



Key Websites to Help with Your Irish Research Presentation to GenealogyKC 2022 Presenter: John Manning

Background

- The number of Irish genealogy websites has risen dramatically in recent years. With over 70 million people worldwide claiming some Irish ancestry, there has been a corresponding increased interest in people exploring their family history.

General Interest Websites

- **Ancestry.com** (<https://www.ancestry.com>). (Subscription)
- **Findmypast.com** (<https://www.findmypast.com>). (Subscription)
- **FamilySearch.org** (<https://www.familysearch.org>). (Free)
- **MyHeritage.com** (<https://www.myheritage.com/>). (Subscription)
- **General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI)** (<https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>). (Free/detailed information downloads require purchases of credits) – It contains an online database of civil registration records for counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Londonderry, Fermanagh, and Tyrone.
- **Irish Ancestors** (<https://www.johngrenham.com/>). (One-part is free/one-part subscription) – Does not hold any record collections. Provides information and direction for Irish ancestry research.
- **IrishGenealogy.ie** (<https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/>). (Free) – Holds pre-20th century church records of baptisms, marriages, and burials for selected Church of Ireland and Roman Catholic parishes; and Ireland's civil registration indexes of births, marriages, and deaths.
- **National Archives of Ireland** (<https://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/>). (Free) - Contains the 1901 and 1911 censuses, tithe applotment books dating from the 1820s and 1830s, and Calendars of Wills and Administration from 1858-1922.
- **Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)** (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>). (Free) - Includes the six counties of Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone. While it does not provide online access to Census, vital, or church records, it does have a "Name Search" capability which allows you to search several indexes to pre-1858 wills, some surviving fragments of the 1740 and 1766 religious censuses, 1775 dissenters' petitions and coroners' inquest papers from 1872 to 1920.
- **RootsIreland.ie** (<https://www.rootsireland.ie/>). (Subscription) – Managed by the nonprofit Irish Family History Foundation (IFHF), it contains church records of mixed denominations and has transcribed birth, marriage, and death certificates for some counties.

Emigration and Immigration Websites

- **Boston Passenger Manifest for 1848-1891** (<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arcsrch/PassengerManifestSearchContents.html>). (Free) - Massachusetts state officials started recording the names of immigrants who arrived by ship in

January of 1848. This procedure continued until July 1891, when federal records-keeping programs superseded the states. Over one million immigrants came through the Port of Boston during this period, and the online database allows for a search of the passenger name, ship names, and arrival dates.

- **Castle Garden Database (pre-1892)** (<http://www.castlegarden.org/>). (Free) – It contains eleven million searchable records of immigrants who arrived at the Port of New York from 1820 – 1892.
- **Ellis Island Database (post-1891)** (<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/EIDB/ellisgold.html>). (Free) – Uses a search engine that allows multiple types of queries (passenger name, ship name, and arrival dates) to access the database provided by the Ellis Island website (<https://www.statueofliberty.org/discover/passenger-ship-search/>).

Census and Census Substitutes Websites

- **Census of Ireland 1901/1911 and Census fragments and substitutes, 1821-51** (<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>). (Free).
- **Valuation Office books 1824-1856** (<http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/vob/home.jsp>). (Free) – Contains assessor notes that supported *Griffith's Valuation of Tenements*.
- **Irish Flax Growers and Hearthmoney Rolls, 1796** (<https://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php>). (Free) – In 1796, the Irish Linen Board published a list of nearly 60,000 individuals in 1796 who planted at least one acre of flax. (Note: <https://www.failteromhat.com/index.php> has multiple indexed sources, including several Census, directory, and cemetery transcriptions).

Note: *Griffith's Valuation of Tenements*, an excellent substitute, is widely available online. It is available on Ancestry (in the Irish Wills, probate & tax collection) and as "Ireland Tithe Applotment Books, 1814-1855" on FamilySearch.org.

Church Records Websites

- **National Library of Ireland Roman Catholic Parish Registers** (<https://registers.nli.ie/>). (Free) - web-repository of parish records dating from the 1740s to the 1880s.
- **Irish Genealogy – Church Records** (<https://churchrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/>). (Free) – Contains some Roman Catholic and Church of Ireland records of Dublin City, County Kerry, County Carlow, and County Cork. It also contains some Presbyterian records relating to a congregation in Lucan.
- **Parish Records – Church of Ireland** (<https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/anglican-record-project>). (Free) - Ongoing digitization effort to make the registers of baptism, marriage, and burial from Church of Ireland parishes available. Some additional records are available at <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/online-parish-records>.

Court and Prison Records Websites

- **Ireland Landed Estate Court Files, 1850-1885** (<https://www.familysearch.org>). (Free) – Includes information on bankruptcies.
- **Ireland Prison Registers, 1790-1924** (<https://www.familysearch.org>). (Free).

Estate, Land, and Property Records Websites

- **Registry of Deeds Index Project Ireland** (<https://irishdeedsindex.net/index.php>). (Free) - Ongoing effort to index records held at the Registry of Deeds in Dublin. It can be searched by name at <https://irishdeedsindex.net/search/index.php>.
- **Connacht and Munster Landed Estates project**. (Free) – Unfortunately, hackers took the University's website down in September 2021. There is a workaround by going to <http://52.18.205.240/>. It does not have all of the functionality of the University's website, but you can search for landed estates and historic houses in Connacht and Munster, c. 1700-1914. Can search by family name, estate, and houses.

Taxation Records Websites

- **Ireland Tithe Applotment Books, 1814-1855** (<https://www.familysearch.org>). (Free)
- **National Archives of Ireland Tithe Applotment Books** (<http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp>). (Free).

Probate Records Websites

- **Wills and Will Calendars** (https://apps.proni.gov.uk/WillsCalendar_IE/WillsSearch.aspx). (Free) - From the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) provides an index to Will Calendar entries for the District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast, and Londonderry (1858 to 1965). View digital images of copy wills for Armagh (1858 to 1918), Belfast (1858 to 1909), and Londonderry (1858 to 1899).
- **Calendars of Wills and Administrations 1858 – 1920** (<http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/home.jsp>). (Free) – The National Archives of Ireland has searchable Will Calendars covering the whole of Ireland up to 1917, only the 26 counties in the Republic from 1918 – 1920.
- **Will Registers 1858-1900** (<http://census.nationalarchives.ie/search/wr/home.jsp>). (Free) – While original Irish wills in the custody of the Public Record Office were destroyed in the fire of June 1922, copies of wills proved in District Registries from 1858 on surviving in Will Registers are an exact replacement for the originals which were lost (less original signatures).

Civil Registration Websites

- **Births, Marriages, and Deaths** *IrishGenealogy.ie* (<https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp>). (Free) – Free search of the indexes for births, marriages, and deaths.

Note: *FamilySearch.org* is also a valuable source of civil registration information (https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Civil_Registration).

Newspaper Websites

- **Irish Newspapers Archive** (<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/>). (Free) - Access newspapers from 1738 to the present.
- **Ireland Old News** (<http://www.irelandoldnews.com/>). (Free) - Free online database holds newspaper transcriptions from most Irish counties (Carlow, Laois, Longford, Westmeath, and Wexford are not included). The years and extent of coverage vary.
- **Belfast Newsletter Index, 1737-1800** (<https://www.ucs.louisiana.edu/bnl/>). (Free) - Database covers 1737–1800, with some gaps.

Maps

- **Surname Distribution (mid 1800s)** (<https://www.swilson.info/sdist.php>). (Free) - Provides surname distribution maps based on Griffiths Valuation.
- **Irish Surname Maps based upon 1901 and 1911 censuses of Ireland** (<https://www.barrygriffin.com/surname-maps/irish/>). (Free) - Maps are based on data from Ireland's 1901 and 1911 censuses.
- **Ireland, Ordnance Survey, 1824 – 1846** (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/2192/>) – Subscription) - maps of Ireland published in 1846 were used to support land valuations for tax purposes.

Recommended Reading:

- Christian, Peter. *The Genealogist's Internet*. New York, A&C Black Business Information and Development, 2012; ISBN: 1408159570.
- Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*. Dublin, Gill Books, 2019; ISBN: 0717174654.
- Maxwell, Ian. *Tracing Your Northern Irish Ancestors: A Guide for Family Historians*. S.L., Pen & Sword Family History, 2016; ISBN: 1473851793.
- Paton, Chris. *Tracing Your Irish Family History on the Internet: A Guide for Family Historians*. S.L., Pen & Sword Family History, 2019; ISBN: 1526757818.
- Ryan, James G. *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History*. Dublin, Flyleaf Press/Ancestry, 1999; ISBN: 1681620049.