

FOCUS ON

Finding Your Irish Ancestors

Administrative Divisions in Ireland

Republic of Ireland

Provinces: Historical provinces are Connaught, Leinster, Munster and Ulster. (Also part of Northern Ireland) Each contains several counties. Ulster counties are divided between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Ulster counties of .

Northern Ireland: Since 1922 part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Counties: There are 32 counties on the island with Antrim, Londonderry (or Derry), Down, Armagh, Tyrone, and Fermanagh now part of Northern Ireland.

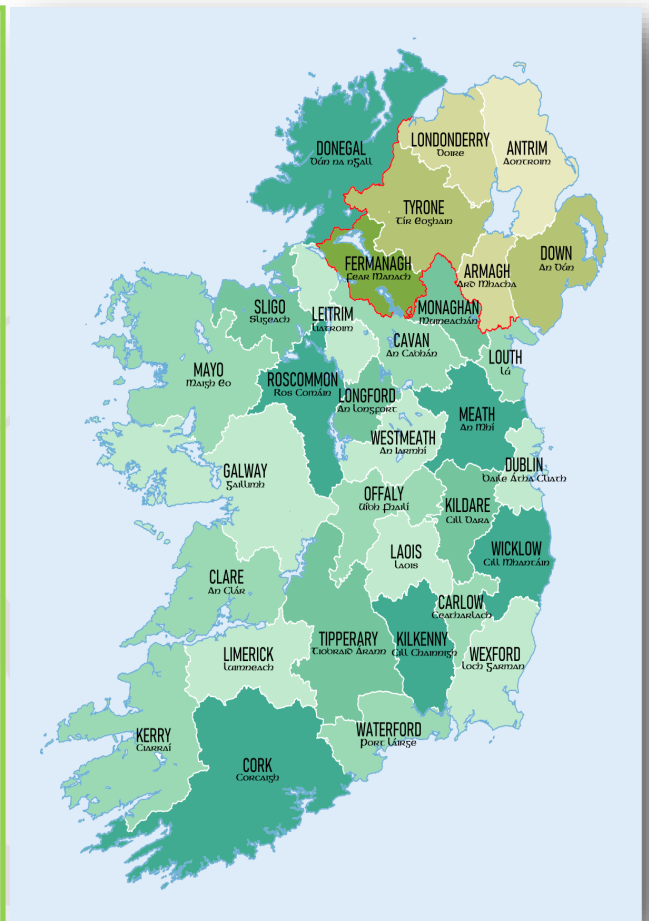
Civil Parishes: Land and taxation records are catalogued by civil parishes.

Poor Law Union Established in 1838, it is a system of providing to the poor. Also known as **Superintendent Registrar District**.

Townland Part of the Poor Law Union, it is the smallest administrative division. Townlands may have villages and hamlets within their borders.

Baronies: Former units of government and taxation from the 16th century. Replaced by Civil Parishes.

Catholic Church Records: Catholic church records are organized by parish.



Since 1922, Ireland has been divided between the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, which is part of the United Kingdom. The Province of Ulster was divided, with Cavan, Donegal and Monaghan counties in the Republic of Ireland and Antrim, Londonderry (or Derry), Down, Armagh, Tyrone, and Fermanagh counties making up Northern Ireland.

Getting started

Start at home. Look at photos, letters, certificates, greeting cards. Talk to relatives. Look for names of friends and relatives who may have come from the same part of Ireland.

Researching them may lead you to the county, parish and even townland of your ancestor.

Collateral research Start researching siblings, cousins, in-laws. This is how I found my ancestors' county, and townland, an obituary for Thomas Blake, husband of my 4x great aunt.

BLAKE.—On Friday, January 28, Mr. THOMAS BLAKE, from county Leitrim, Cavan, Ireland, aged 69 years.

Continue your research using U.S. records

Census records: Census records usually just list Ireland. However, the 1930 census designates whether someone came from the Irish Free State or Northern Ireland, such as Ellen Krieger in the record below. If your ancestor or a relative is in the 1950 census, it may list the Irish county they came from.

Krieger	Joseph	Head	0	10000	R	NO	M	W	55	M	24	No	yes	Bavaria	Germany	Germany
Ellen	Wife	4				V	F	W	56	M	22	No	yes	Irish Free State	Irish Free State	Irish Free State
Helen	Daughter					V	F	W	24	9		No	yes	New York	Bavaria	Irish Free State
Kathleen	Daughter					V	F	W	20	9		No	yes	New York	Bavaria	Irish Free State

Vital records: Birth, marriage and death records offer a wealth of information. Birth records give the name of the parents, often with the mother's maiden name. Marriage records usually give the name of parents and at times even death records lists parents' names. Place of birth may be listed. Don't forget the witnesses. If your ancestors' vital records are lacking details, search for records of siblings and other relatives.

Passenger Lists: Look carefully at any passenger lists you have found. The early 1900s passenger lists may give names of who is meeting them at the dock, paid for the passage and a contact in Ireland. Check online to see if more information is on the next image.

Naturalization Records: Earlier records do not provide a lot of information, but usually are signed by a witness, usually a relative or acquaintance. Records from the early 1900s provide a jackpot worth of information.

Church records: Church sacramental records may give more details such as place of birth. Make note of sponsors and witnesses.

Wills and Probate Records: Wills may list unknown relatives and where they are. Always check the wills of siblings and others your ancestors were close to. Don't forget witnesses. Though not beneficiaries, they may have been related or been friends in Ireland.

Newspapers: Obituaries, marriage articles and other social notices may give clues to other relatives and friends from Ireland.

Emigrant Savings Accounts: Established in 1850 for Irish immigrants in New York City. Text books give birth and family details. (**Ancestry.com** and books in our library.)

City Directories: Search for others with the same surname to see if they live nearby or even in the same house.

Where to search...

Ancestry.com — The site had close to 252 million records for individuals in Ireland and 156 million in Northern Ireland on Ancestry.com. If you don't have an Ancestry.com account, the library edition is available at all Carlsbad City Library locations, either on the patron computers or on your own device using the library's WiFi. When you find an image you would like to have, click the "Save" button, enter your email address twice, and Ancestry will email the image to you.

FamilySearch.org Free for everyone, FamilySearch has the largest collection of records in the world, including an extensive Irish collection. To search, you can use name and location, but you also have other choices.

Catalog — Search the catalog by location, Ireland, and if you know it, the county. If you know the parish, narrow your search. See what's available for that location and check it's online, indexed and available at home. If it has a padlock, it may be only available for viewing at the an Affiliate Library, such as the Carlsbad City Library and/or a FamilySearch Center.

Images — Before records are indexed, they can be viewed in Images. The drop-down Search menu found at the top of the page gives you multiple categories to search. One is Images. Choose images and enter your search location in the search well. Choose one of the results. You will see images, much like looking at a microfilm. If you find a record of interest, you can attach it to a person or persons in your tree. in the Source Box for future access.

Explore the site for more options and take advantage of the numerous free classes they offer online.

FindMyPast — Based in the United Kingdom, Find My Past offers records from all the British Isles, including Ireland, and also the United States and other parts of the world. They also have some emigration records from Ireland and Liverpool, where many Irish ancestors started their journey to the United States. Available at the Carlsbad City Libraries on the patron computers and the library WiFi.

Crossing the Pond

Where you start your research in Ireland depends on what information you have on your ancestors. If they left Ireland in the early 1900s, you can start with the 1901 or 1911 census. However, the earlier they emigrated, the more difficult the search will be.

Irish Census: The census in Ireland is taken every 10 years. Unfortunately, most are missing from 1821 to 1891 due to destruction by fire and government decisions. Although some fragments of the earlier censuses survive, researchers have to rely on the 1901 and 1911 census for essential information. For those whose ancestors left Ireland before 1901, there's not much left of earlier census records. Due to unrest in the country, no census was taken in 1921. The census resumed in 1926 and continued every 10 years through 1946. They returned to the original schedule of 01 dates in 1951. The 1926 census will be released in January 2027. The 1901 and 1911 census images are available at nationalarchives.ie and indexed on FamilySearch.org.

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A. No. on Form B. *10*

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.

No.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.		SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Deaf and Dumb; Blind; or Lame.
	Christian Name.	Surname.				Years on last Birth-day.	Months in Infancy.						
1	Thomas	Boyle	Head of Family	Catholic	Read & Write	75		M	Farmer	Married	Co. Louth		
2	Margaret	Boyle	Wife	Catholic	Read & Write	60		F	Farmer's Wife	Married	Co. Louth		
3	John	Boyle	Son	Catholic	Read & Write	21		M	Farmer's Son	Not Married	Co. Louth		
4	Emily	Boyle	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	19		F	Farmer's Daughter	Not Married	Co. Louth		
5	James	Boyle	Daughter	Catholic	Read & Write	16		F	Farmer's Daughter	Not Married	Co. Louth		
6	John	McDonagh	Servant	Catholic	Read & Write	10		M	Scholar	Not Married	Co. Louth		

Census Substitutes Much like the United States 1890 census, there are census substitutes for finding your Irish family. Most are based on agriculture and thus concentrate on rural areas.

Griffith's Valuation: This is a survey that lists names of property owners or occupiers, amount of acreage, value of property, and tax assessed. It is organized by barony (1847-1851) or townland (1852-1864) and includes maps. Available on Ancestry, Find My Past and FamilySearch.

GREENAUN. (Ord. S. 28 & 32.)		Total, . . .	100 3 25	58 15 0	1 10 0	60 5 0
Edward Blake, .	Charles John Peyton and others, .	House, office, and land,	12 1 36	4 10 0	0 10 0	5 15 0
Francis Flynn, .		Land,	2 2 36	0 15 0	—	
Edward Blake, .	Same, . . .	House, office, & garden,	0 2 10	0 5 0	0 5 0	0 10 0
Francis Flynn, .		Land,	4 1 25	1 0 0	—	1 0 0
William Banahan,	Same, . . .	Land,	—	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
Francis Flynn, .		Land,	—	0 10 0	—	0 10 0
William Banahan,	Same, . . .	Land,	15 0 22	2 10 0	—	2 10 0
				2 15 0	—	2 15 0

Tithe Applotment Books: Another great resource for those with rural ancestors. It lists those who rented or worked agricultural lands from 1823 to 1837. It is available for free at nationalarchives.ie or for Northern Ireland, the **Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)**.

Diocese of <i>Armagh</i> Parish of <i>Urbill</i>							
TITHEABLE.							
TOWNLAND.	NAMES OF OCCUPIERS.	Quantities in Detail.	Quality.	Total Quantity in Holding.	Total Quantity in Townland.	Rents paid.	Real Acreable Value.
<i>Cavan 100</i>	<i>Blair Edmond</i>	<i>12 1 22</i>	<i>unimproved</i>	<i>12 0 22</i>		<i>1 10 0</i>	<i>1 10 0</i>
<i>1</i>	<i>Thom Brien</i>	<i>16 3 14</i>	<i>unimproved</i>	<i>16 3 14</i>		<i>1 10 0</i>	<i>1 10 0</i>
<i>2</i>	<i>Thom Brien</i>	<i>40 0 22</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>40 0 22</i>		<i>1 2 0</i>	<i>1 2 0</i>
<i>3</i>	<i>Thom Brien</i>	<i>14 1 36</i>	<i>do</i>	<i>14 1 36</i>		<i>1 3 0</i>	<i>1 3 0</i>
				<i>83 2 14</i>			

County of <i>Leitrim and Longford</i>							
UNTITHEABLE.							
Quantities in Holding.	Quantities in Townland.	Quality.	Amount of Compensation for Tithe in Holding.	Amount of Compensation of Tithe in Townland.	Superficial	Observations.	ONS.
<i>1 11</i>		<i>land</i>	<i>12 40</i>		<i>14 1 1/2</i>	<i>8 3</i>	<i>176</i>
<i>2 10</i>		<i>do</i>	<i>1 20</i>		<i>6 8</i>	<i>13 4</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>16</i>		<i>do</i>	<i>2 13 6</i>		<i>17 10</i>	<i>1 15 8</i>	<i>2 17 8</i>
<i>2 04</i>		<i>do</i>	<i>1 19 7</i>		<i>6 6 1/2</i>	<i>13 1</i>	<i>13 1</i>
<i>2 1 25</i>	<i>3 3 26</i>	<i>do</i>		<i>5 5 0</i>	<i>1 15 2</i>	<i>3 10 4</i>	<i>3 10 4</i>

Cen S/16/ 734
Application No. *20-9528*
Date of Receipt, *29 Oct 1920* Disposed of,
EXTRACT FROM CENSUS RETURN OF 1851.

Full Name of Applicant, *Ellen Daly*
Address, *Nº Ellen McKenna, Aughina, Lehnerton's Bridge, Drogheda, Co. Longford.*

Full Names of Father and Mother of Applicant, *Michael & Mary Daly*
Name of Head of Family (if other than Father) with which Applicant resided in 1851.
Relationship and Occupation,
Residence in 1851:
County, *Leitrim* *> 57. rel 71.*
Barony, *Mohill* *173 841 589*
Parish, *St* *3/11/20*
Townland, *Blomacloy* *Ans*
Street (if in a town),

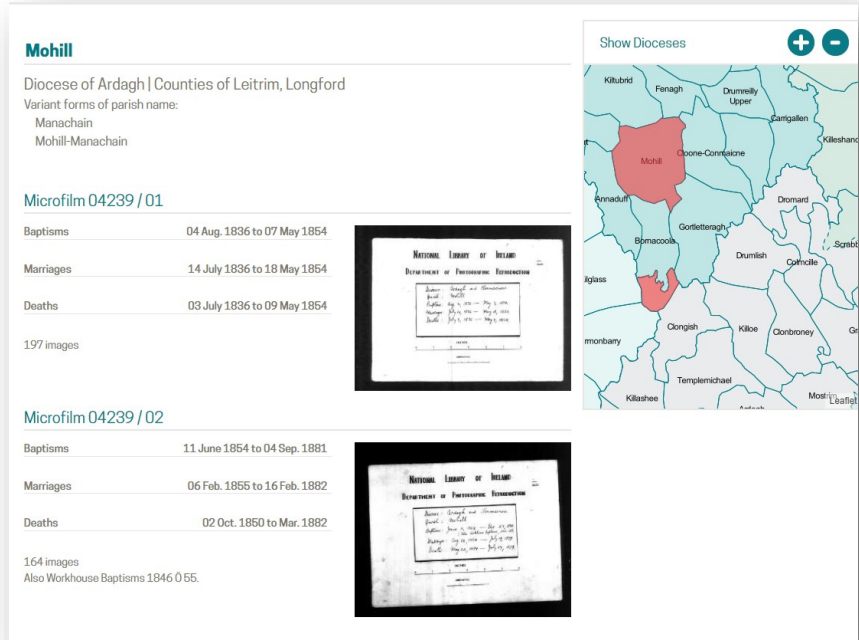
Old Age Pension, their proof of age and residence would have been extracted from the 1841 and 1851 census before they were destroyed. These extractions are available online on the National Archives of Ireland website (nationalarchives.ie) or in a book in the Carlsbad City Library genealogy collection, "Ireland: 1841/1851 Census Abstracts (Republic of Ireland" GEN 941.7 X2 1841/1851.

Flax Growers of Ireland, 1796: Flax was a major crop and growers, who were also weavers, were awarded spinning wheels based on the amount of flax they planted. These reports are available on failteromhat.com. ("Failte Romhat" means "Welcome.") The search is by province, then county. You can specify surname in a county. The list of names in the results is organized by diocese, parish, then townland. It will also list the records of flax grower by townland.

Surname	First Name	Parish/Barony	County
Following are the exact matches:			
Boyle	Thomas	Annaduff	Leitrim
Boyle	Peter	Mohill	Leitrim

Church Records

In the 1800s most of the Irish people were Roman Catholic. Thus your go-to place of research is the **National Library of Ireland (nli.ie)** Most of the collection is baptism and marriage records but some death records from northern parishes are included. A majority of the records start at the late 1820s due to lifting of registration restrictions imposed by England. They are arranged by county, diocese, Catholic parish and date and are not indexed. The records are written in Latin, except for the last names. Once you find the right parish, you will need to keep a sharp eye out for the last names. Below, marriage of John Boyle and Mary Flynn.



Mohill

Diocese of Ardagh | Counties of Leitrim, Longford

Variant forms of parish name:
Manachain
Mohill-Manachain

Microfilm 04239 / 01

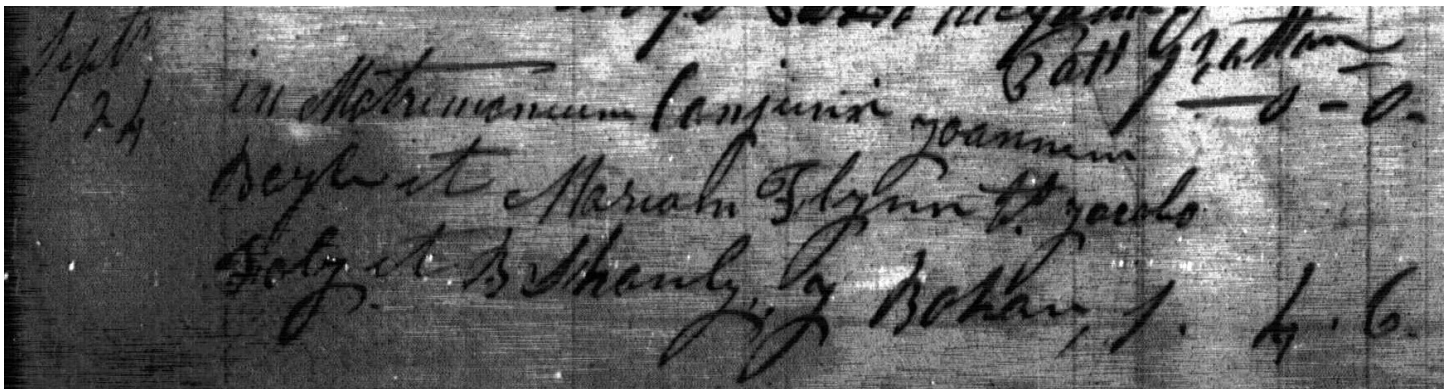
Record Type	Date Range
Baptisms	04 Aug. 1836 to 07 May 1854
Marriages	14 July 1836 to 18 May 1854
Deaths	03 July 1836 to 09 May 1854

197 images

Microfilm 04239 / 02

Record Type	Date Range
Baptisms	11 June 1854 to 04 Sep. 1881
Marriages	06 Feb. 1855 to 16 Feb. 1882
Deaths	02 Oct. 1850 to Mar. 1882

164 images
Also Workhouse Baptisms 1846-1855.



Sept 24, 1838 Joined in marriage John Boyle and Mary Flynn. Witnesses James Foly and B. Shanly.
By Bohan, J.

Northern Ireland

For those searching for ancestors in Northern Ireland, the **Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)** and the **General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI)** should be your first stops. **GRONI** holds birth, marriage and death records. While you can't search the records, GRONI will issue a certificate based on the information in the record. **PRONI** collects and preserves historical documents and put many online. Records of the Church of Ireland and many other denominations are online at PRONI. Both offices can be found at **indirect.uk**. If you should look for a Northern Ireland record in Ireland, you will be advised which site you need to visit.

National records after 1921 can be found with British records on **FindMyPast**, **Ancestry.com** and **FamilySearch.org**.