

Tracing Ancestry in Ireland Land Records

Objectives

- 1- Learn the types of Ireland Land records and the strategies for using them.
- 2- Learn how to access the digitized records free online.

Before You Use Ireland Land Records

- You need to know at least the county in Ireland where your ancestors came from.
- If all you know is Ireland, then you are not yet ready to use the land records.
- The location is key so you know you are researching the right person!

Why Use Ireland Land Records

- Land records name the heads of household.
- You can trace family surnames in a specific area and time.
- Land records can give greater understanding into how your ancestors lived.
- After you have used the church, census, and civil registration records, it may help to fill in the missing gaps.

Types of Ireland Land Records

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| • Tithe Applotments | • Registry of Deeds |
| • Griffiths Valuation | • Freeholder's Registers |
| • House, Quarto, Field, Tenure Books | • Landed Estate Records |
| • Valuation Revision Books | |

For more information on Ireland Land Records: Go to www.familysearch.org, click Wiki, then type Ireland Land and Property

Strategies for Using Ireland Land Records

Some Ireland Land Records are easier to use and access than others. Some are indexed and others are only browsable. Below is list of strategies to help you navigate the land records.

First: Try searching the Tithe Applotments and Griffiths Valuation

These are the easiest records to use and the most accessible. An estimated 40% of the heads of households are included in the Tithe Applotments, and an estimated 80-90% of the heads of households are included in the Griffiths Valuation.

Record Type	Time	What is it?	Genealogical Value	Where to access the record online
Tithe Applotments	1823-1837	A tax on anyone who owned or rented land that was subject to the tithe.	Names the head of household for a given period of time.	<p>Option 1: www.familysearch.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to Search Click Records Under Find a Collection type "Ireland Tithe" <p>Option 2: www.nationalarchives.ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click Genealogy Click Tithe Applotments
Griffiths Valuation	1848-1864	A tax on anyone who owned or rented a house that was subject to the tithe.	Names the head of household for a given period of time. Gives key information on the holdings of your ancestors.	<p>Option 1: www.askaboutireland.ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click on Griffiths Valuation After searching for your ancestor, click the various icons for Details, Original Page, and Map Views to get information about the acres, rods, poles, and what your ancestor rented. After clicking the Map view, click Satellite when you have found your town. <p>Option 2: www.ancestry.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click Search Click Card Catalog In the Keyword search type Griffiths. <p>Option 3: www.findmypast.com</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click Search Click A-Z Record Sets In the Search box type "Griffiths"
<p>From the Griffiths Valuation record the Map reference number, and the Acres, Rods and Poles.</p> <p>After gathering the necessary information, go to the House Book Translator site found at www.townlandvaluationtranslator.com. Enter the information on the Acres, Rods, and Poles to see what kind of house your ancestor lived in.</p>				

Second: Try searching the Valuation Books

These records coincide with Griffith Valuations and add more information and meaning into your ancestor's home, land, and soil. They may not be searchable by name but you can search by parish and townland. These records are not as easy to use as Griffiths Valuation but provide great insight.

Record Type	Time	What is it?	Genealogical Value	Where to access the record online
Field Books	1820s-1850s	Evaluation of the soil in every parish. Determines what kind of crops could be grown on the land.	May name the occupiers. Gives an insight into the farm life of your ancestor.	Option 1: www.findmypast.com <ul style="list-style-type: none">Click SearchClick A-Z Record SetsIn the Search box type “Ireland Valuation Books”Includes a combination of House, Field, Tenure and Quarto books.Search by surname or by Parish and Townland. Option 2: www.familysearch.org <ul style="list-style-type: none">Click SearchClick RecordsUnder Find a Collection type “Ireland, Valuation” Option 3: www.familysearch.org - Digital microfilm <ul style="list-style-type: none">Click SearchClick CatalogIn Keyword search type “Ireland Valuation Office Books”Click Valuation booksScroll down until you see House, Quarto, Field, or Tenure books.Find your ancestor’s County and then Barony. This information can be found on Griffiths Valuation. Then click the corresponding digital microfilm.Once you find the digital microfilm, search by Barony and Parish.
		From the Field books record: The Acres, Rods, Poles, and Rate per Statue Acre. Then go to the Field Book Translator site at www.townlandvaluationtranslator.com to see what crops were best grown on your ancestor’s soil.		
Tenure Books	1820s-1850s	Describes the type of lease each tenement was held under.	Includes the names of all the tenement holders.	
House Books	1820s-1850s	An evaluation on the condition of your ancestor’s house.	Names the head of household for a given time period.	
Quarto Books	1820s-1850s	House books for large towns and cities	Names the head of household for a given period of time.	

Third: Try searching the Valuation Revision Books. These show who occupied the land after your ancestor and if it was passed from one family generation to the next.

Record Type	Time	What is it?	Genealogical Value	Where to access the record online
Valuation Revision Books	1850s-1950s	A continuation of Griffiths Valuation.	May be able to trace who held a tenement for generations.	<p>Northern Ireland www.nidirect.gov.uk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the search box type "Valuation" • Click Searching Valuation Revision Books • Click Search Valuation Revision Books • Search by County, Parish, Townland. <p>Republic of Ireland</p> <p>Part 1: You need to know the Rural District/Poor Law Union, and the Electoral Division.</p> <p>Go to www.familysearch.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click Search • Click Catalog • In the Keyword search type "Census of Ireland, 1871" then click the corresponding link. • This is organized alphabetically by townland in three different online volumes. Click each volume until you find the townland. • Once you find the townland record the Rural District and the Electoral Division. Proceed to Part 2. <p>Part 2: www.familysearch.org</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Click Search • Click Catalog • In the Keyword search type "Ireland Valuation" and then the name of the specific County. I.e. "Ireland Valuation Kilkenny" • Click the valuation lists for the correct Rural District • Find the film for the correct Electoral District.

Fourth: Try searching the Registry of Deeds and Freeholder's Registers.

Both records are indexed free online or are in the process of being indexed. They cover an early period dating back to the 1700s. They don't contain a large portion of the population however and are mainly for the middle to upper class people.

Record Type	Time	What is it?	Genealogical Value	Where to access the record online
Registry of Deeds	1708-1929?	Any document you wanted legal in a court of law.	May include wills, marriage records, land deeds, mortgages, business deals, etc. naming family relationships	Irishdeedsindex.net <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click the "Search the main index entries" Enter a family name. Click the Memorial number
Freeholder's Registers	1727- (Excluded Catholics until 1791)	List freeholders who were entitled to vote. They were men who owned land, or who held it in a lease for the duration of their life, or the lives of other people in the lease.	Gives the names of the freeholder's and may name family members who are listed in the lease lasting their life period.	Northern Ireland: www.nidirect.gov.uk <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the search box at the top type "Freeholders" Click Go. Click "Search Freeholders' Records"

Lastly: Try searching Landed Estate Records. These are vast records that may contain a lot of information. Most Irish lived on large estates owned by a minority of the population. To begin searching, you need to know the name of the estate owner. These records can be a bit overwhelming and most of the original records are not digitized.

Record Type	Time	What is it?	Genealogical Value	Where to access the record online
Landed Estate Records	1700s-1900s	Contains information about an Estate and the tenants who lived on the land. Usually greater than 500 acres of land.	Includes family names, associated family names, names of estate records, etc.	Option 1: www.landedestates.ie Option 2: www.familysearch.org <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Click Search Click Wiki In the search box type "Ireland Land" Click Ireland Land and Property Click the various online databases.