life in an organised society.



THE FIRST KNOWN censuses were taken in ancient Babylon, almost 6,000 years ago. But they were also carried out by the ancient Egyptians, Greeks, Indians, Israelites, Chinese and Romans. In all cases, they were closely connected to taxation and public services.

Modern census-taking, based on scientific and statistical principles and recording much more than numbers and locations, began in the late eighteenth century and was firmly established as a necessary part of public administration by the middle of the nineteenth century. The normal practice - still recommended by the U.N - is for a census to be held every 10 years.

Apart from the information supplied by the householders filling out a census return, the nature of the questions asked can also reveal a good deal about the concerns of the government that designed it. For example, US censuses from 1800 to 1860 request great detail about the numbers of slaves in each household. From 1870, after slavery was abolished, these questions are replaced by questions about 'color'. From 1880, when mass immigration became a political issue, the birthplaces of each individual's father and mother are requested.

In Ireland every census since 1831 has asked for each individual's religion. This is in contrast to censuses in England, Scotland, Wales, Canada and the US, where

this question was not asked. Religion, specifically how many Catholics and Protestants there were, was a very, very important issue for governments during much of Ireland's history.

Why take censuses in Ireland?

Ireland became part of the United Kingdom after the Act of Union in 1800. Before then, public administration in Ireland was quite unsystematic. After 1800, London found itself in charge of a place about which it realised it knew very little. The early decades of the nineteenth century therefore saw a sustained effort to measure and record Ireland in a way that had never happened before.

The first true census in the new United Kingdom was taken in Ireland in 1821. Earlier headcounts had taken place in England and Wales, but this was the first census that we would recognise as modern, listing names and family relationships, occupations and addresses. It was certainly flawed - the enumerators were paid by the number of returns they produced, a serious incentive to invent - but it was complete for the entire island.

Censuses were then held every ten years, becoming more detailed and comprehensive as Victorian public administration grew in competence and reached into every corner of Ireland.

...The online census allows you to search any of the information on the original returns. However, it only searches for exactly what is in the transcript. So wild card searches are very important.

What happened to the Irish census returns?

By 1914, ten full censuses had been carried out in Ireland. The returns from 1861 and 1871 were destroyed shortly after they were taken, but there were still no fewer than eight full sets of returns in existence, the earliest four transferred to the Public Record Office, the others still held by the Office of the Registrar-General, the body responsible for census-taking after 1851.

Then things started to go wrong. First, at some point during the first World War, the Registrar-General ordered the 1881 and 1891 returns to be pulped, for reasons that are still unclear.

And then in June 1922, in the bombardment that began the Civil War, the Public Record Office in Dublin was destroyed and every single item held in its Strong Room, including almost all of the four earliest censuses, was obliterated without trace.

The only two censuses to survive in their entirety were from 1901 and 1911. Scraps from the earlier censuses that were not in the Strong Room - out for rebinding, in use in the Reading Room, not yet returned to their shelves - were also spared.

All of the surviving pre-1922 returns are now imaged and freely searchable at the National Archives of Ireland website, census.nationalarchives.ie

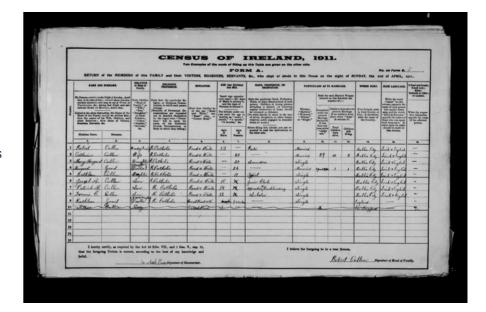
Searching online

First, you should keep in mind that online transcriptions always contain a certain number of errors: every human intervention creates a whole new layer of mistakes, which is why you should always look at the original record image. But that layer of mistakes is a price well worth paying for the ease of access that the census transcripts provide.

Wild cards: the online census allows you to search any of the information on the original returns. However, it only searches for exactly what is in the transcript. So wild card searches are very important. An asterisk ('*') can represent any sequence of letters and a question-mark can represent any letter. This can make all the difference in finding individuals. Remember just how slippery Irish surname spellings could be.

So, for example, if you are searching for the surname Donohue and want to catch variant spellings, enter 'D*n*h*e*'. This will give you all returns with the surnames Danahoe, Donohue, Donoghoe, Donahue, Donoughue ... Keep in mind that vowels are more subject to change than consonants.

You can use wild cards in any of the empty search boxes on the search form except 'Age'. This can be handy for slippery place-name spellings - Clouhane? Clohane? Clophane? - and for occupations: entering 'Nu*' in the occupation box finds everyone recorded as 'Nurse', 'Nurse Boarder', 'Maternity Nurse', 'Nurse domestic servant' etc.



Limiting by location:

You can limit your search to a particular county by choosing from the drop-down list. The 1901 and 1911 censuses were organised by District Electoral Division (DED), which can make it difficult to limit the search to a particular parish or district. However, you can browse the area. Identify a return for a place-name in the area, and take note of the DED. Then click 'Browse census' on the menu bar and navigate down to that DED. You will see a list of all place-names in the DED and can explore them one by one.

For 1901 and 1911, you can also go from the parish place-name listings at johngrenham.com to the returns for each place in the parish. If you are interested in a middle-sized town, you can use the DED search box. By default it gives all returns that contain a word you enter any place in the DED name. So, for example, entering 'Clonmel' in the DED box gives you all returns for Clonmel East Urban District, Clonmel West Urban District etc.

You can limit your search to a particular county by choosing from the drop-down list. The 1901 and 1911 censuses were organised by District Electoral Division (DED), which can make it difficult to limit the search to a particular parish.

Using all searchable fields:

One of the best features of the census website is the ability to search on all the information recorded. If you want to know the name of every blind publican in Ireland in 1911, it is very simple.

This means that for common surnames you can use any other information to narrow the number of possible matches. For example, there are 736 returns for a John Byrne in Dublin in 1911. There are 159 aged between 15 and 25. Only 19 of these are married. And only one of those 19 is a shoemaker.

Other advice:

A natural impulse is to enter every single piece of information at once, to get straight to the right return. This very often causes problems. All it takes is one little mistake in one piece of that information for the search to be unsuccessful. The more information you enter, the less you will find.

A more productive approach is often to start out as broad as possible, even with a surname alone, and then start to limit the results one step at a time.

Remember as well that the online search returns individuals, not households. You need to burrow down, preferably to the record-image, to see how they are related.

Tasks

- I. How many children called Ellen Ryan were there under II years of age in Waterford city and suburbs in 1911?
- 2. What was the full name of the Widow Kennedy of Sandwith Street, Lower, Dublin in 1911? Where was she born?
- 3. Who was the only pig dealer in Clonmel in 1911? Where did his family originate?
- 4. How many Moore households were there in the townland of 'Cloughane' in Co. Waterford in 1901?

- 5. How many people born in Co. Fermanagh were living in Tipperary on March 31st, 1901? Which of them was running a hotel and where?
- 6. The 1916 signatory Seán Mac Diarmada was living in Dublin in 1916. Where? How did he protest against the English-language-only census?
- 7. John Purcell was born in Dublin on May 29, 1902 and had a younger sister called Jane. Where was his family living in 1911?
 - ADVICE: Restrict by age and county of origin. Then search the households until you find one with a younger Jane.

- 8. What age was Seán Lemass in 1911 and where was he living?
 - ADVICE: Very few people used the Irish version of their names until later in the 20th century.
- 9. What was Seán Lemass' father's occupation as recorded in the 1901 census?

ADVICE: Unfamiliar surnames such as Lemass are often mistranscribed or misrecorded.

HINT: Search using wild cards, or browse the location where you think the return should be.

Answers: See page 31



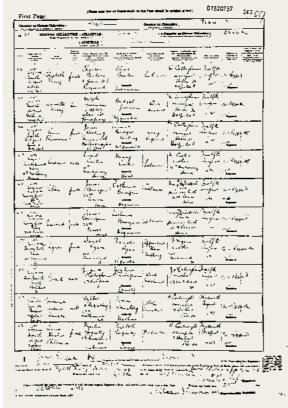
Civil Records

Civil Records

In the first half of the nineteenth century, the apparatus of state administration expanded greatly across what was then the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. Child labour was outlawed, civil service examinations were instituted and the supervision of inheritance moved from the church to the civil service, among other changes.



Of the three events recorded by the state, marriage records are by far the most informative



Why register births, marriages and deaths?

One result of the change was that citizens needed some official way to prove their identity, age and marital status when dealing with official bodies. So full registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in 1837 in England and Wales and in 1855 in Scotland

The system in Ireland & how it worked

In Ireland the registration of non-Roman Catholic marriages began in 1845, but the full registration system only came into operation in 1864. From then on, in theory at least, there was a legal obligation, enforced by fines, to register all births deaths and marriage with a local registrar within a short period after the event.

What information is collected?

From 1864 to 2004, the same items of information were recorded for each of the three events:

Births

- Name, sex, date and place of birth;
- · Name, surname, occupation & address of the father;
- Name, 'maiden surname' & address of the mother.

There was no legal obligation to register a first name, though the vast majority did.

Deaths

- Full name, occupation, date, place and cause of death of the deceased;
- Age at death of the deceased;
- Person registering the death and their 'qualification' (for example, 'present at death')

There was no obligation to register any family relationships, but the person registering the birth was very often related, and specified the relationship ('wife' or 'daughter', for example).

Marriages:

For each of the individuals marrying:

Full names, ages, marital status, occupations, addresses at the time of the marriage, fathers' names and fathers' occupations; of the three events, the most useful for genealogy is a marriage record, since it records the fathers' names on both sides.

Poor Law Unions and Registration Districts

The geographical areas used to collect civil registrations were (and still are) based on the old Poor Law Unions. Each Union was a district with a workhouse at its centre, usually situated in a large market town. From 1838 on, these workhouses were responsible for providing the barest of minimal support to the most destitute in their Union.

When the registration system started in 1864, it used the already-existing framework of the Poor Law Unions to subdivide Ireland into Superintendent Registrar's Districts, identical to the Unions. Each SRD was headed by a Superintendent Registrar and subdivided in turn into a number of local districts, run by a registrar who was answerable to the Superintendent.

The local registrars collected birth, marriage and death registrations in pre-printed volumes, just adding each event chronologically as it was registered. When a volume was full, they passed it to the Superintendent. He then had a copy made, sent that copy to his head office, the General Register Office in Dublin, and held on to the local registrar's copy.

How to research births, marriages & deaths offline

The copies of local registrations sent to Dublin were indexed. Up to 1878, a single printed alphabetical volume was produced for each year for each of the three events. From 1878, the volumes were sub-divided into quarters, so there were four volumes for each year.

These indexes were then made available to the public in the General Register Office Research Room in Dublin. Anyone had (and has) the right to inspect the indexes and purchase a copy of the full registration information for any index entry.

This is still the only way to do research on the GRO records offline, by visiting the GRO Research Room in Werburgh Street in Dublin, examining the indexes and purchasing copies of the original registrations. At least in theory. As well as the records in Dublin, the local registers are still held by Superintendent Registrars (now part of the HSE) and they sometimes permit research. Many local heritage centres have also made copies of the local registers.

...the Mormons have a strong belief in the continuity of the extended family in the afterlife and, as a consequence, members of the church have an obligation to carry out family history research.

What's online

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the Mormons, have a strong belief in the continuity of the extended family in the afterlife and, as a consequence, members of the church have an obligation to carry out family history research. As a result, the LDS Family History Library in Salt Lake City in Utah has been collecting copies of records useful to family history researchers for many decades.

Among those records is a full microfilm set of the

Irish GRO annual indexes, right up to 1958, and an incomplete microfilm set of the GRO copies of birth registrations. The Mormons' family history website, www.FamilySearch.org, has made the full set of indexes freely searchable and also hosts a free transcript of the names and dates from the first eighteen years of GRO birth registrations, 1864 - 1881.

The GRO indexes are also available on the genealogy website of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, www.irishgenealogy.ie. These are different to the Mormon copy in a number of important ways:

• They do not come up to 1958. Coverage stops 100 years ago for birth index entries (1916), 75 years ago for marriage index entries (1941) and 50 years ago for death index entries (1966).

- Between 1900 and 1916, the birth index entries record a precise date and the maiden name of the mother of the child. This can be very useful in reconstructing families.
- The Mormon site has difficulty with Irish geography, making it hard to confine a search to a particular region. This is much simpler on IrishGenealogy,ie
- Both sets of transcripts have mistakes. But they don't have the same mistakes.

Tasks

I. How many children called John Driscoll were born in Clonakilty district from 1902 to 1907? Which of them had a mother with the maiden name Hayes? How many other Driscoll children with a Hayes mother were registered in Clonakilty district between 1900 and 1916?

ADVICE: www.irishgenealogy.ie: 'More Search options' HINT: The search returns all records with the name John and the name Driscoll, not just all children called 'John Driscoll', so you'll have to count.

2. How many children called John Driscoll, whose mother's maiden name was Hayes, were born in Ireland between 1864 and 1882? How many brothers and sisters did the John Driscoll registered on 24 December 1870 have?

ADVICE: 1: FamilySearch: www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1584963. Under 'Search with a relationship', click on 'parents'. 2: Under 'Refine your search', take out 'John' and add Florence and Catherine to the parents' names boxes.

HINT: The Mormons have transcribed the same birth more than once, so you'll have to examine each record to see if it's a duplicate.

- 3. What was the maiden name of the mother of John Purcell, born in Dublin on May 29, 1902?
 - ADVICE: The civil birth indexes on IrishGenealogy.ie supply mother's maiden name after 1900.
- 4. How many of Seán Lemass' siblings were born after the 1911 census?

ADVICE: The civil birth indexes on IrishGenealogy.ie supply mother's maiden name after 1900.

HINT: Match the Lemass children recorded in 1901 and 1911 to the birth registrations.

Answers: See page 31



Church Records

Church Records

Before the start of civil registration for all in 1864, local church records are often the only direct records of family events, and so the only direct sources for family history. For this reason the starting dates of the local registers are very often as far back as Irish research can go.



Catholic and Anglican dioceses and parishes

When the Reformation was introduced into Ireland in the sixteenth century, the parish structures of the Roman Catholic Church and the Anglican Church of Ireland began to diverge. The Church of Ireland became the state Church, retained the old, medieval parishes and became in effect an arm of government.

The Roman Catholic Church, on the other hand, was weakened by the confiscation of its assets and the restrictions on its clergy, and so had to create larger and less convenient parishes. Eventually, this weakness allowed more flexibility. Catholic parishes could respond to new population centres and, in the nineteenth century, could adapt to reflect population change, splitting or shrinking as the size of its flock dictated.

The differences in the parish structures of the two churches are reflected in their records. Even allowing for the fact that members of the Church of Ireland were almost always a minority of the total population, the records of each parish are much less numerous than Roman Catholic records, covering a more restricted area, and so are relatively easy to search in detail. Catholic

records, by contrast, cover the majority of the population and much larger geographical areas, and as a result can be very time-consuming to search in detail by hand.

The creation of new Catholic parishes in the nineteenth century can also mean that the registers relevant to a particular area may be split between two parishes.

Both Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parishes are organised into dioceses, on a plan first laid out in the Synod of Kells in the Middle Ages. Their dioceses remain almost identical, although the Catholic system has amalgamated some of the smaller medieval dioceses.

What was recorded and why?

Church records are mainly concerned with baptisms, marriages and burials.

Baptisms

Baptisms inducted a child into their religion: only a baptised member of the church could enter heaven. Because child mortality was so high among the poorest, Catholic baptisms tended to take place very soon after birth, sometimes even on the same day. Many Church

of Ireland baptisms were postponed until the children were capable of understanding the ceremony.

All baptismal records give the date of baptism, the child's name and the parents' names. Most Catholic records supply the mother's maiden name, an address,

Until 1845, almost all marriage registers record a bare minimum of information: the date and the people marrying. Catholic registers also supply the names of witnesses and, sometimes, an address.

and the names of two godparents, or 'sponsors'. Most Church of Ireland baptisms do not record the mother's maiden name - which can be an obstacle to research - but they often supply fathers' occupations, especially in urban areas.

Marriages

Until Catholic Emancipation in 1829, in theory the only valid marriages were those carried out by the state church, the Church of Ireland. In practice this was widely ignored. For many years before then, Catholic priests had been recording marriages.

Until 1845, almost all marriage registers record a bare minimum of information: the date and the people marrying. Catholic registers also supply the names of witnesses and,

sometimes, an address. Church of Ireland registers regularly supply only the names of the two people and the date.

After 1845, Church of Ireland clergy began to act as civil registrars in the recording of all non-Catholic marriages. Civil marriage records include precise addresses and, most important for family history, the names of the fathers of both people getting married.

From the mid-1850s, most Dublin city Catholic parishes also began to record the names and addresses, not just of fathers, but also mothers, along with their precise address. In a few other locations (Kerry, in particular) officiating priests began to do the same.

From 1864, all marriages have both a civil and religious record. Usually, the civil record is more informative. The big exception remains Dublin city Catholic marriages, with details of both parents and their addresses.

Burials

The Church of Ireland had effective ownership of all graveyards until the early 19th century, though many Catholic families retained traditional burial rights. Perhaps for this reason, most Catholic parishes did not keep burial registers, while almost all Church of Ireland parishes did. In any case, burial records are rarely of much value for family history, almost never specifying family connections.

Researching the records online

- The largest free online collection of transcripts and images from church records is at www.irishgenealogy.ie, which has:
- Page images and transcripts of Catholic records for Dublin city and west Cork
- Transcripts only for Kerry Catholic records.
- Page images and transcripts of Church of Ireland records for Kerry, Carlow and Dublin city.

 By default, searches are carried out on variant spellings of the surnames in the records and variant spellings (including Latin versions) of the forenames.

It is important not to be too precise when filling out the search form. The more exact the information you enter, the less you will find. You will be more successful if you start off broadly, perhaps only with a surname, and then begin to narrow the search using dates, locations and forenames. Trawl wide, then winnow.

- 2. Almost all Catholic parish registers before 1880 have been microfilmed by the National Library of Ireland. The images from all these microfilms are at registers.nli.ie. These are page images only as yet no full transcriptions have been made.
- 3. A complete list of Catholic registers, copies and transcripts is at www.johngrenham.com
- 4. A complete list of surviving Church of Ireland registers is at ireland.anglican.org/about/192

Tasks

| ıa. | How many Catholic baptismal records in Co. |
|-----|---|
| | Kerry between 1830 and 1839 contain the words |
| | 'Patrick' and 'McElligot' or variants? |

- ib. How many of these are in Ballylongford parish?
- IC. How many of these are actually baptisms of a Patrick McElligott (or variant)?
- Id. How many are of the precise name 'Patrick McElligott'?

ADVICE: www.irishgenealogy.ie

HINT: Just use the name. Then narrow by place and decade.

Seán O'Casey's parents were Michael and Susan and he was born in the last few decades of the 19th century.

- 2a. When and where was he baptised?
- 2b. Who were his brothers and sisters?
- 2c. When were his parents married?
- 2d. What was his mother's maiden surname?

ADVICE: His baptism almost certainly uses the English version of the name. Then www.irishgenealogy.ie

HINT: Fill in the child's name as Casey, one parent's name as 'Michael Casey' and the other as 'Susan'. For the marriage, search for Michael Casey, spouse, Susan.

- 3a. When were the parents of John Purcell (born in Dublin on May 29, 1902) married?
- 3.b When and were was his father born?
- 3c. What was his grandmother's maiden name?
- 3d. How many brothers and sisters did his father have?
- 3e. When were his father's parents married?
- 3f. What were their fathers' names?

ADVICE: www.irishgenealogy.ie

You know his father's name from the census module.
You know his mother's maiden name from the General
Register Office module.

HINT B: The marriage gives you his parents' names and address. The census gives you county and approximate vear of birth.

HINT C: The answer is in the baptismal record.

HINT D: 'More search options' for all baptisms recording the same parents as John's father.

HINT E,F: 'More search options'

4. What was Seán Lemass' mother's maiden name?

ADVICE: He was born in Ballybrack, so his baptism is not in IrishGenealogy.ie. Look up the baptism of his older brother Noel instead.

Again the surname is mis-transcribed. Use wildcards, and remember that vowels are where mistakes usually happen.

5. What were Sean Lemass's grandparents' names?

ADVICE: From the mid-1850s, most Dublin Catholic marriage records supply the names of the parents of the bride and groom. The census records will give you a rough idea of when the marriage happened.

HINT: Presume the surname is mis-transcribed. And trawl with a broad net.

6. What were the names of Sean Lemass's great-grandparents on his father's side?

ADVICE: Find the marriage of John Lemass and Clara Murphy HINT: www.irishgenealogy.ie

7. What were the names of Sean Lemass's great-grandparents on his mother's side?

ADVICE: Again, a marriage record is what you want. But they weren't married in Dublin city, so the state registers of marriages are what you need. There's a partial transcript on www.FamilySearch.org.

Hint: www.familysearch.org/search

Answers: See page 31



Property Records

Property Records

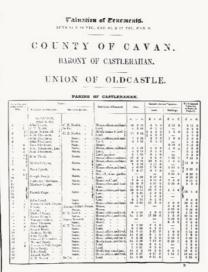
If the 19th-century census returns had survived, no-one would give two hoots about property records. But as things stand, they are the only (near) comprehensive listings of who lived where in Ireland before civil registration began in 1864.





What are they?

Property records consist of two very different sets of records, the Tithe Applotment Books (1823 to 1838), and Griffith's Valuation (1847 to 1864); both records were designed for tax collection.



Griffith's Valuation

What was recorded and when?

The Tithe Books are the result of an attempt to survey agricultural property parish-by-parish across Ireland in order to assess the tax ('tithe') payable on agricultural produce to local Church of Ireland clergy. Because the Church of Ireland was the

state church, everyone was liable to pay the tithe, not just Church members. This caused much controversy, with many people refusing to pay, and leading to a 'Tithe War' in the late 1820s and 1830s, mainly in Munster and south Leinster.

Because they assess agricultural productivity, the Books are far from comprehensive, because they omit all urban areas. But a large majority of the population was rural, and the Books record the poorest, who bore the heaviest burden of tithes. And they are all we have.

Griffith's Valuation is much more comprehensive. It was an attempt to value all built and agricultural property in Ireland in order to levy a property tax. The process leading up to it included the standardisation of placenames in English, the detailed mapping of the Ordnance Survey and the establishment of a network of local valuations teams to carry out the survey. The results were published between 1847 and 1864, with Munster counties published earliest and Ulster counties latest.

Researching the records online

The Tithe Books for the 26 counties of the Republic are free online at the National Archives of Ireland genealogy site. They are browsable by county and then, within county, by civil parish and townland. You can search by name, parish and county: remember, like the census search, no variants are permitted. The original spelling of many personal names and place-names could be very elastic, and there are plenty of mis-transcriptions as well. You will need to use plenty of wild-cards.

Griffith's Valuation for the entire island of Ireland is free online at www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation. You can search by personal name or place-name. No variants are permitted in either case, no wild-cards are allowed and there is no 'Browse' access. In addition, the personal name search trawls through all the names in every record, covering landlords, sub-lettors and tenants indiscriminately. If you are searching for a common name, this can be very cumbersome.

To browse by place-name, you can click directly to the relevant record from the parish listing of places returned at www.johngrenham.com/places

Understanding the records

The Tithe Books contain very little of direct family interest. Most of each record is concerned with dividing the land into different categories, each of which is then valued differently to produce a total payment (in pounds, shillings and pence) owed by each occupier.

The most useful information is the certainty that the individual named was in occupation of the holding when the Book was produced. The website gives a year. The precise date can be found inside either the front of back cover of each book, where the local vicar had to sign and date.

Griffith's is also mainly focused on producing an annual valuation, an amount of money that each holding is theoretically capable of producing in a year. The tax payable was then set by locally elected representatives as a percentage of that annual valuation. Griffith's remained the basis of local county-by-county property taxes ('The Rates') until the system was abolished in 1977.

Unlike the Tithe Books, Griffith's was carried out scientifically and thoroughly. It listed every occupier of property on the island of Ireland, from the lowliest mud cabin to the grandest of Georgian mansions. The only exception was multiple occupancy tenements in urban areas, generally slums.

Because it is so comprehensive, Griffith's can be a very useful census substitute. It is a fair presumption that where someone is recorded as occupying a house, they were the head of that household, since they would be liable for any tax due.

Griffith's also records the name of the person the occupier was leasing the property from, the area of land and a brief standardised description. It also provides a key, in the left-most column to the holding as marked out on the accompanying maps.

Tasks

I. How big was Martin Mularky's farm in the townland 3. Someone tells you their great-great grandfather, '[?] of Shanballymore in Galway in 1855?

ADVICE: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation HINT: Use either the personal name (note the peculiar spelling) or the place-name.

2. John Coyne was a tenant farmer in the townland of Gortnagunned in Co. Galway in 1855. Who were his neighbours? Who was his landlord?

ADVICE: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation HINT: Use either the personal name or the place-name. Hession' came from 'KNOCKBALLYFISHTAIL' in Co. Galway. What was his actual address and name?

ADVICE: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation HINT: Use a wild-card search at www.johngrenham.com/ places/ to get the right spelling of the placename.

How many householders were there in the townland on Killeenavera in Limerick in 1851-1852?:

ADVICE: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation HINT: Look at how many people actually occupy a house 5. How many John Burkes are recorded in Co. Mayo in the Tithe Applotment Books? How many in the parish of Aglish? How many in Aughalusky townland? How big was the holding?

ADVICE: titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie

Answers: See page 31



Military Records

MAGE: IMAGE: The National Archives of Ireland

Military Records

The Bureau of Military
History is the oral history
of participants in the
nationalist struggle
between 1913 and 1921.

The 1770 statements were made between 1948 and 1954. They comprise 35,000 pages of typescript, now fully searchable for free online. There are also ca. 600 photographs, 12 voice recordings, and offline, a wealth of contemporary documents donated to the Bureau. You can search for people and places familiar to you to get a vibrant picture of what was going on during the revolutionary period. The records can be found at bureauofmilitaryhistory.ie.

The **Military Service Pensions Project** exists to catalogue and digitise ca. 285,000 files dealing with applications for pensions from those active on the nationalist side between 1916 and 1923. They are extraordinarily detailed records of events at the

time, requiring a high standard of verification, and are accompanied by a wealth of ancillary material gathered by the assessors to aid them in their deliberations, including detailed maps of battle sites.

The first tranche of these files, released in 2013, comprised all of the 1916 claimants. The files are searchable by people, places and key words. The records can be found on the military archives pensions collection.



Witness Statement, Louise Gavan Duffy, 1916

Tasks

Bureau of Military History

- 1a. Louise Gavan Duffy was one of the founders of Cumann na mBan. What was the first thing she said to Patrick Pearse when she went to the GPO on Easter Monday?
 - ADVICE: Examine her witness statement at the <u>Bureau</u> of Military History website.
- ib. According to John McDonagh (brother of Thomas), at what time precisely did the Volunteers set out from Liberty Hall to occupy Jacob's factory?
 - ADVICE: Examine his witness statement at the Bureau of Military History website.
- Ic. Where was Leslie Price (Mrs Tom Barry) when Pearse read the Proclamation in the GPO?
 - ADVICE: Examine her witness statement at the <u>Bureau</u> of Military History website.

Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection

Pension file for Grace Plunkett (nee Grace Gifford), claiming a military service pension for activities and imprisonment during the period 1916 -23.

Grace Plunkett was the widow of Joseph Mary Plunkett, one of the signatories of the 1916 Proclamation, whom she married in Kilmainham Jail the night before his execution. She was a talented cartoonist, who published in The Shanachie, Irish Life, Meadowstreet and The Irish Review. After Plunkett's death, she continued as a Republican activist and cartoonist. She never remarried, and died in 1955.

- 2a. What does Grace Plunkett say she was doing between July 1921 and June 1922?
 - HINT: p.7 of her application form.

- 2b. Where does Grace Plunkett say she was from February to August 1923?
 - HINT: p.8 of her application form
- 2c. Grace was seeking a pension in her own right. What was she paid as the widow of Joseph Plunkett?
 - ADVICE: p15 of her application form.
- 2d. She gives Mrs. Austin Stack as one of her referees for this period. Who was she and who was her husband?
 - ADVICE: Dictionary of Irish Biography: available online to all schools.
- 2e. What reason does she give for an increase in that amount? Whose wife and children does she mention as getting much more than she is?

німт: pi6 of her application form

Answers: See page 31

British Army Records

The British Army has been in existence for more than three centuries and over much of that time Irishmen comprised a large proportion of its recruits. One estimate for the mid-nineteenth century is that 40% of the men serving in the military were born in Ireland.

One estimate for the midnineteenth century is that 40% of the men serving in the military were born in Ireland.

All armies are notoriously bureaucratic and the British Army is the mother of them all. There are mountains of records, listing millions of men. Almost all the originals are held at the British National Archives in Kew. Many Irishmen served in the regiments that specialised in recruitment in Ireland or had their regimental depots here, the 'Irish regiments', but they also could be found throughout the army. The best guide to the (disbanded) British Army Irish regiments is on the Irish Military Archives website.

Officers

The biggest distinction in all of the records is between commissioned officers and 'other ranks'. Officers are very well served. Annual printed army lists recording all officers exist from 1740 and are downloadable from the British National Archives website. Many of the other records they left are summarised in the Archive's online catalogue, discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Enlisted Men

The most complete accessible records are those recording army discharges. Before 1883, these only record men who were to receive a pension. After that year, they record everyone discharged and often include details of place of enlistment and next of kin.

Each regiment made a quarterly return of all personnel from the early eighteenth century to 1878. From the 1860s, these also included details of wives and children living in married quarters. It is necessary to know the regiment before using these records, which can be a serious obstacle.

The index to regimental registers of births, 1761-1924, gives the regiment and place of birth of children born to the wives of serving soldiers, if they were attached to the regiment. There are online subscription-only copies on FindMyPast.co.uk and thegenealogist.co.uk.

World War One

The best overview of service records relating to World War One is on thegreatwar.co.uk



Major General Ennis (with Thompson gun) and Comdt. McCreagh disembarking from the Lady Wicklow at Passage West. 1922



British soldiers searching trains on the Kerry line for republicans. 1921

What's Online For World War One

The British National Archives has done deals with FindMyPast.co.uk and Ancestry.co.uk to digitise their military records. In general, records before 1915 are on FindMyPast and those after 1915 on Ancestry, meaning that the majority of (surviving) WWI service records are on Ancestry. These boundaries are not rigid, however. Every soldier who served in WWI was awarded a service medal and those who saw action received a medal for each campaign. TNA has an online index, but images of the originals are only available on Ancestry.

The Commonwealth War Graves Commission maintains graves in more than 150 countries covering more than 925,000 individuals, members of the forces of the Commonwealth killed in the two World Wars. Their website includes extensive details on those buried. Ireland's Memorial Records (Dublin, 1923) is an eight-volume commemorative publication listing the Irish men and women killed during the war and those of other nationalities who died while serving with Irish regiments. It is not, however, a complete list of all Irishmen killed while serving in the War. It is freely searchable online at imr.inflandersfields.be/search.html.

Every regiment kept a war diary, giving details of postings and engagements. Some, but not all, have been digitised by TNA. Those for Gallipoli and the Dardanelles, as well as some from the Western Front, are on Ancestry. You may find extracts on some websites dedicated to the Irish in WWI:

www.royaldublinfusiliers.com, greatwar.ie and others.

Tasks

- 3a. Who was the only Lemass to be killed as part of the British forces in the First World War? What age was he when he was killed?
 - HINT: the Commonwealth War Graves Commission
- 3b. Daniel McCarthy was killed in action on May 2 1915. Where was he from? Where is his memorial? What was his regiment and service number?
 - HINT: the Commonwealth War Graves
 Commission and Ireland's Memorial Records.
- 3c. Joseph Brady was court-martialled in November 1916 for allowing a prisoner to escape from Portobello Barracks in Dublin. What was the prisoner's name? What happened to Joseph?
 - HINT: the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.
- 3d. How many men called John Murphy were awarded medals for being part of the British forces in the First World War?
 - HINT: the UK national Archives Medal card index.
- 3e. Where was the regimental depot of the cavalry regiment, the North Irish Horse? What was its original name?
 - HINT: the Irish Military Archives guide to Irish regiments in the British Army.

Answers: See page 31

Answers

Answers

Task answers

Surnames

6: 85

Census

- Three [Enter the name, '5' in the Age box and Waterford in the DED]
- 2: Anne Kennedy. Wexford.
- 3: Patrick Sweetman. Co. Waterford
- 4: Two. [Surname: Moore; County: Waterford; Townland/Street: Cl*h*n*; 13 individuals, but only two households]
- 5: 72. Peter McBride in Thurles.
- 6: Russell Street. [Transcription of entries in the old Cló Gaelach was difficult: search on the surname alone first.]
- 7: Gardiner Street Lower
- 8: 11 years old; Capel Street
- 9: Answer: Hatter and outfitter http://census.nationalarchives.ie/ reels/naioo3771921/

Civil Records

- I: a) http://goo.gl/tk44fQ, b) John born Nov 19 1904, c) http://goo.gl/sDJGLF
- 2: 1. 7 https://goo.gl/6DkAZw; 5 https://goo.gl/TYxU8p
- 3: Kent. http://goo.gl/8oA6ht
- 4: Frances (1911), Herbert (1914)

Church Records

- 1a. 64; 1b. 30; 1c. 5; 1d. 1
- 2a. St. Mary's Dublin, July 28 1880. He had two elder brothers also called John born in 1871 and 1876;
- 2b. Isabella, Michael, Thomas, Isaac and Joseph
- 2c. 27 January 1863
- 2d. Archer
- 3a. June 30, 1901 (http://goo.gl/ LV5vs8)
- 3b. 23 November 1871. Derrymore, Tralee.
- 3c. Shea; 3d. 9; 3e. Sept 3 1867
- 3f. Patrick Purcell and John Shea

- 4. Phelan (http://goo.gl/oVwmiC)
- 5. John Lemass and Clara Murphy.
 Denis Phelan and Rosanna
 Hughes (http://goo.gl/3KyP7n)
- 6. Peter and Ellen Lemass, Timothy and Elizabeth Murphy (http://goo.gl/GQEeFM)
- Matthew Phelan and Patrick Hughes (https://goo.gl/azAvGD)

Property Records

- 1: 15 acres, 12 perches,
- 2: Landlord: William White, neighbours: Michael Coyne, Michael Devan, Michael Hernon
- 3: Knockballyvishteal, Tuam civil parish, Myles Hussion,
- 4: 6, not 7 John Carroll is recorded as occupying land only,
- 5: 44. 8. 1. 117 acres, 1 rood, 23 perches

Military records

Pt. 1—Bureau of Military History

- 1a. "The Rebellion is a frightful mistake".
- ib. "At twelve exactly". (page 9)
- ic. In the Post Office

Pt. 2—Military Service (1916-1923) Pensions Collection

- 2a. Production of political cartoons and collecting for Republican cause. Attended to wounded at Tara Hall, Gloucester St., Dublin week commencing 28th June 1922.
- 2b. Kilmainham Jail and North Dublin Union.
- 2c. £180 per year.
- 2e. Arthur Griffith's wife and children.

Pt.2-British army records

3a: Herbert Lemass, first cousin once removed of Seán Lemass. 19

- 3b: Monaghan. Ypres (Menin Gate) memorial. Royal Irish Fusiliers, 7856
- 3c: Shine. he was acquitted, but was killed in 1917
- 3d: 1028
- 3e: Belfast. The North of Ireland Imperial Yeomanry

Credits

2016 Family History workbook

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