

Researching your Irish and Scots-Irish Family History

With the Ulster Historical Foundation

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Genealogy SA
Helping find your family history

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Introduction to Irish and Scots-Irish History Research

This presentation provides a broad overview of Scots-Irish and Irish research and sets the program up for the day, covering a range of topics which include: the 1922 fire and how it affects what can be found in Irish records as well as exploring some of the major collections of records and how to access them, which will not be covered in the other presentations, such as census records and civil records of births, marriages and deaths.

Irish Church records: all denominations used in Irish genealogical research

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.

Understanding Irish Townlands: the importance of place, identity & administrative divisions in Irish research

Understanding the importance of our land divisions and sense of place to local people in rural Ireland (irrespective of location) is crucial to success in Irish genealogy. This presentation explores the different administrative divisions: e.g. townland, barony, parish, county, poor law union (PLU), etc, their origins, how they relate to each other, and their relevance and usage in the historical records.

Using Irish land records: Griffith's Valuation & valuation revisions, Tithe and Estate Records

Land records are an extremely important part of genealogical research in Ireland due to the destruction of the majority of nineteenth century census records. We will look at the main valuation records – the tithe books from the 1820s and 1830s and Griffith's Valuation which covers the period 1848 to 1864, and the valuation revision books up to c. 1930, as well as looking at estate papers which can help take our family history back to the 1700s and 1600s.

Irish Poor Law and local government records: Guardianship Boards & Workhouse 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.