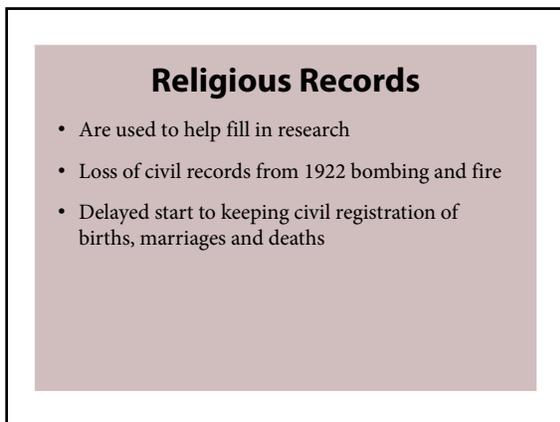


1



2



3

Religion in Ireland - 1841

- 8,000,000+ inhabitants
- 4/5ths were Roman Catholic
- 1/5th were Protestant
 - Nearly 1/2 were Presbyterian
 - 1/2 were Church of Ireland and Dissenters
- Church of Ireland, established church, supported by all

4

Religious Denominations

- Church of Ireland
- Non-Subscribing Presbyterian
- Presbyterian
- Roman Catholic
- Reformed Presbyterian
- Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

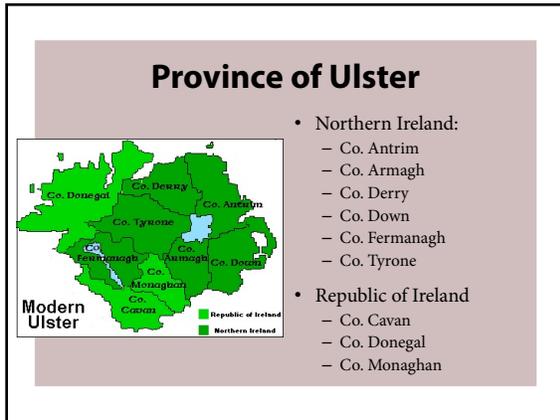
5

Religious Denominations - 1860

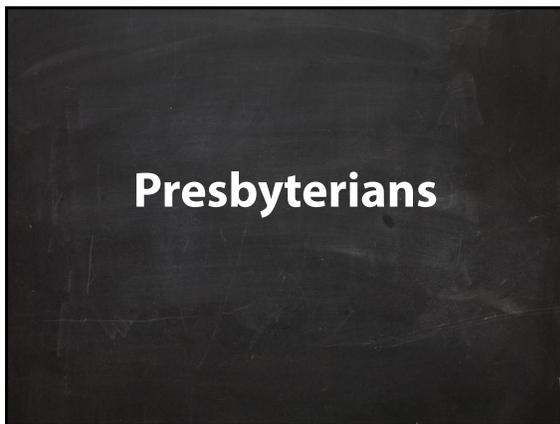


- Ulster – predominantly Presbyterian
- Connacht – predominantly Roman Catholic
- Leinster – partly Church of Ireland
- Munster – predominantly Roman Catholic

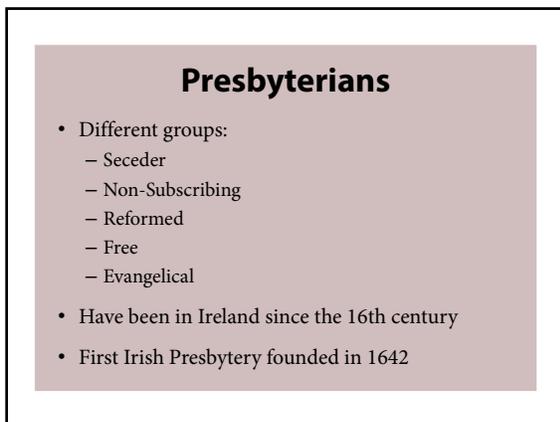
6



7



8



9

Seceder Presbyterians

- Largest of the three historic Presbyterian branches
- Followed a conservative evangelicalism
- First Seceder congregation founded at Lylehill, County Antrim in 1741
- Reunited with the Synod of Ulster to form General Assembly (except for 17 ministers)
- 16 ministers & followers became United Synod of Original Seceders
- Ultimately all reunited with General Assembly by 1955

10

John Downey Meeting House
11th July 1842

This day at the close of public services being the Commemoration Monday the Presb. Messrs John Downey Brandon Mills & John Miller John Downey with Mr. George Thompson Presby Elder met by authority of the United Synod of Original Seceders which met in Edinb in May last to constitute into a Presbyterial Congregation under the name of the P.B. of Down & Downey. — The Presb. John Downey being chosen M.O. & Mr. Thompson being chosen the Presb. Sec.

Seceder Session Book

11

Prospect Hill
25th July 1842

The Synod of Down & Downey met & was opened with prayer & the Moderator Mr. John Downey presided as in the Minutes of yesterday. Mr. John Downey having attended college on session during which he has obtained Latin Greek & some other languages an essay on the design & uses of Logic & was examined as English or Latin & in both cases highly approved. Mr. Samuel Downey was on 25th or 26th the points of agreement & difference between Trinitarianism & Unitarianism which after due remarks was finally sustained. Mr. Downey's sermon was an essay on the nature of the Trinity which after remarks was finally sustained. Mr. Downey's sermon delivered a lecture on Hebrew 34, 7-9 which was unanimously approved & sustained in part of text for license. Mr. Downey's sermon having attended the Logic class an examination on Latin, Greek & the usual elementary branches & was approved. In addition to other parts of time, on Monday the 25th of July in the afternoon the Synod of the United Synod of Original Seceders met to be examined on potential theology & church government.

Seceder Session Book

12

Non-Subscribing Presbyterians

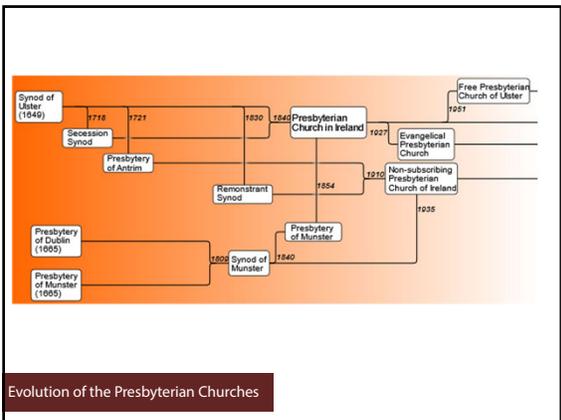
- Trace to a dispute among members of the Synod of Ulster over subscription to the Westminster Confession of Faith
- Those who wouldn't subscribe to the statement of doctrine were referred to as "New Light" Presbyterians or "non-subscribers"
- Many disagreements and further schisms
- Finally formed the General Synod of the Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church in 1910

13

Reformed Presbyterians

- Also know as Covenanters because they adhered to the Covenants of 1638 and 1643
- These covenants addressed liturgical issues and signers were to maintain the religion and oppose any changes
- Reformed Presbyterians believed such obligation passed from one generation to the next
- Officially formed Synod of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of Ireland in 1811

14



15

**Register of First Antrim Presbyterian Church.
Baptisms from 1677-1733**

Showing 21/30 of 41 results (Search again?)

Date	Father First Name	Father Surname	Child Name	Comments
March 15 1708	James	Wilson	John	James Wilson of 5 towns had a child baptised John
August 18 1708	Thomas	Wilson	Martha	Thomas Wilson had a child baptised Martha
April 17 1709	James	Wilson	Mary	James Wilson had a child baptised Mary
Janry 22 1710	Thomas	Wilson	Elizabeth	Thomas Wilson churcler had a child baptised Elizabeth
July 23 1710	Wm	Wilson	Margrat	Wm Wilson a stranger had a child caled Margrat
Novbr 5 1710	James	Wilson	Elizabeth	James Wilson of 5 towns had a child Elizabeth
October 10 1712	Thomas	Wilson	Mary	Thomas Wilson had a child baptised Mary
April 1 1713	James	Wilson	James	James Wilson of 5 towns had a child baptised James
September 13 1713	John	Wilson	Margaret	John Wilson of Donogor had a child baptised Margaret

www.ancestryireland.ie

19

There was £ - 10 payed out at our last Disputate
Session After that our Accounts were settle
& it is to be allow'd to our Treasurer Mr [?]
out of the money that ^{was} his hands.

# to bring a Charn	- - - -	1 - 6	} ye more Name!
to Janet Brown	- - - -	0 - 8	
to William Anderson	- - - -	0 - 6	
to Robert Wilson	- - - -	03 - 0	
to John Selmore	- - - -	01 - 0	
to Neely o'Charn	- - - -	01 - 0	}
to Neam o'Charn	- - - -	00 - 8	
to Mary o'Charn	- - - -	0 - 8	}
# payed to James Boyd towards the burial of his daughter	- - - -	1 - 6	
Disbursements to the poor	- - - -	10 - 6	}
which w ^t it is to be payed out the disbursements after the last Session at was £ - 15 - 10	- - - -	2 - 10	
James Wilson	- - - -	13 - 4	

Session Book - Aghadowey

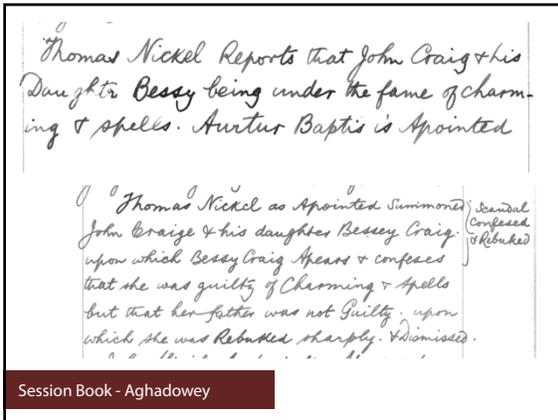
20

Daniel McRelis & Robert Archbald Reports
that John Boll is Again come into this Congregation
& was formerly send-- a fame of fornication.
Hugh Hardny is appointed to sum--- him to
our next session & he is allow'd to summon
John Wooden w^t whom he formerly lived
to ye ne-----

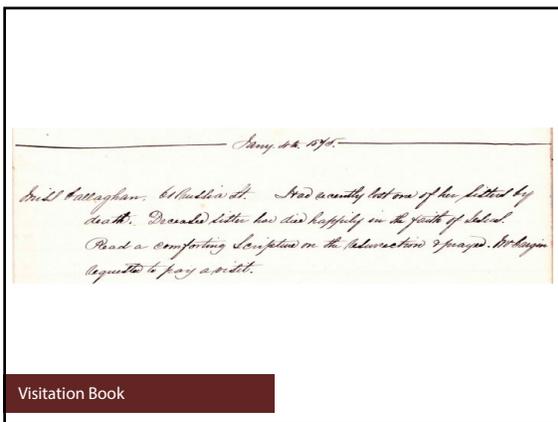
23] Thomas Nickel Reports that John Craig & his
Daught'r Cessy being under the fame of charm-
ing & spells. Aurlur Bapthie is appointed

Session Book - Aghadowey

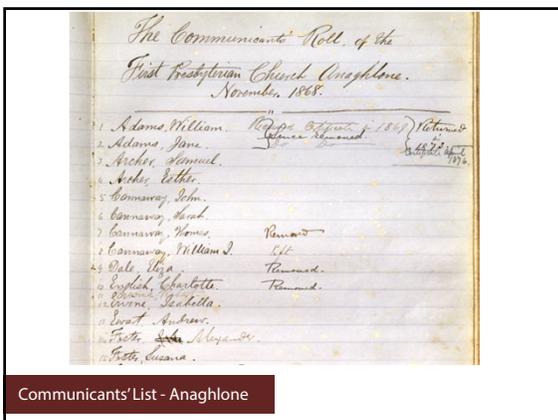
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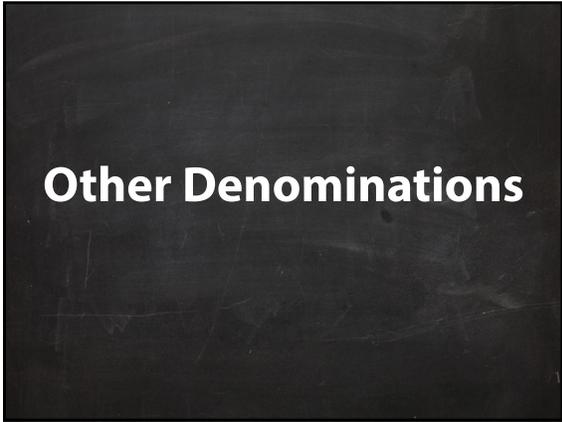
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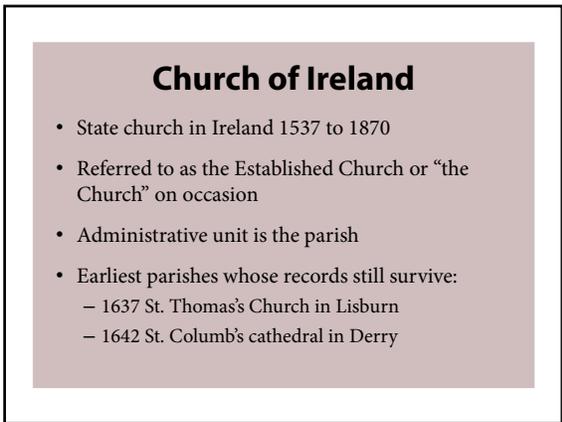
23



24



28



29



30

Church of Ireland

- Episcopal in faith and structure
- Most popular among areas that saw immigration of English families:
 - South Antrim
 - North Armagh
 - Northwest Down
- Support from landed classes helped it maintain a presence across Ulster Province

31

Note

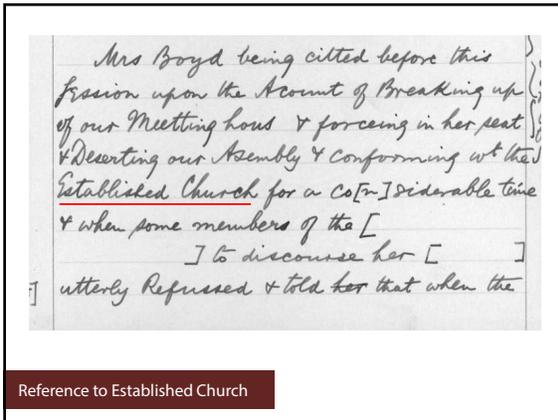
Registers of 1,000
Church of Ireland
parishes lost in 1922

32

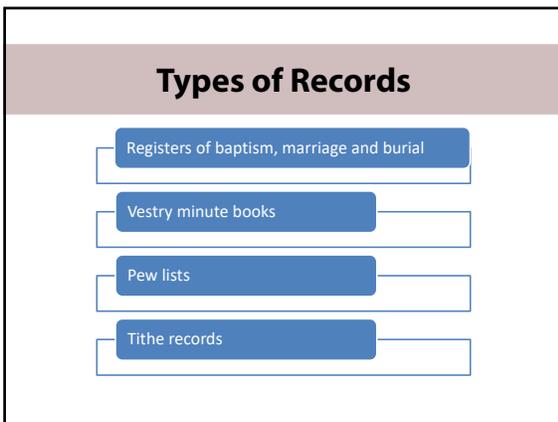
Explosion Irish Public Record Office



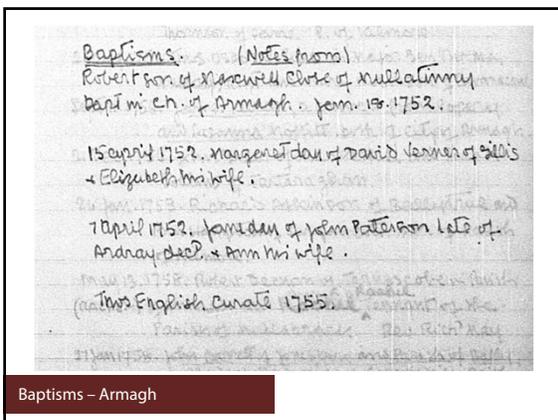
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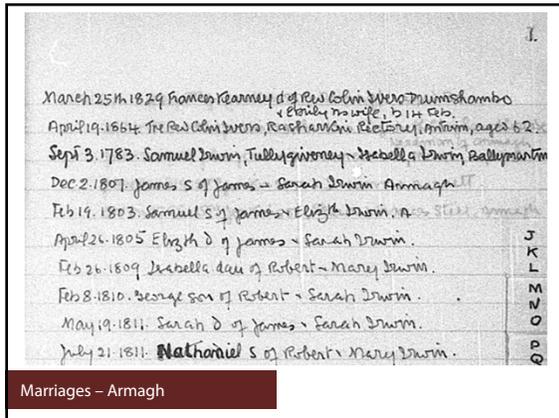
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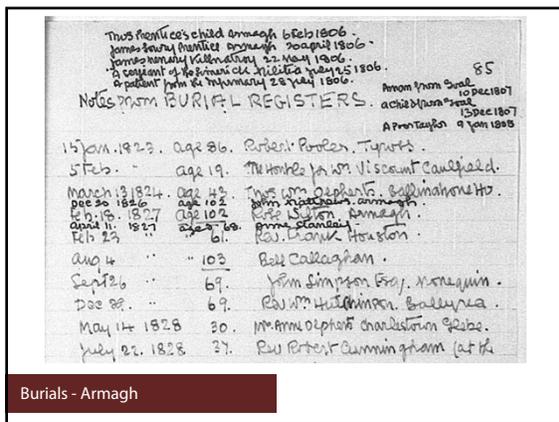
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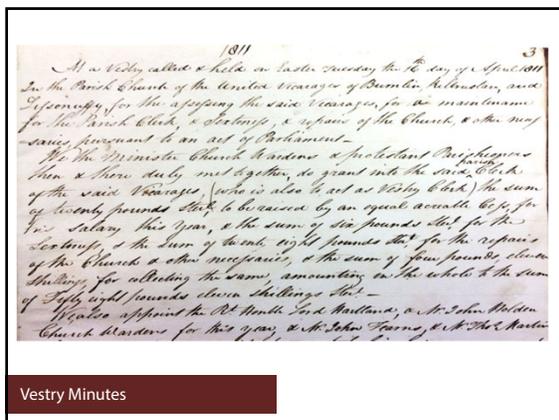
36



37



38



39

Miscellaneous Finds - Armagh

43

Roman Catholics

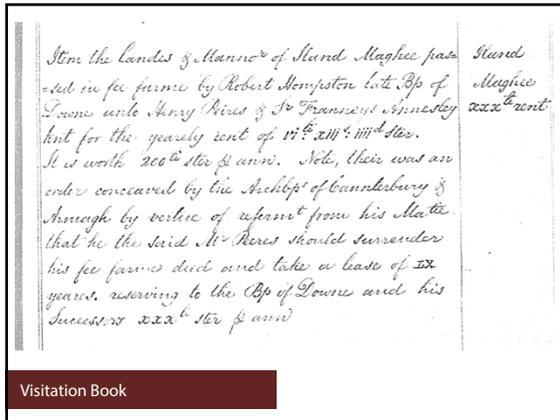
- Very few of the Catholic registers date back to before the 1820s
- Catholic parishes seldom follow the boundaries of civil or Church of Ireland parishes
- May be arranged separately for each sacrament
- Funerals don't give ages, but they at least supplies names and the dates of the burial

44

Types of Records

- Registers of baptism, marriage and death
- Dispensations
- Convert Rolls
- Visitation Books

45



55

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

- Founded in 1654 in Lurgan, County Armagh
- Particularly strong in areas with significant English settlers:
 - Lagan Valley
 - North Armagh
- Among some of the best record keepers of the various denominations

56

Types of Records

- Registers of birth, marriage and death
- Removals
- Meeting Minutes
- Disownments

57

No.	Page	Name	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Name of Parents	Parents Abode	Description	Date of Birth		
								Year	Month	Day
100		James	1748		James & Mary			1748	9	23
101		William	1748		James & Mary			1748	11	27
102		John	1748		James & Mary			1748	11	25
103		Thomas	1748		James & Mary			1748	6	6
104		Robert	1748		James & Mary			1748	6	16
105		James	1748		James & Mary			1748	8	23

Birth Register – Lisburn

58

No.	Page	Name	Bridal	Description	Name of Parents		
1	50	James	James	James & Mary	James	Mary	James
2	51	William	William	James & Mary	James	Mary	James
3	52	John	John	James & Mary	James	Mary	James
4	53	Thomas	Thomas	James & Mary	James	Mary	James
5	54	Robert	Robert	James & Mary	James	Mary	James
6	55	James	James	James & Mary	James	Mary	James

Parents Abode		To whom Married		Where Married		Date of Marriage		
Name	Place	Name	Place	Name	Place	Year	Month	Day
James	Lisburn	William	Lisburn	James	Lisburn	1748	6	23
William	Lisburn	John	Lisburn	James	Lisburn	1748	6	27
Thomas	Lisburn	Thomas	Lisburn	James	Lisburn	1748	6	16
Robert	Lisburn	Robert	Lisburn	James	Lisburn	1748	6	16
James	Lisburn	James	Lisburn	James	Lisburn	1748	8	23

Marriage Register – The Grange

59

No.	Page	Name	Date of Death	Age	Residence	Description	Date of Burial	Place of Burial
1	56	James	1748	10	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
2	57	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
3	58	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
4	59	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
5	60	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
6	61	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
7	62	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
8	63	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
9	64	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
10	65	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
11	66	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
12	67	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
13	68	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
14	69	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
15	70	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
16	71	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
17	72	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
18	73	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
19	74	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
20	75	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
21	76	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
22	77	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
23	78	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
24	79	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
25	80	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
26	81	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
27	82	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
28	83	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
29	84	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
30	85	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
31	86	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
32	87	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
33	88	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
34	89	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
35	90	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
36	91	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
37	92	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
38	93	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
39	94	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
40	95	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
41	96	James	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
42	97	William	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
43	98	John	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
44	99	Thomas	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn
45	100	Robert	1748	11	Lisburn		1748	Lisburn

Death Register – Lurgan

60

Other Denominations

- Methodist
- Moravians
- Huguenots

64

Methodist

- Trace to the preachings of John Wesley and his brother Charles
- John Wesley visited Ulster in 1756
- His final visit in 1789 it was estimated that more than 14,000 people were now associated with the faith
- Majority of followers had come from the Established Church (Church of Ireland) and may have returned to that religious parish for sacramental rites

65

1834

October 25 - Performed the same Office for
John White, maner, and Elanor McWilliams
both of Newmarket - the parents of both
persons are deceased - but all was right, being
particularly ascertained;

Matthew Leathree
John White - the husband
John McWilliams - the bride brother
James Davidson }
John White }
Leads

Dec. 5 1835

Methodist Marriage Register

66

Moravians

- Originated in what is today the Czech Republic
- Introduced to Ireland in the mid-1700s
- Formally known as the Unitas Fratrum or Unity of the Brethren
- Excellent record keepers
- Most successful community found at Gracehill, County Antrim

67

Finding Records

68

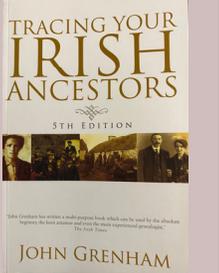
Finding Records

- Published Books
- Finding Aids
- Online databases
- Repositories

69

Published Books

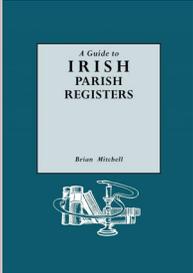
- John Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors*, 5th edition
- Has a chapter devoted to the different denominations



70

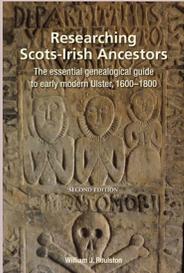
Published Books

- Brian Mitchell's *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers*
- Identifies all civil parish in every county of all Ireland
- Lists surviving registers for:
 - Church of Ireland
 - Roman Catholic
 - Presbyterian
 - Other



71

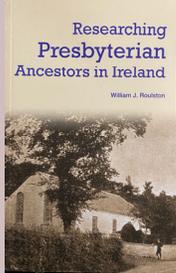
Published Books



- William J. Roulston's *Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors, The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster, 1600-1800*, 2nd edition
- Has a chapter on major denominations
- Parish appendix includes church info

72

Published Books



- William J. Roulston's *Researching Presbyterian Ancestors in Ireland*
- Info on traditional registers of baptism, etc.
- Info on many other records
- Details on schisms

73

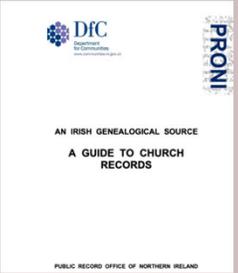
Finding Aids

- PRONI Guide to Church Records
- JohnGrenham.com (subscription site)

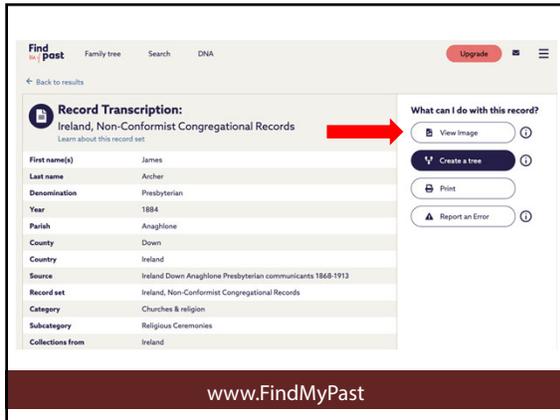
74

PRONI Guide to Church Records

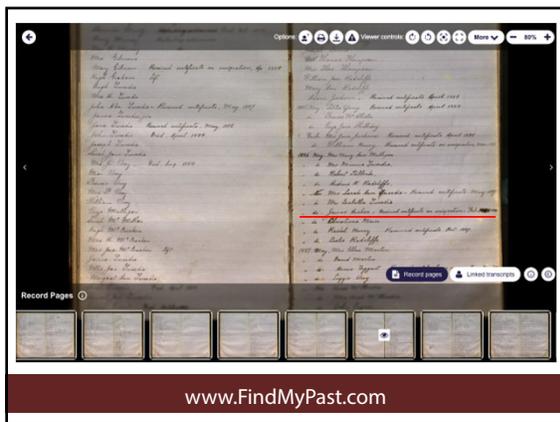
- A 374-page PDF file describing the various denominations and records
- Includes alphabetical list of civil parishes and record availability



75



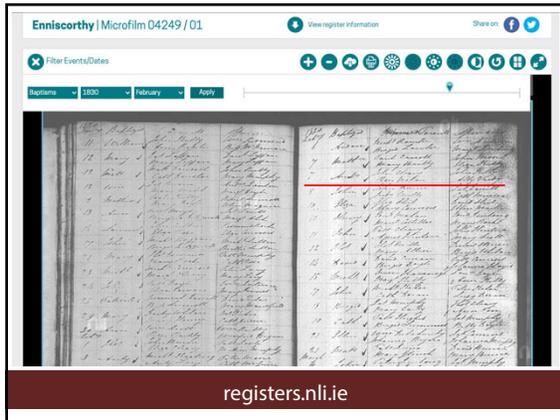
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89



90



94

Repositories

- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)
- Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland
- Public Record Office – Dublin
- National Archives of Ireland
- National Library of Ireland
- Local custody

95

Religious Records of Ulster

- Require you to identify the townland so you can identify the civil parish
- The civil parish leads you to the church records
- Could be in a variety of locations and formats
- Some are coming online
- Require patience and tenacity

96



97
