

10 PLACES TO FIND YOUR IRISH ANCESTOR IN AMERICA

1. AT HOME. Search attics for mementos including wedding announcements, postcards and letters sent from Ireland, any of which could give you names of relatives who remained back home, other family members and addresses that point you to a hometown in Ireland.



2. IN THE CENSUS. Check birthplaces listed on census records. You may discover that the ancestor you thought was your family's first immigrant was actually the immigrant's child, cousin or in-law. Begin with 20th century records and search for the whole family – parents, siblings and grandparents, too – and look for year of immigration in those same records. Can't find the immigrant? Keep working backwards and follow siblings as well. One of them may lead you directly to the immigrant.

HOME DATA			PERSONAL DESCRIPTION					EDUCATION		PLACE OF BIRTH		
Value of home, if owned, or monthly rental, if rented	Rent paid	Does this family live on a farm?	Sex	Color or race	Age at last birthday	Marital condition	Age at first marriage	Attended school or college any time since Sept. 1, 1929	Whether able to read and write	Place of birth of each person enumerated and of his or her parents. If born in the United States, give State or Territory. If of foreign birth, give country in which birthplace is now situated. (See Instructions.) Distinguish Canada-French from Canada-English, and Irish Free State from Northern Ireland		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	PERSON	FATHER	MOTHER
										18	19	20
63.00	R	710	M	W	57	M	42	71	Yes	New York	Northern Ireland	Pennsylvania
		V	F	W	46	M	31	70	Yes	Massachusetts	Wisconsin	Massachusetts
60.00	R	711	F	W	70	W	70	71	No	Austria	Austria	Austria

3. WITH FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

Ever notice how many people on a single page of a census seem to be born in the same country? It could be the result of chain migration. Often a single immigrant would arrive in America, land a job and send word of opportunity back home. Soon more family and friends would immigrate and send for their family and friends. For researchers, these ethnic enclaves can provide all manner of clues: maiden names, hometowns, extended family lines. Do a little digging and also check Member Connect to see who's researching the neighbors. They may have some details you're looking for, too.

4. ABOARD A SHIP. OR CROSSING A BORDER.

Irish immigration to America peaked around the time of the Great Famine; unfortunately passenger lists were notoriously stingy with details then.

But those mid 19th-century lists do hold the names of other passengers, who may have been your ancestor's friends or relatives and fantastic record keepers. Snoop around their family lines, see where they went and if their paths crossed your ancestor's again. If you can't find a passenger list for your ancestor, consider that at times it was cheaper and simpler to travel to the U.S. via Canada. Your Irish ancestor may have crossed the border immediately or even a generation or two later.

5. IN CHURCH. Baptisms, weddings, funerals and more took place in churches. Use census records and city directories to find your ancestor's address, then search for surviving churches near the family home. Contact the church to inquire about records created when your ancestor lived in the neighborhood. Also call the local library, which may know of other resources you haven't yet considered.

27	813	Mary x Barrett	381 1 st Ave	Minor	1861 Brooklyn NY	
			Wardens NY	Domestic	Remerick	Oct 1879 Geo P
30	847	Mary x Conlan	285 Ave P	None	Co Galway	1850
"	856		21 Laurens	Domestic	Prussia	1857 Rhin
9	2	894 Patrick O'Neil	St Nicholas	Water	Co Monaghan	1848 Stand

6. ON A DOCKET. Court records aren't just for the criminally inclined (although those records are full of detail you won't find elsewhere). In the Tax, Criminal, Land and Wills collection at Ancestry.com, you'll also discover real estate transactions, small business dealings, records from the emigrant savings bank, probates and more. Search for all members of the family, read records carefully and check to see if the names of witnesses sound familiar, too. They may also be family.

7. IN THE MILITARY. Draft registration cards from World War I and World War II can be brimming with family details, including hometown, occupation and name of nearest kin. For earlier arrivals to the U.S., Civil War-era records – pensions, muster rolls, the 1890 Veterans Schedule census, enlistments and others – may be even more revealing.

3	Date of birth	Nov 17, 1896
4	Where born	Ireland
5	<input type="checkbox"/> I am <input type="checkbox"/> I have declared my intention <input type="checkbox"/> I have declared my intention	Irish
6	It was a citizen of what country was a citizen of before?	Irish
7	Father's birthplace	Ireland

8. BETWEEN THE LINES. Family stories may not always be entirely accurate, but they're often full of names, places and relationships and can help you figure out when your ancestor was where. Use them to build a timeline that you populate with details from the records you find. And enjoy the tales, which give you a better idea of the characters in your family tree.

9. MAKING HEADLINES. A graduation, engagement or even a visitor from out of town – any of these might have been big news at the time. Look in local newspapers for daily comings and goings as well as bigger events. And if your family is full of city dwellers, ask the local library if there were smaller, neighborhood or Irish-specific publications.

Frank Knox.
 Frank Knox of Cambridge, a salesman of the J. B. Wright Seed Co., died suddenly in Cambridge yesterday from a heart attack. Mr. Knox was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, the son of Mary

10. AT THE CEMETERY. A simple tombstone may hold the birthplace or middle name you've been trying to locate for years. The one next to it could offer an elusive maiden name. Families often stayed together, even in death, so a trip to the cemetery could introduce you to distant family lines you may not have heard of and other details your ancestor surely wanted you to know.

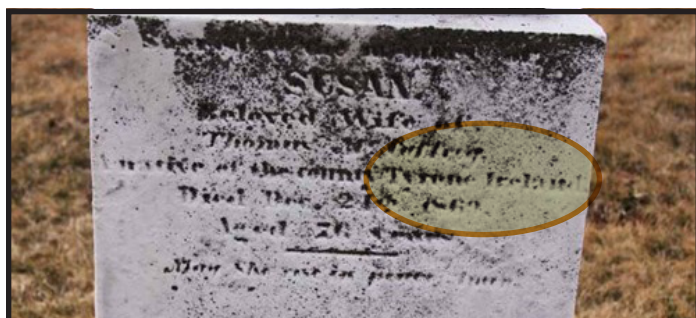


Image courtesy of Martha McCaffrey Dobbins, from the McCaffrey-Davis-Johnston-Stockard tree, <http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/2450685/family>

5 TIPS FOR DISCOVERING YOUR ANCESTORS IN IRELAND

Following your Irish ancestors back to the records they created in Ireland seems like a natural next step, but if you're not armed with just the right information, the search can be slow-going. Use the following tips to help make your journey through Irish property records, including Griffith's Valuation at Ancestry.com, as simple as possible.

GET THE REAL NAME. You want the true Irish name, the one your ancestor was born with here. Search passenger arrival lists in America for the name an immigrant ancestor used back in Ireland – these may have been Americanized after only a short time in the States. Look for church records and consider family naming patterns as well. Also check websites that include Irish equivalents to common American names.

CAST WIDE – AT FIRST. Start your search with the county and narrow to parish or townland if necessary.

BIRTH DATES ARE IMPORTANT. A relative who was a child between 1848 and 1864 likely won't be listed in this collection of landowners and tenants, but his or her parent might be.

Ireland, Griffith's Valuation, 1848-1864

Search [Clear form](#) [Show Advanced](#)

Name
First & Middle Name(s) Last Name

Event
Location
Lived In
Year
Any Event

More
Keyword
e.g. "John" "Mary" "Fitz"

[Search](#)

Source Information

Browse this collection
To browse this image set, select from the options below.

County
[Choose...]
Barony
Parish

Related data collections
Irish Records Index, 1500-1920
This database is a name index to microfilmed Irish records contained in the Family History Library, Salt Lake City. Each entry reveals the person's name, date of record, and residence in Ireland. More importantly, the microfilm, box, and item numbers are provided to aid the researcher in obtaining a copy of the original record. These records include histories, pedigrees, parish registers, probates, and orphan's court records.
Ireland, The Royal Irish Constabulary 1816-1921
This is an extraction of the Royal Irish Constabulary for the years

BROWSE AROUND. Once you know where your ancestor hailed from, look at landowners and tenants nearby. You may discover other names that sound familiar to you – possibly friends and relatives who later immigrated to the U.S., too.

GO BEYOND YOUR ANCESTOR. Search for other family members, too. Find clues to the extended family on passenger lists, in obituaries, and birth announcements, in family trees and in correspondence and other family mementos.

