

Today the island of Ireland is divided into two countries: the Republic of Ireland, also known as Éire or Poblacht na hÉireann, and Northern Ireland, one of the four countries of the United Kingdom. Prior to 1922, the island of Ireland was one country. In the Republic of Ireland, the Irish Gaelic language has official status; in Northern Ireland, it has some official recognition along with Ulster-Scots.

Irish Genealogy Tips and Tricks

with the
Redfern Genealogical Research Center

Genealogy Best Practices

1. Start by filling in a pedigree chart with info (approximate or exact) that you already know.
2. Talk to relatives for more information and stories.
3. Focus your search. What blanks do you want filled in?
4. Search the internet to fill in the blanks and work backward.
5. What can't be online can be found in a book. Check your library or surrounding libraries. Get acquainted with Inter-Library Loan.
6. Take classes, workshops, and get to know fellow genealogists and their research methods.

Irish Specific Tips

Use spelling variations. Phonic spelling provides a common alternative.

Remember the three Cs: Church Records, Civil Registrations, and Census.

Religion, occupation, and social status are the best keys to finding your Irish ancestors.

johnngenhan.com provides a map of your surname and all possible spelling variations.

Ulster Scots

After the Nine Year's War (1594-1603), land belonging to Irish Chieftains was given to English, Scottish, and Welsh landowners. Between 1603 and 1700, more than 100,000 Scots immigrated to Ulster. Some of these Scots were Scottish border "Reivers" or "Riding Families." They were lowland Scots who raided along the Scottish-English border. Between 1718 and 1775, more than 100,000 emigrated from Ulster to the American colonies.

Finding everything about your Irish ancestor's American life can help you tie them back to Ireland as ship lists rarely had the origin of your ancestor.

Your ancestors were more than likely part of chain migration. This means that neighbors, friends, and family migrated at the same time.

Research Sites

www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy

www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/

www.rootsireland.ie

<https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/>

<https://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie/>

- 1820 US passenger lists kept
- 1863 - Civil vitals kept
- 1890 - Outbound passenger lists from Great Britain kept
- 1922 - North Ireland and the Republic of Ireland split
- 1974 boundaries change