



IRELAND – CENSUS & CENSUS SUBSTITUTES

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18 March 2014

Census records were taken in 1821 and every 10 years to 1911 with great genealogical information. The sad part is that most of the census records pre-1901 have been destroyed. As a result, census substitutes are a way to try and fill in the gaps of census loss.

THE CENSUS FOR 1901 AND 1911 Complete

Indexed on www.ancestry.com and also www.nationalarchives.ie. The original census has been digitized on The National Archives of Ireland website and can be searched by name and place.

See Sample Transcribed documents of census 1901 on www.rootsireland.ie

Large City Street Indexes available to this census in British Reference Census area, FHL.

Civil Registration 1845-1958 Census substitute.

The registration of births, marriages and deaths provide names, birth dates, birthplaces, residences. These documents exist 1845-present time. They can be compiled into families and then into a census substitute type of record. They could be compiled year by year and therefore a census could be made from 1845 onwards of those people registered with a certificate.

Indexes on familysearch.org, www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk (1845-1959 complete for Republic of Ireland 1922-1959) rootsireland.ie (1845-1920)

Certificates of Microfilm at Family History Library 1845-1959 with gaps. Transcribed information on www.rootsireland.ie before 1920.

Church Records Census Substitute

These records can also provide: names, birth dates, baptisms, residences that could be compiled into a census substitute type of record. Access to these records are available on many websites. Transcribed information on www.rootsireland.ie, www.familysearch.org, www.ancestry.co.uk, www.irishgenealogy.ie, and www.findmypast.ie. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a great collection of Church Records for the Belfast and Antrim areas of Ireland www.ancestryireland.ie. These records are available for most places after 1850.

Census Substitutes

www.irishtimes.com/ancestor

There are lists of all different types of Census substitutes on this website.

Look under Browse and then under **Records** and also **Counties**.

Then look under Census and Estate records. (Rentals can list tenants)

Land and Property Valuation. Census substitute.

These records are very useful from the 1820's onwards. There are gaps, but you can locate families residing on the same property for generations and therefore can trace lines from these valuation type records.

They include: Tithe Applotment: Many websites (Republic of Ireland) Tithe defaulters 1831

Original documents on www.nationalarchives.ie

Griffiths Valuation: Many websites (askaboutireland.ie)

Valuation lists (Revision Books) see Catalog on FamilySearch.org under each county 1856 and later. www.familysearch.org

Landed Estates from probate www.Familysearch.org and www.findmypast.ie

1850-1885.

The census of 1821

Government extracts exist for some parishes all people recorded.

www.findmypast.co.uk and www.familysearch.org

Microfilm at FHL

The census of 1831

Original census records shows heads of household. Mostly only parts of Derry County exist. See transcribed information on www.rootsireland.ie

Index fiche 6342808 at Family History Library

www.findmypast.co.uk and www.familysearch.org

The census of 1841 and 1851

Some abstracts Dublin City 1851 www.origins.net
www.findmypast.co.uk and www.familysearch.org

Family History Library Ireland Census and Census Substitutes British ref
area 941.5 X23c

Record Type	Years	Description	Where to Find Them
Tithe Applotment	1823-1837	Tax record. Contains heads of households only - both those who leased land & those who owned land; few records for cities/large towns (contains only 40% of all heads of households)	www.ancestry.com www.familysearch.org has republic of Ireland On microfilm at FHL and indexed
Griffith's Valuation	1848-1864	Tax record - Contains heads of households only - both those who leased land & those who owned land; estimated coverage of 80-90% of all heads of households. Check Valuation Lists (also known as Cancel Books, Revision Books) – 1850's to 20 th century; lists of occupiers kept subsequent to Primary Valuation; able to trace a tenement held from generation to generation Earlier records - Field Books, Tenure Books, House Books and Quarto Books – at FHL	www.proni.gov.uk www.irishgenealogy.ie www.askaboutireland.ie www.irishorigins.com www.ancestry.com www.failteromhat.com
Old Age Pension Claims	1841 & 1851 Abstracts	Based on searches made in 1841 & 1851 censuses for No. Ireland & Co. Donegal (before destroyed)	www.ireland-genealogy.com www.ancestry.com
School Records	1900's	Typically begin in the mid-to-late 19 th century – may need to check at local level	www.nationalarchives.ie/topics/Nat_Schools/natschs.html
Freeholders List	18th & 19th Centuries	Lists of people entitled to vote or who voted at elections – 18 th & 19 th centuries	http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/freeholders_records.htm
Elphin Diocesan census	1749	Parts of Roscommon, Sligo & Galway	www.irishorigins.com
Religious Censuses	Taken 1740 & 1766	Identified numbers of Catholics ("popish" = rebel) Many published; covers only parts of selected counties (mostly Ulster)	1740 indexed - www.newenglandancestors.org - Antrim, Derry, Donegal & Londonderry; 1766 indexed - www.ancestry.com (mostly No. Ireland) - FHL has film on both
Spinning Wheel Premium	1796	A government program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anyone who planted at least one rood of flax (¼ acre) entitled to a spinning wheel Entries for every county - best is Ulster (large industry of flax growing/linen making) 	Indexed on www.failteromhat.com
Muster Rolls	Mainly 1630	Local militia; relate primarily to large landed estates in Ulster	www.familysearch.org > Catalog > Keyword Search > Muster rolls Ireland

Hearth Money Rolls	1664-1666	Based on number of hearths in a home	www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/counties/index.htm for existing county records
Other possibilities	-----	Search the Catalog at FamilySearch or Search Engines using "County/Parish Name" + title of census substitute (to see if it has been indexed)	www.familysearch.org > Catalog>Parish/County/Country > Topics (Census, Taxation, Land/Property, etc.)

Irish Directories list names, occupations and address. This can act like a Head of Household Census.

For original records at The Family History Library check the on the catalog under familysearch.org. Search by place under county and parish. All townlands are listed in the 1901 and 1911 census on the catalog.

The census of 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891

Destroyed by order of the Government

Religious Census of 1766

This database is and index to fragments of the 1776 Religious Census of Ireland. The index covers over 11,000 heads of households, giving their names, parish and religion.

Future census and census substitutes 1926 and 1939:

The 1926 census is complete, but no time for release has been established.

There is a 1939 Register to all in Great Britain because of World War 2. This register is available at The National Archives in England. It is being indexed by www.findmypast.co.uk and the completion date for indexing and imaged is set for March 2016.

The following is from Irish Times

1612 Undertakers

The Historical Manuscripts Commission Report, 4, (Hastings Mss) gives lists of English and Scottish large landlords granted land in the northern counties of Cavan, Donegal, and Fermanagh. These were known as undertakers.

1630 Muster Rolls

These are lists of large landlords in Ulster, and the names of the able-bodied men that they could assemble to fight if the need arose. They are arranged by county, and by district within the county. The Armagh County Museum copy is available in the [National Library of Ireland](#) (Positive microfilm 206). Published lists are noted under the [relevant county](#), along with later lists in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

1641 Depositions

These are eye-witness testimonies given mainly by Protestants, but also by some Catholics, from all social backgrounds, concerning their experiences of the 1641 Rebellion in Ireland. They provide vivid accounts of the events of that year and also list large numbers of people accused of participation in the rebellion or claiming to have suffered loss. Along with the victories of King William at the Boyne in 1690 and Aughrim in 1691, and the Battle of the Somme in 1916, the events they record have long been fundamental to the identity and culture of Unionist Protestants in Ireland, especially in Ulster. They are now all online at 1641.tcd.ie.

1641 Books of Survey and Distribution

After the wars of the mid seventeenth century, the English government needed solid information on land ownership throughout Ireland to carry out its policy of land redistribution. The Books of Survey and Distribution record ownership before the Cromwellian and Williamite confiscations, c.1641, and after, c.1666

The Books for Clare, Galway, Mayo and Roscommon have been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission. For other counties, manuscript copies are available at the [National Library](#).

1654-56 The Civil Survey

This too was a record of land ownership in 1640, compiled between 1655 and 1667, and fuller than the Books of Survey and Distribution. It contains a great deal of topographical and descriptive information, as well as details of wills and deeds relating to land title. It has survived for twelve counties only, Cork, Derry,

Donegal, Dublin, Kildare, Kilkenny, Limerick, Meath, Tipperary, Tyrone, Waterford and Wexford. All of these have been published by the Irish Manuscripts Commission.

1659 Pender's Census

This was compiled by Sir William Petty, also responsible for the Civil Survey, and records the names of persons with title to land (titulados), the total numbers of English and Irish living in each townland, and the principal Irish names in each barony. Five counties, Cavan, Galway, Mayo, Tyrone and Wicklow, are not covered. The work was edited by Seamus Pender and published in 1939. (NLI I 6551 Dublin)

1662 Subsidy Rolls

These list the nobility, clergy and laity who paid a grant in aid to the King. They supply name and parish, and, sometimes, amount paid and occupation. They relate principally to counties in Ulster.

1664 Hearth Money Rolls

The Hearth Tax was levied on the basis of the number of hearths in each house; these Rolls list the householders' names, as well as this number. They seem to be quite comprehensive. Details of surviving lists will be found under the [relevant counties](#). For the copies of the Hearth Money Rolls listed in The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland under "T.307", an index is available on the Public Search Room shelves.

Cess Tax Accounts

Cess (from an abbreviation of assessment) was a very elastic term, which could be applied to taxes levied for a variety of reasons. In Ireland it was very often to support a military garrison. The accounts generally consist of lists of householders names, along with amounts due.

1740: Protestant householders

This applies to parts of Counties Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Donegal and Tyrone. Arranged by barony and parish, it gives names only. Parts are at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, The Genealogical Office, the National Library of Ireland and the Representative Church Body Library.

1749: Elphin Diocesan Census

Arranged by townland and parish, and listing householders, their religion, the numbers, sex and religion of their children, and the numbers, sex and religion of their servants.

1766: Religious Survey

In March and April of this year, Church of Ireland rectors (on the instructions of the government) were to compile complete returns of all householders in their parishes, showing their religion, and giving an account of any Catholic clergy active in their area. The result was extraordinarily inconsistent, with some rectors producing only numerical totals of population, some drawing up partial lists, and the most conscientious

detailing all householders and their addresses individually. All of the original returns were lost in 1922, but extensive transcripts survive for some areas, and are deposited with various institutions. The only full listing of all surviving transcripts and abstracts is in the National Archives Reading Room, on the open shelves. However, this does not differentiate between those returns which supply names and those which merely give numerical totals.

1775: Dissenters' petitions

A series of petitions to the Irish Parliament protesting against an Act of 1774 excluding dissenters from voting at vestry meetings of the Church of Ireland. The originals were destroyed in 1922, but a series of transcripts had been made by Arthur Tenison Groves, which is now in The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and is searchable via their [online Name Search](#).

1790-1880: Official Papers, petitions

The Official Papers form part of the incoming correspondence records of the Office of the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, usually known simply as the Chief Secretary's Office, the main organ of central administration in Ireland for the period. Two main series exist in nai, 1790-1831 and 1832-80, the former calendared and classified by year and subject, the latter covered by card indexes. As well as records of the administration of justice, they also include a long series of petitions to the Lord Lieutenant from around the country, generally described as 'memorials', which very often include long lists of names or signatures. The mother of all memorials is the William Smith O'Brien petition from 1848/9, a plea for clemency for the main instigator of an abortive rising in 1848, the so-called 'battle of Widow McCormack's cabbage patch'. It includes almost 90,000 names from all over Ireland as well as from Irish people in England. Ruth Lawler's transcription has been published on CD-ROM by Eneclann (enec002) and is searchable online at www.findmypast.ie.

Many smaller petitions also exist, ranging from pleas for relief from distress among weavers to an appeal for a road from Kanturk to Cork city. The largest numbers relate to changes made in the arrangements for local court sittings (Quarter Sessions) in 1837-8. Bids to host the courts poured in from all over the country - the economic spin-offs must have been considerable. At least forty of these smaller petitions have been identified and are listed under the relevant county in Chapter 13, with estimates of the number of names they contain. No doubt there are many more.

1795-1862: Charleton Trust Fund Marriage certificates.

The Charlton Trust Fund offered a small marriage gratuity to members of the Protestant labouring classes. To qualify, a marriage certificate, recording occupations and fathers names and signed by the local Church of Ireland clergyman, had to be submitted, and these are now in the National Archives. They

are particularly useful for the years before the start of registration of marriages other than those in Catholic Churches in 1845. The areas covered by the Fund were mainly in Counties Meath and Longford, but a few certificates exist for parts of Counties Cavan, King's (Offaly), Louth, and Westmeath, as well as Dublin city. They are indexed in National Archives Accessions Vol. 37.

1796: Spinning Wheel Premium Entitlement Lists

As part of a government scheme to encourage the linen trade, free spinning wheels or looms were granted to individuals planting a certain area of land with flax.

The lists of those entitled to the awards, covering almost 60,000 individuals, were published in 1796, and record only the names of the individuals and the civil parish in which they lived. The majority, were in Ulster, but some names appear from every county except Dublin and Wicklow. A microfiche index to the lists is available in the National Archives, and The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

1798: Persons who Suffered Losses in the 1798 Rebellion

A list of claims for compensation from the government for property destroyed by the rebels during the insurrection of 1798, it is particularly useful for the property-owning classes of Counties Wexford, Carlow, Dublin, Kildare and Wicklow.

1803: Agricultural censuses of Cos. Antrim and Down

As part of the preparations for a possible French invasion in the aftermath of the abortive rebellion of 1803, plans were drawn up for the evacuation of coastal areas. A survey of livestock, crops, wagons and horses was ordered, but it appears to have been carried out only in Cos. Antrim and Down. In most cases, occupiers' names are also recorded. Eleven parishes in Antrim are covered in NAI Official Papers (op 153/103/1-16), with a copy in PRONI. For Down the survey survived as part of the papers of the 1st Marquess of Londonderry and is available in PRONI. Fifty Down parishes are covered, with returns for thirty, including at least some occupiers' names. Ian Maxwell's *Researching Down Ancestors* (UHF, 2004) provides a parish-by-parish description.

1822-1854: Reproductive Loan Fund records

The records produced by the original Reproductive Loan Fund Institution have survived almost entire. After lending ceased at the end of 1848, all the records were eventually returned to its headquarters in London and are now in TNA (Kew), series T/91. As well as the notes of security for the loans, there are loan ledgers, repayment books and defaulters' books for the local associations and the county committees. The minimum information supplied is the name and address, but much additional detail is often given in the local association records, including notes on health, occupation, family circumstances and emigration. The local records generally run from the late 1830s to the mid-1840s.

A subsidiary website of the TNA, movinghere.org.uk, scanned and indexed part of the records in 2003 to make them more widely available. The records chosen for scanning were the Returns to the Clerk of the Peace of each county, created as part of the process of winding up the funds. For each local fund, these generally consist of two parts:

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- An overall account, usually dated 1846-8, showing the names and addresses of the borrower and of their two sureties or guarantors, along with amounts outstanding. 2
 - A more detailed townland-by-townland listing, organised by constabulary sub-district and carried out by the local ric in 1853-4, recording details of deaths, economic circumstances and emigration.
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1831-1921: National School Records

In 1831, a countrywide system of primary education was established, under the control of the Board of Commissioners for National Education. The most useful records produced by the system are the school registers themselves, which record the age of the pupil, religion, father's address and occupation, and general observations. Unfortunately, in the Republic of Ireland no attempt has been made to centralise these records; they remain in the custody of local schools or churches. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a collection of over 1500 registers for schools in the six counties of Northern Ireland. The administrative records of the Board of Commissioners itself are now held by the National Archives in Dublin. These include teachers' salary books, which can be very useful if an ancestor was a teacher.

Workhouse records

The 130 Poor Law Unions established in 1838, rising to 163 by 1852, had responsibility for administering what little public relief there was and dealt with huge numbers during the Great Famine. Unfortunately, most of the records of interest to family historians, in particular the workhouse admissions registers, do not appear to have survived, and what does exist is scattered and somewhat piecemeal. No comprehensive guide exists. The closest is *Records of the Irish Famine: a guide to local archives, 1840-1855* by Deirdre Lindsay and David Fitzpatrick (Dublin: Irish Famine Network, 1993). See also *The Workhouses of Ireland* by John O'Connor (Dublin: Anvil Books, 1995). The best single collection is held by PRONI, covering the 27 Poor Law Unions that were established in the counties of Northern Ireland. Any surviving admission and discharge registers are listed under the relevant county. An excellent guide to the history of workhouses throughout the British Isles is at www.workhouses.org.uk.

1876: Landowners in Ireland

Return of owners of land of one acre and upwards ... , London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office, 1876. [Reissued by The Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1988].

This records 32,614 owners of land in Ireland in 1876, identifying them by province and county; the entries record the address of the owner, along with the extent and valuation of the property. Only a minority of the population actually owned the land they occupied, but the work is invaluable for those who did.

Various Dates: Freeholders

Freehold property is held either by fee simple, with absolute freedom to dispose of it, by fee tail, in which the disposition is restricted to a particular line of heirs, or simply by life tenure. From the early eighteenth century freeholders lists were drawn up regularly, usually because of the right to vote which went with freehold of property over a certain value. It follows that such lists are of genealogical interest only for a small minority of the population. [Click here](#) for a county-by-county inventory of Freeman and voters lists.

Voters Lists and Poll Books

Voters lists cover a slightly larger proportion of the population than Freeholders lists, since freehold property was not the only determinant of the franchise. In particular, freemen of the various corporation towns and cities had a right to vote in some elections at least. Since membership of a trade guild carried with it admission as a freeman, and this right was hereditary, a wider range of social classes is covered. Poll books are the records of votes actually cast in elections. [Click here](#) for a county-by-county inventory of Freeman and voters lists.

Electoral Records

No complete collection of the electoral lists used in the elections of the twentieth century exists. This is unfortunate, since they can be of great value in tracing living relatives, listing as they do all eligible voters by townland and household. The largest collection of surviving electoral registers is to be found in nai, but even here the coverage of various areas is quite skimpy. The best collection for the twentieth century is in dcla, which has made part of them searchable online at www.dublinheritage.ie.