

Records Related to the Different Churches in Ireland

This session will look at the records available for the main religious denominations in Ireland and how their varied histories have affected the types of records which exist. We will examine baptismal, marriage and burial registers and will focus on where these records are held and how to access them. In addition, the records of Church administration generated by the various religious denominations is considerable and varied, and an overview of the value to genealogists of these administrative records of the Churches in Ireland will be provided.

Census substitutes and other important sources for the 18th and 19th centuries

This presentation highlights census substitutes and other lesser known sources for the early nineteenth and eighteenth century, including: Old Age Pensions search forms, the Agricultural censuses of 1803, the 1796 Flax growers' list, 1775 Dissenter petitions, the Convert rolls, the 1766 and other religious 'census' returns, the 1740 'Protestant Householders' List and other miscellaneous material for the period which can provide invaluable information on families.

The Irish Poor Law and local government records: Board of Guardians, Workhouse Registers and Grand Jury records

The poor and destitute in Ireland can be the most difficult groups to trace because they rarely leave a paper trail. The records of the Board of Guardians, i.e. those tasked with administering the Poor Law in Ireland are hugely valuable, especially given the impact of the Great Famine on the period. Through the records such as Minute books, Outdoor relief registers, Indoor registers and Vaccination registers, we see glimpses of those admitted to the Workhouse, how they were treated, and sometimes giving details on assisted emigration schemes. The session will also explore local government records in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, including records of the Grand Juries, Town commissioners, Corporation records and County council records. For example, the Grand Jury was one of the most important forms of local government of the period, and a greatly underused source for family history.

Irish Education and School records: the records on the National Education system

The records of the National Education system, introduced in 1831, can be a most useful collection of records for tracing families, especially in the period 1860–1920, and where the records survive back to the 1850s and 40s. As well as providing information on school children the records offer information on teachers, and the establishment of schools and how they were run. They can give details of family movements within Britain and Ireland, and indeed emigration to America, Canada and Australasia. Prior to this period some records also exist for private schools, schools supported by various religious bodies, and schools established to educate the children of the poor. The session will explore the value of these records for family history research.

Using printed sources for Irish family history: Newspapers, Street Directories, Ordnance Survey Memoirs, British Parliamentary Papers, etc

Printed sources are essential for those researching Irish and Scots-Irish ancestors. This presentation will explore the wide range of printed sources including newspapers, street directories, the British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland, Ordnance Survey Memoirs, journals, local history publications and miscellanea; as well as identifying how to access this material, with the focus on what is accessible online.

Early Nineteenth-century Land Records: Tithe Applotment books, Tithe defaulters, Freeholders' Registers

The earliest comprehensive nineteenth-century 'census substitutes' are the Tithe Applotment books from the 1820s and 1830s. We will look at these records, the companion tithe defaulters' lists, and the freeholders' registers – of 40 shilling freeholders – which list those entitled to vote in county elections from the late seventeenth through to the early nineteenth century.

The Ulster Plantation and sources for finding seventeenth century families in Ireland (not just Ulster)

This presentation will look at sources which can throw light on families in the seventeenth century. It identifies documents relating to the Plantation period (1610–41), such as the Muster Roll of 1630/31 and also considers a range of sources from the second half of the seventeenth century, such as Hearth Money Rolls, the Civil Survey and Poll Books, early surviving church records, and much else, which are of use to genealogists. The presentation will also provide information on a range of resources published in the past few years which can help researchers. The sources discussed will relate to the island of Ireland generally and not only the northern province of Ulster.

Using Landed Estate records: tracing families in the 18th & 19th century

The documents generated by the management of Landed Estates in Ireland are among the most valuable of records for the local and family historian. This presentation will look at the background to landed estates in Ireland, before going on to discuss the more useful sources found in estate collections. And while historically because of the nature of these records they were the least likely to be digitised/transcribed, that too has been changing in recent years, and attention will be drawn to where some of these records can now be found online.

Law and Order records: sources relating to the Police, Local Courts and the Prison System in Ireland

The issue of law and order in Ireland has proven a complicated subject given the nature of Irish history and the uncertain position of English, later British authority on the island (i.e. in respect of those who supported it and those who opposed it). Thus in addition to the various levels of local courts and different prison facilities in Ireland, records were gathered by the authorities on subversive and anti-government activities in the country. In this presentation we will explore the different sources that survive relating to law and order, and the penal system, which researchers can use to help trace their ancestors. These can vary from records relating to the 1798 Rebellion or transportation for penal servitude, to those who were *not* accused or convicted of a criminal offence, rather who provided a service to the forces of law and order, be it in the police force, as a prison guard or a tradesman working for the local Grand Jury in the maintenance of roads and bridges, etc.