

Cork City Libraries

# Genealogy Resources Guide

“

Without the past there is no present,  
nor can we build a future.



LIBRARIES  
LEABHARLANNA

CORK CITY COUNCIL | COMHAIRLE CATHRACH CHORCAI

# Genealogy Resources Guide

**Genealogy is the study of family history.** The word genealogy comes from two Greek words, the first meaning 'race' or 'family' and the second meaning 'knowledge' or 'science'. Genealogy as a study and pastime has grown exponentially in recent years with the natural yearning to understand one's roots. Irish genealogy has been no exception and its growth can be naturally attributed to the wide and varied diaspora which makes up 'Irishness' and the 'Irish race'. Yeats stated that '*We can only begin to live when we conceive life as tragedy*'. In the spirit of this quote, genealogy as a study is more often than not, conducted long after the main actors involved have passed on. Genealogy is often an oral tradition passed down by word of mouth through generations, and represents a core aspect of an individual. Emigrants pass down nuggets



For a great diversity of Genealogy resources visit  
[www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie)

of information about their past in various forms. It is through a combination of the spoken word and official documentation that we can explore our past.

**Cork City Libraries** has placed great emphasis on the promotion and distribution of various sources and materials to aid researchers in family history. Genealogical research is one of many specialised services offered in our Local Studies Department, and many of the resources in this area are now available on our website: [www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie).

**Cork City**, as the major Irish trading port on the Atlantic, has seen untold numbers of Irish people leave this island for many reasons: in search of a better life, escape from religious persecution and in search of freedom and adventure to name but a few. Cork, and in particular Cobh, was often the last point of contact for many people with the land of their birth. Cork's importance as a port and trading city led to a diverse population which comprised not only the native Irish but also Norse, British, Huguenots and Jews to name but a few. The following guide will attempt to help those interested, to trace their own family background through a rich selection of sources.

## Why Conduct Genealogical Research?

**Many people wish to know** who their ancestors were and where they came from. Unfortunately, like most questions in life the answer is rarely straightforward. There are many reasons why one would conduct research, and often finding a long-lost ancestor can be just the tip of the iceberg. The fast pace of modern life can be daunting. Genealogy allows us to understand and carve out our own space within it.

**Many begin with an outside interest** but quickly catch the 'bug', becoming fascinated by the details of their forebears. Questions such as: who they were, what adventures defined their lives and what great historic events they lived through are all ones which drive our research. Without doubt, our ancestors had to overcome challenges unique to their lifetimes, and the knowledge of their inner strength fills many with a sense of pride. The reasons behind genealogical research are often more practical such as the search for parents or the resolution of a family legacy. At its heart, genealogy is a basic human curiosity.



**Without the past there is no present,  
nor can we build a future.**

## Step one

**Where possible**, consultation with family and friends should be your first step when tracing your family history. What they know, or even what they think they know, are both equally important.

**Enquiring about how** second cousins or even more distant relatives are related to you will give you a 'feel' for the network of family relationships and can help you when drawing up your family tree.

**Ask especially about personal names** and place names, places and dates of births, deaths and marriages, occupations, sporting achievements and military service as these will be very important for your future research.

**When you have been given information**, WRITE IT DOWN! Do not trust your memory. Record any information given to you as soon as possible after getting it.



**Where possible, consultation with family and friends should be your first step when tracing your family history. What they know, or even what they think they know, are both equally important.**



**When you have been given information, WRITE IT DOWN!**



## Step two

**After consulting with family** and friends, see if you can find any documentary evidence about the family in old family bibles, albums of photographs, scrapbooks or gravestone inscriptions.

**All possible sources** of information available to you should be investigated. You never know when a seemingly irrelevant piece of information could turn out to be an important clue to a family relationship. It is vital to establish WHERE a particular family came from.

**A number of Irish surnames** are quite common. Fairly obvious examples are Murphy, Kelly and O'Sullivan. Your chances of finding information on someone who had a common surname without knowing, as precisely as possible, where he/she came from are vanishingly small. Imagine trying to find records concerning a Patrick Murphy if all you know about him is that he came from West Cork!



**see if you can find any documentary evidence about the family ...Take a look in the graveyards where your deceased relatives are buried**

## Step three

**Once you have your preliminary research** done, your next step should be to visit the Local Studies Department. Staff in the department will advise you on which sources to consult, based on the information which you have gathered already. They can also inform you about what sources are available in the library itself as well as in other local repositories. The Department also holds a variety of subscriptions to commercial genealogical resources.

**Always remember the golden rule in genealogy:** work back from what you know and try to establish links between persons named in the various sources which you have consulted.

**Don't assume that a connection exists** between your family and a name you have discovered if you cannot establish a definite link. For example, you know that one of your great-great grandfathers was Patrick Murphy who worked as a baker somewhere in North Cork. If you then find a baker named Patrick Murphy listed in a directory for the middle of the 19th century, who was a baker in Kanturk in North Cork, you should not assume that he was your great-great grandfather. Of course, he MAY have been, but you need to find documentary evidence proving the link. If you follow the golden rule you will not waste time running up blind alleys.

## Step four

**By this stage** you should be ready to consult the main sources of genealogical information. These are: parish records of baptisms and marriages, civil records of births, marriages and deaths and census records.

**Many of these records** have been digitised and are available to people from the comfort of their own homes. Sources such as newspaper articles and postal directories are also important and are comprehensively digitised to allow for a more efficient search.

**Cork City Libraries** holds subscriptions in house to a wide variety of sites such as 'Find my past', which allows you to search rare sources such as military or travel records.

In the sections below, many such records are briefly profiled.



**the main sources of genealogical information are: parish records of baptisms and marriages, civil records of births, marriages and deaths and census records.**



# Genealogy Resources

<input type="checkbox"/> Parish records	10
<input type="checkbox"/> National Library of Ireland / Catholic Parish Registers	12
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish Genealogy / Church Records	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Denomination Church Records	16
<input type="checkbox"/> Civil records of births, marriages and deaths	18
<input type="checkbox"/> Irish Genealogy / Civil Records Section	20
<input type="checkbox"/> Census records	22
<input type="checkbox"/> Griffith's Valuation	24
<input type="checkbox"/> Tithe Applotment Books	26
<input type="checkbox"/> Newspapers	28
<input type="checkbox"/> Directories	33
<input type="checkbox"/> Electoral lists	34
<input type="checkbox"/> O'Kief, Slieve Lougher and Upper Blackwater in Ireland	35
<input type="checkbox"/> Estate Records	37
<input type="checkbox"/> Find My Past	38





## Parish records

**Parish records** of baptisms and marriages are usually the oldest records available. As a rule of thumb, most Catholic parish records date from the early decades of the nineteenth century. Urban records are often better preserved than their rural counterparts. This is due to the relative wealth of urban parishioners who were more able to afford the upkeep of a local church for a parish. The parish records of the Church of Ireland are usually older than Catholic records and may also have records of burials. Unfortunately, many of the Church of Ireland parish records were lost in a fire in the Four Courts in Dublin in 1922 during the Irish Civil War. The Representative Church Body, based in Dublin, is an excellent first stop for those searching for Church of Ireland records. We will discuss this later in this guide.

**It is vital to know** the parish or parishes your ancestor's came from. The old medieval Catholic parishes were retained by the Church of Ireland after the Reformation in Ireland. They were used subsequently as units of civil administration by the state and local governing bodies. So, knowing which parish your ancestor came from is often the key to both church and civil records.

**You should note** that the boundaries of Catholic and Church of Ireland parishes that have the same names are not always identical. Civil parishes, for example, are usually identical with Church of Ireland parishes.

**The staff in the Local Studies Department** will be able to help you find the parish you are looking for, whether you know the name of the Catholic, Church of Ireland or civil parish.

**The Local Studies Department** does not hold copies of parish registers. Many of the parish registers for the Diocese of Cloyne have been indexed and the indexes are held by the Mallow Parish Centre. Staff at the centre will search the indexes for you for a fee.

The following sections will highlight digitised resources available to you when searching for parish records.

## National Library of Ireland / Catholic Parish Registers

**The National Library of Ireland** has digitised many Catholic parish records on their website at <https://registers.nli.ie/>. Parish birth and marriage records are the most important resource available to would-be genealogists.

**Due to the often-turbulent history** of Ireland, civil records in the form of census records or other similar administrative documents are rare before 1901. Similarly, even Catholic parish records do not go back very far, due to religious persecution in the form of the Penal Laws, which formally discriminated against Catholics. The hierarchy or institution was therefore not available to ensure the creation or retention of these vital administrative papers. The registers contain records of baptisms and marriages from the majority of Catholic parishes in Ireland and Northern Ireland up to 1880. Although civil registration of births, marriages and deaths mainly began in 1864, records were not accurately kept for a number of years, so a cut-off date of 1880 was applied for the microfilming of registers.

**In addition**, the wealth of parishioners was a contributing factor in the maintenance of registers. Wealthier Catholic merchants in cities and large towns were in a position to support the clergy and build churches during the mid-1700's, while in rural areas, poor farmers and labourers could not afford to do so until the mid-1800's. This

fact is also true of Cork, with many urban areas having significantly earlier records than rural parishes, particularly in city parishes such as Saint Peter and Paul's. The site itself provides scanned copies of the original records but does not provide a search function. Therefore, knowledge of which parish you are searching for is available. The quality of information contained for each parish is not consistent and the vernacular switches between Latin, English and Irish. As parish records are often the earliest records one can locate for family history purposes, this site provides a fantastic resource and is available free of charge.

In general,

### **Baptismal registers contain the following information:**

- Date of the baptism
- Child's name
- Parent's names (and sometimes mother's maiden name)
- Names of godparents (sponsors)
- The place of residence is sometimes included

### **Information contained in marriage registers includes:**

- Date of marriage
- Names of bride and groom
- Names of witnesses
- The names of the parents and their place of residence are also sometimes recorded



137

05872409

Marriage  
No. 51  
Registered  
me, this  
25<sup>th</sup>  
day of  
March  
1892

Donnell  
Registrar.

1891. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West in the Registrar's District of No. 7  
in the Union of Cork in the County of City of Cork

No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
51	Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> 1891	Bartholomew Covey full	Bachelor	Lamer	Ballingarry	John Covey	Carter	
		Elizabeth Wagner full	Spinster	None	Bishopston	William Wagner	Carter	

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,  
Patrick Covey C.C.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Bartholomew Covey } in the Presence of us, { Patrick Covey C.C.  
{ Elizabeth Wagner } { Mary Wagner

Marriage  
No. 52  
Registered  
me, this  
25<sup>th</sup>  
day of  
March  
1892

Donnell  
Registrar.

1891. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West in the Registrar's District of No. 7  
in the Union of Cork in the County of City of Cork

No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
52	Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup> 1891	Samuel Nicholas Murphy full	Bachelor	Soldier	Aldershot Barracks	Daniel Murphy	Blacksmith	
		Minnie Keane full	Spinster	None	24 Kellors Lane	James Keane	Labourer	

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,  
Patrick Heary C.C.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { S. N. Murphy } in the Presence of us, { Andrew J. Donnell  
{ Minnie Keane } { Margaret Keane

Marriage  
No. 53  
Registered  
by me, this  
27<sup>th</sup>  
day of  
March  
1892

Donnell  
Registrar.

1892. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West in the Registrar's District of No. 7  
in the Union of Cork in the County of City of Cork

No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
53	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> 1892	Patrick Donoghue full	Bachelor	Labourer	108. Bandon Road	Eveance Donoghue	Labourer	
		Margaret Murphy full	Spinster	None	9 Bandon Road	Charles Murphy	Coal Bunker	

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,  
Patrick Heary C.C.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Patrick Donoghue } in the Presence of us, { Michael J. Hillard  
{ Margaret Murphy } { Mary Murphy

Marriage  
No. 54  
Registered  
by me, this  
25<sup>th</sup>  
day of  
March  
1892

Donnell  
Registrar.

1892. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West in the Registrar's District of No. 7  
in the Union of Cork in the County of City of Cork

No. (1)	When Married. (2)	Name and Surname. (3)	Age. (4)	Condition. (5)	Rank or Profession. (6)	Residence at the Time of Marriage. (7)	Father's Name and Surname. (8)	Rank or Profession of Father. (9)
54	Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> 1892	Maurice Bineen full	Widower	Cumber	16 High St Quarry Road	Daniel Bineen	Gardiner	
		Margaret Walsh full	Spinster	Servant	Lower Blacken	John Walsh	Labourer	

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of St. Timbarus West according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church by me,  
James Fleming P.P.

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Maurice Bineen } in the Presence of us, { Denis Cunningham  
{ Margaret Walsh } { Henrietta Heary

Maurice J. Donnell Deputy Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, in the District of No. 7 in the Union of Cork in the County of City of Cork do hereby Certify, That this is a true copy of the Registrar's Book of Marriages within the said District from the Entry of the Marriage of Bartholomew Covey and Elizabeth Wagner Number 51, to the Entry of the Marriage of Maurice Bineen and Margaret Walsh Number 54.  
Witness my hand, this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1892. M. J. Donnell Deputy Registrar.  
I have examined the above, and have compared it with the said original Registrar's Book, and hereby certify that it is a true Copy.  
Witness my hand, this 8<sup>th</sup> day of April 1892. Samuel Regan Deputy Superintendent Registrar.

## Irish Genealogy / Church Records

Irish Genealogy, found at [www.Irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.Irishgenealogy.ie) is a website which allows users to search a wide range of sources. The website is home to church records of baptism, marriage, and burial from a number of counties. The site is maintained and run by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

With regards to County Cork, there are church records digitised on 'Irish Genealogy' for the Diocese of Cork and Ross. These will allow researchers find ancestors in the west and south of the County, as well as in the city itself.

Records for the Diocese of Kerry are also available on the site, which includes a number of parishes in the north-west and west of County Cork. The church records available on this site are generally from the period of ca.1800 to 1880; however, many variations exist, with urban parish records generally beginning in the mid-1700's and rural parishes beginning as late as the 1830's. The main advantage of the 'Irish Genealogy' site is the search function. One can specify the name, date range and form of the record. The site will also break down the records held by diocese.

[www.Irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.Irishgenealogy.ie)

## Other Denomination Church Records:

### Church of Ireland Parish Records

The **Representative Church Body** 'RCB', provides genealogists with a focal point to find Church of Ireland 'CofI' parish records. Unfortunately, many CofI parish records were lost in the destruction of the Public Records Office of Ireland in 1922 during the Civil War. However, many of these parish records had been duplicated and were kept in various locations, such as the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland or in individual parish offices. The RCB will not conduct individual genealogy searches but will help researchers to locate records that do exist and bodies which can conduct a search. Church of Ireland records generally reach back further than their Catholic counterparts, due to being the dominant government-sponsored religion from the 1700's until the ending of the Penal Laws in 1829. Occasionally this can allow researchers to research family history as far back as the 11th century. The RCB can be found at [www.ireland.anglican.org](http://www.ireland.anglican.org).



### Presbyterian records

These records are held in three main locations: in local custody, in the Presbyterian Historical Society and in Public Record Office of Northern Ireland 'PRONI'.

### Methodist records

Records of Methodist births, marriages and deaths which took place prior to about 1820 are found in Church of Ireland registers. For details of surviving records after this date, contact the Methodist church which is closest to your area of research. The PRONI holds a county-by-county listing of surviving registers for Northern Ireland.

### Quaker records

These records are held in two main repositories: Libraries of the Society of Friends in Dublin, and in Lisburn.

An extensive number of Irish Quaker records, including birth, marriage and death records, and records of congregational meetings, have been digitised and are available on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie).

### Jewish records

Enquiries about Jewish records should be addressed to the Irish Jewish Museum based in Dublin. You can find out more on their website at [www.jewishmuseum.ie](http://www.jewishmuseum.ie).



## Civil records of births, marriages and deaths:

**All births, marriages and deaths in Ireland** have been recorded by the state since 1 January 1864. Non-Catholic marriages have been recorded by the state since 1845. The General Register Office in Dublin has copies of birth, marriage and death registers for all of Ireland, apart from the six counties of Northern Ireland.

**The registers for Cork City** and its hinterland are in the [Registration Office of the Health Services Executive, Southern Area at Adelaide Court, Adelaide Street, Cork.](#)



Information included on Civil records can be viewed below:

### Information provided on a birth certificate:

- Name of the child, date and location of birth
- Names of the parents, their addresses and mother's maiden name
- Occupation of father
- Name of the person who registered the birth, their address and the date

### Information provided on a marriage certificate:

- Names of the bride and groom, their ages (note: full age denotes over 21) and their addresses at the time of the marriage
- Date and location of the marriage, and date of registration
- The occupations of the bride and groom
- Names of both fathers, and their occupations
- Names of the witnesses to the marriage

### Information provided on a death certificate:

- Name of the deceased, sex, age, occupation and marital status
- Date and place of death, and registration date
- Cause of death
- Name and address of the informant (person who registered the death)

## Irish Genealogy / Civil Records Section

'Irish Genealogy', found at [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie), is a website which allows users the opportunity to search a wide range of records. The website is home to the on-line historic Indexes of the Civil Registers 'GRO' of births, marriages, civil partnerships and deaths.

The site is maintained and run by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The digitisation of a large selection of the state's civil records affords researchers detailed insights into their ancestry.

The search function allows you, to search for individuals using name, civil registration office, date range and record type.

The vast majority of records also contain a link to scanned copies of the original documents as well as a transcription page.

While the vast majority of births, marriages and deaths should have been recorded, there are exceptions so don't be discouraged if the records for your ancestors are not available on the site. The date range of records available as of 2020 are as follows:

- Births: 1864 - 1920
- Marriages: 1864 - 1944
- Deaths: 1864 - 1969

The website is constantly updating its records and the 100-year rule is being maintained for birth records for reasons of privacy.

State registration of all non-Catholic marriages in Ireland commenced in 1845. In 1864, civil registration of all births, marriages and deaths commenced. These records are held at the General Register Office 'GRO' in Dublin.

A page from the 1911 Census of Ireland.

**CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.**  
Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.

**FORM A.**  
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 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

No. on Form B. *20*

NAME AND SURNAME.	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE (see Births) and SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	PARTICULARS AS TO MARRIAGE.		WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	Irisht and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Deaf or Idiot; or Lunatic.				
						Whether Married, "Widowed," "Single," or "Never Married."	Children born alive to present Marriage; if no children born alive, write "None" in column 11.							
Christian Name.	Surname.			Age of Males.	Age of Females.		Completed years to present Marriage; if less than one year, write "under one."	Total Children born alive.	Children will bring.					
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
1. Bartholomew	Covey	Head of Family	Catholic	Read & Write	67	Farmer	Married	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
2. Elizabeth	Covey	Wife	do	Read & Write	52	do	Married	17	6	6	Co. Cork	Irish English		
3. John	Covey	Son	do	Read & Write	18	Scholar	Single	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
4. William	Covey	Son	do	Read & Write	17	Scholar	do	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
5. Ann	Covey	Daughter	do	Read & Write	15	Scholar	do	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
6. Mary	Covey	do	do	Read & Write	13	Scholar	do	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
7. Margaret	Covey	do	do	Read & Write	11	Scholar	do	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
8. Bertha	Covey	Son	do	Read & Write	9	Scholar	do	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
9. Margaret	Magnan	Servant	do	Read & Write	49	General Servant	Single	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
10. Hannah	Boylan	Servant	do	Read & Write	30	General Servant	Single	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
11. Edward	Boylan	Servant	do	Read & Write	18	General Servant	Single	-	-	-	Co. Cork	Irish English		
12.														
13.														
14.														
15.														

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII. and 1 Geo. V., cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

*James Keegan* Signature of Enumerator.

*Bartholomew Covey* Signature of Head of Family.



## Census records

**The earliest complete census** returns for Ireland date from 1901. Both the 1901 and 1911 census returns are open to the public in the National Archives in Dublin. You can see microfilm copies of the 1901 census at Cork County Library and microfilm copies of the 1911 census in the Local Studies Department of Cork City Libraries.

**You will need to know** the address, or the name or number of the district electoral division where your ancestors lived. There is no surname index available to the census returns.

**The 1901 and 1911 censuses** are now available online from the website of the National Archives of Ireland; you will find the online census at [www.census.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie).

**Census returns are among the most informative** of all genealogical records. It is most unfortunate that almost all of the census returns before 1901 were destroyed. Some were destroyed in the fire in the Four Courts in 1922 and others destroyed at an earlier date by government order.

**Recently, census fragments** from the years 1821 - 1851 have been added on the site. These are quite rare and only provide a snapshot of what older census records would have resembled.

**The basic topographical divisions** for the census are: County, District Electoral Division, Townland or Street. The household return was filled in and signed by the head of the household on Census night `31 March 1901 and 2 April 1911´. There is one record for every household in the country.

### The information sought was:

- Name            ● Age            ● Sex
- Relationship to the head of the household
- Religion        ● Occupation   ● Marital status
- County or country of birth
- Ability to read and write
- Knowledge of the Irish language
- If `Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic´

**In 1911 a significant additional question** was asked: married women were required to state the number of years they had been married, the number of their children born alive and the number still living. This can be invaluable to find the exact dates of unrelated events and for closing off dead-end searches.

**The next census to be released** is that of 1926, compiled after the Irish War of Independence and subsequent Civil War.

## Griffith's Valuation

**Griffith's Valuation** or, more formally, 'The Primary Valuation of Tenements' was a systematic valuation of all property in Ireland. It was carried out between 1848 and 1864 and takes its popular name from Richard Griffith, the director of the valuation.

**The valuation for County Cork** was made mostly between 1850 and 1852. Its main purpose was to value property to form the basis for various types of taxation. If the census returns for 1851 and 1861 had survived, it is doubtful that you would need to consult it. In the absence of these returns, it has become a substitute for the missing census records, although it is an extremely poor one.

**Arranged by county, barony, civil parish and townland, the information given in the valuation is as follows:**

- Townland name 'street name in urban areas'
- Valuation map number
- Local number
- Householder's name
- Landlord's name under the heading (immediate lessor)
- A brief description of the property
- The area of the property in units of acres, roods and perches and the rateable value of the property

**The Valuation's manner** of recording landlordism in Ireland is a useful research tool. It may be possible, through the accurate detailing of tenancy agreements, to find more relevant personal information through estate records. This is, however, rare.

**The valuation and a number of indexes** to it are available in the Local Studies Department. Most of the valuation for Cork is also available in published form. The valuation for the entire country is on microfiche. Griffith's Valuation is now available online on the Ask About Ireland website found here: <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>.

**You might be interested** to know that Richard Griffith was also a distinguished engineer who built many roads in County Cork and designed the tunnel into Kent Station in Cork.







## Tithe Applotment Books

**Until 1838, families were obliged** to give a tenth of their annual income, a 'tithe', to the Church of Ireland. Tithe had been paid in kind until 1823, when a law was passed making it payable in money. A survey of the value of property was carried out from 1823 to 1838 to determine how much tithe, each landholder would pay.

**The Tithe Applotment Books** record the results of the survey. Their value as sources for genealogical research is limited. The information given varies from book to book but usually includes the landholder's name, the landlord's name, the townland name, the acreage of the land and



the amount of tithe payable. Payment of tithe was bitterly resented by Catholics and Presbyterians and led to the Tithe War from 1830 to 1838.

**If you manage to trace your family back** to the tithe books you will have done well. It is extremely difficult to trace a family in Ireland further back than the early 19th century. There are exceptions of course, particularly for wealthier families and members of the gentry, but generally speaking, 1800, or thereabouts, is the cut-off point for tracing family history in Ireland. You can consult microfilm copies of the Tithe Applotment Books in Cork County Library and a digitised version at:

<http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/>.



## Newspapers

**Newspapers can be excellent sources** of genealogical information. Unfortunately, until the early decades of the twentieth century only the comparatively wealthy sections of society had the means to have birth, marriage and death notices printed in the newspapers. If you have an approximate or an exact date of death or marriage, you will be able to check to see if a notice of the event was carried in a newspaper.

**Searching through newspapers** can be very time consuming, if you do not have an approximate date for the event in question. Many people, though, enjoy

browsing through newspapers, as they contain a wealth of information on other matters. You could easily find yourself distracted reading a variety of contemporary reports ranging from those on the American Civil War, to Jack the Ripper or simply reports on the openings of churches and theatres. Birth notices usually carry the least information and will often not provide the name of the child. A typical early nineteenth century birth notice might read

‘On the 6th last. to the lady Anne, wife of Captain James O’Sullivan, a son’.

**As well as birth records**, newspapers would also carry stories which may name ancestors relevant to researchers. These can be found in coverage of court cases, the listing of civic office holders or countless other events which were milestones in the lives of our predecessors.

**The Local Studies Department** has a wide range of Cork newspapers from the middle of the 18th century. Some are in the form of bound volumes while others are on microfilm. The department also has complete runs of the *Freeman’s Journal* and *The Irish Times* on microfilm. *The Irish Times* host a standalone archive for the periodical which is free to use within Cork City Libraries. The index compiled by Rosemary ffollott, comprising biographical notices primarily relating to Cork and Kerry newspapers from 1756 to 1827, is also a very useful research tool. A copy is available on microfilm in the Local Studies Department.



**Cork City Libraries** maintains subscriptions to both the Irish Newspaper Archives and British Newspaper Archive which are discussed below. Both sites are subscription-based but are free to use in-house, in any city library branch.

### Irish Newspaper Archives

**The Irish Newspaper Archives** is a commercial site specialising in the digitisation of national and regional newspapers on the island of Ireland. The archive consists of over 6 million pages of newspaper content from titles north and south of the Irish border and through the newspaper obituaries Irish genealogists can search, retrieve and view births, deaths and marriage records from over 279 years' worth of Irish publications.

**The search function** on the website permits searches by both surname and forename, however, a common surname will need an approximate date range to have a reasonable chance of finding the original birth, marriage or death notice.

Of particular interest to genealogists searching for Cork ancestors would be the ***Irish Examiner***, ***Evening Echo*** and ***Southern Star*** newspapers. National newspapers such as the ***Freeman's Journal*** and ***Irish Independent*** are also available on the site.

**Please find a brief description of papers and date ranges available specifically to Cork researchers below.**

### Cork Newspapers:

- ***Irish Examiner*** 1841-Present. Produced in Cork and is the most likely paper to have a notice printed.
- ***Southern Star*** 1892-Present. The *Southern Star* is a West Cork-based paper with a nationalist outlook.
- ***Evening Echo*** 1896-Present. *The Evening Echo* is a Cork City-based paper with many people born in the city choosing this as the paper of note.
- ***Skibbereen Eagle*** 1882-1922. The *Skibbereen Eagle* was a West Cork-based paper. *The Eagle* was a paper with a Unionist outlook and was discontinued after independence.



## British Newspaper Archives

**The British Newspaper Archive** `BNA`, is a new service which may be used free of charge within Cork City Libraries. To use this service, you must set up an account on the BNA website found at: [www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

**The British Newspaper Archive** is a partnership between the British Library and Findmypast and aims to digitise up to 40 million newspaper pages from the British Library's vast collection over the next 10 years. The site hosts a number of Cork-related newspapers which will be useful to researchers.

- **Cork Advertising Gazette** 1855 - 1859
- **Cork Constitution** 1826 - 1896
- **Cork Daily Herald** 1858 - 1901
- **Cork Examiner** 1841 - 1912
- **Skibbereen & West Carbery Eagle**; or  
**South Western Advertiser** 1861 - 1870
- **Southern Reporter** and **Cork Commercial Courier**  
1823 - 1870

## Directories

**Street and trade directories** are among the most useful resources available for genealogical research. In them you may find the head(s) of the household in each house in the principal streets of the relevant city or town, a list of those involved in trades, professions and crafts in the area, as well as information on members of corporations and town councils and much more.

**Many of the directories** carry advertisements for various shops and trades. These may be highly informative and, in addition, are often visually quite attractive.

**A selection of advertisements** from Cork directories may be viewed on the Cork Past and Present website at [www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie) or consulted in person in the Local Studies Department. The department's holdings of these priceless items are updated as new copies are located and purchased.

**The Local Studies Department** has a wide-ranging collection of Cork directories from 1787 to 1945. There are gaps in the collection, especially for the early and mid-19th century

**Street and trade directories are among the most useful sources available to you for genealogical research**

[www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie)



## Electoral lists

**Electoral lists for Cork City** are available in the Local Studies Department, dating from 1942/43. They list all those eligible to vote in local, presidential, and general elections. In more recent times, they list those eligible to vote in elections for the European Parliament. They can be useful as sources for genealogy or even for finding out who might have lived in a particular house at a particular time.

**The municipal boundaries** were extended in 1965. People in some of the suburbs, like Blackrock, for example, were living outside of the city proper before the extension and will not be found in the electoral lists for the city before that date. The boundaries of the city were once again extended in 2019 to take into account the growth of the city in the intervening years.

**The current year's registers** can be consulted, as well as previous registers.



## O'Kief, Coshe Mang, Slieve Lougher and Upper Blackwater in Ireland. Albert Casey (ed.) Alabama: Knocknagree Historical Fund, 1952-1967. 13 volumes

**If your ancestors came from** North-West Cork, East Kerry, or the area known as Sliabh Luachra, you should certainly consult Albert Casey's huge compilation of genealogical material from the area. It is impossible to define the boundaries of Sliabh Luachra exactly, but its heartland would lie in the country between Abbeyfeale, Castleisland and Millstreet. The barony of Duhallow is in this area.

**The Local Studies Department** has 13 volumes of the work and the range of material included is extraordinary. There are transcriptions of parish registers, reprints of Smith's histories of Cork and Kerry, a reprint of an edition of the *Annals of the Four Masters*, transcriptions of gravestone inscriptions, copies of marriage and death notices from newspapers and Casey's own speculations on the origins of the Celts and on the relationship of people on the west coast of Ireland to other European peoples. It must be said that Casey's theories are very peculiar and at variance with current thinking in ancient history and anthropology.

**O'Kief, Coshe Mang** has a number of faults. Much of it is printed in a typeface which is very small and quite difficult to read without magnification. The records included in it are copied from the originals and errors will almost certainly



have occurred during the transcription process. It is arranged rather haphazardly; records from one parish may be dispersed in different volumes. Despite these faults, it is an extremely valuable resource for anyone from the Sliabh Luchra area. Sliabh Luachra means 'the rushy mountain' in English. Cork City Libraries has made available an online alphabetical index to 'O'Kief, Coshe Mang'.

## Estate Records

**The vast majority** of the Irish population prior to the nineteenth century were tenant farmers on vast country estates. The administration of these estates produced large quantities of records such as leases and deeds, rental and account books, maps and correspondence. Many of these records have been placed in various archives across the state, with the majority being held by the National Library in Dublin.

**Estate records** differ from one collection to the next but contain a wide array of information about tenants. Documents can include information on tenants' names, acreage, rent, land holdings, leases and agreements. In some circumstances, letters may be in existence discussing individual tenants or describing projects and events relating to the estate. As estates were broken up and sold over time, the resulting paperwork often survived, detailing dealings with the Land Commission or the Encumbered Estates Court.



## Find My Past

**Findmypast** is a subscription-based genealogy website which can be accessed in the City Library, Grand Parade. Findmypast began as a genealogy group founded in 1965 in the UK by a group of genealogists and researchers known as Title Research. As the Internet boom took hold in the early 2000's, Findmypast became a major player in the proliferation of digitised genealogical material globally. The site contains a wide variety of unique and rare materials compiled into a number of sections, namely:

- Birth, Marriage, Death & Parish Records
- Census, land & surveys
- Churches & religion
- Directories & social history
- Education & work
- Institutions & organisations
- Military, armed forces & conflict
- Travel & migration

**Contact the Local Studies Department** to make use of this Service.

## Notes

---

Access **Cork City Libraries**  
Genealogical research services through our  
**Local Studies Department**  
and online at  
[www.corkpastandpresent.ie](http://www.corkpastandpresent.ie)

**Cork City Libraries**  
57 - 61 Grand Parade, Cork T12 NT99

**Leabharlanna Cathrach Chorcaí**  
57 - 61 Sráid an Chapail Bhúí, Corcaigh T12 NT99

T: 353-21-492 4900  
E: [libraries@corkcity.ie](mailto:libraries@corkcity.ie)

[www.corkcitylibraries.ie](http://www.corkcitylibraries.ie)

Text copyright Cork City Libraries © 2021  
Images: Courtesy of the National Library of Ireland  
Design: edit+ [www.stuartcoughlan.com](http://www.stuartcoughlan.com)

