

Some Helpful Online Resources...

- Republic of Ireland
www.irishgenealogy.ie
www.rootsireland.ie
www.nationalarchives.ie
- National Library of Ireland
www.nli.ie/
- Tithe Applotment Books (1823-1837)
www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/
- Griffith's Valuation (1848-1864)
www.nli.ie/en/griffiths-valuation.aspx
- General Register Office Northern Ireland (GRONI)
<https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk>
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)
www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni

- Scotland's People
www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk
- Catholic parish records
www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx
- LDS/Mormon website
<https://familysearch.org/>
- N.E.H.G.S.
www.americanancestors.org
- Ellis Island
<http://libertyellisfoundation.org>
- Castle Garden
www.castlegarden.org



Shrewsbury Public Library
609 Main St.
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
508-841-8609

How to Begin Irish Genealogical Research



Some Helpful Background...

Ireland separated from Great Britain in 1922, but Northern Ireland remains a part of the United Kingdom (with England, Wales, and Scotland). Northern Ireland (also called Ulster) includes 6 counties (Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry, and Tyrone); the capital is Belfast. All other counties form the Republic of Ireland; the capital is Dublin. Due to this history, Irish genealogical records will be found in various locations. But many records no longer exist, due to the destruction of the Public Records Office in 1922. A helpful printed guide is *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide* by John Grenham (5th edition, 2019). (Shrewsbury: 929.1 GRENH)

First Steps in Researching Your Irish Ancestors...

1. Do as much research as possible of your ancestors here in the United States. Use US Census records, church records, Ellis Island and Castle Garden records, Mormon databases, New England Historic Genealogical Society, various Irish genealogical societies, etc. Gather as much information as you can: for example, include siblings, aunts and uncles, cousins, neighbors, etc., in your searching. Look for dates of departure and arrival, ports of departure, ship names.
2. Locate your ancestors in Ireland by county, town, and parish. Use all the websites listed above.
3. When not available online, write to civil and church authorities for birth, baptismal, marriage, death, and burial certificates.

4. Help is available by consulting members of the Shrewsbury Genealogy Club, and elsewhere (especially, at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 101 Newbury St., Boston; 888-296-3447).
5. There are 2 genealogical societies you might want to consider joining:
 - *The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA)*, 121 Boston Post Rd., Sudbury, Mass., www.tiara.ie
 - *Irish Cultural Centre, Inc.*, 200 New Boston Dr., Canton, Mass., 781-821-8291, www.irishculture.org

Kinds of Records...

- Irish Census records: only 1901 and 1911 exist; 1926 will be available only in 2027. A good substitute is Tithe Applotment Books and Griffith's Valuation (see below)

- Civil records: starting in 1864, records were kept for births (available back 100 years), marriages (back 75 years), and deaths (back 50 years)
- Church records: very few are available online
- Tithe Applotment Books: these are lists of heads of households (1823-1837) who owed tithes to support the established church. They are arranged by civil parish for the Republic of Ireland.
- Griffith's Valuation: a primary valuation of Ireland (1848-1864), to determine household tax payments to subsidize the poor and destitute in each Poor Law Union. Contains detailed information about when Irish people lived and their property.