



Your Family Tree: 11

EMIGRATION RECORDS



Emigration records deposited in PRONI are the most obvious source for researchers who are descendants of emigrants from Ireland, particularly Ulster. Unfortunately, emigration is not particularly well documented. Most passenger lists, for example, are to be found at the country of entry rather than departure due to the fact that the authorities were more concerned with recording those entering a country rather than those leaving.

Many of the emigration archives that are deposited in PRONI have been indexed and either transcribed or digitised to form part of DIPPAM (Documenting Ireland: Parliament, People and Migration), an online virtual archive of documents and sources relating to the history of Ireland and its migration experience from the 18th to the late 20th centuries. The Irish Emigration Database provides access to copies of most of the emigration letters, passenger lists and journals held in PRONI. This resource is freely available online at www.dippam.ac.uk.

Emigrant letters form a substantial part of our emigration records. This material is found in many of the private collections in PRONI. Search the PRONI eCatalogue by keyword, phrase or PRONI reference number.

Emigration to USA

Passenger Lists held in PRONI are:

T711/1	List of passengers from Warrenpoint and Newry to Philadelphia and New York, 1791-2
MIC333/1	Passenger Lists – Philadelphia, 1800-82
MIC333/2	Passenger Lists – Baltimore, 1820-91
MIC333/3	Passenger Lists – Boston, 1871-91
MIC333/4	Passenger Lists – New York, 1826-27, 1840-2 and 1850-2
T1011/1	Passengers from various origins arriving mainly in New York, 1802-14
T3262	Passenger Lists from Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, Newry, Sligo, Warrenpoint to USA, 1803-06
T2786/1	Volume containing census information for United Parish of Rathespick with Russagh, Co. Westmeath, together with genealogical and emigrant information, 1863-1916.
T521/1	Passenger Lists from Ireland to America, 1804-06 (index available)

in Deputy Keeper's Report 1929)

D2892/1/1-4 Passenger Books of J & J Cooke, Shipping Agents. Sailings from Londonderry to Philadelphia, Quebec, St John's, New Brunswick, 1847-71 (see also MIC/13)

A number of published lists of emigrants are also available in PRONI. These include:

The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York 1846-1851 (seven volumes, published in 1983), contains data from the original ship manifest schedules, deposited in the National Immigration Archives in the Balch Institute in Philadelphia.

Irish Passenger Lists 1847-1871, contains lists of passengers sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J & J Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line.

Immigrants to New England 1700-1775, contains an alphabetical list compiled by Ethel Stanwood Bolton.

Passenger Arrivals at the Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1829.

Lists of Emigrants to America, 1635-1776, contains lists of passengers, including Irish emigrants, who departed from English ports.

Irish Passenger Lists, 1803-6: Lists of passengers sailing from Ireland to America extracted from the Hardwicke Papers.

Also available are some transcripts of passenger lists of vessels arriving at New York, 1820-1821, and at Boston, 1820-91.

Emigration to Canada

Settlers from Ulster set up home in every Canadian Province and played an influential role in the national life of their adopted home. Many Ulster people migrated to the United States via Canada. It was cheaper to travel to Quebec from the port of Londonderry than to go from Belfast or Liverpool to Boston or New York. The voyage was also usually shorter.

The first large-scale settlement of Upper Canada came when individuals - many of them Scots-Irish - fled from the United States during the American War of Independence (1760-1791). A second wave of immigration, coming directly from Ulster, consisted of disbanded soldiers and small farmers hit by the agricultural slump which followed the Napoleonic Wars (which ended in 1815).

Of particular interest to researchers interested in emigration to Canada are the passenger lists, the most important of which are listed below:

D2892/1/1-3 Three volumes of passenger lists, February 1847-1849, February 1850-August 1857, March 1858-July 1867, of J & J Cooke, shipping agents, Londonderry. The Canadian destinations are Quebec and St John's, New Brunswick, with details also being given for Philadelphia and New Orleans (see also MIC/13).

D3000/104/1-10 Typed transcripts, compiled in 1984, of notices which appeared in Canadian local newspapers, mostly the New Brunswick Courier, 1830-46, and the Toronto Irish Canadian, 1869. The notices include

queries as to the whereabouts of various persons who had emigrated from Ulster to Canada and the United States.

- D3000/104/11-13 Typed transcripts, compiled 1984-5, of notices inserted in Canadian local newspapers by passengers arriving from Ireland. The newspapers were the New Brunswick Courier and the Saint John Morning News, covering the period 1828-58. There are also summaries based upon these notices which list the passengers involved, their ports of embarkation in Ireland and the dates of arrival in Canada.
- T768/1 List, 1833-34, of emigrants from Coleraine parish, Co. Londonderry, giving information on the names, ages, religion, townlands of residence and date of departure of those involved. The destinations are also given and include St John's, New Brunswick and Quebec.
- T3168 Passenger list, 11 May 1847, issued by A.C. Buchanan, Chief Agent for Emigration at Quebec, giving the date of sailing, the names of the ships involved, their point of departure and the number of passengers carried.

Emigration to Australia and New Zealand

Australia emigration, as a mass organised movement did not get going in a major way until the 1820s, after the disruption of the Napoleonic Wars. The distance involved, and the logistics of the journey, meant that the numbers going to Australia as compared with North America were much smaller. For the same reasons emigration to Australia was much more controlled. Regulation was applied at points of departure in Britain and Ireland and at entry points in Australia.

There were also government-assisted schemes such as the emigration of workhouse inmates to Australia. Labour had become extremely scarce in Australia around the time of the Famine in Ireland and the colonists in New South Wales and Western Australia pressed the Colonial Office to secure more settlers. Arrangements were made with the Colonial Land and Emigration Commissioners for a scheme of assisted emigration and the first 5,000 adults were sent in 1847.

Convict settlements were a feature of Australian society for nearly a century until the transportation system was progressively withdrawn from 1840 onwards. In that year New South Wales was removed from the system. It was followed by Tasmania in 1852 and Western Australia in 1867. The main reason for this was that the Australian colonists came to regard the convict system as a stigma on those who had chosen to emigrate as well as the criticism in both Britain and Australia because of the inevitable brutality of certain aspects of the convict system.

The following records are of particular importance:

- MIC/468/1 Indexes to male convicts transported to New South Wales, 1830-1842 and 1850-1868.
- T3036/6 Passenger List, 1841, Victoria, Australia.
- D648/9 Register of Girls' Friendly Society - sponsored emigrants from various counties in Ireland, 1890-1921.
- MF/4 Indexes to births, deaths and marriages in New South Wales, Australia, 1787-1899.

- MIC468/1 3 volumes of indexes to male convicts transported to New South Wales, Australia, 1830-42, and to Western Australia, 1850-68, taken from the records of the Principal Superintendent of Convicts.
- T2786/1 Volume containing census information for United Parish of Rathespick with Russagh, Co. Westmeath, together with genealogical and emigrant information, 1863-1916.

Useful Websites

www.ancestorsonboard.com – a searchable database of names from outward passenger lists for long distance voyages leaving the British Isles, 1890 to 1960.

www.castlegarden.org – search for arrivals to New York's Ellis Island Immigration station prior to 1892.

www.ellisland.org – a searchable database of names of those who entered the United States through Ellis Island and the port of New York from 1890-1924.

www.rootsweb.ancestry.com – view Irish Emigration Lists (1833-1839) extracted from the OS Memoirs for Counties Londonderry and Antrim.

www.ancestry.com - US Immigration Collection including indexes to passenger lists of ships arriving from foreign ports to:

- Boston from 1820 to 1943 (3.8 million immigrants),
- Philadelphia, 1800 to 1945 (1.6 million), and
- New York, 1820 to 1957 (83 million)

Access by subscription or free at your local library.

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Your Family Tree: 12

MILITIA, YEOMANRY LISTS AND MUSTER ROLLS



The ‘undertakers’ granted land in the Plantation of Ulster were required to occasionally muster their Protestant tenants for inspection by the Government-appointed Muster Master General who recorded the names, the ages and the types of arms borne by the tenants. All Protestant males between the ages of 16 and 60 were liable to service in the militia. Only copies of the militia records survive: they list the undertakers, and sometimes divide the lists of tenants by parish or by barony.

Faced by the possible rebellion in the late eighteenth century, the Government raised a mainly Protestant force, the yeomanry, which it paid for and equipped. The yeomanry were expected to drill two days a week, and could be called out to suppress public disorders and to assist the regular army in the event of invasion or insurrection.

There are in addition Muster Rolls of Regular Army units raised in Ireland.

The most generally useful are listed below:

Co. Antrim

MIC/637/11	Muster Roll, 1631
(D/1759/3C/3)	Muster Roll, 1642
T/3726/2	Militia Officers, 1691
T/808/15185	Militia Officers, 1761
T/808/15235	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1799-1800
T/1115/1A & 1B	
MIC/533/3	
(D/162/104)	Declarations of allegiance by Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of Carrickfergus Corps of Yeomanry Infantry, c.1803

Co. Armagh

MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3B/5) T/934/1 T/808/15235 D/1928/Y/1	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, 1631 Militia Officers, 1761 Militia Lists by parish in the barony of O'Neilland West, 1793-1795
T/1115/2A-C T/808/15248	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1798-1800 Roll of Armagh Corps of Supplemanry Yeomanry, 1798- 1803
T/561/1 T/2701 D/296/1 D/321/1	List of Officers of Armagh Militia, 1808 Crowhill Yeomanry pay list, c.1820 Ardress Yeomanry Book, c.1796 - 1798 Churchill Yeomanry Book, c.1796

Co Cavan

MIC/637/3B/5 (D/1759/3B/5) T/934/1	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, 1631
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Co Donegal

MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3B/5) MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3C/2)	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, 1631
T/808/ 15166	Muster Roll of Sir Robert Stewart's regiment mustered at Raphoe, 1642
T/808/15177	Col. Audley Mervyn's muster at Ellagh, Co Donegal, 1643

Co. Down

MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3B/5) MIC/637/10 (D/1759/3C/1) T/563/1	Muster Roll, 1618 Muster Roll, c. 1630 Muster Roll, 1642-3
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T/808/15172	Muster Roll of Foot companies of Montgomery at Portaferry, Bishops court, Ballykinlar and Killyleagh, of Claneboy at Killyleagh, Strandtown, Little Belfast, Dundonald, Groomsport, Bangor and Strangford, and of Col. Arthur Hill at Belfast, Carrickfergus and Killyleagh.
T/3726/1	Muster Roll, Donaghadee, 1642
T/808/15235	Militia Officers, 1761
T/1023/153	Oath and List of Names of Ballyculter Supplementary Corps, 1798
D/303/3	Killyleagh Yeomanry List, 1798
T/1115/4A-C	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1799-1800
T/991	Mourne Yeomanry Lists, 1824

Co. Fermanagh

MIC/637/10	
(D/1759/3B/5	Muster Roll, 1618
T/808/15164	Muster Roll, 1630
T/934/1	Muster Roll, 1631
T/808/15235	Militia Officers, 1761
T/1115/5A-C	Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, 1794-9
T/808/15244	Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteer Infantry Muster Rolls, 1797-1804

Co. Londonderry

MIC/637/10	
(D/1759/3B/5	Muster Roll, 1618
T/510/2	Muster Roll, 1620-22
MIC/637/10	
D/1759/3C/2)	Muster Roll, 1631
T/808/15235	Militia Officers, 1761
D/4164/A/24	Coleraine Yeomanry, 1796
LA/25/2AA/2	Coleraine Yeomanry, 1797
T/1021/3	Yeomanry Muster Rolls, 1797-1804

Co Monaghan

MIC/637/10	
(D/1759/3B/5)	Muster Roll, 1618

Co. Tyrone

MIC/637/10	Muster Roll, 1618
(D/1759/3B/5)	Muster Roll, 1630
T/808/15164	Muster Roll, 1630 [Dungannon Barony only]
T/458/7	Muster Roll, 1631
T/934	Militia Officers, 1761
T/808/15235	Pay Roll of the Aghnahoe Infantry, 1829-1832
D/1927/5	

General

T/808/15196	Extracts from Regular Army Muster Rolls, 1741-80
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Your Family Tree: 13

POOR LAW RECORDS



Poor Law records are the archives of the Boards of Guardians (PRONI ref **BG/**), the administrators of the Poor Law in Ireland, 1838-1948. PRONI holds extensive records for the 28 Poor Law Unions (each of which had a workhouse) that originally operated in the area now covered by Northern Ireland. In 1870, the Union of Gortin (**BG/28**) was amalgamated with that of Omagh (**BG/26**). Each Poor Law Union was named after a chief town in the district, and usually serviced the area in a ten-mile radius, often extending across county boundaries. As well as workhouses, the Boards maintained infirmaries and fever hospitals. The system was financed by a rate set by the Poor Law Valuation.

The original aim of the poor law system was to provide relief to the destitute poor only if they entered the workhouse. Due to the demand for workhouse accommodation created as a result of the ravages of the Great Famine, outdoor relief was eventually introduced. This was granted to the able-bodied poor in the form of money or goods. As a result of the introduction of outdoor relief, the workhouses in Ireland had by 1900 become a refuge for the old, the sick and destitute children. The workhouse system lasted until the introduction of the Welfare State in 1948.

THE RECORDS

There are comprehensive sets of records covering the poor law unions that were established in the counties of Northern Ireland. However, the extent to which the records survive for each of these unions varies from place to place. Classes of records include:

- Minute books
- Indoor relief registers, later referred to as admission and discharge books
- Births and deaths registers
- Outdoor relief registers
- Vaccination registers

MINUTE BOOKS

There are complete sets of minute books for almost all the unions, and even those unions with imperfect sets lack only an occasional volume. These volumes are of

less interest to genealogists as they largely contain minutes of the meetings of the various committees and a great deal of purely statistical information. However, the early volumes in particular will often contain the names of those individuals – for example of those who failed to comply with workhouse rules, who absconded or were given assistance to emigrate by the Board of Guardians. Several volumes of minutes have been transcribed and are available on the Search Room shelves. Transcripts of minutes for some Poor Law Unions in the Republic of Ireland are also available in the Search Room.

REGISTERS

The **indoor relief registers** and admission and discharge registers list the name, age, religious denomination, marital status, former occupation and, if disabled, the nature of the disability, of those entering and leaving the workhouse. Occasionally, **registers of births and deaths** that occurred in the workhouse survive for some Poor Law Unions. There are also **outdoor relief registers** which are less extensive for the 19th century than the indoor relief registers. **Lists of inmates of the infirmaries and fever hospitals** attached to the workhouse may also have survived and these, too, can be very useful.

Another form of out-door relief was the practice of putting out to nurse or boarding out orphan and deserted children. Under Acts of 1898 and 1900 a record of children and nurses had to be kept. You will find details either in the out-door relief registers or in separate **boarding-out registers**.

The Medical Charities (Ireland) Act 1851 brought the dispensary system under the control of the Boards of Guardians which in turn created new series of records. These included vaccination registers that give the name of the child, the names and addresses of the mother or father or other person in charge of the child, the date of vaccination and the age of the child at the time of vaccination. Some of these registers date back to the 1860s for some Poor Law Unions.

All of these records provide information that can be very useful to the genealogist, particularly as poorer people are less likely to be recorded elsewhere.

CLOSURE PERIODS

Due to the sensitive nature of some of the material contained within them, some records will be closed for 100 years from the latest date in each volume. This means that a register that contains information recorded in June 1907, will not be open to the public until January 2008 (the first working day in the year following their hundredth anniversary). Registers over 100 years old (where available) are open to the public. For specific enquiries in records less than a hundred years you should put your request in writing to the Records Management, Cataloguing and Access Section in PRONI and a search will be carried out for you.

THE WORKHOUSE UNIONS

The 28 Poor Law Unions in the counties of Northern Ireland are listed below. For details of the records that have survived for each Union, researchers should consult the grey calendars, available on the shelves in the Public Search Room.

BG/1	Antrim, Co. Antrim
BG/2	Armagh, Co. Armagh
BG/3	Ballycastle, Co. Antrim
BG/4	Ballymena, Co. Antrim
BG/5	Ballymoney, Co. Antrim
BG/6	Banbridge, Co. Down
BG/7	Belfast, Cos Antrim and Down
BG/8	Castleberg, Co. Tyrone
BG/9	Clogher, Co. Tyrone
BG/10	Coleraine, Co. Londonderry
BG/11	Cookstown, Co. Tyrone
BG/12	Downpatrick, Co. Down
BG/13	Dungannon, Co. Tyrone
BG/14	Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh
BG/15	Irvinestown, Co. Fermanagh
BG/16	Kilkeel, Co. Down
BG/17	Larne, Co. Antrim
BG/18	[Newton] Limavady, Co. Londonderry
BG/19	Lisburn, Co. Antrim
BG/20	Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh
BG/21	Londonderry, Co. Londonderry
BG/22	Lurgan, Co. Armagh
BG/23	Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry
BG/24	Newry, Co. Down
BG/25	Newtownards, Co. Down
BG/26	Omagh, Co. Tyrone
BG/27	Strabane, Co. Tyrone
BG/28	Gortin, Co. Tyrone (united to Omagh, c.1870)

Opening Hours



Your Family Tree: 14

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY CENSUS SUBSTITUTES



Summonister rolls, 1610-84

These were copies of fines imposed and recognizances forfeited at Assizes, Quarter Sessions and in the King's courts. Among the reasons for the imposition of fines was non-appearance at court. Names and residences are recorded. The original rolls were lost in the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922 but copies of some, mainly for Counties Londonderry and Tyrone, have survived. (**PRONI reference T/808/15090, 15120, 15126, 15130 -15135, 15139 and T/1365/2**)

Muster Rolls 1630

These contain lists of the principal landlords in Ulster, and the names of the men they could assemble in an emergency. They are arranged by county, and district within the county. (See *'Your Family Tree' Leaflet 12- Militia, Yeomanry Lists and Muster Rolls* for details)

Books of Survey and Distribution

Compiled around 1680 as a result of the wars of the mid-seventeenth century when the English government needed reliable information on land ownership throughout Ireland to carry out its policy of land distribution. The Books of Survey and Distribution are laid out on a barony and parish basis and include a record of land ownership before the Cromwellian and Williamite confiscations as well as the names of the individuals to whom the land was distributed. **PRONI reference MIC/532/1-13.**

Civil Survey of Ireland

Sir William Petty's Civil Survey of Ireland, compiled between 1655 and 1667, contains lists of the principal landlords of each townland as well as their predecessor before the Cromwellian confiscations of 1641. It contains a great deal of topographical information arranged by county, barony, parish and townland. Unfortunately, very little of this survey survives, although Co. Londonderry and Co. Tyrone are available. **PRONI reference T/371.**

Census of Ireland c.1659

This census of Ireland was compiled by Sir William Petty and published by S Pender, a copy of which is in PRONI. It contains only the names of those with title to land (titulados) and the total number of English and Irish resident in each townland. Five counties – Cavan, Galway, Mayo, Tyrone and Wicklow – are not covered. See the following:

Co. Antrim
1659 Census MIC/15A/72

Co. Armagh
1659 Census MIC/15A/73

Co. Down
1659 Census MIC/15A/76

Co. Fermanagh
1659 Census T/808/15064

Co. Londonderry
1659 Census MIC/15A/82

Hearth Money Rolls

The first Hearth Money Act was passed in the Irish Parliament in 1662. It provided that 2 shillings should be paid on every hearth or ‘other place used for firing’. The Hearth Money Rolls, arranged by county and parish, list the name of the householder and the number of hearths on which he was taxed and the amount to be paid. The tax was collected over areas known as ‘Walks’ and based on the town. The ‘Lisburn Walk’, for example, covered a large area of the south of Co. Antrim and NOT merely Lisburn town. See the following:

Co. Antrim
1666 Hearth Money Roll T/3022/4/1
1669 Hearth Money Roll T/307/A

Co. Armagh
1664 Hearth Money Roll T/604
1664
and 1665 Hearth Money Roll T/808/14950
1664-1665 Hearth Money Roll T/3839/1 (Shankill Parish only)

Co. Fermanagh
1665-1666 Hearth Money Roll of T/808/15066-15068;T/265 [Barony Lurg, Town of Enniskillen and parish of Devenish (extracts)]

Co. Londonderry		
1663	Hearth Money Roll	T/307/A; T/716/4
1663	Hearth Money Roll	D/4164/A/14 [Coleraine Parish only]
Co. Tyrone		
1663-1664	Hearth Money Roll	T/283/D/2; T/458/1; T/1365/3; MIC/645
1664 and 1666	Hearth Money Roll	MIC/645
1665-1666	Hearth Money Roll	T/458/1 [Dungannon Barony only]
1666	Hearth Money Roll	T/307/A - C; T/716/16
Co Cavan		
1664	Hearth Money Roll	T/808/15142 [Urney, Annagh, Annagelliff, Templeport and Kildallan Parishes and Cavan Borough]
Co. Donegal		
1665	Hearth Money Roll	T/307/D; T/283/D/3; T/296/1
Co. Monaghan		
1663 and 1666	Hearth Money Roll	T/808/15156

Subsidy Rolls

The Subsidy Rolls list the nobility, clergy and laity who paid a grant in aid to the King. They include the name, the parish, and sometimes the amount paid and the status of the person. See the following:

Co. Antrim		
1666	Subsidy Roll	T/808/14889
Co. Armagh		
1634	Subsidy Roll	T/808/14950
Co. Down		
1663	Subsidy Roll	T/307/A
Co. Fermanagh		
1662	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15068 [Enniskillen town only]
Co. Londonderry		
1662	Subsidy Roll	T/1592/19 [Drumachose, Tamlaghtard, Cumber, Clondermot, Tamlaghtfinlagan]

Co. Londonderry (contd)

and Faughanvale Parishes and
City and Liberties of
Londonderry]

1662	Subsidy Roll	T/716/4
1662-7	Subsidy Roll	D/4164/A/14 [Dunboe, Macosquin Coleraine and Killowen Parishes]

Co. Tyrone

1663	Subsidy Roll	T/458/8
c. 1663, 1664, 1666-1667	Subsidy Roll for Dungannon Barony	T/283/C
1664	Subsidy Roll	T/283/D/1; T/458/8
c.1665	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15092
1666-1667	Subsidy Roll	T/458/8
1668	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15097; T/716/4

Co. Cavan

1662	Subsidy Roll	T/808/15142
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Co. Donegal

1662	Subsidy Roll	T/808/14998
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1689

List of names of Protestants in Co. Armagh attained in 1689 by James II. This is simply a list of names. **PRONI reference T/808/14985**

Poll Tax Returns

The Poll Tax Rolls list the people who paid a tax levied on every person over 12 years old. They give detailed facts about individuals quite unique in surviving seventeenth century records. See the following:

Co. Armagh

1660	Poll Tax Returns	MIC/15A/75; T/808/14950
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Co. Down

1660	Poll Tax Returns	MIC/15A/76
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Co. Fermanagh

1660	Poll Tax Returns	MIC/15A/80
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Co. Londonderry

1669 Poll Tax Returns MIC/15A/82

Co. Tyrone

1662-1663 Poll Tax Returns T/458/8; T/283/C [Aghaloo Parish only]

1698 Poll Tax Returns MIC/15A/81

Co. Donegal

1660 Poll Tax Returns MIC/15A/76

1660 Poll Tax Returns T/808/15089
[Urney and Donagheady Parishes only]

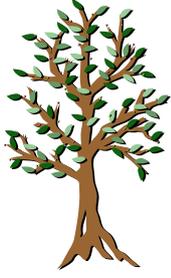


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Your Family Tree: 15

PEDIGREES AND GENEALOGICAL PAPERS



PRONI has in its custody records compiled by scholars that are of enormous interest to genealogists. Pedigrees for families from many different parts of Ireland are available. Most notable of these are extract pedigrees from wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Ireland, 1536-1800, compiled by Sir William Betham, Ulster King of Arms, and copied for his own use by Betham's successor, Sir Bernard Burke. Burke's set of 42 large volumes of Pedigree Charts (**PRONI reference T/559/1-42**) are of great importance to all record searchers. Indexes to these volumes are available in the Public Search Room in PRONI (**PRONI reference number T/559/43**). Each volume itself has an index at the back and these are worth checking to ensure that you have seen all the entries for the family name included in that particular volume. (*See Guide to Probate Records for more details*)

The Groves Manuscripts

These contain a great deal of valuable material for genealogists. Tenison Groves, a Belfast genealogist, spent more than forty years compiling a vast collection of transcripts, abstracts, notes, etc., from records held in the Public Record Office in Dublin prior to its partial destruction in 1922. The part of the collection that relates to Northern Ireland was purchased by PRONI in 1939. The 9,000 plus items includes seventeenth-century muster rolls, militia lists and family pedigrees. The genealogical material has been arranged rather haphazardly, although surnames starting with the same letter are usually grouped together. The arrangement under each letter is not strictly alphabetical and material on one name can appear in several volumes. The Groves Manuscripts can be found under the **PRONI reference number T/808**; typescript copies of some of these documents are available on the shelves of the Public Search Room.

Canon Leslie Manuscripts

Canon Leslie was another antiquarian/genealogist who spent a lot of time in the Public Record Office in Dublin before 1922 transcribing wills and compiling genealogical notes and pedigrees from the records. Most of his notes can be found under the **PRONI Reference T/1075**.

Pedigrees and genealogical papers relating to individual families can be located using the Personal Names Index. A number of such papers have also been collected together under the single **PRONI reference number D/3000**. Researchers interested in the pedigrees of the leading landowning families in Ulster should consult the introductions in the respective catalogues.



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Your Family Tree: 16

ENCUMBERED ESTATES



The Encumbered Estates Acts, 1848 and 1849, allowed the sale of Irish estates which had been mortgaged and whose owners, because of the Great Famine, were unable to meet their obligations. It was hoped that English investors would be attracted to buy Irish estates and thereby transform Irish agriculture. Under the 1849 Act an Encumbered Estates Court was established with authority to sell estates on the application of the owner or encumbrancer (one who had a claim on the estate). After the sale, the court distributed the money among the creditors and granted clear title to the new owners. The existing tenants on the estates were unprotected by legislation. Estates were generally bought by speculators. Between 1849 and 1857, there were 3,000 estates totalling 5,000,000 acres, disposed of under the acts. The functions of the court were assumed by the Landed Estates Court in 1853.

The most spectacular sale at the encumbered estates court was the property of the 3rd Marquis of Donegall, which had been in financial difficulties since the late eighteenth century. When he succeeded to the title in 1844 the new Marquis inherited debts of nearly £400,000 - fourteen times the annual rental. He had no choice but to let the Encumbered Estates Court arrange the sale of the remaining thirty thousand acres.

The Irish Encumbered Estates Court rentals are in bound volumes (**PRONI reference D/1201**) and are available for the whole of Ireland. They are divided by county and include as well as rentals - maps of the estate giving tenants' names and, on occasion, surveys of the estate. They are an under-used source for genealogists interested in the names of tenants of various estates throughout Ireland in the mid-nineteenth century but they are equally of interest for the 18th century as there are numerous references to leases that were taken out in the 1700s. An index to the Encumbered Estates Court rentals is also available – **PRONI reference MIC/80/2**.

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Your Family Tree: 17

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, DUBLIN



The Registry of Deeds, Dublin, is one of the most valuable sources of ancestral information for the eighteenth century particularly as many original wills were destroyed in the Public Record Office of Ireland in 1922. The information contained in this archive relates not only to the wealthier landlords but also can include details of the most humble of tenants. More than half a million registered deeds were deposited up to 1832. However, this is probably only a small percentage of the land transactions which took place as during the early years registration was voluntary.

The Irish Registry of Deeds was founded in 1708. One of its main functions was to ensure the enforcement of legislation which prevented Catholics from buying or taking long leases on land. Up until the 1780s, Catholics could not invest in mortgages to take leases on land for a longer period than 31 years.

A very wide range of documents was registered since Irish registration was not confined to the major categories of deeds - leases, mortgages, conveyances and annuities, rents, rights of way, wills, dissolution of partnerships etc. The Irish memorials are much more detailed than those in England and usually comprise a complete copy or a fairly full abstract of a document. As a source the registry is invaluable, particularly for the eighteenth century, and has great interest for genealogists and for Irish economic and social historians.

When a document was brought to the Registry of Deeds, a written report of it was made. This was usually a complete copy or a very full abstract. These written records were kept in the Registry of Deeds as memorials. Copies of the memorials were then made and bound in date order in volumes known as Transcript Books. These are available on microfilm (1,914 reels) from 1708-1929, with only a few gaps, under the **PRONI reference MIC/311**.

There are 2 main series of indexes to the Transcript and Abstract Books:

- (a) The Names Index of grantors
- (b) The Lands Index

The Names Index

The names index can be found under the **PRONI reference MIC/7** which is an index to the years 1708-1929, and a consolidated index for the years 1905-24. This is accessible in the Self -Service Microfilm Room.

The names index, beginning in 1708, is arranged alphabetically by grantor, in periods of years. Up to 1832 it records the surnames of the grantors, the surname of the grantees (but there is no index of grantees), and the reference to the Transcripts Books (the volume number, page number and the number of the memorial). There is no description of the lands nor is the exact date of the deed given. After 1832, the townland or street, the county, city or town, and the barony or parish in which the lands are situated are recorded, as is the year of registration. From 1833 therefore, the details to be extracted to find the relevant information in the Transcript books are: the year of registration; the number of the file and volumes of the Transcript book; the number of the memorial; and the page of the Transcript book.

The Lands Index

The lands index can be found under **MIC/7**, covering the years 1708-1929 and is available in the Self-Service Microfilm Room. It is arranged under townlands by barony and county. Not all the deeds relating to a particular townland will be found together eg. deeds for Galtrim will be found in various place amongst the list of townlands beginning with 'G'. Town property is indexed under the towns in the County volumes. The exceptions are the cities and Corporation towns which are found in separate volumes in the county series. A list of the Corporation towns included in this series is found at the end of **MIC/7** list. Houses in a city or town are searched for under their street name and again, deeds for a given street will not be found together eg. deeds for Agnes Street, will be found in various places amongst streets beginning with 'A'.

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Your Family Tree: 18

BUSINESS RECORDS



The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has one of the largest collections of business records in the British Isles. Among the records can be found names of firms that have made Ulster famous throughout the world for linen, shipbuilding and engineering. The records themselves represent a wide cross-section of the business life of the province ranging from the records of Harland & Wolff to the local corner shop. They can be studied alongside related classes of archives deposited by employers, trade unions, public utilities, solicitors, banks and government departments.

The most extensive holdings of business records relate to the linen industry; more than 250 companies are represented. These date from the eighteenth century, when spinning and weaving were domestic in character and new methods of bleaching were being devised by the Ulster bleachers. They cover the whole range of business activity, from technical production and employment aspects to marketing on a worldwide scale.

Other firms represented include: the shipping records of the Head Line Shipping Co., Belfast, 1897-1970 (PRONI Ref – D/3117), the records of the bakery firm of Bernard ('Barney') Hughes Ltd, 1886-1972 (PRONI Ref – D/3338) and Andrews Mill, Comber.

Some of the earliest business records are found among family papers. These include papers relating to the shipment of linens to Jamaica, 1795-1840, and the Indian business and administrative papers, 1759-75, of James Alexander, later 1st Earl of Caledon, who made one of the great 'nabob' fortunes of the 18th century by the time he finally left Bengal in 1772 (PRONI Ref – D/2432).

Business records often contain a great deal of detailed information relating to suppliers, customers, shareholders and, of course, company employees. If you know that your ancestor was employed by a particular company search the Electronic Catalogue (on-line and in the Search Room) under the relevant heading ie linen industry, shipbuilding, etc, to see if their records have been deposited at PRONI.

If you know where your family came from, check out the Ordnance Survey maps to identify what businesses were in the area where the family may have worked. If they lived in Belfast the street directories will also show the location of businesses and industry in the vicinity of your ancestor's home.

Generally the most useful information relating to employees is to be found in the wages books. These contain such information as employees' names, days and hours worked, wage rates, overtime payments, details of work done, etc, and occasionally include their age and address. Information relating to the owners, directors or trustees of a company will generally be found in the minute books or annual reports of the company and the names of shareholders in shareholders' registers

It is important to note that the archives of chartered accountants and solicitors as well as private families often contain substantial business papers. Among the records of L'Estrange & Brett, solicitors, Belfast, for example, are the business records of the Larne and Ballymena Railway Co. and the Belfast Steamship Co., (PRONI Ref – D/1905 – see *Your Family Tree: 19, Solicitors Records*).

PRONI's collection of trade union archives include those of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, dating from 1883, and in part relating to branches in the Republic of Ireland (PRONI Ref – D/1050). More unusual are the minutes from 1896 of an employers' association, that of the printers in Belfast (PRONI Ref – D/3759).



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Your Family Tree: 19

GRAND JURY RECORDS



The Grand Jury was the most important local body in rural Ireland during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, and was empowered to raise money by means of county rates. Its responsibilities included the construction and repair of roads and bridges and the upkeep of local institutions such as lunatic asylums and hospitals. Members of the Grand Jury were selected by the High Sheriff from the leading property owners in the county; the order in which these jurors stood on the list gives a pretty good indication of their social standing.

Grand Jury Presentments are the chief records of the county administration prior to 1898. These and Grand Warrants contain information about work ordered to be done by the Grand Jury on roads, bridges and jails and about constabulary duties in the counties. They are arranged barony by barony within the county and useful genealogical information can be obtained by detailed searching of them. They are not indexed. Although frequently printed, different sets contain manuscript amendments and notes according to who owned and used them. An entry might state 'that it was agreed that £12. 6s. 8d. shall be paid to Joshua Trainor of Ballylack, for repairing the road between Omagh and Strabane, from Peter McMenamain's farm in Breeny to William Crawford's farm at Ballykilbeg'.

The most useful records are listed below:

Co. Antrim

ANT/4/1	Presentments 1711-1840
ANT/4/2	Grand Warrant Books
ANT/4/3	Presentments Books - working copies, 1822-1899
ANT/4/6	Grand Jury Book, 1849-1941
ANT/4/8/1	Booklet listing names of judges and high sheriffs, 1859-1900
ANT/4/8/3	List of magistrates giving names, addresses and dates of appointment, 1873-1923
T/1110	Grand Jury lists for Co. Antrim, 1613-1803.

Co. Armagh

ARM/4/1	Presentments 1758-1899
ARM/4/2/1	County Cess Collection Book for the barony of Oneilland West, 1875
T/647	Grand Jury List for Co. Armagh, 1735-1797

Co. Down

DOW/4/2	Presentments, 1778-1899
T/684/11	Grand Jury Cess, applotment of parish of Down, 1843

Co. Fermanagh

FER/4/1-3	Presentments, 1792-1898
FER/4/5	List of Justices of the Peace, 1922-1923

Co. Londonderry

LOND/4/1	Presentments, 1788-1899
LOND/5/3/1	Book containing the names of the Recorder's Court Grand Jurors of the City and County of Londonderry, 1857-1899
T/1113/1	Grand Jury list for Co. Londonderry, 1614-1819

Co. Tyrone

TYR/4/1	Presentments, 1799-1897
TYR/4/2	Grand Jury Indictment Books which includes the name of the prosecutors, persons indicted and the offence. The names of judges, sheriffs and members of the Grand Jury are also included, 1745-1809, 1814-1899, 1912-1969.

Belfast*

BELF/4/1/2	Grand Jury Book listing names of Grand Jurors, 1940-1969
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* Many of the Grand Jury records relating to Belfast can be found among the Antrim Grand Jury records.



Your Family Tree: 20

HOW TO USE GRIFFITH'S VALUATION



Griffith's Valuation, 1848-64, is the first Valuation to list the all occupiers of land, tenements and houses in Ireland. It is therefore one of the principal sources for family history. It is available in both manuscript and printed form in PRONI. The printed volumes are on open access in the Public Search Room.

Alternatively, you can now search the Griffith's Valuation online at www.irishorigins.net and at www.askaboutireland.ie free of charge. This is the simplest and most straightforward way to find the information you seek.

However, if you are unsure of where your family came from, you should check the Householders' Index which is on open access in the Public Search Room in PRONI and follow steps 1-6 below. You may already know the townland or town where your family came from so you need first to identify the Poor Law Union, barony and parish in which the townland/town is located and then follow steps 4-6 below.

1. Use the Householders' Index to find in which County the name is most prevalent.
2. Having done this the Householders' Index will indicate in which Barony/Parish the name is most often found.
3. In the Parish section of the Householders' there will be information to tell you which Union (ie the Poor Law Union) the Parish is in, eg Lisburn Union, Co. Antrim.
4. The printed Griffith's Valuation books are arranged by Poor Law Union so next go the relevant Poor Law Union book which will give the page numbers for the required Barony/Parish and the townlands therein.
5. Search the pages of the Barony/Parish for the required name. When found, the details beside the name will show the type of property, acreage and valuation.

Opening Hours

6. The numbers in the first column in the printed Griffith's Valuation books give the plot numbers of each holding which are demarcated on the valuation maps. The small letters in the same column refer to houses which will also be marked on the valuation maps. Directly underneath the name of each townland in the Griffith' Valuation books you will find the Ordnance Survey (OS) sheet number (also used for the valuation maps) for the map of that townland.
7. The valuation maps are listed as follows:-

VAL/2A/1/ sheet number	Co. Antrim
VAL/2A/2/ sheet number	Co. Armagh
VAL/2A/3/ sheet number	Co. Down
VAL/2A/4/ sheet number	Co. Fermanagh
VAL/2A/5/ sheet number	Co. Londonderry
VAL/2A/6/ sheet number	Co. Tyrone

Maps should be ordered by county and sheet number as indicated with each townland name in the valuation books.

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Your Family Tree: 21

A GUIDE TO GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS



Gravestone inscriptions are a wonderful source of information for both the local historian and for the genealogist. As many church registers do not begin until the early to mid 19th century and civil registration of births and deaths was not introduced until 1864, gravestone inscriptions are an alternative way of tracing a family back beyond the middle of the nineteenth century. The difficulty of tracing families through church registers is compounded by the fact that, of the 1,600 Church of Ireland registers in existence, 1,000 were in the safe-keeping of the Public Record Office of Dublin and were therefore destroyed in the Four Courts fire of 1922.

The importance of gravestone inscriptions has long been recognised, and attempts have been made to record for posterity some of the older and endangered epitaphs. PRONI holds a series of journals entitled *Memorials of the Dead*. These were published annually under the aegis of the Association for the Preservation of the *Memorials of the Dead, Ireland*, and span the years 1888 to 1934. The contents were made up of submissions by voluntary contributors, who transcribed whatever took their interest. The *Memorials* therefore, have a piecemeal, hit-and-miss quality rather than being a meticulous study of each cemetery. Errors in transcription and translation also occur. They do, however, cover the whole of Ireland, and illustrations (some of which are very roughly drawn) are included. Entries are arranged alphabetically by county and subdivided by parish, also in alphabetical order. Additionally, these journals contain letters and articles relating to memorials and the state of graveyards, as well as lists of subscribers to the Association.

For some years past, R.S.J. Clarke has compiled and edited a series of books entitled *Gravestone Inscriptions*, under the aegis of the Ulster Historical Foundation, formerly the Ulster-Scots Historical Society. While the burial grounds sited in County Down have been substantially covered, only some of the Belfast and County Antrim graveyards have been published. More books are planned, but some of the earlier works are now out of print. They also have a large amount of material still in index card form.

However, PRONI holds the full run of the twenty-seven printed volumes; twenty relating to Down, three to Antrim and four for the Belfast region. Twenty-one volumes are bound in a hardback, green, cover: County Down volumes 1-18, County Antrim, volumes 1 & 2, and Belfast volume 1. In soft binding are:

Belfast (volume 2), covering Friar's Bush and Milltown graveyards;

Belfast (volume 3), covering the Balmoral, Friends and Malone burial grounds;

'Old Belfast Families and the new burying ground, from gravestone inscriptions, with wills and biographical notes', volume 4 in the Belfast series (the new burying ground referred to is the Clifton Street graveyard, no longer 'open');

Two editions of volume 19 in the Down series, one of which contains a list of all the cemeteries covered in the series ;

'Heart of Downe: old Banbridge Families', volume 20 in the County Down series;

Old Families of Newry and District, volume 21 in the County Down series;

'Old Families of Downpatrick and District', volume 7 in the County Down series (New edition). This contains a 'summary guide to documentary sources for the family and local historian, parish of Down';

Old Belfast families of Carrickfergus and Ballynure', volume 3 in the County Antrim series. This includes three appendixes: (i) some Carrickfergus deaths, 1853-72; (ii) summary guide to documentary sources for Carrickfergus; and (iii) a list of subscribers.

Old Families of Larne and District, volume 4 in the County Antrim series.

The introduction in the first book of the series gives an excellent exposition of the aims and objectives of the undertaking. In summary, however, County Down was chosen as the initial area of research simply for its geographical proximity to the compiler. Date was defined according to a compromise between best practice and economic considerations. Therefore, all gravestones having a date of death prior to 1865 (by which date civil registration is up and running) have been copied completely; where practicable, stones containing dates prior to 1900 have been included and, in very small cemeteries, all headstone inscriptions have been transcribed. By imposing strict geographical and period limitations, it was hoped that a more complete and accurate guide would ensue.

Entries are arranged alphabetically by name of graveyard, within which are listed, also in alphabetical order, the names on the stones. As much detail as was possible has been included but, naturally, due to exposure to the elements over long periods, much of the detail on the headstones has been lost. Usually, however, a brief description of the physical appearance of the grave is given. Inscriptions which also appear in Memorials are cross-referenced, and any inaccuracies noted. Of use to the local historian, as well as the genealogists, is the inclusion of the Ordnance Survey grid reference of the burial ground, a potted history of the church or area in which the graveyard is sited, some detail on the oldest graves and their general condition, and some photographs and illustrations. The series is indexed every five volumes (ie., volumes 5, 10, 15 and 20 give details of 1-5, 6-10, 11-15 and 15-20, respectively) with alphabetical lists of surnames and of graveyards.

All of the information on gravestone inscriptions in these printed volumes has now been digitised and indexed and can be accessed on-line at www.historyfromheadstones.com. Here you will also find maps showing the location of graveyards.

Other sources available in PRONI, which have been loosely bound in soft covers, many of them photocopies are:

David R Elliott, 'Boho Church of Ireland Cemetery, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'The Cemetery of St Molaise, Monea, Devenish Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with and introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Benmore Church of Ireland Cemetery, Inishmacsaint Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Slavin Church of Ireland Cemetery, Inishmacsaint Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Sydare Methodist Cemetery, Magheracross Parish, County Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Rossory Parish Cemeteries, Co. Fermanagh' – transcriptions with an introduction.

David R Elliott, 'Old Derrygonnelly Churchyard, Inishmacsaint Parish, Co. Fermanagh' – transcription with an introduction.

'Gravestone inscriptions in Aghalurcher churchyard, Aghavea cemetery and Drumully cemetery', taken from the Clogher Record, vols I-VI.

‘Gravestone inscriptions in Creggan graveyard, Donaghcavey cemetery, old Kilskeery graveyard, Drumglass cemetery’.

‘Gravestone inscriptions in Lambeg churchyard’.

‘Catholic gravestone inscriptions in the vicinity of Draperstown, County Derry’, comprising Moneyneeny, Kilcronaghan and Straw.

‘Tombstone inscriptions’, copied from the Journal of the County Louth Archaeological and Historical society, vol XIX, 1, 1977, contains information on St Mary’s ‘Abbey’; Dunany; Salterstown; County Louth; Rathdrumin; Bawntaaffe; Urnai; Fochart; St Nicholas, Dundalk.

D. Johnston, ‘Clogher Cathedral graveyard’ (1972) includes a short introduction entitled; ‘The graveyard in History’.

‘Carved in stone: a record of memorials in the ancient graveyard around the church of the Holy Evangelists’ (Church of Ireland), Carnmoney, Newtownabbey.

‘The Hidden Graveyard: Memorials in Graveyard No 1, Church of the Holy Evangelists, Parish of Carnmoney, Church Road, Newtownabbey.

B S Turner, Gravestone inscriptions for Ardclinis, Nappan and Kilmore, Co. Antrim .

John A McCurdy and Norman Parkes: Billy Parish Church Old Burying Ground.

Carmavy and Templastragh graveyards, Co. Antrim.

Ballymena Borough Gravestone Series: Kellswater Reformed Presbyterian Church, Ballyclug, Cullybackey Old Methodist Church, St Saviour’s Parish Church, Skerry, 1st and 2nd Killymurriss and Racavan.

Other sources, including original documents, can be found in the electronic catalogue, on-line and in the Search Room, under the heading, ‘Graveyards’. These are arranged by county for both municipal and church cemeteries, and include:

T/1761 Transcripts of gravestone inscriptions in the Shankhill graveyard, 1690-1953.

T/3715/1 Gravestone inscriptions in Larne Union burial ground, Kilwaughter, Co. Antrim.

- D/3672 Gravestone inscriptions from churches in Counties Antrim and Londonderry (13 volumes).
- MIC/1/29 Book containing tombstone inscriptions from tombstones in Templemore Parish graveyard c.1800 – c.1880
- MIC/61 Gravestone inscriptions in the New Burial Ground, Clifton Street Belfast, 1800-1897.

See also Leaflet 27 for a list of records in PRONI for local authority burial grounds.

The Tennison Groves papers also contain various transcriptions of headstones for a number of counties; see T/808/14917-14924

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