Irish Genealogy

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http://buffalofamilyhistory.org/

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Handouts are Online

- At www.dennisAhogan.com, click on Lectures and Handouts tab

- Select a handout and save to your computer, then you can click on links to try out websites

- The detailed handouts are:
  - "Course I – Searching US Records for your Irish Ancestors"
  - "Course II – Searching Irish Records for your Ancestors"

Searching US Records

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

What's the problem with <u>searching Irish records?</u>

- 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 Soundex, non-exact or wild cards when available)
  - ➤ O'Reilly, O'Riley, Reily, Riley, etc
  - ➤ O640,   O640,   R400, R400 (Soundex codes)

- 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

- Don't assume 1 given name is used in all records (nicknames/synonyms, middle names)
- Nicknames/synonyms: BJ, Delia or Biddy for Bridget
- "Mc is Irish, Mac is Scottish" - Wrong! Mc & Mac are legitimate prefixes for both Irish & Scottish.
- For females, do a separate search with maiden name and with all married names.

Basic Name & Search Tips

- Alternate Forms for Given Names (another file on my website), examples:
  - Abbreviation, Jno.
  - Nickname, Nabby
  - Synonym, Delia
  - Irish, Moira
  - Latin, Ioannes

US Research Goal

- To be in a position to identify the correct family in Ireland, you need to find some of the following in US Resources:

  - Location in Ireland (County usually not enough) or…

  - At least 1 sibling of the immigrant or…

  - Immigrant's father's name and/or mother's maiden name or…

  - Sponsors for Baptisms for all children of the immigrant (siblings of the immigrant?)

US Census
(at most indicates country or state of birth)

- Every 10 years, 1790-1940 currently available, 1890 mostly destroyed
- Heritage Quest, free from home with a library card from participating libraries (now uses Ancestry index & images).
- Ancestry.com, free at participating public libraries. Ancestry.com & others, free at Family History Centers, see locations at www.familysearch.org/locations
- FamilySearch, free www.familysearch.org
- Course I has charts detailing features and availability by year

State Census
(at most indicates country or county of birth)

- **New York State Census**
  - ➤ **New York State** census in 1825, 1835, 1845, 1855, 1865(***), 1875(***), **1892**(**,***), 1905(**,***), 1915(**), 1925 **Ancestry.com, ***FamilySearch.org
  - ➤ 1855, 1865 and 1875 have "better" info than the US 1850, 1860, and 1870.
  - ➤ Course I has charts detailing features and availability by year
  - ➤ Family Search Research Wiki New York Census, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/New_York_Census
  - ➤ When researching other states, check for state census or substitutes: http://www.censusfinder.com/

Census Inventory

KEEGAN		1st	Michael	Mary	Mary	Joseph
		middle		Ann	Ann	
		(maiden)		(Fay)	(Keegan)	
		surname	Keegan	Keegan	Meal	Keegan
		birth	bCa1843	bCa 1849 IRL	bCa 1876	bCa1880 US
		marriage	m1868 Scot	m1868 Scot	mCa ?	
	Official	death	d1878-1884US	d1921 AmerNY	d?	dCa1915US
Census:	Date:	Source:				
1940 US	1-Apr	FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1930 US	1-Apr	FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1925 NY	1-Jun	ANY/FS/A	deceased	deceased		deceased
1920 US	1-Jan	HQ/FS/A	deceased			deceased
1915 NY	1-Jun	ANY/FS/A	deceased			
1910 US	15-Apr	HQ/FS/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY		AmsterdamNY
1905 NY	1-Jun	FS/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY	NF NYS	AmsterdamNY
1900 US	1-Jun	FS/HQ/A	deceased	AmsterdamNY	NF NYS	NF NYS
1892 NY	16-Feb	FS/ANY/A	deceased	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS
1890 SUB	2-Jun	HQ/FS/A	deceased			
1890 VET	2-Jun	FS/A	deceased			
1890 Police	NYC only	FHC	deceased			
1880 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS	NF NYS
1880 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	ANY/A				
1875 NY	1-Jun	FS				
1870 US	1-Jun	HQ/FS/A				
1870 Mort/Ag/Mfg	1-Jun	ANY/A				

Vital Records (birth/marriage/death)
(includes birthplace, parents' names)

- Not universally kept until about 1890, varies by state

- New York required bmd in 1881, but some areas started earlier.

- NYS Vital Records Index is available at the major city libraries. Does NOT include 5 boroughs of NYC nor Buffalo & Albany before 1915.

  - The Death subset of this index is available for free at the Internet Archive at https://archive.org/details/nydeathindex?sort=titleSorter

  - The Birth subset of this index is available for free at the Internet Archive at https://archive.org/details/nybirthindex?sort=titleSorter

  - The Marriage subset of this index is available at ancestry.com ($) At some time in the future it will be available for free at the Internet Archive.

Vital Records Cont'd

- The fastest way to procure a civil registration certificate is to visit the City Hall or Town/County Clerk at the location where the certificate was issued.

- For local transcriptions of bmd events: www.usgenweb.com

- To order New York State certificates: http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/genealogy.htm

- To order Vital Records in the US: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm or www.vitalrec.com.

Church Records
(usually no Irish birthplace info)

- Excellent vital records substitute – may be found 50 to 100 years prior to civil vital record registration.

- Baptisms, marriages, funerals; also sometimes first communion, confirmation, cemetery

- **Pay attention to witnesses & godparents - probably close relatives or friends from Ireland.**

- Catholic Diocese of Rochester: LDS microfilmed every parish from its origin to about 1905. Copy is available Westfall Rd FHC and Local History Room/Central Library/Rochester. Buffalo see Erie County Church Recs

- These Catholic records are in Latin but decipherable (see Latin aids on Resources page of Course I).

Tombstones, Cemetery Records
(sometimes Irish county, parish or townland)

- **Immigrant tombstones often include their Irish county and sometimes a parish or townland, as well as dates & relationships**
- Cemetery records may include birthplace in Ireland as well as next of kin and lot purchaser
- Death Certificates identify the cemetery and possibly birthplace and/or parents of the deceased
- Funeral Homes can be a good source of copies of death certificates and other information
- See FHC, also www.findagrave.com, www.billiongraves.com, www.interment.net, http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov (veterans)

US Social Security Death Index (SSDI)

- SSDI includes SS#, given name, surname, birth & death dates, last known address for those who died 1962 or later.

- Free access available at https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1202535 and NEHGS.

- Using info from the index, you can order a photocopy of the SS application form (SS-5) which includes address, birth place, father's full name, mother's full name with maiden name.

- SS-5 applications were submitted beginning in 1936. If you believe your subject completed a SS-5, you can request a copy even if you don't find your subject in the SSDI. Use Form SSA-711 but don't select "Computer Extract" (subset only).

Military Records
(pension application & draft registration contain
<u>detailed info, including birthplace)</u>

- **Your immigrant ancestor did not serve? Pension records for his siblings/cousins could yield valuable clues.**

- 1840, 1910, 1930 census include indication of service as well as the 1865 NY census. Also 1890 Veterans (& Widows) schedule in ancestry.com.

- Pensions records for Rev War/1812/Civil, National Archives has microfilms & indexes. <u>familysearch.org</u> has Civil War Pension index. Fold3.com & Ancestry.com.

- <u>How to order Older (pre-WWI) Military Service or Pension Records</u>

- <u>How to order Post-WWI Military Service or Pension Records</u>

- WWI Draft Registration of 1917-18. 24 million men registered - almost all born between 11 Sep 1872 *&* 12 Sep 1900.

  - Some include birthplace/half include address of next of kin. Familysearch.org. Some of these are hard to read. The <u>Southeast NARA Branch</u> has a service that provides high quality digital copies for $5.

Newspapers
(<u>anniversary & death notices may include birthplace</u>)

- Birth, Wedding & Death notices as well as Anniversary notices, like 25th and 50th

- "Fulton History" site, great collection of old New York State newspapers and photographs. http://www.fultonhistory.com/

- NYS Historic Newspapers at http://nyshistoricnewspapers.org/

- New York State Newspapers, http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/

- Rochester Newspaper Index, 1818-1897 at http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=963

- Digital Newspaper Gateway of Monroe County Library at http://www3.libraryweb.org/lh.aspx?id=1360

- Rochester Catholic Journal/Courier (1889-2004) plus other WNY papers at http://www.catholiccourier.com/archive-search/

- Boston Pilot (1831-1921) had regular columns with Missing Friends ads. This is a country-wide resource, not just for Boston.

  - Extracts available at free web site, http://infowanted.bc.edu

  - Complete transcriptions are at www.americanancestors.org ($)

Naturalization Records
(some include county, parish or townland of origin)

- US naturalization process began in 1795, Declaration of Intention (1st papers), Petition for Naturalization (final papers)/Certificate of Naturalization

- 1870, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 US census indicates naturalization status. 1920 includes year of naturalization. All New York State census indicate naturalization status. The 1915 & 1925 NYS census include year & place of naturalization.

- **The steps (papers) could be recorded in different localities**

- No central repository prior to 1906. Since 1906, forms are standardized and records are held by Immigration & Naturalization Services (INS)

- Some indexes, see FHC, National Archives and the Szucs book. Also http://www.germanroots.com/naturalization.html

Immigration Records
(prior to late 1800's, no "last residence" or birthplace)

- 1890, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 US census includes year of immigration. The 1905, 1915, and 1925 New York State census includes the number of years in the US.

- US government began keeping arrival lists about 1820 but usually only port of origination

- In late 1800's began including last residence, from 1906 includes Town of Birth.

- Famine Irish Data Files, 600,000+ immigrants between 1846 and 1851. US National Archives site at www.archives.gov/aad Some records include "last residence."

- www.castlegarden.org Database of 10 million immigrants who passed through New York City immigration centers between ~1820 and 1892.

- www.ellisisland.org Database of 17 million immigrants and 5 million crew members who passed through Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924.

- Passenger lists are available through the FHC and National Archives as well as www.immigrantships.net, www.theshipslist.com, ancestry.com

- ancestry.com has the "U.S. Immigration Collection" including NY Emigrant Bank, 1850-1883. See Bank User's Guide.

Other US Sources

- **City Directories** (probably no birthplace, but excellent "census substitute")
- **Family Bible** (may include birthplaces)
- **Court, Land, Probate** (may include clues to Irish birthplaces)

Other US Sources

Offline Resources (may include birthplaces)
In the area where your ancestors lived, there may be a goldmine of information about your family which has not yet been digitized and made available online. Check out historical societies, genealogical societies, local history sections of libraries, and county and city archives in the locality that you are researching.

Irish Records

- **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 "pulped")

  ➤ About half of the Church of Ireland parish registers (Church of Ireland represented about 10% of the population)

Searching Irish records when you're in Ireland

- Free Genealogy Advisory Service
  - 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
- Public Record Office Northern Ireland, PRONI (Titanic Boulevard, Belfast) http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/new_to_archives.htm
- When visiting your ancestral area, visit local historians, libraries, post offices, and pubs

Books for Research

- Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide,* 4th ed. Dublin: Gill and Macmillan, Ltd., 2012.

    - Much of Grenham's content is available for free at https://www.johngrenham.com/

- Ryan, James G. *Irish Records: Sources for Family & Local History*, rev. ed. Salt Lake City, Utah: Ancestry, 1997.

- Mitchell, Brian. *A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland*, 2nd ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002.

Administrative Divisions & Place Names

- (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) www.thecore.com/seanruad for baronies within counties
- **Civil Parish** (2,508 - these are not church parishes) - Repositories often catalogued by civil parish **https://www.johngrenham.com/browse/** or www.thecore.com/seanruad for parishes within counties
- **Townland** (~64,000) - Smallest official geographic unit, but doesn't have it's own government. Townland indexes: www.thecore.com/seanruad

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 - parts of Cavan, Galway, Offaly, Meath, Fermanagh, Waterford, Kilkenny www.familysearch.org

- **1821** Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)

- **1831** Census remnants & abstracts - parts of Londonderry and Dublin www.familysearch.org

- **1841** Census remnants & abstracts - parts of Cavan, Kilkenny, Cork www.familysearch.org

- **1841** Thrift's Census Abstracts (FHC)

- **1851** Census remnants & abstracts - parts of Antrim and Kilkenny www.familysearch.org

- **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 **(1823-1838),** ancestry.com
- Valuers' Notebooks (**1840-1847**), FHC
- Griffith's Primary Valuation (**1844-1864**), http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/ & http://www.findmypast.ie/ (fee) & ancestry.com
- Valuation Office Revision Books or Cancelled Books (**1860s - present**), FHC
- Reilly, James R. *Richard Griffith and His Valuations of Ireland.* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000).

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) free at www.nationalarchives.ie & www.familysearch.org

Civil Registrations

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

- **To search index for births & marriage:**
  https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-civil-birth-registers-index

    (replace "birth" with "marriage" to search marriages)

- See Course II for more details.

Church Records

- Rural Catholic records begin ~1820, urban records begin ~1760.

- Church of Ireland records may include all denominations.

- 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

- **http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland -roman-catholic-parish-baptisms**
  For marriages or burials: substitute *marriages* or *burials* for *baptisms* in the above link. These records are free forever.

- 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

- 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

- FHC has some records.

Land Records

- Ordnance Survey of Ireland (1824-1846). Survey commissioned as preparation for Griffith's Valuation. 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

- 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.

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

Other Sources

- Wills
- Estate Records
- Military & Police
- Emigration
- Directories

Irish in British Records

Since Ireland was part of the United Kingdom until 1922, British repositories and websites often include Irish info. Many Irish lived in England or other parts of UK at some point.

- Civil Registrations
- Census
- Church Records
- Other British sources

You CAN do it!