# TRACING YOUR IRISH ANCESTORS

Cass County Public Library - Genealogy Branch

# **GETTING STARTED**

## Research your Irish ancestors the same way you would research any ancestor

- Start with yourself and work backwards
- Look for clues in basic American records (vital, military, census records, etc.)
- Determine your earliest Irish ancestor in America
- Figure out where to look for records in Ireland
- Then use Irish records to continue your research

*Tip: Look for records that provide specific locations* 

## While Looking for Clues in American Records, Be Sure to Check These:

#### **US Census Records**

Be sure to check, where applicable:

- Nativity section (i.e. ancestor's birthplace, their parents' birthplaces)
- Citizenship section (i.e. dates of immigration and naturalization)

## Example: 1930 US Federal Census, Rochester City, Monroe County, New York

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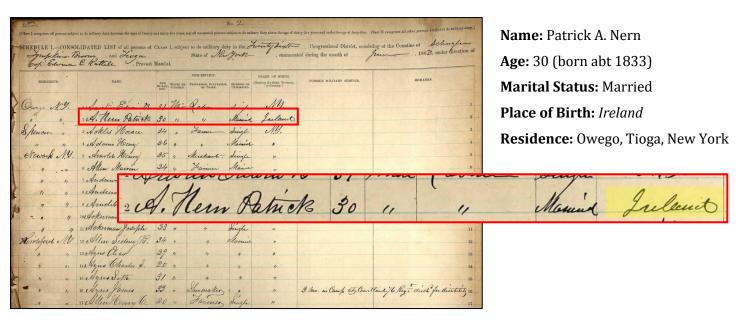
**Research Tip:** Based on the information provided here, both John P. Clarke and his wife Mary will have separate immigration papers, due to the nature of the naturalization process at the time, it is likely only John will have naturalization papers. As enumerated, he has already begun the process by filing his "First Papers," meaning a document called a "Declaration of Intent" was filed in court prior to March 27, 1930, the date of enumeration for this Census.

## **Military Records**

Always check for the individual's birthplace on any record, including:

- Registration
- Muster Rolls
- Pensions
- WWI & WWII Draft Cards

Example: Civil War Draft Card, June 1863 - Schuyler, Tompkins, Broome, and Tioga Counties, New York



Example: WWI Dra	aft Card, June 1917	draing 28 REGISTRATION CARD N.Q.
Name: Peter Henr	ry Acton, 24	1 Name in full Peter Genry action 24
Born: 17 February	7 1893	2 Ham Belifden Balwayte Freland
Birthplace: Clifde	en, Co. Galway, Ireland	Date of birth JUMANY (1947)  Are you (1) a natural-hern cliner, if a naturalised clines, (2) an alon, (4) or laws you declared your
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**Research Note:** WWI and II Draft Cards can be good sources of information for immigrant ancestors. Here, we get Peter's date of birth, birthplace and residence in Ireland, and naturalization status. With this information, you may find immigration and naturalization documents – and he provides detailed locations to begin your search in Irish records.

# **GETTING STARTED**

From 1848-1950, over 6 million people emigrated from Ireland, 2.5 million through the port of Queenstown (*known as Cobh post-1920s*), County Cork alone

Colonial immigration records available: Passenger and Immigration Lists Index, William Filby

#### **Passenger Lists**

- Starting in 1820, the US government mandated the use of passenger lists
- Earlier records are typically indexed or in book form rather than digitized
- Prior to 1900s, mostly handwritten and provide less detail
- Names on these manifests were typically as the passenger provided
  - Any name changes, "Americanization," or significant spelling variations came from the passenger, not the immigration official
  - Handwritten records are notorious for having questionable transcribing *remember to try spelling variations or browsing and filter options when searching for pre-1900s passenger lists*

## Commonly used arrival ports:

- New York
- Baltimore
- Boston
- Philadelphia
- New Orleans
- Great Lakes

## New York Passenger Lists

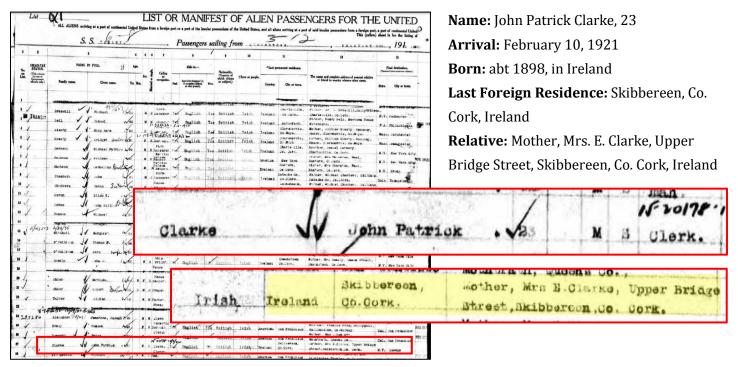
During the years 1892 – 1924, over 20 million immigrants arrived at New York's Ellis Island

• Statistically, the most likely port used – so when in doubt, check New York

Online Resources for Passenger Lists from New York Ports

- Castle Garden (arrivals pre-1892)
- Ellis Island (arrivals 1892–1924)

## Example: 1921 Passenger List, S.S. Celtic sailing from Queenstown, Ireland to New York



#### Research Note: Don't Forget the Second Page of Post-1900 Passenger Lists

Starting in the 1900s, passenger list forms like the one pictured above had a second page with over twenty additional questions about the passenger. These answers provide more contextual information, but some answers may provide clues on additional immigration records, relatives already living in the US, and the types of records that may be available in their home country (such as the questions about stays at institutions, charitable organizations, or workhouses).

- 14. Number on list
- 15. Whether having a ticket to such final destination
- 16. By whom was the passage paid?
- 17. Whether in possession of \$50, and if less, how much?
- 18. Whether ever before been in the United States
  - a. Yes or No

If Yes:

*Year or period of years?* 

Where?

- 19. Whether going to join a relative or friend; and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address
- 20. Purpose of coming to the United States
  - a. Whether alien intends to return to county whence he came after engaging temporarily in labor
  - b. Length of time alien intends to remain in the United States
  - c. Whether alien intends to become a citizen of the United States
- 21. Ever in prison or slumhouse, or institution for the care and treatment of the insane or supported by charity? If so, which?
- 22. Whether a polygamist
- 23. Whether an anarchist
- 24. Whether a person who believes in or advocates for the overthrow by force or violence of the Government of the United States or all forms of law, etc.
- 25. Whether coming by reason of solicitation, promise, or approval expressed to labor in the United States
- 26. Whether alien has been previously deported within one year
- 27. Condition of mental health
- 28. Deformed or crippled. Nature, length of time, and cause?
- 29. Height: feet, inches
- 30. Complexion
- 31. Color of hair and eyes
- 32. Marks of identification
- 33. *Place of birth: country, city or town*

#### **Border Crossings**

Canada

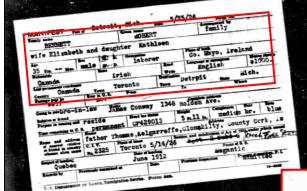
- From Canada to US: 1895 1956 (on Ancestry)
  - US "Ports" include: Idaho, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Vermont, Washington
- From US to Canada: 1903 1935 (on Ancestry)
  - o Most English, some French

Mexico

- From Mexico to US: 1895 1964 (on Ancestry)
  - Manifest cards for temporary visits and permanent residence, applications for border crossing ID cards, traveling US citizens

## A Note on Canadian Border Crossings

If you searching for an ancestor you believe to have been an immigrant, but struggle to locate a passenger list for them at an American port, try searching for them in Canadian border crossings. *Many immigrants reached America via Canada by sailing there first and crossing the border later.* 



**Example: 1926 Border Crossing Manifest** (Canada to US), **Port of Detroit, MI** 

**Robert Bennett,** accompanied by his wife Elizabeth and daughter Kathleen

**Age:** 35

Birth Place: Co. Mayo, Ireland Nationality/Race: Canada/Irish Last Residence: Toronto, Canada

**Research Note:** The fact that he lists "Canada" as his nationality raises questions about possible immigration and naturalization records generated in Canada that may be available and provide a more specific Irish residence and birthplace.



## **Colonial Immigration Records**

Researching immigrants who arrived in American colonies before 1790 can be difficult, but not impossible

• More often than not, these records are indexed instead of digitized and are not readily available online

## Passenger and Immigration Lists Index

"Filby Books" - written by William P. Filby

- Comprehensive index of early passenger lists, 1600s 1800s
- Arrivals of over 500,000 immigrants to North America and West Indies
- Compilation of source material (books, periodicals, etc.) from repositories all over

#### **Naturalization Records**

#### **The Naturalization Process**

Naturalization was a two-step process intended to take at least 5 years (until around the 1950s)

- After living in the US for 2 years, an alien can file "first papers" or a **Declaration of Intent(ion)**
- After an additional 3 years, the applicant could then file a *Petition for Naturalization*
- Both steps did not have to be filed with the same court
  - o Typically whatever court was most convenient

#### Records before 1906 are much less detailed

Pre-1906, naturalization records may include:

- Name, age of immigrant
- Port of arrival
- Date of arrival
- Place of residence
- Country of origin/allegiance

Post-1906, naturalization records typically include:

- Name, birth date and place
- Name of spouse and any children, their birth dates and places, marriage date
- Port and date of arrival, name of vessel
- Occupation
- Physical description
- Residence, last foreign address

## **Declaration of Intention — "First Papers"**

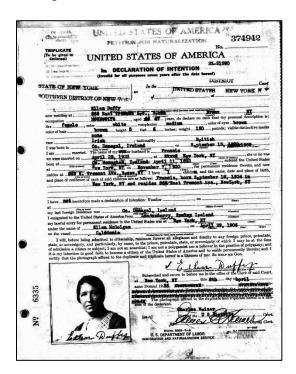
Pre-1906

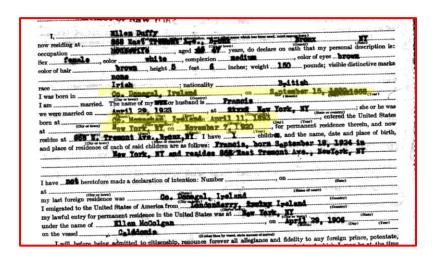
- 5,000 federal, state, and county courts had authority to grant citizenship, each with their own forms with varying questions
- Some municipal, criminal, and probate courts also processed naturalizations

#### Post-1906

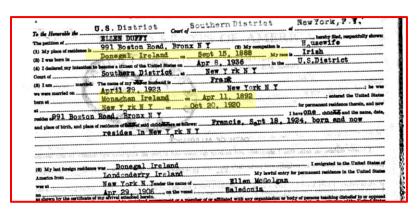
- US Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization required the use of uniform and consistent forms
- Forms changed again in 1929, requiring a photo
- Declaration of Intent no longer required after 1951, though some still filed

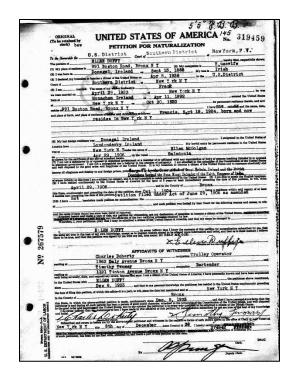
## **Example Declaration of Intention & Petition for Naturalization for Ellen Duffy**





**Note:** As seen here, the information provided by both of these documents is very similar. This means that if you can only find one of the two documents, you may still have enough to work with regarding clues for finding immigration records and foreign residences to help when researching with Irish records.



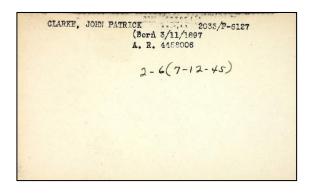


#### **Petition for Naturalization**

• Generally, the *Declaration of Intent* provides more genealogically relevant information for researchers, but in the absence of a Declaration, a *Petition for Naturalization* does provide some information

- o And a Petition may be used to locate a Declaration for an individual if you find it first
- Naturalization record collections online often have both forms for one individual organized together Affidavits of Witnesses
  - On more recent Petitions, witnesses to the information provided by the applicant have recorded their names, occupations, and residences

For some naturalization records, you may have to request copies [below]. Not all naturalizations are digitized and available online. Some naturalization collections (on Ancestry and elsewhere) are indexes or digitized index cards of records held at the National Archives or another repository. <a href="www.archives.gov/research/naturalization">www.archives.gov/research/naturalization</a>



**Example: Index Card for Naturalization** 

Name: John Patrick Clarke Birth Date: 11 March 1897

**Record Collection:** *Missouri, Western District Naturalization Index, 1840-1990* [held at The National Archives at Kansas City. Kansas City, Missouri]

**Research Note:** Using the information on this index card, a copy of the naturalization documents for this individual can be requested from the National Archives at Kansas City.

#### **Exceptions to This Process**

"Derivative" Naturalization

- 1790-1922 wives of naturalized men automatically became naturalized citizens
- 1790-1940 children under 21 of naturalized individuals automatically became naturalized citizens

#### Minor Aliens

• 1824 to 1906 – minors living in the US for 5 years before 23rd birthday could file Declaration and Petition simultaneously

#### **Veterans**

- 1862 Honorably discharged could file a Petition without Declaration after 1 year of residence
- 1894 extended to 5-year veterans of Navy and Marines
- 192,000 veterans naturalized from May 1918 Jun 1919 without filing Declaration or 5-year residence

#### **Women's Naturalization Records**

- From 1907 to 1922: "...any American woman who marries a foreigner shall take the nationality of her husband..."
- From 1922 on, a woman retained her citizenship unless she formally renounced it
  - Native-born women seeking to *regain* American citizenship had to file a **Petition for** Naturalization
  - So many women repatriated following the repeal, that a new form was created in 1936: The
     *Application to Take the Oath of Allegiance to the United States of America*

#### **Colonial Naturalization**

- British immigrants were automatically citizens of the colonies; all others had a few ways of becoming naturalized citizens of the colonies
- The US Constitution allowed for the establishment of a uniform naturalization process, prior to that each colony had its own and the process and requirements varied from colony to colony
- Most of these records, if they still exist, are indexes in book format
  - Denizations and Naturalizations in the British Colonies in America, 1607-1775; Lloyd DeWitt Bockstruck

## **Passport Applications**

- *U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925* (on Ancestry)
- U.S. Government began issuing passports in 1789
  - Mandatory for a short time after Civil War
- Passports were not required for foreign travel until WWI
  - Law passed during WWI lapsed in 1921 after treaties and the end of the war
  - Requirement was re-instated during WWII
- Foreign-born applicants had to submit proof of citizenship status and immigration information
  - Often an excellent source of information regarding the individual's immigration, providing the date of arrival, the ship's name, port of departure and arrival, etc.
- May help locate passenger lists and border crossing records and may also include a photograph

## *Information provided by passport applications includes:*

- Name of applicant
- Birth date or age
- Birthplace
- Residence
- Date of application or issuance of passport
- Father's and/or husband's name
- Father's and/or husband's birth date or age

- Father's and/or husband's birthplace and residence
- Wife's name
- Date and place of immigration to the U.S.
- Years of residence in the U.S.
- Naturalization date and place
- Occupation
- Physical characteristics

## **Example: Passport Application**

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Name: Margaret Cooke Adams Birth Date: 21 March 1888

Birthplace: Moneymore, Co. Londonderry, Ireland

**Naturalization:** Through husband (Mervyn Samuel Adams) **Naturalized:** Court of Common Pleas, 24 February 1909

**Travel Plans:** Ireland ("for my health"), Scotland; departing 9

July 1920, returning within 6 months

STATE OF Range lo and
Country or Mile Legrhia
1, Margaret took Clume . , a NATURALIZED AND LOTAL CHIEFE
THE UNITED STATES, hereby apply to the Department of State, at Washington, for a passport.
on or about the A day of Marich 1555
that my husband Merry n Samuel ada sowas born in Lete get
that he emigrated to the United States, sailing on board the
from on or about 1913
that he resided about 17 years, uninterruptedly in the United States, from 1903 to 1906. It as a time of the United States before the Comma Clearent of Delaune
at Media Jenna Jenna Delmay 24,150 2
as shown by the accompanying Certificate of Natural action; that I am the Land of the proper
described in said Certificate; that I have resided in the United States, uninterruptedly, for
years, from 19/2 to 19 20, at Phila & Dryn Macri 16: that I am domiciled in the
United States, my permanent residence being at /3 Waster got By thein the State
of lennsy wania, where I follow the occupation of Thousework
My last passport was obtained from 00

# IRISH RECORDS

## Before Making the Jump to Irish Records...

- Determine a specific area in Ireland
  - o at least a county, preferably a poor law union or parish if available
- Try casting a wider net
  - o look for other family members, neighbors, friends, etc. (FAN research)
- Prepare all possible spelling variations

#### **Challenges with Irish Records**

- Up to 32 counties, 1000+ parishes in Ireland
- Some family names are very common even in specific areas
- Country-wide vital records were not kept until 1864
- Indexes online, but not all records
- Ages are almost never accurate

#### **Irish Geography**

- *Provinces*: 4; Munster, Leinster, Ulster, Connacht
- *Counties*: 32 (pre-1838); 28 (modern day)
- Parishes: 1,000+; Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland; Civil
- *Poor Law Unions*: 32, (replaced civil parishes in 1898)
- *District Electoral Divisions* (DED): 3,751; subdivision of a Poor Law Union, grouping of townlands
- *Townlands*: 60,000; small administrative division of land, often seen with "bally" or "baile" in name

Interactive map available at: <a href="https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil">www.johngrenham.com/places/civil</a> index.php#counties

## **CHURCH RECORDS**

#### **Catholic Church Records**

- Recorded and kept by parish
- Rural areas generally start around 1820, urban areas sooner
- Mostly baptism and marriage records, some may have death or burial registers
- Occasionally will include a parish census

**Baptisms** were performed as soon as possible, sometimes even on the day of birth.

- The date is listed first, then the child's first name, the father's, the mother's maiden name, and then names of witnesses/sponsors ("godparents") present
- Sometimes the child's birth date and a place of residence are also included

#### **Marriage registers**

• Typically provide: marriage date, names of bride and groom, names of witnesses – and *sometimes* place of residence, and if bride and groom are related, a degree of relation

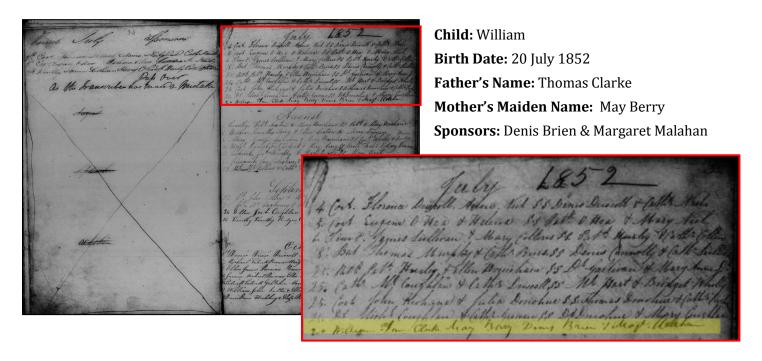
## National Library of Ireland (NLI) Parish Database

## http://registers.nli.ie

- Includes Ireland and Northern Ireland
- Marriage and baptismal records, 1740s 1880s.
- Covers 1,091 parishes
- Provides interactive parish map
- Nearly 400,000 digitized images of original registers

Irish (excluding N. Ireland) registers also available at: www.irishgenealogy.ie

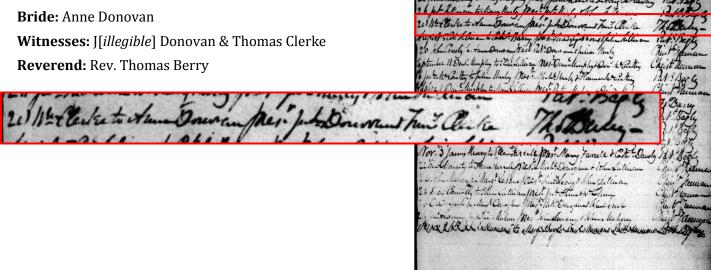
**Example:** 1852 Catholic Baptism Register from Diocese of Cork and Ross, Co. Cork, Ireland



**Example:** 1846 Catholic Marriage Register from Diocese of Cork and Ross

Marriage Date: 20 July 1846

Groom: William Clerke



#### **Church Records for Other Denominations**

- Church of Ireland (state church from 1536-1869)
  - Over half of registers were destroyed in 1922 fire, now kept locally and at National Archives
  - A guide to existing registers and additional genealogy resources are available on the church website (www.ireland.anglican.org)
- Quaker
  - Records exist from late 1600s to present, available offline through the *Dublin Friends Historical* Library, (https://quakers-in-ireland.ie/historical-library)

- o The Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, <a href="https://quakers-in-ireland.ie">https://quakers-in-ireland.ie</a>
- o Limited records are online through <a href="https://www.findmypast.ie">www.findmypast.ie</a> (paid subscription website)
- Presbyterian
  - o Mostly in Northern Ireland, congregational records start in early 1800s, kept locally by ministers
  - o Copies at PRONI <u>www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni</u>
  - o Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland <u>www.presbyterianhistoryireland.com</u>

#### **Church Record Collections Online at the Irish Archives:**

https://genealogv.nationalarchives.ie

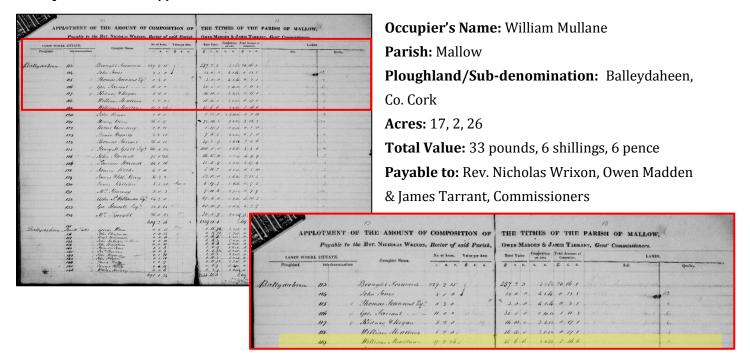
- Diocesan and Prerogative Marriage Licence Bonds Indexes, 1623 1866 (Church of Ireland)
- Diocesan and Prerogative Wills, 1596 1858 (Church of Ireland)
- Catholic Qualification & Convert Rolls, 1700 1845

#### **Tithe Records**

Tithe Applotment Books

- Church of Ireland, 1823-1837
  - Compiled to determine the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings over one acre should pay in tithes
  - o Provides only the names of heads of family
  - o Urban areas were not included
- Tithe Defaulters List of those who refused to pay
  - All Irish citizens regardless of personal denomination were expected to pay tithes because it was the state church at the time

**Example:** 1823 Tithe Applotment Book



Applotment Books available online: <a href="https://www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie">www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie</a>

1831 Tithe Defaulters List available at <a href="www.findmypast.ie">www.findmypast.ie</a> or by searching for book copies with WorldCat: <a href="www.worldcat.org/title/tithe-defaulters-ireland-1831/oclc/57680232">www.worldcat.org/title/tithe-defaulters-ireland-1831/oclc/57680232</a>)

## CIVIL RECORDS

#### 1922 Records Office Fire

What was lost:

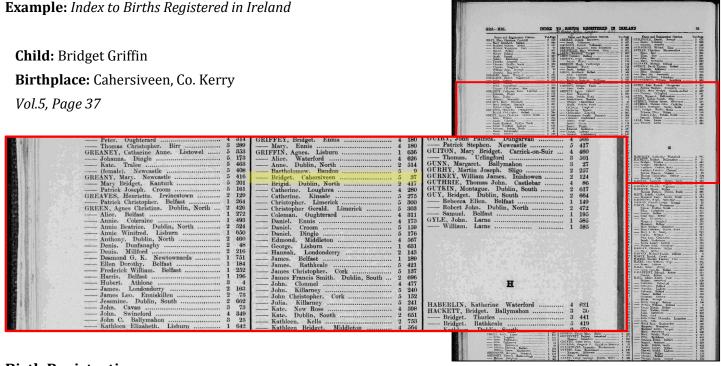
- 1821, 1831, 1841, and 1851 Irish census returns
  - Very limited fragments still exist
- Pre-1900 court and local government records
- Wills
- Roughly 50% of the Anglican Church of Ireland registers

#### What survived:

- 1901 & 1911 Irish Census
- Civil registration records
- Griffith's Valuation
- Indexes to wills and probate records
- Registers of Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and Methodist churches; 50% of Church of Ireland

## **Civil Registration**

- Universal registration began in 1864
  - o birth, marriage, and death registers
- Indexes to Irish (excluding N. Ireland) civil registrations are available online: <a href="https://irishgenealogy.ie">https://irishgenealogy.ie</a>
- Originals are held by General Register Office, copies can be requested
  - Use the information provided by the index (i.e. the volume and page number) when submitting a request



## **Birth Registration**

*Information provided by these records includes:* 

- child's name
- sex
- birth date & place
- father's name

- mother's maiden name
- father's occupation
- place of residence
- informant's signature

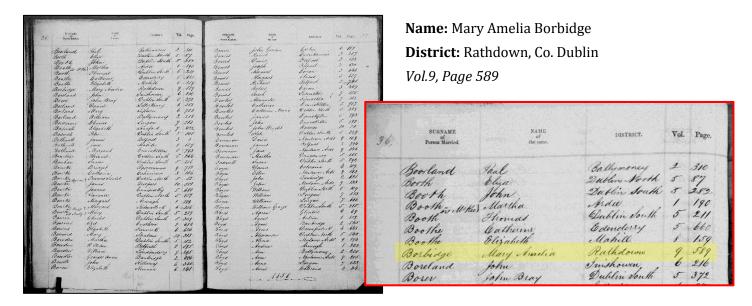
## **Marriage Registration**

*Information provided by these records includes:* 

- date and place of marriage
- denomination (for church marriages)
- names and ages of bride and groom
- places of residence

- fathers' names and occupations
- parish (typically performed in bride's parish)
- name of registrant (usually the performing priest, minister, or registrar)

**Example:** *Index to Civil Marriage Register* 



## **Death Registration**

*Information includes:* 

- name
- age at death
- marital status
- occupation
  - o child's occupation, if noted, is often "son/daughter of ..."

Maria. 48. Tullamore

Mary. 0. Athlone

Mary. 42. Tullamore

Patrick. 82. Naas

Patrick. 3. Athlone

Grennell, Mary Jane. 0. Dublin, North.

Grennon, James. 70. Athlone

Mary. 0. Athlone

Grenville, Thomas. 89. Roscrea

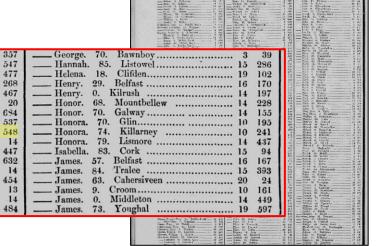
- Catherine: 1. Swineford. 14
- Ellen. 62. Tullamore 18
- John. 59. Athlone 8
- John. 67. Thomastown 4

Margaret. 80. Thomastown 19
Maria. 48. Tullamore 8

- date, place, and cause of death
- informant's name and place of residence
- name of widow/married woman's husband

**Example:** Index of Deaths Registered in Ireland in 1870 Name: Mary Grennan **Age:** 42 District: Tullamore, Co. Offaly Vol. 13, Page 447

GRENEY, William.



## **Census Availability**

- 1831-1851 *limited fragments exist and are available through the National Archives* (most were destroyed in 1922 Public Record Office Fire)
- 1861 & 1871 destroyed shortly after enumeration
- 1881 & 1891 pulped during WWI due to a paper shortage
- 1901 & 1911 Censuses can be searched and viewed online through the National Archives database: <a href="https://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search">www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search</a>
- 1926-1946 (and part of 1951) held by the National Archives, but aren't available for public viewing
  - o The 1926 Census will be released to the public in January 2027
- 1961 to the Present not publicly available

*More information regarding the enumeration and availability of the Irish Census can be found here:* www.census.nationalarchives.ie/help/history.html

## Information available through the Irish Census

**1901 Census** provides for <u>each family member</u>:

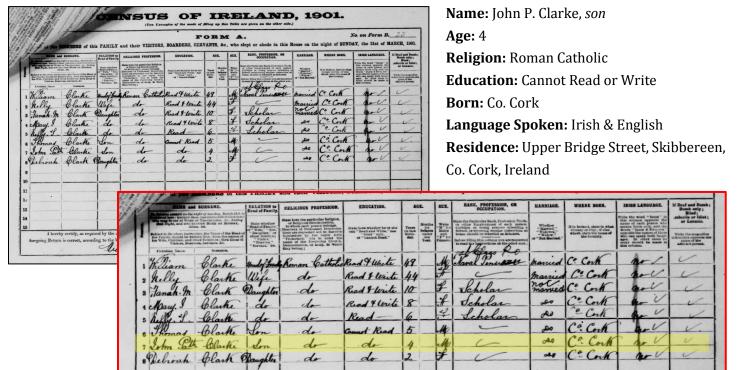
- Name, age, sex
- Relationship to head of household
- Religion
- Occupation
- Marital status
- County of birth
- Languages spoken (Irish/English)
- Whether they can read and/or write

**1911 Census** has the same questions, adding for married women:

- Years married to current husband
- Number of children born to them
- Number of children still living

More information about the 1901 & 1911 Censuses can be found here: www.census.nationalarchives.ie

**Example:** 1901 Census of Ireland



Example: 1911 Census of Ireland

Name: John P. Clarke, son Religion: Roman Catholic

Education: Can Read and Write

**Age:** 14

Occupation: Scholar Marital Status: Single

Born: Co. Cork

**Language Spoken:** Irish & English **Residence:** Upper Bridge Street,

Skibbereen, Co. Cork, Ireland

	RETURN (	f the MEMBER	5 of this	FAMILY and their VI	SITORS, BOARDS			M. A	in this Hou	se on t	he nigh	t of St		nd of APRIL,	
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#### Wills & Probate Records Online at the National Archives

https://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie

Will Calendars

- Name, address, occupation and financial effects on death of testator (person who made the will);
- Date of death of testator
- Date and place of probate of will or grant of letters of administration
- Name(s) and address(es) of executors/beneficiaries of the will, and relationship, if it exists, to testator
- Marital status of all women mentioned

Will Registers

- Copies of wills proved in District Registries from 1858 on survive in Will Registers, and are an exact replacement for the originals which were lost, except for the original signatures
- No copies survive for the Principal Registry, which means there is very little for people who died in Dublin or had particularly large estates.
- The Registers for Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry are held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Soldier's Wills

Digitized wills of Irish soldiers who died while serving in the British Army, mostly during WWI

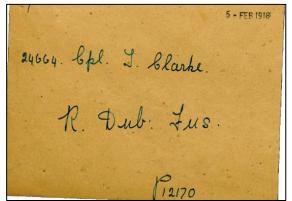
**Example:** WWI Soldier's Will

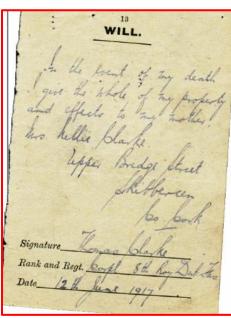
**Text:** "In the event of my death I give the whole of my property and effects to my mother Mrs. Nellie Clarke. Upper Bridge Street, Skibbereen, Co. Cork."

**Signed:** Thomas Clarke

Rank and Regiment: Corpl. 8th Royal Dublin Fusiliers

**Date:** 12th June 1917





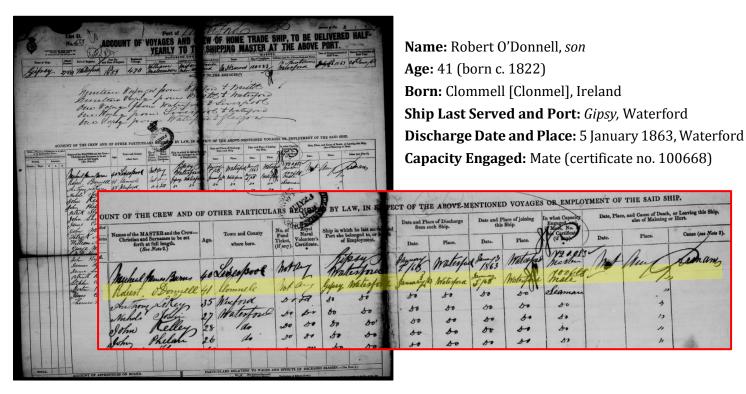
## **Shipping Agreements and Crew Lists, 1863-1921**

The records of the Registrar General of Shipping and Seamen of ships registered in what is now the south of Ireland

Information contained here:

- **Crews:** Name, age or year of birth, town or district of birth, last ship served on, port to which she belonged, date and place of discharge from previous ship, date and place of joining present ship, capacity in which he joined, if service discontinued, cause, date and place
- **Ship:** Name, registered number, port of registry, date of registry, owner's name and address, dates and places of arrivals and departures
- **Log:** Date of event logged, occurrence situation by longitude and latitude, amount of fine or forfeiture inflicted
- Wages: Amount of wages per calendar month, share or voyage
- **Provisions:** Scale of provisions to be served to the crew each day given with weights per day for bread, flour, coffee, butter, water, beef, peas, sugar, tea, port
- Apprentices: Name, age, date of indenture, port of indenture, date of assignment, port of assignment
- **Births:** Date, name, sex, parents' names, mother's maiden name, occupation of father, nationality and last abode of parents
- **Deaths:** Of crew: name, agreement reference number, net wages paid. Of passengers: date of death, name, age, sex, occupation, parents' names, cause of death

**Example:** June 1863 Account of Voyages and Crew of Home Trade Ship: "Gipsy"



## **Poor Law Records**

- Poor Law Workhouses
  - o Admission and discharge records (available at <a href="https://www.findmypast.ie">www.findmypast.ie</a>)
- Poor Law Union National Schools
  - Student registers
- Board of Guardians Minute Books & Correspondence
  - Account books & ledgers
- Hospital inmates
  - Death notices

**Example:** Death Notice from Wandsworth Poor Law Union

**Recipient:** Mr. V. Ireland WANDSWORTH UNION Deceased: Rosabella Ireland ST. JOHN'S HILL INFIRMARY, ST. JOHN'S HILL NEW WANDSWORTH, S.W. Age: 74 years Residence: Block St. Ward STEWARD'S OFFICE. 10 Mr. / Treland **Date of Death:** 10 April 1924, 7:35 PM Josepha Freland. STEWARD'S OFFICE. To Mr. I Treland 11 . 4. 1924 Tosabella Ireland. aged Justo an Inmate of Ablock st. Ward of this Infirmary, at 2.85 P.m., on is to be interred. In all cases where it is intended to ha has to be produced to the Registrar, can be obtained upon applications nouses.org.uk will call at my office-between 10 a m. and 11 a.m. (Sundays excepted) to make arrangements for the funeral.

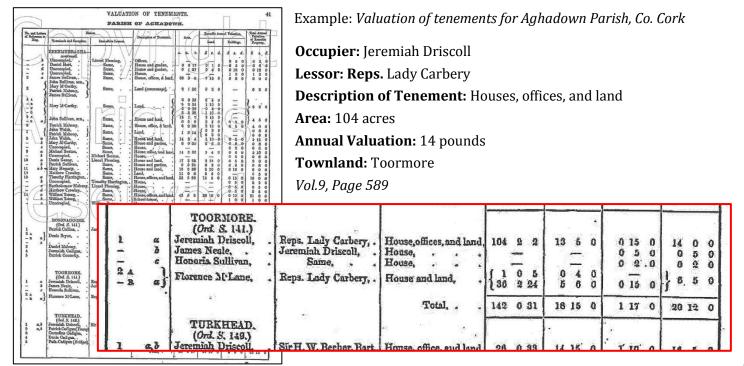
These records are typically held at National Archives of Ireland (<u>www.nationalarchives.ie</u>) and/or county archives (i.e. Cork City & County Archives: <u>www.corkarchives.ie</u>)

Additional information on Irish workhouses can be found at: <a href="http://irishworkhousecentre.ie/the-workhouse-story">http://irishworkhousecentre.ie/the-workhouse-story</a>

## LAND RECORDS

## Griffith's Valuation, 1848-1864

- Used property value to determine how much an individual paid to support the poor living within their poor law union (*Ireland's first comprehensive property tax*)
- Organized by parish and townland
- Lists the occupier and the lessor of a piece of land, a description of the land and any buildings located on it, and its value
- Can be used as a replacement for missing censuses
- Available to search at: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation



#### Valuation Office Books, 1824-1856

http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/vob/home.jsp

- These four types of records contain over 2 million names in total
- Provide a comprehensive assessment of the rental value of Irish lands and property from the mid-1820s to the mid-1850s
- Reveal where and when individuals rented or owned property and provide rare glimpses of life in prefamine Ireland

#### Field Books

Organized by civil parish, recording the following in columns:

- county, barony, parish and townland
- lot number
- technical description of the land
- quantity or square area of the lot in statute measure (acres, roods and perches)
- rate per acre
- amount of valuation of land and houses expressed in pounds, shillings and pence

#### House Books

Organized by parish and town, only lists the occupier's name (the head of house), recording the following:

- number of the property
- name of occupier and description of the property
- quality letter
- length, breadth and height (in feet and inches)
- number of measures
- rate per measure
- amount of valuation in money (pounds, shillings and pence)

#### Tenure Books

Organized by civil parish, recording for each tenement the following in columns across two pages:

- number of the property
- name of occupier and description of the property
- quality letter
- length, breadth and height (in feet and inches)
- number of measures
- rate per measure
- amount of valuation in money (pounds, shillings and pence)

#### Ouarto Books

Date between 1839 and 1851, organized by both townland and town, two pages, recording the following:

- number
- name of occupier and description of tenement
- relative value by tables (i.e. as calculated by the standard method) in pounds, shillings and pence
- rent by year or by lease
- observations
- relative value multiplied by (i.e. the multiplier)
- relative value with percentage (i.e. value after the multiplier is applied)
- value finally settled
- value, deducting one-third

## **Land Registry Office Records**

- Office established in 1892, recorded most property transactions after that date (<u>www.landregistry.ie</u>)
- Records of legal title available for search at <a href="www.prai.ie">www.prai.ie</a>; creating an account with the LandDirect database will grant your more access to the records
- *Registry of Deeds*, created in 1707 covering the confiscation of land from native Irish (more information here: <a href="https://www.prai.ie/registry-of-deeds-services/#records">www.prai.ie/registry-of-deeds-services/#records</a>)

• Good resource for Anglo-Irish landed families, 1740-1840

#### **Rent Books and Tennant Lists**

- Records of tenants on large estates, 1700-1900, record collections are split and held by various repositories
- Largest collections kept in the *National Library of Ireland* (<a href="www.nli.ie/en/homepage.aspx">www.nli.ie/en/homepage.aspx</a>) and the *Public Record Office of Northern Ireland* (PRONI) (<a href="www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni">www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni</a>)

#### **Landed Estate Court Records**

- Records of the selling of bankrupt estates
- 1850 1885 available at <u>www.findmypast.ie</u>

See also: Tithe Applotment Books (above) as an alternative resource

# COURT RECORDS

#### **The Four Courts**

- Court of the Exchequer
- Court of Chancery
- Court of Common Pleas
- Court of King's/Queen's Bench
  - Detailed descriptions of these courts and their records are available on FamilySearch's Wiki (<a href="https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland Court Records">https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland Court Records</a>)
- 1922 fire destroyed a significant portion of the court records generated prior
  - o Only a small collection of Chancery Court records survives
  - o A number of indexes, abstracts and transcripts do exist

**Example:** 1911 Order Book for County Westmeath, Ireland

**Complainant:** The King (George V) ORDER BOOK, as approved of by the Lord Lieutenant (with the advice and co **Defendant (1):** Kate Barnes of Queen Street, Athlone **Date:** 17 Oct 1911 **Cause of Complaint:** "Keeping beer or porter for sale on unlicensed premises" [convicted and a Canfoll fined] Defendant (2): William Logan of Athlone manifoldy draw cas of makatabar not luma **Cause of Complaint:** "Drinking or tippling in a shebeen" (an unlicensed bar) [convicted and dite let as lost fined1 but hors CAUSE OF COMPLAINT as set forth in Summons Theking at the prosecution of Berne D. 9 you the said deft not being duly hier to sell wine spirits been all cides or per gid unlawfully keep for palls on your framese aquantity of been on parter wen street That on the 7 Odoberuges at Oneon Whene you were unlawfully dri Willian 21 Dame

wensed for the sale of Nine spirits bee

Various *District Court* and other court records available offline at National Archives of Ireland *Petty Sessions* Order Books: 1.2 million records of petty crimes from 1842-1913 online at <a href="https://www.findmypast.ie">www.findmypast.ie</a>

Published court record inventories are available at the Family History Library or by searching for copies of those titles held at other libraries through WorldCat (<a href="www.worldcat.org">www.worldcat.org</a>)

(<a href="https://familysearch.org/catalog/search">https://familysearch.org/catalog/search</a> – Enter "Ireland" into *Place* search and locate *Ireland – Court Records* in results for book titles)

## **MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS**

## **City/County Directories**

- Commercial or trade directories: business owners, tradesmen
- Court directories: government officials, private (upper-class) residents
- Law directories: judgers, lawyers, constables, notaries, court staff
- Church directories: church jurisdictions, church building addresses, lists names of church leaders, ministers, priests
- Organization directories: societies, libraries, newspapers, schools, and other organizations

#### **Criminal records** (gaols/prisons)

- Prison registers may include:
  - o Name of inmate, age, place of birth, marital status, last residence, occupation, crime committed, date committed, victim's name, name and address of next of kin
  - Select collections available on FindMyPast (<u>www.findmypast.ie</u>)

#### Medical records

- General hospital records not widely available, some family exceptions
- Limited available collections include vaccination registers and asylum patient records (some on FindMyPast)
- Included with Poor Law Union workhouse records at the county level

#### Military records

- Prior to 1921, military service was with the British
- Service records kept by UK National Archives
- Irish Military Archives (<u>www.militaryarchives.ie/en/home</u>)
- Online collections include 1922 military census, image galleries, service pensions, etc.

# DATABASES & REPOSITORIES

## **National Library of Ireland**

Home Page: <u>www.nli.ie/en/homepage.aspx</u>

Collections and Databases: <a href="www.nli.ie/en/intro/catalogues-and-databases-introduction.aspx">www.nli.ie/en/intro/catalogues-and-databases-introduction.aspx</a>
Accessing Printed Collections and Microfilm: <a href="www.nli.ie/en/accessing-printed-material.aspx">www.nli.ie/en/accessing-printed-material.aspx</a>
Ask A Librarian Inquiry Submission Form: <a href="www.nli.ie/en/ask-a-librarian-query-form.aspx">www.nli.ie/en/ask-a-librarian-query-form.aspx</a>

#### **National Archives of Ireland**

Home Page: www.nationalarchives.ie

*Search the Archives:* www.nationalarchives.ie/search-the-archives

Resources for Genealogy Research: www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy1/introduction-to-genealogy

## **Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)**

*Home Page:* www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

Search Online: www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/public-record-office-northern-ireland-

proni/search-archives-online

Search General Records Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI): https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk

About the PRONI eCatalogues: www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-proni-catalogues-and-ecatalogue

#### Irish Ancestry Database (Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)

*Home Page*: www.irishgenealogy.ie/en

*Irish Records: What is Available?:* www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/irish-records-what-is-available/civil-records

*Search Church Records:* https://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords

Search Civil Registrations: <a href="https://civilrecords.irishgenealogv.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.isp">https://civilrecords.irishgenealogv.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.isp</a>

Databases and Resources Links: www.irishgenealogv.ie/en/useful-links

## **The United Kingdom National Archives**

Home Page: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Record Collection Catalog: http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk

*Research Guides:* www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides

## **FindMyPast** (paid subscription website)

Access to limited collections for free: www.findmypast.com/irish-parish-records

Full collections include census records, cemetery records, Catholic parish registers, poor law records, select court records, prison records, and more.

Visit the library's locations page (<u>www.casscolibrary.org/locations</u>) for CCPL Genealogy's location, contact information, and hours of operation.

Information regarding our digital collections, access to online databases, submitting inquiries, and more, can be found on Cass County Public Library's Genealogy Resources page, located here: <a href="www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy">www.casscolibrary.org/genealogy</a>

**Chelsea Clarke**, Branch Manager <u>askgenealogy@casscolibrary.org</u>

Cass County Public Library – Genealogy Branch 400 E. Mechanic St. Harrisonville, MO – 816.884.6285

