

Irish ancestors

Local and Family History

Pathfinder no. 7



Bega Library:	Mon. – Fri., 9.30am – 5.30pm.	Sat 9.00am – 12 noon	Zingel Place, Bega.
Bermagui Library:	Mon.-Tues., Thurs.-Fri., 9.30am – 5.00pm.	Sat 9.00am – 12 noon	Young Street, Bermagui.
Merimbula Library:	Mon. - Fri., 9.30am – 5.00pm.	Sat 9.00am – 12 noon	Market Street, Merimbula.
Eden Library:	Tues. – Fri., 9.30am – 5.00pm.	Sat 9.00am – 12 noon	Cnr Imlay & Mitchell, Eden.

Many important Irish genealogical records were lost due to the 1922 fire in the Ireland Public Record Office, including most Irish wills, census returns (1821-1851), and many Church of Ireland parish records. However, there are many other sources available to anyone searching their Irish ancestors.

To successfully research your family in Ireland you need to know the exact place of origin of your ancestor. This means the town land, parish and county. If you do not know where your ancestor came from in Ireland, you may need to concentrate on sources of the country where your immigrant family settled.

Various Australian record categories can help you pinpoint a place of origin in Ireland: see our range of pathfinders including “Census Information” (no. 1); “Births deaths and marriages” (no.2); “Shipping and immigration” (no. 4) and “Convicts” (no.6).

Some useful questions are:

- Which parish or town land did my Irish ancestors come from?
- Approximately when did they live there?
- What religion were my Irish ancestors? If Protestant, then what denomination?
- If my ancestors emigrated from Ireland, when did they do so?
- Were there any family members who remained behind in Ireland?

Note: Irish surnames can present problems because their spelling in the records has changed over time. For example the prefixes Mac, Mc and O can be interchanged and even dropped. It is common to find Irish nicknames and surname variants in official records. Try different spellings and check what names your family used.

Books

Clans and families of Ireland: heritage and heraldry of Irish clans and families / John Grenham. **R929.2**
GREN LHC

Death or liberty: the convicts of the Britannia, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1797 / Barbara Hall. **R929.3944**
HALL LHC

A desperate set of villains: the convicts of the Marquis Cornwallis, Ireland to Botany Bay 1796 / Barbara Hall. **R929.3944** **HALL LHC**

A genealogist's guide to discovering your Irish ancestors / Dwight Radford and Kyle Betit. **929.1089**
RADF

The great shame: story of the Irish in the old world and the new / Thomas Keneally. **941.508** **KEN**

The forgotten Australians: the non Anglo or Celtic convicts and exiles / James H. Donohue. **R994.004**
DONO LHC

Free passage: the reunion of Irish convicts and their families in Australia, 1788- 1852 / Perry McIntyre. **304.894 MCIN**

How to trace your Irish ancestors: an essential guide to researching and documenting the family histories of Ireland's people / Ian Maxwell. **929.1072 MAXW**

How to trace your Irish ancestors: an A-Z approach / Janet Reakes. **929.1072 REA** (useful county maps)

Irish research in the Internet / Cora Num. **025.06929 NUM**

The Irish vanguard: the convicts of the Queen, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1791 / Barbara Hall. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**

The Irish in Australia: 1788 to the present / Patrick O'Farrell. **994.004916/1**

Of infamous character: the convicts of the Boddingtons, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1793 / Barbara Hall. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**

The kingdom of the Ryans: Irish in Southwest New South Wales, 1816-1890 / Malcolm C Campbell. **305.899162 CAM**

A nimble fingered tribe: the convicts of the Sugar Cane, Ireland to Botany Bay, 1793 / Barbara Hall. **R929.3944 HALL LHC**

Oceans of consolation: personal accounts of Irish migration to Australia / David Fitzpatrick. **304.8940415 FIT**

Tracing your Dublin ancestors / James G. Ryan and Brian Smith. **929.1072 RYAN**

Tracing your Irish ancestors the complete guide / John Grenham. **929.1072 GREN**

Tracing your Northern Irish ancestors / Ian Maxwell. **929.1072 MAXW**

The origins of Irish convict transportation to New South Wales / Bob Reece. **R364.68 REEC LHC**

Websites

www.findmypast.ie Find My Past Ireland is available for free on the Library computers. The database includes a guide to Irish genealogy key sources. The database includes migration, census, land and estate, legal, directories, wills, military, war and rebellion records, obituaries and other newspaper articles, and electoral registers.

www.ancestrylibrary.com Ancestry Library Edition is available for free on the Library computers.

www.nidirect.gov.uk/gro General Register Office Northern Ireland has online ordering for birth, death and marriage certificates (no online indexes).

www.coraweb.com.au/ireland.htm This is an Australian gateway site for tracing your family history by Cora Num. Click on 'Ireland' to find a very extensive list of genealogy links, including County records.

www.rootsireland.ie/ Covering over 19 million records relating to Irish family history including births, deaths, marriages and gravestone records. Many records cannot be found online elsewhere.

www.irishgenealogy.ie Irish Genealogy offers free access to over 2 million pre 1900 church records, includes links to major record repositories.

www.nationalarchives.ie National Archives of Ireland holds many records relevant to Irish genealogy and local history. Click on "Online finding aid databases" on the homepage for details of searchable indexes.

Note that most of the original records can only be accessed at the Archives. Records of interest include “Ireland-Australia transportation database”.

www.proni.gov.uk Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) has online guides and information sheets. The collection of online indexes and free digital images includes thirty street directories (1819-1900).

www.census.nationalarchives.ie National Archives of Ireland, Census records for Ireland 1901 and 1911. The household returns for all 32 counties are digitised and fully searchable for free. This is a great site to find members of your family who stayed in Ireland.

www.nli.ie National Library of Ireland has a “Family History” link. A “Family History Getting Started” guide can be downloaded as a PDF.

wiki.familysearch.org/en/Ireland FamilySearch Ireland wiki has a wealth of Irish information and links and a ‘Beginner’s Corner’ to get you started.

http://genealogy.about.com/cs/ireland/a/irish_genealogy.htm

Learn how to trace your Irish heritage step by step with this genealogy guide to Ireland.

www.logainm.ie Placenames Database of Ireland offers several ways to search Irish place names, including ‘browse by county’.

www.irishtimes.com/ancestors/placenames Offers a placename search from the 1851 “General Alphabetical Index to Townlands and Towns, Parishes and Baronies of Ireland”.

www.askaboutireland is an initiative of Irish public libraries, local museums and archives to digitise and publish online original, unusual and unique material from their local studies collections. Use the Reading Room link to access a vast collection of digital books.

www.irishgraveyards.ie Irish Graveyards offers access to photographs and monumental inscriptions from digitally surveyed graveyards and cemeteries in Ireland. Most date from the 19th and 20th century.

www.familysearch.org by The Church of Latter-day Saints offers access to the largest collection of free family history records in the world. You will find indexes to Ireland deaths 1864-1870; Ireland births and baptisms 1620-1881; Ireland civil registration indexes 1845-1958; and Ireland marriages 1619-1898.

www.igp-web/IGPArchives/index.htm Ireland Genealogy Projects Archives offers access to material that is not readily available elsewhere including parish registers and civil registration records.

www.genwed.com/UK/ireland.htm GenWed offers access to online Irish marriage records transcripts.

Commercial sites that also have free name searches include RootsIreland.ie and www.emeraldancestors.com

www.eneclann.ie/ Eneclann is a fee based service established to assist researchers and especially useful for records that can only be accessed in Ireland, such as many parish records, and records held in Registry of Deeds or the Valuation Office.