

*A Primer in
Irish Genealogy*

Sean J Murphy



Centre for Irish Genealogical and Historical Studies

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**Centre for Irish Genealogical and Historical Studies
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Lesson 1: First Steps

What is Genealogy?

The present work was first published in 1998 and developed from student notes for the introductory elements of the Adult Education genealogy courses which the author gave in University College Dublin from 1989 until 2017. The *Primer* continues to serve as a textbook for the author's ongoing lectures in the National Library of Ireland and elsewhere, as well as hopefully being of assistance to those in Ireland and abroad who wish to trace their Irish ancestors.

It is a good idea to commence study in any discipline by examining the precise meaning of the word which describes it. The term 'genealogy' is derived from the Latin via Greek word *genea*, meaning 'race' or 'kin', and the Greek *logos*, which means 'word' or 'account'. A good working definition of genealogy is provided by Greenwood, who describes the subject as 'That branch of history which involves the determination of family relationships'.¹ It cannot be stressed too often that genealogy is a branch of history, subject to the rules thereof, and is not an activity out on its own or one in which people can make up their own rules as they go along.

While it is acceptable loosely to equate the terms 'genealogy' and 'family history', more exactly the first refers to the bare bones of family relationships as set out in pedigrees, and the second to a more detailed or narrative account of families. As in history, in genealogy we are concerned with establishing facts through careful and critical documentary research, and the main sources relevant to Irish genealogical research will be introduced in the appropriate order in future lessons.

The development of genealogy can be divided into three stages, the first in pre-literate pagan societies when genealogical information on gods, heroes and rulers was transmitted orally, and the second following the invention of writing when royal, religious and aristocratic pedigrees were recorded. The third or modern stage started in Europe from about 1500 onwards, when the expansion of bureaucracy and official record-keeping gradually led to a situation where all members of society high and low were recorded.² It can be observed that in the first and second stages genealogy is very much an aristocratic pursuit, but that in the third it is potentially democratic and inclusive, though it is only in this century that genealogy has shaken off its upper class associations and become a mass pursuit.

Preparatory Work

Whether Irish-born or the descendant of an Irish emigrant living abroad, it is vital that the task of seeking information on ancestors should begin at home, so that before going near the record repositories one should do one's 'homework'. Typically this preparatory work will involve writing down what you yourself know about your ancestry, seeking further information from parents, aunts and uncles, and grandparents

1 Val D Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, Baltimore, Maryland, 1983 Edition, page 1.

2 'Genealogy', *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/228297>.

or other older relatives if living, not forgetting of course to make allowances for the limitations of human memory. Just as importantly, having secured permission where necessary, you should search through old family papers and photocopy such items as birth, marriage and death certificates, grave receipts, memorial cards, bible entries where kept, photographs and so on. Few families will be without an older relative with a store of genealogically relevant information or a deed box or bundle of old documents, and it does not make sense to neglect these sources and the vital signposting information they contain. Those of Irish descent living abroad have the additional task of searching for Irish county of origin, and other crucial identifying information on ancestors, in records of their own country, including shipping, citizenship, census, vital, property, church, legal, occupational, obituary and other records. This work of course will be an element of the larger task of tracing those of your ancestors who were born and died in your own country.

A question frequently asked by beginners is how far back can I trace my Irish ancestry? The answer unfortunately is probably not as far back as some would expect, for on average the period 1800-20 is usually the cut-off point for detailed genealogical information in this country. In England and other European countries genealogists can expect to trace families back to the eighteenth century or earlier, but in Ireland only the lucky few can expect similar results, and these are almost always the descendants of wealthy or prominent families. Orally transmitted stories about family origins are interesting in their own right and should be recorded, but in the absence of documentary evidence they cannot be accepted as factual. Certainly, one is entitled to be sceptical of claims to have traced a pedigree back to Brian Boru, the Normans or the Milesians. The enthusiasm for 'family crests' and 'clan' organisations in Ireland is such that correct advice that every surname does not possess a coat of arms or its own clan can be dismissed. Such fanciful approaches to genealogy are inspired by a need to claim an ancient and prestigious lineage, while skipping the 'academic' work of searching through the records for authentic information.

Due to the poverty of the great mass of the Irish population before this century, and the country's colonial status, but more particularly our past and continuing carelessness concerning our documentary heritage, the records simply do not exist to enable most families to be traced in detail before 1800. The greatest blow to genealogists and historians was probably the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland during the Civil War in June 1922 (sometimes confused with the burning of the Custom House in 1921), and especially the loss of the 1821 Census. However, despite such terrible losses, it must be stressed that there is a great wealth of surviving documents, indeed probably far more than we deserve given our national record of neglect of archival heritage. Most of us have the positive prospect of being able to trace our ancestry over a period of about 200 hundred years or five to six generations. Indeed, the amount of work involved in searching the available records is so substantial that only a dedicated minority will persevere to trace all the lines of their ancestry as far back as possible. Yet even those who attempt a little will find the work rewarding if they approach it in the right spirit and using the correct methods.

There is a growing number of how-to textbooks relating to Irish genealogy, not all it has to be said of high quality, and we will recommend a few more useful works at this point. Firstly, there is Grenham's guide, important for its county source lists and

which might be worth purchasing.³ Then there is a comparable but now out of print work by Ryan containing similar lists of sources plus clearly illustrated county maps, which it would be worthwhile consulting in a library which holds a copy.⁴ Santry's guide is particularly useful for online genealogical sources and should be read with the author's news website.⁵ MacLysaght's paperback guide to Irish surnames would also be a useful addition to your personal reference library.⁶ See also Appendix 1 below for a select range of publications relevant to Irish genealogy.

Pedigree Sheets

Right from the beginning, and especially as the volume of genealogical data gathered grows in size, we need to consider some method of recording information systematically in order to keep track of it. Everyone will be familiar with the simple drop-line pedigree, where horizontal and vertical lines show B and C to be descended from A, D E and F to be descended from B, and so on. Most experienced amateur and professional genealogists use a more sophisticated and flexible system of pedigree sheets modelled on the tried and tested Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) system, because regardless of what one thinks of the spiritual motivation involved, this Church has unrivalled expertise in genealogical methodology. Many genealogists use computer programs to organise data (see below), and it will be found that the on-screen sheets accord with or are derived from the Mormon standard. However, it is advisable to ensure that you know how to compile pedigree sheets manually as well.

Students are advised to start by using the four-generation pedigree sheet provided (see the illustrations near the end of this work), which is adapted from the Mormon system. It is recommended that a supply of pedigree sheets should be copied from this master for personal use and kept accessibly in your files. You should start by heading a blank pedigree sheet 'Draft', number it '1' on top, and at the far right enter from top to bottom the continuation sheet numbers '2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9', in that order (do not confuse the numbers given to pedigree sheets with the numbers allocated to the persons appearing in same). Considering that on average we can only trace back five or six generations, it will be seen that using this system a total of just 9 pedigree sheets will suffice to record the most important information on most people's ancestral lines (those systems which squeeze 5 generations into a sheet actually require a total of 16 continuation sheets!).

When filling out sheets, it is recommended that you enter yourself at position 1 in pedigree sheet 1, and if married note your spouse at the succeeding unnumbered position (if tracing your spouse's family, the preparation of a separate series of sheets is advised). You should then record your father at position 2, your mother at position 3, your paternal grandparents at positions 4 and 5, your maternal grandparents at positions 6 and 7, and your great-grandparents at positions 8-15. Females appear in the pedigree sheets under their birth names, still usually their father's surname, and with the single exception of position 1 on pedigree sheet 1, should be entered below their husbands. Note that there are spaces for places as well as dates of birth, marriage and death, and

3 John Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, 5th Edition, Dublin 2019.

4 J G Ryan, *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History*, 2nd Edition, Salt Lake City 1997.

5 Claire Santry, *The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide*, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2017; Irish Genealogy News, <https://www.irishgenealogynews.com>.

6 Edward MacLysaght, *The Surnames of Ireland*, 6th Edition, Dublin 1991.

that you will need to start appropriately numbered continuation sheets when you reach your great-grandparents.

Exactitude should be our watchword, and uncertain information should be marked with a question mark or 'c' in the case of dates (eg, c1798, from Latin circa meaning 'about'). When completing sheets, always enter your name, address and date on these sheets, and maintain the discipline of listing sources briefly, even if at this stage they consist mostly of oral information or family papers. It is a good idea to keep draft pedigree sheets at the top of one's working file, in order to see what has been accomplished and what has yet to be achieved, and in time the drafts with their gaps and uncertainties will be replaced by more finished sheets.

Family Group Sheets

It can be seen that there is no room for siblings or brothers and sisters on the pedigree sheet, and the family group sheet is used to record this and other more detailed information. See the illustrations below for a sample family group sheet, and again a supply of these may be copied for personal use. Note once more the space provided on the family group sheet for a brief note concerning sources of information. As well as continuing work on your draft pedigree sheets, a few draft family group sheets at least should also be compiled, although frankly it must be admitted that only a dedicated minority will complete family group sheets as fully as pedigree sheets. For someone who traces all ancestral lines back five generations, there will be a potential total of 16 family group sheets, and these optionally may be referenced to the numbered pedigree sheets as 1/1, 1/2-3, 1/4-5, and so on.

Lesson 2: Research Methods

Research Methods

We continue to deal with genealogical theory in this lesson, both because too little attention is generally paid to this aspect, and because a good grounding in first principles will enhance the quality of one's work and improve the chances of success. It would be going too far to state that genealogy or indeed history in general are exact sciences, in the sense that say astronomy is. Nevertheless, it must be repeated that the facts concerning family relationships, and the past in general, can only be determined by precise and critical research, that is, according to scientific principles, and not by the free exercise of imagination, which is the basis of pseudo-genealogy. Ireland, it would be fair to say, has been particularly bedevilled by confusion between real and fantasy genealogy, as exemplified by claims to Gaelic chiefship based on fabricated pedigrees.⁷

Genealogy, as has been indicated, is a branch of history concerned primarily with determining family relationships, which it does by seeking records of the three vital events of birth, marriage and death (BMD). We seek to trace individuals who are related by blood or marriage, and who coexist in family groups, or sets of parents and children. Information on ancestors is obtained from sources, which in the main will be documentary or unpublished, though some will be printed, and which can be classified further as primary and secondary sources. A primary source is one compiled about the time of an event, for example, a birth registration, while a secondary source is one compiled from primary sources at a later stage, for example, a completed pedigree.

The good genealogist, like the good historian, always lists sources, and while there is no such thing as an infallible source, by striving always to refer to a primary source error can be minimised. Research notes and copy documents should be filed carefully, whether in hardcopy form or on computer. In every case the title and date of each source should be noted, as well as the repository and reference number, and the date on which it was extracted or copied. Consider your research notes and writings to be a constantly developing personal genealogical portfolio, on which you may draw over the years for many purposes, academic, sharing information with relatives or other interested parties, or indeed locating a certificate for family needs. It is very important to cite the sources one uses and in particular never to copy the words of another without attribution, for to do otherwise constitutes plagiarism, one of the cardinal scholarly sins. Briefly, and do not allow anyone to mislead you on this point, genealogists are not exempt from the ethical requirement of properly citing sources and using quotation marks for copied text, but in any case most of what you write should be your own composition.

Speculation is vital to all the enquiring sciences provided it is employed in a controlled and sparing way. Thus when a thorough search has failed to locate sources, it is legitimate for example to suggest a relationship or estimate a year of birth, provided one makes it clear that what is involved is merely speculation. Finally, an important rule

⁷ Sean J Murphy, *Twilight of the Chiefs: The MacCarthy Mór Affair*, Bethesda, Maryland, 2004, and brief account, 'The Talented Mr MacCarthy Mór', <https://www.academia.edu/9641967>.

in genealogical research is to work from the known to the unknown, from the present back to the past, from one's self back to one's ancestors, which again underscores the importance of completing the 'homework' recommended in the first chapter.

Record repositories

The principal Irish record repositories relevant to those engaged in genealogical research are firstly the National Archives of Ireland, the National Library of Ireland and the General Register Office, all in Dublin, and for Ulster cases the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast.⁸ The National Library of Ireland has a Genealogy Room well-stocked with reference materials and computers for online access, with a free advisory service. The National Archives has a self-service facility for microfilms and also provides a free genealogy advisory service, but lacks a well provided reference area. While the General Register Office charges search fees, the records of the other principal repositories can be inspected free of charge, although readers' tickets must be obtained. Research facilities in the General Register Office cannot be said to be at all adequate. The holdings of the Dublin City Library and Archive in Pearse Street, Dublin, include a range of Latter-Day Saints microfilm copies of Irish records, and there are computers for online access. Mention should be made of the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, which is relevant not just to those with Ulster ancestors but holds some material relating to the rest of Ireland. For further information on the principal record repositories, see Appendix 2 below.

Other more specialised repositories, such as the Valuation Office, Representative Church Body Library and Registry of Deeds, will be mentioned at the appropriate points in future lessons. A growing quantity of sources is being made available in copy form in regional Irish libraries and archives, in larger repositories and society libraries abroad, and of course through the network of Mormon or Latter Day Saints Family History Centres. Most significantly, a growing number of records are being digitised and placed online and reference will be made to these at appropriate points below.

The most important records to be searched by the genealogist, and which will be dealt with in the appropriate order in future lessons, are as follows: 1901 and 1911 census returns and pre-1901 fragments, birth, marriage and death registrations from 1864 onwards, Griffith's *Valuation* and the Tithe Applotment Books 1820s-60s, and church registers, most of which can now be searched online, sometimes for free or else for a fee. There are of course other records relevant to Irish genealogists, especially the lucky minority who possess wealthier ancestors, but for the majority of us, the above are the core sources which contain most of the available information on our ancestors. Vague advice is sometimes given to start research by referring to church or parish registers, but these essential and difficult sources generally should be left until a later stage, and the records tackled in the order in which they are listed above.

⁸ See Appendix 2 below for details of record repositories.

Lesson 3: Computers and the Internet

Computers and the Internet

Genealogy and computers were of course made for one another, as the activity involves the manipulation of large amounts of data. The computer is in fact revolutionising genealogical research, and as the cost of the new information technology has fallen, increasing numbers of amateurs can afford the kind of awesome processing power previously only available to governments and large organisations. The Internet has dramatically increased the quantity (although not always quality!) of information accessible to genealogists through the growing number of websites of libraries, archives, associations and commercial firms, all of which enable one to tap into information hundreds or thousands of miles away. A growing number of digitised records are now searchable online, some for free and others on payment of fees.

It is hardly necessary to emphasise the particular importance of the Internet to those who do not live in or near Dublin and Belfast Cities, where the principal repositories holding records of genealogical relevance are located. Using the Internet, you can identify Mormon Family History Centres and other repositories in your locality which hold copies of Irish records. When evaluating websites for their usefulness, consider in particular presentation and accessibility, quality of content (including 'blarney' factor), links to other sites and when last updated.

Digitisation of books and records, CD-ROM publications and the Internet are now radically changing the way we access information. While the thorough researcher will still want to visit libraries and record repositories personally, an increasing range of material can be accessed remotely via the Internet in the comfort of your own home. The downside is that payments by credit card will be required to access much of the online material, but the increased speed, flexibility and convenience of access make payment worthwhile. See Appendix 2 below for a range of online resources.

There are many computer programs available designed to organise and present genealogical information. The Church of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) formerly distributed for free via FamilySearch an extremely sophisticated program called Personal Ancestral File, which has now been discontinued. FamilySearch now recommends that its users consider a range of compatible commercial programmes, such as Ancestral Quest, Legacy Family Tree and RootsMagic.⁹ These computer programs enable one to store large quantities of genealogical data, and to arrange and output information in various ways, including in the form of pedigree sheets. FamilySearch (free), Findmypast, Ancestry and MyHeritage (commercial) allow users to upload pedigree information, to share with others if desired (please be cautious about what you place online and adopt a critical approach to downloading and using information).

Online Security

9 'Windows Genealogy Software', https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Windows_Genealogy_Software.

Of course genealogy is not the only reason that people go online and share information, as demonstrated by the popularity of social media sites such as Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. University College Dublin's Centre for Cybersecurity and Cybercrime Investigation conducted an interesting experiment for Radio Telefís Éireann's Prime Time programme in 2015. Having provided just their names and e-mail addresses, ten members of the public were surprised to be shown the range of their personal information available online, which in some cases could be of use to cybercriminals.

There is no denying that the precautions needed for everyday Internet usage should apply also to online genealogical activity. Think carefully before revealing personal details and only release sensitive data such as bank account or credit card numbers in a secure and trusted environment. In the light of the increase in cybercrime, a growing number consider it good policy not to publicise details of birth, marriage or address in the case of living persons. If in doubt, the genealogist might restrict information online in relation to what we might call the safely deceased, but even then remember that information such as mother's maiden name may be of use to fraudsters.

Photographs and Digital Images

Photographs should be considered as important genealogical documents in their own right, and they also literally flesh out the details in a pedigree. There are few households without at least some old photographs, and these should be sought out and copied by the family genealogist or genealogists. Photographs of course are only useful when the identities of the individuals portrayed are known. In some cases names and dates will have been helpfully written on the reverse side of prints (something we should do with our current photographs), and older relatives may be able to help in identifying people whose names have not been recorded. Many of us now have digital cameras, and can scan and load old photographs on our computers, where they can be enhanced using a program such as Photoshop Elements,¹⁰ or Google Photos. Your photographs should be labelled and can be used in various contexts, for example, illustrated pedigrees, publications, webpages and of course class assignments. In addition to still images, the growing availability of camcorders and video phones enable family videos to be made, and for the genealogist the recording of older relatives reminiscing is a vital task.

With the advances in information technology and the increasing availability of documents online, genealogists find that they are also storing images of documents and images on their computers. It is important to keep this digital material well organised and accessible in folders on your computer, so that it can again be retrieved when necessary. Remember that an uncompressed bitmap image is very large, taking up megabytes of storage, and can be compressed to smaller size using JPEG, GIF or other formats. Of course compressed images lose some of their quality, yet as against this images can be enhanced using the features of programs like Photoshop. Also, one should not publish online or offline images or documents where one does not have copyright clearance, or permission of living individuals where relevant.

¹⁰ Photoshop Elements, <https://www.adobe.com/ie/products/photoshop-elements.html>; a free alternative photograph processing programme is GIMP, <https://www.gimp.org>.

Lesson 4: Names

Placenames

The study of names is crucial to genealogy, as we seek to trace named individuals who lived in named places.¹¹ The Celts were great bestowers of names, and the stock of Irish placenames runs into many millions. Most will be familiar with the division of Ireland into 4 provinces and 32 counties. Each county in turn is divided into baronies (often based on the old Gaelic *tuatha* or petty kingdoms), the baronies are divided into parishes (which can be either civil or church), and the parishes are further subdivided into townlands and towns (the corresponding division in urban areas being the street). The townland is the smallest officially-recognised unit, but it can be further divided by the use of minor local names, or subdenominations, which in fact make up the great bulk of Irish placenames and still have not been fully recorded.

Most placenames are called after natural features, man-made features or personal names. The language of origin is overwhelmingly Gaelic, but placenames derived from English are to be found, with a much smaller stock derived from Norse, Latin, Norman-French and indeed possible pre-Celtic languages. Some of the most common placename elements derived from natural features are as follows: *abha(in)* - river, *carraig* - rock, *cnoc* - mountain, *coill* - wood, *doire* - oak, *droim* -ridge, *loch* - lake. The following are some of the more common terms derived from man-made features: *baile* - townland, town, *caiseal* - fort, *cill* - church, *dún* - fort, *ráth* - large fort, enclosed dwelling, *teampall* - church. Examples of placenames incorporating personal names are Ballymurphy, Baldwinstown, Castleconnor.

In considering official placenames, and particularly their application in genealogical research, it is important to distinguish between civil and church denominations. As noted, the parish can be both a civil and a church denomination, and while Church of Ireland parishes are usually the same as civil parishes, Roman Catholic parishes frequently differ. The diocese is a uniquely ecclesiastical denomination, consisting of groups of parishes.

As a result of the growth of government functions in the nineteenth century, it was found necessary to create new administrative divisions. The introduction of a system of poor relief in the 1830s was accompanied by the creation of poor law unions, and these in time formed the basis of registration districts when civil registration of births, marriages and deaths were introduced (make a note, PLU = RD). With the expansion of the franchise or right to vote, the electoral division was created, and this division also came to be of importance in the compilation of censuses.

As we shall see in the case of surnames, it is important to remember that variations in the anglicised spelling and even pronunciation of placenames can occur. Furthermore, the official spelling of a placename may be different from that used locally. Thus placenames with the element *baile* may be spelt Bally- or Balli-, and occasionally Bal-, while *droim* may be anglicised Drom- or Drum-. A complication

¹¹ Useful general texts on placenames are P W Joyce, *Irish Names of Places*, 3 volumes, Dublin 1898-1913 and other editions; Deirdre Flanagan and Laurence Flanagan, *Irish Place Names*, Dublin 1994.

occasionally encountered is the transmission in family lore of a subdenominational name, which must then be related to the official townland name.

In summary then, the most important administrative divisions are the county, barony, parish, townland, town, street, poor law union, registration district and electoral division. It will be found that the various classes of records of genealogical relevance are organised according to these divisions, and indeed documents cannot be searched efficiently without knowledge of same. Our chief hardcopy reference aids when studying placenames are the *Townlands Index 1851*¹² and the *Townlands Index 1901*,¹³ supplemented by Lewis's two-volume *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*.¹⁴

The Logainm.ie and Irish Townlands mapped databases of Irish placenames can be searched online.¹⁵ Watermarked copies of the Ordnance Survey historic maps series, the 6-inch 1837-42 and the 25-inch 1888-1913, may be viewed freely online, and clear hardcopy or electronic copies may be purchased.¹⁶ Maps of counties showing the barony and civil parish divisions are to be found in the National Library of Ireland *Index of Surnames* (which will be described in more details in a future lecture) and also in J G Ryan's above cited work.

Forenames

The use of forenames or first names is an ancient practice found in all cultures. In the western world biblical figures and saints have provided the principal store of forenames, for example, Adam, Eve, Benjamin, Sarah, Mary, Peter, James and Catherine.¹⁷ As with placenames, there was a great stock of forenames in ancient Ireland. Gaelic names could be simple, formed from single words such as *Aéd*, 'fire', or *Art*, 'bear', or compound, such as *Fergus*, 'man-vigour', or *Conall*, 'wolf-strong'. Fewer older Gaelic female names are recorded, but examples include *Áine* ('splendour'), *Gormlaith* ('illustrious' plus 'sovereignty') and *Sadb* (possibly 'sweet'). Following the introduction of Christianity, Latin names including *Pátraic*, *Anna*, *Dáibhí*, *Eóin*, *Micheál*, and *Tomás* came into use, and there was also borrowing of some Scandinavian names such as *Amlaíb*, *Gofraid*, *Ímar* and *Sitriuc*.¹⁸

From the eighteenth century onwards there was a contraction in the range of forenames used by the mass of the Irish people, with saints' names predominating. The top five forenames for males and females in the 1901 Census were respectively John (1 in 6), James, Patrick, Thomas and William, and Mary (1 in 5), Bridget, Margaret, Ellen

12 Full title *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland, Based on the Census of Ireland for the Year 1851*, republished by the Genealogical Publishing Company of Baltimore, Maryland, 1984. A useful free online database based on this work is *IreAtlas Townlands Database*, <http://www.thecore.com/seanruad>.

13 The contents of the *Townlands Index 1851* can be searched freely at <http://www.thecore.com/seanruad> and of the *Townlands Index 1911* at <https://www.irishancestors.ie/index-of-townlands-1901-87>.

14 Samuel Lewis, *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, 2 volumes, London 1837, and *Atlas of Ireland*, London 1837, reprinted Galway 1995.

15 Placenames Database of Ireland, <http://www.logainm.ie>; Irish Townlands, <https://www.townlands.ie>.

16 Ordnance Survey of Ireland, Historic Maps and Data, <https://osi.ie/products/professional-mapping/historical-mapping>; see also the not very intuitively tiled GeoHive facility at <https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>.

17 Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, *Oxford Dictionary of First Names*, Oxford University Press 1996 Edition, pages vii-xvii.

18 Brian Ó Cuív, 'Aspects of Irish Personal Names', *Celtica*, 18, 1986, pages 151-84; Donnchadha Ó Corráin and Fidelma Maguire, *Irish Names*, Dublin 1990 Edition.

and Anne.¹⁹ As Ireland urbanised and modernised in the twentieth century, the traditional stock of forenames became less used and more exotic and celebrity-influenced names have become popular. However, some traditional names have held their own, such as Daniel, James, Sarah and Kate, while old Gaelic names are coming back into fashion, for example, Seán, Cian, Aoife and Ciara. There was also a widespread tradition of following a naming pattern for children, which has not entirely died out, whereby the eldest son would be named after the paternal grandfather, the eldest daughter after the maternal grandmother, the second son after the maternal grandfather, and so on.

Surnames

The Registrar General of Births, Marriages and Deaths, Sir Robert E Matheson, completed a pioneering study of Irish surnames which showed that the five most common names in 1890 were Murphy, Kelly, Sullivan, Walsh and Smith.²⁰ Using directories of telephone subscribers covering the years 1992-97, the present writer has compiled a similar but less extensive survey, finding that the top five names had changed little in the intervening century, being Murphy, (O)Kelly, Walsh(e), (O)Connor and (O)Sullivan.²¹

A surname may be defined as an hereditary second or family name handed down from one generation to the next, and can be distinguished from first or personal names which refer only to individuals. In the Irish context, MacLysaght's works on surnames have yet to be superseded,²² although Woulfe's earlier publication²³ is still useful when read in conjunction with MacLysaght. MacLysaght's publications can be supplemented by reference to Bell's work on Ulster surnames,²⁴ and Hanks and Hodges's standard dictionary of international surnames.²⁵ John Grenham has a useful mapped database of Irish surnames, which is pay-to-view after some free searches.²⁶ Information relating to surnames found on the Internet, particularly on sites selling 'family crests', should generally be treated with caution.

Surnames can best be understood firstly by dividing them into two main classes, monogenetic and polygenetic. Monogenetic surnames have a single origin from one individual or family, possible examples being Faherty or Asquith, while polygenetic surnames arose independently in different places and at different times, examples being Murphy or Smith. Surnames can be further divided into four broad classes, namely, those derived from ancestral personal names or patronymics, those derived from placenames or toponymics, occupational names derived from trade or status, and

19 Census of Ireland 1901, <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>, (forenames only entered in search box).

20 Robert E Matheson, *Varieties and Synonymes of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland*, Dublin 1901, and *Special Report on Surnames in Ireland*, Dublin 1909, both reprinted as *Surnames in Ireland*, Baltimore 1982.

21 Sean J Murphy, 'A Survey of Irish Surnames 1992-97', <https://www.academia.edu/9204227>.

22 Edward MacLysaght, *The Surnames of Ireland*, cited above, also *Irish Families*, Dublin 1985 Edition, and *More Irish Families*, Dublin 1982.

23 Rev Patrick Woulfe, *Sloinne Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames*, Dublin 1923.

24 Robert Bell, *Book of Ulster Surnames*, Belfast 1988.

25 Patrick Hanks and Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames*, Oxford 1989 Edition.

26 Irish Names, <https://www.johngrenham.com/surnames> (3 free searches, then pay-to-view).

descriptive names referring to an individual's person or appearance. A good mnemonic, or memory recall device, for the first two terms is 'mono-poly', while the first letters of the four classes of surnames spell 'APOD' (think of 'peas in a pod').

There was no fixed beginning or end to the period during which surnames began to be used in Europe. Neither were surnames adopted at the same time by all classes, and in general, the rich and powerful and urban dwellers assumed them first, while the poor and rural dwellers tended to be slower to adopt them. The process started earlier in some areas, while in others it started later and in some places continued even down to the 19th century. However, while it was the norm in Europe in the 11th century that people were without surnames, by the 15th century it was the norm that they did possess them.

From an early period in Ireland a system of temporary patronymics was in use, whereby Mac was fixed to the genitive case of the father's name, or Ua or Ó to that of the grandfather, eg, Cormac Mac Airt, Laoghair Mac Néill, and so on. Yet these second names were not surnames in the modern sense of the term, in that they were not fixed or hereditary or common to all members of a family, and they ceased to be used when the individual so described died.

When this system of transient patronymics itself became insufficient, surnames began to evolve in the 10th and three centuries following. The patronymic began to become fixed and hereditary, not in a planned way, but by a process of gradual evolution. There is no basis to the claim that surnames became fixed in Ireland as a result of an edict of King Brian Boru, indeed Brian himself did not adopt a surname, as it was only in his grandson's time that the surname Ó Briain or O'Brien first came into existence, 'Boru' or Bóruma being in fact a nickname meaning 'of the tributes'.

Another characteristic of Gaelic Irish surnames is that the great majority are patronymic, that is, derived from named ancestors and prefixed by Ó or Mac, as surnames derived directly from places, occupations or nicknames are relatively uncommon. MacLysaght avoided the use of the term 'clan' (from the Gaelic *clann* meaning 'family' or 'offspring') in the Irish context, as it might cause confusion with the Scottish clan system. He preferred instead to use the term 'sept', which he defined as a 'collective term describing a group of persons who, or whose immediate and known ancestors, bore a common surname and inhabited the same locality'.²⁷ The belief that every Irish surname has a 'clan', 'chief' and 'family crest' attached is at base a romantic fiction.²⁸ The polygenetic origin of a significant number of Gaelic surnames should be kept in mind, so that for example Murphy, the most common surname in Ireland, derives from three distinct and unrelated Ó Murchadha septs which arose in Cork, Roscommon and Wexford, as well as from a fourth Mac Murchadha sept associated with Tyrone and later Armagh.

Settler Surnames and Variants

We should also take account of the surnames of successive waves of invaders and settlers which have become naturalised in this country over the centuries, for it is limiting to define Irish surnames as those of Gaelic origin only. Surnames of Norse origin are comparatively few in number, examples including Arthur and Harold. In

²⁷ MacLysaght, *Irish Families*, page 12.

²⁸ Murphy, *Twilight of the Chiefs*, pages 8-10.

contrast, surnames of Anglo-Norman origin are very numerous and many have become almost exclusively Irish, examples being Burke, Costello, Cusack, Dillon, Fitzgerald and so on. The plantations of the 16th and 17th centuries saw the introduction of many common English and Scottish surnames, such as Smith/Smyth, Brown(e), Murray, Wilson, Campbell, and so on. Smaller settlements, usually of refugees, have also left their mark in terms of surnames, for example, the Huguenot Boileau, La Touche and Le Fanu, and the German Palatine Bovenizer and Switzer.

It is vital for the genealogist to be aware of the possible variants of a surname, in order to avoid missing crucial entries during research. The first reason for variations in the spelling of Irish surnames is the fact that the bulk of them are of Gaelic origin, and their translation into English was not performed in a standardised manner. Although most surnames lost their O or Mac prefixes, some never did, and from the late nineteenth century onwards the national revival led to their widespread resumption. Thus in the case of surnames such as O'Brien and MacMahon, it is prudent to search indexes and records for the forms Brien and Mahon also. Then there are surnames which have appeared under a wide variety of spellings, such as Ahearn/Ahearne/Ahern, Cavanagh/Kavanagh, (O)Donoghoe/Donoghue/Donohoe, Malloy/Molloy/Mulloy, and so on. Furthermore, there are those Gaelic surnames which have been both anglicised and assimilated to English surnames of similar sound or meaning, for example, (Mac)Brehon/Judge, Cuneen/Rabbit, (Mac)Gowan/Smith. Of course, surnames of settler origin have also been subject to variation, examples being Allison/Ellison, Carr/Kerr, Cockburn/Coburn. The prudent approach therefore is to search first under the received form of a surname, then under relevant variants, and many of these can be identified by reference to MacLysaght's *Surnames of Ireland*.

Lesson 5: Census Records

Earliest Censuses

It is necessary to start by pointing out that the earliest surviving census covering the whole of Ireland north and south is that of 1901, principally because of the destruction of documents in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922. Before this date there are only fragments of national censuses from 1821 onwards and local censuses, as well as census substitutes, which will be dealt with in a future lesson.

The earliest census is sometimes said to be the so-called Census of Ireland dated about 1659, which has been published.²⁹ This appears rather to have been based on tax records, and in any case lists by full name only ‘tituladoes’ or those who held title to land, but it does give useful totals of Irish surnames. The earliest census proper in fact appears to be of part of the baronies of Newcastle and Uppercross, Co Dublin, compiled about 1650 for a purpose which is not clear, and it has been published in the *Irish Genealogist* in the 1989 and succeeding volumes.

In 1731 and 1766 a religious census was ordered to be taken to establish the total numbers of ‘Papists’ and Protestants, but fragments only survive, and in many cases numbers of individuals only without names are given (see catalogue in National Archives). An important census of a district is that of the Diocese of Elphin, taken in 1749 at the behest of the Church of Ireland Bishop, Edward Synge, and recently published.³⁰ Elphin covered most of Co Roscommon, part of Co Sligo and nine parishes of Co Galway, and the 1749 census lists heads of households by name, with numbers of children and servants. The next local census of note is that of the City of Dublin, taken in difficult circumstances by Rev James Whitelaw in 1798, which again listed only heads of households by name. The original of Whitelaw’s census was destroyed in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922, though a summary of its findings was published in 1813. An important local census listing all inhabitants by name is that of Carrick-on-Suir, Co Tipperary, dated 1799, and a microfilm copy is available in the National Library of Ireland.

Modern Censuses

The first government-administered national census commenced in 1813, but was badly organised and never properly completed, and the modern series of decennial or ten-yearly censuses dates from 1821. Of the decennial censuses, those of 1861 and 1871 were destroyed by government order after the results had been tabulated, while those of 1881 and 1891 are said to have been pulped during the First World War, or even as late as 1921. The census returns of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 were destroyed in the Public Record Office of Ireland in June 1922 during the Civil War, with the exception of some fragments and copies, most of which are held in the National Archives. For example,

29 Seamus Pender, Editor, *A Census of Ireland circa 1659*, Irish Manuscripts Commission, Dublin 1939, reprinted 2003.

30 Marie-Louise Legge, Editor, *The Census of Elphin 1749*, Dublin 2004; this work is unindexed, but a database of the names can be searched via Findmypast.ie.

there are significant surviving sections of the 1821 census for sixteen parishes in Co Cavan and seven parishes in Co Galway, of the 1831 census for 41 parishes in Co Derry, and of the 1851 census for 13 parishes in Co Antrim.³¹ There is a list of heads of families in Dublin City copied from the 1851 census, invaluable for tracing poorer city families in the mid-nineteenth century.³² Grenham's guide contain fuller county-by-county listings of census returns (and substitutes) than can be given here, and these should be checked for relevant material as a matter of routine by all genealogical researchers.

Following the introduction of old age pensions in 1908, the earlier nineteenth-century censuses were used to provide proof of age, as civil registration of births was only established in 1864. Results of census searches by Public Record Office of Ireland staff before 1922, the so-called 'green forms', have survived in the National Archives and are now online.³³ It should be pointed out that not all such searches were successful, and of course only a fraction of the population is represented in the search forms.

Even though most of the original census returns with full lists of names have not survived, the published statistical reports on the censuses of 1821 and after should not be ignored. These official reports give details of total population in townlands, parishes, etc, with information on houses, occupations and so on, and are available in the National Library of Ireland. See especially the report on the 1851 census, which has been republished and gives population figures for 1841 and 1851 side by side, so that the effects of the Great Famine can be evaluated in a given townland or district.

Censuses of 1901 and 1911

The earliest surviving census covering the whole of Ireland is then that of 1901, and together with the succeeding census of 1911 is available to view online on the National Archives's website (see below). The first Free State census of 1926 is not due to be made available until April 2026 as a result of a 100-year confidentiality rule, although there has been a campaign among genealogists for an earlier release.

It cannot be stressed too often that the record which most beginners should refer to first is the 1901 Census, followed by that of 1911. Of course descendants of Irish emigrants abroad will not find these records of prime value unless the date of emigration was shortly before or after 1901, but they are vital for tracing relatives who remained in Ireland. Depending on one's age, the censuses of 1901 and 1911 will contain information on the families of grandparents, great-grandparents or great-great grandparents on average. In particular, these censuses will guide research in other records by giving estimates of years of birth and marriage, details of counties of birth and so on. In fact, few of us will ever again find so much information on one sheet relating to a family group, as appears in the 1901 and 1911 census forms.

The 1901 Census was taken on 31 March of that year and is arranged by county, electoral division and townland or street. The information provided includes name, age, religion, occupation, ability to read and write, marital status, relationship to head of household and county or country of birth. The 1911 Census was taken on 1 April of the year and follows the same lines, but contains important additional information stating

31 Freely accessible online via <http://www.familysearch.org> and <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>.

32 Accessible online via www.findmypast.ie (pay-to-view).

33 National Archives of Ireland, <https://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>.

the number of years a wife was married, with the number of children born and number still living. Note that only those staying in a house on the night of the census are listed, and absentees are included in the returns for the residences where they were staying. It should also be remembered that stated ages on census forms are often inexact, not usually because of any dishonesty, but due to the fact that most of the older population was still semi-literate or illiterate, the latter being demonstrated by the presence of an 'X' in place of a signature.

Censuses Online

As indicated, the 1901 and 1911 Censuses have now been placed online by the National Archives of Ireland, with both a searchable database and copies of the original forms.³⁴ In contrast to the way in which British and US census records have been made available online, this is a free state service and not a commercial one, although of course it is the taxpayer who foots the bill. While amendments have been made, there is still a significant error and omission rate in the National Archives online census database. For example, certain County Kerry returns are not included for 1911 (including most of Valentia Island), surnames are sometimes misread, eg, 'McMary' for McEnery and 'Raster' for 'Rafter', and surnames and forenames are sometimes indexed in the wrong order. Furthermore, there is no 'soundex' or full variant search facility, so in cases where forms cannot be located, a range of name variants should be entered in the search box.³⁵ Nevertheless online access to the Irish census records was both a necessary and overdue development, enabling genealogists and others to refer to these sources in their own homes or in local libraries, indeed in any location around the world with Internet access. There are some earlier online census indexing projects which are worth keeping in mind, such as that for the 1901 Census for Counties Leitrim, Roscommon, Mayo and Sligo.³⁶

The online 1901 and 1911 Censuses can be searched both by surname and place, and remember to enter possible name variants when an expected entry cannot be located. As soon as census details begin to accumulate in your files, the next exercise is to abstract the information on to pedigree and family group sheets. Note that all years of birth and marriage calculated from a census are approximate only, and should be preceded by a 'c' for circa. Thus if someone's age is given as 40 on the 1901 form, but 55 on the 1911 form, their year of birth should be entered as 'c1856-61'.

As already indicated, the information from census forms, however approximate, is of crucial importance in guiding research in other records. This is particularly true in the case of research in the records of the General Register Office, namely, civil records of births, marriages and deaths from 1864, and of non-Catholic marriages from 1845, which form the main subject of the next lesson.

34 *Census of Ireland 1901/1911*, <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>.

35 Sean Murphy, *A Guide to the National Archives of Ireland*, <http://homepage.eircom.net/~seanmurphy/nai>.

36 *Leitrim-Roscommon Genealogy Website*, <http://www.leitrim-roscommon.com>.

Lesson 6: Vital Records

Background

Civil or state registration of births, marriages and deaths was introduced in stages in Ireland, starting with non-Catholic marriages in 1845, and incorporating all births, marriages and deaths in 1864. Research is no longer encouraged or indeed permitted in local registries around the country, which necessitates using the General Register Office research room in Werburgh Street in Dublin. Researchers currently only have access to the GRO search room on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays but an email ordering service has been established.³⁷

Registration of vital events originated as part of the Victorian poor law and public health system. This is why the poor law union was the same as the superintendent registrar's district or registration district. The poor law union and its workhouse were generally centered on a large town, and covered the adjoining area. Again, it will greatly assist research in vital records if it is remembered that the poor law union was the same as the registration district (PLU=RD), and that details of relevant poor law unions are obtainable from the 1851 *Townlands Index*. Furthermore, it is important to note that poor law unions could cross parish and sometimes also county boundaries.

Although vital records constitute an extremely important part of the national archival heritage, the old as well as current records remained under the control of the Department of Health. A new act was passed in 2004 as part of the process of modernising the system of registering births, marriages and deaths,³⁸. The GRO has passed from the control of the Department of Health to the Department of Social Protection (bewilderingly, formerly named Social and Family Affairs and before that again Social Welfare).

The GRO itself did not manage to make digitised copies of their records available online. Fortunately, agencies outside the GRO took the matter in hand, making available first indexes and then indexes and digitised records. In 2009 the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons) provided a remarkable free research aid by placing online 23 million index entries relating to Irish births, marriages and deaths 1845/64-1958 on the FamilySearch website.³⁹ Commercial concerns have copied these indexes as part of their services and have enhanced searchability particularly in the case of matching groom's and bride's names in the case of marriages.⁴⁰

In 2014 the government-sponsored Irish Genealogy website provided a new and free online index of vital records, but following intervention by the Data Protection Commissioner, these were restricted to births over 100 years old, marriages over 75 years old and deaths over 50 years old. In 2016 Irish Genealogy began to make freely available via its website full copies of historic registrations as well as index entries,

37 Email GROResearchRoom@welfare.ie.

38 *Civil Registration Act 2004*, Number 3 of 2004.

39 FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org/search> (note that in addition to index entries, abstracts of the full registrations of Irish births from 1864 to the early 1880s are also included on this site).

40 Indexes to birth, marriages and deaths 1845-1958 are also accessible via www.findmypast.ie and www.ancestry.co.uk/ireland (pay-to-view).

subject to the above restrictions, and births are currently available from 1864, marriages from 1864 and deaths from 1878.⁴¹ Of course individual registrations not online have still to be paid for and ordered from the GRO in Werburgh Street in Dublin, either in person or by post.

Introduction of Registration

The 1844 Marriage Act determined that there should be official registration of all non-Catholic marriages, those of members of the established Church of Ireland, Presbyterians, various dissenters and adherents of other religions, so that the majority Catholic element of the population was not included. The 1844 Act provided for the establishment of a General Register Office in Dublin and the appointment of a Registrar-General, and registration of marriages began on 1 April 1845. For those with non-Catholic ancestors therefore, these civil records of marriage from 1845 are of the greatest importance.⁴²

While civil registration of all English births, marriages and deaths dates from 1837, it was not until 1863 that an act requiring similar general registration in Ireland was passed. People of all religions, Catholic as well as Protestant, now had to register vital events under the act, which took effect from 1 January 1864. In the earlier years of registration, it is likely that significant numbers of births, marriages and deaths were not recorded, but by 1880 it can be taken that the system of registration was reasonably comprehensive, though omissions continued to occur. For all ancestors who were born, married or died after 1864, it should therefore be the genealogist's aim to secure copies of the registrations of these vital events, and transfer the information therein to pedigree and family group sheets.

Research in the General Register Office

As noted above, while most research in vital records can now be carried out online, some records not online need to be accessed via the GRO Search Room, where it should be noted there are no public service computers. As noted above, the Search Room is only opening Tuesday-Thursday but an email ordering service has been established. The fees still charged in the GRO are €2 per five-year search for one entry in the indexes of births, marriages or deaths, or €20 per day for an unrestricted general search, and an additional €4 is payable for each photocopy registration.⁴³ It should be noted that direct access is allowed only to the indexes of births, marriages and deaths, but unfortunately not to the registers themselves or even copies of same, hence the necessity to purchase copy registrations. Attested certificates for official purposes cost €10 each including search fee, but in general genealogists prefer to carry out their own research in the GRO search room and rely on the cheaper copy registrations, which are quite adequate for research purposes. Unfortunately users are allowed to order only eight (formerly five) copy registrations per day in the GRO research room, with any balance to be sent out by post.

Most indexes of births, marriages and deaths commencing in 1864 are bound in

41 Irish Genealogy, <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

42 For a short history see General Register Office, *Registering the People: 150 Years of Civil Registration*, Dublin 1995.

43 GRO fees were raised by order of the Minister for Health in 2006, and in particular the fee for a copy registration was increased by over 100% from €1.90 to €4.

red, green and blue respectively, and are on self-service access to those who have paid the relevant fees. The indexes are a single volume yearly until 1877, but are divided into four quarterly sections (bound in one or two volumes) from 1878, so it is important to note that from that year four indexes, to 31 March, 30 June, 30 September and 31 December respectively, must be searched. Births registered late are at the back of the yearly indexes, and it is important to remember to check these also.

All the indexes give year, and quarter where relevant, name, registration district and volume and page in the register, which information should be copied carefully in order to apply for a copy registration. The marriage indexes also contain the full name of the bride cross-referenced with that of the groom, and the death indexes show the age of the deceased, this information being useful in eliminating irrelevant entries. Only the more recent birth indexes also give the mother's maiden name, so that when searching for individuals with more common surnames in the earlier indexes, one may find multiple birth entries needing to be checked out. A thorough knowledge of the possible variants of a surname is also required, in order to ensure that a relevant entry is not overlooked. Where more than one entry of possible relevance is found in any of the indexes, there is no alternative to ordering copy registrations of each systematically, in the hope of finding the correct one by a process of elimination (the humorously-titled 'lucky dip' system). However, it should be stressed again that most historic registrations of Irish births, marriages and deaths are freely accessible online via Irish Genealogy, so that it is only necessary to visit the GRO to research records not online.

Birth, Marriage and Death Registrations

A copy birth registration gives the following information: date and place of birth, name of child, father's name and address, mother's name and maiden name, father's occupation, name and address of informant and date of registration. A copy marriage registration gives the following information: church and denomination, date of marriage, names of groom and bride, ages (in years or merely as 'full'), whether single or widowed, occupations, addresses at time of marriage, fathers' names (and sometimes whether alive or dead), fathers' occupations, celebrant's and witnesses names. A copy death registration gives the following information: date and place of death, name of deceased, whether married or single, age, occupation, cause of death, name and address of informant and date of registration.

While civil records of births, marriages and deaths are generally of a high standard of reliability, errors and omissions can occasionally occur. In particular, if some months have elapsed before a birth or marriage has been registered, incorrect dates or other particulars may arise, especially in the case of illiterate or semi-literate individuals. As already noted, a certain percentage of births, marriages, and particularly deaths, may have escaped registration, or may have inadvertently not been indexed. However, if an entry cannot be found, query your own methods first - doublecheck and treblecheck, consider all possible surname and first name variants, recheck your information - before blaming your ancestors or the register offices for an omission.

It should by now be obvious that if one is unprepared for GRO research, not only will time be wasted and little or nothing found, but in the case of registrations not yet online money will be wasted also due to the charging of official fees. This once again underlines the necessity of securing all relevant identifying information through

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searches of family papers, interviews with older relatives, research in the 1901 and 1911 censuses, doublechecking that your birth, marriage or death registration is not online, before visiting the GRO. Armed with names, at least approximate years of birth and marriage, particulars of registration districts or at least counties of birth, one should be able to carry out research in the GRO with the minimum of time and expenditure and the optimum possibility of successful results.

In the case of the unfortunate minority whose ancestors changed address frequently, particularly poorer families in Dublin City, the schedule of research we have been outlining may have to be altered. If the family cannot be located in the online 1901 and 1911 Censuses, research may have to begin in vital. Try selecting a few ancestors whose years of birth or marriage you know or can estimate to have occurred about the turn of the century, and then search for relevant registrations. If successful, proceed to the National Archives and check the 1901 and 1911 census forms for the addresses given in these registrations, in the hope of locating the returns for the required families.

Lesson 7: Valuation Records

Census Substitutes

As explained in the fourth lesson, it is an unfortunate fact that most Irish census material before 1901 has not survived, due to the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922. This loss can be compensated for at least partly through reliance on what are known as ‘census substitutes’. In the Irish context, any pre-1901 dated list of names and addresses, be it large or small, is regarded as a census substitute and should not be overlooked. The most important nineteenth-century census substitutes are property valuation records compiled for purposes of local taxation, in particular, Griffith’s *Valuation*, dated 1847-64, and the Tithe Applotment Books, dated 1820s-30s.

Griffith’s *Valuation*

The first attempt to prepare a uniform valuation of property for the purpose of assessing local taxes was under an act of 1826, which was followed by amending legislation and the Poor Law Act of 1838. The results were unsatisfactory, and legislation from 1846 onwards, culminating in the Valuation Act of 1852, provided for a consolidated uniform valuation of buildings and land in Ireland. Sir Richard Griffith, a geologist, engineer and surveyor, played such an important role in directing the painstaking valuation of property that the finished work is known as ‘Griffith’s *Primary Valuation*’, or ‘Griffith’s *Valuation*’ for short. Griffith was called the ‘father of Irish geology’, and he also made a valuable although unintentional contribution to Irish genealogy, so important has the *Valuation* become as a substitute for lost census records.⁴⁴

Griffith’s *Valuation* was printed in volumes arranged by poor law union, parish and townland, the work commencing in the Dublin area in 1847 and concluding in the north of Ireland in 1864. Griffith’s *Valuation* is now very widely accessible online, the Findmypast.ie edition being the best in the writer’s opinion, featuring both a database of all names in the record and digitised images of pages.⁴⁵ The Library Council of Ireland has sponsored a free online version of Griffith, but printouts are marked with a conspicuous copyright notice and the writer has found that specific records are sometimes hard to access.⁴⁶ Griffith’s *Valuation* gives the following information: townland, Ordnance Survey sheet number and special plot references, name of house- or landholder, immediate lessor (person from whom property was leased), description of holding, area and valuation.

Note that for the country at large, Griffith’s *Valuation* was a relatively comprehensive listing of house- and landholders, ranging as it did from the smallest cabin or garden to the largest house or estate. Yet for cities and large towns, the *Valuation* is quite limited as a genealogical source, in that it tended to list only landlords

44 For a more detailed account of valuation records see James Frances McGee, *The Archives of the Valuation of Ireland*, Dublin 2018.

45 Findmypast.ie, www.findmypast.ie (pay-to-view).

46 Library Council of Ireland, <https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation>.

or principal householders in the case of houses occupied by a number of families. Sample analysis shows that only about 20 percent of heads of families are listed in the case of Dublin city, while an average of about 70 percent of heads of families are included for the country at large, which is quite a respectable figure.

Tithe Applotment Books

Tithe was a tax in on land due to the established Protestant Church of Ireland, and was often paid in kind as opposed to money. Catholics, Presbyterians and other non-members of the Church of Ireland had to pay tithes, so the tax naturally aroused strong resentment. There were outbreaks of violent protests against tithes in the eighteenth century, which culminated in a 'Tithe War' in the 1830s. There was no standard method of evaluating land for taxation, and in some cases, especially in the south of Ireland, the tax seems to have fallen disproportionately on poorer landholders. However, the landless and town and city dwellers were exempt from tithes, though the latter were liable to a similar tax known as 'cess'.

In 1823 the government attempted to rationalise the collection of tithes through a composition act which specified that the tax could be paid in money, and a further act of 1832 abolished payment in kind altogether. As a result of the Tithe War a compromise was reached in 1838, when a further act abolished tithes as a separate tax and substituted a reduced fixed rent charge, and the tax was finally abolished completely on the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1869.

The Tithe Applotment Books were compiled for each parish generally between the years of the tithe acts, 1823-38, and are available in microfilm form in the National Archives, National Library of Ireland and Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, as well as in a growing number of other libraries in Ireland and abroad. Microfilm reference numbers can be obtained from a catalogue again arranged in order of county and parish. Typically, a Tithe Applotment Book for a given parish contains the following information: townland, landholder's name, area and sometimes quality of land, valuation and tithe payable.

Note again that Tithe records are not a comprehensive listing of heads of family, due to the exclusion of the very poor and landless. An analysis of a small sample of seven Tithe Books indicates that an average of about 40-50 percent of heads of families are included, ranging from a low of 21 percent in the case of Ballyhooly, Co Cork, to an unexpected high of 85 percent in the case of Kildrumsherdan, Co Cavan. Searchable databases of names and digitised images of the Tithe Books can be freely accessed via the FamilySearch website and a version of this edition is also on the National Archives of Ireland's website.⁴⁷ The commercial service Ancestry.com has also placed online a searchable database of the names in the Tithe Applotment Books for the whole of Ireland.⁴⁸

Mention should be made of the Tithe Defaulters' Lists of 1831, which are among the Official Papers Miscellaneous and Assorted (OPMA) in the National Archives, indexes to which are included in the Findmypast.ie collections.⁴⁹ Lists exist for significant numbers of parishes in Counties Kilkenny, Tipperary, Waterford, Cork,

⁴⁷ FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org/search>; National Archives of Ireland, <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie>.

⁴⁸ Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/ireland>.

⁴⁹ Findmypast.ie, <http://www.findmypast.ie>.

Wexford and Limerick, with smaller holdings for Counties Laois (Queen's), Offaly (King's), Carlow, Louth and Meath. These lists are a useful supplement to the Tithe Applotment Books, in that they indicate those who did not pay tithes, and usually also state the occupation of each individual.

Valuation Office Records

In addition to the great Griffith's *Valuation* itself, the Valuation Office amassed other records of importance to genealogists. These are firstly the preparatory notebooks of the valuers dated mainly in the 1840s, namely, the perambulation, field, house and tenure books, which are divided between the National Archives, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and Valuation Office (the latter Office is now in the Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1). In the wake of the *Primary Valuation*, updated books showing changes in occupancy and holdings were maintained from the 1850s onwards. These 'Cancelled Valuation Lists' are held in the Valuation Office and Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and are a vital census substitute for the period between Griffith's *Valuation* and the 1901 Census. The Cancelled Lists are particularly useful for establishing approximate date of death or removal, by noting when the name of an occupier is deleted. Mention should also be made of the unique Ordnance Survey plot maps referenced to Griffith's *Valuation*, the northern copies of which are in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and the southern copies of which were in a deteriorating condition in the Valuation Office until their recent replacement by scanned copies. Valuation Office records tend to be referred to in the main by the more experienced researcher rather than the beginner, though the southern books and maps should become more accessible when the process of their transfer to the National Archives has been completed and they have been properly catalogued.

The National Library of Ireland *Index of Surnames*

While it might have been expected to have been entirely superseded at this stage by online databases, there is one pre-computer index which has not entirely lost its usefulness, namely, the National Library of Ireland *Index of Surnames*. Commenced in the 1950s under the direction of Richard J Hayes, this work is an invaluable surname-only index to both Griffith's *Valuation* and the Tithe Applotment Books. There are volumes for all of the 32 counties, with three volumes for County Cork and two for County Tipperary because of their larger size, but it should be noted that Dublin and Belfast cities were not included. The index shows the distribution of surnames firstly by barony and then by civil parish, using the abbreviations 'G' and 'T' to denote Griffith's *Valuation* and the Tithe Applotment Books, and in the case of Griffith only, giving the total number of householders. In addition, each volume contains a useful county map showing barony and civil parish boundaries, as well as lists of civil parishes in numerical and alphabetical order, and a tentative correlation of civil and Catholic parishes. Many are the uses to which the *Index of Surnames* can be put, for example, in trying to trace a family where the exact place of residence is unknown where a pattern cannot be established through research in online databases. Study of clusters of principal and allied surnames, especially where they are of medium or low frequency, can help track down such families.

Lesson 8: Church Records

Introduction

For the period before the introduction of civil registration in 1864, we must rely in the main on church registers of the various religious denominations, for indications of dates of birth, marriage and death. Bear in mind that the main interest of the churches was to record in their registers the religious ceremonies of baptism, marriage and burial, and that dates of birth and death need not necessarily coincide with dates of baptism and burial. However, from about the middle of the nineteenth century or thereabouts, an increasing number of baptism registers began to include date of birth and other comprehensive information, making them comparable with civil records. The usefulness of church registers depends as we shall see on the religious denomination, starting dates and condition of the registers.

Catholic Registers

Due to the operation of the penal laws and the poverty of its members, parish registers of the Roman Catholic Church tend to start at a relatively late date. Most registers of parishes in the less prosperous west and north of the country commence on average in the period from the early to mid-nineteenth century. In contrast, in the case of cities, large towns and more prosperous farming areas in the east and south of the country, most registers tend to commence in the period from the mid-eighteenth to the early nineteenth centuries. Thus, for example, the registers of County Clare date on average from the 1830s-40s only, while those of Dublin City date from the 1740s-50s. In most cases, Catholic registers record baptisms and marriages only, but some parishes recorded burials also.

Before the mid-nineteenth century or thereabouts, a majority of Catholic parish registers are written partly in Latin (Gaelic was rarely if ever used), but the terms used are few and will soon become familiar. Some of the more common Latin terms and names used in Catholic registers are as follows:

B, Bapt - baptisavi, baptised
Conj - conjunxi, married
de - of
et - and
Filia - daughter
Filius - son
Sp, sps, ss - sponsores, sponsors or godparents
Brigida - Bridget
Gulielmus - William
Jacobus - James
Johanna - Johanna, Nora, Honora
Joannis - John
Maria - Mary, Maria

Patricius - Patrick
Thoma - Thomas⁵⁰

The typical Catholic baptism entry gives date of ceremony, name of child, names of parents including usually mother's maiden name, names of sponsors or godparents, and occasionally also place of residence of family. Note that it was generally the custom for Catholic baptisms to take place a few days after birth, and in the absence of exact information on date of birth, the date of baptism should be entered in the pedigree or family group sheet and specified as such. The typical marriage entry gives date of ceremony, names of groom and bride, names of witnesses, and only rarely places of residence. While older Catholic parish registers tend to be handwritten notebooks of varying sizes and quality, remember that from the late 1850s some, usually the wealthier parishes began to use printed form registers, with space for additional information, and note in particular that the marriage entries could include information on the parents of both groom and bride not included in the civil marriage entry.

The quickest way to establish the name of a Catholic parish corresponding to a given civil parish is to refer to the tentative lists correlating them at the beginning of the county volumes of the National Library of Ireland *Index of Surnames*. It is also advisable to check this correlation of civil and Catholic parishes against another source, the most convenient being Mitchell's guide.⁵¹ Bear in mind that a comprehensive catalogue of registers has yet to be prepared, so that details such as the date of formation of newer parishes from older ones will require additional investigation.

The majority of Catholic parish registers, from their commencement date to a cut-off point about 1880, formerly had to be consulted in microfilm copy form in the National Library of Ireland. However, in 2015 the Library made digitised but unindexed copies of the registers available for searching on its website, with facilities to enhance, download and print images.⁵² Findmypast.ie very rapidly had a searchable database created from the National Library's digitised set of Catholic parish registers, whose quality has been criticised but access to which is free.⁵³ Ancestry has placed online a mirror of this database, together with some hundreds of thousands of indexed entries from Catholic parish registers, but the provenance of the latter is not fully clear.⁵⁴

It is worthwhile noting that the digitised copies of Catholic parish registers derive from microfilms created back in the 1950s on the initiative of Richard J Hayes and with the participation of Edward MacLysaght. The project was not fully completed nor the microfilm stock properly maintained or refurbished subsequently, and it is hoped that in time all registers will be digitally scanned anew using best available technology and continuing until at least 1901. While most bishops and parish priests generously allowed genealogists to search microfilm copies of registers, there were formerly restrictions in the case of some dioceses, now thankfully removed or not implemented. In the case of a register not available on microfilm or illegible, it may be necessary to commission a search from the relevant parish priest, for whose address see the current

50 For a longer list of Latin terms, see <https://www.irish-genealogy-toolkit.com/latin-irish-parish-registers.html>.

51 Brian Mitchell, *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers*, Baltimore 1988.

52 National Library of Ireland, <http://registers.nli.ie>.

53 Findmypast, <http://www.findmypast.ie> (click on 'Search' and filter for parish registers).

54 Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/ireland>.

Irish Catholic Directory, available in the National Library.

While searching digitised copies of parish registers is not as time-consuming as reading microfilms, attention and patience are still required, particularly if bad handwriting in the originals is compounded by poor quality damage to the old microfilm. A considerable number of church registers, especially those of the Catholic denomination, have been indexed by centres of the Irish Family History Foundation and can be searched online for a fee.⁵⁵ While the IFHF project was formerly government-supported, the official Irish Genealogy website has made freely available online indexes to Catholic and Church of Ireland registers online, with some digitised images of registers, counties covered to date being Kerry, Dublin, Carlow and a part of Cork.⁵⁶ While exploiting to the full available online databases, the National Library's unindexed digitised copies of Catholic parish registers should also be searched where necessary.

Church of Ireland Registers

After the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland, its baptism and burial registers before 1870, and its marriage registers before 1845, were declared public records under the parochial records act, to be deposited in the Public Record Office of Ireland. However, where secure facilities for keeping registers were shown to be available in a parish, the registers could be retained in local custody. The original registers of 1,006 parishes were deposited in the Public Records Office by 1922, and all but 4 of these were destroyed in the holocaust of that year. Fortunately, the registers of 637 parishes had been retained in local custody and therefore survived. The Representative Church Body Library maintains a regularly updated listing of registers online, which includes copies or extracts and details of other records such as vestry minutes.⁵⁷ A portion of Church of Ireland registers were microfilmed by the National Archives and other agencies and the RCBL is now working to digitise the surviving registers.

Microfilmed registers can be accessed in the National Archives and in the RCBL, digitised registers are being made available progressively and in cases where there is no copy available, access may be permitted to originals. Ulster registers have long been available on microfilm in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast. The above mentioned government-sponsored Irish Genealogy online project includes indexes and some digitised images of Church of Ireland registers for Carlow, Dublin and Kerry.⁵⁸ Where it is necessary to commission a search of registers still in local custody, the address of the relevant minister can be found in the current *Church of Ireland Directory*.

Church of Ireland registers tend to commence earlier on average than those of other denominations, and a few go back as far as the early seventeenth century. Of 22 parishes in Dublin City, the registers of only 5 perished in 1922, and some of the destroyed registers had been printed by the Parish Register Society. The earliest surviving Church of Ireland registers are those of St John's Parish in Dublin, starting in 1619. Some areas of the country fared less well, for example, County Kildare has only about 17 Church of Ireland registers with pre-1870 starting dates, and County Clare

⁵⁵ Irish Family History Foundation, <http://www.rootsireland.ie>.

⁵⁶ Irish Genealogy, <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

⁵⁷ 'List of Parish Registers', <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/list-of-parish-registers>.

⁵⁸ Irish Genealogy, <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

about 7.

Church of Ireland parish registers are almost universally written in English, and the information characteristically given includes date of baptism, child's name, parent's names generally without mother's maiden name, place of residence and occasionally father's occupation, but only rarely sponsors. From the 1820s approximately the standard of register-keeping improved, and date of birth began to be included as well as date of baptism in many cases. Note that in the Protestant tradition a period of weeks, months or in a few cases over a year, could elapse between the birth of a child and the ceremony of baptism. It is also important to remember that burials of Catholics and other non-members of the Church of Ireland were recorded in Church of Ireland registers, as it controlled so many churches and attached burial places. Before the beginning of the nineteenth century it was not unusual for Presbyterians and members of other dissenting Protestant denomination to have baptisms and marriages registered by the Church of Ireland. Finally, bear in mind that the Church of Ireland was in charge of issuing marriage licences before 1845, that non-Catholic marriages were recorded by the state from that year until general registration was introduced in 1864, which classes of records are held respectively in the National Archives and General Register Office.

Other Denominations

Most Presbyterian congregations have been concentrated in Ulster, and the fact that registers were organised by church and not parish, together with the tendency of congregations to split or secede, makes the subject of these registers very complicated. Original registers tend to be held in local custody or by the Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland in Belfast.⁵⁹ A relatively comprehensive collection of copies of Ulster registers is available in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Incomplete lists of Presbyterian registers can be found in Falley's and Mitchell's guides. Addresses of Presbyterian ministers can be found in the *Directory of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland*. Most Presbyterian registers tend not to predate the late eighteenth or early nineteenth centuries, and the information they contain is similar to that in Church of Ireland registers. As noted above, entries for Presbyterians will be found in Church of Ireland burial registers, and in some cases also in baptism and marriage registers, while marriages of Presbyterians and other dissenters were also recorded by the state from 1845.

Methodists did not establish a separate church organisation until 1816, and until that date records of baptism, marriage and burial of their members are to be found in Church of Ireland registers. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has copied Ulster Methodist registers, but locating registers in the rest of Ireland is difficult and depends on making enquiries at local level.

From a genealogical point of view, Society of Friends or Quaker records are probably the most useful, and date from the foundation of the movement in Ireland in the mid-seventeenth century. Quaker records for the south are held in the Society of Friends Library in Dublin, with copies of many on microfilm in the National Library, while those for the north are held in the Society of Friends Library in Lisburn, with

⁵⁹ The Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland holds 'an almost complete set of microfilms' of Presbyterian registers and other records (<https://presbyterianhistoryireland.com/our-services/family-history>).

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copies in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. While few original Huguenot registers have survived, those for Dublin city have been published by the Huguenot Society of London. Moravian registers are very detailed in the information they contain, and most originals are in Gracehill, Co Antrim, with copies in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Finally, for information on the records of other minority denominations such as Baptists and Jews, and indeed useful information on church registers in general, see Ryan's guide to church records.⁶⁰

⁶⁰ J G Ryan, Editor, *Irish Church Records*, Dublin 1992.

Lesson 9: More Advanced Sources

Introduction

This lesson deals more briefly with some sources that do not have the same general or wider application of the records already covered. Nonetheless, these sources are of importance, usually but not always in the case of wealthier families, and the beginner who stays the course to become a more experienced researcher will have need to become familiar with them. In introducing these sources, reference will be made where appropriate to text-books which provide more detailed information.

Memorial Inscriptions

Gravestone inscriptions and memorial inscriptions in general have a special importance in the Irish context. Due to the destruction or late starting date of so many documentary records, in some cases an inscription may be the only surviving record of the death of an individual. Furthermore, even if the burial register of a graveyard has survived, a tombstone inscription will frequently contain more detailed information than a register entry, for example, date of death, details of occupation, address, relationships, and so on. Of course, until the present century, only the better-off minority of families could afford to erect monuments over the graves of loved ones. Unfortunately, memorials of the dead have suffered neglect and destruction like other old artefacts in this country, and common vandals are not always to blame for destructive acts. Thus in Dublin many old tombstones have been removed from city graveyards over the years, and others stacked so that their inscriptions are rendered illegible.

A principal source for published memorial inscriptions is the *Journal of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland*. A website has been compiled with links to online copies of volumes of this journal and a general index covering the period 1888-1909.⁶¹ Unfortunately, transcribers for the journal rarely copied all the inscriptions in a graveyard, concentrating instead on more notable or wealthy individuals. Memorial inscriptions from many graveyards around the country have been published in local historical works, in the *Irish Genealogist* and other society journals, and as individual pamphlets. Some Cork and Kerry graveyards are included in Albert E Casey's *O'Kief, Coshe Mang*, while the Ulster Historical Foundation has been systematically publishing Northern Ireland inscriptions, and Richard Henchion has also been extremely active in County Cork. Typescript volumes of Wicklow and Wexford inscriptions by the late Brian Cantwell are held some of the major libraries, and there is also a survey of County Dublin graveyards by Michael Egan. A guide to published memorial inscriptions, by no means comprehensive, is to be found in the county sources section of Grenham's guide. One can also carry out a personal search for inscriptions in a graveyard, a difficult task if it is overgrown. Amateur genealogists should also give thought to transcribing and publishing inscriptions in graveyards not yet covered, in which case they should obtain permission from custodians, take care not to injure themselves, and under no circumstances use abrasive materials in an effort to make

61 Ciara Chivers, Mems Dead, <https://memsdead.com/how> (click 'Mems Dead Directory').

difficult inscriptions legible (ordinary water and a soft bristle brush gently applied usually solve this problem).

Wills

Before 1858 testamentary jurisdiction or responsibility for processing wills lay with the Established Protestant Church of Ireland. Wills were ordinarily processed or probated in the Consistorial Court of each diocese, and letters of administration were issued in the case of those who died without leaving a will. However, if the deceased possessed property worth more than £5 in a second diocese, then the will or administration issued from the Prerogative Court of Armagh. The 1857 Probate Act transferred testamentary jurisdiction to a new civil Court of Probate, and established a Principal Registry in Dublin and eleven District Registries.

Nearly all original wills were destroyed in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922, so reliance has to be placed on surviving indexes, copies and abstracts, in the National Archives, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, National Library of Ireland and elsewhere. Will searches before 1858 should commence by checking Prerogative and relevant Consistorial or Diocesan indexes, and after 1858 by referring to the yearly printed Calendars 1858-1920 and surviving Will Registers 1858-1900 (these registers survive for all the country with the exception of the Principal Registry covering Dublin and adjoining counties). These testamentary records can be searched online via the National Archives of Ireland's website,⁶² with some copies also on FamilySearch, as the Mormons generated most of the microfilms on which the digitised copies are based. Note that the advice that most post-1858 wills were destroyed is erroneous). The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has placed both the Calendars and many copy will books relating to its territory online, which can include parts of counties now in Republic of Ireland.⁶³ For further information on wills, see an essential article by ffolliott and O'Byrne and also a chapter in John Grenham's work.⁶⁴

Deeds

Deeds, like wills (and a will of course is a kind of deed), in general relate only to wealthier families, as the vast majority of smallholders, labourers and tradesmen would not have had either the resources or need to have property transactions recorded and registered. Because of their complicated legal phraseology, deeds are especially difficult to use, and the trick is to be able to scan them quickly but alertly, noting names, addresses, relationships and other information of relevance. While deeds, some dating from medieval times, are held in the National Archives, National Library of Ireland, Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and various other repositories, the greatest collection is held in the Registry of Deeds, which was founded in 1708 and is located in the King's Inns Building in Henrietta Street, Dublin.

The Registry of Deeds records are arranged in large volumes of transcripts or

62 National Archives of Ireland, Genealogy, <https://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>.

63 FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org/search>; National Archives of Ireland, <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie>; Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/about-wills-and-will-calendars>.

64 Rosemary ffolliott and Eileen O'Byrne, 'Wills and Administrations', Donal F Begley, Editor, *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder*, Dublin 1981, pages 157-80; Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, pp 83-98.

‘memorials’ of deeds, which are indexed according to grantors, but not grantees, and placenames (the original memorials may not be inspected, but copies can be purchased). The various kinds of deeds found in the Registry of Deeds include leases, mortgages, sales, rent charges, and of particular importance to the genealogist, marriage settlements and wills (the latter published in abstract form by the Irish Manuscripts Commission, as indicated in the last article).

Access to the Registry of Deeds, now part of the Property Registration Authority, was formerly unrestricted during opening hours, but now requires an appointment and with limits on the number of volumes which can be viewed.⁶⁵ Family Search has greatly improved accessibility of Registry of Deeds records by making them freely available in digitised form online, but without databasing them as yet.⁶⁶ A voluntary project is placing abstracts of deeds online but has still only covered a portion of the archive.⁶⁷ For further information on the complicated subject of deeds, see the authoritative article by ffolliott and a recent publication of the Property Registration Authority.⁶⁸

Newspapers

Newspapers can contain significant genealogical information on certain classes of individuals, but are difficult to work with because of their size and usually unindexed state. In general of course, only middle- and upper-class families would have notices of birth, marriage and death published. The earliest newspapers were published in Dublin City, and from the 1750s onward publications such as Faulkner’s *Dublin Journal* and the *Freeman’s Journal* contain notices and advertisements of genealogical relevance. Other cities and provincial towns published newspapers later, examples being the *Corke Journal* (1765), the *Belfast Newsletter* (1737) and the *Limerick Chronicle* (1768). Old newspapers are best searched in The National Library of Ireland, referring first to the catalogues of newspapers,⁶⁹ most of which can only be searched on microfilm. See also ffolliott’s excellent article on newspapers.⁷⁰ A commercial firm offers online access to the *Freeman’s Journal*, *Irish Independent* and a growing number provincial titles, while the *Irish Times* maintains its own archive from its foundation in 1859 and a British site also features a range of Irish newspapers.⁷¹

65 Property Registration Authority, <https://www.prai.ie/registry-of-deeds-reopening-changes-to-onsite-access>.

66 ‘Transcripts of memorials of deeds, conveyances and wills, 1708-1929’, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/185720>.

67 Registry of Deeds Indexing Project Ireland, <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds>.

68 ffolliott, ‘The Registry of Deeds for Genealogical Purposes’, same, pages 139-56; Dr Patrick Walsh, *Introduction to the Memorials and Transcription Books at the Registry of Deeds*, Property Registration Authority [2022], downloadable from <https://www.prai.ie>.

69 See the National Library online catalogue of newspapers, ‘Newspaper Database’, at http://www.nli.ie/new_cat.htm.

70 ffolliott, ‘Newspapers as a Genealogical Source’, Begley, Editor, *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder*, pages 117-38.

71 Irish Newspaper Archives, <http://irishnewspaperarchives.com>; *Irish Times* Archive, <https://www.irishtimes.com/archive>; British Newspaper Archive, <https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>.

Directories

Trade and professional directories, giving addresses and indicating dates when an individual was in business, are of obvious genealogical relevance. Of course these publications included urban dwellers in the main and the poorer classes were excluded. Dublin City again saw the publication of the first trade directories, Wilson's *Dublin Directory* commencing in 1751, which was overtaken by Pettigrew and Oulton's *Dublin Almanac* in 1834, succeeded in turn in 1844 by the well-known Thom's *Directory* which is still in existence. The limited social coverage of directories is shown by the fact that Thom's, the best of them, probably included only about 20% of heads of families in Dublin City until the early twentieth century.

Dublin's example was followed by John Ferrar's *Directory of Limerick* (1769) and Richard Lucas's *Cork Directory* (1787). The first publications covering cities and towns throughout the country were Pigot's *Directory* (1820 and 1824) and Slater's *Directory* (1846, 1856, 1870, 1881 and 1894). Professional directories did not commence until the nineteenth century, examples being clergy lists in Lea's *Ecclesiastical Registry* (1814) and the *Irish Catholic Directory* (1836-), and the *Irish Medical Directory* (1846). The best and most accessible collections of directories are held by the National Library of Ireland and Dublin City Library and Archive. A growing range of directories, including Pigot's, Slater's and Thom's directories, are now available in digitised searchable form online.⁷² For further information on directories, see an article by ffolliott and Begley,⁷³ and the county sources lists in Grenham's guide.

Estate Papers

Where they have survived, and are of sufficient detail, rentals and other documents relating to landed estates are of great importance as genealogical sources. However, not all estate owners kept detailed records of their tenants, especially if they had farmed out the collection of rents to 'middlemen'. Furthermore, like other classes of Irish documents, estate papers have suffered horrendously from destruction both in times of peace and war. Collections of surviving estate papers are held in the National Library of Ireland (some still in the process of being catalogued), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (generally much better catalogued and arranged), and also in the National Archives and some other repositories, while a few substantial collections are still in private hands (for example, the Meath Papers in Killruddery, County Wicklow).

The first step in determining whether relevant estate papers are extant is to establish the name of the landlord, which is usually done by referring to the 'immediate lessor' column in Griffith's *Valuation*. As most of these entries in Griffith are for middlemen and sublessors, as opposed to substantial landlords, it is advisable to identify the larger lessors of land within a given parish by roughly totting up their acreages. The next step is to refer to the National Library of Ireland online guide to manuscripts to check whether estate papers are listed under the relevant landlord's name, whether they are in public or private custody, and whether a report on or catalogue of the collection

⁷² 'Directories and Social History', <https://search.findmypast.ie/search-ireland-records-in-directories-and-social-history> (pay-to-view).

⁷³ ffolliott and Begley, 'Guide to Irish Directories', Begley, Editor, *Irish Genealogy: A Record Finder*, pages 75-106.

exists.⁷⁴ The county sources section of Grenham's guide contains shortlistings of estate papers by landlords' names for a number of counties. It may not be possible to search privately held or unsorted estate papers, and once again it is pointed out that priority should be given to cataloguing and microfilming these and other neglected sources.

Occupational Records

Original documentary records relating to occupations have not always survived, nor indeed for humbler occupations were they always kept. Once again Dublin City proves to be the best-documented part of the country, and a substantial quantity of trade guild records has survived for apothecaries, stationers, weavers, and so on. For a review of occupational records, see the relevant section of Grenham's guide.⁷⁵ The records of the British Army, in which so many Irish people have served over the centuries, are held in the National Archives, Kew, and it is usually necessary to know name of regiment and approximate dates of service if a soldier's service records are to be located.⁷⁶ The archives of the Irish Army are too recent to be of genealogical importance in most cases, but witness statements, pension records, etc, can yield much interesting family history from the period of the War of Independence.⁷⁷ The original service records of the Royal Irish Constabulary are also in the English National Archives, but microfilm copies are available in our National Archives, together with copies of the records of the Dublin Metropolitan Police, and a full-name index to both classes of records has been published.⁷⁸

Printed Sources

There is much genealogical information relating to specific families and individuals buried in the pages of books and journals printed over the centuries, but it has to be said that until recently, most of this information relates to the upper and middle classes. The exception would be those individuals of poor backgrounds who through involvement in rebellion or crime, or because of professional or artistic accomplishment, have been deemed worthy of biographical study. These individuals would be a minority of their class, and it is worthwhile considering that those of you who publish the results of your research on your ancestors will be helping to throw light on the largely unwritten lives of ordinary people.

Burke's *Peerage* and other publications by this firm,⁷⁹ and also Debrett's publications, are useful sources for information on gentry and titled families. Volumes on the histories of single families have been published, and articles on families are to be found in genealogical and local historical journals. For references to such family histories, see published bibliographies such as a useful small one produced by MacLysaght,⁸⁰ as well as the catalogues of the National Library of Ireland and other

74 National Library of Ireland, Sources, <http://sources.nli.ie>.

75 Grenham, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, pages 189-210.

76 Army Regiments, <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/help-with-your-research/research-guides/army-regiments>.

77 Military Archives, <https://www.militaryarchives.ie/home>.

78 Jim Herlihy, *The Royal Irish Constabulary*, Dublin 1999, and *The Dublin Metropolitan Police*, Dublin 2001.

79 The most recent edition of *Burke's Peerage*, the 107th, was published in 2003, and for the first time includes Irish chiefs.

80 Edward MacLysaght, *Bibliography of Irish Family History*, Dublin 1982.

larger reference libraries, most of which can now be accessed via the Internet. Google Books and the Internet Archive provide free downloadable copies of many out of copyright classic texts, including works of genealogical relevance.⁸¹

Miscellaneous Sources

Digitisation has meant that a whole range of potentially useful but hitherto virtually inaccessible sources is now becoming available to genealogists, most on commercial websites but some on free sites. A number of these sources have the virtue of including poorer as well as wealthier elements of society. For those whose ancestors may have tangled with the law, prison registers⁸² and Petty Sessions records⁸³ are useful. As whimsical as they may appear, records of dog licences⁸⁴ could provide valuable information in some cases. The commercial service Findmypast.ie is providing access to most of these newly available records, and a full list of what is available may be viewed on its website.⁸⁵

DNA and Genetics

Genetic science has shown that there is a hitherto unknown type of record encoded in our very bodies, namely, deoxyribonucleic acid or DNA. Each of us possesses 23 pairs of chromosomes composed of DNA, one half inherited from the father and the other half from the mother, 'XY' signifying the male chromosome, 'XX' the female. By studying DNA 'markers' geneticists have been seeking to determine probable relationships and, more controversially, ethnic origins. This is obviously of interest to genealogists, but there may be a tendency to overstate the current utility of 'genetic genealogy'. For example, the claim that living descendants of Niall of the Nine Hostages have been identified through DNA analysis is clearly questionable, particularly as historians are unsure if Niall and his offspring were real as opposed to mythical figures.⁸⁶ No names, addresses or dates of ancestors whatsoever are revealed by DNA analysis, this information can only be reliably be obtained from documents. As prices drop it is certainly worthwhile investing in a DNA test, while maintaining a healthy scepticism about the results, eg, the writer's genetic report featured a claim that my ancestors came from the 'Home of Outlaws and Rebels' in Munster.⁸⁷ There have been reported cases of siblings who fear they do not have the same parents because they received different DNA test results, but it should be noted that siblings may display significant genetic variations.⁸⁸ The science of genetics is developing and in time a more realistic assessment of its role in genealogical research will be possible.

81 Such free online books are best sought by Google searching (<http://www.google.ie>).

82 Findmypast.ie, www.findmypast.ie; Family Search, <https://familysearch.org>.

83 Findmypast.ie, www.findmypast.ie.

84 Same.

85 Same, click 'Search', 'A-Z of Record Sets' and then 'Ireland'.

86 'High King Niall: the most fertile man in Ireland', *Sunday Times*, Irish Edition, 15 January 2006, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/ireland/article788652.ece> (accessed 4 October 2009); Aoife MacLysaght, 'The genetic imprint of Niall of the Nine Hostages', *Irish Times*, 24 April 2014, <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/science/the-genetic-imprint-of-niall-of-the-nine-hostages-1.1771373>.

87 Ancestry DNA, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/cs/ireland-dna>.

88 'Siblings Can Have Surprisingly Different DNA Ancestry', 23 March 2018, <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/dna-ancestry-test-siblings-different-results-genetics-science>.

Heraldry

Heraldry has been described as ‘the shorthand of history’, and more precisely has been defined as ‘the systematic hereditary use of an arrangement of personal charges or devices on a shield’.⁸⁹ While the use of symbols is as old as humankind, heraldry proper dates only from the twelfth century. Although the age of chivalry is long gone, heraldry has never been more popular, with plaques and other armorial merchandise widely available, and indeed it is beguiling to think that we all can have our own coat of arms. Unfortunately arms do not pertain to surnames as such but are the property of specific, usually elite families. Heraldry is thus part of the heritage of these families and knowledge concerning their arms is crucial to a full understanding of their pedigrees. In England heraldry is regulated by the College of Arms in London, and in Scotland by the Court of Lord Lyon. Ireland is one of the few republics to have an heraldic office, the Office of the Chief Herald/Genealogical Office within the National Library of Ireland. As it bases its power to grant arms on the British royal prerogative, there have been doubts about the legality within a republic of the heraldic functions of this office.⁹⁰ The Chief Herald’s Office does not deal directly with genealogy, which is catered for separately in the National Library.⁹¹

89 Thomas Woodcock and J M Robinson, *The Oxford Guide to Heraldry*, Oxford University Press, 1990 Edition, page 1.

90 Murphy, *Twilight of the Chiefs*, pages 179-80.

91 Office of the Chief Herald, <https://www.nli.ie/en/heraldry-introduction.aspx>; ‘Getting Started’, <https://www.nli.ie/en/family-history-introduction.aspx>.

Lesson 10: Conclusion

Recapitulation

Now that we have come to the end of our primer, it would be worthwhile recapitulating the main points covered in each lesson. It will be recalled that we started our classes with a definition of genealogy as ‘that branch of history which involves the determination of family relationships’, and advised that research should begin with ‘homework’, that is, gathering available information from family papers and older relatives. Lesson 1 also gave a short list of recommended text-books, and the use of pedigree and family group sheets was explained. Lesson 2 covered research methods and record repositories. Lesson 3 dealt with computers and the Internet and photographs and digital images. Lesson 4 dealt with placenames, forenames and surnames, showing how a thorough knowledge of these and their variant forms is essential in genealogical research. The subject of Lesson 5 was the census returns of 1901 and 1911, and pre-1901 census fragments, while Lesson 6 dealt with civil records of births, marriages and deaths commencing in 1845/1864.

In Lesson 7 we dealt with the principal sources used as substitutes for lost nineteenth-century census records, namely, Griffith’s *Valuation* 1848-64 and the Tithe Applotment Books c1823-38. Lesson 8 covered church registers of the main denominations, as of course records of baptism, marriage and burial are a vital genealogical source for the period before the introduction of civil registration. Lesson 9 gave a summary account of wills, deeds, memorial inscriptions, estate papers, newspapers, directories, and other ‘miscellaneous’ sources. It should be noted again that while the sources dealt with in Lessons 5-8 cover all or a significant proportion of the population, the sources covered in Lesson 9 document only a small minority, usually those of the wealthier classes.

The various records of relevance to a genealogical search should be tackled systematically and in the correct order, which means starting with the most recent events and then working progressively backwards in time. Most Irish residents should start with census records, then approach civil records of birth, marriage and death, moving on to Griffith’s *Valuation* and the Tithe Applotment Books, which leads to church registers of the various denominations, and finally to wills and other miscellaneous records where relevant. Descendants of Irish emigrants abroad should start with the records contemporaneous with their emigrant ancestor’s departure and work backwards, while of course not neglecting to search later records for information on relatives who remained in Ireland. We should stress that the research schedule we have outlined is not meant to be inflexible, as some will need to alter it according to their varying circumstances. What we have been trying to get away from is the unsystematic approach of vaguely directing beginners first to church records or birth records, or worse still to records of limited coverage such as wills and deeds.

As most of the main genealogical records are now accessible via the Internet, the bulk of research tends to be carried out online. Yet we should have an awareness of the where the original records are held and to know how to check those which are not yet

online. In the Republic of Ireland the principal repositories again are the National Library of Ireland, the National Archives, the General Register Office and the Dublin City Library and Archive, all in Dublin, the county libraries or other regional repositories, and residents of Northern Ireland of course have the option of using the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in Belfast. Those abroad benefit in particular from the accessibility of Irish records online, but they too should not neglect national and local repositories in their own countries.

Completing a Documented Pedigree

As advised at the beginning of this publication, research notes and copy documents should be evaluated as soon as possible after compilation, and relevant data should be entered in draft pedigree and family group sheets. After a certain amount of time has passed, the draft sheets will be replaced by a more finished product, such as the examples of Murphy pedigree sheets in the illustrations below. The writer's first pedigree was drafted many years ago and was based on limited family papers and orally transmitted information, with the result that it contained many gaps. Research in census records, records of birth, marriage and death, census substitutes, church registers and miscellaneous sources progressively filled in these gaps and enabled the main lines to be traced back to about 1800-20. Of course, there are still some areas where research remains to be completed, or where problems remain to be resolved. Genealogy is a never-ending activity, a cumulative process in which one generation develops the work of its predecessors and hands it on to succeeding generations to be further refined and expanded.

At all stages be sure to record fully and cite accurately the sources on which your completed pedigrees and family history research are based, both as a means of self-discipline in relation to facts, and to enable others to check or develop your information. Remember again that genealogy is properly considered to be a branch of history, and that facts must be established by careful documentary research, with scope of course for controlled speculation in grey areas. The free exercise of the imagination is no substitute for a factually-based approach, and unsourced pedigrees going back to Brian Boru or the Milesians are really of little value.

The final step in the process of genealogical research is to publish or disseminate the results to relatives and other interested parties, for there is no sense in letting our papers decay in the attic, or worse still be dumped after we have gone. At the most basic level a publication could take the form of a simple stapled, photocopied booklet composed of a title page and contents, a short introductory essay, copies of pedigree and family group sheets, and copies of illustrative documents such as certificates, cemetery receipts, in memoriam cards, photographs, and so on. Some may wish to produce more sophisticated short-run publications using their word processor, genealogy or desktop publisher programs, while others may seek to have articles published in genealogical magazines or journals. A more ambitious minority may go further and publish book-length studies of their ancestors, and indeed Irish genealogy requires more high-quality extended works of this kind, preferably dealing with the lower and middling classes as well as the rich.

Murphy of Ballylusky, County Kerry, Case Study

It would be appropriate to conclude this primer with a short genealogical case study, the family selected being the author's own, the Murphys of Ballylusky, County Kerry, and later of Dublin (see aforementioned pedigree sheets below). I obtained key details relating to the Murphys from my late father Thomas and I also picked up information during holidays in Ballylusky as a child. Orally transmitted information and indeed personal recollections are crucial to genealogical research, yet in the absence of documentation they cannot in themselves be considered to provide conclusive proof of pedigree.

Because the place of residence was known, there was little difficulty locating both the 1901 and 1911 Census returns for the Murphys of Ballylusky in the National Archives of Ireland, even before digitisation.⁹² The 1901 Census shows my great-grandparents Thomas and Margaret Murphy, stated ages 62 and 45, with my grandfather John aged 19 and eight other children. The 1911 Census confirms most of this information, but gives Margaret's age as 65 rather than the expected 55, a type of anomaly not uncommonly encountered and reflecting widespread uncertainty over age in those times, rather than dishonesty necessarily. Both forms were signed with Thomas Murphy's mark, indicating illiteracy, so that the information was obviously recorded by the census enumerator, a member of the Royal Irish Constabulary, as was usually the case.

In addition to genealogical details, the census returns provide much interesting background information. Thus most members of the Murphy family were recorded as being able to speak English and Irish, as Ballylusky was and remains a Gaelic-speaking area. Reflecting the fact that Ballylusky is located on the Dingle Peninsula near the coast, my grandfather John's occupation was given as 'Fisherman' in 1901 and 1911, while John Moran, the father of his future bride and my grandmother Ellen, who also lived in the townland, was listed as 'Farmer and Fisherman'. Interestingly, the younger Murphy children of school-going age were able to read and write, while my grandfather John like his parents was recorded as illiterate. John Murphy inherited the farm in Ballylusky and may possibly have acquired some capacity in reading and writing before his death in 1951 (which was also the year of the writer's birth).

A crucial piece of information contained on the 1911 but not on the 1901 Census form is the number of years the parents were married, which in the case of Thomas and Margaret Murphy was 33 years. Margaret's mother Mary Kay was living with the family in 1911, confirming her maiden surname. Armed with this information a search was conducted in the records of the General Register Office and the marriage of Thomas Murphy and Margaret Key (obviously a variant of Kay) was found to have taken place in the Catholic Chapel of Kilmalkedar in May 1876. The birth registration of my grandfather John Murphy was also located, showing that he was born in Ballylusky in October 1881, parents Thomas Murphy and Margaret Kay.⁹³ While the death registration of my great-grandmother Margaret was located, showing that she died in July 1948,⁹⁴ research to date (repeated in the FamilySearch online indexes) has so far

92 Censuses of Ireland 1901 and 1911, Ballylusky, County Kerry, National Archives of Ireland, online at <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>.

93 Marriage and birth registrations, General Register Office (GRO), online at <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

94 Death registration, same.

failed to locate a record of the death of my great-grandfather Thomas, which family information indicates occurred about 1918.

The 1876 marriage registration provided the name of Thomas's father, and my great-great grandfather, which was David. Now Thomas Murphy only arrived in Ballylusky in the later nineteenth century and family lore held that he had come from Valentia Island. There are 18 David Murphys listed in Griffith's *Valuation* of County Kerry dated in the 1850s, of whom 13 were resident in Valentia Island, which can be considered significant.⁹⁵ As Thomas was described as a widower on his 1876 marriage registration, a further General Register Office search discovered that a Thomas Murphy, aged 24, resident in Cool East, Valentia, and the son of David Murphy, had married Catherine McCarthy at Valentia Chapel in February 1864.⁹⁶

Ballyferriter Catholic Parish registers, now indexed online,⁹⁷ record the baptism on 27 November 1870 of Joseph, son of Thomas Murphy and Catherine McCarthy of 'Ballyluska'. This entry is followed in later years by baptisms of children of Thomas Murphy and Margaret Key of Ballylusky, including my aforementioned grandfather John baptised 25 May 1881 (the civil birth registration gives the date of birth as 3 October 1881, clearly erroneous and no doubt a device to evade a fine for late registration)⁹⁸. While coincidence of names can never be ruled out, it would be remarkable if these entries did not relate to the same Thomas Murphy and his first and second wives respectively. One of the David Murphys in Griffith's *Valuation* referred to above resided in Cool East and a death registration was also located for David Murphy of 'Coil', Valentia, showing that he died in 1877 aged 60,⁹⁹ so that his approximate year of birth was 1817. Taking all these pieces of evidence together, it can be concluded that the connection between the Murphys of Valentia Island and Ballylusky has been confirmed to a very high degree of probability and that David Murphy of Cool East is almost certainly my great-great grandfather and earliest traced paternal ancestor.

In addition to my grandfather John born in 1881, other children of Thomas Murphy and Margaret Kay/Key included David (born in 1879 and died young), Mary, Daniel, William, James, Ellen, Joseph, Philip and a second David. According to the 1911 Census Thomas and Margaret had a total of 16 children of whom 12 were living, and it was a common custom to reuse the name of a deceased child. In January 1916 John Murphy married Ellen Moran, daughter of John Moran also of Ballylusky as noted above,¹⁰⁰ and their children were Patrick (who inherited the farm and died unmarried in December 1987), Thomas, Eileen, Joseph, William, Daniel, Seamus, Philip, Molly, Peggy and David, most of whom would emigrate. John Murphy died in January 1951 and his wife Ellen died in February 1986 aged 91, both being buried in the family plot in the historic Kilmalkedar Graveyard. Their son Thomas Murphy was born in September 1919 in Ballylusky and married Eileen Keating in Terenure, Dublin, in June 1950. Thomas died in June 2000, Eileen in August 2009 and their children were the present writer, Maurice and Tomás.

The above account of the Murphys of Ballylusky resulted in contact with

95 Griffith's *Valuation*, County Kerry, Findmypast.ie, www.findmypast.ie (pay-to-view).

96 Marriage registration, GRO, online at <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

97 Irish Genealogy, <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

98 Birth registration, GRO, online at <https://www.irishgenealogy.ie>.

99 Death registration, same.

100 Marriage registration, same.

A Primer in Irish Genealogy

Kathleen Whitney, a hitherto unknown second cousin with Moran lineage living in Massachusetts. Our common great-grandfather, the above mentioned John Moran, was born about 1862 and married Mary Coghlan, his parents being John Moran born 1828 and Brigid Griffin, whose parents were Denis Moran born about 1806 and Mary Shea, while Denis's father born in the late eighteenth century may also have been named John.¹⁰¹

This summary of my paternal Murphy ancestry shows that I have a pedigree of respectable length covering five generations as far back as the early nineteenth century, which is about average for an Irish family, and as noted the allied Moran line can be taken back a few more generations. Most of those following the course outlined in this primer will achieve similar results if they put in the work, while some fortunate enough to be descended from wealthier ancestors may trace ancestors back to the eighteenth century or earlier. Genealogy of course should look forwards as well as backwards, and we carry out our work in the knowledge that the accounts of our ancestors which we construct may be amended or extended by future generations. In conclusion, it might be noted that my Murphys are now gone from Ballylusky, and reflecting the historical stream of migration from the Dingle Peninsula to the United States of America and England, I have more Murphy cousins among the diaspora in those countries than in Ireland.

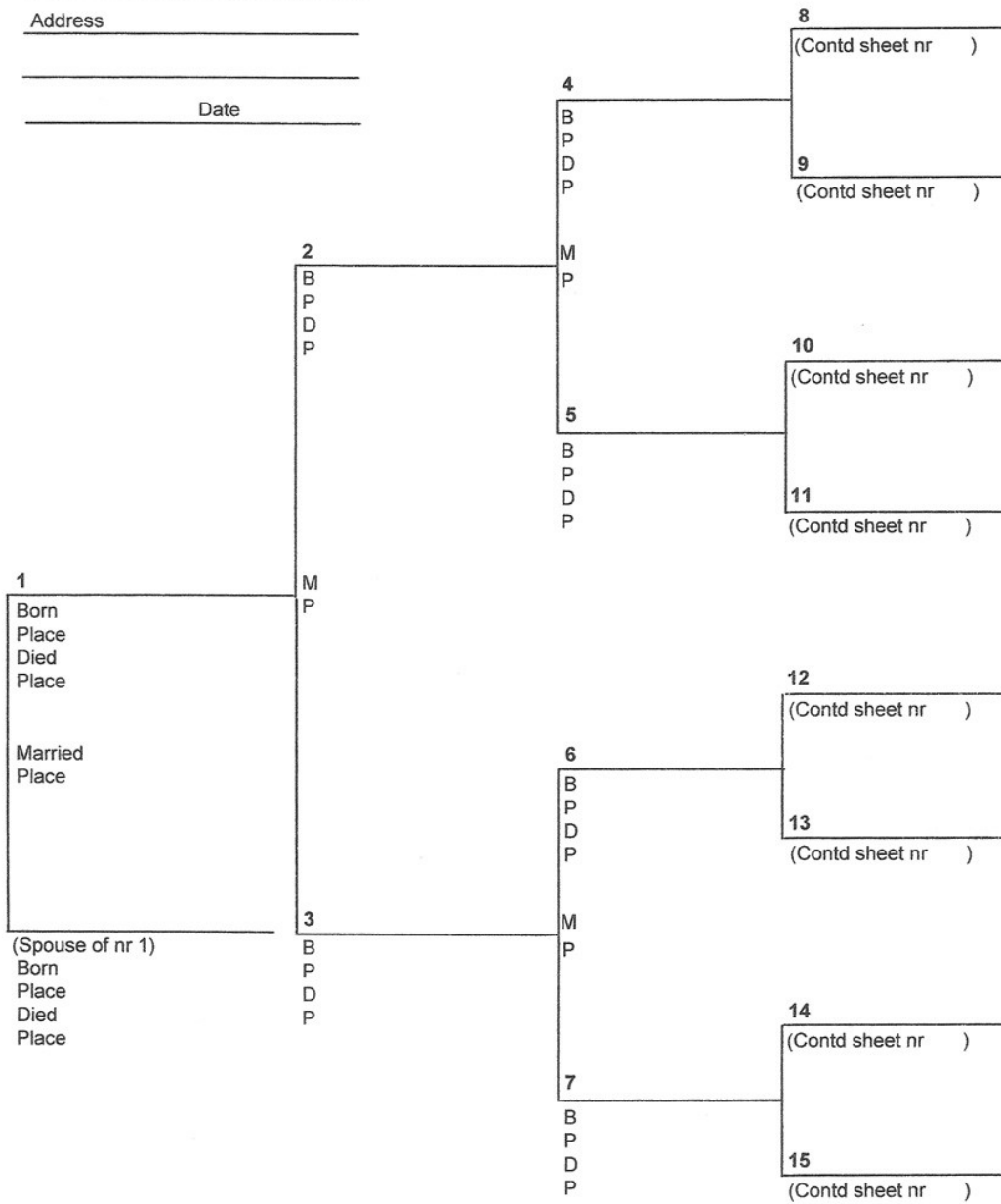
101 The principal sources for the Moran lineage are the 1901 and 1911 Censuses, civil registrations of birth, marriage and death, and the Ballyferriter (Kilmalkedar) Catholic parish registers of baptism and marriage.

Pedigree Sheet Nr

Compiled by _____

Address _____

Date _____



Sources of information _____

Copyright 1998 Sean Murphy MA (can be reproduced freely for personal and educational use)

Family Group Sheet

Ref

HUSBAND _____
Date and place of birth _____
Date and place of marriage _____
Date and place of death _____
Religious denomination _____
Occupation(s) _____
Names of parents _____

WIFE _____
Date and place of birth _____
Date and place of death _____
Religious denomination _____
Occupation(s) _____
Names of parents _____

CHILDREN	Date and place of birth (and of marriage and death if known)
1	_____
2	_____
3	_____
4	_____
5	_____
6	_____
7	_____
8	_____
9	_____
10	_____
11	_____
12	_____
13	_____
14	_____

SOURCES OF INFORMATION _____

NAME AND ADDRESS OF COMPILER _____

_____ **DATE** _____

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Pedigree Sheet Nr 1

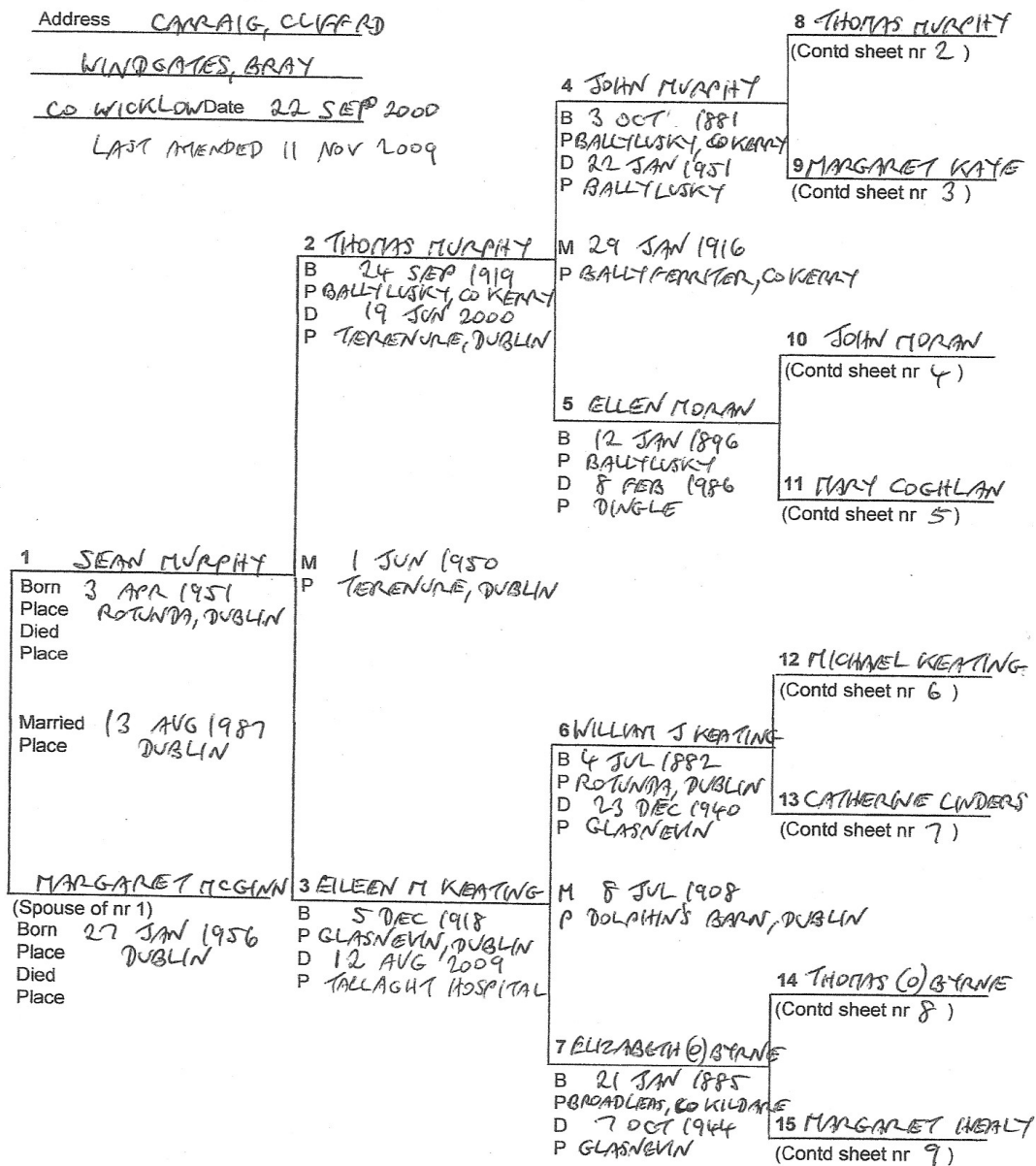
Compiled by SEAN MURPHY

Address CARRAIG, CLIFFARD

WINDSATES, GRAY

CO WICKLOW Date 22 SEP 2000

LAST AMENDED 11 NOV 2009



Sources of information GRD CERTIFICATES AND COPY REGISTRATIONS
OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE AND DEATH; 1901 AND 1911 CENSUSES;
ORAL FAMILY INFORMATION.

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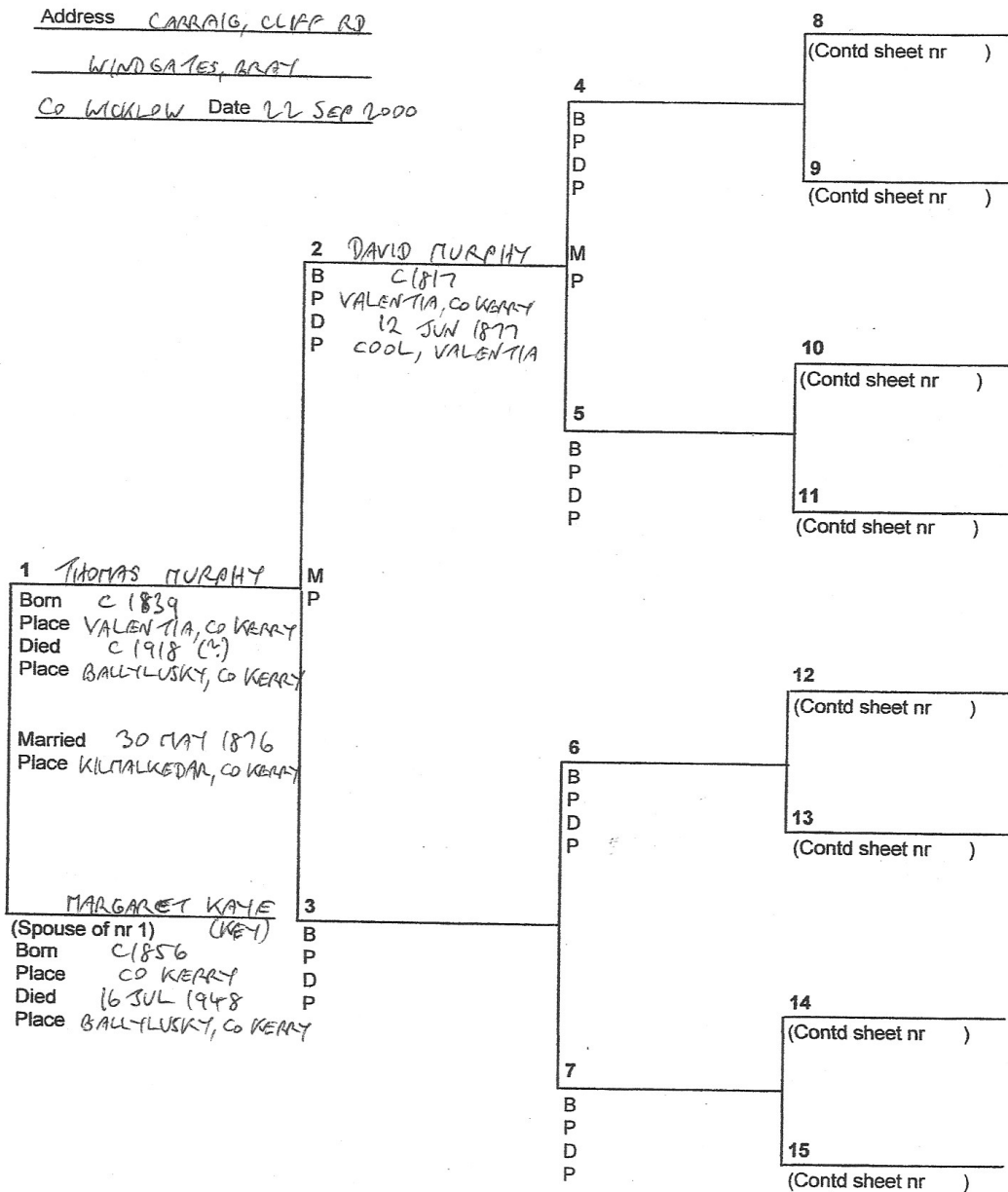
Pedigree Sheet Nr 2

Compiled by SEAN MURPHY

Address CARRAIG, CLIFF RD

WINDSATES, BRAT

CO WICKLOW Date 22 SEP 2000



Sources of information GRO COPY REGISTRATIONS OF MARRIAGE
AND DEATH; 1901 AND 1911 CENSUSES;
ORAL FAMILY INFORMATION.

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ALPHABETICAL INDEX TO THE TOWNLANDS AND TOWNS OF IRELAND.

95

No. of Sheet of the Ordnance Survey Maps.	Townlands and Towns.	Area in Statute Acres.			County.	Barony.	Parish.	Poor Law Union in 1857.	Townland Census of 1851, Part I.	
		A.	R.	P.					Vol.	Page
7	Ballylough More . . .	362	0	31	Antrim . . .	Lower Dunluce . . .	Billy . . .	Coleraine . . .	III.	163
18, 27	Ballyloughmore . . .	279	0	150	Waterford . . .	Gaultiere . . .	Kilnucomb . . .	Waterford . . .	II.	364
12, 21	Ballyloughnaun . . .	263	0	19	Limerick . . .	Pubblebrion . . .	Croom . . .	Croom . . .	II.	252
5	Ballyloughnane . . .	238	0	50	Tipperary, N.R. . .	Lower Ormond . . .	Loughkeen . . .	Parsonstown . . .	II.	286
4, 5	Ballyloughran . . .	87	2	33	Kerry . . .	Iraghtconnor . . .	Lisselton . . .	Listowel . . .	II.	192
32	Ballyloundash . . .	316	3	3	Limerick . . .	Smallcounty . . .	Ballinard . . .	Kilmallock . . .	II.	259
6, 11	Ballylow . . .	1,643	0	35	Wicklow . . .	Talbotstown Lower . . .	Blessington . . .	Naas . . .	I.	358
17	Ballylower . . .	189	1	4	Carlow . . .	Forth . . .	Ballon . . .	Carlow . . .	I.	3
32	Ballylowra . . .	342	2	2	Kilkenny . . .	Knocktopher . . .	Jerpointelurch . . .	Thomastown . . .	I.	111
44	Ballylucas . . .	303	2	1	Down . . .	Lecale Upper . . .	Rathmullan . . .	Downpatrick . . .	III.	181
22	Ballylucas . . .	226	1	12	Fermanagh . . .	Tirkennedy . . .	Enniskillen . . .	Enniskillen . . .	III.	221
26, 27, 32, 33	Ballylucas . . .	291	3	14	Wexford . . .	Ballaghkeen . . .	Killisk . . .	Enniscorthy . . .	I.	296
26, 27, 32, 33	Ballylucas . . .	345	3	1	Wexford . . .	Ballaghkeen . . .	Kilmallock . . .	Enniscorthy . . .	I.	296
144	Ballylucan . . .	177	1	2	Cork, W.R. . .	Ilane and Barryroe . . .	Island . . .	Clonakilty . . .	II.	149
24	Ballylubby . . .	141	1	24	Limerick . . .	Coonagh . . .	Ballynaclogh . . .	Tipperary . . .	II.	233
23, 24	Ballylug . . .	503	0	4	Wicklow . . .	Ballinacor North . . .	Knockrath . . .	Rathdrum . . .	I.	347
5	Ballyluginagon . . .	269	3	23	Roscommon . . .	Boyle . . .	Boyle . . .	Boyle . . .	IV.	193
41	Ballylumford . . .	264	0	10	Antrim . . .	Lower Belfast . . .	Islandmagee . . .	Larne . . .	III.	8
36, 37	Ballylummin . . .	1,139	2	29	Antrim . . .	Lower Toome . . .	Ahoghill . . .	Ballymena . . .	III.	31
99	Ballyluoge . . .	415	3	28	Galway . . .	Clennacowen . . .	Killoran . . .	Ballinasloe . . .	IV.	26
43	Ballylurgan . . .	611	2	356	Antrim . . .	Upper Toome . . .	Drummaul . . .	Antrim . . .	III.	33
48, 49	Ballylurgan . . .	161	1	22	Antrim . . .	Upper Toome . . .	Duncane . . .	Antrim . . .	III.	34
22	Ballylurkin . . .	164	1	30	Wexford . . .	Ballaghkeen . . .	Killineecooly . . .	Gorey . . .	I.	295
12	Ballylusk . . .	410	0	36	Queen's Co. . .	Maryborough West . . .	Clonsaght and Clo- nagheen . . .	Mountmellick . . .	I.	242
12	Ballylusk . . .	143	2	35	Wexford . . .	Ballaghkeen . . .	Ardamine . . .	Gorey . . .	I.	291
2, 6	Ballylusk . . .	274	0	39	Wexford . . .	Gorey . . .	Kilnahue . . .	Gorey . . .	I.	519
14	Ballylusk . . .	265	1	28	Wexford . . .	Searswalsh . . .	Templeshanbo . . .	Enniscorthy . . .	I.	326
23, 24	Ballylusk . . .	336	1	39	Wicklow . . .	Ballinacor North . . .	Knockrath . . .	Rathdrum . . .	I.	347
24, 25	Ballylusk . . .	378	1	9	Wicklow . . .	Newcastle . . .	Rathnew . . .	Rathdrum . . .	I.	334
43	Ballylusk . . .	612	2	55	Cork, E.R. . .	Kimatalloon . . .	Aghern . . .	Fermoy . . .	II.	97
33, 42	Ballylusk . . .	161	1	36	Kerry . . .	Corkagully . . .	Kilmalkedar . . .	Dingle . . .	II.	178
40	Ballylusk . . .	325	1	27	Kilkenny . . .	Knocktopher . . .	Kilbeacon . . .	Waterford . . .	I.	111
21, 22	Ballylusk . . .	26	3	15	Limerick . . .	Coshma . . .	Croom . . .	Croom . . .	II.	242
21, 22	Ballylusk . . .	142	3	26	Limerick . . .	Coshma . . .	Killanaban . . .	Croom . . .	II.	243
10, 15	Ballylusk . . .	732	3	32	Tipperary, N.R. . .	Lower Ormond . . .	Arderony . . .	Borrisokane . . .	II.	281
34, 62	Ballylusk . . .	345	3	23	Tipperary, S.R. . .	Middlethird . . .	Magowry . . .	Cashel . . .	II.	328
26	Ballylyman . . .	585	3	9	Queen's Co. . .	Ballyadams . . .	Killabban . . .	Athy . . .	I.	231
26	BALLYLYMAN T. . .	—	—	—	Queen's Co. . .	Ballyadams . . .	Killabban . . .	Athy . . .	I.	231
85	Ballylyncih . . .	314	2	35	Tipperary, S.R. . .	Iffa and Offa East . . .	Carrick . . .	Carrick on Suir . . .	II.	312

5 Townlands Index 1851

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

(See Examples of the mode of filling up this Table on the other side.)

No. ON FORM B. 5

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.

NAME and SURNAME	RELATION to Head of Family	ILLITERATE PROFESSION	EDUCATION	AGE	SEX	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION	MARRIAGE	WEDDING BOND	SPEAK LANGUAGE	If deaf and dumb, blind, idiotic or insane, or LUNATIC
1. <i>Thomas</i>	<i>Nephew</i>	<i>Domestic</i>	<i>Land Reel</i>	<i>62</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Farmer</i>	<i>married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
2. <i>Margaret</i>	<i>Wife</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>45</i>	<i>F</i>		<i>married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish</i>	
3. <i>David</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Farm Servant</i>	<i>not married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
4. <i>John</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Subsistence</i>	<i>not married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
5. <i>Mary</i>	<i>Sister</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Can't Write</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>Farm Servant</i>	<i>not married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
6. <i>Richard</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Can't Write</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Farm Servant</i>	<i>not married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
7. <i>William</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Can't Write</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>not married</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
8. <i>James</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Read</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>M</i>	<i>Scholar</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish English</i>	
9. <i>Ellen</i>	<i>Sister</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Can't Write</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>F</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish</i>	
10. <i>Joseph</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish</i>	
11. <i>Philip</i>	<i>Son</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>Do</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>M</i>		<i>Do</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Irish</i>	
12.										
13.										
14.										
15.										

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 62 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

E. Noble (Signature of Enumerator)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Thomas Murphy (Signature of Head of Family)
Richard

6 Murphy, Ballylusky, County Kerry, 1901 Census (courtesy of National Archives of Ireland)

18th Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of Kilmalkedar in the Registrar's District of Ventry
in the Union of Dingle in the County of Kerry

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
38	May 30 th	Thomas Murphy	offall	widow	Farmer	Ballylusky	Daniel Murphy	Farmer
	1876	Margaret Key	offall	Spinster	Straw	Ballyanem	Daniel Key	Labourer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Kilmalkedar according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,
William Egan P.P.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Thomas Murphy Minister } in the Presence of us, { John Moran }
{ Margaret Key Matron } { William Egan P.P. } { Patrick Malone }

4707/330

Superintendent Registrar's District Dingle Registrar's District Ventry

BIRTHS Registered in the District of Ventry in the Union of Dingle
in the County of Kerry

No. (1.)	Date and Place of Birth. (2.)	Name (if any). (3.)	Sex. (4.)	Name and Surname and Dwelling-place of Father. (5.)	Name and Surname and Maiden Surname of Mother. (6.)	Rank or Profession of Father. (7.)	Signature, Qualification, and Residence of Informant. (8.)	When Registered. (9.)	Signature of Registrar. (10.)	Optional Name if added after Registration of Birth and Death. (11.)
174	18 th October Ballylusky Kilmalkedar	John	M	Thomas Murphy Ballylusky Farmer	Margaret Murphy Key	Farmer	Thomas Murphy Father Ballylusky	October 18.81	Robert Hudson Registrar.	

7 Marriage registration of Thomas Murphy and Margaret Key (Kay), Kilmalkedar, County Kerry, 1876, and birth registration of John Murphy, Ballylusky, 1881 (courtesy of General Register Office)

PRIMARY VALUATION OF TENEMENTS.

77

PARISH OF DUNMANOGE.

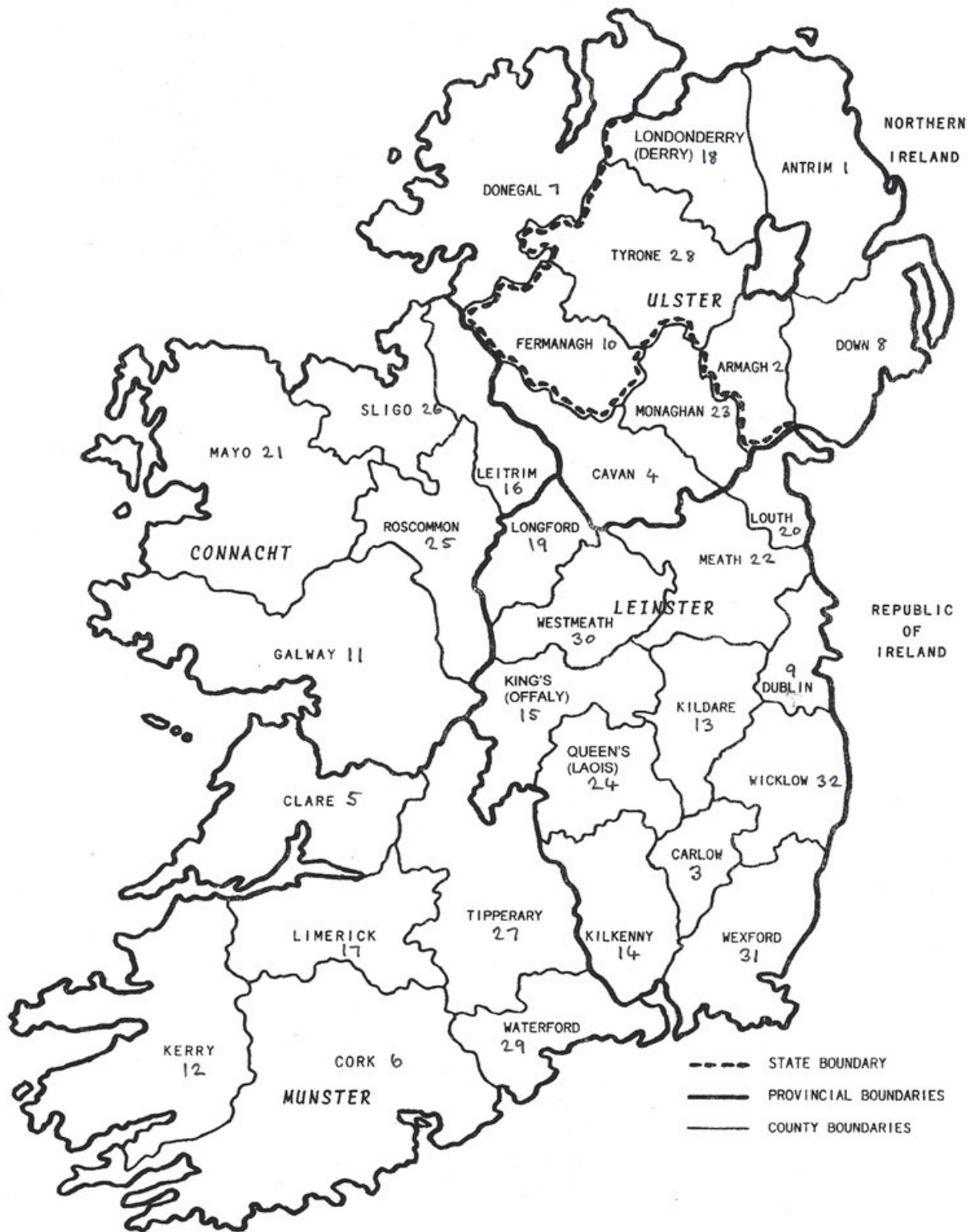
No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Name.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Net Assesd Value.			
	Tenements and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.	Total.	
CASTLEROE, WEST. (Ord. S. 31 & 32.)								
1	a	John Lyons, . . .	Anthony Keogh, . . .	Home, offices, and land,	142 2 8	91 0 0	2 0 0	93 0 0
—	b	John Huber, . . .	John Lyons, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	c	Patrick Carr, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
2		James Kelly, . . .	James Fitzgerald, . . .	House, office, and land,	2 1 8	1 5 0	0 10 0	1 15 0
3		James Fitzgerald, . . .	Duke of Leinster, . . .	Land, . . .	14 1 38	8 10 0	—	8 10 0
—	a	Bridget Donohy, . . .	James Fitzgerald, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	c	John McDonnell, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	d	Bridget Delany, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
4		James Reilly, . . .	Same, . . .	House, offices, and land,	5 0 39	3 0 0	0 10 0	3 10 0
5		James Reilly, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, . . .	2 1 28	1 10 0	—	2 0 0
—	3 b	William Mahon, . . .	Same, . . .	House and office, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 5 0
—	a	Anne Kelly, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
6	a	James Kelly, jun., . . .	Anne Kelly, . . .	House and land, . . .	5 0 0	3 0 0	0 10 0	3 10 0
—	b	Neale Flynn, . . .	James Fitzgerald, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	c	John Keogh, . . .	Anthony Keogh, . . .	House, office, and land,	229 0 0	150 0 0	14 10 0	164 10 0
7		Richard Lawler, . . .	Same, . . .	Ha., corn-mill, office, & land,	28 3 18	18 0 0	28 10 0	46 10 0
8		Patrick Carey, . . .	John Keogh, . . .	House, offices, and land,	4 3 38	3 10 0	0 10 0	4 0 0
9		James Byrne, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	2 10 0
10	a	Peter Timmins, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	6 0 10	2 0 0	0 10 0	2 10 0
—	b	Sylvester English, . . .	Same, . . .	House, office, and land,	1 2 34	1 5 0	1 15 0	3 0 0
11		Patrick English, . . .	Anthony Keogh, . . .	House, offices, and land,	3 0 22	2 5 0	1 10 0	3 15 0
12		Alicia Keogh, . . .	Duke of Leinster, . . .	Land, . . .	75 1 32	50 0 0	—	50 0 0
13								
Total, . . .					612 0 33	337 5 0	53 15 0	391 0 0
DUNMANOGE. (Ord. S. 33.)								
1	a	Edward Labor, . . .	Rev. Edward Pepper, . . .	Office and land, . . .	29 2 8	15 0 0	0 10 0	15 10 0
—	b	Patrick Rice, . . .	Edward Labor, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	c	Grave-yard, . . .	Rev. Edward Pepper, . . .	Grave-yard, . . .	0 2 23	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
2		Philip Kealy, . . .	John Curran, . . .	House, office, and land,	1 3 14	1 5 0	0 5 0	1 10 0
3		Michael Brouther, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, . . .	6 2 11	1 15 0	—	1 15 0
—	a	Catherine Byrne, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	2 0 0
—	b	Myles Quin, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	c	Bridget Murphy, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
4	a	John Curran, . . .	Duke of Leinster, . . .	House, offices, and land,	182 3 35	55 0 0	3 5 0	88 5 0
—	b	Martin Curran, . . .	John Curran, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 11 0
—	c	Garden, . . .	Same, . . .	Garden, . . .	0 0 12	0 1 0	—	0 6 0
—	d	William Keating, . . .	Same, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 18	0 1 0	0 5 0	0 1 0
—	e	James Delany, . . .	Same, . . .	Garden, . . .	0 0 15	0 1 0	—	0 5 0
—	f	James Murphy, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	g	Julia Brouther, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
—	h	John Quin, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
5	a	James Byrne, . . .	Duke of Leinster, . . .	Land, . . .	1 3 2	1 0 0	—	1 10 0
—	b	Duke of Leinster, . . .	In fee, . . .	Land, . . .	1 0 1	0 10 0	—	—
6	a	Duke of Leinster, . . .	In fee, . . .	Land, . . .	11 3 17	6 0 0	—	12 0 0
—	b	Duke of Leinster, . . .	In fee, . . .	Land, . . .	14 0 5	6 0 0	—	—
7	a b	G. S. & W. Railway Co. (Carlow branch), . . .	In fee, . . .	Railway (160 Ha. per.), . . .	3 1 36	—	—	4 10 0
8		Daniel Gabbaly, . . .	Duke of Leinster, . . .	House, offices, and land,	65 3 33	26 0 0	1 15 0	27 15 0
Total, . . .					318 3 27	144 18 0	8 5 0	167 13 0
EXEMPTIONS:								
Grave-yard, . . .					0 2 23	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
Total, exclusive of Exemptions, . . .					318 1 4	144 8 0	8 5 0	167 3 0
KNOCKROE. (Ord. S. 34.)								
1		Patrick English, . . .	Alicia Keogh, . . .	Land, . . .	3 1 35	2 0 0	—	2 0 0
2		Elixa Kelly, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	1 3 34	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 5 0
3		Francis Barrett, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	2 0 5	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 5 0
4		Patrick McDonnell, . . .	Same, . . .	Land, . . .	1 1 34	0 15 0	—	0 15 0
—	a	William Kelly, . . .	Same, . . .	House and small garden, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
5		Catherine Byrne, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	2 1 9	1 5 0	0 5 0	1 10 0
6		John Murphy, . . .	Same, . . .	House and land, . . .	1 3 8	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 5 0

X

8 William Keating, plot 4c, Griffith's Valuation, Dunmanoge, County Kildare, 1850



9 Two of the author's great-grandparents, John Moran and Mary Coghlan, with unidentified children, Ballylusky, County Kerry, c1930s/40s (courtesy of Peter and Kathleen Whitney, Massachusetts)



10 Map of Ireland (counties numbered in pre-1922 alphabetical order)

Appendix 1: Select Publications

- Begley, Donal F, Editor, *Irish Genealogy: a Record Finder*, Dublin 1981.
- Bell, Robert, *The Book of Ulster Surnames*, Belfast 1988.
- Census of Ireland, *General Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland . . . 1851*, Dublin 1861, (short title *Townlands Index 1851*), reprinted Baltimore 1984.
- Falley, Margaret D, *Irish and Scots-Irish Ancestral Research*, 2 volumes, Strasburg, Virginia, 1962, reprinted Baltimore 1981.
- Flanagan, Deirdre, and Laurence Flanagan, *Irish Place Names*, Dublin 1994.
- Grenham, John, *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, 5th Edition, Dublin 2019.
- Hanks, Patrick, and Flavia Hodges, *A Dictionary of Surnames*, Oxford 1989 Edition.
- Irish Genealogist*, 1, 1937-. journal of the Irish Genealogical Research Society.
- Irish Roots*, quarterly magazine, Cork 1992-.
- Joyce, P W, *Irish Names of Places*, 3 volumes, Dublin 1898-1913 and other editions.
- Lewis, Samuel, *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland*, 2 volumes, London 1837, and *Atlas of Ireland*, London 1837, reprinted Galway 1995.
- MacLysaght, Edward, *Irish Families*, Dublin 1985 Edition, *More Irish Families*, Dublin 1982, and *The Surnames of Ireland*, Dublin 1985 Edition.
- McGee, Frances, *The Archives of the Valuation of Ireland*, Dublin 2018
- Matheson, R E, *Surnames in Ireland*, 1901-09, reprinted Baltimore 1982.
- Mitchell, Brian, *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers*, Baltimore 1988.
- Moody, T W, and F X Martin, *The Course of Irish History*, Dublin 2001 Edition.
- Murphy, Sean J, 'A Survey of Irish Surnames 1992-97', <https://www.academia.edu/9204227>.
- Ó Corráin, Donnchadha, and Fidelma Maguire, *Irish Names*, Dublin 1990 Edition.
- Phillimore, W P W, and Gertrude Thrift, Editors, *Indexes to Irish [Diocesan] Wills*, 5 volumes, London 1909-20, reprinted Baltimore 1970.
- Ryan, J G, *Irish Records: Sources for Family and Local History*, 2nd Edition, Salt Lake City 1997.
- Same, Editor, *Irish Church Records*, Dublin 1992.
- Santry, Claire, *The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide*, Cincinnati, Ohio, 2017.
- Vicars, Sir Arthur, Editor, *Index to the Prerogative Wills of Ireland 1536-1810*, Dublin 1897.
- Woulfe, Rev Patrick, *Sloinne Gaedheal is Gall: Irish Names and Surnames*, Dublin 1923.

Appendix 2: Principal Repositories and Online Resources

- Accredited Genealogists Ireland (formerly Association of Professional Genealogists in Ireland), <http://accreditedgenealogists.ie>, lists members available for research.
- Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.co.uk/ireland>, commercial site providing access to a range of Irish records.
- Library Council of Ireland, <http://www.askaboutireland.ie>, providing free online access to various sources including Griffith's *Valuation*.
- Sean Murphy, The Irish Past, <https://www.sjbmurphy.com>, the author's website.
- Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, <http://blog.eogn.com>, standard free and plus subscription editions, genealogy news from around the world.
- FamilySearch, <https://familysearch.org/search>, free website of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), online access to international databases and digitised records, including Irish birth, marriage and death indexes.
- Findmypast, <http://www.findmypast.ie>, commercial site providing access to Griffith's *Valuation*, will indexes, directories, prison, court and other records.
- Genealogical Society of Ireland, <http://www.familyhistory.ie>, publishes a journal and a range of genealogical source materials.
- General Register Office, <http://www.groireland.ie>, minimal genealogical content and no online search facility (see Irish Genealogy below).
- Irish Ancestors, <https://www.johngrenham.com>, maintained by John Grenham, surnames search facilities, sources lists, with some free access.
- Irish Family History Foundation, <http://www.rootsireland.ie>, commercial site with indexes to Catholic parish registers for most counties and other material.
- Irish Genealogy, <http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>, government-sponsored website with indexes and digitised copies of some Catholic and Church of Ireland parish registers, as well as indexes of births, marriages and deaths.
- Irish Genealogy News, <http://www.irishgenealogynews.com>, maintained by Claire Santry, regularly updated genealogical news and events.
- Irish Roots Magazine, <http://www.irishrootsmedia.com>, published four times a year, contains article of interest and news updates.
- National Archives of Ireland, <http://www.nationalarchives.ie>, contains freely accessible digitised copies of the 1901 and 1911 Censuses and other records.
- National Library of Ireland, <http://www.nli.ie>, contains freely accessible digitised but unindexed Catholic parish registers and online searchable catalogues.
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, <http://www.proni.gov.uk>, contains freely accessible digitised copies of wills and directories and other material.
- Representative Church Body Library, <https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library>, holdings include Church of Ireland parish registers and other records.

Quiz

Test your knowledge of Irish genealogy by answering the following questions (answers on next page):

- 1 Were the public records of Ireland destroyed in the Custom House in 1921 or in the Four Courts in 1922?
- 2 Can an orally transmitted pedigree be accepted as true in the absence of documentation?
- 3 Is a birth registration a primary or a secondary source?
- 4 Is Murphy is a polygenetic or a monogenetic surname?
- 5 Is it true that every Irish surname relates to a clan, a chief and a family crest?
- 6 Is the earliest surviving full Irish census dated 1851 or 1901?
- 7 Did civil registration commence in Ireland in 1845 or 1864?
- 8 Are older Irish Catholic parish registers written partly in Gaelic or in Latin?
- 9 Does Griffith's *Valuation* document smaller tenants or are only larger landowners included?
- 10 Are old wills and deeds a useful genealogical source for all classes or only for wealthier families?

Answers

- 1 The public records of Ireland were destroyed in the Four Courts in 1922.
- 2 An orally transmitted pedigree cannot be accepted as true in the absence of documentation (but should be noted nonetheless).
- 3 A birth registration is a primary source.
- 4 Murphy is a polygenetic surname.
- 5 It is not true that every Irish surname relates to a clan, a chief and a family crest.
- 6 The earliest surviving full Irish census is dated 1901.
- 7 Civil registration commenced in Ireland in 1845 (recording of non-Catholic marriages).
- 8 Older Irish Catholic parish registers are written partly in Latin.
- 9 Griffith's *Valuation* documents smaller tenants as well as larger landowners.
- 10 Old wills and deeds are generally only a useful genealogical source for wealthier families.

8-10/10 - excellent 6-7/10 - very good 4-5/10 - fair 0-3/10 - back to Lesson 1!

A Primer in Irish Genealogy

This Primer is based on the introductory element of genealogy lectures formerly given in University College Dublin and currently in the National Library of Ireland and elsewhere. The work is offered both as a text for students and as a guide for those in this country and abroad who wish to trace their Irish ancestors. There are lessons in research methods, computers and the Internet, placenames, personal names and surnames. Guidance is given on the use of core sources including census, vital, valuation and church records, with some account of more specialised sources such as wills, deeds, memorial inscriptions and so on. The work concludes with a case study based on the writer's Murphy ancestors of County Kerry.

The front cover features a detail of the arched doorway of Kilmalkedar Chapel on the Dingle Peninsula, in whose graveyard the author's ancestors are buried.

**Centre for Irish Genealogical and Historical Studies
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