

Irish Records - Beyond the Obvious



I'm Roz McCutcheon. Born in Co Cork, I now live in London, England. I've been actively working on genealogy since my teens & am a Vice-President of the Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS) www.irishancestors.ie

I have edited the IGRS newsletter for the past 25 years, & the best way to contact me is by emailing newsletter@irishancestors.ie

I hope in this talk to encourage you to see past the difficulties of Irish research, and find instead the great reward & fun in following unusual paths.

If you are relatively new to Irish Research, I would very highly recommend that you first visit Claire Santry's Toolkit at www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com Claire has designed this to provide all the basic research answers that she wishes she'd had when she first started her research! She also writes a regular blog on Irish genealogy: www.irishgenealogynews.com

The first part of my talk will concentrate on the basic building blocks:-

1. Vital Records (Civil Registration) of Births, Marriages & Deaths
2. Census Records & Census substitutes
3. Parish Records

Civil Registration: Marriages registered from 1845 in non-Catholic churches & all births marriages & deaths available from 1864. Indexes available at <https://familysearch.org> & most births can also be read free at LDS centres, as can marriages up to 1870. By Spring 2015, many of the indexes should also be accessible on the Irish Government website: www.irishgenealogy.ie

Census: The first two extant censuses, 1901 & 1911, & fragments of earlier censuses 1821-1851 can be read on the National Archives site: www.census.nationalarchives.ie For a useful guide to what is currently available online see: www.censusfinder.com/ireland.htm

Griffiths Valuation 1847-1864: Owing to the destruction of the first eight national censuses, 1821-1891, this is used as the main census substitute for the 19th century. www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation

Tithe Applotments: These were compiled between 1823 & 1837 to assess those who occupied an acre or more of land, in order to require them to pay tithes to the Church of Ireland. <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/>

Both Griffiths & Tithe Applotments are widely available online.

Parish Records: Many of the surviving parish records available online to researchers. Check the free government site at www.irishgenealogy.ie or the pay-per-view site at www.rootsireland.ie

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If you know the area your ancestors came from but have, so far, not managed to make a definite link to records, then do try www.irelandxo.com which is the reverse genealogy website, - the Irish at home now reaching out to those who have left!

Now we come to some less usual sources!

Schulze Marriage Registers: from the German Lutheran Church in Dublin, some 6000 marriages covering 1807-1837: read at GRO, Roscommon, or on LDS microfilm 101771. They have also been loaded onto the Early Irish Marriage Index on the IGRS website (see below).

PRONI: The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland: has a huge digitization programme. It covers mainly the province of Ulster, but does also hold quite a lot of material for other provinces. It is worth checking regularly to see any new material coming online:
www.proni.gov.uk

Newspaper sources: There are vast holdings in both the National Library of Ireland, the British Newspaper Library, & other national libraries. Many collections of biographical extracts are available at the IGRS Library in London; these are gradually being digitized & loaded onto www.irishancestors.ie

Note also the following websites: www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk This includes Belfast Newsletter, from 1828; Freeman's Journal, Dublin, from 1820; & papers from counties Antrim, Cork, Dublin, Down, Galway, Limerick, Louth, Sligo and Waterford. For the Irish Times, see: www.irishtimes.com/archive For other Irish papers, see: www.irishnewsarchive.com

The **Irish Genealogical Research Society (IGRS)** was founded in 1937. It maintains a valuable library of rare books & unique manuscripts in London, and publishes a substantial Journal plus two newsletters a year. There is a members' section on the website where a rolling programme of material is uploaded, and there is also a members' discussion forum online. www.irishancestors.ie

In addition, it has a Facebook page - you do not need to be a Facebook member to read this, & it is constantly updated with news. www.facebook.com/pages/Irish-Genealogical-Research-Society/224048917610708

The IGRS also publishes a monthly e-bulletin for its members.

In addition to the large amount of material in the members' area of the website, there are other valuable resources available free to all in the main website area. These include the Early Irish Marriage Finder: www.irishancestors.ie/?page_id=1926 First launched in Spring 2013, this is intended to provide a pointer to sources other than parish registers for the period 1650 down to the launch of full civil registration in 1864; by early December 2014, the index had reached over 60,000 marriages.

Many **County Libraries** have placed resources online. For example, Waterford County Library has a searchable database devoted to all men born in Waterford who died in various wars. See www.waterfordcity.ie/library/wararchive/searcharticles.aspx

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There are often very active **local societies** that have placed resources online. For example, look at www.leitrim-roscommon.com which includes the 1749 Elphin Census for that area.

Registry of Deeds: This vast resource in Dublin contains memorials of all deeds registered since it was opened in 1708. The coverage is nationwide. Some years ago, a small team of contributors started to index each person mentioned in a deed, - a mammoth task. As at November 2014, there were over 160,000 index records uploaded. See: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~registryofdeeds>

Other useful websites: Useful links to other websites can be found on most of the websites I've mentioned, but I will also summarize a few below:-

www.genuki.org.uk

An excellent gateway site

www.irishtimes.com/ancestor

Good surname information, useful maps etc

www.militaryarchives.ie

Military pension records 1916-1923, witness statements etc

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/

For Irish serving in the military, in the Royal Irish Constabulary (police), as Customs & Excise officers etc before 1922

www.libertyellisfoundation.org

For Passenger records through Ellis Island

www.failteromhat.com

www.historicgraves.ie

www.thecore.com/seanruad/

www.celticcousins.net

www.historyfromheadstones.com

Gravestone inscriptions in Ulster

www.findmypast.ie

Contains many trade & street directories & also has over 23 million Petty Sessions records and Prison Registers, which are available elsewhere online. This is a pay-per-view site

Recommended Books & Magazines:

- **Tracing Your Irish Ancestors**, by John Grenham. Published in Dublin: Gill and Macmillan
- **Irish Records; Sources for Family & Local History**, by James G Ryan, Salt Lake City, UT: Ancestry Publishing
- **Tracing Your [Limerick, Cork, Kildare etc] Ancestors:** individual county books published by Flyleaf Press www.flyleaf.ie
- www.irishlivesremembered.com a free Irish genealogy e-magazine