# SEARCHING IRISH RECORDS FOR YOUR ANCESTORS

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## Heritage Hunters of Saratoga County

http://www.saratoganygenweb.com/gwsarhh.html

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# Handouts are Online

- At [www.dennisAhogan.com](www.dennisAhogan.com), click on Lectures and Handouts tab
- Select a handout and save to your computer
  - The slides for this presentation is called "Course II – Slides")
  - A detailed handout is called "Course II – Searching Irish Records for your Ancestors")
- Then you can click on links to try out websites

# Before You Search Irish Records

- It's important to do your homework in US records BEFORE researching Irish records

- See [Course I – Searching US Records for Your Irish Ancestors](#)

# What's the problem with searching Irish records?

- Irish records usually require knowledge of specific geographic info for your family (County is NOT enough).
  - ➤ **Solution**: Use US records to discover specific geographic info for your family in Ireland
- All Irish families seem to use the same group of names for their children.
  - ➤ **Solution**: Use US records to develop a knowledge base of "identifiers" about your family and <u>especially your immigrant ancestor</u>.

# Traditional Irish Naming Pattern

- **Sons' Names**
  - ➤ First Son named after Paternal Grandfather
  - ➤ Second Son named after Maternal Grandfather
  - ➤ Third Son named after Father
  - ➤ Fourth Son named after Father's Oldest Brother
  - ➤ Fifth Son named after Mother's Oldest Brother
  - ➤ Sixth Son named after Father's Second Oldest Brother
- **Daughters' Names**
  - ➤ First Daughter named after Maternal Grandmother
  - ➤ Second Daughter named after Paternal Grandmother
  - ➤ Third Daughter named after Mother
  - ➤ Fourth Daughter named after Mother's Oldest Sister
  - ➤ Fifth Daughter named after Father's Oldest Sister
  - ➤ Sixth Daughter named after Mother's Second Oldest Sister

# Basic Name & Search Tips

- For O names & Mc/Mac names, search indexes with & without the prefix (& don't forget Ma forms, ex: Magory for McGory)
- Don't assume 1 spelling of names when searching records (use non-exact or wild cards when available)
  - ➤ O'Reilly, O'Riley, Reily, Riley, etc
- Inconsistent punctuation in indexes:
  - ➤ O'Flynn, OFlynn, O Flynn, O_Flynn, O.Flynn
  - ➤ McGrath, MacGrath, Mc Grath, M'Grath, Mgrath, Magrath

# Basic Name & Search Tips

- If you're using google to search on names, must use 3 forms of the name:

    "john hogan" OR "john * hogan"

    OR "hogan john"

- For Irish content, use google.ie instead of google.com

# Encouraging Signs on the Irish Genealogy Front

- Community initiatives to generate tourism. Ex: Limerick's largest cemetery online for free, http://mountsaintlawrence.limerick.ie/
- Ireland Reaching Out, www.irelandxo.com
- Possible early release of 1926 Census

# Searching Irish records when you're in Ireland

- Free Genealogy Advisory Services
  - The National Library of Ireland (Kildare Street, Dublin) http://www.nli.ie/en/genealogy-advisory-service.aspx
  - The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin) http://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/service.html
- EPIC Ireland/Irish Family History Centre (Custom House Quay, Dublin) (€9.50) includes a 15 minute consultation with an expert.
  http://epicirelandchq.com/irish-family-history-centre/
- Public Record Office Northern Ireland, PRONI (Titanic Boulevard, Belfast) http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/new_to_archives.htm

# Irish Records Destroyed

- **During the 1922 Civil War, the Public Record Office in Dublin was destroyed. Records lost:**
  - Pre-1858 wills and administrations (most did not have wills) Copies of some of these wills exist as well as indexes.
  - 1821 to 1851 census records (1861 - 1891 were later "pulped")
  - About half of the Church of Ireland parish registers (Church of Ireland represented about 10% of the population)

# Books for Irish Genealogy

- These books are sometimes cited as go to resources for Irish research.
  - ➢ **Mitchell**, Brian. *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986). Probably the best aid to sorting out Administrative Division issues - includes maps.
  - ➢ **Grenham**, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide* (4th ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, Ltd., 2012). Significant free content is available at https://www.johngrenham.com/
  - ➢ **Ryan**, James G. *Irish Records: Sources for Family & Local History* (rev. ed. Salt Lake City, Utah; Ancestry, 1997).

# Administrative Divisions & Place Names

- ([http://www.irish-place-names.com/](http://www.irish-place-names.com/))
- **Province** (4) - Connaught, Leinster, Munster, Ulster
- **County** (32)
  - ➢ Connaught - Galway, Leitrim, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo
  - ➢ Leinster - Carlow, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Leix (Queens), Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly (Kings), Westmeath, Wexford, Wicklow
  - ➢ Munster - Clare, Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Tipperary, Waterford
  - ➢ Ulster – Antrim(NI), Armagh(NI), Cavan, Donegal, Down(NI), Fermanagh(NI), Londonderry(NI), Monaghan,  Tyrone(NI)

# Administrative Divisions & Place Names

- **Barony** (270) - collection of civil parishes (or parts) http://www.seanruad.com/ for baronies within counties

- **Civil Parish** (2,508 - these are not church parishes) - Repositories often catalogued by civil parish https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php or http://www.seanruad.com/ for parishes within counties

- **Townland** (~64,000) - Smallest official geographic unit, but doesn't have it's own government. Townland indexes: http://www.seanruad.com/ or http://www.searchforancestors.com/locality/ireland/townlands.html

# Administrative Divisions & Place Names

- **Poor Law Union** (163) - Poor Law Act of 1838, unions of townlands responsible for poor.  Each had a workhouse.  For PLUs within counties http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Irish_Poor_Law_Unions

- **Superintendent Registrar's Districts** (245) – used in Civil Registration Indexes http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa/irishregnc.html for districts within counties

- **District Electoral Division** (3,751) - a division of the Poor Law Union, important when using Griffith's Valuation. DEDs within counties

# Census Remnants

- **1821** Census remnants & abstracts (FHC) - parts of Cavan, Galway, Offaly, Meath, Fermanagh, Waterford, Kilkenny
- **1821** Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)
- **1831** Census remnants & abstracts (FHC) - parts of Londonderry and Dublin
- **1841** Census remnants & abstracts (FHC) - parts of Cavan, Kilkenny, Cork
- **1841** Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)
- **1851** Census remnants & abstracts (FHC) - parts of Antrim and Kilkenny
- **1851** Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)
- **Complete 1901 & 1911** Census at http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie

# Census Substitutes

- Irish Records Extraction Database (**1600-1874)** 100,000 name database of Irish vital records ancestry.com
- **1766** Religious Census (FHC)
- **1796** Spinning Wheel Survey (also known as Irish Flax Growers List, 1796) http://www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php
- Royal Irish Constabulary **1816-1921** was staffed mainly by Irish-born men.  ancestry.com
- **1831** Tithe Defaulters, http://www.irishorigins.com (fee)
- William Smith O'Brien Petition (**1848-1849**)  80,000 names including addresses and sometimes occupations.  Available at http://www.irishorigins.com (fee)
- **1912** Ulster Covenant at http://www.proni.gov.uk/
- *Register of Irish Census and Census Substitutes* — FHC

# Census Substitutes - Griffith

- Tithe Applotment Composition Books **(1823-1837)**, Index and images free at National Archives, http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie and Family Search, https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1804886

- Ireland Valuation Office Books **(1824-1856)**, Index and images free forever at

http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-valuation-office-books

- Valuers' Notebooks (**1840-1847**), Images (not yet indexed) available at https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/1149346 but must be used at a Family History Center.

# Census Substitutes - Griffith

- Griffith's Primary Valuation (**1844-1864**), http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/ **&** http://www.findmypast.com (fee) & ancestry.com

- Valuation Office Revision Books or Cancelled Books (**1860s - present**), Images for Northern Ireland counties are free at http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/val12b.htm Microfilm available via FHC for remainder of Ireland.

- Reilly, James R. *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000).

- For more info on Griffith's see my website

# Census Substitutes - Other

- Census searches for old pension applications.  Old age pensions began in 1908.  People could request searches of the then surviving 1841 & 1851 censuses.  Census Search Forms or Form 37s.
  - ➢ Records  for Northern Ireland & County Donegal at http://www.ireland-genealogy.com/ & www.emeraldancestors.com (both search free, $ for details)
  - ➢ Records for all of Ireland at the National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin). Now online free at http://censussearchforms.nationalarchives.ie/search/cs/home.jsp & https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2346275

# Civil Registrations

- Civil Registrations (bmd), non-Catholic marriages start 1845, all bmd 1864

- Search FREE at: https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1408347 (index only) and

http://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp (index & images)

- To order certificates for Republic of Ireland and all of Ireland prior to 1922: http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/General-Register-Office.aspx or http://www.certificates.ie

# Civil Registrations

- Search civil registrations (bmd) for Northern Ireland (from 1922) FREE at: https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/ ($ to see content) and http://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp (index, some NI images not available)
- To order certificates for Northern Ireland:

  http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro

# Church Records

- See the Ryan, Grenham, and Mitchell books
- Rural Catholic records begin ~1820, while some urban records begin ~1760.
- Catholic records in Latin - see Latin resources under Course I & http://www.dennisAhogan.com/files/IrishGivenNames.pdf
- Church of Ireland records may include all denominations.
- UK & Ireland Records Collection, Parish and Probate Records, 15 million names covering 1538 - 1837, at www.ancestry.com
- Heritage Centres have indexes of church records for their county – mostly Catholic. **Several Centres offer free searches of their databases**. See file at http://www.dennisahogan.com/lecturesandhandouts.cfm
- Church sources by county at https://www.johngrenham.com/browse/#Church
- Annual Irish Catholic Directory lists dioceses, parishes, churches including historic & current parish names. Published annually since 1835 - several past directories can be found on Google Books. For current info, http://www.catholicireland.net/church-in-ireland/dioceses

# Cemetery Records

- Often great info on tombstones, however many did not have stones.
- Most cemeteries did not have records, but the church may some
- Burial records for Limerick's largest cemetery are free online, http://limerick.ie/Archives/MountStLawrenceBurialGroundRegisters1855-2008/
- Church of Ireland cemeteries had all denominations.
- Sometimes immigrant children sent money home to erect tombstones for family members (and the stone may indicate where the immigrant was living).
- Memorials of the Dead, 70,000 tombstone transcriptions for 1500s-1800s, $, http://www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk/MEMS.HTM

# Land Records

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1824-1846). Survey commissioned as preparation for Griffith's Valuation. The original maps are at the Trinity Map Library, Trinity College, Dublin. Microfiche is available from FHC.  Copies available at http://www.osi.ie/ ($)

- Memoirs recorded during Ordnance Survey of Ireland (only Northern counties).  Published as a 40 volume set by the Institute of Irish Studies at Queen's University of Belfast. http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~bifhsusa/osmemoirs.html

- Valuation Maps at the Valuation Office in Dublin. During Griffith's Valuation, plot numbers were added to the ordnance survey maps yielding the Valuation Maps.

- Finding your ancestor in Griffith's Valuation yields a townland and plot number which can be used to find your ancestor's plot in the Valuation Maps.

- Features on these maps include: cemeteries, police stations, mills, church, church ruins, castles

- Registry of Deeds (from 1708), http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~registryofdeeds/

# Other Resources

- See the detailed handout for other resources, "Course II – Searching Irish Records for your Ancestors"
  - ➢ Newspapers, Obituaries
  - ➢ Wills
  - ➢ Estate Records
  - ➢ Military & Police
  - ➢ Emigration Records
  - ➢ Directories
  - ➢ British Records
  - ➢ Others

# You CAN do it!