

Your Family Tree: 1

HOW TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE



GETTING STARTED

Do your homework!

- **Start with what you know** and work backwards. Note basic facts such as when and where you, your parents and grandparents were born.
- **Talk to family and friends** as they will remember useful snippets of information. Make a note of what each person tells you as accounts may differ. You can refer to your notes to verify your research and fill in gaps.
- **Look for other sources at home:** Family Bibles may contain details of births, marriages and deaths. Look on the back of old photographs for names, dates and places. Many people keep certificates, news-cuttings and other mementoes to remind them of significant events. Think where you keep these things and check attics, wardrobes, old shoeboxes, etc.
- **Check family gravestone inscriptions** for names and vital dates – your local council may have access to a searchable database.
- **Gather the paperwork**, eg, birth, death and marriage certificates. Civil certificates can be obtained from the General Register Office. .

Key information is:

- **Names** – often repeated within families: check the given names of grandparents, uncles, etc. for a common family name. Remember, spelling was not standard in the past and variations in the spelling of surnames are common.

- **Dates:** dates of significant events, eg, birth, marriage, death. Date of emigration, if relevant, is helpful.
- **Places** – the area your family came from is very important, a place name is vital to locate records such as church registers. Note references to townland names, parishes and counties.

Remember, it is not vital to have all of this detail to begin with, but the more information you can gather, the better you will be able to target your research. These few basic facts will help you to be more selective when you are ready to **Go Online!**

Visit our website at www.proni.gov.uk to access the PRONI eCatalogue

Search some of PRONI's most significant family history resources digitised and available online:

PRONI eCatalogue	Online Databases	Online Guides and Indexes
With over one million entries the catalogue is fully searchable by key word and phrase.	Names Search (including Coroners' inquests to 1920)	Guide to Church Records
	Will Calendars (to 1900 – links to wills images)	Privately Deposited Archives
	Freeholders Lists (18 th century)	Political Interest index
	Street Directories	Sporting Associations
	Ulster Covenant (links to digitised forms including signatures)	Newspaper Index

Consult the comprehensive series of family history leaflets also available.

Link from PRONI website to other genealogical websites, eg, 1901 and 1911 Census for Ireland, at www.nationalarchives.ie and Griffith's Valuation at www.askaboutireland.ie are useful free sites.

Try websites such as Google Earth to familiarise yourself with the significant places you have discovered and their proximity to one another.

Complete this initial fact finding to prepare you to begin your family history research.

FIRST STEPS IN PRONI

Where you start your research in PRONI depends on the information you have been able to gather.

1. What if I have no relatives to ask and little or no information on my family?

- Start with the **PRONI eCatalogue** available either in the Search Room or on-line at www.proni.gov.uk. Searchable by keyword, phrase or reference number, the eCatalogue search results provide names, dates, locations and some information on the documents.
- Try **PRONI Names Search** and other databases including **Will Calendars, Ulster Covenant, Freeholders** and **Street Directories** – all link names and places.
- Look at the 1901 or 1911 Census freely available at www.nationalarchives.ie
- Try Griffith's Valuation, a record of householders from c. 1860, also a free site available at www.askaboutireland.ie

2. If I know that my family has always lived in a particular area, what are the best sources for me?

- All of the sources listed above will be useful.
- **Church records: registers of baptisms, marriages and sometimes burials.** Pinpoint the parish to limit your search (more straightforward for rural areas than cities or towns where there can be many churches in a relatively small area). Check the *PRONI Guide to Church Records*, listing records by parish, available on our website.
- **Search Room Geographical Index**, only available on-site. The index, arranged by townlands, gives a PRONI reference number for records including the earliest valuation books and corresponding maps. Valuations were carried out on buildings and land to determine what rates should be paid. PRONI also holds the Valuation Revision records (PRONI ref VAL 12B) allowing researchers to track name changes for property ownership. This can point to a date of death or a family leaving the area.
- *Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland*, in the PRONI Library to connect townlands and parishes.

(Ireland was sub-divided in a particular way: counties into baronies, baronies into parishes, and parishes into townlands. The townland is a unique feature of the Irish landscape and is one of the most ancient divisions in the country. Other divisions to look out for are Poor Law Unions (PLU), administrative divisions for the Workhouse system and District Electoral Divisions (DED), which can be needed to locate some records. The Geographical index available on the PRONI website is a helpful guide to understanding and locating administrative divisions within Northern Ireland)

- Note the townland, parish and names of other divisions as this information will help you to locate other records as your research continues.
- **Tithe Applotment Books**, 1823–1837 are also place related (although cities and larger towns were excluded). These are available on microfilm in PRONI with an index at PRONI reference MIC 15K.
- **School Registers** are available at PRONI ref SCH.

What if I Cannot Come to PRONI

If you are unable to visit us in person, you can still make use of the PRONI eCatalogue, guides, indexes and databases and links to other sites available on our website.

PRONI can also undertake specific searches for a fee. You must put your request for a copy or a search in writing (e-mail is fine). We cannot provide a comprehensive research service but a list of commercial researchers operating in Northern Ireland who undertake this work can be obtained from PRONI and is available on our website. Please note the commercial researchers listed do not work for PRONI, we cannot recommend any particular person or organisation, nor can we be held responsible for the standard of their work, or for any qualification or title they may claim to hold.

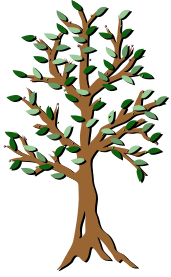
Further information on search options, together with details of the copying service, can be found on the PRONI website: www.proni.gov.uk.



Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm
(Please check in advance for
late evening opening)

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ
Tel: (028) 9053 4800 Fax: (028) 9053 4900
Web-site: <http://www.proni.gov.uk>
e-mail: pronni@dcalni.gov.uk



Your Family Tree: 2

1901 and 1911 CENSUS



1901 is the earliest and most complete surviving census of Ireland. 1901 and 1911 census records have been digitised by The National Archives of Ireland (custodians of the original census forms) and are freely available on-line at www.nationalarchives.ie

Census records can be used to find a date of birth for people born before the introduction of Civil Registration in Ireland in 1864, for example someone aged 51 in 1901 would have been born in 1850 – 14 years before birth certificates were available. The early 19th century census records also provide information on people who were born before the Great Famine.

What is recorded?

All those in the house at the time were included. This means that servants, lodgers, boarders and even visiting friends are listed but members of the family, away from home on the day were not included with the other family members. The census, gathered on 31 March 1901 and 2 April 1911, recorded the following:

- First name
- Surname
- Relationship to the head of the household
- Religious denomination
- Literacy level
- Age
- Gender
- Occupation
- Marital status
- Place of birth
- Ability to speak or write Irish
- Specified disabilities

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.												
(The Examples of the mode of filling up the Entries are given on the other side.)												
FORM A.												
RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c. who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.												
No.	NAME and SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGION.	SEX.	AGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.	MARRIAGE.
1	Philip	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Male	45	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
2	Rosa	Wife	Roman Catholic	Female	42	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married	Married
3	Michael	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	18	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
4	Philip	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	15	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
5	Thomas	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	12	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
6	Joseph	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	10	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
7	Thomas	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	8	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
8	Henry	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	6	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
9	William	Son	Roman Catholic	Male	3	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single	Single
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												
16												
17												
18												

The 1911 census asked married women to state the number of years they had been married, the number of their children born alive and the number still living. This is a pointer towards the year of marriage and to children not surviving at the time of the census.

Using the Census

The returns for each townland or street are:

- **Form A** – filled in by the head of each household, giving the names of all people in that household on census night and their age, occupation, religion and place of birth. There should be a separate form for each household.
- **Forms N, B1 and B2** were filled in by the official taking the census, summarising the returns for each townland or street.
- **Form N** is the enumerator's abstract for a townland or street;
- **Form B1** summarises the houses and buildings;
- **Form B2** is a summary of the outhouses and farmsteads;
- **Form B3** is a shipping return.
- **Forms C** is a return of the sick at their own homes
- **Form D** is a return of lunatics not in institutions

Forms E – K are institutional returns for example, workhouses, hospitals, asylums, barracks etc and in these cases many names are indexed by initials only. The information on the form (place of birth, occupation and marital status should help you to confirm the identity of the person you are looking for.

- **Form E** is a return of inmates in the workhouse;
- **Form F** is a return of those in hospital;
- **Form G**, those at college and boarding school;
- **Form H**, the military, Royal Irish Constabulary and Metropolitan Police in barracks;
- **Form I** lunatics in institutions and private lunatic asylums;
- **Form K** is a return of those confined in prisons, bridewells and police stations.

Missing Townlands/Streets

A number of townlands/streets do not appear in the online census for 1901 and 1911, in most cases this material has never been microfilmed and so was not digitised. This will explain a nil return in some cases.

Census on Microfilm

Microfilm copies of the original census returns for 1901 are held at PRONI, Ref. MIC354.

Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm
*(Please check in advance for
late evening opening)*

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Frequently Asked Questions

CHURCH RECORDS



What church records are available at PRONI?

PRONI holds microfilm copies of church records for most of the main religious denominations, relating to Northern Ireland and also some relating to the Republic of Ireland. These include the Church of Ireland, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Moravian, Congregational and Non-Subscribing Presbyterian. Some original church records have also been deposited with PRONI.

Is there a guide to these records?

Yes. PRONI has produced a *Guide to Church Records* that details which records are held at PRONI for each individual church, the covering dates for each series of records and what the PRONI reference number is. The Guide is arranged alphabetically by parish. Normally there will be churches relating to more than one denomination in each parish and these can be identified in the Guide. The Guide is available in the Public Search Room and on the PRONI website – www.proni.gov.uk

What documents are contained in Church Records?

The records usually contain the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, many of which pre-date civil registration and sometimes communion rolls, vestry minutes, account books, etc., that can be equally useful, especially as they often pre-date the registers.

What information is contained in the records?

This varies greatly between individual churches.

Baptism records – The information contained in these records varies but they may contain the following:

- The name of the child
- The date of baptism and of birth
- The name of the father
- The maiden name of the mother
- The townland where they lived

Sometimes the occupation of the father is also given. Less detailed entries will give only the date of the baptism and the name of the father.

Marriage Records – From 1845, church marriage registers are the same as the civil registers, and always contain:

- the date of the marriage
- the names of the two parties
- their age (often the record will state only 'full age', meaning that they were over 21 years old)
- the names of the fathers of each party and their respective occupations
- the townland where each party resided

Pre-1845 marriage entries are as varied in content as the baptism entries. In addition to the names of the parties and the date of marriage, the townland where each resided is often given but rarely the names of the fathers.

Burial registers – These records are more standardised and usually contain the following information:

- Name
- Date of burial (or sometimes that of death)
- Address
- Age

How do I view these records?

Most of the Church records are on microfilm (PRONI reference **MIC**), available in the Public Search Room self-service microfilm cabinets.

Others, however, have not been microfilmed (usually those with the **CR** reference) and these can be ordered via the computer terminals in the Public Search Room and consulted in the Reading Room. In many cases only those Church records pre-dating 1900 have been copied or deposited.

What information do I need to search for a record?

You will need to know the name of the person you are looking for, the approximate date of the event (baptism, marriage, burial, etc.), the parish where the church is located and the religious denomination of the person.

This information will allow you to identify a church or churches whose records may contain the information you are looking for. You can then use the *Guide to Church Records* to find the reference number of these records. Once you have the reference number you can retrieve the microfilm in the search room or order an original document via the electronic ordering system.

How can I find out the name of the parish?

If you do not know the name of the parish but you do have a place name, search the printed townlands index available in the search room. This lists the towns and townlands for Ireland along with the parish to which they belonged. There is also a geographical index available on the PRONI website. This lists townlands within parishes and counties, parishes in each county and Dioceses, Baronies or Poor Law Unions within Northern Ireland.

In built up urban areas a parish is less meaningful and within the *Guide to Church Records* no attempt has been made to locate churches in Belfast within a civil parish since most of Belfast fell within one parish - these have been listed under 'Belfast' and no cross-references have been made to these churches.

Can I have a copy of a record I have found?

This varies between different denominations. For most records it is acceptable to copy a single page for your own personal use. Roman Catholic records cannot be copied without permission from the parish priest. For Methodist, Non-Subscribing Presbyterian, Congregational

and Reformed Presbyterian records permission is required from the relevant church before copies can be made. For Quaker records permission is required from the Religious Society of Friends only if the record is under 50 years old.

Is there a charge for copying?

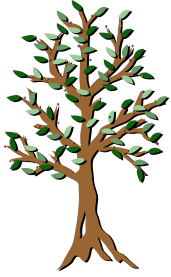
There is a charge for making copies. If the record is on microfilm you can purchase a copy card from the Collection Point in PRONI for use with the self-service microfilm printer. If you wish to copy a paper record you can make use of the PRONI copying service or use the self-service camera in the Reading Room.

Is there anywhere else I can find church records?

Some records have not been given to PRONI or copied. In the *Guide to Church Records* these are identified as being 'in local custody'. In this instance you should contact the church directly to enquire about access to these records.

A record I want does not seem to be available. Why is this?

If PRONI does not hold the records you are looking for you should try contacting the church directly to enquire about their availability. There are however gaps in the church records, not least because many parish registers deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin were destroyed in the fire there in 1922.



Your Family Tree: 4

VALUATION RECORDS



INTRODUCTION

PRONI holds records relating to the valuation of property in Northern Ireland from the 1830s to 1993. Following the valuations in the 1830s and 1860s, re-valuations were done in 1935, 1956, 1975 and 1993. The original purpose was, and still remains, the assessment of every building and every piece of land and an estimation of its financial value. The valuation is, in theory, the amount that an owner would expect to receive if they hired out their property for one year. The valuation of a property is subsequently used in assessing the rates to be paid.

The levying of a rate in Ireland, to raise money to meet the costs of local government, dates from 1635. An Act of that year gave Justices of the Peace power to levy certain sums, known as the County Cess or Grand Jury Cess, upon the inhabitants of a locality for the execution of public works such as the building of roads and bridges. By 1824 Parliament recognised the need for a more equitable method of measuring liability for cess and rates. The First Valuation Act was introduced in 1826, and a valuation of the whole of Ireland was prepared. Not all land and property, however, was subject to rates: national schools, for example, and glebe land (land belonging to the Church), or land too poor or stony to be worth anything, were all excluded. The information given in the valuation books usually includes the name of the tenant, the person or organisation from whom they leased the land, the acreage and the rateable value.

THE TOWNLAND VALUATION (VAL/1B)

The **Townland Valuation** of 1828-40 was primarily a valuation of land but with a valuation of certain houses, initially houses with an annual value of £3 or more. From 1838 this was increased to £5. The majority of parishes in Ulster had been valued before 1838 so many more houses were included in the valuation of property in Ulster than for the rest of the country. Details of the ownership and nature of the buildings can be found at the end of the land valuation for each townland but more detailed descriptions of the buildings will be found at the end of each volume, arranged by townland. The Townland Valuation should not, therefore, be ignored by family historians. Containing as it does many personal names, it is an invaluable

source of information on the nature and physical condition of buildings, including mills and factories, and on the nature and scope of pre-Famine agriculture. The maps that accompany this valuation are available under reference **VAL/1A**.

GRIFFITH'S VALUATION (VAL/2B)

The **Primary Valuation of Ireland**, 1848-1864, gives a complete list of occupiers of land, tenements and houses. Better known as **Griffith's Valuation**, it is arranged by counties and within counties by Poor Law Union Divisions and within Unions by barony and then by parish and townland. For each townland the following information is recorded:

- Occupier of the land or houses
- Name of the person from whom the property was leased
- Description of the property
- Acreage of the farm
- Valuation of the land and buildings

The Griffith's Valuation is a useful, if flawed, substitute for the 1851/1861 census returns, in that it only gives the name of the leaseholder, and does not list the other family members. It is available in manuscript form but a printed edition is available on the shelves of the Public Search Room. While this is much easier to use, it is not as detailed as the original field books which will give more information on mills and factories and will occasionally include plans. For information on how to use the Griffith's Valuation, see the leaflet on '*How to access Valuation Records*'. The **Householders' Index** (also available on the Public Search Room shelves) can be used as a guide to the surnames listed in the Griffith's Valuation. The maps accompanying Griffith's valuation are available under **VAL/2A**. The entire printed valuation has been digitised and indexed and can be accessed at www.irishorigins.com and at www.askaboutireland.ie

ANNUAL REVISION LISTS (VAL/12/B)

The First General Valuation was completed by 1863-4. Thereafter, properties were valued annually from 1864 until the early 1930s, the details of which are recorded in the annual revision books, with each volume covering approximately a ten-year period. Each year, valuers recorded any change in the quality or dimensions of the properties, or in the names of occupiers or immediate lessors, and any differences in the acreage and value. The changes were recorded in different colours of ink, one colour for each year, and the alterations are usually dated. This can help to establish significant dates in family history, such as dates of death, sale or migration. Associated maps at a scale of 6 inches to a mile can be found under **VAL/12D** and town plans under **VAL/12E**.

Also of interest are a series of valuers' note-books (**VAL/12A**). These first appeared in 1894 and record the details behind the revising valuer's decision to revise, upwards or downwards, the valuation of those premises where an addition or other alteration had been made. There is an extensive catalogue of the series on the shelves of the Public Search Room.

REVALUATION OF BELFAST, 1900-6 (VAL/7B)

Belfast was the only council to exercise the revaluation option granted to local councils by the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The valuers' note-books, arranged by ward, not only give a detailed description of every property (for example, age and size) but also record appeals against valuation. A 'Street Names' card index in the Public Search Room lists the volume number, and the page number within the volume, in which the street is recorded. This revaluation, carried out at a time when Belfast was reckoned to be the fastest-growing industrial city in the British Isles, is a particularly valuable source for any family historian wishing to trace ancestors who migrated to the city at this time. Associated maps can be found in **VAL/7A**.

FIRST NORTHERN IRELAND GENERAL REVALUATION, 1935, AND ITS REVISIONS (VAL/3)

The First General Revaluation came into force on 1 April 1936 - the first undertaken after the establishment of the government of Northern Ireland. It is an important source for historians interested in the more recent past. As well as the lists of the Revaluation itself (**VAL/3B**), there are also the revision lists in **VAL/3C** detailing changes in the ownership of property etc. until 1957. The maps, on the scale of 6 inches to one mile that accompany this valuation are also available, under **VAL 3A**, together with town plans under **VAL/3G**.

NORTHERN IRELAND GENERAL REVALUATION, 1956/7 (VAL/4)

As a result of World War II, the Second Revaluation did not take effect until 1 April 1957. PRONI only holds the revisions of this valuation (**VAL/4B**) and the associated maps (**VAL/4A**).

THIRD GENERAL REVALUATION, 1975, AND REVISIONS UP TO 1993 (VAL/14)

This is the most recent valuation held in PRONI (**VAL/14A**); the subsequent revisions are to be found in **VAL/14B** and **VAL/14C** and the associated maps in **VAL/14D**.

USING THE VALUATION RECORDS

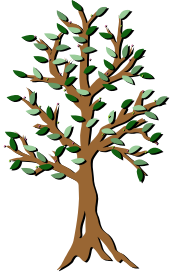
To use the valuation details for a townland you will need to know the following: county, poor law union, barony, parish and district electoral division.

These administrative subdivisions can be found by consulting the Topographical Index on the Public Search Room shelves; some will also appear on PRONI's website. The place name index in the Public Search Room in PRONI will give you the exact reference number for valuation books in **VAL/2B** and **VAL/12B**.

Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm
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Your Family Tree: 5

CENSUS RECORDS Nineteenth Century



The first properly organised census in Ireland commenced in 1821, and, thereafter, with some exceptions, a census was taken every ten years. Unfortunately, most of the 1831-1891 returns were either pulped into waste paper during the First World War or were destroyed later during the Irish Civil War. However, returns for a small number of parishes have survived:

1821

This census was organised by townland, civil parish, barony and county and took place on 28th May 1821. Almost all the original returns were destroyed in 1922, with only a few surviving for Cos Fermanagh and Cavan (**PRONI Reference MIC/5A**).

1831

Once again this census was organised by townland, civil parish, barony and county. It only records the name of the owner/occupier of the property, the townland or street, the number of the house, the number of persons in the family (and whether male or female) the number of servants in the house (and whether male or female), the total number of people in the house and the numbers of each denominations (whether Established Church, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian or other). Very little of this census survives, with most of the remaining fragments relating to Co. Londonderry:

MIC/5A/5 and 6	Barony of Coleraine;
MIC/5A/6 and 7	City of Londonderry;
MIC/5A/8A-B	Barony of Loughlinsholin;
MIC/5A/9A	Barony of Tirkeeran.

1841

The government census, taken on 6 June 1841, followed the same general pattern as that of 1831 except that the returns were compiled by the householders themselves rather than government enumerators and the name of every person in the household is

recorded. Unfortunately, no part of the census for Northern Ireland has survived but some returns for Co. Cavan did survive (**PRONI reference MIC/5A/9B**). However, the 1841 census was the earliest to be of use when the Old Age Pensions were introduced in the early twentieth century. Proof of age was accepted if the claimant could be identified in the 1841 or 1851 census. The resultant searches in the 1841 and 1851 census are to be found in the Old Age Pension claim forms which have survived (**PRONI Reference T/550**). There are also some individual returns (see **PRONI reference MIC/15A**).

1851

Taken on 30 March 1851, this government census added a column for religious affiliation. Most of the surviving returns relate to Cos Antrim and Fermanagh (see **PRONI reference MIC/5A/10-26**). There are also some surviving returns for Cromac Ward in Belfast that are held in the National Archives, Dublin but a microfilm copy is available in PRONI (**PRONI reference MIC/689**). The census returns for 1851 were also used for Old Age Pension claims (see *comments above on 1841 census*). There are also some individual census returns (see **PRONI reference MIC/15A**).

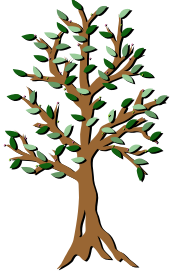
1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891

The census records for 1861 to 1891 were destroyed by government order. Nothing survives for the Northern Ireland area. See *Family Tree Series No 6 - Census Substitutes*.

Indexes

An index to the census returns for 1841 and 1851 that appear in the Old Age Pension claim forms (T/550) is available on microfiche (see **PRONI reference MF/9/1-15**). The final version of this index is still being worked on.

Opening Hours



Your Family Tree: 6

CENSUS SUBSTITUTES

Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century



1708

In 1708 James Maguire made a survey of the town of Downpatrick, Co. Down. He described each premise by name, giving its size, its principal tenant and the half yearly rent due. A manuscript copy of this survey, made by the Rev. David Stewart in 1927, is available under the **PRONI Reference MIC/637/8**.

1740

In 1740 the Irish House of Commons ordered a religious census of Protestant householders to be carried out. Although the original returns were lost when the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin was destroyed in 1922, transcripts of some have survived for parts of Cos Antrim, Armagh, Down, Donegal, Londonderry and Tyrone. The returns are arranged by county, barony and parish and give names only. The typescript copies can be found under the **PRONI Reference T/808/15258** and **T/716/9** but copies of them are available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI. The following parishes are covered:

Co. Antrim: Ahoghill, Armoy, Ballintoy, Ballymoney, Ballyrashane, Ballywillin, Billy, Clough (Dunaghy), Culfeightrin, Derrykeighan, Drummaul, Duneane, Dunluce, Finvoy, Kilraghts, Ballymena (Kirkinriola); Loughguile, 'Manybrooks' (no parish of this name now); Ramoan, Rasharkin and Rathlin.

Co. Armagh: Derrynoose, Mullaghbrack, Shankill and Tynan

Co. Donegal: Clonmany, Culdaff, Desertegny, Donagh, Fahan, Moville and Templemore.

Co. Down: Kilbroney and Seapatrick.

Co. Londonderry: all parishes except for Agivey, Arboe and Derryloran (may be covered in the Co. Tyrone part of Co. Londonderry).

Co. Tyrone: Derryloran and Kildress.

1766

In March and April 1766, Church of Ireland rectors were instructed by the government to compile complete returns of all householders in their respective parishes, showing their religion, as between Church of Ireland (Episcopalian), Roman Catholic (termed 'Papists' in the returns) and Presbyterians (or Dissenters), and giving an account of any Roman Catholic clergy active in their area. Some of the more diligent rectors listed every townland and every household, but many drew up only numerical totals of the population. All of the original returns were lost when the Public Record Office of Ireland in Dublin was destroyed in 1922 but extensive transcripts survive and are available under the **PRONI Reference T/808/15264, 15266 and 15267, T/283/C, T/664 and T/3901**. Copies of the T/808 items are available on the shelves in the Search Room in PRONI. The following parishes are covered:

Co. Antrim: Ahoghill, Ballintoy, Ballymoney and Ballynure.

Co. Armagh: Creggan.

Co. Cavan: Kinawley (partly in Co Cavan); Lurgan and Munterconnaught.

Co. Down: Inch, Kilbroney and Seapatrick

Co. Donegal: Leck

Co. Fermanagh: Derryvullan, Devenish, Kinawley (partly in Co. Cavan) and Rossory.

Co. Londonderry: Artrea, Ballynascreen, Banagher, Bovevagh, Cumber, Desertlyn, Desertmartin, Drumachose, Dungiven, 'Inch Island' and Magherafelt.

Co. Tyrone: Aghaloo, Artrea, Carnteel, Clonfeacle, Derryloran, Donaghery, Drumglass, Kildress, Tullyniskan, Magherafelt and Dungannon Town.

1770

In 1770 a census was carried out for the town of Armagh giving individual names and occupations, size of family and religion and is arranged street by street. It can be found under the **PRONI Reference T/808/14938 and T/808/14977**.

1775

Petitions of Dissenters and members of the Established Church (the Church of Ireland) to the Irish Parliament or the Lord Lieutenant can be found in T/808/15307. A copy is found on the Search room shelves. The names are arranged by parish or name of congregation. The following parishes/congregations are covered:

Co. Antrim: Antrim Borough; Old Antrim; Ballyclare town and neighbourhood; Ballymena town and neighbourhood; Ballynure town and neighbourhood; Ballynure Established Church; Belfast parish and town; Carnmoney parish; Carrickfergus town and county; Donegore, Kilbride and Nilteen; Dunmurry congregation in Drumbeg parish; Larne, Raloo, Carncastle, Kilwaughter, Glenarm and Ballyeaston; Lisburn town and neighbourhood.

Co. Armagh: Armagh parish; Clare congregation in Ballymore parish.

Co. Down: Ballee congregation; Bangor town and parish; Comber parish; Dundonald parish; Dromore parish; Dromara parish; Drumballyroney and Drumgooland parishes; Killyleagh parish; Newry parish; Rathfriland congregation; Seapatrick, Tullylish and Donacloney parishes.

Co. Londonderry: Coleraine and Killowen parishes; Londonderry City.

Co. Tyrone: Benburb town and neighbourhood; Coagh; Cookstown congregation; Dungannon barony; Dungannon town and neighbourhood; Strabane town and neighbourhood.

Belfast parish and town

1796

As part of a government initiative to encourage the linen trade, free spinning-wheels or looms were granted to individuals planting a certain area of land with flax. The lists of those entitled to the awards, covering almost 60,000 individuals, were published in 1796. They are to be found under the **PRONI Reference T/3419** but a typescript copy is available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI. A microfilm index to the lists is also available under the **PRONI Reference MF/7**.

1803

The 1803 agricultural census returns for Co. Down, although a government led survey, are to be found in the Londonderry estate archive (PRONI Ref **D/654/A2**). Similar returns exist for Co. Antrim but they are in the National Archives in Dublin. British authorities, fearing a French Invasion of Ireland, made plans for the defence of the coastline so that in the event of an invasion they would know what to move and what support would be available for the army. The plans involved taking an inventory of livestock, provisions, crops and equipment. The returns of 'live and dead stock' record the names of householders by townland and parish with details of what stock each held but the names of householders are only recorded for 30 out of the 50 parishes. Nevertheless over 11,000 names are recorded.

1824-1838

The Composition Act of 1823 specified that tithes due to the Established Church, which had been payable in kind, should now be paid in money. As a result it was necessary to carry out a valuation of the entire country, parish by parish, in order to determine how much would be payable by each landowner. The Tithe Applotment Books list the occupiers of titheable land and are not a list of householders as is the case in a census. Therefore, labourers, etc. were all omitted, in addition to all purely urban dwellers. The books can be found under the **PRONI Reference FIN/5A**. The Householders' Index, available on the shelves in the Search Room in PRONI, can be used as a guide to the surnames listed in the Tithe Applotment Books

c.1860-c.1940

National school registers, which record the age of the pupil, religion, father's address and occupation, are a valuable source of information for anyone interested in tracing their family tree. PRONI has in its custody registers, etc for almost 1,600 schools in Northern Ireland. An index to the schools with the appropriate **SCH** number is available in PRONI and can also be found in the *Guide to Educational Records*, available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI.

1848-1864

Popularly known as Griffith's Valuation, the Primary Valuation of Ireland lists every householder and occupier of land in Ireland. It is arranged by county, barony, poor law union, civil parish and townland. A printed edition of the Griffith's Valuation is available on the Search Room shelves in PRONI. See also Family Tree Series Leaflet 4 '*Valuation Records*'.

1876

The 'Landowners in Ireland: Return of owners of land of one acre and upwards...' records more than 32,000 owners of land in Ireland in 1876, identifying them by province and county. A copy of this publication is available on the shelves in the Search Room in PRONI.

Opening Hours



Frequently Asked Questions

WILLS AND PROBATE



What wills does PRONI hold?

PRONI holds all original wills and letters of administration for Northern Ireland from 1900 onwards. They normally transfer to PRONI from the High Court when they are seven years old.

Almost all original wills and letters of administrations from 1858 to 1900 were destroyed in the fire at the Public Record Office in Dublin, but copies have survived.

Fortunately, before the wills were sent to Dublin, the District Registries had copied most of the information into large volumes, known as 'copy will books'.

PRONI holds the copy will books for the District Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry, while the National Archives of Ireland hold those that have survived for the other District Registries.

What about pre-1858 wills?

Before 1858 wills were proved and letters of administration were issued either in the Prerogative Court or in the consistorial or diocesan courts of the Church of Ireland (the State Church at the time). Official wills and administrations prior to 1858 were destroyed in 1922, however copies can often be found in family, estate and personal papers and in solicitors' archives. The Name Search application on the PRONI website contains a searchable index of those surviving wills held by PRONI.

How do I search for a will at PRONI?

Using Will Calendars Online

There is a searchable index for wills on the PRONI website covering the years 1858-1943, with a gap from 1920-21. This is the easiest way to

find a will for these dates. You can view the will calendar entry online. Digitised images of entries from the copy will books covering the period 1858-1900 are also available online.

Using Will Calendar Volumes in PRONI

There are bound annual indexes to all wills and admons, 1858–2003 (updated annually), in what are known as ‘Calendars of Wills and Administrations’(simply referred to as ‘will calendars’) and a consolidated index, 1858–1877, on the shelves in the Public Search Room in PRONI. Arranged alphabetically by name of testator (the person who made the will) for each year (one or two volumes per year), these give a brief abstract of the will or admon. Up until 1921 the calendars cover the whole of Ireland and thereafter only the six counties of Northern Ireland.

How do I order the will to view it at PRONI?

You should follow these steps to order out a will at PRONI:

- Locate the will calendar entry, either in the will calendar volumes in the search room or on the PRONI website (as detailed above).
- Note the name, date of probate and the registry.
- Use the electronic ordering system in the reading room to order the will using this information.
- You can look at the document in the reading room.

Can I have a copy of a will?

Yes. PRONI provides a copying service. You can request a paper copy or use the self service camera in the reading room.

Is there a charge?

There is no charge for ordering out a will to view. However there is a charge for copying. See the fees and charges section of our website for details.

Can I have a certified copy?

Yes, PRONI can make a certified copy of a will for you. There is a certification charge of £7.00 for this service in addition to the regular copying charges.

What is 'probate'?

Wills cannot take effect until after the death of a person and after they have been proved in a court. The grant of probate authenticates the will and confers on the executors the power to administer the estate of the deceased. The official date of a will is therefore the 'date of probate', that is, the date when it was officially proved in a court. Probate can take anything from a minimum of six weeks up to several years.

What if the will was probated in the last seven years?

If the will was probated within the last seven years it will not yet have been transferred to PRONI. In this case you should contact the Probate Office of the Northern Ireland Court Service to request a copy.

What information is contained in a will?

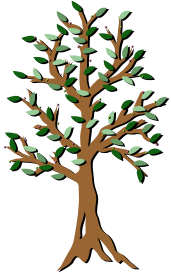
Wills contain the name, address and occupation of the *testator* (the person who made the will), as well as details of the *beneficiaries* (people to whom the testator left something) and of the property owned (land and goods). Many wills also include the addresses and occupations of witnesses and *executors* (those whose duty it is to see that the terms of the will are carried out) who may also be related to the testator.

What if the person I am interested in did not leave a will?

If a person dies without making a valid will, the court can grant letters of administration (known as admons) by appointing persons to administer the estate of the deceased. Admons will contain the name, residence and occupation of the deceased and of the person or persons appointed to administer the estate. Admons do not survive prior to 1900.

What is an admon with will annexed?

Sometimes a grant of probate cannot be given by the court because there is a legal issue with the will. For example, where one of the executors named in the will has died prior to probate being applied for. In this case the court can grant letters of administration to remedy the problem (such as appointing a new executor) and this admon with a copy of the will annexed is probated.



Your Family Tree: 8

LANDED ESTATE RECORDS



During the 18th and 19th centuries the majority of the Irish population lived on large estates. The administration of these estates produced a large quantity of records, including maps, rentals, account books, etc. Landed estate records, particularly the rent rolls, rentals and maps listing the tenants on the estate, are a useful source of genealogical information. They may in fact be the only source available for the period before 1830. Although they rarely record information on under-tenants and cottiers, the records of the landed estates are of great importance as a result of the destruction of the 19th century census returns.

The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) holds the largest collection of estate records in Northern Ireland. Some estates are better documented than others. In general, it can be said that the larger the estate the more likely it is that extensive and continuous records have survived.

Some of the landed estate archives to be found in PRONI relate to estates that are solely in what is now the Republic of Ireland. These include the extensive Kenmare estate in Co Kerry and many of the larger estates in Co Monaghan. Other estate records in PRONI for property in the Republic of Ireland are there because many Ulster landlords also had property outside of the present six counties of Northern Ireland.

If you do not know the name of the local landlord in a particular area you can normally find it by looking at the printed Griffith's Valuation Books for 1860, which are available on the shelves in the Search Room. The landlord's name normally appears in the column headed 'lessor'. When the name of the landlord has been identified the references to any records held in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland can be located by:

1. Consulting the Guide to Landed Estate Records, which is available on the Search Room shelves. Estate names are arranged alphabetically within county, with a description of the records together with the relevant reference numbers.

2. Checking the Prominent Persons Index in the Public Search Room under the landlord's name; this can also be viewed on the PRONI website.

The rentals and rent rolls are often the earliest estate records to use, but they are not the only type of record in landed archives, which are useful for genealogical purposes. Leases, wages and account books and often maps, all contain names of tenants occupying land on an estate or of people working on or connected with the estate in some way.

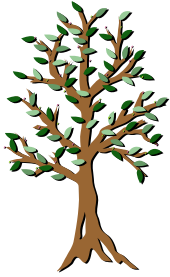
In general the best order in which to consult the different types of estate records for genealogical searching is:

1. rentals/rent rolls: these normally list the tenants, townland by townland and will record the acreage of their holdings and sometimes details of arrears;
2. leases: give the tenant's name and often those of some of his children, with their ages where a tenant got a lease for 3 lives;
3. lease books; these will summarise details of the leases, often recording if the persons mentioned in leases for 3 lives are still alive or if they have left the estate;
4. rent ledgers: show how much and when each tenant paid his rent;
5. maps: these are usually on a large scale and plot tenants' holdings;
6. wages books: record the names of estate labourers, household servants and gardeners who may not appear as tenants;
7. account books: often record the names of persons supplying goods and services;
8. land agents' note-books: sometimes a page is devoted to a tenant and his family;
9. Militia, yeomanry and muster records can often be found in landed estate archives. They consist of lists of men liable for service in local defence forces.

Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm
*(Please check in advance for
late evening opening)*

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Web-site: <http://www.proni.gov.uk>
e-mail: pronni@dcalni.gov.uk



Your Family Tree: 9

STREET DIRECTORIES



Street Directories contain lots of information particularly on the gentry, the professional classes, merchants, manufacturers etc., including details of the smallest of market towns and ports in Ireland. To facilitate wider access PRONI has completed a major project to digitise some of the most heavily used directories which were formerly on open access in our Search Room. A full list of Directories, from 1819 – 1900, which are now available on-line is available on the PRONI website – www.proni.gov.uk.

What information is found in Street Directories?

- Description of the town and surrounding countryside
- Names and addresses of traders, nobility and gentry (often listed by trade and by street).
- Names and addresses of officials such as magistrates, Poor Law guardians, town commissioners, ministers of religion
- The location and names of churches, schools and other public buildings in the towns.

What information is not found in Street Directories?

Small tenant farmers, landless labourers and servants are not listed.

What Directories are held in PRONI?

The principal country-wide directories are:

Pigot's Commercial Directory of Ireland, 1824 – towns of Ireland listed alphabetically, supplying the names of the nobility etc, and dividing the traders of each town according to their trade.

Slater's Directory of Ireland, 1846, 1856 and 1870 – arranged by province. Trade lists for each town and village within the provinces are included as well as lists of nobility, gentry and

clergy. Principal farmers are not included. The main cities - Belfast, Cork, Dublin and Limerick – have alphabetical indexes to their lists of traders, nobility, etc.

Thom's Official Directory of Great Britain and Ireland, 1845-1958 – most comprehensive for Dublin and Co. Dublin. There is an alphabetical listing of the nobility, gentry, merchants and traders for Dublin as well as a listing by street. For the counties and municipal towns including Belfast there is a general description followed by a list of officials.

During the 19th century local directories were produced for important commercial centres such as Belfast, Derry, and Newry. The quality varies considerably from locality to locality. Some of the local directories held in PRONI are:

Thomas Bradshaw's General Directory of Newry, Armagh, Dungannon, Portadown, Tandragee, Lurgan, Waringstown, Banbridge, Warrenpoint, Rosstrevor, Kilkeel and Rathfryland, 1820, includes an alphabetical list of traders but does not include local gentry.

Matier's Belfast Directory, 1835-36, includes an alphabetical list of gentry, merchants and traders residing in Belfast and its neighbourhood as well as a listing by professions and trades.

Martin's Belfast Directory, 1839 and 1841-42, includes an alphabetical list of gentry, merchants and traders living in Belfast and also a street-by-street listing of the principal streets.

Henderson's Belfast Directory and Northern Repository, 1846-47 includes a street-by-street listing and an alphabetical list of the 'principal inhabitants'.

Belfast and Province of Ulster/Northern Ireland Directory from 1852 to 1996 (with some gaps in the series), includes an alphabetical and a street listing of the inhabitants of Belfast as well as a listing by trade and profession. This is followed by a county directory listing the officials in each county and a provincial town directory for the principal towns and villages of Ulster providing details of officials, the nobility and gentry and traders and manufacturers. (1852–1900 available online only)

Slater's Directory of Ulster, 1894, lists the nobility, gentry, clergy and traders for the provincial towns. For Belfast the arrangement

is by street and by trade/profession as well as an alphabetical listing.

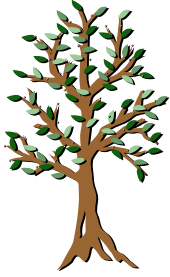
Check the PRONI Library catalogue for a full list of directories held.

Belfast and Ulster Street Directories 1805–1914 (Deirdre Armstrong ed.), Library and Information Services Council (NI), 2008, is a guide to Ulster Street Directories and where they can be accessed, also available in the PRONI Library.

Opening Hours

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e-mail: pronni@dcalni.gov.uk



Your Family Tree: 10

VOTERS', POLL AND FREEHOLDERS' RECORDS



Voters', Poll and Freeholders' records are lists of people entitled to vote, or of people who actually voted at elections. They are normally arranged on a county basis.

Poll books record the actual votes cast at parliamentary elections. They contain the name and address of the voter and often the address of the 'Freehold' which entitled the voter to his vote. Voters Lists and Freeholders registers give similar information to the Poll books but do not record how people voted at a particular election.

From 1727 to 1793 only Protestants with a freehold worth at least 40 shillings per year had a vote. Between 1793 and 1829 both Protestants and Roman Catholics with 40 shilling freeholds had votes. In 1829 all 40 shilling Freeholders lost the vote.

The most generally useful Poll books and Freeholders' registers are:

Co. Antrim

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| T/808/14900 | Freeholders' List, 1768-75 (6 names only) |
| D/1364/L/1 | 'Deputy Court Cheque Book' Poll Book 1776 – covers only half the electorate. (<i>See transcript in catalogue</i>) |
| D/2977/22/1-12 | Printed Lists of freeholders, leaseholders etc, 1833-40 for Co. Antrim, and 1856-7 for the baronies of Cary, Upper and Lower Dunluce and Glenarm. |
| ANT/5 | Registers of Voters, 1888-1900 |

Co. Armagh

T/808/14936	Poll Book 1753
T/808/14949	Objections to Voters in poll book 1753
ARM/5/2/1-17	Freeholders' Lists 1813-32
T/808/14934	Freeholders' Registers 1830-39 taken from the Newry Telegraph
T/808/14961	Freeholders' List 1839
T/808/14927	Voters' List 1851
D/1928/F/1-103	Freeholders' Registers, c 1710, 1753 and 1800-30
D/2394/3/5 and T/281/5-6	Printed and typescript list of Freeholders for the Portadown district, 1747-53 and 1796-1802. (These were copied before 1922 by Canon Leslie from manuscripts in the Parliamentary Returns in the Public Record Office of Ireland)

Co Donegal

T/808/15006	Freeholders registered in Co Donegal, 1775-81 and 1789-90
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Co. Down

D/2223/21/1	Candidates name book for Downpatrick electors (names starting with 'A' and 'B' only)
DOW/5/3/1 & 2	Registers of Freeholders 1777; 1780-85 and 1790-95
D/654/A3/1B	'Deputy Court Cheque Book Freeholders' Register 1789
T/393/1	Freeholders' List (Lecale Barony only) c.1790
D/654/A3/1	Freeholders' Registers 1813-21 and 1824
T/761/19 & 20	Freeholders' Lists c.1830
D/671/O/2/5-6	Poll Book, Co. Down (Part of) 1852
D/671/O/2/7-8	Poll Book, Co. Down (Part of) 1857

Co. Fermanagh

T/808/15063	Poll Book 1747-63
T/1385	Poll Book 1788
T/543/1	Poll Book 1788
T/808/15075	Poll Book 1788
D/1096/92/1	Freeholders' Registers 1796-1802
FER/5	Registers of Voters, 1895-1900

Co. Londonderry

T/3161/1/4	List of gentlemen and Freeholders who voted for James Lennox and William Jackson, 1697
D/2094/46	Resolution of the Freeholders in Tamlaght Finlagan Parish about subscribing to a petition to Parliament, 1774
T/2123	Freeholders' Registers (names A to L only) c.1813
T/1048/1-4	City of Londonderry Voters' List 1832
D/834/1	Freeholders' Register, City & County of Londonderry c.1840
D/1935/6	City of Londonderry Voters' List 1868

Co. Tyrone

T/808/15127	Tyrone Freeholders in the Cookstown area, 1768-95
TYR/5/3/1	Freeholders' List. (Dungannon Barony only) 1795-98
TYR/5	Registers of Voters, 1892-87

Belfast

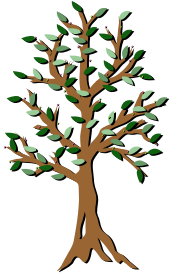
D/2472	Poll Book for Belfast 1832-1837
BELF/5/1/1/1-2	Register of Electors, Belfast 1855 and 1876

Most of the Freeholders' records before 1840 have now been indexed and digitised and are available on the PRONI website.

Opening Hours

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Your Family Tree: 11

EMIGRATION RECORDS



Emigration records deposited in PRONI are the most obvious source for researchers who are descendants of emigrants from Ireland. Unfortunately, emigration is not, particularly well documented. Most passenger lists, for example, are to be found at the country of entry rather than departure due to the fact that the authorities were more concerned with recording those entering a country rather than those leaving.

Emigrant letters form the most substantial part of our emigration records. This material is found in many of the private collections in PRONI. Search the PRONI eCatalogue by keyword, phrase or PRONI reference number.

The Irish Emigration Database of the Centre for Migration Studies provides access to copies of most of the emigration letters, passenger lists and journals held in PRONI. This resource is freely available in PRONI, at the Centre for Migration Studies at the Ulster American Folk Park and also in Local Studies libraries throughout Northern Ireland. Some of this material is now online at www.dippam.ac.uk

Passenger Lists held in PRONI are:

T/711/1	List of passengers from Warrenpoint and Newry to Philadelphia and New York, 1791-2
MIC/333/1	Passenger Lists – Philadelphia, 1800-82
MIC/333/2	Passenger Lists – Baltimore, 1820-91
MIC/333/3	Passenger Lists – Boston, 1871-91
MIC/333/4	Passenger Lists – New York, 1826-27, 1840-2 and 1850-2
T/1011	Passengers from various origins arriving mainly in New York, 1802-14
T/3262	Passenger Lists from Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, Newry, Sligo, Warrenpoint to USA, 1803-06
T/521/1	Passenger Lists from Ireland to America, 1804-06 (index available in Deputy Keeper's Report 1929)

D/2892/1/1-4 Passenger Books of J & J Cooke, Shipping Agents. Sailings from Londonderry to Philadelphia, Quebec, St John's, New Brunswick, 1847-71 (see also MIC/13)

A number of published lists of emigrants are also available in PRONI. These include:

The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851 (seven volumes, published in 1983), contains data from the original ship manifest schedules, deposited in the National Immigration Archives in the Balch Institute in Philadelphia.

Irish Passenger Lists 1847-1871, contains lists of passengers sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J & J Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line.

Immigrants to New England 1700-1775, contains an alphabetical list compiled by Ethel Stanwood Bolton.

Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1829.

Lists of Emigrants to America, 1635-1776, contains lists of passengers, including Irish emigrants, who departed from English ports.

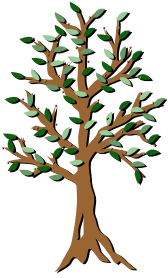
Irish Passenger Lists, 1803-6: Lists of passengers sailing from Ireland to America extracted from the Hardwicke Papers.

Also available are some transcripts of passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1821, and at Boston, 1820-91.

Other useful websites include:

www.ancestorsonboard.com – a searchable database of names from outward passenger lists for long distance voyages leaving the British Isles, 1890 to 1960.

www.ellisland.org – a searchable database of names of those who entered the United States through Ellis Island and the port of New York and are recorded in ships passenger lists, 1890-1924.



Your Family Tree: 12

MILITIA, YEOMANRY LISTS AND MUSTER ROLLS



The 'undertakers' granted land in the Plantation of Ulster were required to occasionally muster their Protestant tenants for inspection by the Government-appointed Muster Master General who recorded the names, the ages and the types of arms borne by the tenants. All Protestant males between the ages of 16 and 60 were liable to service in the militia. Only copies of the militia records survive: they list the undertakers, and sometimes divide the lists of tenants by parish or by barony.

Faced by the possible rebellion in the late eighteenth century, the Government raised a mainly Protestant force, the yeomanry, which it paid for and equipped. The yeomanry were expected to drill two days a week, and could be called out to suppress public disorders and to assist the regular army in the event of invasion or insurrection.

There are in addition Muster Rolls of Regular Army units raised in Ireland.

The most generally useful are listed below:

Co. Antrim

MIC/637/11	Muster Roll, 1631
(D/1759/3C/3)	Muster Roll, 1642
T/3726/2	Militia Officers, 1691
T/808/15185	Militia Officers, 1761
T/808/15235	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1799-1800
T/1115/1A & 1B	
MIC/533/3	Declarations of allegiance by Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Carrickfergus Corps of Yeomanry Infantry, c.1803
(D/162/104)	

Co. Armagh

MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3B/5) T/934/1 T/808/15235 D/1928/Y/1	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, 1631 Militia Officers, 1761 Militia Lists by parish in the barony of O'Neilland West, 1793-1795
T/1115/2A-C T/808/15248	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1798-1800 Roll of Armagh Corps of Supplemanry Yeomanry, 1798- 1803
T/561/1 T/2701 D/296/1 D/321/1	List of Officers of Armagh Militia, 1808 Crowhill Yeomanry pay list, c.1820 Ardress Yeomanry Book, c.1796 - 1798 Churchill Yeomanry Book, c.1796

Co Cavan

MIC/637/3B/5 (D/1759/3B/5) T/934/1	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, 1631
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Co Donegal

MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3B/5) MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3C/2)	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, 1631
T/808/ 15166	Muster Roll of Sir Robert Stewart's regiment mustered at Raphoe, 1642
T/808/15177	Col. Audley Mervyn's muster at Ellagh, Co Donegal, 1643

Co. Down

MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3B/5) MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3C/1) T/563/1	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, c. 1630 Muster Roll, 1642-3
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T/808/15172	Muster Roll of Foot companies of Montgomery at Portaferry, Bishops court, Ballykinlar and Killyleagh, of Claneboy at Killyleagh, Strandtown, Little Belfast, Dundonald, Groomsport, Bangor and Strangford, and of Col. Arthur Hill at Belfast, Carrickfergus and Killyleagh.
T/3726/1	Muster Roll, Donaghadee, 1642
T/808/15235	Militia Officers, 1761
T/1023/153	Oath and List of Names of Ballyculter Supplementary Corps, 1798
D/303/3	Killyleagh Yeomanry List, 1798
T/1115/4A-C	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1799-1800
T/991	Mourne Yeomanry Lists, 1824

Co. Fermanagh

MIC/637/10	
(D/1759/3B/5	Muster Roll, 1618
T/808/15164	Muster Roll, 1630
T/934/1	Muster Roll, 1631
T/808/15235	Militia Officers, 1761
T/1115/5A-C	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1794-9
T/808/15244	Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteer Infantry Muster Rolls, 1797-1804

Co. Londonderry

MIC/637/10	
(D/1759/3B/5	Muster Roll, 1618
T/510/2	Muster Roll, 1620-22
MIC/637/10	
D/1759/3C/2)	Muster Roll, 1631
T/808/15235	Militia Officers, 1761
D/4164/A/24	Coleraine Yeomanry, 1796
LA/25/2AA/2	Coleraine Yeomanry, 1797
T/1021/3	Yeomanry Muster Rolls, 1797-1804

Co Monaghan

MIC/637/10	
(D/1759/3B/5)	Muster Roll, 1618

Co. Tyrone

MIC/637/10	Muster Roll, 1618
(D/1759/3B/5)	Muster Roll, 1630
T/808/15164	Muster Roll, 1630 [Dungannon Barony only]
T/458/7	Muster Roll, 1631
T/934	Militia Officers, 1761
T/808/15235	Pay Roll of the Aghnahoe Infantry, 1829-1832
D/1927/5	

General

T/808/15196	Extracts from Regular Army Muster Rolls, 1741-80
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Frequently Asked Questions WORKHOUSE RECORDS



What are poor law records?

The Poor Law system was set up to provide relief to the destitute poor. The records are the archives of the Boards of Guardians (PRONI ref **BG/**), who were the administrators of the Poor Law in Ireland, 1838-1948. PRONI holds records for the 28 Poor Law Unions (each of which had a workhouse) that originally operated in the area now covered by Northern Ireland. In 1870, the Union of Gortin (**BG/28**) was amalgamated with that of Omagh (**BG/26**).

The original aim of the system was to provide relief to the destitute poor only if they entered the workhouse. Due to the demand for workhouse accommodation created as a result of the ravages of the Great Famine, outdoor relief was eventually introduced. This was given to the able-bodied poor in the form of money or goods.

What workhouse records does PRONI have?

PRONI holds extensive records for the 28 Poor Law Unions that originally operated in the area now covered by Northern Ireland. However, the extent to which the records survive for each of these unions varies from place to place. The Boards also maintained infirmaries and fever hospitals and these records can be found in the same archive.

What dates are these records available for?

The Poor Law records cover the dates from the introduction of the Poor Law in 1838 until its abolition and the establishment of the welfare state in 1948. However, the extent to which the records survive for each of the unions varies from place to place.

What information is contained in workhouse records?

Various types of workhouse records are available that contain information of use to researchers. The following classes of record are the most commonly accessed.

Minute books – These can be of less interest to genealogists as they largely contain minutes of the meetings of various committees and statistical information. However, early volumes can contain the names of individuals – those who failed to comply with workhouse rules, who ran away, or were given assistance to emigrate by the Board of Guardians.

Indoor relief registers, later referred to as admission and discharge books – These list the name, age, religious denomination, marital status, former occupation and, if disabled, the nature of the disability, of those entering and leaving the workhouse.

Births and deaths registers – Lists births and deaths that occurred in the workhouse.

Outdoor relief registers – Lists those receiving outdoor relief, granted to the able-bodied poor in the form of money or goods.

Vaccination registers – give the name of the child, the names and addresses of the mother or father or other person in charge of the child, the date of vaccination and the age of the child at the time of vaccination.

Can I have a copy of a record?

As long as the record is open you are permitted to make copies. PRONI offers a copying service or you can make use of the self-service copying facilities in the reading room.

An item I want to see is closed. Why is this?

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the material contained within them, some records will be closed for 100 years from the latest date in each volume. This means that a register that contains information recorded in June 1917 will not be open to the public until January 2018 (the first working day in the year following their hundredth anniversary). Registers over 100 years old (where available) are open to the public.

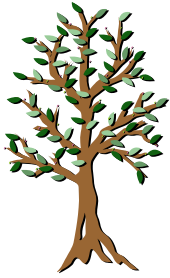
How can I view a closed item?

For specific enquiries in records less than a hundred years you should put your request in writing to the Records Management, Cataloguing and Access Section in PRONI. A form for this purpose is available in the Search Room. Access section will liaise with the relevant body and if permission is granted a search will be carried out for you.

How can I identify the workhouse where my ancestor would have been admitted?

Each Poor Law Union was named after a chief town in the district, and usually serviced the area in a ten-mile radius, often extending across county boundaries. The 28 Poor Law Unions in the counties of Northern Ireland are listed below along with their PRONI reference number. There is also a printed alphabetical index to towns and townlands available in the Public Search room that lists the Poor Law Union to which it belonged. For details of the records that have survived for each Union, researchers should consult the eCatalogue.

- BG/1 – Antrim, Co. Antrim
- BG/2 – Armagh, Co. Armagh
- BG/3 – Ballycastle, Co. Antrim
- BG/4 – Ballymena, Co. Antrim
- BG/5 – Ballymoney, Co. Antrim
- BG/6 – Banbridge, Co. Down
- BG/7 – Belfast, Cos Antrim and Down
- BG/8 – Castlederg, Co. Tyrone
- BG/9 – Clogher, Co. Tyrone
- BG/10 – Coleraine, Co. Londonderry
- BG/11 – Cookstown, Co. Tyrone
- BG/12 – Downpatrick, Co. Down
- BG/13 – Dungannon, Co. Tyrone
- BG/14 – Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
- BG/15 – Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh
- BG/16 – Kilkeel, Co. Fermanagh
- BG/17 – Larne, Co. Antrim
- BG/18 – [Newtown] Limavady, Co. Londonderry
- BG/19 – Lisburn, Co. Antrim
- BG/20 – Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh
- BG/21 – Londonderry, Co. Londonderry
- BG/22 – Lurgan, Co. Armagh
- BG/23 – Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry
- BG/24 – Newry, Co. Down
- BG/25 – Newtownards, Co. Down
- BG/26 – Omagh, Co. Tyrone
- BG/27 – Strabane, Co. Tyrone
- BG/28 – Gortin, Co. Tyrone (united to Omagh, c.1870)



Your Family Tree: 14

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY CENSUS SUBSTITUTES



Summonister rolls, 1610-84

These were copies of fines imposed and recognizances forfeited at Assizes, Quarter Sessions and in the King's courts. Among the reasons for the imposition of fines was non-appearance at court. Names and residences are recorded. The original rolls were lost in the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922 but copies of some, mainly for Counties Londonderry and Tyrone, have survived. (**PRONI reference T/808/15090, 15120, 15126, 15130 -15135, 15139 and T/1365/2**)

Muster Rolls 1630

These contain lists of the principal landlords in Ulster, and the names of the men they could assemble in an emergency. They are arranged by county, and district within the county. (See *'Your Family Tree' Leaflet 12- Militia, Yeomanry Lists and Muster Rolls* for details)

Books of Survey and Distribution

Compiled around 1680 as a result of the wars of the mid-seventeenth century when the English government needed reliable information on land ownership throughout Ireland to carry out its policy of land distribution. The Books of Survey and Distribution are laid out on a barony and parish basis and include a record of land ownership before the Cromwellian and Williamite confiscations as well as the names of the individuals to whom the land was distributed. **PRONI reference MIC/532/1-13.**

Civil Survey of Ireland

Sir William Petty's Civil Survey of Ireland, compiled between 1655 and 1667, contains lists of the principal landlords of each townland as well as their predecessor before the Cromwellian confiscations of 1641. It contains a great deal of topographical information arranged by county, barony, parish and townland. Unfortunately, very little of this survey survives, although Co. Londonderry and Co. Tyrone are available. **PRONI reference T/371.**

Census of Ireland c.1659

This census of Ireland was compiled by Sir William Petty and published by S Pender, a copy of which is in PRONI. It contains only the names of those with title to land (titulados) and the total number of English and Irish resident in each townland. Five counties – Cavan, Galway, Mayo, Tyrone and Wicklow – are not covered. See the following:

Co. Antrim
1659 Census MIC/15A/72

Co. Armagh
1659 Census MIC/15A/73

Co. Down
1659 Census MIC/15A/76

Co. Fermanagh
1659 Census T/808/15064

Co. Londonderry
1659 Census MIC/15A/82

Hearth Money Rolls

The first Hearth Money Act was passed in the Irish Parliament in 1662. It provided that 2 shillings should be paid on every hearth or 'other place used for firing'. The Hearth Money Rolls, arranged by county and parish, list the name of the householder and the number of hearths on which he was taxed and the amount to be paid. The tax was collected over areas known as 'Walks' and based on the town. The 'Lisburn Walk', for example, covered a large area of the south of Co. Antrim and NOT merely Lisburn town. See the following:

Co. Antrim
1666 Hearth Money Roll T/3022/4/1
1669 Hearth Money Roll T/307/A

Co. Armagh
1664 Hearth Money Roll T/604
1664
and 1665 Hearth Money Roll T/808/14950
1664-1665 Hearth Money Roll T/3839/1 (Shankill Parish only)

Co. Fermanagh
1665-1666 Hearth Money Roll of T/808/15066-15068;T/265 [Barony Lurg, Town of Enniskillen and parish of Devenish (extracts)]

Co. Londonderry		
1663	Hearth Money Roll	T/307/A; T/716/4
1663	Hearth Money Roll	D/4164/A/14 [Coleraine Parish only]
Co. Tyrone		
1663-1664	Hearth Money Roll	T/283/D/2; T/458/1; T/1365/3; MIC/645
1664 and 1666	Hearth Money Roll	MIC/645
1665-1666	Hearth Money Roll	T/458/1 [Dungannon Barony only]
1666	Hearth Money Roll	T/307/A - C; T/716/16
Co Cavan		
1664	Hearth Money Roll	T/808/15142 [Urney, Annagh, Annagelliff, Templeport and Kildallan Parishes and Cavan Borough]
Co. Donegal		
1665	Hearth Money Roll	T/307/D; T/283/D/3; T/296/1
Co. Monaghan		
1663 and 1666	Hearth Money Roll	T/808/15156

Subsidy Rolls

The Subsidy Rolls list the nobility, clergy and laity who paid a grant in aid to the King. They include the name, the parish, and sometimes the amount paid and the status of the person. See the following:

Co. Antrim		
1666	Subsidy Roll	T/808/14889
Co. Armagh		
1634	Subsidy Roll	T/808/14950
Co. Down		
1663	Subsidy Roll	T/307/A
Co. Fermanagh		
1662	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15068 [Enniskillen town only]
Co. Londonderry		
1662	Subsidy Roll	T/1592/19 [Drumachose, Tamlaghtard, Cumber, Clondermot, Tamlaghtfinlagan]

Co. Londonderry (contd)

and Faughanvale Parishes and
City and Liberties of
Londonderry]

1662	Subsidy Roll	T/716/4
1662-7	Subsidy Roll	D/4164/A/14 [Dunboe, Macosquin Coleraine and Killowen Parishes]

Co. Tyrone

1663	Subsidy Roll	T/458/8
c. 1663, 1664, 1666-1667	Subsidy Roll for Dungannon Barony	T/283/C
1664	Subsidy Roll	T/283/D/1; T/458/8
c.1665	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15092
1666-1667	Subsidy Roll	T/458/8
1668	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15097; T/716/4

Co. Cavan

1662	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15142
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Co. Donegal

1662	Subsidy Roll	T/808/14998
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1689

List of names of Protestants in Co. Armagh attained in 1689 by James II. This is simply a list of names. **PRONI reference T/808/14985**

Poll Tax Returns

The Poll Tax Rolls list the people who paid a tax levied on every person over 12 years old. They give detailed facts about individuals quite unique in surviving seventeenth century records. See the following:

Co. Armagh

1660	Poll Tax Returns	MIC/15A/75; T/808/14950
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Co. Down

1660	Poll Tax Returns	MIC/15A/76
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Co. Fermanagh

1660	Poll Tax Returns	MIC/15A/80
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Co. Londonderry

1669 Poll Tax Returns MIC/15A/82

Co. Tyrone

1662-1663 Poll Tax Returns T/458/8; T/283/C [Aghaloo Parish only]

1698 Poll Tax Returns MIC/15A/81

Co. Donegal

1660 Poll Tax Returns MIC/15A/76

1660 Poll Tax Returns T/808/15089
[Urney and Donagheady Parishes only]



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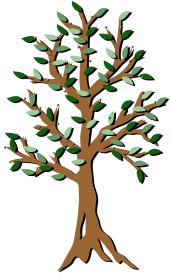
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Your Family Tree: 15

PEDIGREES AND GENEALOGICAL PAPERS



PRONI has in its custody records compiled by scholars that are of enormous interest to genealogists. Pedigrees for families from many different parts of Ireland are available. Most notable of these are extract pedigrees from wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Ireland, 1536-1800, compiled by Sir William Betham, Ulster King of Arms, and copied for his own use by Betham's successor, Sir Bernard Burke. Burke's set of 42 large volumes of Pedigree Charts (**PRONI reference T/559/1-42**) are of great importance to all record searchers. Indexes to these volumes are available in the Public Search Room in PRONI (**PRONI reference number T/559/43**). Each volume itself has an index at the back and these are worth checking to ensure that you have seen all the entries for the family name included in that particular volume. (*See Guide to Probate Records for more details*)

The Groves Manuscripts

These contain a great deal of valuable material for genealogists. Tenison Groves, a Belfast genealogist, spent more than forty years compiling a vast collection of transcripts, abstracts, notes, etc., from records held in the Public Record Office in Dublin prior to its partial destruction in 1922. The part of the collection that relates to Northern Ireland was purchased by PRONI in 1939. The 9,000 plus items includes seventeenth-century muster rolls, militia lists and family pedigrees. The genealogical material has been arranged rather haphazardly, although surnames starting with the same letter are usually grouped together. The arrangement under each letter is not strictly alphabetical and material on one name can appear in several volumes. The Groves Manuscripts can be found under the **PRONI reference number T/808**; typescript copies of some of these documents are available on the shelves of the Public Search Room.

Canon Leslie Manuscripts

Canon Leslie was another antiquarian/genealogist who spent a lot of time in the Public Record Office in Dublin before 1922 transcribing wills and compiling genealogical notes and pedigrees from the records. Most of his notes can be found under the **PRONI Reference T/1075**.

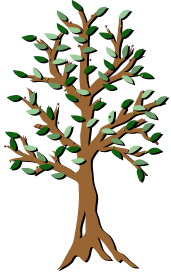
Pedigrees and genealogical papers relating to individual families can be located using the Personal Names Index. A number of such papers have also been collected together under the single **PRONI reference number D/3000**. Researchers interested in the pedigrees of the leading landowning families in Ulster should consult the introductions in the respective catalogues.



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Your Family Tree: 16

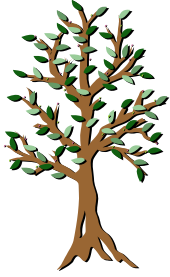
ENCUMBERED ESTATES



The Encumbered Estates Acts, 1848 and 1849, allowed the sale of Irish estates which had been mortgaged and whose owners, because of the Great Famine, were unable to meet their obligations. It was hoped that English investors would be attracted to buy Irish estates and thereby transform Irish agriculture. Under the 1849 Act an Encumbered Estates Court was established with authority to sell estates on the application of the owner or encumbrancer (one who had a claim on the estate). After the sale, the court distributed the money among the creditors and granted clear title to the new owners. The existing tenants on the estates were unprotected by legislation. Estates were generally bought by speculators. Between 1849 and 1857, there were 3,000 estates totalling 5,000,000 acres, disposed of under the acts. The functions of the court were assumed by the Landed Estates Court in 1853.

The most spectacular sale at the encumbered estates court was the property of the 3rd Marquis of Donegall, which had been in financial difficulties since the late eighteenth century. When he succeeded to the title in 1844 the new Marquis inherited debts of nearly £400,000 - fourteen times the annual rental. He had no choice but to let the Encumbered Estates Court arrange the sale of the remaining thirty thousand acres.

The Irish Encumbered Estates Court rentals are in bound volumes (**PRONI reference D/1201**) and are available for the whole of Ireland. They are divided by county and include as well as rentals - maps of the estate giving tenants' names and, on occasion, surveys of the estate. They are an under-used source for genealogists interested in the names of tenants of various estates throughout Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century but they are equally of interest for the 18th century as there are numerous references to leases that were taken out in the 1700s. An index to the Encumbered Estates Court rentals is also available – **PRONI reference MIC/80/2**.



Your Family Tree: 17

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, DUBLIN



The Registry of Deeds, Dublin, is one of the most valuable sources of ancestral information for the eighteenth century particularly as many original wills were destroyed in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922. The information contained in this archive relates not only to the wealthier landlords but also can include details of the most humble of tenants. More than half a million registered deeds were deposited up to 1832. However, this is probably only a small percentage of the land transactions which took place as during the early years registration was voluntary.

The Irish Registry of Deeds was founded in 1708. One of its main functions was to ensure the enforcement of legislation which prevented Catholics from buying or taking long leases on land. Up until the 1780s, Catholics could not invest in mortgages to take leases on land for a longer period than 31 years.

A very wide range of documents was registered since Irish registration was not confined to the major categories of deeds - leases, mortgages, conveyances and annuities, rents, rights of way, wills, dissolution of partnerships etc. The Irish memorials are much more detailed than those in England and usually comprise a complete copy or a fairly full abstract of a document. As a source the registry is invaluable, particularly for the eighteenth century, and has great interest for genealogists and for Irish economic and social historians.

When a document was brought to the Registry of Deeds, a written report of it was made. This was usually a complete copy or a very full abstract. These written records were kept in the Registry of Deeds as memorials. Copies of the memorials were then made and bound in date order in volumes known as Transcript Books. These are available on microfilm (1,914 reels) from 1708-1929, with only a few gaps, under the **PRONI reference MIC/311**.

There are 2 main series of indexes to the Transcript and Abstract Books:

- (a) The Names Index of grantors
- (b) The Lands Index

The Names Index

The names index can be found under the **PRONI reference MIC/7** which is an index to the years 1708-1929, and a consolidated index for the years 1905-24. This is accessible in the Self -Service Microfilm Room.

The names index, beginning in 1708, is arranged alphabetically by grantor, in periods of years. Up to 1832 it records the surnames of the grantors, the surname of the grantees (but there is no index of grantees), and the reference to the Transcripts Books (the volume number, page number and the number of the memorial). There is no description of the lands nor is the exact date of the deed given. After 1832, the townland or street, the county, city or town, and the barony or parish in which the lands are situated are recorded, as is the year of registration. From 1833 therefore, the details to be extracted to find the relevant information in the Transcript books are: the year of registration; the number of the file and volumes of the Transcript book; the number of the memorial; and the page of the Transcript book.

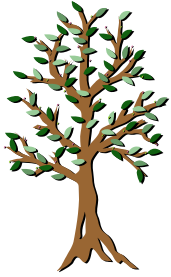
The Lands Index

The lands index can be found under **MIC/7**, covering the years 1708-1929 and is available in the Self-Service Microfilm Room. It is arranged under townlands by barony and county. Not all the deeds relating to a particular townland will be found together eg. deeds for Galtrim will be found in various place amongst the list of townlands beginning with 'G'. Town property is indexed under the towns in the County volumes. The exceptions are the cities and Corporation towns which are found in separate volumes in the county series. A list of the Corporation towns included in this series is found at the end of **MIC/7** list. Houses in a city or town are searched for under their street name and again, deeds for a given street will not be found together eg. deeds for Agnes Street, will be found in various places amongst streets beginning with 'A'.

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Your Family Tree: 18

BUSINESS RECORDS



The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has one of the largest collections of business records in the British Isles. Among the records can be found names of firms that have made Ulster famous throughout the world for linen, shipbuilding and engineering. The records themselves represent a wide cross-section of the business life of the province ranging from the records of Harland & Wolff to the local corner shop. They can be studied alongside related classes of archives deposited by employers, trade unions, public utilities, solicitors, banks and government departments.

The most extensive holdings of business records relate to the linen industry; more than 250 companies are represented. These date from the eighteenth century, when spinning and weaving were domestic in character and new methods of bleaching were being devised by the Ulster bleachers. They cover the whole range of business activity, from technical production and employment aspects to marketing on a worldwide scale.

Other firms represented include: the shipping records of the Head Line Shipping Co., Belfast, 1897-1970 (PRONI Ref – D/3117), the records of the bakery firm of Bernard ('Barney') Hughes Ltd, 1886-1972 (PRONI Ref – D/3338) and Andrews Mill, Comber.

Some of the earliest business records are found among family papers. These include papers relating to the shipment of linens to Jamaica, 1795-1840, and the Indian business and administrative papers, 1759-75, of James Alexander, later 1st Earl of Caledon, who made one of the great 'nabob' fortunes of the 18th century by the time he finally left Bengal in 1772 (PRONI Ref – D/2432).

Business records often contain a great deal of detailed information relating to suppliers, customers, shareholders and, of course, company employees. If you know that your ancestor was employed by a particular company search the Electronic Catalogue (on-line and in the Search Room) under the relevant heading ie linen industry, shipbuilding, etc, to see if their records have been deposited at PRONI.

If you know where your family came from, check out the Ordnance Survey maps to identify what businesses were in the area where the family may have worked. If they lived in Belfast the street directories will also show the location of businesses and industry in the vicinity of your ancestor's home.

Generally the most useful information relating to employees is to be found in the wages books. These contain such information as employees' names, days and hours worked, wage rates, overtime payments, details of work done, etc, and occasionally include their age and address. Information relating to the owners, directors or trustees of a company will generally be found in the minute books or annual reports of the company and the names of shareholders in shareholders' registers

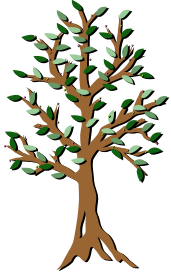
It is important to note that the archives of chartered accountants and solicitors as well as private families often contain substantial business papers. Among the records of L'Estrange & Brett, solicitors, Belfast, for example, are the business records of the Larne and Ballymena Railway Co. and the Belfast Steamship Co., (PRONI Ref – D/1905 – see *Your Family Tree: 19, Solicitors Records*).

PRONI's collection of trade union archives include those of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, dating from 1883, and in part relating to branches in the Republic of Ireland (PRONI Ref – D/1050). More unusual are the minutes from 1896 of an employers' association, that of the printers in Belfast (PRONI Ref – D/3759).

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Your Family Tree: 19

GRAND JURY RECORDS



The Grand Jury was the most important local body in rural Ireland during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, and was empowered to raise money by means of county rates. Its responsibilities included the construction and repair of roads and bridges and the upkeep of local institutions such as lunatic asylums and hospitals. Members of the Grand Jury were selected by the High Sheriff from the leading property owners in the county; the order in which these jurors stood on the list gives a pretty good indication of their social standing.

Grand Jury Presentments are the chief records of the county administration prior to 1898. These and Grand Warrants contain information about work ordered to be done by the Grand Jury on roads, bridges and jails and about constabulary duties in the counties. They are arranged barony by barony within the county and useful genealogical information can be obtained by detailed searching of them. They are not indexed. Although frequently printed, different sets contain manuscript amendments and notes according to who owned and used them. An entry might state 'that it was agreed that £12. 6s. 8d. shall be paid to Joshua Trainor of Ballylack, for repairing the road between Omagh and Strabane, from Peter McMenamín's farm in Breeny to William Crawford's farm at Ballykilbeg'.

The most useful records are listed below:

Co. Antrim

ANT/4/1	Presentments 1711-1840
ANT/4/2	Grand Warrant Books
ANT/4/3	Presentments Books - working copies, 1822-1899
ANT/4/6	Grand Jury Book, 1849-1941
ANT/4/8/1	Booklet listing names of judges and high sheriffs, 1859-1900
ANT/4/8/3	List of magistrates giving names, addresses and dates of appointment, 1873-1923
T/1110	Grand Jury lists for Co. Antrim, 1613-1803.

Co. Armagh

- ARM/4/1 Presentments 1758-1899
ARM/4/2/1 County Cess Collection Book for the barony of Oneilland West, 1875
T/647 Grand Jury List for Co. Armagh, 1735-1797

Co. Down

- DOW/4/2 Presentments, 1778-1899
T/684/11 Grand Jury Cess, applotment of parish of Down, 1843

Co. Fermanagh

- FER/4/1-3 Presentments, 1792-1898
FER/4/5 List of Justices of the Peace, 1922-1923

Co. Londonderry

- LOND/4/1 Presentments, 1788-1899
LOND/5/3/1 Book containing the names of the Recorder's Court Grand Jurors of the City and County of Londonderry, 1857-1899
T/1113/1 Grand Jury list for Co. Londonderry, 1614-1819

Co. Tyrone

- TYR/4/1 Presentments, 1799-1897
TYR/4/2 Grand Jury Indictment Books which includes the name of the prosecutors, persons indicted and the offence. The names of judges, sheriffs and members of the Grand Jury are also included, 1745-1809, 1814-1899, 1912-1969.

Belfast*

- BELF/4/1/2 Grand Jury Book listing names of Grand Jurors, 1940-1969

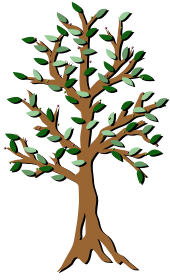
* Many of the Grand Jury records relating to Belfast can be found among the Antrim Grand Jury records.



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Your Family Tree: 20

HOW TO USE GRIFFITH'S VALUATION



Griffith's Valuation, 1848-64, is the first Valuation to list the all occupiers of land, tenements and houses in Ireland. It is therefore one of the principal sources for family history. It is available in both manuscript and printed form in PRONI. The printed volumes are on open access in the Public Search Room.

Alternatively, you can now search the Griffith's Valuation online at www.irishorigins.net and at www.askaboutireland.ie free of charge. This is the simplest and most straightforward way to find the information you seek.

However, if you are unsure of where your family came from, you should check the Householders' Index which is on open access in the Public Search Room in PRONI and follow steps 1-6 below. You may already know the townland or town where your family came from so you need first to identify the Poor Law Union, barony and parish in which the townland/town is located and then follow steps 4-6 below.

1. Use the Householders' Index to find in which County the name is most prevalent.
2. Having done this the Householders' Index will indicate in which Barony/Parish the name is most often found.
3. In the Parish section of the Householders' there will be information to tell you which Union (ie the Poor Law Union) the Parish is in, eg Lisburn Union, Co. Antrim.
4. The printed Griffith's Valuation books are arranged by Poor Law Union so next go the relevant Poor Law Union book which will give the page numbers for the required Barony/Parish and the townlands therein.
5. Search the pages of the Barony/Parish for the required name. When found, the details beside the name will show the type of property, acreage and valuation.

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6. The numbers in the first column in the printed Griffith's Valuation books give the plot numbers of each holding which are demarcated on the valuation maps. The small letters in the same column refer to houses which will also be marked on the valuation maps. Directly underneath the name of each townland in the Griffith' Valuation books you will find the Ordnance Survey (OS) sheet number (also used for the valuation maps) for the map of that townland.
7. The valuation maps are listed as follows:-

VAL/2A/1/ sheet number	Co. Antrim
VAL/2A/2/ sheet number	Co. Armagh
VAL/2A/3/ sheet number	Co. Down
VAL/2A/4/ sheet number	Co. Fermanagh
VAL/2A/5/ sheet number	Co. Londonderry
VAL/2A/6/ sheet number	Co. Tyrone

Maps should be ordered by county and sheet number as indicated with each townland name in the valuation books.

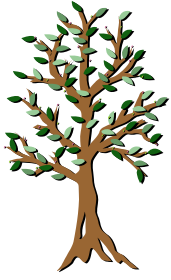


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Your Family Tree: 21

A GUIDE TO GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS



Gravestone inscriptions are a wonderful source of information for both the local historian and for the genealogist. As many church registers do not begin until the early to mid 19th century and civil registration of births and deaths was not introduced until 1864, gravestone inscriptions are an alternative way of tracing a family back beyond the middle of the nineteenth century. The difficulty of tracing families through church registers is compounded by the fact that, of the 1,600 Church of Ireland registers in existence, 1,000 were in the safe-keeping of the Public Record Office of Dublin and were therefore destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922.

The importance of gravestone inscriptions has long been recognised, and attempts have been made to record for posterity some of the older and endangered epitaphs. PRONI holds a series of journals entitled *Memorials of the Dead*. These were published annually under the aegis of the Association for the Preservation of the *Memorials of the Dead, Ireland*, and span the years 1888 to 1934. The contents were made up of submissions by voluntary contributors, who transcribed whatever took their interest. The *Memorials* therefore, have a piecemeal, hit-and-miss quality rather than being a meticulous study of each cemetery. Errors in transcription and translation also occur. They do, however, cover the whole of Ireland, and illustrations (some of which are very roughly drawn) are included. Entries are arranged alphabetically by county and subdivided by parish, also in alphabetical order. Additionally, these journals contain letters and articles relating to memorials and the state of graveyards, as well as lists of subscribers to the Association.

For some years past, R.S.J. Clarke has compiled and edited a series of books entitled *Gravestone Inscriptions*, under the aegis of the Ulster Historical Foundation, formerly the Ulster-Scots Historical Society. While the burial grounds sited in County Down have been substantially covered, only some of the Belfast and County Antrim graveyards have been published. More books are planned, but some of the earlier works are now out of print. They also have a large amount of material still in index card form.

However, PRONI holds the full run of the twenty-seven printed volumes; twenty relating to Down, three to Antrim and four for the Belfast region. Twenty-one volumes are bound in a hardback, green, cover: County Down volumes 1-18, County Antrim, volumes 1 & 2, and Belfast volume 1. In soft binding are:

Belfast (volume 2), covering Friar's Bush and Milltown graveyards;

Belfast (volume 3), covering the Balmoral, Friends and Malone burial grounds;

'Old Belfast Families and the new burying ground, from gravestone inscriptions, with wills and biographical notes', volume 4 in the Belfast series (the new burying ground referred to is the Clifton Street graveyard, no longer 'open');

Two editions of volume 19 in the Down series, one of which contains a list of all the cemeteries covered in the series ;

'Heart of Downe: old Banbridge Families', volume 20 in the County Down series;

Old Families of Newry and District, volume 21 in the County Down series;

'Old Families of Downpatrick and District', volume 7 in the County Down series (New edition). This contains a 'summary guide to documentary sources for the family and local historian, parish of Down';

Old Belfast families of Carrickfergus and Ballynure', volume 3 in the County Antrim series. This includes three appendixes: (i) some Carrickfergus deaths, 1853-72; (ii) summary guide to documentary sources for Carrickfergus; and (iii) a list of subscribers.

Old Families of Larne and District, volume 4 in the County Antrim series.

The introduction in the first book of the series gives an excellent exposition of the aims and objectives of the undertaking. In summary, however, County Down was chosen as the initial area of research simply for its geographical proximity to the compiler. Date was defined according to a compromise between best practice and economic considerations. Therefore, all gravestones having a date of death prior to 1865 (by which date civil registration is up and running) have been copied completely; where practicable, stones containing dates prior to 1900 have been included and, in very small cemeteries, all headstone inscriptions have been transcribed. By imposing strict geographical and period limitations, it was hoped that a more complete and accurate guide would ensue.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by name of graveyard, within which are listed, also in alphabetical order, the names on the stones. As much detail as was possible has been included but, naturally, due to exposure to the elements over long periods, much of the detail on the headstones has been lost. Usually, however, a brief description of the physical appearance of the grave is given. Inscriptions which also appear in Memorials are cross-referenced, and any inaccuracies noted. Of use to the local historian, as well as the genealogists, is the inclusion of the Ordnance Survey grid reference of the burial ground, a potted history of the church or area in which the graveyard is sited, some detail on the oldest graves and their general condition, and some photographs and illustrations. The series is indexed every five volumes (ie., volumes 5, 10, 15 and 20 give details of 1-5, 6-10, 11-15 and 15-20, respectively) with alphabetical lists of surnames and of graveyards.

All of the information on gravestone inscriptions in these printed volumes has now been digitised and indexed and can be accessed on-line at www.historyfromheadstones.com. Here you will also find maps showing the location of graveyards.

Other sources available in PRONI, which have been loosely bound in soft covers, many of them photocopies are:

David R Elliott, 'Boho Church of Ireland Cemetery, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'The Cemetery of St Molaise, Monea, Devenish Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with and introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Benmore Church of Ireland Cemetery, Inishmacsaint Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Slavin Church of Ireland Cemetery, Inishmacsaint Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Sydare Methodist Cemetery, Magheracross Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Rossory Parish Cemeteries, Co. Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Old Derrygonnelly Churchyard, Inishmacsaint Parish, Co. Fermanagh' – transcription with an introduction.

'Gravestone inscriptions in Aghalurcher churchyard, Aghavea cemetery and Drumully cemetery', taken from the Clogher Record, vols I-VI.

'Gravestone inscriptions in Creggan graveyard, Donaghcavey cemetery, old Kilskeery graveyard, Drumglass cemetery'.

'Gravestone inscriptions in Lambeg churchyard'.

'Catholic gravestone inscriptions in the vicinity of Draperstown, County Derry', comprising Moneyneeny, Kilcronaghan and Straw.

'Tombstone inscriptions', copied from the Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical society, vol XIX, 1, 1977, contains information on St Mary's 'Abbey'; Dunany; Salterstown; County Louth; Rathdrumin; Bawntaaffe; Urnai; Fochart; St Nicholas, Dundalk.

D. Johnston, 'Clogher Cathedral graveyard' (1972) includes a short introduction entitled; 'The graveyard in History'.

'Carved in stone: a record of memorials in the ancient graveyard around the church of the Holy Evangelists' (Church of Ireland), Carnmoney, Newtownabbey.

'The Hidden Graveyard: Memorials in Graveyard No 1, Church of the Holy Evangelists, Parish of Carnmoney, Church Road, Newtownabbey.

B S Turner, Gravestone inscriptions for Ardclinis, Nappan and Kilmore, Co. Antrim .

John A McCurdy and Norman Parkes: Billy Parish Church Old Burying Ground.

Carmavy and Templastragh graveyards, Co. Antrim.

Ballymena Borough Gravestone Series: Kellswater Reformed Presbyterian Church, Ballyclug, Cullybackey Old Methodist Church, St Saviour's Parish Church, Skerry, 1st and 2nd Killymurriss and Racavan.

Other sources, including original documents, can be found in the electronic catalogue, on-line and in the Search Room, under the heading, 'Graveyards'. These are arranged by county for both municipal and church cemeteries, and include:

T/1761 Transcripts of gravestone inscriptions in the Shankhill graveyard, 1690-1953.

T/3715/1 Gravestone inscriptions in Larne Union burial ground, Kilwaughter, Co. Antrim.

- D/3672 Gravestone inscriptions from churches in Counties Antrim and Londonderry (13 volumes).
- MIC/1/29 Book containing tombstone inscriptions from tombstones in Enniskillen Cathedral graveyard.
- MIC/61 Gravestone inscriptions in the New Burial Ground, Clifton Street Belfast, 1800-1897.

See also Leaflet 27 for a list of records in PRONI for local authority burial grounds.

The Tennison Groves papers also contain various transcriptions of headstones for a number of counties; see T/808/14917-14924

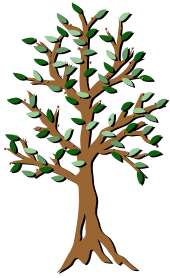


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Your Family Tree: 22

UNDERSTANDING THE STONES



For anyone starting out to trace their family tree, the family burial ground is one of the most useful places to start. Even the briefest epitaph can reveal such details as name, age, date of death, religious denomination and social class, while the more elaborate inscriptions can plot an entire family history.

Names are sometimes given in full and occasionally a familiar name is included – for example, ‘James Patrick (Jimmy) Boyle’, or, less helpful, the family name only, for example, ‘The family burying ground of the Caldwell Family, Lisburn’. The most useful, for genealogical purposes, are those gravestones which contain references to other family members and which give connecting names, for example:

Erected in loving memory of James Morton, Corbet, who died 14th June 1897 aged 66 years. ... And of his two daughters Margaret S. Steen who died 4th May 1899 aged 30 years, and Jane E. Mercer who died 24th Aug, 1904 aged 28 years.

Age is usually given either directly, ‘died aged 78’, ‘passed away in his 89th year’ or by deduction, ‘1805-1895’. Either way, once the birth year is known it is usually possible to obtain a birth certificate or (if pre-1864) a baptismal reference. The deceased’s religion can sometimes, but not always, be deduced from the site of the graveyard or cemetery. Older cemeteries were, in many cases, communal property, or attached to an Anglican (ie., Church of Ireland) church and used by all denominations. During the nineteenth century (after the Catholic Emancipation Act) there was an increase in the number of churches built by all denominations, and interment according to religious persuasion became more common.

Other information which may be included on gravestones is the occupation of the deceased: ‘Captain in the 18th, or Royal Irish, Regiment’, ‘Eminent Medical Student’, ‘Merchant of this town’. The home town may be given, for example, ‘Erected by James McMaster of Bangor in memory of his father John McMaster of



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Ballymaleddy'. The cause of death is occasionally recorded: 'John, who died suddenly when bathing on the 29th of June in the 13th year of his age'.

Notable achievements or membership of an illustrious society can be included:

'Minister for 52 years', 'secretary of the congregational committee', 'a founder member of the Society for the Promotion of the True Faith'.

Family members who died abroad are not forgotten: *'Thomas McIlroy who died at Pueblo, Colorado, USA'; 'Gawin McClure, M.D. Surgeon R.N. who died of yellow fever on board H.M.'s ship "Eclair" off Madeira; 'John, late Loco Supt. Nt. Wn. Rly. Sind. who died at Karachi, India'.*

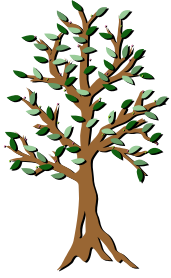
Paupers were, as a rule, buried in unmarked graves, frequently in a communal plot set aside for the purpose. As this was considered a shameful thing, even the poorest of people outside the workhouse would try to have something 'put by' for their funeral. Their headstones were usually quite simple. However, it did happen that as the family fortunes improved, a grieving son or daughter would erect a more fitting tribute to his or her parents. Generally, though, the higher up the social scale, the more grand and elaborate the gravestone, standing as a mark of the status of the entire family, past and present. An exception to this rule of thumb are those religious sects, such as the Moravians, who believe all are equal after death and all headstones are, therefore, of an equal height.

The more information that can be gleaned from headstones the easier it will be to find other sources which will be of help in tracing the family back through the centuries.

On-line Access

A useful website to consult is: www.historyfromheadstones.com where you will find details of over 50,000 gravestone inscriptions in Northern Ireland, while the Belfast City Council website www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords/search will give you details on Belfast City, Dundonald and Roselawn cemeteries.

Opening Hours



Your Family Tree: 23

TITHE RECORDS



Taxes have always been unpopular and arguably none more so than the tithe. The tithe was that part (the tenth) of the produce of the land given to the Established Church (the Church of Ireland) for the maintenance of the clergy. It was therefore regarded as something imposed by the Church of Ireland on the rest of the population. In fact, not all the money went to the Church of Ireland clergy. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, tithes previously paid to the monasteries became the property of the Crown who, in turn, either sold or granted the rights to laymen ('impropriators') or to bishops. Lord Bangor, for example, enjoyed the tithes of Bangor parish, while those for Comber were the property of Lord Londonderry. Tithes became identified with property rights and with the political ideology of the ruling classes. They were a source of disaffection, being, according to the Rev Dr Henry Montgomery, 'productive of outrages and disturbances'.

TITHE APLOTMENT ACT, 1823

The Tithe Applotment Act of 1823 was an attempt to make the tithe payment more popular by allowing payments to be made in money instead of in goods. This was based on what the land could produce, calculated by the average yearly price of corn taken over the seven years prior to 1 November 1821. Unfortunately, the seven years chosen were years of comparatively high prices and the valuations were, as a result, higher than they could have been. In addition, the Act extended the tax to pasture land. As a result, agitation against the payment of tithes continued unabated.

TITHE RENT CHARGE ACT, 1838

Despite some changes to the Act in an effort to make it more acceptable, the tithes remained unpopular, and practically un-collectable. Eventually, the government gave way to popular pressure and introduced the Tithe Rent Charge Act in 1838. This effectively combined tithe payments with the ordinary rents due to landlords. The tithe rent charge stopped being paid to the church on *Disestablishment* (that is, when Church and State officially split, on 1 January 1871), but it continued to be paid to a body called the *Commissioners of Church Temporalities* and, when that body was disbanded in 1881, to the *Irish Land Commission*. After the creation of Northern Ireland payments were made to the *Ministry of Finance*.

WHAT PRONI HOLDS

The tithe applotment books (**PRONI reference FIN/5A**) and the tithe rent records (**PRONI reference FIN/5B**) for Northern Ireland were transferred by the Ministry of Finance to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in 1924. As well as holding the original tithe books for the six counties of Northern Ireland, PRONI also has, on microfilm, the books for the remaining three counties of Ulster.

USING THE RECORDS

The Tithe Composition Applotment books, to give them their full title, cover the years 1823 to 1837. Each volume deals with a single parish that is then sub-divided by townland. Recorded against each townland are the names of the occupiers, the acreage and quality of their holdings, the valuation of the land and the amount of tithe to be paid. An index (approximately one million entries) giving the names of all those mentioned in the tithe applotment books is available on microfilm (see **MIC/15K**).

A UNIQUE SOURCE

For parish, townland and farm (distinguishing between arable, pasture or non-productive land), the tithe books give a picture of the quality of the land and the use made of it, prior to the ravages of the Great Irish Famine (1845 to 1851) and the subsequent mass emigration. The tithe books are also a unique genealogical source that links personal names with specific areas (though cities and larger towns were excluded). The obvious alternative sources, such as the population censuses of 1821 and 1831, were almost completely destroyed in 1922 in the fire at the Public Record Office in the Four Courts in Dublin. Another source, the books of the First General Valuation of Ireland (covering the 1830s and 1840s), concentrated on the value of portions of each townland rather than individual holdings so they contain relatively few names.

PROBLEMS

There are, however, some problems associated with using the tithe applotment books. Firstly, not all land will be included. In some instances this was because the land was of such poor quality that no tithe could be levied, or because the land was owned outright by the Church and therefore not subject to tithe or the land was outside the jurisdiction of the Church. In the latter case this usually applied to lands that formerly belonged to a monastery (these were often known as *Granges*), in which case the tithes were often payable to lay persons. Secondly, placenames had not yet been standardised so valuers often recorded the local or common name for a

townland or parish rather than the one used by the Ordnance Survey. Legislation introduced in the 1830s attempted to standardise boundaries and resulted in many townlands and parishes being divided, amalgamated, renamed or otherwise altered. Some parishes appear not to be represented in the applotment books but are actually there under another name or, alternatively, were then part of a larger parish but are now parishes in their own right. For example, there is no named book for Kilcluney Parish because at the time of the survey it was part of Mullaghbrack Parish. (See the *Introduction to FIN/5A* for details of where to find the entries for parishes that do not appear on the FIN/5A catalogue)

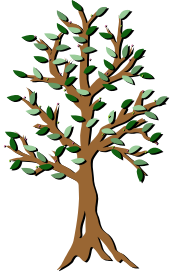
PRONI's *Guide to the Tithe Records* in the Search Room lists every townland in Northern Ireland with the relevant FIN/5A reference number for the tithe applotment book where the details for that townland can be found.



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Your Family Tree: 24

A SIMPLE GUIDE TO IRELAND



To the majority of people, Ireland is just a small island on the outlying fringes of Europe. Most visitors come to Ireland not for its scenery (which can be breathtaking), nor for its culture, despite its richness and variety: they come, rather, to trace their ancestors, for there are few American, Canadian and Australian families who cannot boast of an Irish ancestor somewhere in their line. Ireland, however, can be just a little confusing for those unaware of the finer points of the island's *modus vivendi*. This leaflet is intended to guide the unwary past the most obvious pitfalls.

Historically, Ireland has been divided into four provinces: Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht. These in turn, are sub-divided into a total of thirty-two counties: nine counties in Ulster, twelve in Leinster, six in Munster, and five in Connacht. Within counties (and occasionally overlapping) are parishes which are further sub-divided into townlands.

In 1801 Ireland officially joined with England, Scotland and Wales to become part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1921, after years of unrest, the island of Ireland was divided in two. All of Munster, Leinster and Connacht, and three of the nine counties of Ulster, became the Irish Free State, later the Republic of Ireland. This part of the island is also known as 'Eire', 'The Republic', the 'Twenty-six Counties', and 'The South'.

The remaining six counties of Ulster continued to be part of the United Kingdom and became known, officially, as Northern Ireland. However, the area is often referred to as 'Ulster', sometimes as the 'Six Counties', and sometimes as 'The North'. To confuse things further, geographically, the most northerly county in Ireland (Donegal) is part of 'The South' although it is one of the counties of Ulster.

There are some other peculiarities, which tend to confuse visitors but, briefly, Londonderry and Derry are one and the same place, although the former is the official name of the city. Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland; Dublin the capital city of the Republic. Although those who are native to Northern Ireland may be regarded as both Irish and British, in the same way as a Yorkshireman is both English and British, there are sections of the population who prefer to think of themselves as Irish, while others would see themselves as Northern Irish and British.

To others, however, the population of Northern Ireland is simply British. Loyalists/Unionists are in favour of maintaining the Union with Great Britain and are predominately of the Protestant persuasion; Nationalists/Republicans, by tradition mainly Roman Catholic, aspire to a united Ireland under an Irish government.

The inhabitants of Ireland, both North and South, are mainly Christian, with the majority of the population of the Republic of Ireland professing to be Roman Catholic.

A word of warning: it is bad form to ask a person's religious persuasion.

Another problem which can be encountered in Ireland (North or South) is that of language. Although everyone on the island speaks English, there are those who also speak Irish. Certain place names have changed over the years from Irish to English and vice versa. For example, County Leix (also spelt Laoise and pronounced 'Leash') was, prior to 1921, known as Queen's County, while King's County became Offaly. Many personal names have become anglicised over the years and suffixes to surnames, such as Mc and O, have been dropped. Conversely, an upsurge in nationalist feelings can mean the reversion of an anglicised name to its Irish roots - not always correctly translated.

The most common surnames in Ireland, according to a survey undertaken by the Registrar General in 1890, were: Murphy, Kelly, Sullivan, Walsh, Smith, O'Brien, Byrne, Ryan, Connor and O'Neill. Included in his reckoning were all the variants of the surname, for example, Smith, Smyth, Smithe and Smythe. In what is now Northern Ireland the most common names in 1890 were: Smith, Johnston, Stewart, Wilson, Campbell and Doherty. Certain names, however, are very common to a particular locality; for example, the most common surname in Co. Tyrone is Quinn while Maguire is the most common surname in Co. Fermanagh.

While the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland welcomes visitors who are trying to trace their ancestral roots, it should be borne in mind that the majority of the records held in PRONI relate, in the main, to Northern Ireland, although there are some which also relate to the rest of Ireland and, indeed, to even further afield. Our collections of emigrant letters, for example, come from all over the world. A guide to our holdings can be found on our web-site (www.proni.gov.uk) and in our offices at 2 Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter, Belfast BT3 9HQ.

The National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland, both located in Dublin, are the national repositories for those records relating primarily to the South of Ireland. From the 1860s to the 1920s many public records for the entire island were held at the Four Courts, Dublin. A fire in 1922 destroyed almost all the public records held at the Four Courts, including most of the 19th century census returns. In fact, the earliest complete census extant for Ireland is that of 1901, although PRONI holds a copy of only that part which relates to what is now Northern Ireland.

Despite a few idiosyncracies, the people of Northern Ireland are a warm and friendly lot and, if you avoid the pitfalls, they will give you the traditional ‘hundred thousand welcomes’. Enjoy your visit.

Alphabetical list of the counties of Ireland

Antrim*	Dublin	Limerick	Roscommon
Armagh*	Fermanagh*	Londonderry*	Sligo
Carlow	Galway	Longford	Tipperary
Cavan	Kerry	Louth	Tyrone*
Clare	Kildare	Mayo	Waterford
Cork	Kilkenny	Meath	Wexford
Donegal	Leitrim	Monaghan	Wicklow
Down*	Leix (Laoise)	Offaly	Westmeath

(* Counties in Northern Ireland)

The counties of Ireland by Province

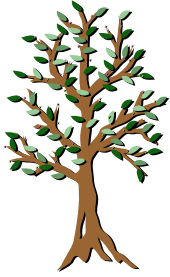
Ulster	Munster	Leinster	Connacht
Antrim	Clare	Carlow	Galway
Armagh	Cork	Dublin	Leitrim
Cavan†	Kerry	Kildare	Mayo
Donegal†	Limerick	Kilkenny	Roscommon
Down	Tipperary	Leix	Sligo
Fermanagh	Waterford	Longford	
Londonderry		Louth	
Monaghan†		Meath	
Tyrone		Offaly	
		Westmeath	
		Wexford	
		Wicklow	

(† Ulster counties in the Republic of Ireland.)

Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm
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2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ
Tel: (028) 9053 4800 Fax: (028) 9053 4900
Web-site: <http://www.proni.gov.uk>
e-mail: proni@dcalni.gov.uk



Your Family Tree: 25

GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE



The General Register Office (GRONI) is part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is primarily concerned with the administration of the registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships. The registers themselves are not open to inspection, but information from them is supplied in the form of certificates. The GRONI does not engage in genealogical research although the records can contain valuable information for anyone compiling a family tree.

What information is available?

GRONI holds birth, death, marriage and adoption records. It also maintains a public search room where you can search computerised indexes. The index provides name, date and place of event.

Registration indexes held by GRONI include

- Births registered in Northern Ireland from 1 January 1864
- Deaths registered in Northern Ireland from 1 January 1864
- Non-Roman Catholic marriages from 1 April 1845 and all marriages from 1 January 1864.
- Adoptions recorded in the Adopted Children Register Northern Ireland from 1 January 1931.

Other records of births, deaths and marriages held:

Service Department registers
Marine register of births
Marine register of deaths
Consular returns of births
Consular returns of deaths

Foreign marriages
High Commissioner's returns
Consular returns of marriages
War deaths

How do you apply for birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates?

You can apply in person, by telephone or fax, or on-line at www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro or by post to the General Register Office, Oxford House, 49-55 Chichester Street, Belfast BT1 4HL. Personal applications are processed within 3 working days and postal, telephone, fax and on-line applications are processed within 7 working days. Application forms are available from the General Register Office, District Registrars' Offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and PRONI or on-line.

Information required:

Birth Certificates	Full name of person whose birth certificate is required. Date and place of birth. Names of parents (including mother's maiden name).
Marriage and Civil Partnership Certificates	Full names of both parties (including bride's maiden name). Date and place of marriage/civil
Death Certificates	Full name of deceased. Date and place of death.

The GRONI can undertake a specific search provided they are given sufficient information about the person concerned. If the search is likely to be too time-consuming, the GRONI will not undertake the task. You will be expected to conduct the search personally or arrange for someone to search on your behalf.

Searches

General searching for can be carried out in person by anyone over 16 years of age.

Search only	For each 5 year period or part of it the cost is £6.00 .
Assisted Search	General search of the records assisted by a member of GRO staff for any period of years and any number of entries. However there is a waiting list for this service and bookings must be made in advance. The cost is £35.00 per hour.

Index Search

The indexes up to the present have now been computerised and are available for searching for a period not exceeding 6 hours. Cost is **£14.00**. This includes two verifications with the option of further verifications at **£4.00** each. Bookings are not required; however, we recommend that you book in advance during peak periods (e.g. June – August).

Indexes available

Birth Indexes, 1864 to present

Death Indexes, 1864 to present

Non-Catholic Marriage Indexes, 1845 to present

All Marriage Indexes, 1864 to present

Fees for Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates

Fees payable (*from June 2008*) for certificates and searches

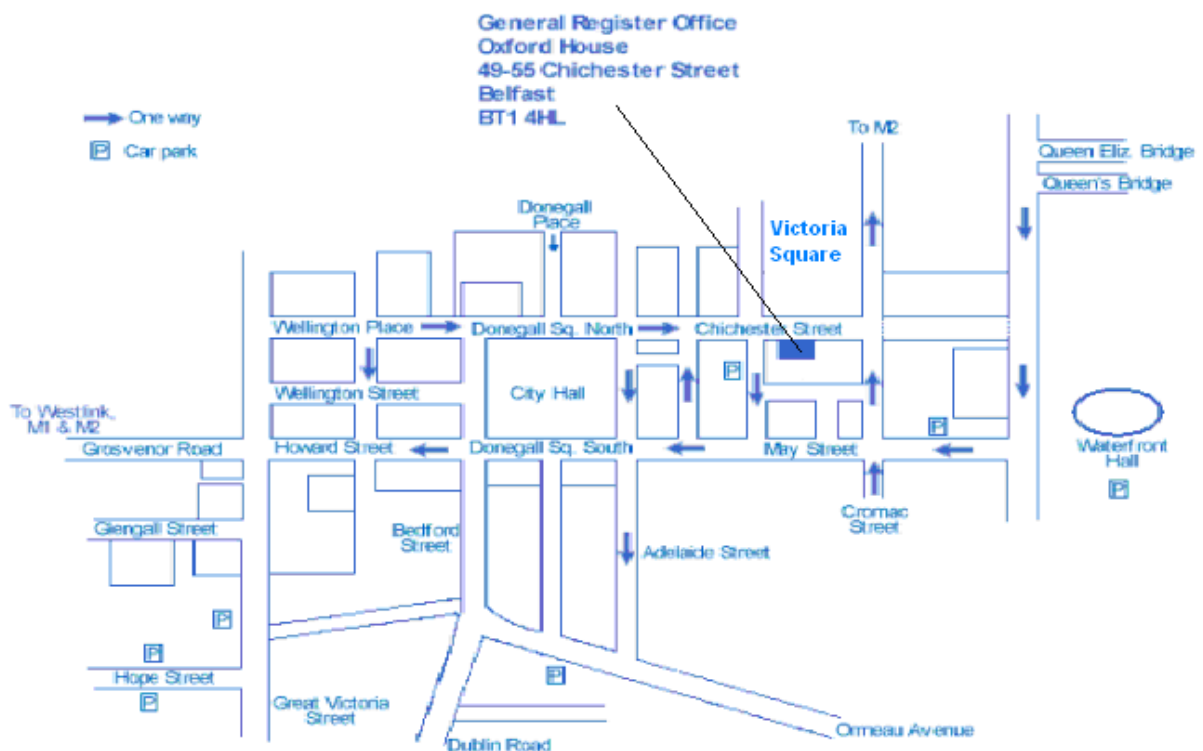
Full certified copy of an entry of birth, death, marriage or civil partnership **£14.00**

Short birth certificate (shows only the surname, name, sex, date of birth and, *in most cases*, the district of birth) **£14.00**

Where two or more full certified copies of the same entry are applied for at the same time, the first copy will be charged at **£14.00** and any additional copies at **£8.00** each.

Priority Certificate – produced within one hour of application if applied for in person before 15:00 hours; applications received by post, telephone, fax or on-line before 14:30 hours will be issued by first class post on day of receipt **£18.00 + fee**

How to find the General Register Office



Oxford House
49-55 Chichester Street
Belfast
BT1 4HL
(028) 9025 2000



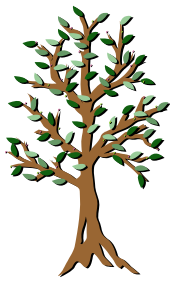
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Your Family Tree: 26

TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE AT PRONI USEFUL SOURCES



PRONI holds so much material that it can be very confusing for the first time user. This handout is designed to give a general overview of the most useful sources available. Individual information leaflets on a vast array of sources are available on-line on our website www.proni.gov.uk and in the Search Room, free of charge, including all of the following:

STREET DIRECTORIES: These are printed books containing the name, address and occupation, of every householder in Belfast. They also give the names of the principal citizens in some of the larger towns in Northern Ireland. The earliest book is 1809, continuing, with gaps, up to the 1990s. The directories are not one hundred percent accurate because not everyone was included and, by the time they were printed, the information was already out of date. Directories from 1901 are available in the Search Room, while those pre-dating 1900 are available on the PRONI website.

CENSUS: The 1901 census gives the name, age, religion, occupation, and various other details on every individual in Northern Ireland. The 1911 census also gives the number of children born to a woman and the number of children surviving. The information is usually very reliable. Both censuses are now available free on-line: www.nationalarchive.ie

GRIFFITH'S VALUATION: This was compiled between 1856-1865 for taxation purposes. It gives the name of the householder, the name of the landlord, the size of the holding and the rateable value. It also gives the relevant Ordnance Survey map reference number. Listed by county and then within Poor Law Union by barony, parish and townland. Available on the Search Room shelves and for free on www.askaboutireland.com.

LANDED ESTATE RECORDS: Landowners were the major employers during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The *Guide to Landed Estates*, available on the Search Room shelves, gives an alphabetical list of major landowners by county. Typical contents of estate archives include leases, rent rolls, rentals, wage books, maps and correspondence. Background information on the major estate owning families is also available on our website: see Major Sources in PRONI.



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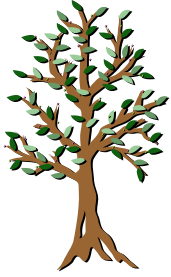
CHURCH RECORDS: Organised alphabetically by name of church, with a code for the various denominations (eg, P = Presbyterian, CI = Church of Ireland, RC = Roman Catholic). Usually gives baptisms, marriages and burials and, occasionally, vestry minutes or similar material. PRONI does not hold records for every church – some are in local custody – nor are the dates consistent either over time or between churches. Consult the *Guide to Church Records*, available on-line and in the Search Room, for the relevant reference number. Most of the church records held by PRONI are available on microfilm in the Self-Service Microfilm area.

SCHOOL RECORDS: School registers usually provide the following information: name, address and age of child, name and occupation of father, religion and, sometimes, previous address. Some also give additional comments, eg, died, emigrated, now working for Harland & Wolff. All schools are listed under the SCH reference and can be found by entering the name of the school into our electronic catalogue, also available on our website.

WILLS: From 1858 probated wills became a matter of public record. A list of all wills probated is arranged firstly, by the year of probate (NOT the year of death) and then alphabetically by name of the deceased. As probate can take anything from six months to twenty-five years or more, it is best to start with the year of death and work forward. The will calendars and copy wills from 1858-1919 for the three District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry have been indexed and digitised. The index is now available on the PRONI website; with some wills being linked to images of the actual wills. Some earlier wills, which are classified as private records, are also available (see the Names Index on the website). Wills are extremely useful in tracing collateral branches of the family tree as bequests are often made to married daughters, grandchildren, cousins, nephews, etc., and give the names of the beneficiaries in full.

BOARDS OF GUARDIANS: The Boards of Guardians looked after the 28 workhouses in Northern Ireland. The admission books give the name, former address, occupation, marital status and religion of the inmates. Most of the records are closed for 100 years. However, conditional access may be possible (write to the Head of Access in the first instance). The records begin around 1838 and continue until the introduction of the Welfare State in 1948.

PEDIGREES/GENEALOGIES: Genealogy is a very popular hobby and many people have carried out research into their family tree that may, just maybe, interlink with your own tree. As these records, the result of private research, were donated by private individuals, PRONI has no control over their accuracy and cannot be held responsible for any inconsistencies. However, they are worth a look, just in case, though there is no substitute for carrying out your own research. Of particular interest are **D/3000**, **T/1075** and **T/808**.



Your Family Tree: 27

CEMETERY RECORDS



If you want to trace your family history back before civil registration began and there are no surviving church records then cemetery/burial ground/graveyard records might be a useful alternative source of information. PRONI's Family History leaflets on Gravestone Inscriptions (No. 21) and Understanding the Stones (No. 22) outline the value of gravestone inscriptions to the family historian and list some of the printed and manuscript sources held in PRONI.

PRONI also holds registers of interments or burials, and of purchasers of graves for some cemeteries. Cemeteries are either maintained by local authorities or by churches. Some burial grounds have only been taken over by councils recently and so appear under the name of the council that currently maintain them. In many instances the records relate to local authorities (urban and rural district councils) that existed prior to 1972 and are listed below as such.

This leaflet outlines the records that are available in PRONI firstly for burial grounds maintained by local authorities in Northern Ireland and then for other burial grounds.

1. LOCAL AUTHORITY BURIAL GROUNDS

RDC = **Rural District Council**
UDC = **Urban District Council**
BC = **Borough Council**

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Ballycastle RDC	LA/11/8JA/1-2	1900-1901	Plans of Bonamargy burial ground, Co. Antrim
Belfast City Council	MIC/61/1	1798-1859	Register of plots in Clifton Street Cemetery
Belfast City Council	MIC/61/1	1798-1860	Register of plots in Clifton Street Cemetery for Poor House burial ground
Belfast City Council	MIC/61/2	1829-1860	Register of owners for Poor House burial ground

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Belfast City Council	MIC/61/2-3	1831-1960	Registers of interments/burials in Clifton Street Cemetery
Belfast City Council	D/1075/6	1855-96	Burial register of Balmoral Cemetery, Stockman's Lane, Belfast
Belfast City Council	D/2966/64/1	1908-1911	Burial notebook of Balmoral Cemetery, Stockman's Lane recording name, age at death, date of burial and occasionally address and cause of death; also a list of where people are buried
Belfast City Council	D/3456/1	c.1830	Plan of Friar's Bush Graveyard
Belfast City Council	D/3456/2-3	1830-1838 and 1856-1874	Registers of purchasers of graves in Friar's Bush Graveyard giving names of deceased, their ages and grave numbers
Belfast City Council	D/3456/4	1869- 1891	Register of burials in Friar's Bush Graveyard, Belfast
Belfast City Council	MIC/1D/91/8-10	1829-1859 and 1889-1982	Registers of interments in Friar's Bush Graveyard, Belfast
Belfast City Council	D/3435	1889-1966	Admittance slips for Friar's Bush Graveyard
Cookstown UDC	LA/28/11C	1909–1940	Cemetery registration counterfoils
Derry City Council	MIC/440/2-4	1853-1912	Registers of interments with indexes for Londonderry City Cemetery
Enniskillen RDC	LA/36/11/D	1959–1967	Burial returns
Enniskillen RDC	LA/36/11C/1-3	1937–1966	Register of interments
Holywood UDC	LA/38/11C/1	c.1870s	Register of grave lots in old parish burying ground
Holywood UDC	LA/38/11C/2	1874–1894	Registers of lots for the new and old cemeteries
Larne BC	LA/43/11C/1	1940–1945	Register of war graves in Larne Cemetery, Co. Antrim
Larne BC	LA/43/11C/2	1925–1981	File regarding maintenance of war graves in Larne
Larne RDC	LA/44/8J/2	c.1879 and 1881	Map of Kilwaughter graveyard, c.1879; plan of Glenarm new cemetery, 1881

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Lisnaskea RDC	LA/49/11C	1936–1960	Register of interments
Moira RDC	LA/54/11C/1	1892–1893	Index map of Donaghcloney Graveyard, Co. Down
Moira RDC	LA/54/11C/2	July 1901– Dec. 1927	Register of interments in Donaghcloney Burial Ground, Co. Down
Moira RDC	LA/54/11C/3	c.1906	Book of references to grave plots to accompany map of Seagoe Graveyard
Moira RDC	LA/54/11C/4	Mar. 1919– Sep. 1950	Register of interments in Magheralin Burial Ground
Newtownabbey UDC	LA/59/11C/1	1878–1920	Burial register of Monkstown Cemetery, Co. Antrim
	ANT/7/1/2/17	1896	Plan of Mallusk burial ground
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/ 60/11C1	1876-1886	Register of burials in Old Movilla Graveyard, Co. Down
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/6011C/2	1880-1897	Register of burials in New Movilla Graveyard, Co. Down
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/151/A	c.1972	Plan of Tullynakill Cemetery, Co. Down
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/151/2B	1981	Plan of Whitechurch Cemetery, Co. Down
Newtownards (later North Down) RDC	LA/61/8JA/1-2	1962-1969	Plan of Greyabbey and Templepatrick Burial Grounds, Co. Down
Newtownards RDC	LA/61/11C/1	1894-1920	Register of burials in Comber Graveyard, Co. Down
Portrush UDC	LA/65/11C/1-2	1934–1953	Registers of burial tracings showing the layout of Portrush Cemetery.
Portstewart UDC	LA/66/11C/1	1926–1942	Register of grave plots purchased in Portstewart Cemetery
Strabane District Council	D/4305/1	1891	Map of Grange Graveyard, Donagheady, Co. Tyrone
Strabane District Council	D/4305/2-3	1891 and 1931	References to maps of Grange Graveyard, Donagheady, Co. Tyrone

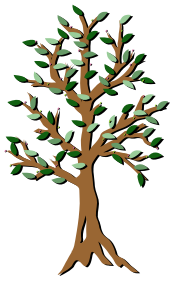
2. OTHER BURIAL GROUNDS

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	BG/14/AG/3	1879-1893	Ledger for Enniskillen cemetery
Greyabbey Parish, Co. Down	T/1619/1	1857	Map of Greyabbey Parish Church graveyard with key to burials
Killysugggan, Co. Down	T/3615	1885-1898	Minute book containing lists of interments, 1885-98, and lists of purchasers of graves, 1886-96
Knockbreda Parish, Belfast	CR/1/24F	1869-1911	Interment/graveyard book
Magheragall Parish, Co. Down	D/2938	c.1860 and 1897	Plan of Magheragall Parish cemetery, c.1860, and plan of new cemetery 1897
Roman Catholic Cemetery, Milltown, Belfast	MIC/1D/91/1-3	1869-1962	Registers of interments, general ground
Roman Catholic Cemetery, Milltown, Belfast	MIC/1D/91/6-7	1895-1982	Registers of interments, public ground
Roman Catholic Cemetery, Milltown, Belfast	MIC/1D/91/4-5	1871-1959	Registers of grants of burial ground

Opening Hours

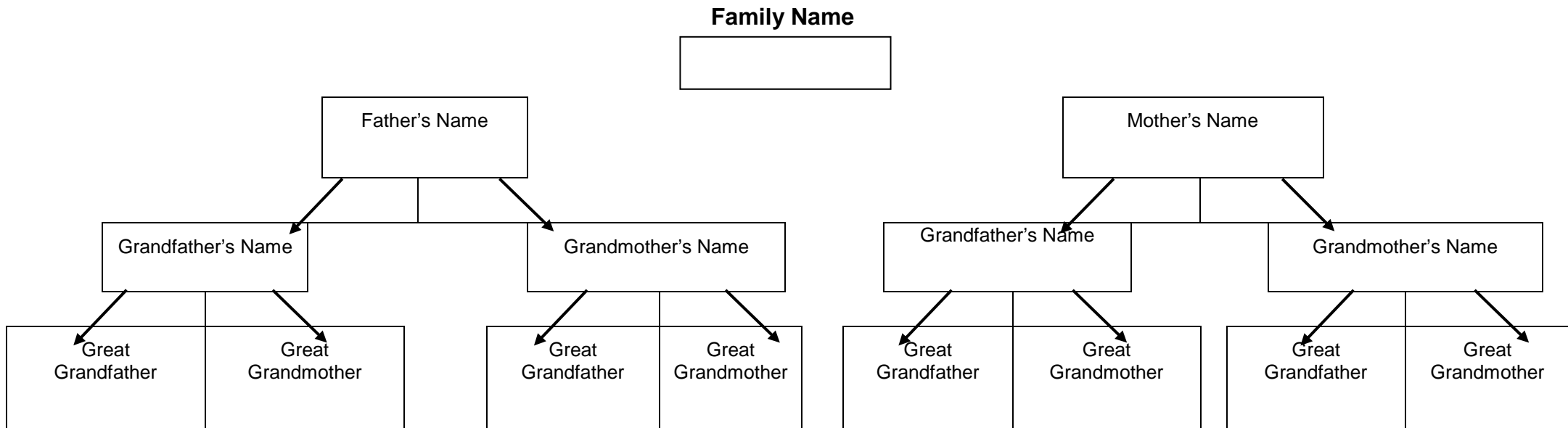
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Your Family Tree: 28

CHART FOR TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE AT PRONI



Name	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage	Date of Death	Residence	Occupation	Siblings

Name	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage	Date of Death	Residence	Occupation	Siblings



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