

## Your Family Tree: 22

# UNDERSTANDING THE STONES



For anyone starting out to trace their family tree, the family burial ground is one of the most useful places to start. Even the briefest epitaph can reveal such details as name, age, date of death, religious denomination and social class, while the more elaborate inscriptions can plot an entire family history.

Names are sometimes given in full and occasionally a familiar name is included – for example, ‘James Patrick (Jimmy) Boyle’, or, less helpful, the family name only, for example, ‘The family burying ground of the Caldwell Family, Lisburn’. The most useful, for genealogical purposes, are those gravestones which contain references to other family members and which give connecting names, for example:

*Erected in loving memory of James Morton, Corbet, who died 14th June 1897 aged 66 years. ... And of his two daughters Margaret S. Steen who died 4th May 1899 aged 30 years, and Jane E. Mercer who died 24th Aug, 1904 aged 28 years.*

Age is usually given either directly, ‘died aged 78’, ‘passed away in his 89th year’ or by deduction, ‘1805-1895’. Either way, once the birth year is known it is usually possible to obtain a birth certificate or (if pre-1864) a baptismal reference. The deceased’s religion can sometimes, but not always, be deduced from the site of the graveyard or cemetery. Older cemeteries were, in many cases, communal property, or attached to an Anglican (ie., Church of Ireland) church and used by all denominations. During the nineteenth century (after the Catholic Emancipation Act) there was an increase in the number of churches built by all denominations, and interment according to religious persuasion became more common.

Other information which may be included on gravestones is the occupation of the deceased: ‘Captain in the 18th, or Royal Irish, Regiment’, ‘Eminent Medical Student’, ‘Merchant of this town’. The home town may be given, for example, ‘Erected by James McMaster of Bangor in memory of his father John McMaster of

Ballymaleddy'. The cause of death is occasionally recorded: 'John, who died suddenly when bathing on the 29th of June in the 13th year of his age'.

Notable achievements or membership of an illustrious society can be included:

*'Minister for 52 years', 'secretary of the congregational committee', 'a founder member of the Society for the Promotion of the True Faith'.*

Family members who died abroad are not forgotten: *'Thomas McIlroy who died at Pueblo, Colorado, USA'; 'Gawin McClure, M.D. Surgeon R.N. who died of yellow fever on board H.M.'s ship "Eclair" off Madeira; 'John, late Loco Supt. Nt. Wn. Rly. Sind. who died at Karachi, India'.*

Paupers were, as a rule, buried in unmarked graves, frequently in a communal plot set aside for the purpose. As this was considered a shameful thing, even the poorest of people outside the workhouse would try to have something 'put by' for their funeral. Their headstones were usually quite simple. However, it did happen that as the family fortunes improved, a grieving son or daughter would erect a more fitting tribute to his or her parents. Generally, though, the higher up the social scale, the more grand and elaborate the gravestone, standing as a mark of the status of the entire family, past and present. An exception to this rule of thumb are those religious sects, such as the Moravians, who believe all are equal after death and all headstones are, therefore, of an equal height.

The more information that can be gleaned from headstones the easier it will be to find other sources which will be of help in tracing the family back through the centuries.

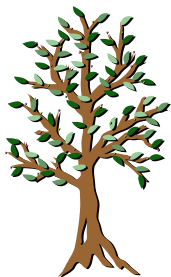
## On-line Access

A useful website to consult is: [www.historyfromheadstones.com](http://www.historyfromheadstones.com) where you will find details of over 50,000 gravestone inscriptions in Northern Ireland, while the Belfast City Council website [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords/search](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/burialrecords/search) will give you details on Belfast City, Dundonald and Roselawn cemeteries.

### Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm  
Thurs 10:00am-8:45pm  
(Please check in advance for  
late evening opening)

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](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)  
e-mail: [proni@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:proni@communities-ni.gov.uk)



## Your Family Tree: 23

# TITHE RECORDS



Taxes have always been unpopular and arguably none more so than the tithe. The tithe was that part (the tenth) of the produce of the land given to the Established Church (the Church of Ireland) for the maintenance of the clergy. It was therefore regarded as something imposed by the Church of Ireland on the rest of the population. In fact, not all the money went to the Church of Ireland clergy. Following the dissolution of the monasteries, tithes previously paid to the monasteries became the property of the Crown who, in turn, either sold or granted the rights to laymen ('impropriators') or to bishops. Lord Bangor, for example, enjoyed the tithes of Bangor parish, while those for Comber were the property of Lord Londonderry. Tithes became identified with property rights and with the political ideology of the ruling classes. They were a source of disaffection, being, according to the Rev Dr Henry Montgomery, 'productive of outrages and disturbances'.

### TITHE APLOTMENT ACT, 1823

The Tithe Applotment Act of 1823 was an attempt to make the tithe payment more popular by allowing payments to be made in money instead of in goods. This was based on what the land could produce, calculated by the average yearly price of corn taken over the seven years prior to 1 November 1821. Unfortunately, the seven years chosen were years of comparatively high prices and the valuations were, as a result, higher than they could have been. In addition, the Act extended the tax to pasture land. As a result, agitation against the payment of tithes continued unabated.

### TITHE RENT CHARGE ACT, 1838

Despite some changes to the Act in an effort to make it more acceptable, the tithes remained unpopular, and practically un-collectable. Eventually, the government gave way to popular pressure and introduced the Tithe Rent Charge Act in 1838. This effectively combined tithe payments with the ordinary rents due to landlords. The tithe rent charge stopped being paid to the church on *Disestablishment* (that is, when Church and State officially split, on 1 January 1871), but it continued to be paid to a body called the *Commissioners of Church Temporalities* and, when that body was disbanded in 1881, to the *Irish Land Commission*. After the creation of Northern Ireland payments were made to the *Ministry of Finance*.

## WHAT PRONI HOLDS

The tithe applotment books (**PRONI reference FIN/5A**) and the tithe rent records (**PRONI reference FIN/5B**) for Northern Ireland were transferred by the Ministry of Finance to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland in 1924. As well as holding the original tithe books for the six counties of Northern Ireland, PRONI also has, on microfilm, the books for the remaining three counties of Ulster.

## USING THE RECORDS

The Tithe Composition Applotment books, to give them their full title, cover the years 1823 to 1837. Each volume deals with a single parish that is then sub-divided by townland. Recorded against each townland are the names of the occupiers, the acreage and quality of their holdings, the valuation of the land and the amount of tithe to be paid. An index (approximately one million entries) giving the names of all those mentioned in the tithe applotment books is available on microfilm (see **MIC/15K**).

## A UNIQUE SOURCE

For parish, townland and farm (distinguishing between arable, pasture or non-productive land), the tithe books give a picture of the quality of the land and the use made of it, prior to the ravages of the Great Irish Famine (1845 to 1851) and the subsequent mass emigration. The tithe books are also a unique genealogical source that links personal names with specific areas (though cities and larger towns were excluded). The obvious alternative sources, such as the population censuses of 1821 and 1831, were almost completely destroyed in 1922 in the fire at the Public Record Office in the Four Courts in Dublin. Another source, the books of the First General Valuation of Ireland (covering the 1830s and 1840s), concentrated on the value of portions of each townland rather than individual holdings so they contain relatively few names.

## PROBLEMS

There are, however, some problems associated with using the tithe applotment books. Firstly, not all land will be included. In some instances this was because the land was of such poor quality that no tithe could be levied, or because the land was owned outright by the Church and therefore not subject to tithe or the land was outside the jurisdiction of the Church. In the latter case this usually applied to lands that formerly belonged to a monastery (these were often known as *Granges*), in which case the tithes were often payable to lay persons. Secondly, placenames had not yet been standardised so valuers often recorded the local or common name for a

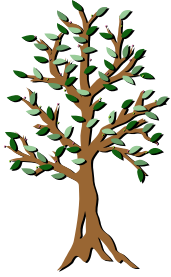
townland or parish rather than the one used by the Ordnance Survey. Legislation introduced in the 1830s attempted to standardise boundaries and resulted in many townlands and parishes being divided, amalgamated, renamed or otherwise altered. Some parishes appear not to be represented in the applotment books but are actually there under another name or, alternatively, were then part of a larger parish but are now parishes in their own right. For example, there is no named book for Kilcluney Parish because at the time of the survey it was part of Mullaghbrack Parish. (See the *Introduction to FIN/5A* for details of where to find the entries for parishes that do not appear on the FIN/5A catalogue)

PRONI's *Guide to the Tithe Records* in the Search Room lists every townland in Northern Ireland with the relevant FIN/5A reference number for the tithe applotment book where the details for that townland can be found.

#### Opening Hours

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-4:45pm  
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e-mail: [proni@communities-ni.gov.uk](mailto:proni@communities-ni.gov.uk)



# **Your Family Tree: 24**

## **A SIMPLE GUIDE TO IRELAND**



To the majority of people, Ireland is just a small island on the outlying fringes of Europe. Most visitors come to Ireland not for its scenery (which can be breathtaking), nor for its culture, despite its richness and variety: they come, rather, to trace their ancestors, for there are few American, Canadian and Australian families who cannot boast of an Irish ancestor somewhere in their line. Ireland, however, can be just a little confusing for those unaware of the finer points of the island's *modus vivendi*. This leaflet is intended to guide the unwary past the most obvious pitfalls.

Historically, Ireland has been divided into four provinces: Ulster, Munster, Leinster and Connacht. These in turn, are sub-divided into a total of thirty-two counties: nine counties in Ulster, twelve in Leinster, six in Munster, and five in Connacht. Within counties (and occasionally overlapping) are parishes which are further sub-divided into townlands.

In 1801 Ireland officially joined with England, Scotland and Wales to become part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.

In 1921, after years of unrest, the island of Ireland was divided in two. All of Munster, Leinster and Connacht, and three of the nine counties of Ulster, became the Irish Free State, later the Republic of Ireland. This part of the island is also known as 'Eire', 'The Republic', the 'Twenty-six Counties', and 'The South'.

The remaining six counties of Ulster continued to be part of the United Kingdom and became known, officially, as Northern Ireland. However, the area is often referred to as 'Ulster', sometimes as the 'Six Counties', and sometimes as 'The North'. To confuse things further, geographically, the most northerly county in Ireland (Donegal) is part of 'The South' although it is one of the counties of Ulster.

There are some other peculiarities, which tend to confuse visitors but, briefly, Londonderry and Derry are one and the same place, although the former is the official name of the city. Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland; Dublin the capital city of the Republic. Although those who are native to Northern Ireland may be regarded as both Irish and British, in the same way as a Yorkshireman is both English and British, there are sections of the population who prefer to think of themselves as Irish, while others would see themselves as Northern Irish and British.



To others, however, the population of Northern Ireland is simply British. Loyalists/Unionists are in favour of maintaining the Union with Great Britain and are predominately of the Protestant persuasion; Nationalists/Republicans, by tradition mainly Roman Catholic, aspire to a united Ireland under an Irish government.

The inhabitants of Ireland, both North and South, are mainly Christian, with the majority of the population of the Republic of Ireland professing to be Roman Catholic.

A word of warning: it is bad form to ask a person's religious persuasion.

Another problem which can be encountered in Ireland (North or South) is that of language. Although everyone on the island speaks English, there are those who also speak Irish. Certain place names have changed over the years from Irish to English and vice versa. For example, County Leix (also spelt Laoise and pronounced 'Leash') was, prior to 1921, known as Queen's County, while King's County became Offaly. Many personal names have become anglicised over the years and suffixes to surnames, such as Mc and O, have been dropped. Conversely, an upsurge in nationalist feelings can mean the reversion of an anglicised name to its Irish roots - not always correctly translated.

The most common surnames in Ireland, according to a survey undertaken by the Registrar General in 1890, were: Murphy, Kelly, Sullivan, Walsh, Smith, O'Brien, Byrne, Ryan, Connor and O'Neill. Included in his reckoning were all the variants of the surname, for example, Smith, Smyth, Smithe and Smythe. In what is now Northern Ireland the most common names in 1890 were: Smith, Johnston, Stewart, Wilson, Campbell and Doherty. Certain names, however, are very common to a particular locality; for example, the most common surname in Co. Tyrone is Quinn while Maguire is the most common surname in Co. Fermanagh.

While the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland welcomes visitors who are trying to trace their ancestral roots, it should be borne in mind that the majority of the records held in PRONI relate, in the main, to Northern Ireland, although there are some which also relate to the rest of Ireland and, indeed, to even further afield. Our collections of emigrant letters, for example, come from all over the world. A guide to our holdings can be found on our web-site ([www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)) and in our offices at 2 Titanic Boulevard, Titanic Quarter, Belfast BT3 9HQ.

The National Archives of Ireland and the National Library of Ireland, both located in Dublin, are the national repositories for those records relating primarily to the South of Ireland. From the 1860s to the 1920s many public records for the entire island were held at the Four Courts, Dublin. A fire in 1922 destroyed almost all the public records held at the Four Courts, including most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century census returns. In fact, the earliest complete census extant for Ireland is that of 1901, although PRONI holds a copy of only that part which relates to what is now Northern Ireland.

Despite a few idiosyncracies, the people of Northern Ireland are a warm and friendly lot and, if you avoid the pitfalls, they will give you the traditional ‘hundred thousand welcomes’. Enjoy your visit.

## Alphabetical list of the counties of Ireland

Antrim*	Dublin	Limerick	Roscommon
Armagh*	Fermanagh*	Londonderry*	Sligo
Carlow	Galway	Longford	Tipperary
Cavan	Kerry	Louth	Tyrone*
Clare	Kildare	Mayo	Waterford
Cork	Kilkenny	Meath	Wexford
Donegal	Leitrim	Monaghan	Wicklow
Down*	Leix (Laoise)	Offaly	Westmeath

(\* Counties in Northern Ireland)

## The counties of Ireland by Province

<b>Ulster</b>	<b>Munster</b>	<b>Leinster</b>	<b>Connacht</b>
Antrim	Clare	Carlow	Galway
Armagh	Cork	Dublin	Leitrim
Cavan†	Kerry	Kildare	Mayo
Donegal†	Limerick	Kilkenny	Roscommon
Down	Tipperary	Leix	Sligo
Fermanagh	Waterford	Longford	
Londonderry		Louth	
Monaghan†		Meath	
Tyrone		Offaly	
		Westmeath	
		Wexford	
		Wicklow	

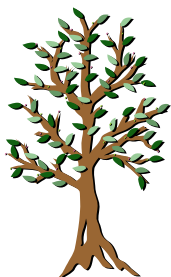
(† Ulster counties in the Republic of Ireland.)

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## Your Family Tree: 25

# GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE



The General Register Office (GRONI) is part of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) and is primarily concerned with the administration of the registration of births, deaths, marriages and civil partnerships. The registers themselves are not open to inspection, but information from them is supplied in the form of certificates. The GRONI does not engage in genealogical research although the records can contain valuable information for anyone compiling a family tree.

### **What information is available?**

GRONI holds birth, death, marriage and adoption records. It also maintains a public search room where you can search computerised indexes. The index provides name, date and place of event.

### **Registration indexes held by GRONI include**

- Births registered in Northern Ireland from 1 January 1864
- Deaths registered in Northern Ireland from 1 January 1864
- Non-Roman Catholic marriages from 1 April 1845 and all marriages from 1 January 1864.
- Adoptions recorded in the Adopted Children Register Northern Ireland from 1 January 1931.

### **Other records of births, deaths and marriages held:**

Service Department registers  
Marine register of births  
Marine register of deaths  
Consular returns of births  
Consular returns of deaths

Foreign marriages  
High Commissioner's returns  
Consular returns of marriages  
War deaths

## How do you apply for birth, death, marriage and civil partnership certificates?

You can apply in person, by telephone or fax, or on-line at [www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro) or by post to the General Register Office, NISRA, Colby House, Stranmillis Court, Belfast, BT9 5RR. Personal applications are processed within 3 working days and postal, telephone, fax and on-line applications are processed within 7 working days. Application forms are available from the General Register Office, District Registrars' Offices, Citizens Advice Bureaux and PRONI or on-line.

### **Information required:**

<b>Birth Certificates</b>	Full name of person whose birth certificate is required. Date and place of birth. Names of parents (including mother's maiden name).
<b>Marriage and Civil Partnership Certificates</b>	Full names of both parties (including bride's maiden name). Date and place of marriage/civil
<b>Death Certificates</b>	Full name of deceased. Date and place of death.

The GRONI can undertake a specific search provided they are given sufficient information about the person concerned. If the search is likely to be too time-consuming, the GRONI will not undertake the task. You will be expected to conduct the search personally or arrange for someone to search on your behalf.

## Searches

General searching for can be carried out in person by anyone over 16 years of age.

<b>Search only</b>	For each 5 year period or part of it the cost is <b>£6.00</b> .
<b>Assisted Search</b>	General search of the records assisted by a member of GRO staff for any period of years and any number of entries. However there is a waiting list for this service and bookings must be made in advance. The cost is <b>£35.00</b> per hour.

## Index Search

The indexes up to the present have now been computerised and are available for searching for a period not exceeding 6 hours. Cost is **£14.00**. This includes two verifications with the option of further verifications at **£4.00** each. Bookings are not required; however, we recommend that you book in advance during peak periods (e.g. June – August).

## Indexes available

Birth Indexes, 1864 to present

Death Indexes, 1864 to present

Non-Catholic Marriage Indexes, 1845 to present

All Marriage Indexes, 1864 to present

## Fees for Birth, Death and Marriage Certificates

Fees payable (*from June 2008*) for certificates and searches

**Full certified copy of an entry of birth, death, marriage or civil partnership**    **£15.00**

**Short birth certificate** (shows only the surname, name, sex, date of birth and, *in most cases*, the district of birth)    **£15.00**

Where two or more full certified copies of the same entry are applied for at the same time, the first copy will be charged at **£15.00** and any additional copies at **£8.00** each.

**Priority Certificate** – produced within one hour of application if applied for in person before 15:00 hours; applications received by post, telephone, fax or on-line before 12:00 hours will be issued by first class post on day of receipt    **£20.00 + fee**

## How to find the General Register Office

NISRA  
Colby House  
Stranmillis Court  
Belfast  
BT9 5RR

Phone: 0300 200 7890  
(028 9151 3101 if calling from outside Northern Ireland)

Email: [gro\\_nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk](mailto:gro_nisra@finance-ni.gov.uk)



Department for

**Communities**

[www.communities-ni.gov.uk](http://www.communities-ni.gov.uk)

### **Opening Hours**

Mon-Wed and Fri 9:00am-  
4:45pm

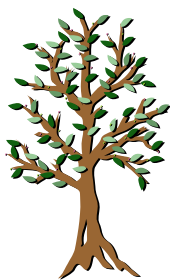
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# Your Family Tree: 26

## TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE AT PRONI USEFUL SOURCES



PRONI holds so much material that it can be very confusing for the first time user. This handout is designed to give a general overview of the most useful sources available. Individual information leaflets on a vast array of sources are available on-line on our website [www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni) and in the Search Room, free of charge, including all of the following:

**STREET DIRECTORIES:** These are printed books containing the name, address and occupation, of every householder in Belfast. They also give the names of the principal citizens in some of the larger towns in Northern Ireland. The earliest book is 1809, continuing, with gaps, up to the 1990s. The directories are not one hundred percent accurate because not everyone was included and, by the time they were printed, the information was already out of date. Directories from 1901 are available in the Search Room, while those pre-dating 1900 are available on the PRONI website.

**CENSUS:** The 1901 census gives the name, age, religion, occupation, and various other details on every individual in Northern Ireland. The 1911 census also gives the number of children born to a women and the number of children surviving. The information is usually very reliable. Both censuses are now available free on-line: [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

**GRIFFITH'S VALUATION:** This was compiled between 1856-1865 for taxation purposes. It gives the name of the householder, the name of the landlord, the size of the holding and the rateable value. It also gives the relevant Ordnance Survey map reference number. Listed by county and then within Poor Law Union by barony, parish and townland. Available on the Search Room shelves and for free on [www.askaboutireland.com](http://www.askaboutireland.com).

**LANDED ESTATE RECORDS:** Landowners were the major employers during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The *Guide to Landed Estates*, available on the Search Room shelves, gives an alphabetical list of major landowners by county. Typical contents of estate archives include leases, rent rolls, rentals, wage books, maps and correspondence. Background information on the major estate owning families is also available on our website: see Major Sources in PRONI.

**CHURCH RECORDS:** Organised alphabetically by name of church, with a code for the various denominations (e.g. P = Presbyterian, CI = Church of Ireland, RC = Roman Catholic). Usually gives baptisms, marriages and burials and, occasionally, vestry minutes or similar material. PRONI does not hold records for every church – some are in local custody – nor are the dates consistent either over time or between churches. Consult the *Guide to Church Records*, available on-line and in the Search Room, for the relevant reference number. Most of the church records held by PRONI are available on microfilm in the Self-Service Microfilm area.

**SCHOOL RECORDS:** School registers usually provide the following information: name, address and age of child, name and occupation of father, religion and, sometimes, previous address. Some also give additional comments, eg, died, emigrated, now working for Harland & Wolff. All schools are listed under the SCH reference and can be found by entering the name of the school into our electronic catalogue, also available on our website.

**WILLS:** From 1858 probated wills became a matter of public record. A list of all wills probated is arranged firstly, by the year of probate (NOT the year of death) and then alphabetically by name of the deceased. As probate can take anything from six months to twenty-five years or more, it is best to start with the year of death and work forward. The will calendars and copy wills from 1858-1919 for the three District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry have been indexed and digitised. The index is now available on the PRONI website; with some wills being linked to images of the actual wills. Some earlier wills, which are classified as private records, are also available (see the Names Index on the website). Wills are extremely useful in tracing collateral branches of the family tree as bequests are often made to married daughters, grandchildren, cousins, nephews, etc., and give the names of the beneficiaries in full.

**BOARDS OF GUARDIANS:** The Boards of Guardians looked after the 28 workhouses in Northern Ireland. The admission books give the name, former address, occupation, marital status and religion of the inmates. Most of the records are closed for 100 years. However, conditional access may be possible (write to the Head of Access in the first instance). The records begin around 1838 and continue until the introduction of the Welfare State in 1948.

**PEDIGREES/GENEALOGIES:** Genealogy is a very popular hobby and many people have carried out research into their family tree that may, just maybe, interlink with your own tree. As these records, the result of private research, were donated by private individuals, PRONI has no control over their accuracy and cannot be held responsible for any inconsistencies. However, they are worth a look, just in case, though there is no substitute for carrying out your own research. Of particular interest are **D/3000**, **T/1075** and **T/808**.



**Your Family Tree: 27**

**CEMETERY RECORDS**

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Belfast City Council	MIC/61/2-3	1831–1960	Registers of interments/ burials in Clifton Street Cemetery
Belfast City Council	D/1075/6	1855–96	Burial register of Balmoral Cemetery, Stockman's Lane, Belfast
Belfast City Council	D/2966/64/1	1908–1911	Burial notebook of Balmoral Cemetery, Stockman's Lane recording name, age at death, date of burial and occasionally address and cause of death; also a list of where people are buried
Belfast City Council	D/3456/1	c.1830	Plan of Friar's Bush Graveyard
Belfast City Council	D/3456/2-3	1830-1838 and 1856-1874	Registers of purchasers of graves in Friar's Bush Graveyard giving names of deceased, their ages and grave numbers
Belfast City Council	D/3456/4	1869–1891	Register of burials in Friar's Bush Graveyard, Belfast
Belfast City Council	MIC/1D/91/8-10	1829–1859 and 1889–1982	Registers of interments in Friar's Bush Graveyard, Belfast
Belfast City Council	D/3435	1889–1966	Admittance slips for Friar's Bush Graveyard
Cookstown UDC	LA/28/11C	1909–1940	Cemetery registration counterfoils
Derry City Council	MIC/440/2-4	1853–1912	Registers of interments with indexes for Londonderry City Cemetery
Enniskillen RDC	LA/36/11/D	1959–1967	Burial returns
Enniskillen RDC	LA/36/11C/1-3	1937–1966	Register of interments
Holywood UDC	LA/38/11C/1	c.1870s	Register of grave lots in old parish burying ground
Holywood UDC	LA/38/11C/2	1874–1894	Registers of lots for the new and old cemeteries
Larne BC	LA/43/11C/1	1940–1945	Register of war graves in Larne Cemetery, Co. Antrim
Larne BC	LA/43/11C/2	1925–1981	File regarding maintenance of war graves in Larne
Larne RDC	LA/44/8J/2	c.1879 and 1881	Map of Kilwaughter graveyard, c.1879; plan of Glenarm new cemetery, 1881

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Lisnaskea RDC	LA/49/11C	1936–1960	Register of interments
Moirá RDC	LA/54/11C/1	1892–1893	Index map of Donaghcloney Graveyard, Co. Down
Moirá RDC	LA/54/11C/2	July 1901–Dec. 1927	Register of interments in Donaghcloney Burial Ground, Co. Down
Moirá RDC	LA/54/11C/3	c.1906	Book of references to grave plots to accompany map of Seagoe Graveyard
Moirá RDC	LA/54/11C/4	Mar. 1919–Sep. 1950	Register of interments in Magheralin Burial Ground
Newtownabbey UDC	LA/59/11C/1	1878–1920	Burial register of Monkstown Cemetery, Co. Antrim
	ANT/7/1/2/17	1896	Plan of Mallusk burial ground
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/ 60/11C1	1876–1886	Register of burials in Old Movilla Graveyard, Co. Down
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/6011C/2	1880–1897	Register of burials in New Movilla Graveyard, Co. Down
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/151/A	c.1972	Plan of Tullynakill Cemetery, Co. Down
Newtownards/Ards Borough Council	LA/151/2B	1981	Plan of Whitechurch Cemetery, Co. Down
Newtownards (later North Down) RDC	LA/61/8JA/1-2	1962–1969	Plan of Greyabbey and Templepatrick Burial Grounds, Co. Down
Newtownards RDC	LA/61/11C/1	1894–1920	Register of burials in Comber Graveyard, Co. Down
Portrush UDC	LA/65/11C/1-2	1934–1953	Registers of burial tracings showing the layout of Portrush Cemetery.
Portstewart UDC	LA/66/11C/1	1926–1942	Register of grave plots purchased in Portstewart Cemetery
Strabane District Council	D/4305/1	1891	Map of Grange Graveyard, Donaghedy, Co. Tyrone
Strabane District Council	D/4305/2-3	1891 and 1931	References to maps of Grange Graveyard, Donaghedy, Co. Tyrone

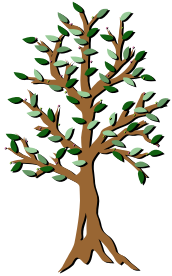
## 2. OTHER BURIAL GROUNDS

Area	Ref No.	Date	Records Available
Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh	BG/14/AG/3	1879–1893	Ledger for Enniskillen cemetery
Greyabbey Parish, Co. Down	T/1619/1	1857	Map of Greyabbey Parish Church graveyard with key to burials
Killysugggan, Co. Down	T/3615	1885–1898	Minute book containing lists of interments, 1885-98, and lists of purchasers of graves, 1886-96
Knockbreda Parish, Belfast	CR/1/24F	1869–1911	Interment/graveyard book
Magheragall Parish, Co. Down	D/2938	c.1860 and 1897	Plan of Magheragall Parish cemetery, c.1860, and plan of new cemetery 1897
Roman Catholic Cemetery, Milltown, Belfast	MIC/1D/91/1-3	1869–1962	Registers of interments, general ground
Roman Catholic Cemetery, Milltown, Belfast	MIC/1D/91/6-7	1895–1982	Registers of interments, public ground
Roman Catholic Cemetery, Milltown, Belfast	MIC/1D/91/4-5	1871–1959	Registers of grants of burial ground

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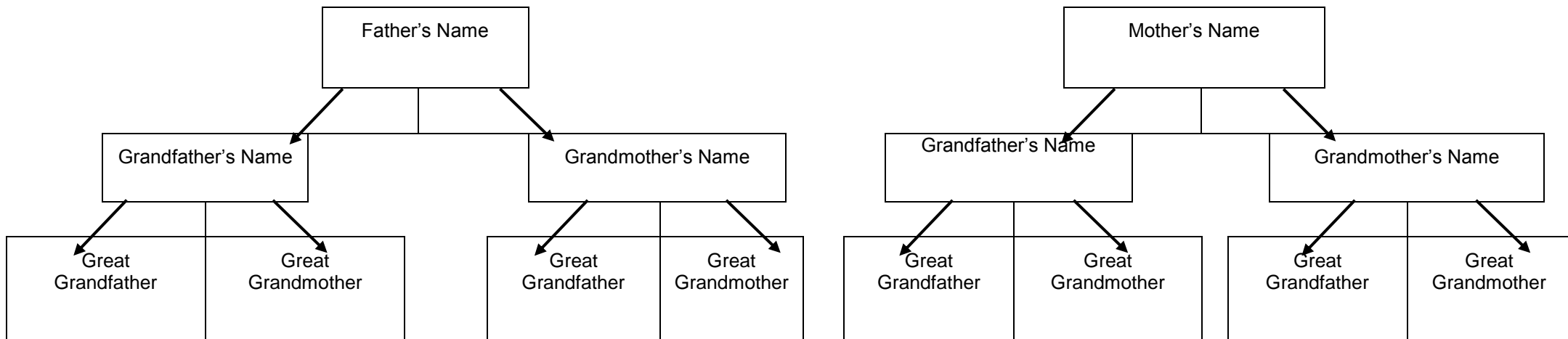


## Your Family Tree: 28

# CHART FOR TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE AT PRONI



Family Name



Name	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage	Date of Death	Residence	Occupation	Siblings







# **Your Family Tree: 29 Significant Online Sources for Family and Local History**



**Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)  
Website**  
[www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni)

## **eCatalogue**

The eCatalogue is a fully searchable database containing over one million catalogue entries relating to PRONI's archives.

## **PRONI Historical Maps Viewer**

Search and browse almost 1,500 historical Ordnance Survey maps, dating from 1832-1986, covering the six counties of present-day Northern Ireland.

## **Freeholders Records**

Search the index to pre-1840 Freeholders' Registers and Poll Books.

## **Name Search**

Search the index to pre-1858 diocesan wills and administration bonds, and extracts from surviving fragments of the 1740 and 1766 religious census returns and 1775 dissenters petitions.

## **Ulster Covenant**

Find out about the Ulster Covenant of 1912. Search and view digitised images of Ulster Covenant records, including the names of almost half a million signatories.

## **Valuation Revision Books**

Search and view digitised images of valuation records covering counties Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry and Tyrone between the years 1864 to 1933.

## Will Calendars

Search Will Calendars indexes for the District Probate Registries of Armagh, Belfast and Londonderry, 1858-1965; and view copy wills c.1858-1909. Wills include information on the deceased (testator) and the property and goods they owned. Witnesses, beneficiaries and executors of a will (who are often related to the deceased) are also named.

## Street Directories

Search and view digitised images of Street Directories covering the years 1819 to 1900.

## PRONI on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/user/PRONInonline>

PRONI has a dedicated YouTube channel where you can keep up to date with PRONI talks. Our recent 'Your Family History' series provides valuable insights into researching family history sources.

## PRONI Flickr Photostream

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/proni>

Images from the PRONI archives are now available to view on the photo-sharing website Flickr.

## Other Online Resources

*General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI)*

Births, Marriages and Deaths

<https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>

*National Archives of Ireland*

1901 and 1911 Census

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

*National Library of Ireland*

Roman Catholic Registers

<http://www.nli.ie/en/parish-register.aspx>

*Ask About Ireland*

Griffith's Valuation

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

*General Register Office, Ireland*

Births, Marriages and Deaths

<http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/civil-records/help/what-years-are-covered-by-the-historic-records-of-births-marriages-and-deaths>

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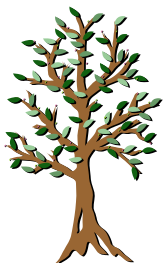
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# Your Family Tree: 30

## Land Registry



### What is the PRONI Land Registry archive?

After the establishment of the Ulster Plantation, c.1610-1640, the farmers and labourers of the six counties of Northern Ireland, settlers and natives, lived as rent-paying tenants on about 2,500 landed estates owned by different landlords. The basic structure of rural landownership and occupancy in the region changed little (the number of estates increased) until Land Acts passed between 1869 and 1925 arranged for ownership of fee simple (**see glossary**) to be transferred from landlord to tenant. Papers created by the administration of these Acts, mostly arising after the Land Act of 1891, form the Land Registry archive, named after the Office where they were retained till the 1980s.

The bulk of the documentation relates either to investigations of estate title or to the administration of tenant purchases carried out by the Land Commission (1881-1903), the Estates Commissioners (1903-1923) and the Land Purchase Commission N.I. (1924-1935), in respect of the various landed estates. The archive contains original deeds of estate title, transcripts and copies going back to the 17th and 18th centuries, together with a range of documents reflecting the making of title by the state in respect of holdings belonging to the new class of landowning farmers.

### What was Land Purchase and Land Registry?

From 1869 to 1925, a series of statutes enabled tenants to buy farms from their landlords. Sales were slow until tenants were provided with the entire purchase money on mortgage after 1885. By 1891 approximately 12,000 farmers had bought their farms in Northern Ireland. The Wyndham Act of 1903 crucially speeded up the process. By 1935 agents and solicitors for some 4,200 landed estates in the six counties of present-day Northern Ireland (half of which were less than 200 acres in size) had negotiated, under State supervision, with about 110,000 tenant-farmers for the purchase of their holdings.

The new owners needed evidence of title for business and other purposes. Until 1891 it was expected that small purchasers would make use of the Registry of Deeds (Dublin) to register instruments of title and conveyance. This was found impractical in the case of many smallholders, however, and the Local Registration of Title Act (1891) set up a new system of state-guaranteed title to simplify future dealings in land. Under the Land Act of 1891 registration was made mandatory for all new purchasers taking advances from the state. It is estimated that around 75% of land in present-day Northern Ireland was registered by 1935. About 5,000 farmers in the North already held their land on perpetual lease of some kind by the 1870s and had no reason to purchase and thus were not recorded on folio in Land Registry. Almost all of the land in villages, towns and cities was held on long lease or on fee farm grant (**see glossary**) and was not registered.

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## What kind of information might I find in this archive?

The transfer of land from landlord to tenant necessitated detailed scrutiny of title deeds (**see glossary**) to the landed estates, together with the inspection and demarcation of tenant holdings going into purchase. Much of the work of the Land Commission (Ireland & N.I.) was first an endeavour to consolidate and make sense of title prior to sale, clearing up practical problems in dispute at the point of sale, allocating ownership of a range of rights and claims attached to the lands and dealing with a multiplicity of problems ensuing after sale, while the state collected annuities from the new owners. Papers in many Land Registry bundles include conveyances, mortgages, wills and other deeds of title going back to the 17th century; schedules and abstracts of title; inspector's reports on estate valuations and tenant solvency; estate maps (which were the basis for Land Registry maps); administrative papers relating to the sale; vesting orders; agreements for sale; and maps of shares in turbary.

## How is the archive organised?

The papers relating to each estate sale are held in bundles. The first part of the reference number of each document is **LR1**. The number of the box in which it is stored is added to this reference. Thus **LR1/1** is the first box in the collection, **LR1/2** the second box and so on. About 5,000 bundles, or estate-sales, are held in 2,500 boxes. A third digit in each reference indicates the number of a folder in a box containing papers reflecting more than one estate-sale, i.e. **LR1/1/1** or **LR1/1/2** etc.

A pro-forma catalogue describes items to be found in each bundle. Box references are elaborated further for this purpose under the letters **A**, **B** or **C**. **A** relates to administrative documents accumulated in the course of the sale of tenancies on an estate. Schedules of tenancies specify rents paid by the tenantry. Surveyors' reports include information on the boundaries of holdings. Inspectors' reports describe type of land, quality of soil, turbary rights and the existence of mineral deposits. **B** contains title deeds relating to the tenure of the estate. **C** relates to wills and testamentary papers. Each letter may be further numbered according to sub-types of document. Accordingly the overall reference for papers arising out of the sale of the estate of M.A. Stewart, County Armagh, is **LR1/716/2/A-C** and the reference for the Originating Application is **LR1/716/2/A/1**.

Approximately one-fifth of Land Registry papers was created under the pre-1903 Land Acts (stamped **LJ**). About one-third, marked **EC**, was created under the 1903-1909 Land Acts. The rest, about half, stamped **NI**, was created after 1925.

Land Registry Indexes located in the Public Search Room list the appropriate box and sales references for each estate, cross-referencing estate name, box number and NI record number. The only way to find information on a specific tenancy is to search the bundle or bundles produced by estate sales from the relevant estate. Large estates were sold often in a number of blocks at intervals over the entire period of land purchase.

Items described above are not issued separately. The researcher identifies the estate relevant to the sale of a specific tenancy (using Griffiths Valuation and the Valuation Revision Books, see **Your Family Tree 20** & the PRONI website <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni>), finds the **LR1** box number in the Search Room **LR** index

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and calls up the pro-forma breakdown of contents for the box by entering the box reference (i.e. **LR1/716**) on the Search Room Ordering System. The researcher then orders the first listed item (or any other item) relating to the estate in question on the S.R. Ordering System (i.e. **LR1/716/2/A/1**) and is provided with the Land Registry box in which the bundle of documents arising out of this sale is stored.

## What records should I consult, if the land is unregistered?

No map of unregistered land has been created. However, the researcher can apply to Land Registry (NI) to see if a piece of land *has* been entered on folio and determine the status of the land that way. A quarter of tenant purchases made before 1891 were voluntarily registered by about 1898 (the others remained unregistered). 85% of agricultural holdings and 75% of NI land-area was registered by 1935. Land in urban areas up to 1935 was largely unregistered. There were few new registrations anywhere after that date so the area of registered land remained stable until 1996-2003 when it became compulsory to register sales or inheritances, first in selected council areas, then all over Northern Ireland. Transactions involving unregistered land were previously dealt with by lodging transcriptions (or *memorials*) of the legal instruments involved with the Registry of Deeds (NI). PRONI holds a complete set of memorials and indexes on microfilm covering records in the Registry of Deeds from 1708 to 1922 (MIC311). For further information, please see **Your Family Tree 17**).

## Where else might I find Land Registry records?

Material relating to land purchase and registration can be found in other PRONI archives, deriving from the work of the Land Commission or other bodies. These include indexes and correspondence from the Land Judges Estate Court (FIN/4/1-3); case-files, deeds of charge, vesting and charging orders, registers from Land Purchase Annuities Branch (FIN/10/1-8); Church Temporalities (see **Your Family Tree 3**) deeds and files (FIN/10/9-10); Evicted Tenants' files and lists (FIN/23/4); Land Judges' Maps (FIN/23/5/3); Estate Commissioners' Files (FIN/23/5/6); Land Law Act files, 1921-25 (FIN/40/1); Land Purchase Commission estate analysis files (FIN/48/3, 8, 9); Land Purchase Commission maps (FIN/48/7); Quit Rent Office files (FIN/49); Land Purchase Commission instruments (LPC/1 to 1439); and Land Registry transcripts of indentures (T810).

## Glossary of Terms

**Title Deed** is a legal document which demonstrates a chain of ownership leading to a current owner, together with evidence of extant interests and entitlements over the property.

**Fee Simple** is the highest interest that can be held by an individual, meaning full power to dispose of property at will. It is also known as freehold tenure.

**Fee Farm Grant** is an instrument of title that amounts to effective freehold tenure subject to a perpetual rent. It is like fee simple in conveyancing practice and for that reason the Renewable Leasehold Conversion Act of 1849 (Ireland) permitted leaseholders to turn perpetual leases into fee-farm grants, greatly increasing the amount of urban and other land under such tenure in Ireland.

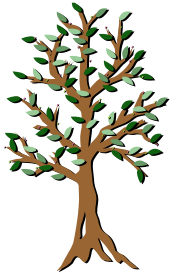
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# **Your Family Tree: 31**

## **Registers of the Chief Electoral Office (CEO)**



### **What is the Chief Electoral Office archive?**

The CEO archive comprises the electoral registers that were created by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI) from 1972 to 2001. The EONI supports the Chief Electoral Officer in the maintenance of electoral registers for Northern Ireland. Electoral registers were published annually, and can be used to identify individuals living at a specific address at a specific time.

Whilst a number of sources can help identify the head of household in a domestic property (e.g. Valuation records and Street Directories), electoral registers are unique in that they may identify more than one occupant of a property (i.e. anyone of 18 years or older and registered to vote). The CEO archive is the only resource available at PRONI that can be used to identify occupants of domestic properties from 1994 onwards.

### **What kind of information might I find in CEO electoral records?**

A CEO electoral register will record an address, and the full name of individuals registered to vote who are residing there at a certain date of that year (termed the qualifying date).

### **How do I search for a named individual in CEO registers at PRONI?**

First you need to identify the appropriate register for your search. Districts in Northern Ireland are divided into electoral areas, which are further sub-divided into wards. You need to know within which ward a property is situated in order to identify the correct register.

If you are not sure of the appropriate ward, the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service website can be used. To search for information on this website, a full postcode or street name is required.

[www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/default.asp](http://www.ninis.nisra.gov.uk/mapxtreme/default.asp)

Please note that ward boundaries may have changed over time.

To identify a catalogue reference for the electoral register you want to search, go to the eCatalogue. You can use the ward name as a keyword search using CEO as a prefix in the PRONI Ref field, and then identify the appropriate reference by date from the search results.



Alternatively, you can use the browse function of the eCatalogue to identify a register. Within the CEO archive, select:

- CEO/2 which is divided into Local Government Election Registers (CEO/2/1) for 1972 and 1973, and Parliamentary and Local Election Registers (CEO/2/2) for 1972 to 1983; or
- CEO/3 which includes Parliamentary and Local Election Registers for 1984 to 2001.

Under one of the above, select a year, then you can browse through the electoral areas, and the wards beneath.

For example, the PRONI reference for the 1979 register for Newhill ward, Ballymoney (**CEO/2/2/H/4/12**) would be identified by navigating through the eCatalogue as follows:

CEO - Records of the Chief Electoral Office

CEO/2 - Election Registers, 1972-1983

CEO/2/2 - Parliamentary and Local Election Registers for 1972 to 1983

CEO/2/2/H - 1979 (year)

CEO/2/2/H/4 - Ballymoney (electoral area)

**CEO/2/2/H/4/12** - Newhill (ward)

Once you have identified the correct register, search for the relevant address (townland or street) within the ward to find the list of occupants registered to vote at that property.

A number of finding aids which pre-date the eCatalogue and the Northern Ireland Neighbourhood Information Service website are also available at the helpdesk in the Search Room:

- A Guide to Electoral Registers, organised by date and then by electoral area (listed as constituency or district)
- A guide providing an alphabetical list of street names with corresponding PRONI references.

Some Street Directories may also give information on the ward in which a street is placed.

## **Can I have a copy of a CEO register?**

You can transcribe details from a CEO register.

**Making a copy of a CEO register or register entry is not permitted.** This means you must not use a digital camera or the self-service copying machine, or submit a copy request form to PRONI.

If you require certification, staff will transcribe the details on a designated form. This form will be certified, sealed and signed by PRONI staff, and will incur a certification charge.

## **Where else might I find electoral information pre-dating 1972?**

Pre-1972 electoral and voters records can be found in a number of archives. These are not comprehensive, and appear under a range of terms, including Freeholder registers and Poll Books, Election Check Books, Lists of Voters, Registers of Voters, Lists of Electors, and Registers of Persons Entitled to Vote.

Electoral records from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century until the formation of the Chief Electoral Office are mainly found in Court records. Court records are catalogued using a prefix identifying the six counties of Northern Ireland and Belfast City. For example, ANT for Antrim, BELF for Belfast, DOW for Down, etc. These cover the years 1852 to 1970. For example:

DOW - Down Crown and Peace

DOW/5 - Franchise and Jury

DOW/5/1 - Electoral Registers

DOW/5/1/1 - Parliamentary Register of Electors for the West Down Division of Co. Down, 1908.

A number of 20<sup>th</sup> century records can also be found in the Local Authority archive (PRONI Reference prefix LA).

Earlier records dating back to the 17<sup>th</sup> century can be found in a range of privately deposited collections. These include a significant selection of pre-1840 Freeholders' records dating back to 1727. Freeholders were men entitled to vote based on a land qualification. Freeholders' records have been digitised and indexed, and can be searched on the PRONI website.

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