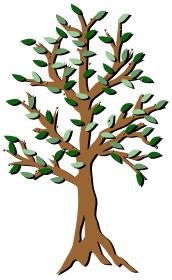

Your Family Tree: 1

HOW TO TRACE YOUR FAMILY TREE

GETTING STARTED

Do your homework!

- **Start with what you know** and work backwards. Note basic facts such as when and where you, your parents and grandparents were born.

- **Talk to family and friends** as they will remember useful snippets of information. Make a note of what each person tells you as accounts may differ. You can refer to your notes to verify your research and fill in gaps.

- **Look for other sources at home:** Family Bibles may contain details of births, marriages and deaths. Look on the back of old photographs for names, dates and places. Many people keep certificates, news-cuttings and other mementoes to remind them of significant events. Think where you keep these things and check attics, wardrobes, old shoeboxes, etc.

- **Check family gravestone inscriptions** for names and vital dates – your local council may have access to a searchable database.

- **Gather the paperwork**, eg, birth, death and marriage certificates. Civil certificates can be obtained from the General Register Office. .

Key information is:

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

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- **Dates**: dates of significant events, eg, birth, marriage, death. Date of emigration, if relevant, is helpful.

- **Places** – the area your family came from is very important, a place name is vital to locate records such as church registers. Note references to townland names, parishes and counties.

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

Visit our website at to access the PRONI eCatalogue.

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

PRONI eCatalogue	Online Databases

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FIRST STEPS IN PRONI

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What if I Cannot Come to PRONI

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

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

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

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2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ
Tel: (028) 9053 4800 Fax: (028) 9053 4900
Web-site: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni
e-mail: proni@communities-ni.gov.uk

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Your Family Tree: 2

1901 and 1911 CENSUS

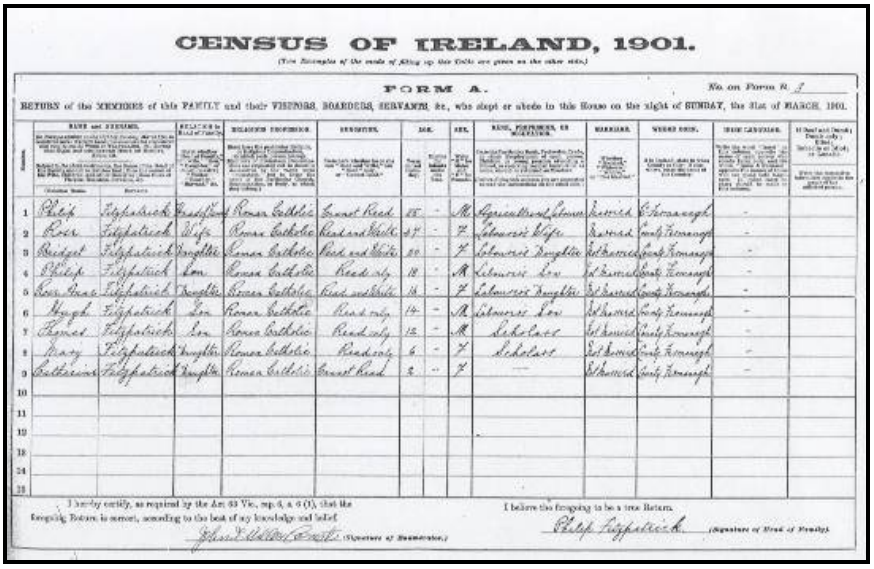
1901 is the earliest and most complete surviving census of Ireland. 1901 and 1911 census records have been digitised by The National Archives of Ireland (custodians of the original census forms) and are freely available on-line at www.nationalarchives.ie

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

What is recorded?

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

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


CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.

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.

1	Philip	Fitzpatrick	Head of Family	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	55	-	M	Agricultural Labourer	Married	C. Fermanagh	-	
2	Rose	Fitzpatrick	Wife	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	47	-	F	Labourer's Wife	Married	County Fermanagh	-	
3	Bridget	Fitzpatrick	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	20	-	F	Labourer's Daughter	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
4	Philip	Fitzpatrick	Son	Roman Catholic	Read only	18	-	M	Labourer's Son	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
5	Rose Anne	Fitzpatrick	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read and Write	16	-	F	Labourer's Daughter	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
6	Hugh	Fitzpatrick	Son	Roman Catholic	Read only	14	-	M	Labourer's Son	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
7	Thomas	Fitzpatrick	Son	Roman Catholic	Read only	12	-	M	Scholars	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
8	Mary	Fitzpatrick	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Read only	6	-	F	Scholars	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
9	Catherine	Fitzpatrick	Daughter	Roman Catholic	Cannot Read	2	-	F	—	Not Married	County Fermanagh	-	
10													
11													
12													
13													
14													
15													

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

Philip Fitzpatrick (Signature of Head of Family).

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

Using the Census

The returns for each townland or street are:

- **Form A –** filled in by the head of each household, giving the names of all people in that household on census night and their age, occupation, religion and place of birth. There should be a separate form for each household.

- **Forms N, B1** and **B2** were filled in by the official taking the census, summarising the returns for each townland or street.

- **Form N** is the enumerator's abstract for a townland or street;
- **Form B1** summarises the houses and buildings;
- **Form B2** is a summary of the outhouses and farmsteads;
- **Form B3** is a shipping return.
- **Forms C** is a return of the sick at their own homes
- **Form D** is a return of lunatics not in institutions

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

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

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Missing Townlands/Streets

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

Census on Microfilm

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

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

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Your Family Tree: 3

CHURCH RECORDS

(*All church records on microfilm are available in the Self Service Microfilm Reading Room*)

Church records are of particular value to anyone interested in tracing their family tree as they usually contain the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, many of which pre-date civil registration (see ***General Register Office*** leaflet). Communion rolls, vestry minutes, account books, etc. can be equally useful, especially as they often pre-date the registers. Most of the Church records are on microfilm (PRONI reference **MIC**), available in the Self Service Microfilm Reading Room. Others, however, are not available on microfilm (usually those with the **CR** reference) and these can be ordered via the computer terminals in the Search Room and consulted in the Main Reading Room. In many cases only those Church records pre-dating 1900 have been copied or deposited.

The ***Guide to Church Records*** is an easy way to identify what churches are in a parish, what records exist for each church, the covering dates for each series of records and what the PRONI reference number is. Normally, there will be churches relating to more than one denomination in each parish and these can be identified in the Guide in alphabetical order by the following codes:

B. = Baptist Church
C.I. = Church of Ireland
MOR. = Moravian Church
P. = Presbyterian Church
R.P. = Reformed Presbyterian Church
C. = Congregational Church
M. = Methodist Church
N.S.P. = Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church
R.C. = Roman Catholic Church
R.S.F. = Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Problems: There are, however, a number of problems associated with church records. For example, there can be gaps in the record where the registers did not survive or where the ink is so badly faded that the entries are impossible to read. Due to certain laws peculiar to Ireland, several denominations have no records pre-dating 1800. Changes in church or parish structure have resulted in some churches changing name – or even parish – thereby making it difficult to trace the records. Where

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records have neither been copied by, nor deposited in, PRONI, but remain in local custody (that is, held by the church), this is indicated in our ***Guide to Church Records*** (available on the Public Search Room shelves). If you wish to consult these records, you will have to make an application to the person in charge of the church.

Church of Ireland: The Church of Ireland was the Established Church in Ireland until disestablishment in 1871. Their baptism and burial records up to that date, and marriage registers before 1845, are public records and, as such, individual pages can be copied. Registers after that date, and all other types of records, remain the property of the Representative Church Body (**RCB**) and, while copies can be made of individual pages, complete reels of microfilm or entire volumes cannot be copied under any circumstances. Church of Ireland baptism records will often record the child's name and the father's full name as well as the mother's maiden name. The majority of Church of Ireland clergymen also recorded burials as well as baptisms and marriages. Burial registers usually give the name and date of burial, the residence (normally only the townland) and the age of the deceased.

It is important to note that Church of Ireland registers often include local families of different denominations. PRONI also holds records for some churches in Cos Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan. (PRONI ref **MIC/1/** and **CR/1**)

Roman Catholic Church: Roman Catholic registers do not start until the 1820s. Indeed many start much later than this. The registers are almost entirely of baptisms and marriages and those on microfilm relate to churches both within Northern Ireland and most of those in Cos Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan but only up to 1880. Roman Catholic baptism records usually include the date of baptism, the child's name, the father's name in full, the mother's maiden name, the name of any godparents and the residence of the parents. Although some death or funeral entries do occur, these generally only record the name of the deceased and the date of death. As some of the entries in these registers are written in Latin, a separate leaflet on Latin terminology used in Roman Catholic Church registers is available in the Self-Service Microfilm Reading Room. Permission to copy must be obtained from the individual church (PRONI ref **MIC/1D/** and **CR/2**)

Presbyterian Church: Presbyterianism came to Ulster from Scotland in the 17th century but, like the Roman Catholics, Presbyterians were restricted by law from fully practising their religion. This religious and civil persecution meant that some early baptisms, marriages and burials of Presbyterians will be found in the registers of the Church of Ireland, a practice that continued well into the 18th century. Burial registers for Presbyterian churches are uncommon as there were few Presbyterian burial grounds. Most records date from the early 19th century and those copied by PRONI cover most of the churches in Northern Ireland and in Cos Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan. Individual pages in registers of baptisms, marriages and burials can

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be copied but permission must be obtained from the individual Presbyterian church to get a copy of a complete reel of microfilm or an entire volume or to copy any record other than baptisms, marriages and burials that is less than 50 years old. (PRONI ref **MIC/1P/** and **CR/3**)

Methodist: Methodism, as a separate denomination, did not emerge until 1816. The earliest baptism registers, therefore, date from then although the majority do not begin until the 1830s. Marriages registers generally only start in 1845. An important record is **MIC/429/1**. This is a microfilm copy of a large volume of baptism entries dating from 1815 to 1840 for Methodist churches throughout Ireland. This may have been an attempt to compile a central register of baptisms and, although incomplete, the baptisms recorded often pre-date existing individual church baptism registers. There are few Methodist burial registers because most Methodist churches did not have their own burial grounds. Permission to copy must be obtained from the individual Methodist Church. (PRONI ref **MIC/1E/** and **CR/6**)

Baptist Church: There are few records before 1900. The earliest begin in the 1860s and consist of marriages and minute books. As the Baptist Church does not practice infant baptism, there are no infant baptism registers but details of those who came into membership of the church are be found in the minute books. The Baptist Church doesn't have separate burial grounds so there are no burial registers. The documentary record is, therefore, relatively scanty, and what exists is held mainly by the individual churches or by the Baptist Union of Ireland in Belfast, although PRONI has copied the records of Coleraine Baptist Church. Permission to copy must be obtained from the individual Baptist Church. (PRONI ref **MIC/1H/)**

Other Denominations: Although PRONI holds records relating to other denominations, the quantity and quality vary depending on the particular church:

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) records are excellent and in most instances are continuous from the late 17th century. PRONI has copied those of the Meeting Houses at Lisburn, Lurgan, Ballyhagen, Richhill, Grange, Charlemont and Cootehill. Permission from the Society to copy is only necessary for records that are less than 50 years old. (See **MIC/16** and **CR/8**)

Moravian Church records copied by PRONI include those of congregations at Gracehill, Kilwarlin, Ballinderry, Belfast and Dublin, most dating back to the mid-18th century. Permission to copy must be obtained from the Moravian Church. (PRONI ref **MIC/1F** and **CR/9**)

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Congregational Church records date mainly from the 1880s, though there are a few earlier than this, and consist of baptism and marriage registers and minute books for churches in Northern Ireland and in Dublin. Permission to copy must be obtained from the individual Congregational Church. (PRONI ref **MIC/1G** and **CR/7)**

Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church records include one of the earliest session minute books, that of Templepatrick, dating from 1646, and PRONI has copied other records. Permission to copy must be obtained from the individual Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church. (PRONI ref **MIC/IB** and **CR/4**)

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Your Family Tree: 4

VALUATION RECORDS

INTRODUCTION

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

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

THE TOWNLAND VALUATION (VAL/1B)

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

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

GRIFFITH'S VALUATION (VAL/2B)

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

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

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

ANNUAL REVISION LISTS (VAL/12/B)

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

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USING THE VALUATION RECORDS

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

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

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Your Family Tree: 5

CENSUS RECORDS
Nineteenth Century

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

1821

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

1831

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

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

1841

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

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

1851

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

1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891

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

Indexes

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

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Your Family Tree: 6

CENSUS SUBSTITUTES
Eighteenth and Nineteenth Century

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

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

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

Co. Armagh: Derrynoose, Mullaghbrack, Shankill and Tynan

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

Co. Down: Kilbroney and Seapatrick.

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

Co. Tyrone: Derryloran and Kildress.

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1766

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

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

Co. Armagh: Creggan.

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

Co. Down: Inch, Kilbroney and Seapatrick

Co. Donegal: Leck

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

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

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

1770

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

1775

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

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

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

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

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

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

Belfast parish and town

1796

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

1803

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

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1824-1838

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

c.1860-c.1940

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

1848-1864

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

1876

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

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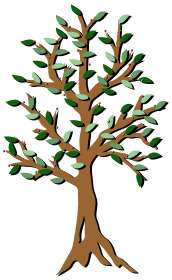

Your Family Tree: 8

LANDED ESTATE RECORDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1. rentals/rent rolls: these normally list the tenants, townland by townland and will record the acreage of their holdings and sometimes details of arrears;

2. leases: give the tenant's name and often those of some of his children, with their ages where a tenant got a lease for 3 lives;

3. lease books; these will summarise details of the leases, often recording if the persons mentioned in leases for 3 lives are still alive or if they have left the estate;

4. rent ledgers: show how much and when each tenant paid his rent;

5. maps: these are usually on a large scale and plot tenants' holdings;

6. wages books: record the names of estate labourers, household servants and gardeners who may not appear as tenants;

7. account books: often record the names of persons supplying goods and services;

8. land agents' note-books: sometimes a page is devoted to a tenant and his family;

9. Militia, yeomanry and muster records can often be found in landed estate archives. They consist of lists of men liable for service in local defence forces.

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Your Family Tree: 9

STREET DIRECTORIES

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

What information is found in Street Directories?

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

What information is not found in Street Directories?

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

What Directories are held in PRONI?

The principal country-wide directories are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Your Family Tree: 10

VOTERS', POLL AND FREEHOLDERS' RECORDS

B MP 2 T P records are lists of people entitled to vote, or of people who actually voted at elections. They are normally arranged on a county basis.

Poll books record the actual votes cast at parliamentary elections. They contain the M MP MPP R T b MP R T MPP R T 2 T P c T T P the voter to his vote. Voters Lists and Freeholders registers give similar information to the Poll books but do not record how people voted at a particular election.

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

T M a Ra MP 2 T P M &

Co. Antrim

T/808/14900 2 T P 8 " -75 (6 names only)

D/1364/L/1 0 a a T a . . " covers only half the electorate. (*See transcript in catalogue*)

D/2977/22/1-12 Printed Lists of freeholders, leaseholders etc, 1833-40 for Co. Antrim, and 1856-7 for the baronies of Cary, Upper and Lower Dunluce and Glenarm.

ANT/5 Registers of Voters, 1888-1900

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Co. Armagh

T/808/14936	Poll Book 1753
T/808/14949	Objections to Voters in poll book 1753
ARM/5/2/1-17	2 T P 8 □ □ -32
T/808/14934	2 T P □ -39 taken from the Newry Telegraph
T/808/14961	2 T P 8 □
T/808/14927	B 8 □ ! □
D/1928/F/1-103	2 T P c 1710, 1753 and 1800-30
D/2394/3/5 and T/281/5-6	Printed and typescript list of Freeholders for the Portadown district, 1747-53 and 1796-1802. (These were copied before 1922 by Canon Leslie from manuscripts in the Parliamentary Returns in the Public Record Office of Ireland)

Co Donegal

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

Co. Down

D/2223/21/1	Candidates name book for Downpatrick electors (names starting c T MP .
DOW/5/3/1 & 2	Registers of Freeholders 1777; 1780-85 and 1790-95
D/654/A3/1B	0 a a T a . 2 T P □
T/393/1	2 T P 8 8 M . M □
D/654/A3/1	2 T P □ □ -21 and 1824
T/761/19 & 20	2 T P 8 □
D/671/O/2/5-6	Poll Book, Co. Down (Part of) 1852
D/671/O/2/7-8	Poll Book, Co. Down (Part of) 1857

Co. Fermanagh

T/808/15063	Poll Book 1747-63
T/1385	Poll Book 1788
T/543/1	Poll Book 1788
T/808/15075	Poll Book 1788
D/1096/92/1	2 T P □ "-1802
FER/5	Registers of Voters, 1895-1900

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Co. Londonderry

T/3161/1/4	List of gentlemen and Freeholders who voted for James Lennox and William Jackson, 1697
D/2094/46	Resolution of the Freeholders in Tamlaght Finlagan Parish about subscribing to a petition to Parliament, 1774
T/2123	2 T P M 8 □ □
T/1048/1-4	R8 P P B 8 □
D/834/1	2 T P a R8 P P □
D/1935/6	R8 P P B 8 □ "

Co. Tyrone

T/808/15127	Tyrone Freeholders in the Cookstown area, 1768-95
TYR/5/3/1	2 T P 8 0 a M . M □ ! -98
TYR/5	Registers of Voters, 1892-87

Belfast

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

Most of the 2 T P P R □ have now been indexed and digitised and are available on the PRONI website.

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