

Irish Research

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Time Periods of Migrations to the United States:

- Early Colonial (pre 1717)
- Late Colonial (1717 – 1783)
- Pre Famine Years (1783 – 1845)
- Famine Years (1845 1851)
- From Famine to Division (1851 – 1922)
- Two Ireland's: Northern Ireland & the Free State (1922 1949)
- Modern Ireland (1949 – present)

Information you should find out from U.S. records:

- Name
- Event date (birth, marriage, death)
- Event place (city, county)
- Names of family
 - Parents
 - Siblings
 - Spouse
- Religion, occupation, social status

Search all the following records in the US:

- Banking records
- Biographies
- Business records
- Cemetery or sexton records
- Census
- Church records
- County histories
- Courts records (Civil, & criminal)
- Family records
- Fraternal clubs, such as freemasons
- Funeral home records

- Institutional records, such as hospital
- Insurance records
- Land records
- Military records, such as pension file
- Naturalization records
- Newspapers – local, trade, religious
- Obituaries
- Orphanage records
- Pension records
- Probate records
- School or college records
- Social Security application (SS5 form)
- Headstone inscription
- Vital Records (check children & grandchildren of immigrant's too)
- Leave no stone unturned !

Place of Origin:

- County – one of the basic land divisions in Ireland, similar to a state in the U.S.
- Parish - civil or religious jurisdiction.
- Townland – the most used land division in Ireland. Very small land areas within a county.

Irish Names:

- Surname Spellings
 - O' and Mc' could be added or dropped.
 - Use all possible spellings i.e. Cronnolly, Cronoly, Cronlly, Cranely, or Crannelly. Use the web site www.irishtimes.com/ancestral/surname to find spelling variants.
- Given Names
 - Check baptismal & birth name, they can interchange them.
- Nicknames and diminutive forms, i.e. Kate for Catherine.
- Interchangeable names
 - Nancy & Agnes
 - Owen & Eugene
 - Bridget & Delia
- Latin Catholic names – translate to English
 - i.e. Jacobus > James or Jacob
- Irish Naming Pattern:

- **Sons:**
 - **First son after father's father**
 - **Second son after mother's father**
 - **Third son after the father**
 - **Fourth son after father's oldest brother**
 - **Fifth son after mother's oldest brother (sometimes father's 2nd oldest brother)**

- **Daughters:**
 - **First daughter after mother's mother**
 - **Second daughter father's mother**
 - **Third daughter after mother**
 - **Fourth daughter after mother's oldest sister**
 - **Fifth daughter after father's oldest sister (sometimes after mother's 2nd oldest sister)**

Irish Place Names:

- **Handwriting can be difficult to read**
- **Spelled the way they sounded, i.e. dialect in different parts of Ireland and illiteracy.**

Resources

Books:

Grenham, John Tracing Your Irish Ancestors, 4th edition, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2012

MacLysaght, Edward The Surnames of Ireland, Dublin, Ireland: Irish Academic Press, 1985

Matheson, Robert E. Special Report on Surnames in Ireland : Together with Varieties and Synonymes of Surnames and Christian Names in Ireland Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968

Mitchell, Brian A New genealogical Atlas of Ireland 2nd edition Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company 2002

Roulston, William J. Researching Scots-Irish Ancestors: The Essential Genealogical Guide to Early Modern Ulster 1600-1800. Belfast, Ulster Historical Foundation. 2005

Magazines:

Irish Lives Remembered

<http://www.irishlivesremembered.com/magazine>

Irish Roots

<http://www.irishrootsmagazine.com>

Newspapers:

Irish Newspaper Archives

<http://www.irishnewsarchive.com>

The Irish Times

<http://www.irishtimes.com/archive/>

Websites:

Genealogical Forum of Oregon (GFO) – Irish Links

<http://www.gfo.org/intgrp/irish.htm>

Ulster Historical Foundation

<http://www.ancestryireland.com>

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)

<http://www.proni.gov.uk>

National Library of Ireland

<http://www.nli.ie>

Linen Library in Belfast

<http://www.linenhall.com>

Irish family History Foundation

<http://www.irish-roots.net>

Irish Genealogy

<http://www.irishgenealogy.ie>

Reaching Out Ireland

<http://www.irelandxo.com>

Find My Past – Ireland

<http://www.findmypast.ie>

1901 and 1911 Irish Census

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

Eneclann – web site for Irish CD's & books

<http://www.eneclann.ie>

History From Headstones

<http://www.historyfromheadstones.com/>

Best American Sources for Learning the Town of Origin

This chart suggests the record types most likely to identify an immigrants town of origin in his or her native country. It is only a guide and in any specific case, any of these or other sources may provide the town name.

Codes: A = Excellent B = Good C = Possible

<i>Date of Arrival---></i>	<i>Before 1820</i>	<i>1820s- 1860s</i>	<i>1860s- 1890s</i>	<i>1890s- present</i>
Record Type:				
Family and Home		C	B	A
Manuscript Collections	C		C	B
Biography	C	B	A	
Business				C
Cemeteries			C	C
Census			C	C
Church Records	A	A	A	A
Court Records	B			
Arrival Lists	C	C	B	A
Passports		C	A	A
Border Crossings		C	B	A
Genealogies	A	B	B	A
History	C	C	B	
Land and Property	C			
Naturalization		C	B	A
Newspapers		B	C	
Obituaries		C	A	A
Pensions			C	A
Periodicals	A	B	C	C
Probate Records	C			
Societies	B	C	C	C
Vital Records			C	A
Voting Registers				C