How to Start the Search For Your Irish Roots

by

The Information about Ireland Site

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Contents

Introduction
Identify your Aims

Start with your family

Examination of Records
  The General Register Office
  The National Archives

Church Records
  National Library of Ireland
  Catholic Church Registers
  Parish registers
  Index of Surnames
  Catholic Directories
  Church of Ireland
  Presbyterian
  Methodist
  Quaker
  Jewish

Census Records

Land and Property records
  Tithe Applotment Books
  Land Registry
  The Primary Valuation of Ireland
  Index of Surnames
  Deportation Records
  Wills

Surnames of Ireland

Coats of Arms

Using the Internet to Research your Roots
  Web Forums/Bulletin Boards
  Create a Personal Web Site
  Search the Web
  Important Web Sites
Appendix A: Form of Investigation

Appendix B: Schedule of Heritage Research Centres

Appendix C: Individuals and organizations willing to conduct research

Appendix D: The 100 most frequently found Irish Surnames and meaning
INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this guide is to provide a starting point for people thinking about searching for their Irish family roots. This guide details the main sources of records of Irish ancestors and provides contact information for organizations and individuals who can provide further help.

We have also included sections on the origin of Irish names and details about family coat of arms as well as some guidelines to using the Internet in your genealogical research.

IDENTIFY YOUR AIMS

It is only common sense that the further back in time your research goes then the harder that research is going to get. For many people, particularly those living outside of Ireland, the search is going to be made even more difficult by the likelihood of the spellings of names having been changed at immigration centres. Nevertheless, the very least that can be achieved should be to map your family tree back as far as Grandparents and hopefully even to Great Grandparents and beyond.

Be clinical in your research. If you meet a dead-end then pursue a different line of enquiry. Similarly, do not abandon a lead until it has become completely exhausted and you can go no further. It is often the case in these kind of detective enquires that the most unlikely and seemingly worthless of leads can bring you on to a wealth of information about your origin that you may otherwise have never found.
The obvious place to begin your research is with your own family. Ask them questions about their relatives and friends. Don't forget that a lifelong friend of the family may be able to provide information that an immediate family might not know about. Try to build up a family tree. This will be an important tool as it is by filling in the gaps in the tree that new lines of enquiry will present themselves.

You will find that the names that your relatives were commonly known as often differ greatly from the names that appear on the official records such as birth and marriage registers, etc. Seek out as much information as you can about the abbreviations and common names that were used. Examine family photograph albums for more clues.

Children were almost always named after a relative. It was the custom of the time to name the first male child after the paternal grandfather. The second male child was named after the maternal grandfather. Similarly the first female child was named after the grandfather and the second female child after the maternal grandmother. After these relatives children were often named after Uncles and Aunts. This practice has only declined in the twentieth century.

It becomes very difficult to trace relatives prior to the end of the eighteenth century. This is because early records were based on the owning of property. Since the vast population were removed from their ancestral lands during the colonisation and plantations of the seventeenth century and beyond, the records of actual Irish ownership are either non-existent or in poor condition.

Remember that names, especially names of Irish origin, often have a number of variations that can change over the generations. Therefore, a family history of a particular McDermott family might have surnames including O'Diarmada, MacDiarmada, MacDermott, NiDhiarmiad, O'Dermott, Dermott, etc. Similarly, spelling of names changes over the generations with Mc or O have changed with the prefix being dropped or added depending on the custom of the time.

The next task is to find out the place of residence of your ancestors. Were there any major family upheavals? Did certain family members remain behind? Where were they located? Try to ascertain when these events happened, even the approximate time so that you can create a timeline of happenings in your family tree.
You should complete a form of investigation for every family member that you are investigating. A sample form can be found at Appendix A. Start a new form for every family member on the tree and make copies of relevant records that you might find pertaining to that family member. Attach these copies to the form.

**EXAMINATION OF RECORDS**

The majority of records relating to the investigation of your Irish roots are located in Ireland. Among the most important places to start are the National Archives and the General Registrar Office (the organisation that records Births, Deaths and Marriages in Ireland). It is amazing what you will be able to achieve by post and email!

**The General Register Office**

General Register Office,
Joyce House,
8/11 Lombard Street East,
Dublin 2,
Ireland

http://www.groireland.ie

This Government body has records of births, deaths and marriages dating back to 1864 and has some records even before that date. Their website allows you to download their application forms to apply for a birth, death and marriage certificates of your relatives. Visiting their website and printing off the detailed information available their is the first and most important step that you can take in investigating your Irish Roots.

Your aim is to try to find a record of every family member. These records will create a new line of investigation for you to work further back in time.

Remember to note the exact source of any record that is relevant to your research. Make a note of all records that are researched, including those researches that did not yield a result. This will prevent you from duplicating past work. Document everything you do and complete the Form of Investigation at every stage.
There are a variety of records in Ireland that can be searched for clues to your ancestors and they are explained below. These include:

Civil Records  
Church Records  
Census Records  
Land and property records  
Parish Registers  
Valuation Records  
Deportation Records  
Wills

**National Archives of Ireland**

The National Archives,  
Bishop Street,  
Dublin 8,  
Ireland

http://www.nationalarchives.ie

If you know a name, a place, and an approximate date, then the National Archives has the following records:

for a person living around 1901 or 1911, the Census Returns  
for a person living in the 1850s or 1830s, the Primary Valuation  
for a person living in the 1820s or 1830s, Tithe Applotment Books

**CHURCH RECORDS**

Civil records include birth, marriage and death certificates. After 1864 these were recorded by the General Register Office but before 1864 Church parish registers provide the only record of most births, marriages and deaths.

**National Library of Ireland**

The National Library of Ireland (Kildare St., Dublin 2 Tel: 01/6030200) houses microfilm copies of Catholic parish registers that survive up to the year 1800 and these are available for consultation.

The Library has a list of parish registers giving further details including the start dates for individual registers.
The National Library of Ireland,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2,
Ireland

http://www.nli.ie

The Library also has records of Irish newspapers which can be of great assistance if you suspect that a relative was involved in a news worthy incident of some kind.

Catholic Church Registers

Many of the Church registers can be freely consulted. The exceptions are the registers of the dioceses of Cashel and Emly, Cloyne, Kerry and Limerick. Letters of authorisation from the relevant Bishop for each of these 4 dioceses must be obtained in advance before examination of these records is allowed.

These registers often contain dates of baptism, names of children and parents, including the mother's maiden name, and often the names of the godparents and the place of residence. Marriage registers will contain details of the bride and groom, their witnesses and often their places of residence also.

The National Library of Ireland will not provide copies or transcripts from the parish registers in its possession. Post-1800 records are generally in the possession of the relevant parish priest for a particular area and can be consulted directly.
Catholic dioceses and the counties they cover are shown below:

Achonry   Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo

Ardagh and Clonmacnoise   Longford, Leitrim, Cavan, Roscommon, Sligo, Westmeath

Armagh   Derry, Tyrone, Armagh, Louth, Meath

Clogher   Galway, Offaly, Roscommon,

Cork and Ross   Cork City and South Cork

Derry   Derry, Tyrone, Donegal

Down and Connor   Antrim, Down, Derry

Dromore   Antrim, Armagh, Down

Dublin   Dublin, Wicklow, Carlow, Kildare, Laois, Wexford

Elphin   Roscommon, Sligo, Westmeath

Ferns   Wexford, Wicklow

Galway   Galway, Mayo, Clare

Kildare and Leighlin   Kildare, Offaly, Laois, Kilkenny, Carlow, Wicklow, Wexford

Killala   Mayo, Sligo

Killaloe   Clare, Laois, Limerick, Offaly, Tipperary

Kilmore   Cavan, Leitrim, Fermanagh, Meath, Sligo

Meath   Meath, Westmeath, Offaly, Longford, Louth, Dublin, Cavan

Ossory   Kilkenny, Laois, Offaly

Raphoe   Donegal

Tuam   Mayo, Galway, Roscommon

Waterford and Lismore   Waterford, Tipperary, Cork
Addresses of dioceses for which special permission is needed before the parish records in the National Library may be examined:

Cashel  Most. Rev. Dermot Clifford, D.D.,
       Archbishop of Cashel and Emly,
       Archbishops House,
       Thurles,
       Co. Tipperary.
       Tel: 0504/21512 Fax 0504/22680

Cloyne  Most Rev. John McGee, D.D.,
        Bishop of Cloyne,
        Cloyne Diocesan Centre,
        Cloyne,
        Co. Cork.
        Tel 021/811430 Fax 021/811026

Kerry  Most Rev. William Murphy, D.D.,
       Bishop of Kerry,
       Bishops House,
       Killarney,
       Co. Kerry.
       Tel: 064/31168 Fax 064/31364

Limerick  Most Rev. Donal Murray, D.D.,
          Bishop of Limerick,
          66 O’Connell St.,
          Limerick.
          Tel: 061/315856 Fax 061/310186

Parish registers are unique in that they provide direct links between different generations, via baptismal certificates, and between different families, via marriage certificates. These registers on microfilm held by the National Library are generally hand written records and seldom contain details of deaths. Latin is often used in the registers but generally the surname and place-names were not translated into Latin. The start dates of these registers varies can be as early as the 1740s in the larger urban centres.

Many of the registers of counties on the Western seaboard did not commence until the 1850s. The microfilming of registers was stopped at the year 1880 as, by then, the civil registration of events was well commenced (this began in 1864). Details of civil records from this date should be available from the General Register Office.
The Index of Surnames and the annual Catholic Directories are other publications in the National Library of Ireland (Kildare St., Dublin 2 Tel: 01/6030200) that can assist you in determining which parish is relevant to your research. If you know the name of the civil parish you should consult the 1837 publication Topographical Dictionary of Ireland by Samuel Lewis. This gives details including the appropriate Catholic parish.

There are a number of Heritage Research Centres in Ireland that have indexed many of the local registers. These registers are not generally accessible to the public but the centres will carry out commissioned work. A schedule of the centres can be found in Appendix B to this document.
Church of Ireland (Anglican)

Many original records were destroyed in the 1922 Public Record Office fire. Some original registers are still held by The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin 8 Tel 01/4783711) whilst others are in the Representative Church Body Library (Braemor Park, Dublin 14, Tel: 01/4923979), or in the local parish. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY Tel: 080/1232 661621) also holds many original records for Northern counties. The National Library of Ireland (Kildare St., Dublin 2 Tel: 01/6030200) holds a list of registers that are available and their whereabouts.

Presbyterian

Records for this denomination are held by the Presbyterian Historical Society, Church House, Fisherwick Place, Belfast, BT1 6WD, Northern Ireland.

Methodist

Prior to 1810 Methodists records can be found in Church of Ireland registers. After that date the records are often held by the relevant local Methodist Church. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland holds details for the Ulster counties.

Quaker


Jewish

Contact the Irish Jewish Museum, 3-4 Walworth St., South Circular Rd., Dublin 8. Tel 01/4531797.
CENSUS RECORDS

The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Tel: 01/4783711) holds all surviving census records. The earliest complete census is that of 1901. A census of the Irish population was taken every 10 years from 1821 to 1911. Manuscript returns for each household survive for all 32 counties for 1901 and 1911. The returns are arranged by townland or, in urban areas, by street.

LAND AND PROPERTY RECORDS

There are two important documents in this category which can be regarded as census substitutes: The Tithe Applotment Books (1824-1838) and the Primary Valuation of Ireland or Griffith's Valuation (1848-1864). The National Library of Ireland (Kildare St., Dublin 2 Tel: 01/6030200) has copies of both of these records as well as the county by county Index of Surnames, which is an alphabetical listing of surnames recorded in both of the above records, broken down by County, Barony and Civil Parish.

TITHE APLOTMENT BOOKS

These records are most important for research about the early decades of the 1800s. They are a survey of titheable lands in each parish. They do not cover cities or towns. They are not available for all parishes and it is the case that parishes are often shown together for the purpose of the survey. Information in these records includes the name of the occupier, the name of the townland, the acreage, the classification of land and the amount of tithe due.

These books are stored on microfilm in the National Library of Ireland and the originals are held by the National Archives.

LAND REGISTRY

Another important source of property records is the Government Land Registry & Registry of Deeds from where it is possible to ascertain the ownership of property in Ireland since 1892 and even have records of Deeds since 1708. There are several offices in Ireland:

Land Registry & Registry of Deeds, Chancery Street, Dublin 7 Ireland
PRIMARY VALUATION OF IRELAND OR GRIFFITH’S VALUATION

This important record is the main census substitute for the years 1848 to 1864 and details where people lived and the property they possessed during those years. The record is a valuation of property holdings carried out to determine liability to pay the Poor Rate (for the support of the poor within each Poor Law Union). This record does cover property in cities and towns. It is arranged by County and, within Counties, by Poor Law Unions. Each Union is broken down into electoral divisions, civil parishes and townlands. The information held in these records includes map reference details, name of occupier of holding, name of person letting the land, description of the holding, the area and the overall valuation.

These books are stored on microfiche in the National Library of Ireland (Kildare St., Dublin 2 Tel: 01/6030200). The manuscript records of the valuations are available in the National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin 8 Tel 01/4783711).

The Valuation Office (6 Ely Place, Dublin 2 Tel: 01/6763211) is the organisation that now administers the primary valuation of holdings. This office holds the Cancelled Land Books and the Current Land Books which give details of all changes to holdings, including ownership, up to the present day. This office also holds the original Ordnance Survey maps that are referred to in Griffith's Valuation.
THE INDEX OF SURNAMES

The National Library of Ireland arranged for an index of surnames contained in both the Tithes Applotment books and Griffith's Valuation in the 1950s. This publication is available for consultation in the Library and will assist if you know the county of origin of an ancestor but are unsure of the exact place of residence. You can pinpoint the appropriate Civil and Catholic parish that people of that surname lived in.

Each index of surnames contains the following: a map showing the Baronies and Civil Parishes in each County with a key to the relevant Catholic Parish and an alphabetical listing of the surnames recorded in each Barony of the County, as well as an alphabetical listing of the surnames recorded in each Civil Parish of the county.

DEPORTATION RECORDS

The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin 8 Tel 01/4783711) holds a large number of records detailing deportations from this island, during the period 1788 to 1868. Australia was the main destination.

WILLS

The National Archives (Bishop Street, Dublin 8, Tel 01/4783711) holds records of Wills made by people and records of grants of probate where a person died without having made a Will. These are useful for tracing the dates that individuals died, their residence and the residence and details of any successors they may have had.
It is a help when tracing your family history to know something about the origin of and evolution of Irish names and particularly how names have changed over the centuries.

To explore the development of Irish surnames is to explore the history of Ireland, for it is largely due to major historical occurrences that the variety of Irish surnames that we are familiar with today have come into existence.

**Ancient Gaelic Tradition**

Hereditary names have existed in Ireland for over a thousand years. This is a practice that developed in various countries in Europe at more or less the same time. Individuals were known by single names but this became unsuitable as the population grew so the appendage of a nickname or other hereditary indicator became fashionable. In Ireland names were prefixed with Mac or O to indicate that the bearer was the 'son of' or 'grandson of' their namesake. O'Conchobhair means 'grandson of Connor', anglicized as O'Connor.

The father's occupation was frequently added to a name also, for example, Mac an Bhaird (the son of the Bard) which became anglicized as Ward or MacWard. Personal characteristics of the bearer were frequently favoured as well. For example, the Gaelic word Fionn means 'fair' and is found in several names including O'Fionnallain (Fenlon).

Gaelic language and culture was brought to Scotland by settler families from Ireland who established themselves in their new homeland giving rise to names which have since become known as purely 'Scottish'. The name MacDonald is an example. A more Scottish name could hardly be imagined and yet it was brought to that country by Irish settlers. This is significant when you consider that many Scottish families were to settle back into Ireland (and especially in Ulster) during the seventeenth century.

The word Scotus is the Latin word for Irishman. Scotland derived its name from the immigrant Gaelic settlers.

Mac and Mc are the same prefixes. Their use does not indicate that the bearer is from either Scotland or Ireland. One is merely an abbreviation of the other and in this regard the names MacDermott and McDermott can be regarded as one and the same.
The Norse Vikings

The invasions by the Norsemen from the eight century onwards introduced a new wave of surnames into the country. The name Doyle for example is taken from the Gaelic words 'dubh ghaill' meaning 'dark foreigner'. It is not surprising that many of the invaders were viewed as being dark! Brian Boru defeated the Vikings at the Battle of Clontarf in 1014 but the Anglo-Norman conquest of the country in the twelfth century saw the introduction of another variety of surnames.

Names such as Burke (de Burca), Power (de Poer) and Fitzgerald (Mac Gerailt) are of Norman origin and yet these settlers established their families along native Gaelic lines, forming 'Septs' and integrating fully into Gaelic society. Although these names became established in Ireland long after the native Gaelic O'Neills, Bolands and Flanagans, you would have a very hard time convincing a Burke that s/he is not Irish!

The Plantation Schemes

The widespread colonisation of Ireland was accelerated during the 1600s. Thousands of settler families arrived into Ulster especially, bringing with them a new variety of surnames as well as many that were of original Gaelic origin.

During this time it was a great disadvantage for a family to have a Gaelic sounding name. This was an organised attempt to completely eradicate the Gaelic culture which resulted in a number of cultural casualties, especially the decline of the Gaelic language. It was during this time that the 'anglicization' of many native Gaelic names took place. Thus, the Mac Bradaigh Sept changed their name to Brady, Mac An Gabhann to Smith and MacGowan, Breathnach to Walsh (Breathnach means Welshman in Gaelic).

Clearly this causes a problem when trying to trace a particular surname. Take the name Smith as an example. Of course this name is derived from the native Gaelic Mac An Gabhann Sept and its descendants but it is also derived from the numerous settlers who brought the name from England. The mis-translation of Gaelic words to try to assimilate an Anglo sounding name as well as the problem of variant spellings further clouds the issue.
The Gaelic Revival

The resurgence of the Gaelic culture during the late stages of the 19th and early stages of the 20th centuries was due to a number of historical events that can be traced back as far as the American War of Independence (which encouraged Irish nationalism), the 1798 Wolfe Tone Rebellion, Catholic Emancipation achieved by Daniel O'Connell, the Great Famine of 1845-49 and the Land agitation organised by Davitt and Parnell. This revival was to have a great impact on Irish surnames as many Irish families reclaimed the Gaelic form of their name or, in many case, re-adopted the Mac or O prefix that was previously missing from their name. Thus the name O'Sullivan began to greatly outnumber the name Sullivan. Previously the name Sullivan had been very much in the ascendancy.

Not all names were thus treated. The O prefix was not greatly re-attached to the names Kelly and Boland for example. This 'Gaelicization' of names was a direct response to the 'Anglicization' of names that had occurred over the previous centuries. It is easy to see how the root genuine form of certain names became lost or blurred after these processes!

Emigration to various parts of the new world, America, Canada and Australia in particular, caused a further wave of spelling variations of surnames. The name Kavanagh includes the variant spellings Kavanaugh, Cavanaugh and Cavanagh to cite but a few but all of which are derived from the Gaelic Caomhanach Sept who were a branch of the MacMurroughs.

Surnames Today

There are many different origins for Irish names today but the vast majority can be broken down into either of three categories: Gaelic Irish, Cambro-Norman, and finally Anglo-Irish.

Appendix D gives a listing of the 100 most common names found in Ireland and their meanings. These details were compiled from the 1890 Matheson report.
COATS OF ARMS

The English and Scottish Heraldic tradition is somewhat different from that which exists in Ireland. When settlers arrived from England they brought more than their name, they also brought their family coat of arms. Consequently it has been a source of irritation to many Scottish and English Heraldists that people of obvious Irish extraction should lay claim to the right to bear these coats of arms! The fact that many of the native Gaelic families registered their own family coat of arms with the 'Ulster Office' (which was actually located in Dublin) and then allowed their Sept members to bear the coat of arms is also at odds with the Anglo tradition.

The English system of assigning arms is based on individual hereditary but the native Gaelic culture has always exemplified the rights of the group (the Sept) rather than the individual.

It has long been accepted in Ireland that it is the right of all bearers of the name O'Connor, Smith, Fitzpatrick, Campbell or whatever name you have, to bear the coat of arms for that name. The Office of the Chief Herald in Ireland will even register you a new coat of arms for a fee of about 3000 Irish pounds. Of course, if you are named Smith you would need a detailed genealogical investigation to establish if your coat of arms is of the English or Irish (Mac Gowan) variety. Names like Kelly and Murphy are much more clearcut!

Coats of arms were initially stored as blazons. A blazon is a text description of a coat of arms. Among the most important sources of these blazons are 'Burkes General Armory' which dates back to 1842 and has blazons of over 60,000 coats of arms. The 'Rietstap Armorial' is another important source and has many European family blazons. Burke's book concentrates mainly on Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales.

In latter years scholars have created artistic interpretations of the blazons so that the coat of arms may be viewed in all of their glory. 'Kennedy's Book of Arms' and 'McLysaght's Irish Families' books are among the most significant.

A complete listing of the most important sources of Heraldic and other Irish Genealogy books can be found at:

http://www.ireland-information.com/irishgenealogybooks.htm
Coats of Arms are often described as 'Family Crests'. Technically a 'crest' is the charge (a lion, sword, crescent, etc.) that appears on some coats of arms. Not all Coats of Arms have a family crest or, indeed, a motto. Over time the terms 'Family Crest' and 'Coat of Arms' have come to mean the same thing.

A most important source of Irish Coats of Arms on the Internet can be found at:

http://www.irishsurnames.com

This site also has an explanation of the meanings of the charges, shapes, lines and colors that appear on Coats of Arms.
USING THE INTERNET TO RESEARCH YOUR ROOTS

The world wide web is huge! Recent estimates gauge that the number of documents held on the web doubles every nine months! This has advantages and disadvantages when it comes to tracking down your distant relatives. There are a number of ways you can research your roots on the web:

Web Forums/Bulletin Boards

A forum or bulletin board is a place where you can leave a message for others to view and reply to. Similarly you can view other researchers messages and perhaps get a lead on a long lost relative. There are some famous stories about how brothers and sisters have been reunited thanks to chance encounters in Internet chatrooms and on bulletin boards.

For the majority of people however, using these forums will not yield great results. Nevertheless, you are not going to yield any information unless you post a message!

Before you post to a Forum have your detailed information already typed up and saved so that you can easily copy it into the form that allows you to post a message. Give as much information as you can - you want people to reply!

Make your message appealing and to the point. If you have a personal website where you have posted your research information then give the URL (the web location) at the bottom of your message. If you have a commercial website then DO NOT include any kind of sales message as these forums are not the place to advertise your web business!

Include your email address if you wish but remember that in so doing you are leaving your email address as a permanent record on the web and that you may receive 'spam' (commercial email) as a result.

If you are worried about this then why not set up a free email account which you can use separately from your main email account. You can use the free account just for your genealogy research and all correspondence about it. You can get a free email account here:

http://www.irishnation.com
An alternative is to post your real email address in a way that makes it very hard for the commercial email 'harvesters' that are used by spammers to get your address.

If you want to illicit sincere replies then give your email address like this:

You may email me at: jimmy @ aol.com

Notice that there are spaces included! A genuine person who wants to contact you will remove those spaces when they email you. The advantage of doing this is that the format above cannot easily be read by the commercial spam programs.

Make a list of the various forums that you subscribe to and check back once a month to see if you have any replies. And keep trying!

An Irish Genealogy Forum can be found here:


Create a Personal Web Site

You can easily create a personal web site for free and post your research details up on the web. Many web businesses that are dedicated to Genealogy allow you to create a 'page' and add your information to it. Alternatively you can join one of the many free personal web hosts that allow you to create a web page upon which they usually place an advertising banner to cover their costs.

When you have created your web page then you need to submit it to the various search engines. Most engines have an 'Add URL' link on their homepage where you can send in the URL of your new web page.

If you are really serious then you can even buy your own domain name and register that instead. Web sites that have their own domain name (examples: irishsurnames.com, irishpenpals.com, irishnation.com, etc.) generally get a higher ranking in the search engines than web pages that are provided free or that are sub-domains of other web sites.
The following sites allow you to set up a personal web page/site for free:

http://www.geocities.com
http://angelfire.lycos.com
http://www.freewebspace.net

**Search the Web**

There may be other people who are conducting research that is similar to yours and who have already set up a web page. So one of the first things you should do when searching for a particular name, place or event is to use the search engines on the Web!

Results will vary depending on the way the search engines are set up and you can spend hours trawling through results to no avail. You have to be smart! If you are looking for a relative named Sean Murphy who left Cork Harbour in 1890 then you are not going to have much luck if you simply enter the search term 'Murphy' in the search box and click 'Return'!

You would be much better off entering something like 'Sean Murphy Cork 1890' and see how you get on with that. The results you get will be fewer but at least they will be more relevant. If you are searching for a very unusual name then simply entering that name may be enough. Remember that you are searching a library of billions of pages!

The main search engines include:

http://www.google.com
http://www.altavista.com
http://www.looksmart.com
http://www.dmoz.com
http://www.yahoo.com
http://www.msn.com
http://www.lycos.com
Important Web Sites

There are a number of important websites that are listed at 'Searcher' - the Search Engine dedicated to Irish Genealogy, which can be found at:

http://www.ireland-information.com/irishgenealogy/

The Irish townland database allows you to search for a particular place in Ireland and it will identify the townland and county if found. It can be found at:

http://www.seanruad.com

The Irish telephone directory is a very useful source of information if you suspect that you have relatives living in Ireland. It is available online at:

http://www.eircom.ie ...click the 'phone book' link
http://www.goldenpages.ie ...is the business directory

Over 1000 Irish coats of arms and family origin details are provided at:

http://www.irishsurnames.com/coatsofarms/m.htm

There are some commercial search tools available that are specifically geared towards genealogy. These include 'Genealogy Detective', details of which you can find here:

http://www.ireland-information.com/gd.htm

CONCLUSION

Researching your roots can often be a frustrating job, but the satisfaction that occurs when you do find out some information about a long lost relative can be immeasurable.

Remember, perseverance is the number one quality required of a genealogist. The knowledge that you acquire about your past can be given to your own family and future generations to enjoy, and that makes the effort all the more worthwhile.
Appendix A

Form of Investigation

Name or commonly used names ____________________________

Father ____________________________
Mother ____________________________
Step-Mother ____________________________
Step-Father ____________________________
Sisters ____________________________
Brothers ____________________________
Half-Brothers ____________________________
Half-Sisters ____________________________

Exact or estimated date of birth ____________________________
Birthplace ____________________________
Date of death or age at death ____________________________

Address where resided #1 ____________________________
Address where resided #2 ____________________________
Address where resided #3 ____________________________
Address where resided #4 ____________________________
Address where resided #5 ____________________________

Occupation #1 ____________________________
Occupation #2 ____________________________
Occupation #3 ____________________________
Occupation #4 ____________________________
Occupation #5 ____________________________

Documents researched in respect of this person

Photograph or description if available

Comments
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Address Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Antrim</td>
<td>Ulster Historical Foundation, Balmoral Buildings, 12 College Square, E. Belfast BT1 6DD. Tel: (01232) 332288, Fax: (01232) 239885.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armagh</td>
<td>Armagh Ancestry, 42 English St, Armagh, N.I.BT61 7BA. Tel: (08186) 521802 Fax (01861) 510033</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlow</td>
<td>Carlow Genealogy, Carlow Co. Council, Carlow.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cavan</td>
<td>Co. Cavan Genealogical Research Centre, Cana House, Farnham St. Cavan. Tel/Fax: (049) 61094.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clare</td>
<td>Clare Heritage Centre, Corofin, Co. Clare. Tel: (065) 37955.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork (North)</td>
<td>Mallow Heritage Centre, 22-28 Bank Place, Mallow, Co. Cork. Tel:(022) 21778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cork (South)</td>
<td>Cork City Ancestral Project, c/o Cork County Library, Farranlea Road, Cork. Tel: (021) 546499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Derry</td>
<td>The Genealogical Centre, 4-22 Butcher Street, Derry BT48 6HL. Tel:(01504) 373177 Fax:(01504)374818</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Donegal
Donegal Ancestry,
Bank Lane,
Ramelton,
Co.Donegal.
Tel: (074) 51266

Down
See County Antrim.

Dublin City
Dublin Heritage Group,
2 Floor,
Cumberland House,
Fenian Street
Dublin 2.
Tel: 01/6619000

Dublin North
Fingal Heritage Group,
Carnegie Library,
North Street,
Swords,
Co. Dublin.
Tel: 01/8403629

Dublin South
Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Heritage Society,
Moran Park House,
Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.
Tel: (01)2806961 Ext. 238
Fax:(01)2806969

Fermanagh
See County Tyrone.

Galway East
History Society,
Woodford,
Co. Galway
Tel/Fax: (0509)49309

Galway West
Galway Family History Society West Ltd.,
Unit 3,
Venture Centre,
Liosbaun Estate,
Tuam Rd,
Galway.
Tel: (091)756737
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kerry</td>
<td>Killarney Genealogical Centre Ltd., Cathedral Walk, Killarney, Co. Kerry.</td>
<td>Tel: (064)35946, Fax: (066)29202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kildare</td>
<td>The Kildare Heritage Project, c/o Kildare County Library, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.</td>
<td>Tel: (045)433602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilkenny</td>
<td>Kilkenny Archaeological Society, Rothe House, Kilkenny.</td>
<td>Tel: (056)22893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laois</td>
<td>See County Offaly.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leitrim</td>
<td>Leitrim Genealogy Centre, County Library, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.</td>
<td>Tel: (078)44012, Fax: (078)44425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limerick</td>
<td>Limerick Genealogy Centre, The Granary, Michael Street, Limerick, Co. Limerick.</td>
<td>Tel: (061)410777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Longford</td>
<td>Longford Roots, 1 Church Street, Longford</td>
<td>Tel: (043)41235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louth</td>
<td>See County Meath or Armagh Records Centre, Ara Coeli, Armagh BT61 7QY, N.I.</td>
<td>Tel: (01861)522981</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Mayo North  Mayo North Family History Research Centre,  Enniscoe,  Castlehill,  Ballina,  Co. Mayo.  Tel:(096)31809  Fax:(096)31885

Mayo South  South Mayo Family Research Centre,  Main Street,  Ballinrobe,  Co. Mayo.  Tel/Fax:(092)41214

Meath  Meath Heritage Centre,  Mill Street,  Trim,  Co. Meath.  Tel: (046)36633  Fax: (046)37502

Monaghan  Monaghan Ancestry,  6 Tully,  Monaghan.  Tel: (047)82304

Offaly  Offaly Historical Society,  Bury Quay,  Tullamore,  Co. Offaly.  Tel/Fax: (0506)21421.

Roscommon  Co. Roscommon Heritage & Genealogical Society,  Church Street,  Strokestown,  Co. Roscommon  Tel: (078)33380.

Sligo  Co. Sligo Heritage & Genealogical Society,  Stephen Street,  Sligo.  Tel: (071)43728.

Tipperary  Tipperary Heritage Unit,  Marian Hall,  St. Michael's Street,  Tipperary Town.  Tel: (062)52725.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary North</td>
<td>Tipperary North Family History Foundation, The Gatehouse, Kickham Street, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. Tel: (067)33850 Fax: (067)33586</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tipperary South</td>
<td>Bru Boru Heritage Centre, Cashel, Co. Tipperary. Tel: (062)61122 Fax: (062)62700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrone</td>
<td>Heritage World, The Heritage Centre, 26 Market Square, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone BTJO IAB. Tel: (01866)724187 Fax: (01868)752141.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>Waterford Heritage Survey, Jenkin's Lane, Waterford Tel: (051)76123 Fax: (051)50654.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmeath</td>
<td>Dun Na Si Heritage Centre, Knockdorney, Moate, Co. Westmeath. Tel: (0902)81183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wexford</td>
<td>Wexford Heritage &amp; Research Centre, Yola Farmstead, Tagort, Co. Wexford. Tel: (053)31177</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wicklow</td>
<td>Wicklow Heritage Centre, The Court House, Wicklow. Tel: (0404)67324.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Appendix C

Individuals and organizations willing to conduct research

The Information about Ireland Site does not sponsor or endorse the individuals or organisations named below. By using this list you agree to indemnify the Information about Ireland Site against any loss or damage, however caused.

Achievements Ltd, 79-82 Northgate, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1BA
Tel. (01227)462618, Fax. (01227)765617.
Genealogical research, research in Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. Dennis C.A. Allen, Genealogy Ireland, Manor House, 2 Rocky Road, Cregagh, Belfast, BT6 9QL; Co. Down. Tel & Fax: 01232 799394.

Ms. Pamela Bradley, Research Ireland, Blue Rock, Killough, Kinnacanogue, Co. Wicklow. Tel & Fax: (01) 2869645. Genealogy & history research: any part of Ireland, especially Co. Wicklow.

Ms. Eithne Cavanagh, 10 Leinster Hall, 83 Leinster Road, Rathmines, Dublin 6. Tel. & Fax: 01 4964402. General research.


Eneclann, 28 Weston Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14.
Researchers: Brian Donovan 428 North Circular Road, Dublin 7. Tel. 353 1 8309721.
Fiona Fitusimons, 28 Weston Road, Churchtown, Dublin 14. Tel. 353 1 2984447
Special areas of interest - Irish politics, administrative, constitutional and legal history.

Ms. Steven C. ffeary-Smyrl, APGI, 98 Fisherman's Wharf, York Road, Dublin 4. Tel. +353-1-6688074, Fax. +353-1-6670543. Legal & probate genealogical research; NonConformist genealogy.
Ms. Paul Gorry, Gorry Research, 12 Burrow Road, Sutton, Dublin 13. Tel. (01) 8393942, Fax (01) 8393942.

Hibernian Research Co. Ltd., PO Box 3097, Dublin 6. Tel. 353 1 4966522 Fax 353 1 4973011, 24 hour service. A panel of professional, accredited genealogists with experience in all aspects of genealogical, historical, social and probate research.


Historical Research Associates, Glen cottage, Glenmachan Road, Belfast BT4 2NP, Northern Ireland: Tel. (01232) 761490, (01960) 368502; 40 Carrickburn Road, Carrickfergus, BT38 7ND, Northern Ireland.

Mr. Paul Kavanagh, c/o Parkgate Street Post Office, Dublin 8. Genealogy, any part of Ireland, but especially Counties Waterford, Kilkenny, Wexford, Carlow and Laois.

Ms. Helen Kelly, 30 Harlech Crescent, Clonskeagh, Dublin 14. Tel: (353 1) 2784040.

Mr. Laurence Kinsella, 37 North Great Charles Street, North Circular Road, Dublin 7. Tel. (01)8551911. Genealogy and local history.

Mr. Matthew J. Lennon, 15 Weston Heights, Lucan, Co. Dublin. Tel. (01) 6219282. Fax. (01) 6219286. Genealogy.

Mr. Seamus Lillis, Seamus Lillis Associates, 17 Daneswell Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 9. Tel: 01/8367051, Fax: 8367607.

Maire Mac Conghail, 14 Ascal Ghairbhile, Rath Garbh, Balle Atha Cliath 6. Tel: 353 1 4974621. Fax: 353 1 4974388. Genealogy; history; general research.

Mary P. McConnon MA, MC Research Service, Seabank, Castlebellingham, Dundalk, Co. Louth. Tel & Fax: (042) 72046. Genealogy, particularly Co. Louth; historical research, specialising in local government and other public sector areas.

Mrs. Patricia Moorhead, 7 Edenbrook Drive, Rathfarnham, Dublin 14. Tel. (01) 4931610. Fax: (01) 4930246. Genealogical research, all parts of Ireland, especially Dublin city and County.

Ms. Helen Moss, 5 Seaforth Terrace, Sandymount, Dublin 4. Tel. (01) 6670614. Genealogy, general research, history of art.

Mr. Diarmuald Moynihan, ‘Roots’, Sliabh Luachra Genealogical Research, Rathmore, Co. Kerry. Tel. 353 64 58070.

Muirin O Briain, Irish Lineage, 14 The Haven, Stratford, Orwell Road, Dublin 6. Tel. (353 1) 4922643. Fax. 353 1 4929884.

Ms. Deirdre O'Connell, BA MLIS ALAI, Search Ireland, 15 Ashworth Place, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6. Tel/Fax: +353 1 496 0198. Library and archival research; bibliographies compiled. Research areas: Historical and Social Sciences, Literature.

Ms. Eileen M. O Duill, M.A. C.G.R.S. 47 Delwood Road, Castleknock, Dublin 15. Tel. (353 1) 8217272. Fax. (353 1) 8209722. Legal and probate genealogical research.

Mr. Riobard O'Dwyer, Beara Peninsula Genealogical Research, Eyeries Village, Beara Peninsula, Co. Cork. Tel: 027 74015

Mr. Thomas O'Leary BA, Duchas - Family History Research, 7 Wolfe Tone Street, Clonakilty, Co. Cork. Tel. (023) 34448 Fax. (023) 34448. General research and genealogy, especially Counties Cork and Kerry.

Dr. James Ryan PhD, 4 Spencer Villas, Glenageary, Co. Dublin. Tel. (01) 2806228. Genealogy, biology, agriculture, environmental studies etc.

Mr. Roy Stokes, 8, Limekiln Drive, Terenure, Dublin 12. Tel: 01 4503355. Mobile 088 647001. Fax: 6768429. Maritime research, specialising in lost vessels.

Ulster Historical Foundation, Balmoral Buildings, 12 College Square East, Belfast BTI 6DD, Northern Ireland. Tel. Belfast (01232) 332288, Fax. (01232) 239885.

Ms. Mary Hoare Walsh, Cappalug, Killeshin, Co. Laois. Tel: 0503 47884. Family history, history of County Laois, history of the Grand Canal, and the Killeshin/Rossmore area.
| 1  | Murphy      | ó Murchadha | sea-battler       |
| 2  | Kelly       | ó Ceallaigh | bright-headed     |
| 3  | O’Sullivan  | ó Súilleabháin | dark-eyed      |
| 4  | Walsh       | Breathnach  | Welshman          |
| 5  | Smith       | Mac Gabhann | son of the smith |
| 6  | O’Brien     | ó Briain    | high, noble       |
| 7  | Byrne       | ó Broin     | a raven           |
| 8  | Ryan        | ó Maoilriaín| king              |
| 9  | O’Connor    | ó Conchobhair | patron of warriors |
| 10 | O’Neill     | ó Néill    | from Niall of the Nine Hostages |
| 11 | O’Reilly    | ó Raghallaigh |                 |
| 12 | Doyle       | ó Dubhghaill | dark foreigner   |
| 13 | McCarthy    | Mac Carthaigh | loving person |
| 14 | Gallagher   | ó Gallchobhair | lover of foreigners |
| 15 | O’Doherty   | ó Dochartaigh | hurtful |
| 16 | Kennedy     | ó Cinnéide  | helmet headed     |
| 17 | Lynch       | ó Loinsigh  | seafarer, exile  |
| 18 | Murray      | ó Muireadhaigh | lord, master  |
| 19 | Quinn       | ó Cuinn    | wisdom, chief    |
| 20 | Moore       | ó Mordha   | majestic          |
| 21 | McLaughlin  | Mac Lochlainn | viking  |
| 22 | O’Carroll   | ó Cearbhaill | valorous in battle |
| 23 | Connolly    | ó Conghaile | fierce as a hound |
| 24 | Daly        | ó Dálaigh  | given to frequent assemblies |
| 25 | O’Connell   | ó Conaill  | strong as a wolf  |
| 26 | Wilson      | Mac Liam   | son of William   |
| 27 | Dunne       | ó Duinn    | brown             |
| 28 | Brennan     | ó Braonáin | sorrow            |
| 29 | Burke       | de Búrca   | from Richard de Burgh |
| 30 | Collins     | ó Coileáin | young warrior     |
| 31 | Campbell    |            | crooked mouth     |
| 32 | Clarke      | óCléirigh  | clergyman         |
| 33 | Johnston    | Mac Seáín  | son of John       |
| 34 | Hughes      | ó hAodha   | fire              |
| 35 | O’Farrell   | ó Fearghail | man of valour    |
| 36 | Fitzgerald  | Mac Gearailt | spear rule   |
| 37 | Brown       | Mac an Bhreithiún | son of the brehon (judge) |
| 38 | Martin      | Mac Giolla Mháirtín | devotee of Saint Martin |
| 39 | Maguire     | Mag Uidhír | dun-coloured      |
| 40 | Nolan       | ó Nualláin | famous            |
41 Flynn ó Floinn bright red
42 Thompson Mac Tomáis son of Thom
43 O’Callaghan ó Ceallacháin bright headed
44 O’Donnell ó Domhnail world-mighty
45 Duffy ó Dufaigh dark, black
46 O’Mahony ó Mathúna bear-calf
47 Boyle ó Baoill vain pledge
48 Healy ó hÉalaighthe artistic, scientific
49 O’Shea ó Séaghdha fine, stately
50 White Mac Giolla Bháin of fair complexion
51 Sweeney Mac Suibhne pleasant
52 Hayes ó hAodha fire
53 Kavanagh Caomhánach comely, mild
54 Power de Paor the poor man
55 McGrath Mac Craith son of grace
56 Moran ó Móráin great
57 Brady Mac Brádaigh spirited
58 Stewart Stiobhard one who superintends
59 Casey ó Cathasaigh vigilant in war, watchful
60 Foley ó Foghladh a plunderer
61 Fitzpatrick Mac Giolla Phádraig devotee of Saint Patrick
62 O’Leary ó Laoghaire calf-herd
63 MacDonnell Mac Domhnaill world-mighty
64 MacMahon Mac Mathúna bear-calf
65 Donnelly ó Donnghaile brown valour
66 Regan ó Riagáin little king
67 Donovan ó Donnabháin brown, black
68 Burns from Scottish Burness
69 Flanagan ó Flannagáin red, ruddy
70 Mullan ó Maoláin bald
71 Barry de Barra Cambro-Norman name
72 Kane ó Catháin battler
73 Robinson son of Robert
74 Cunningham Scottish name
75 Griffin ó Griofa Welsh: Gruffudd
76 Kenny ó Cionaoith fire sprung
77 Sheehan ó Siocháin peaceful
78 Ward Mac an Bhaird son of the bard
79 Whelan ó Faoláin wolf
80 Lyons ó Laighin grey
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>81</td>
<td>Reid ó Riada</td>
<td>red haired, ruddy complexion</td>
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<tr>
<td>82</td>
<td>Graham ó Greacháin</td>
<td>grey home</td>
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<tr>
<td>83</td>
<td>Higgins ó hUiginn</td>
<td>holly</td>
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<tr>
<td>84</td>
<td>Cullen ó Cuilinn</td>
<td>holly</td>
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<tr>
<td>85</td>
<td>Keane Mac Catháin</td>
<td>fine, majestic</td>
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<td>86</td>
<td>King ó Cionga</td>
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<td>87</td>
<td>Maher Meagher</td>
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<td>88</td>
<td>Mackenna Mac Cionaoith</td>
<td>fire-sprung</td>
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<td>89</td>
<td>Bell Mac Giolla Mhaoil</td>
<td>a Scottish gael</td>
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<td>90</td>
<td>Scott</td>
<td></td>
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<td>91</td>
<td>Hogan ó hÓgáin</td>
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<td>92</td>
<td>O'Keeffe ó Caomh</td>
<td>gentle</td>
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<td>93</td>
<td>Magee Mag Aoidh</td>
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<td>94</td>
<td>MacNamara Mac Conmara</td>
<td>hound of the sea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>95</td>
<td>Mac Donald Mac Dónaill</td>
<td>world-mighty</td>
</tr>
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<td>96</td>
<td>MacDermott Mac Diarmada</td>
<td>free from jealousy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>97</td>
<td>Moloney ó Maolomhnaigh</td>
<td>servant of the Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>O'Rourke ó Ruairc</td>
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<td>99</td>
<td>Buckley ó Buachalla</td>
<td>cow herd</td>
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<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>O'Dwyer ó Dubhui</td>
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