

What's Free in Irish Research  
Presentation to the Silicon Valley Computer Genealogy Group  
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**FamilySearch.org**

Use the Wiki to search for Ireland research videos. A short video, Ireland Census and Census Substitutes is especially good about describing what census records are available and what substitutes survive.

**Ireland Census Records 1901 and 1911 Plus Census Fragments**

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Detailed guide to census pages – located on the lower right on Search page under the Help heading. Many options for information.

Search the Census: Example - William Flood - Kilkeel – Moyad  
The census records offer an easy correction feature.

Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland – covers major cities and includes historical images.

Browse the Census: Select year to browse. Counties available will show next.

Calendars of Wills and Administration – Free images of summary pages or books.  
<http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/introduction-to-genealogy/>

1858 – 1920 Images of book pages only.

Search: Curran – Dublin. Summary page first then click on Image.

1922 – 1982 Complete book images only, listed by calendar year. Select year then on the following page click on PDF link. These are not indexed but are in alphabetical order.

**Tithe Applotment Books**

<http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp>

This covers the years 1823 – 37 so it can be a good substitute for missing census records. A good explanation of the Tithe Applotment Books is on the main page. You can Search or Browse the books.

Search example: Thomas Doyle – Dublin

Browse: This option is helpful if you know the location, especially if the townland is known, and if you have not found someone using the Search option.

Browse example: Carlow – Baltinglas - Baltinglas

**Church Records**  
[irishgenealogy.ie](http://irishgenealogy.ie)

Dublin, Kerry, Cork and Carlow – Free. After clicking on Search click on the link to see the Current List of Available Parishes. The next page has links to each county with the list of townlands and years covered for BMD's.

On the Search page enter your information. Most records have images and are available for download. Click on More Search Options for an advanced search or you can Browse the entire collection.

Search example: Frizwood Richards – Dublin

Pointing to a search result gives a summary of that record. Click on the link for the full record and the link to the image. Sometimes there is no image shown but there is a second listing for a person. The second listing usually has the image.

**Useful Links**

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National Army Census 1922. Republic of Ireland only. Good substitute for the not yet released 1926 census.

Search for a surname – download a page from results.

Search example: Curran - John

Search on Maps – can download a complete book for an area.

Click on the link at the bottom of each map section for a list of locations.

Also on the main page you can search the Military Service Pension Collection, 2nd Release. Click on that link and then on Search the Entire Collection at the bottom of the page and again on the following page.

Search example: Curran - William

The following page gives very detailed, transcribed information about that person. Click on the link on that page for the actual image. Great personal and historical information if you find a relative.

Ireland – Australia Transportation (Convicts) Database. From the Home page, scroll down and use the Search template. This one search will give results for all of the linked databases at this site, plus a few not listed.

Search example: Curran – Dublin

Search results here are transcribed information only.

Church of Ireland Link. Many links here to COI records. There is a Genealogy section with numerous links to aid your search.

**Boston Pilot Newspaper**  
<http://infowanted.bc.edu/>

From 1831 until 1921 The Boston Pilot printed a "Missing Friends" column with advertisements from people looking for "lost" friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the U.S..

Search example: James Edward Keelin

### **Public Records Office Northern Ireland (PRONI)**

<http://www.proni.gov.uk/>

On the main page the list of online records in the column on the upper right.

Will Calendars: Click on Will Calendars. The next page will give you the information on what is available. Then click on Search the Will Calendars.

Search example: Margaret Flood – Belfast

Search example: Hugh Nelson - Londonderry

### Valuation Revision Books:

On the main page click on Valuation Books and on the following screen click on Search. On the search page enter the following:

Search example: Place name: Aughrim (townland) – County: Down – Parish - Kilkeel.

The results page gives location information for each record plus From and To dates for each. I chose 1909 to 1923. Clicking on the PRONI Reference number brings up the first page of that book. You can move forward one or ten pages at a time. There is also a link to the index page which helps you (somewhat) to get to your page if you know the townland. Pointing to the image enlarges it and clicking on Image on the left of the page gives provides a larger image. Pages can be downloaded for free. I have not found a way to download a complete book. It is a tedious process going through to find a relative but well worth it when you find a your record.

Street Directories: Click on Street Directories and the following page shows all that are available. Click on Search the Directories. In the Keywords box enter a surname, a street name or a location. In the drop down menu select a directory year.

Search example: Cunningham – Kilkeel – Belfast and Ulster 1890

The result is two pages showing a description of Kilkeel (the town) and a couple of Cunningham's. Both Cunningham's were living in town. It does not appear that these directories list everyone in an area, only those living in town.

PRONI Guides: Numerous online PDF guides to help in your search and in how to use this site.

### **General Register Office (GRO) Republic of Ireland \$**

<https://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/General-Register-Office.aspx>

The central civil repository for births, marriages and deaths. You can perform on-site research using civil registration indexes and can purchase records identified in the indexes. These indexes are on FHL films and also on Ancestry.com. Certificates can be ordered online or by mail. There are no searchable databases on this site. Pages can be printed or downloaded for free.

The records available are as follows:

Index to BMDs: 1864 – 1921 Certificates are not available for all years.

Non-Roman Catholic marriages from 1 April 1845 to 31 Dec. 1863.

### **General Register Office Northern Ireland (GRONI) \$**

<http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/general-register-office-for-northern-ireland>

Similar in operation to the GRO in the Republic of Ireland. Records are available for the following:

Births: 1864 – 1996 Digitized image of the register

Births 1997 current: Transcribed image

Death: 1864 – 1996 Digitized image of the register

Death: 1997 current: Transcribed image

Marriage: 1 April 1845 – 1st Quarter 2004: digitized image of register

Marriage: 2nd Quarter 2004 current: transcribed image

To search for records both online and in the public search room, you need credits in your account. You use credits to search and view records. You can not buy records certificates using credits. There are three levels of search results: basic, enhanced and full, each giving more information to help narrow a search. It takes 5 credits to view full results. A credit is approximately \$0.60 USD.

### **Griffith's Valuation**

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

Griffith's Valuation was the first full scale valuation of property in Ireland and was published from 1847 and 1864. It can be used as a census substitute for 1851 and 1861. There are two ways to view these records, the above URL and Ancestry.com. At AskAboutIreland you can only print the page. If you want a digital image you will need to use Ancestry.com.

Griffiths Search example: Surname search – William Flood – Mourne – Kilkeel

Map are from the Ordnance Survey maps and with a current Google Maps overlay.

Place Name search – Aughrim – Down – Kilkeel – lists everyone in that townland

A map showing the Griffith's release dates by county is available through Claire Santry's Irish Genealogy Toolkit listed later.

Griffith's Valuation Explanation– Excellent, detailed description.

<http://www.leitrim-roscommon.com/GRIFFITH/Griffiths.PDF>

### **County Kerry Burials**

<http://www.kerryburials.is/en/Index.aspx>

At this site there are 140 Kerry Local Authority cemeteries. No church or privately owned cemeteries are available. There are 168 scanned burial books with 70,000 indexed burial records. There are three ways to search: by name, by browsing or by location.

Search example: Murphy

These are PDF images and can be downloaded for free, and they are in color.

The second search option is Browse. Click on Browse and a drop down menu appears with the complete list of cemeteries. Select one and click Search. The result is a link to the complete downloadable PDF burial book for that cemetery. These are generally large files and too large to show in this example. Having the complete book allows you to read through it looking for more relatives.

The last search option is the Locate link. Clicking on this brings up a Google map of County Kerry. Displayed are pointers to every cemetery on this website. Clicking on a pointer identifies the cemetery. Google Map, Satellite and Street View are available. If you know the name of a cemetery but don't know where it is located click on the name in the column on the right and it will locate the cemetery for you on the Google map. Search example: Galey

### **Ireland Genealogy Projects (IGP)**

<http://www.igp-web.com/>

This website is similar to RootsWeb and other sites. It covers all counties in Ireland. As with other similar sites the quality of each counties information depends on the volunteers who organize and transcribe information.

Example – County Carlow

### **Glasnevin Cemetery Dublin \$**

<http://www.glasnevintrust.ie/>

Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin has more than 1.5 million burials. Almost all records are indexed and most have images. To search, click on the Genealogy link at the top of the main page. The options to purchase records are: Standard (Record Only), Standard + Image and Extended. Hope that your search shows Extended because that indicates that there are additional people buried in that plot. The fee is based on what records you select. The fee is very reasonable especially if there are multiple burials with images.

Genealogy Search example: Thomas Doyle – 1875

### **Failte Romhat**

[www.failteromhat.com](http://www.failteromhat.com)

Especially useful for County Cork but this site has loads of information on all parts of Ireland. Click on Original Index at the bottom of the main page for a complete list of available databases. You can search the complete database from the Search box at the top of the main page but the results can be overwhelming.

Example: Click on Selected Irish Marriage Records 1600 – 1900

On the following screen click on “click here”. To quickly search for a surname hit “Ctrl” and “F” to bring up a search box. Then begin typing a surname.

Example: Taylor and Skinner Road Map of Ireland 1778. Click on the map link the “Click here to view images”. Click on Pg 4 at the bottom of the page to see the first map. To Save right click and select Save Image As. Good quality images.

## **Irish Genealogy Toolkit**

[www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com](http://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com)

This site is run by Claire Santry who writes for Irish Roots Magazine and others. A thorough review of this site would take a complete class in itself. I will highlight a couple of areas. Part way down the main page click on Top 10 Free Websites. Then click on the last link, to the Irish Townlands Database. If you know a townland name but you don't know where it is located, this link may help to solve your problem. Enter a townland and select your sorting options.

Search example: Aughrim

If you only know a county of origin click on Church Records to help you find the parish. Scroll down to "Where to Start" and click on "finding the exact place of origin. There is too much to cover in this presentation. Follow the instructions presented here and hopefully you'll be able to narrow down the location.

There is a link on the main page to Claire's blog, Irish Genealogy News. This is a good source of what's new.

## **County Clare Library**

<http://www.clarelibrary.ie/>

One of the best free libraries in Ireland. There is an enormous amount of transcribed information here. This is another site that could take a whole class to adequately review. On the main page, in the box titled County Clare, click on Genealogy and Family History to access online records. This site has some records dating back to the 1500's.

## **Surname Distribution**

Special Report on Surnames in Ireland by Robert Matheson, 1894 – Free PDF at Archive.org (4 Mb). 29<sup>th</sup> annual report of surname distribution in all of Ireland. Data is from the births index of 1890. Results are by surname and counties. This may help you to narrow down where a relative lived in Ireland. Use Cntrl "f" to search.

## **Varieties, Synonyms of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland**

By Matheson - From the 1901 Census. Some names searchable but all in alphabetical order. Great source of alternate spellings to use with the above book with surname distributions. There is a surname index about half way through, which is the end of this book. This book was downloaded from the FHL database on their computers (14 Mb).

## **Irish Family History Foundation \$**

<http://www.rootsireland.ie/index.php?id=clann>

This is not a free site but they do have a free quarterly eNewsletter in PDF format. On the main page, in the Getting Started box, click on Clann eNewsletter. All of the 2014 and the January 2015 issues are currently available.

## **Genuki Ireland**

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/>

Again, similar to RootsWeb and other sites as it has transcribed data provided by volunteers. Each counties information will be different.

**Book Recommendations:**

Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet – A Guide for Family Historians

By Chris Patton ISBN 178159184-9 U.S. \$19.95

Covers the latest websites for all counties in Ireland plus those that cover all of Ireland. Not all are represented equally but it all depends on the county. Highly recommended.

Tracing Your Irish Ancestors 4th Edition

By John Grenham ISBN 0-80631768-X \$36

Possibly the best all around reference on Irish research. Highly recommended.

A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

By Brian Mitchell

ISBN 978-0-8063-1684-0 \$22

Maps of every county showing Civil Parishes, Baronies, Poor Law Unions, Roman Catholic Parishes and Presbyterian Congregations. Good reference.