

Irish Genealogy

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Presentations' Objectives

- **Present information to establish a foundation for successful Irish Genealogical Research—HERE to THERE**
- **Provide an overview of the some of the finding aids**
- **Provide you with at least one nugget of information or tool that will help you be more successful.**

What To Expect In Irish Genealogical Research

- Research needs to be tailored to the social status of the ancestor and the time period of immigration
- Tracing the impoverished ancestor, or the ancestor who immigrated in the 1600s or 1700s, difficult or even impossible
- There are limitations to just how far back an Irish family can be traced
- Most Irish Catholic and Presbyterian church records simply do not begin until about the 1820s.

What To Expect In Irish Genealogical Research

- The Church of Ireland was the established church, but more than half of these registers were destroyed in 1922.
- Not all Irish lineages come to a halt in the late 1700s.
 - In the case of gentry or the upper class, there are frequently extensive pedigrees that can take a family back hundreds of years.
 - Don't assume your ancestors were peasants simply because they left Ireland.

What To Expect In Irish Genealogical Research

- **Don't assume that all passengers came directly to US ports, many entered in through Canada**
- **Significant Irish records have been destroyed.**
 - **Pre-1858 wills and administrations**
 - **1821 to 1851 census records**
 - **Over half of the Church of Ireland parish registers**

What To Expect In Irish Genealogical Research

- The more wealthy, educated, and prominent a family, the more you will be able to find about them.
- Not all Catholic families in Ireland were poor or landless, although a large share were
- There are some Irish records you can search in repositories outside Ireland, and some that are only available in Ireland.

Ireland—Physical Characteristics and Divisions

Ireland—Physical Characteristics

- **32,591 Sq. Miles slightly larger than WVA**
- **280m long and 160m wide**

Ireland—Land Organization

- **Four provinces:**
 - Connacht, Leinster, Munster and Ulster
- **32 counties in total –**
 - **6 in Northern Ireland**
 - Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Derry (Londonderry), Tyrone
 - **26 in the Republic of Ireland.**
 - Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal,, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenney, Laois (Queens), Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly (Kings), Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow

Ireland—The 4 Provinces





Ireland



County

- **Principal unit of local government**
- **Created by the English between the Norman invasion and 1606.**
- **Often reflected older Gaelic territorial boundaries.**

Parish

- A civil parish may contain anything from 5 to 30 townlands.
- Parishes appeared in the medieval period (12th century) and were originally an ecclesiastical administrative division over which a clergyman exercised jurisdiction.
- These medieval parishes were used as **geographical units of local administration**, otherwise known as civil parishes.
- The majority of 19th Century (or earlier) records are based on these, but they are no longer in administrative use today.
- Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland parishes are not the same as the civil parishes.
- While the majority of Church of Ireland parishes do correspond to the civil parish, most Roman Catholic parishes cover parts of more than one civil parish

Parishes

There are three kinds of parishes.

- 1. Quod Civilia, where there is a parish which is used for civil purposes.**
- 2. Quod Omnia, where the parish boundaries are the same for both Civil and Ecclesiastical purposes.**
- 3. Quod Sacra. A parish for Ecclesiastical purposes only, especially the Roman Catholic parishes.**

Barony

- **Territorial division of a county often based on medieval Gaelic lordships,**
 - Used as administrative units for taxation and other administrative purposes
 - Used until the late 19th century.
- **331 baronies**
 - Some baronies overlap more than one county.
- **Baronies are no longer used for local government.**

Poor Law Union

- **Introduced in 1838 under the Poor Law Act.**
- **Between 1838 and 1852, workhouses were built throughout the country, each at the centre of an area known as a Poor Law Union (PLU).**
- **Initially 130 PLUs covering the entire country, expanded to 163 during the course of the Griffith Valuation.**
- **Generally situated in a large market town and the Poor Law Union comprised this town and its catchment area,**
 - **Result--Unions in many cases ignored the existing boundaries of parish and county.**

Townland

- **Smallest of the governmental administrative land districts**
 - Still in use today.
 - Derives from the Anglo-Saxon word 'toun' which means farmstead.
 - Gaelic equivalent is Baile, anglicised as Bally.
- **More than 64,000 townlands in Ireland,**
 - Vary in size from an acre or less to several thousand acres.
 - May be individual family farms or a group of farms
 - Tend to be larger than towns, so that
 - most towns and villages in Ireland are contained within a townland
 - often, though not always, with the same name.
 - In a few cases, a townland may be contained within the boundaries of a town.

Townlands

- Many townlands take their names from physical characteristics of an area such as ruins of churches and forts and from clan names.
- Frequently several separate townlands with the same name
 - Usually will need to know at least the county, and preferably the parish, to identify a townland unambiguously.

Townland (cont.)

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Explanations for *not* finding an Irish place name

1. A place name in a record abroad may have been spelled differently than in Irish sources. Many immigrants were illiterate or at least poorly educated. Consequently, the person recording the name would often spell it phonetically.
2. The variation of the name as preserved by the immigrant family may have been the Gaelic (Irish-language) version, whereas Irish gazetteers may use the English variation of the place name.
3. Name passed down in a family through oral tradition may have been significantly corrupted over the years.
4. A variety of administrative divisions may have been given by the immigrant as the place of origin; for example, county, civil parish, Catholic parish, or townland. Sometimes it is difficult to determine exactly what was meant by the immigrant.
5. A place name may not appear in gazetteers because it is smaller

Irish Locations—Finding Aids

- **Townland database**

- <http://www.seanruad.com/>

- **GENUKI Gazetteer**

- <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/Gazetteer/>

- **Ordnance Survey**

- <http://www.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/freefun/didyouknow/>

The History of Ireland

Irish History

1002-14	Irish Kingdom. Brian Boru united Irish regional kings.
1200-50	British colonizing. English colonists were sent to colonize Ireland.
1494	The English crown officially claimed Ireland as part of England. Meetings and legislative drafts of the Irish parliament were subject to the control of the English king and council. But in 1496 Kildare, the lord deputy who had ruled Ireland before 1494, was reinstated.
1549-1640	Plantations. Many English and Scottish families were sent to Ireland to receive estates as rewards from the king. Lands were mainly granted in the counties of Leix, Offaly, Tipperary, Wexford, Leitrim, and Longford and in the major plantations in Ulster province. Some civil servants received lands in Munster province. Many Irish families were displaced.

Irish History

1603	Scots began settling Ulster province.
1641-52	<i>Irish Rebellion.</i> Ulster natives overthrew English colonial rule, and Irish rebels established a Catholic government called the Confederation of Kilkenny.
1649	Oliver Cromwell crushed the rebellion in Ireland and awarded lands to Protestants. Catholics who could prove they had not been involved in the rebellion were given estates in West Clare. Some prisoners were sent to New England.
1690	The Irish Parliament was established in Dublin.
1720	British Parliament began to legislate for Ireland, and the British House of Lords had the powers of a supreme court in Irish law cases.

Irish History

1782-93	Legislative acts gave power back to the Irish Parliament and more rights to Irish Roman Catholics.
1800	Ireland united with England and Scotland to form the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
1821	The first genealogically useful census was taken.
1845	Civil registration of non-Catholic marriages began.
1845-49	Potato Famine. Blight destroyed the potato crop for several consecutive years resulting in starvation and disease. Millions died and millions emigrated.
1850-1914	Many Irish emigrated, which helped to stabilize the economy.
1850	The Reform Act was passed, basing the right to vote on occupation rather than on property ownership.

Irish History

1858	The Principle Probate Registry began proving Irish probates.
1864	Civil registration of births and deaths began. Marriage registration began to include Catholics.
1869	The Church of Ireland ceased to be recognized as the state church.
1919-22	Civil strife resulted in 1,468 deaths. A treaty, signed on 7 January 1922, split Ireland into the predominantly Catholic Republic of Ireland and the predominantly Protestant Northern Ireland.
1922	Irish Civil War. Irregulars of the Irish Republican Army opposed to the 1922 treaty occupied the Four Courts building where many Irish records were housed. The building was burned and many records destroyed.

Church History of Ireland

Church History

1537	King Henry VIII declared himself supreme head of a new church, the Church of England (Anglican).
1541	Henry VIII became King of Ireland.
1560	The Anglican church (Church of Ireland) became the state church of Ireland under Elizabeth I.
1605-09	The plantation of Ulster was started. Many Presbyterians from Scotland were sent to Ulster to displace Irish Catholics and to strengthen English rule.
1619	The earliest known Church of Ireland parish register (St. John, Dublin) was begun.
1634	A law was passed requiring that Church of Ireland registers be kept.
1637	Presbyterian worship was suppressed by the Church of Ireland.

Church History

mid-1600s	The Quaker, Congregationalist, and Baptist movements began. The Huguenot migrations to Ireland also began.
1674	The oldest known Presbyterian register (Antrim, County Antrim) was begun.
1695-1728	The Penal Laws against Catholics were in force. Catholic clergy were banished. The Catholic church was forbidden to keep parish registers and Catholics were deprived of the rights to own property, hold office, and vote.
1719	The Toleration Act was passed, protecting Protestant dissenters.
1726	Nonconforming Presbyterians separated from the main Presbyterian body to form the presbytery of Antrim.
1747	The Methodist movement began.

Church History

1750s	Some Catholic registers in urban parishes were begun. Many Church of Ireland registers were begun.
1772-95	Catholic Relief Acts gradually restored the rights taken away by the Penal Laws.
1782	An act was passed validating marriages performed by Presbyterian ministers.
1816	Methodists divided into two groups: Primitive Methodists and Wesleyan Methodists.
1819	The Presbyterian church began to require its ministers to keep records.
1829	Irish Catholics became free to practice Catholicism without legal persecutions. Many Catholic records were begun.

Church History

1869	The Church of Ireland ceased to be recognized as the state church.
1876	A law was passed requiring Church of Ireland registers to be stored in the Public Record Office, Dublin.
1878	The 1876 storage law was amended to allow Church of Ireland ministers with suitable storage facilities to retain their records. The Primitive Methodists and Wesleyan Methodists united.
1922	A separate record repository was established for Northern Ireland. The Public Record Office, Dublin, burned, destroying many Church of Ireland parish records and other documents.

Emigration and Immigration History



Emigration/Immigration History

- No records are required for movements within the British Isles (England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Isle of Man, and Channel Islands).
- Records were not required for free emigrants to the United States until 1773, to Canada until 1865, or to Australia, New Zealand, or South Africa until the twentieth century.
- There was no systematic, official method of emigration from Ireland. As a result, you may not find emigration records for your Irish ancestor.

Emigration/Immigration History

- Emigration from Ireland began as early as 1603, when people immigrated to areas such as continental Europe, the islands of the Caribbean, the British colonies, and other parts of the British Isles.
- Emigration increased during periods of civil or religious unrest or famine in Ireland as well as during various gold rushes in Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States.
- The period of greatest emigration began around 1780 and reached its peak from 1845 to 1855, when more than two million people left Ireland because of the potato famine

Emigration/Immigration History

- The following categories of emigrants account for most people who emigrated from Ireland:
- *Free emigrants.* Starting in the seventeenth century, emigrants left Ireland to seek opportunity in a new land; to flee religious persecution, poverty, or oppression; and to seek political asylum following rebellion in Ireland.
- *Assisted emigrants.* In the nineteenth century, qualified emigrants received passage money or land grants as incentives to emigrate. Assistance was viewed by officials as an alternative to providing poor relief for able-bodied, unemployed workers and for the starving masses during famine. After 1840, colonies such as New Zealand and Australia offered money or land grants to skilled workers to attract needed immigrants.

Emigration/Immigration History

- ***Transported prisoners.*** From 1611 to 1870, more than fifty thousand Irish criminals were sentenced to deportation to a penal colony for a number of years. Beginning with Irishmen who rebelled against Cromwell's army in 1649, political prisoners were also often deported. Many Irish prisoners were sent to America, primarily to Virginia and Maryland, until 1775. From 1788 to 1869, over forty thousand Irish prisoners were sent to Australia. Many of those deported were later pardoned on the condition that they would never return to Ireland.
- ***Military personnel.*** Soldiers serving overseas were offered land or other inducements to settle in the colony where they were serving when they were discharged. This settlement practice was common for soldiers in Australia from 1791, Canada from 1815, and New Zealand from 1844.

Emigration/Immigration History

- It is estimated that as many as 4.5 million Irish arrived in America between 1820 and 1930.
- Between 1820 and 1860, the Irish constituted over one third of all immigrants to the United States.
- In the 1840s, they comprised nearly half of all immigrants to this nation.
- Interestingly, pre-famine immigrants from Ireland were predominately male, while in the famine years and their aftermath, entire families left the country. In later years, the majority of Irish immigrants were women. What can these statistics tell us about life in Ireland during this period?

Irish Immigration to US

	1990	1980	1970	1960	1930	1920	1910	1900	1890	1880	1870
NI	16,531	19,831	40,837	68,162	178,832						
Ire	169,827	197,817	251,375	338,722	744,810	1,037,234	1,352,251	1,615,459	1,871,509	1,854,571	1,855,827

History of Irish Surnames

History of Irish Surnames

- Up to the tenth century, surnames in Ireland were not hereditary
- influence of the church, dating from this period, can be seen in many common modern Irish surnames,
 - in particular those beginning with "Gil-" or "Kil-", an anglicised version of the Irish *Giolla*, meaning follower or devotee.
 - Gilmartin, in Irish Mac Giolla Mhairtin, means "son of a follower of (St.) Martin".
 - Church is the origin of all of those names starting with "Mul-", a version of the Irish *Maol*, meaning bald, and applied to the monks
 - Mulrennan (Ó Maoilbhreanainn) means "descendant of a follower of St. Brendan".

History of Irish Surnames

- Many of the names appearing in accounts antiquity appear similar in form to modern Irish names,
 - incorporating in particular the prefix "Mac" (meaning "son of"),
 - in fact they were not hereditary, lasting only one generation.
 - Thus Turlough mac Airt, was Turlough, son of Art; his own son would be Conor mac Turlough, Conor son of Turlough.

History of Irish Surnames

- Ireland was one of the first European countries in which a system of fixed hereditary surnames developed.
- Earliest names appear to be those incorporating "Ó" or its earlier form Ua, meaning "grandson".
- An early authority on Irish surnames, the first recorded fixed surname is O'Clery (Ó Cleirigh), as noted by the Annals, which record the death of Tigherneach Ua Cleirigh, lord of Aidhne in Co. Galway in the year 916. It seems likely that this is the oldest surname recorded anywhere in Europe.

History of Irish Surnames

- By 11th century many families had acquired true surnames as we would know them today.
- All of these surnames incorporate the same two basic elements, "O" or "Mac", together with the personal name of the ancestor descended from.
- Ancestor can usually be quite accurately identified, and origin of the name dated precisely.
 - At the start of the eleventh century, Brian Boru possessed no surname, being simply "Brian, High-King of the Irish", his grandson Teigue called himself Ua Briain in memory of his illustrious grandfather, and the name became hereditary thereafter.
 - Similarly, the O'Neills derive their surname from Niall mac Aoiodh, who died in 917.

History of Irish Surnames

- Due to linguistic changes, the origins of many of the personal names such as Niall or Brian which form the stem of the surname remain obscure, two broad categories can be distinguished
 - descriptive and occupational. In the first category,
 - we can guess that the progenitor of the Traceys (Ó Treasaigh) was a formidable character, treasach meaning "war-like", while the ancestor of the Duffs must have been dark-featured, since dubh, the root of the name, means black or dark.
 - Among the occupations recorded in names are the churchmen dealt with above, clerks (Clery, Ó Cleirigh, from cleireach), bards (Ward, Mac an Bhaird, from bard), spokesmen (MacCloran, Mac Labhrain, from the Irish labhraidh), and smiths (McGowan, Mac Gabhainn, from gabhann).
 - One category of name, common in English, which is extremely rare among Irish names is the toponymic, deriving from the name of a locality. It seems likely that this reflects the fact that, for the Gaels, who you were related to was much more important than where you came from.

History of Irish Surnames

- Immediate reason for the early adoption of hereditary names in Ireland may have been a rapidly expanding population
- Logical outcome of a process at work from the times of the earliest tribal names.
- Originally, these indicated identification with a common god, often connected with an animal valued by the tribe, in the case of the Osraige, or "deer-people", for example. Next came identification with a divine ancestor, the Boandrige, for instance, claiming descent from the goddess Boand, the divinised river Boyne. Later the ancestor was merely legendary, as for the Eoghanachta, while later still the tribe claimed direct descent from a historical ancestor, as in the case of the Ui Neill.
- This slow emergence of kin-relationships out of religion and myth into the realm of history would seem to reach its logical conclusion with the adoption of hereditary surnames, permanent proof of verifiable ties of blood.
- On a more mundane level, of course, such proof was a valuable political asset, since it demonstrated membership of a powerful kin-group. Even today, the fact that all Gaelic names, without exception, begin with Ó or Mac is undeniable and continuing proof of the significance of family and kin for the Irish.

History of Irish Surnames

- Although it began early, the process of the creation of surnames was slow, and continued for over six hundred years.
- As the population grew and new families were formed, they sought to consolidate their identity by adopting hereditary surnames of their own, usually by simply adding MAC to the first name of the founding ancestor.
- In the course of this process, then, many surnames were created which are in fact offshoots of more common names.
 - the MacMahons and the McConsidines are descended from the O'Brien family, the former from Mahon O'Brien, who died in 1129, the latter from Constantine O'Brien, who died in 1193. The continuing division and sub-division of the most powerful Gaelic families like this is almost certainly the reason for the great proliferation of Gaelic surnames.

Researching Irish Surnames

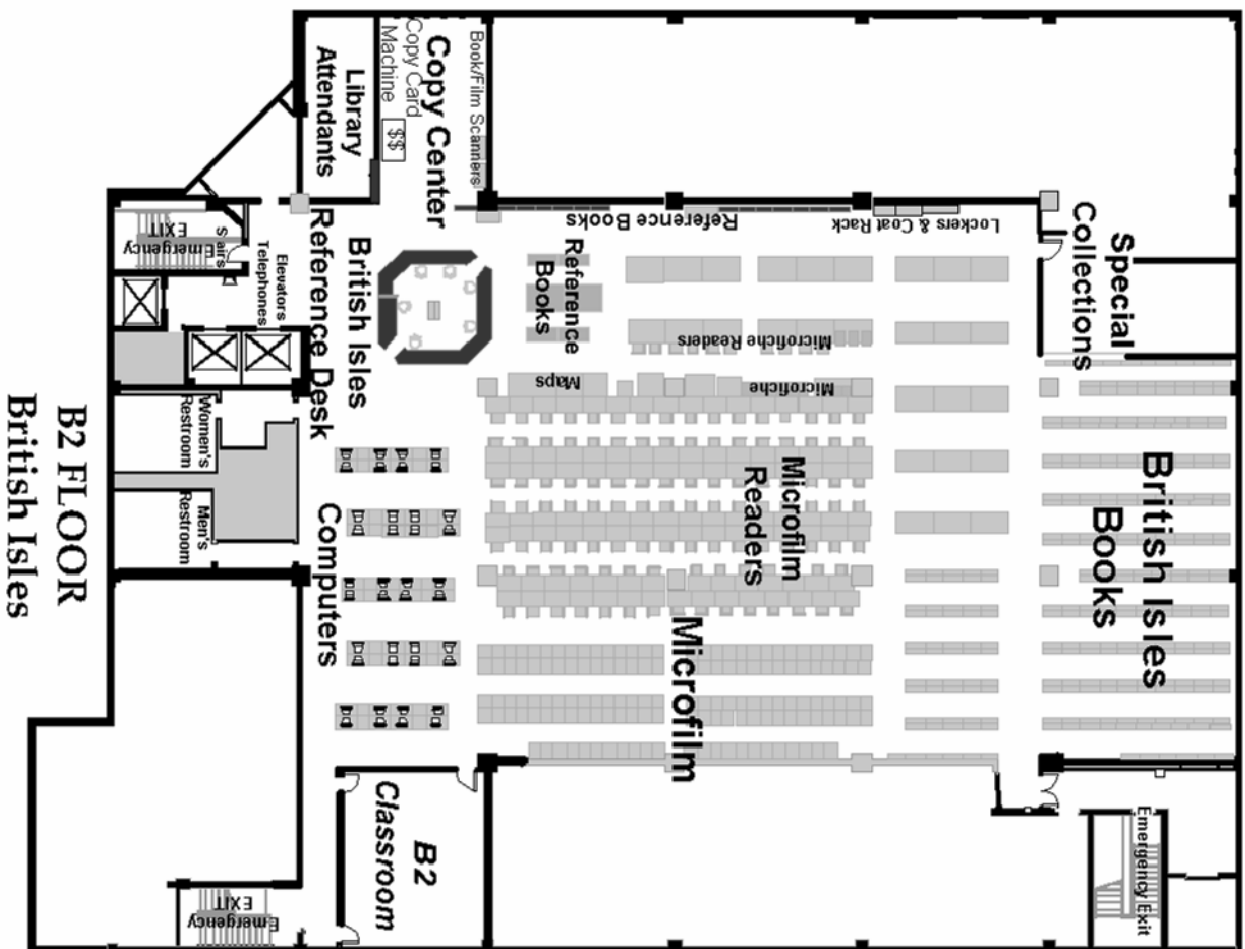
- **Irish Ancestors: is a subset of The Irish Times. It has both free and for charge information.**
 - <http://scripts.ireland.com/ancestor/index.cfm>
- **UK & Ireland Genealogy (GENUKI):** One of the oldest and most venerable genealogy sites in the area. The link below is directly to the Ireland portion of the site. It is similar in organization to the USGenWeb sites. It is organized by Province and then by County. There are great maps and an alphabetized listing of resources.
 - <http://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl/>
- **Irish History in Maps:** This site is a fabulous collection of maps of Ireland based on history. It also contains one of the better surname facilities that is available.
 - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~irlkik/ihtm/>

**Irish Research at the Family
History Library or Its Branch
Family History Centers**

What is the Family History Library?

- **Largest repository of genealogical materials in the world**
- **Equipment to view and print**
- **Professionals on site**
- **Free use, 6 days a week**
- **200+ computers**
- **Downtown SLC**

FHL—British Isles



Why Use the FHL?

- **Many Irish records available in one location in the US, all on one floor**
- **Open 6 days a week**
- **Free access**
- **Large number and type of reading equipment available**
- **Trained genealogists on site**

FHL Short List—Irish Records

- **Cemetery records:** Many published volumes of tombstone transcripts. Micr. film of registers of the major Protestant cemetery, Mount Jerome in Dublin City.
- **Censuses and census substitutes:** The 1901 and 1911 censuses of Ireland
- **Census fragments from the nineteenth century.** Many census substitutes from 1600s to the 1800s.
- **Church records:** Microfilm of church registers from about one-third of Catholic parishes in Ireland; Quaker registers of births, marriages, and deaths for all of Ireland; a few transcripts of Church of Ireland and Presbyterü registers.

FHL Short List—Irish Records

- **Civil registration:** Microfilm copies of indexes to Irish civil registration from 1845 through 1958. Copies of many of the original registers of birth, marriages and death, although there are gaps in the collection.
- **Directories:** Countrywide and local town directories as books or on micr film, including a significant series of directories for Belfast and Dublin.
- **Estate records:** Relatively few are available, but some major collections have been microfilmed at the Public Record Office in England.
- **Occupational records:** Guild records for Dublin City and other cities.
- **Irish Constabulary records and indexes.**
- **Reference material:** Most Irish genealogy reference works and Irish genealogy guides.

FHL Short List—Irish Records

- **Genealogies:** Most of the manuscripts of the Genealogical Office, Dublin are on microfilm.
- **Inventories and catalogs:** Descriptive catalogs of the PROM. Kew Lists
- **Land records:** Records of the Registry of Deeds from 1708 to 1929, along with indexes by the name of the grantor and by the locality (such as townlands)
- **Military records:** Many British Army, Irish militia, and yeomanry recos

Family History Centers

- **Branch library of the FHL**
- **Over 4000 worldwide**
- **Can order films and fiche for viewing locally at your convenience**
- **Local expertise**

Irish Valuation Records

Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864

- **What is Griffith's Valuation?**
- **Why is Griffith's Valuation important today?**
- **What is the structure of Griffith's Valuation?**
- **Why are there different versions of the Valuation?**
- **How were the occupiers listed in Griffith Valuation?**
- **Has Griffith's Valuation been indexed before?**
- **Where are the original volumes of Griffith's Valuation located?**
- **Who was Richard Griffith?**
- **Were there other valuations completed in Ireland?**
- **Why is Griffith's Valuation better than previous valuations?**
- **Explanation of terms**
- **Acknowledgements**

What is Griffith's Valuation?

- The valuation of Ireland (technically known as the Primary Valuation of Tenements) was completed between the years 1847 and 1864 and has become known as Griffith's Valuation
 - Due to influence of its Director, Richard Griffith
- Massive project was undertaken to assess the payment of various local taxes by the people of Ireland.
- Taxes were linked to the value of property occupied by each tax payer.
- Results of the valuers' work were published in a series of over 300 volumes detailing the names of all the property occupiers (not simply owners) in Ireland and the value of their house and land.

Why is Griffith's Valuation important today?

- The 19th century Irish census records were destroyed in two disasters –
 - pulped for paper during WWI or incinerated when the Public Record Office in Dublin was burned down in 1922.
- This has meant that Griffith's Valuation has become a vitally important "census substitute" for mid-19th century Ireland, in the years between the Great Famine and the beginning of civil registration in 1864.
- The valuation covers the entire country:
 - Every property in Ireland was included in the valuation, with the occupier's name (as well as the name of the person to whom the occupier paid rent).
 - The occupier would generally be the head of the household.
 - The valuation covers not just houses, but also buildings and land of any description, and so lists every landholder and occupier who paid rates in Ireland.
 - Genealogists and family historians will be able to find a wealth of information to link together family members, as well as giving an indication of how their ancestors lived.

What is the structure of Griffith's Valuation?

- Originally, under legislation in 1846, the valuation was to be done by Barony, with a volume printed for each barony.
 - Within each book, houses, lands and their occupiers were enumerated by civil parish and townland
- Each entry gives this detailed location information for each plot
 - Occupier's name,
 - Immediate lessor's name,
 - Description of the property, acreage, rateable valuation of the land and buildings, and annual valuation
- In 1852, the valuation format was changed
 - Thereafter valuation was done by Poor Law Union (rather than Barony).
 - Otherwise the format remained very similar to those published prior to 1852.
 - The bulk of the valuation was done by Poor Law Union, but the earlier volumes by barony were not recomputed or revalued.

Why are there different versions of the Valuation?

- Under the 1846 Act that set out the plan for the Valuation, there were to be three publications for each Barony:
 - First a full valuation, then a publication listing the appeals made against the valuation, and lastly a completely revised version of the valuation for each barony.
 - The list of amendments are important because they also contain the reasons given for the appeal
 - Typically record that a person's name has been recorded inaccurately, or that they are no longer resident, or that the valuation is too high, etc.
 - There was often a five year gap between the first publication and the last there can be significant changes recorded in occupation. Under the 1852 Act, which meant that the Valuation was published by Poor Law Union, there was no requirement to publish amendments or a revised edition.

How were the occupiers listed in Griffith Valuation?

- Usually by last name, then first given name or initial, and
- Often with an agnomen (or additional name) if there was more than one occupier of the same family and given name.
- These agnomens are a major benefit of this valuation as they can give much needed additional information about an occupier, e.g. Jr., Sr., or physical characteristics, which can be helpful for genealogical research.

Has Griffith's Valuation been indexed before?

- There have been several attempts to index this source, but the most complete index to date is that being produced for Irish Origins. Earlier attempts had a number of weaknesses:
- They did not include occupier forenames (e.g. The Index of Surnames or Householders Index)
- They did not include immediate lessors' names (e.g. the All-Ireland Heritage Inc. indexes)
- They did not cover the entire country (e.g. Heritage World/Genealogical Publishing Company CD-ROM)
- They did not include all the various versions of the printed valuation, like the lists of amendments and completely revised volumes

Where are the original volumes of Griffith's Valuation located?

- Although the original volumes of Griffith's Valuation are located in many different repositories, there does not appear to be a complete version of the valuation in any one repository, either original volume, or on microfilm today.
- The National Library of Ireland in Dublin and the Valuation Office in Dublin probably have the largest collection of original volumes.
- There are also large holdings at the National Archives of Ireland, the Genealogical Office, and the Gilbert Library (for Dublin only).
- The material on Irish Origins represents what we believe to be the most complete version of the Griffith Valuation in one place. It has been created in association with the National Library of Ireland, and with the help of the Valuation Office, Genealogical Office, National Archives of Ireland, the Gilbert Library and the private collection of George Handran.

Were there other valuations completed in Ireland?

- The Townland Valuation in 1826 was the first nineteenth century attempt to create a uniform valuation of land in Ireland to deal with the local county 'cess' tax.
- The second (or Tenement Valuation, now known as Griffith's Valuation) was created to deal with the problems and errors found in the Townland Valuation.
- In accordance with the new act in 1846, the land was to be valued by barony and is discussed above; but by 1852 it was determined that the 1846 valuation needed to be revised, and was completed by Poor Law Union, also discussed above.

Why is Griffith's Valuation better than previous valuations?

- **Griffith's Valuation was superior for several reasons:**
 - It valued individual farms and all houses.
 - It was carried out under the supervision of a central authority, with Richard Griffith acting as Commissioner of the Valuation.
 - The valuation became the basis for all subsequent local taxation.
 - The principles on which the valuation was based were clearly enunciated and described in detail.
 - The aim of the valuation was to produce a uniform guide to the relative value of land throughout the whole country by ascertaining the net value of every farm (the net value being the computed margin between the value of the produce of the farm and its cost of production after making an allowance for the burden of local taxation).
 - This method of valuation - based on the assumption that the value of land could be computed on clearly enunciated principles - was completely different from the methods used in other parts of the United Kingdom where the actual letting value was the basis of official valuation.

Conclusions



- Irish Genealogy is most challenging
- Extensive history of the country
- Only recent genealogical history
- Genealogy does not go back much further than 1800 unless:
 - Tied in at high to clans
 - Ulster Scots
- Tremendous resources coming on line
- Must know a lot about the history to be effective
- Need to invest some time

