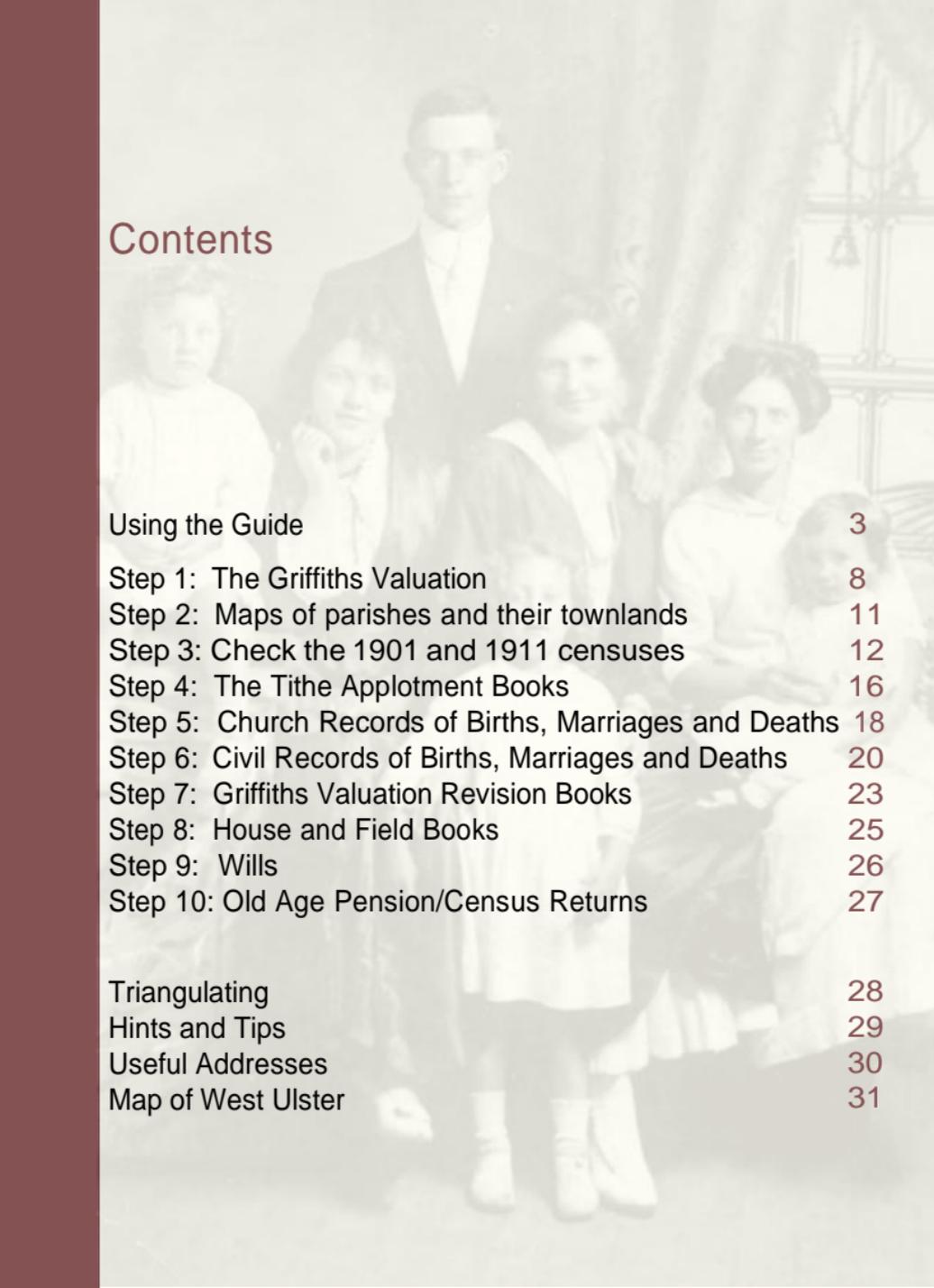




Ten Step Guide to Researching

West Ulster Genealogy

O'Donnell, Stewart, Sweeny, Alexander, Gallagher, Lowry, O'Doherty, Gourly, Boyd, Tinney, Colhoun, Peoples, Hamilton, Lynch, McAdoo, Bradley, Curran, Sweeny, McDaid, McClintock, Porter, Wilson, McCormick, Crawford, Bryce



Contents

Using the Guide	3
Step 1: The Griffiths Valuation	8
Step 2: Maps of parishes and their townlands	11
Step 3: Check the 1901 and 1911 censuses	12
Step 4: The Tithe Applotment Books	16
Step 5: Church Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths	18
Step 6: Civil Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths	20
Step 7: Griffiths Valuation Revision Books	23
Step 8: House and Field Books	25
Step 9: Wills	26
Step 10: Old Age Pension/Census Returns	27
Triangulating	28
Hints and Tips	29
Useful Addresses	30
Map of West Ulster	31

Using the guide

The purpose of this booklet is to provide a simple step by step guide for those who wish to research their ancestry in West Ulster in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. It concentrates on sources available both locally and on the internet, with occasional reference to sources available nationally. It makes significant use of the internet so, because web page addresses sometimes change, it may occasionally be necessary to go to the website's home page and find a particular page. The main website for any page is the first group of letters after `http://` and frequently ends with `.com`, `.org`, `.ie` or `.uk`. Where Tinyurls have been used to shorten overly long web addresses, the name of the website will not be given and it may be necessary to put some key words into the Google search engine in order to find the site.

The information contained herein is equally valid and applicable to all creeds and denominations but only the three main churches are covered specifically: Catholic, Church of Ireland and Presbyterian.

The guide assumes that you have already talked to the more senior members of your family, who will have oral or indeed written information, and that this has concentrated your research in West Ulster.

The guide is laid out in the order you might consider conducting the research, which in turn is governed by the availability of sources. However, your research will also be governed by whether you are in Ulster and can easily visit local repositories or whether you will be dependant on the internet, writing to and emailing local and national archives in Belfast and Dublin and visiting your own local Family History Centre. Much of the research described here can now be done on the internet.

West Ulster consists of counties Donegal, Derry and Tyrone but almost all of what is contained in this guide is equally relevant to every other county in Ireland.

This is a basic guide to Family History research in West Ulster. It is what you might realistically expect to achieve during a week's visit to the area if you make preparations in advance of your visit. It does NOT cover the much more laborious, time consuming and difficult business of researching the many documents available in the national archives in Belfast and Dublin.

Family History Centres (FHCs) are Mormon (Church of Latter Day Saints or LDS) run local repositories of records. They are an essential resource both for people from west Ulster and also for those living elsewhere. The Mormons have millions of records on microfilm, which can be ordered to your local FHC for about £8. For people in West Ulster the nearest Family History Centre is the one at the Mormon Church on the Racecourse Road in Derry City. You should ring in advance to book the use of the microfilm reader. The centre is open from 10am to 1pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 7pm to 9pm on Thursday. It has a huge stock of films and they are all free to view.

4



These films include:

	Index	Records
Civil Births	1864 - 1958	1864 - 1881
Civil Marriages	1845/64 - 1958	1845 - 1870
Civil Deaths	1864 - 1958	1864 - 1870
Index to Raphoe Diocesan marriages		
Muster Rolls	17th century	
Protestant Householders Index	1766	
Flax Growers Lists	1796	
Tithe Applotment Books		1828 - 1834
Griffiths Primary Valuation		1848 - 1858
OAP/ Census Records		1841 and 1851
1901 Census		1901



You will find your nearest Family History Centre at:
<http://tinyurl.com/4po5>

6



To conduct successful research in Ireland, you really need to know your ancestor's name, an approximate date of emigration and preferably the townland or at least the parish where she or he lived. Earlier than the middle of the Nineteenth century and it becomes considerably more difficult because the main record, the Griffiths Valuation, was only produced in the 1850s.

A townland is the smallest administrative unit in Ireland; it is not a town (urban area) though it may contain one or more clusters of houses, sometimes known as clachans; it is still the basis of addresses in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

If you do not know the townland, you can try to "triangulate" using two or three ancestors' names (see page 28).

Remember, many people in Nineteenth century Ireland could neither read nor write so there was no "correct" spelling of a name. A McClements could just as easily be a McLamont or even a Clammond. It depended on how the clergyman or the clerk decided to write down the name. So, search for all permutations of a name.

Finally, you should try to do as much research as possible on the internet, not just into your particular family, but also into the resources which are available, where you will find them and what they will contain. There are many sites relevant to West Ulster which are packed full of useful information and data. Here are some:

<http://www.cotyroneireland.com/>

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~donegal/>

(or simply search for "Lindel Genealogy Donegal" using Google.)

This genealogy booklet is on the front page of Lindel's website and the blue links are live = click and go.

<http://tinyurl.com/ckwzppd>

It can also be found at Bob's excellent Donegal website:

<http://tinyurl.com/5h3k83>

Step 1: The Griffiths (Primary) Valuation online index

This was a land survey published in Ireland in the mid 1850s and is often referred to as a census substitute. The reason we need a census substitute is that almost ALL of the censuses from the Nineteenth century were destroyed either deliberately during World War One to create paper, or accidentally in the fire at the Four Courts in Dublin during the Civil War in Ireland in 1922.

The Griffiths Valuation only gives the Head of Household in each townland and not the spouse, children or assorted grannies, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends who may have lived there. Not much, but the best we have. An index of the names and townlands in this survey is online at several sites so, in seconds, you can begin to see if you have ancestors in West Ulster.

The full Griffiths Valuation can now be viewed online at:

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

This web site has not only all the details of each household but also maps showing the locations of each house so you can find your ancestors home!

To search the Griffiths Valuation, it is essential to use the same spellings of names and townlands used by the Griffiths Valuation. Fortunately another website lists everyone in the Griffiths Valuation by surname and parish so you can find the correct spelling and also do faster searches using the index there:

<http://tinyurl.com/44brbwh>

It is also possible to view microfilms of the full Griffiths Valuation at the central libraries in Letterkenny, Omagh and Derry City.

By combining the Griffiths Valuation maps with modern Ordnance Survey maps, it is possible to drive straight to the place where your ancestors were born, lived and died in the Nineteenth Century.

The full Griffiths Valuation will tell you how much land, if any, the Head of Household leased, rented or owned, the value of any land or buildings and therefore give some indication of how wealthy she or he may have been (see page 10 for an example).



FEDDYGLASS.

(Ord. S. 62 & 70.)

1	a	Andrew Smyth, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	49 1 35	30 15 0	3 0 0	33 15 0
-	b	Alexander Lowry, . . .	Andrew Smyth, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 13 0	0 15 0
2	A, a, n	Rev. John Leekie, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	54 1 38	39 0 0	9 0 0	48 0 0
-	λ b	Hugh Tinny, . . .	Rev. John Leekie, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 13 0	0 15 0
-	c	Thomas M'Ginly, . . .	Same, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 8 0	0 10 0
3	a	Samuel Stewart, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	59 3 5	47 0 0	2 10 0	49 10 0
-	b	Edward Stewart, . . .	Samuel Stewart, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
-	c	Edward Coyle, . . .	Same, . . .	House and garden, . . .	0 0 20	0 2 0	0 8 0	0 10 0
-	d	Patrick Killenny, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
4	A	Moses M'Crea, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, offices, & land, . . .	10 3 25	6 0 0	—	56 10 0
-	B				10 3 5	5 10 0	—	
-	C				69 0 10	41 0 0	4 0 0	
-	B a	Robert Porter, . . .	Moses M'Crea, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
-	b	Robert Gillespie, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
5		Thomas Rodan, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, office, and land, . . .	8 0 10	4 0 0	1 0 0	5 0 0
6	a	George Lowry, . . .	Same, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	79 3 20	38 0 0	4 0 0	42 0 0
-	b	Robert Leech, . . .	George Lowry, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 10 0	0 10 0
-	c	Margaret Martin, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
7		Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	In fee, . . .	Plantation, . . .	42 3 25	13 0 0	—	13 0 0
Total, . . .					385 3 13	224 13 0	28 2 0	252 15 0

DRUMFAD.

(Ord. S. 62 & 70.)

1	a	Hugh Lowry, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	55 1 15	37 0 0	2 0 0	39 0 0
-	b	Anne Smith, . . .	Hugh Lowry, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
2		Thomas Logan, . . .	Marquis of Abercorn, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	54 2 15	26 10 0	1 10 0	28 0 0
3	a	Patrick M'Menamin, . . .	Same, . . .	House, offices, and land, . . .	54 1 14	30 0 0	1 10 0	31 10 0
-	b	Neal Boyle, . . .	Patrick M'Menamin, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
-	c	Daniel Donnell, . . .	Same, . . .	House, . . .	—	—	0 5 0	0 5 0
Total, . . .					164 1 4	93 10 0	5 15 0	99 5 0



Step 2: Online Maps of West Ulster parishes and their townlands

The main benefit of these maps is that, when used in conjunction with the online Griffiths Valuation index, you should be able to identify the townlands adjacent to or near to the one where you think your ancestors originated. This is important because your ancestors might have moved back and forth between nearby townlands as they changed jobs or married people who came from nearby townlands. So, the people in the townland next door, or a few townlands away, could well be your family or relatives of your family by marriage. You will find townland maps here:

Derry: <http://tinyurl.com/pnvh66m>

Tvrone: <http://www.cotvroneireland.com/townlands/townlands.html>

Donegal: <http://tinyurl.com/6cc52j>

Step 3: The 1901 and 1911 censuses

Useful for finding ancestors who did not leave West Ulster in the Nineteenth century, or who left the area in the 20th century or for finding the descendants of siblings and other relations of those left behind when your folks did emigrate. They would be your “cousins”.

The 1901 Census will give more data than almost any other source. As well as the name of the Head of Household, it will give other family members, ages, where born, religion, marital status, literacy and county or country of birth.

The 1911 census has even more data including how long a couple had been married, how many children a woman had and how many of them were still alive. Remember to tick the box, “Show all information”.

There are two pages of particular interest in each census. The top sheet, called Form B1, gives details of who lived in every house in the townland, who owned the houses and what sort of houses they were. Form A gives details of the inhabitants of each house.

12



Do not expect all details in these censuses to be totally accurate.

Both the 1901 and 1911 censuses are now available online:

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/>

This database, like the one for the Griffiths Valuation, requires that you always enter the same spelling for both surnames and townlands as the transcribers used. This means trying various spellings for each or you can also try entering another townland close by that is easier to spell, finding the DED and then using that along with the surname to find the correct spelling of the townland, which may actually change between one census and the next. There is no such thing as a “correct” spelling for any surname as most older people were not literate at this time.

The house numbers have no significance and will also change between the two censuses and also between the Griffiths Valuation and the censuses.

14

And do not expect people to be honest about their ages! The 1911 Census is usually more accurate as the Old Age Pension was introduced in 1909 and people had to be 70 so there was an incentive to be honest about your age!

All the information can be copied and pasted either to a family tree or to a word document.



CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1911.

Form A.

RETURN of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 2nd of APRIL, 1911.

No. 99 Form B. 5

No.	NAME AND BIRTHDAY	RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGION	EDUCATION	AGE (per Census)		MARRIAGE, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION	PARTICULARS AS TO MARITALS	WORKER ROOM	IRISH LANGUAGE	If born outland? (State only; language or dialect)
					Age Male	Age Female					
1	Charles James	Servant			Age Male	Age Female					
2	John Joseph	Head of Family	Presbyterian	Read & write	41	71	Farmer	Widow	Do not work	None	
3	James	Son	Presbyterian	Read & write	44	-	Farmer	Single	Do not work	None	
4	William John	Son	Presbyterian	Read & write	39	-	Farmer	Single	Do not work	None	
5	Robert	Son	Presbyterian	Read & write	36	-	Farmer	Single	Do not work	None	
6	Margaret Jane	Daughter	Presbyterian	Read & write	-	2	Farmer	Single	Do not work	None	
7	Elizabeth	Daughter	Presbyterian	Read & write	21	-	Farmer	Single	Do not work	None	
8	Richard	Son	Presbyterian	Read & write	30	-	Farmer	Single	Do not work	None	
9											
10											
11											
12											
13											
14											
15											

I solemnly certify, as required by the Act 10 Edw. VII. and 1 Geo. V. cap. 11, that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. W. Anderson, Farmer, Stonemason of Head of Family

Step 4: The Tithe Applotment Books

This was an earlier land survey carried out between 1827 and 1835, this time in order to see who should pay tithes (taxes) to the Established Church, which was the Church of Ireland (Anglican).

It only shows Heads of Household in each townland and unfortunately, it does not include all of them. Some land was exempted from paying tithes. So you should not assume that simply because your ancestors are not mentioned, they did not live here.

You should also be aware that the surveyors who drew up the Tithe Applotment Books did not use the same type of acre as those who drew up the Griffiths Valuation. This means that the plots of land held by a family, from one survey to the next, are not directly comparable.

These records are available online for the Republic of Ireland:

16 <http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/home.jsp>

However, they are not yet online for Northern Ireland so you will need to find the LDS microfilm and order them to your local FHC or visit the central library in either Derry City or Omagh.



Step 5: Church Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths

These are usually available at local churches but most clergymen these days are overworked and underpaid so book in advance by phone, be very polite, expect to have only restricted access in some cases by those clergymen who consider the records to be very private, notwithstanding the fact that you can photocopy any of them at the Public Records Office in Belfast, and expect to contribute to the “church roof fund” so that those who follow you will be welcomed.

Most Presbyterian churches began keeping records circa 1830; Roman Catholic churches usually even later; and Church of Ireland churches perhaps a couple of decades earlier.

PRONI has an excellent list of what church records ARE available both at PRONI and locally so you can check here to see what is available for your particular church:

18 http://www.proni.gov.uk/guide_to_church_records.pdf



Early Church of Ireland registers often include Presbyterian and Catholic baptismal and marriage records (and indeed, Methodist, Baptist and the smaller denominations). This is because, in the first half of the Nineteenth century, only the Church of Ireland was permitted by law to register any baptisms, marriages or burials. There are virtually NO death or burial registers (Church of Ireland may be the exception) in West Ulster; most registers will be baptisms and about half of the churches will have a small number of marriages. Some churches may also have Communicants Roll Books and Vestry Minutes, both of which also have value to the family historian. Not all new parents bothered to baptise officially at the church so, just because your folks are not there, does not mean they did not live in this area.

Some registers will only give dates of baptism, especially the early ones. Make sure you know whether you are recording a date of birth or a date of baptism as the latter can be anything from a few days to several years later than the former.

Church registers vary considerably in their value, depending on when they were done (earlier ones are less detailed), which religion they are and whether the clergyman was conscientious and neat in his handwriting! Their main use to the family historian is for the names of the fathers, and sometimes the mothers, of ancestors, as well as their addresses. Catholic baptismal registers usually do not have the parents but frequently have sponsors who may well be relations of the child. Worse still, they are often in Latin!

Most local churches will also have graveyards and some useful information can be gathered from the headstones. Very few of these will be much older than about 1850 and the older ones will usually be in Church of Ireland graveyards. As with written records however, many Church of Ireland graveyards will also have burials of people belonging to other denominations.

Many church records are also now online (see page 21).



Step 6: Civil Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Civil registration of births, marriages and deaths only began in 1864 in Ireland (except for Protestant marriages which started in 1845).

Especially in the years just after registration became compulsory, many folks did not bother to comply with the law so yet again, missing ancestors does not mean they did not exist.

Births are useful for giving addresses, fathers' names, mothers' maiden names, and occasionally the person who registered the birth will be a family member other than the father or mother.

Marriages are very useful for addresses, occupations, fathers' names, sometimes age, status (single or widowed), fathers' occupations and witnesses again may be relatives.

Deaths are mostly useful for determining approximate dates of births by subtracting the age at death from the year of death. They also give addresses, the person "Present at Death", who is usually a very close relative, and the cause of death.

20 Indexes for all three (Births, Marriages and Deaths) and a limited set of the actual records are available in the Family History Centre on the Racecourse Road in Londonderry. Order them to your own FHC:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/5so2f>

The Mormons have now transcribed most of the indexes to the Birth, Marriage and Death records as well as many church and civil records and they can be viewed for free online at:

<https://familysearch.org/>

RootsIreland now also has many church and civil records of birth/baptism, marriage and death online at:

<http://www.rootsireland.ie/>

where the cost is €2.50 per record.

Emerald Ancestors has BMD records for reasonable prices at:

<https://www.emeraldancestors.com/>

And best of all, the General Registration Office of Northern Ireland has now put all of its Birth, Marriage and Death certificates online at their website where they cost about £2:

<http://tinyurl.com/obq9s8o>

The Republic of Ireland should have theirs online by 2015.



Uimh No. **CRD** 17126
0115



Deimniú báis ar na h-éisiúint de bhun an Acht um Chláru Sibhialta, 2004.
DEATH CERTIFICATE issued in pursuance of Civil Registration Act, 2004.

Báicinn a Chláruidh i gCeantar Deaths Registered in the District of <u>Killygordon</u>		i gCeantar an Chláraitheora Maoriseachta do in the Superintendent Registrar's District of <u>Stranorlar</u>					i gContae in the Country of <u>Donegal</u>			
Uimh. No.	Dáta agus Ionad Báis Date and Place of Death	Ainm agus Sloinne Name and Surname	Genas Sex	Staid Condition	Aos an La Breithe is Déanaí Age last Birthday	Céim, Gairm nó Siú Bheatha Rank, Profession or Occupation	Cúis Báis Dheimhniú agus Fad Tinnis Certified Cause of Death and Duration of Illness	Síniú, Cáilocht agus Ionad Cónaithe an Fhaisnéiseora Signature, Qualification and Residence of Informant	An Dáta a Chláruidh When Registered	Síniú an Chláraitheora Signature of Registrar
(1)	(2)	(4)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
417	March Eighth 1870 Sallywood	Patrick Bradley	m	married	88 years	Farmer	Old Age. Eighteen years. Not certified.	John Bradley Present at death Sallywood	May Twenty Seventh 1870	James Love Registrar Cláráitheoir Registrar

Deimhneáir gur thionsóidh na sonraí seo ó clárfeabhar coinnithe faoi alt 13 den Acht um Chláru Sibhialta, 2004.

Certified to be compiled from a register maintained under section 13 of the Civil Registration Act, 2004.

an Twenty Ninth day of January 2008

Ath-Scríofa
Copied P. Blackburn

Scrúdaíthe
Examined P. Blackburn

Is cionn é an teastas seo a athrú nó é a úsáid tar éis a athraithe

TO ALTER THIS DOCUMENT OR TO UTTER IT SO ALTERED IS A SERIOUS OFFENCE

Step 7: Griffiths Valuation Revision Books

These are updates to the Griffiths Valuation and they show changes to who held the property after the initial valuation in the 1850s up to circa 1930.

They are now available online for Northern Ireland counties at:
http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/val12b.htm

They can also be ordered from Family History Centres:
<http://www.tinyurl.com/2sfcnc>

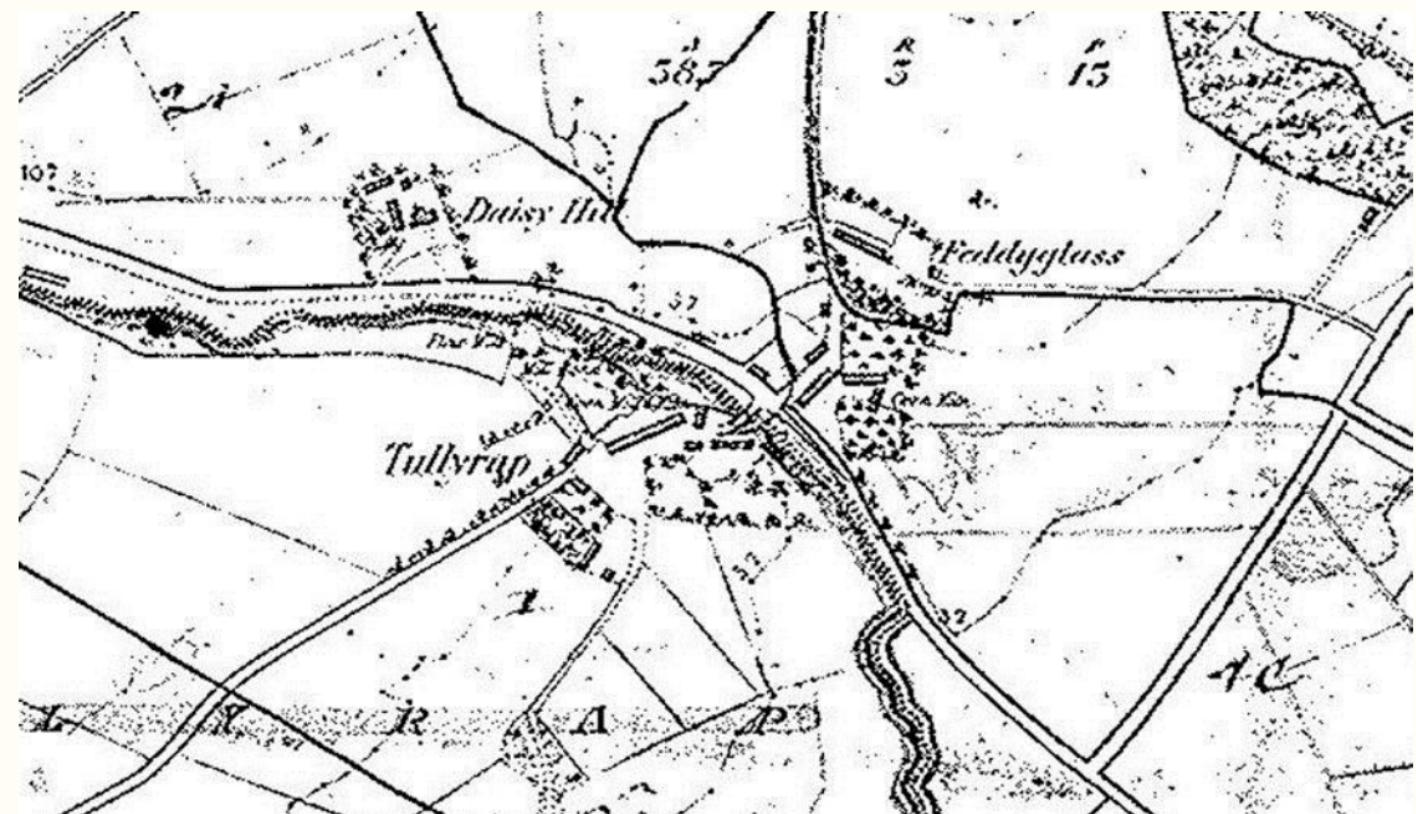
These records are very useful for showing younger family members who only became Heads of Households after mid 1850s, or for people who moved into the area after the Griffiths Valuation, or indeed who may have left the area or died.

They are very valuable for linking people from the Griffiths Valuation into the 1901 and 1911 Censuses thus confirming who they are.

Dates are very unreliable as they were only recorded when an enumerator noticed that the tenancy had changed. This means an elderly person who went to live with a relative can disappear from the books long before he or she died. Conversely, a deceased person may be shown still in residence long after death!

These books are written up in 5 or 6 volumes, each covering ten to fifteen years, and numbered back to front. For example, Book 5 will cover the 1850s/60s, while Book 1 will contain the most recent amendments.

The books are not easy to interpret on microfilm as coloured ink was used to show the changes and the dates when the changes were made. You will be reduced to comparing handwriting and the weight of pen strokes! However, online, the colours show very clearly.



Step 8: House and Field Books and Estate Records

Precursors of the Griffiths Valuation, these were produced between the late 1820s and the 1850s and were not usually published.

Like the Griffiths Valuation Revision Books, they show changes in landholders and may therefore be the only source of someone who emigrated before the Griffiths Valuation was published and Church or Civil Records began.

Available at Family History Centres, PRONI in Belfast and at the Valuation Office in Dublin.

Donegal and Tyrone are very fortunate because they include the estates of the Marquis of Abercorn and the papers from this estate are the largest set of records held at the Public Records Office in Belfast, with rent books, leases and maps going back to the mid 18th century. Search the indexes here:

http://www.proni.gov.uk/index/search_the_archives/ecatalogue.htm

25





Step 9: Wills

26 Many Wills were destroyed in the fire at the Four Courts in Dublin. Some do however remain in both the Public Records Office in Belfast and the National Archives in Dublin. There are also indexes to many of the older wills and from 1858 there are “Calendars of Wills”. These contain brief summaries of the wills and include the name and address of the deceased person, where and when he or she died, the value of the estate, the date of probate and the name and address of the person to whom probate was granted sometimes including the relationship of that person to the deceased.

Calendars of Wills for West Ulster, along with the wills themselves from 1900, are held in the Probate Office in Bishop Street in Derry, Tel: (0044) 028 7136 3448. Telephone in advance as a ladder may be needed. Remember that wills and Calendars of Wills will be catalogued by the date of probate, not the date of death.

The calendars and many of the wills can also now be viewed online at:
PRONI: <http://tinyurl.com/c4zqrm4>
NAI: <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/>

Step 10: Old Age Pension/Census Returns

In 1909 the Old Age Pension was introduced in Ireland but elderly people had to prove that they were over 70 in order to claim it. Since birth certificates had not been introduced until 1864, this in effect meant applying to the authorities in Dublin, who held the 1841 and 1851 censuses, and asking if your name was recorded therein. These letters of application survived after the two censuses were destroyed and are our only record of what was in them. They can prove of immense value in locating your ancestors.

The letters are stored in large binders in the Public Records Office in Belfast. They were filmed by the Church of Latter Day Saints and so are available through your local Family History Centre. The only problem is that the letters are not very well catalogued and any county's applications will be found in several volumes mixed in with other counties. It is a matter of trawling through the volumes in Belfast, or the microfilms in your FHC:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/2jev2>

The Republic of Ireland has now put their letters online at:

<http://censussearchforms.nationalarchives.ie/search/cs/home.jsp>



Triangulating

If you do not know the townland where your ancestors lived, the best way to make progress is to try to locate your ancestors using the confluence of two or more surnames. Most poor folks in the Nineteenth Century, and even many wealthier ones, did not travel far to marry and therefore they should generally be found living close to each other in the same parish or even the same townland.

You need to check the Griffiths Valuation for all of the names you have and see which parish or group or townlands contains all or most of the surnames you are researching. This works better if you are using at least one unusual name. Most importantly, it can be done online.



Hints and Tips

Record every detail of relevant records. If possible, use a good digital camera so that you can examine the records again and again in the light of further evidence. Most Family History Centres will allow this but not all public records offices or churches are so amenable.

Organise your raw material, even if only into Land Records, Birth, Marriage and Deaths Records, and Other Records, so that you can easily locate data at a later date.

Use a Family Tree Programme to create diagrams, which act as both repositories of the data you have collected and also representations of the familial links between your ancestors. Family Tree Maker is best for reports but GenoPro is best by far for trees (and the trial version is free) and graphic analysis. Both store data efficiently.

<http://www.genopro.com> and <http://www.familytreemaker.com>

Whether you use a tree or some other system, it is essential that you note down the source of every piece of information you find. You will always need to know where you found a date, fact, person or event if you want to determine how reliable that information is in the light of contradictory evidence which you may find as your research progresses.

Visit the Genealogy Lists where people will help with your research.
Republic of Ireland: <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/intl/IRL/>
Northern Ireland: <http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/intl/NIR/>

There are now numerous Facebook pages for different parts of West Ulster, including this author's at:

<https://www.facebook.com/westulstergenealogy>

Video Workshops: The author has produced a series of online video workshops covering most of the basics of researching your genealogy in Ireland:

<http://www.cotyroneireland.com/videos/monreagh.html>

Useful Addresses

PRONI

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
2 Titanic Boulevard
Titanic Quarter
Belfast
BT3 9HQ
[Email PRONI](mailto:proni@dcalni.gov.uk) at proni@dcalni.gov.uk
Telephone: (+44) 028 90 534800

General Registry Office

55 Chichester St
Belfast,
County Antrim BT1 4HL
United Kingdom
(028 9151 3101 if calling from outside Northern Ireland)

Ulster American Folk Park

2 Mellon Road, Castletown, Omagh,
Co Tyrone BT78 5QU, Northern Ireland
Tel: +44 (0) 28 8224 3292

Family History Centre

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints
Racecourse Road
Londonderry
BT48 7RE
Tel: +44 48 7135 0179

Probate Office

Courthouse
Bishop Street
Londonderry
BT48 6PY
Tel: +4448 7136 3448



Travelling to West Ulster

City of Derry Airport

<http://www.cityofderryairport.com>

Belfast City Airport

<http://www.belfastcityairport.com>

C.I.E , Irish Rail and Bus Network

<http://www.cie.ie>

Visit:

Monreagh Heritage Centre

<http://monreaghulsterscotscentre.town.ie/>

Ulster American Folk Park

<http://www.nmni.com/uafp>

Doagh Famine Village

<http://www.doaghfaminevillage.com/>

O'Donnell, Stewart, Swe
B d, Timm, Colhoun
Peopl, Hamilton, Ly

Written by Boyd Gray, Email: boydgray26@utvinternet.com
Website: <http://westulstergenealogy.com/>