



IRISH INFORMATION

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TRACING YOUR IRISH FAMILY HISTORY

Researched by Sheila Crowell

Preface

Note 1: All sites listed on these pages are free unless noted with a Dollar Sign.

Note 2: Information about these websites was obtained or adapted from either the website itself, Family Tree Magazine, or from Wikipedia. Please also note that this list is not inclusive...there are many other sites you may explore on the ever growing availability of digital records!

Where to start

Most, if not all, of the guides to starting a family tree or researching your genealogy advocate that you start with yourself and work backwards. Work back to your immigrant ancestor and trace them back to their arrival and death and burial records. Also, take a look at their siblings, any and all extended family as these may also give important clues as to origins in Ireland. There are many websites and books available to guide you to next steps. Don't be disheartened when you hear that "all the Irish records were destroyed in the early 20th century". While many of the records stored at the Four Courts were lost, there are many alternative resources available, as the following lists of websites, books, etc., will show.

General Resources

<http://www.ancestry.com> - (with some free versions and databases as well) –Ancestry is the largest for profit provider in the world of family history and personal DNA testing, harnessing the information found in family tree, historical records, genetics and health history. While access is available via several paid subscription levels, Ancestry has hundreds of free databases if you register for a guest account. However, be aware that most of its information is only available with a paid subscription. Also, if you sign up for the trial edition and do not cancel within the 30 day trial period, your credit card will be billed for a yearly fee and it is sometimes difficult to obtain a refund. Another free and more complete (although still missing a number of databases) version is available if you have a library card for the Tampa-Hillsborough Library System. You

will need to use a library computer, for instance, at the South Shore Regional Library here in Sun City Center.

<https://familysearch.org> – Family Search now offers new ways to view your family tree, family story booklets, updated mobile apps, record hints for your ancestor profiles, an upgraded wiki and a new search box to help find specific historical records collections. These add to the appeal of an ever-longer roster of online records at this essential—and free—site.

Immigration

<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org> - The Ellis Island website offers an extensive free listing of manifests for ships that arrived in New York between 1892 and 1924—the years during which Ellis Island was America's primary immigrant processing center and where 12 million immigrants were processed. As of 2016, it lists 51 million records in its database and has added passenger records from the years 1925 through 1957. It is free although you have to register as a guest user to see the manifests and if you want a copy, that requires payment.

<http://castlegarden.org> - Castle Garden, today known as Castle Clinton National Monument, is the major landmark within The Battery, the 25 acre waterfront park at the tip of Manhattan. From 1855 to 1890, the Castle was America's first official immigration center, a pioneering collaboration of New York State and New York City. This free site offers access to an extraordinary database of information on 11 million immigrants from 1820 through 1892, the year Ellis Island opened.

Ship Lists

<http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/index.shtml> - Olive Tree Genealogy has more than 1,500 free ships passenger lists. Search for immigrant passengers on ships list by country of arrival, by state of arrival, or by ethnic group and find your family tree.

<http://www.theshipslist.com> - The Ships List website has immigration reports, newspaper records, shipwreck information, ship pictures, ship descriptions, shipping-line fleet lists and more, as well as hundreds of passenger lists to Canada, USA, Australia and even some for South Africa. It offers over 3,500 totally free access web-pages with new databases added regularly.

<http://archives.gov/research/immigration/passenger-arrival.html> - This Archives government website has immigration records for arrivals to the United States from foreign ports between approximately 1820 and 1982. The records are arranged by Port of Arrival. They do not have passenger lists available online; however, they do have a list of the microfilm available for each port.

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/> - This government database identifies 604,596 persons who arrived in the Port of New York, from 1846-1851. In AAD, under Browse by Category, choose Genealogy/Personal History, then select the database: Records for Passengers Who Arrived at the Port of New York During the Irish Famine, created, 1977 - 1989, documenting the period 1/12/1846 - 12/31/1851. Despite the name of the records, approximately 30 percent of the passengers list their native country as other than Ireland.

Death and Cemetery Records

<http://www.interment.net> – Free online archive of transcriptions of cemeteries in the U.S.A. and across the world, including some cemeteries that no longer exist.

<http://gravelocator.cen.va.gov> - This stateside counterpart to the American Battle Monuments Commission, updated daily, searches US burial locations of veterans and their family members in VA national cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries and more.

<http://www.findagrave.com/> - This website contains listings of cemeteries and graves from America and around the world.

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U.S. Iris Records Focused-websites

<http://infowanted.bc.edu/> – This site from the Boston College Center for Irish Studies provides online access to an extraordinary database collection of 41,249 records compiled from the Boston Pilot newspaper. That newspaper, from October 1831 through October 1921, printed a

“Missing Friends” column with advertisements from people looking for “lost” friends and relatives who had emigrated from Ireland to the United States.

<https://www.qu.edu/institutes-and-centers/irelands-great-hunger-institute/> - Although it's not an online database to search, a visit to this resource on An Gorta Mor, the Great Hunger, is worth a look. The Institute itself offers lectures, conferences, courses and publications focused on development of a deeper understanding of the causes and consequences of The Great Hunger, and in addition, it is home to the Great Hunger Museum, which houses Irish and Irish American art from the 19th century through present day.

<http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/> - This website is now home to the old “sean ruad” Townlands Database, a fantastic resource for those seeking to learn more about where their ancestors came from. Once you know the County, Poor Law Union, Province, Barony, or Civil Parish, enter it here and it will give you listings on all the Townlands contained within it.

<http://www.americanancestors.org/Irish-Research> – \$\$-Pay site sponsored by the New England Genealogical and Historical Society, although it does have some free databases. It has a number of databases devoted to Irish genealogy. Watch for free periods of access which just require registering as a Guest User.

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YOU KNOW YOU'RE HERITAGE, NOW WHAT?

We believe it is our responsibility to preserve and pass on our heritage to future generations, it is our responsibility to document and share with others what we know about ourselves.

Below are some suggestions of where you can start.

Family History Software

Family Tree Storage Sites

Writing Your Family History

<https://www.lifeposts.com/> is a new free site which allows you to commemorate events in your family's life. It is expected that a fee structure may be added in the future.

AND

The website FutureLearn.com offers free online courses on a variety of subjects, sometimes one such as "Researching Your Family Tree" from the University of Strathclyde".

CULTURAL CONNECTIONS

Useful Links

Learn More About Ireland

Below is a list of useful links to websites that contain useful information about Ireland and its culture. Enjoy exploring!

*Links are under constant revision and review, there are NO expressed or implied endorsements. Links provided are for the edification & enjoyment of our members.

General Information

<https://www.andiesisle.com/an.irish.blessing.html>

<https://www.irishphotoarchive.ie/>

<https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/ireland.htm>
<https://www.irishcentral.com/>

Irish Tourism

<http://www.irishabroad.com/>
<https://www.discoverireland.ie/>
<https://hubpages.com/@marie-mckeown#mycontent>
<https://www.3and4clifton.com/>
<https://www.ireland.com/en-us/>

Videos of Ireland

The Best Of West Ireland

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=hYa8nOB2_3s

Exploring Dublin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LcKnx7I97yk>

Amazing Places To Visit

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIWVdu-UmZM>

Autumn In Dublin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R4ol8ucG8l8>