Discover Your Irish Family History in Beyond 2022's
Virtual Record Treasury

Elizabeth Hodges — Senior Librarian
The Genealogy Center — Genealogy@ACPL.Info

What is the Beyond 2022 Project?

- **Primary Objective:**
  - To recover, reconstruct, and make freely accessible as many of the records that were lost in 1922 as possible.
- **Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland**
  - 150,000 records containing
  - 50 million words of searchable text
  - 6,000+ maps

Gold Seams

- Gold Seams are complete reconstructions of an entire record set that were destroyed in 1922. So far, there are three Gold Seams:
  - *1766 Religious Census*
    - https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams/1766-religious-census
  - *Cromwellian Surveys*
    - https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams/cromwellian-surveys
  - *Medieval Exchequer*
    - https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/gold-seams/medieval-exchequer

Tips for Record Searching

- **Don't Search All Records**
  - Wildcard, truncation, quotations, etc. do not appear to work.
  - Due to the dual "inventory of loss" and "inventory of survival," searching all records will provide too many items in the search results that don't really have records attached to them.
- **Browse the PROI Catalog– Not "Browse All"**
  - https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/browse?directory=proi
  - The Virtual Record Treasury mirrored its catalog on Herbert Wood's 1919 massive guide to the Public Records Office. The hierarchy Wood used in 1919 is ***not*** intuitive because it is not what modern researchers are familiar with, but there are still gems buried in this catalog.

- **The two *most helpful* record collections for genealogists found in the PROI catalog:**
  - *Ecclesiastical and Testamentary Returns*
    - I recommend clicking the dropdown arrow until you find "Parish Registers and Parochial Returns." There is some gold in that record set: https://www.virtualtreasury.ie/item?isadgReferenceCode=PROI%20ETC%204%2F1
  - ***Miscellaneous Documents***
    - Due to the archaic record hierarchy used, there is a massive amount of record sets that don't get a "top level" listing, but you can find them filed under miscellaneous.
    - Go through the list of record sets (particularly the census returns) and their subcategories to see what is available.

Other Important Irish Genealogy Resources

- FamilySearch Research Wiki - Ireland
  - https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Genealogy
- Irish Genealogy
  - https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/
  - Civil Registrations for birth (1864-1921), *marriage (1845-1946), **death (1871-1971)
    - *Catholic marriages do not begin until 1864
    - **They are working on adding deaths from 1864-1870, so stay tuned!
  - Parish Registers (both Catholic and Church of Ireland)
    - On-going project.
    - What is available as of now:
      - https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/church-records/about/what-church-records-are-available-online
- GENUKI (UK and Ireland Genealogy)
  - https://www.genuki.org.uk/big/irl
  - This is a virtual reference library of genealogical information relating to Ireland and the U.K.

- Ordnance Survey Ireland
  - These maps from 1837-42 and 1888-1913 can help pinpoint exactly where an ancestor was living in Ireland.
  - https://geohive.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9def898f708b47f19a8d8b7088a100c4
- Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI)
  - https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/family-and-local-history-records
- General Register Office of Northern Ireland (GRONI)
  - https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/family-history-heritage-and-museums/research-family-history-general-register-office-ni-groni
- National Archives Ireland
  - https://www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/our-sources-for-family-local-history/
- Griffith's Valuation (1848-1868) - Ask about Ireland
  - https://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/
  - Used to determine how much someone had to pay in taxes to the "Poor rate" and includes detailed information on where people lived in the mid-19th century.
- Tithe Applotment Books (1823-1837)
  - http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp
  - Used to determine the amount of money occupiers of agricultural holdings over 1 acre should pay in tithes to the Church of Ireland.
  - This is the next best thing to a pre-Famine Census in Ireland.
- Irish Ancestors ($)
  - https://www.johngrenham.com/
  - This is an awesome database that helps you get an idea of how many people with a certain surname lived in 19th century Ireland and where they lived. Additionally, this resource is great for helping you find what records have survived.
  - "How to use John Grenham's Irish Ancestors Website"
    - https://bit.ly/3QgTH8Q
- FindMyPast
  - https://www.findmypast.com/
  - *Subscription based, but can be accessed for _free_ in the Genealogy Center.
  - Hosts over 250 Irish record sets. The most significant collections are:
    - Griffith's Valuation 1847-1864

- - Irish Prison Registers
    - Ireland Petty Session Court Registers
    - Irish Catholic Parish Registers of Baptisms
    - Irish Catholic Parish Registers of Marriages
    - Passenger Lists
    - Irish newspapers
- Roots Ireland ($)
  - https://www.rootsireland.ie/
  - This is a great resource for Catholic and Protestant church records of baptisms, marriages, and deaths.
- Irish Newspaper Archives ($)
  - https://www.irishnewsarchive.com/
  - This is the world's largest and oldest online database of Irish newspapers (1738-present).
- Representative Church Body Library (RCBL)
  - https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library
  - Home of the archives of the Church of Ireland.
  - There are a few parish register indexes available on their website, but this collection has not been digitized

Note: Most of the above resources are free. Those that are subscription based are marked with ($),. However, FindMyPast can be accessed for free in the Genealogy Center.

Genealogy Center Snapshot Guide for Irish & Scots-Irish Research:
- This is not a comprehensive list of our Irish & Scots-Irish resources, but it is a good bibliography to help you get started.
  - https://bit.ly/3vCWukO

Selected Bibliography of Guides and Historical Context

Carroll, Francis M. *America and the making of an independent Ireland: A history.* New York: New York University Press, 2021. ACPL call #: 941.5 C236A

Casey, Marion. "Ubiquitous Bridget: Irish immigrant women in domestic service in America, 1840-1930." In *Making the Irish American: History and Heritage of the Irish in the United States.* Edited by J.J. Lee & Marion Casey. New York: NYU Press, 2006. ACPL call #: 973.049162 M28

Crowley, John, ed. *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine*. New York University Press, 2012.
ACPL call #: 941.5 C886A

Crowley, John, Drisceoil Ó Donal, and Michael Murphy, eds. *Atlas of the Irish Revolution.*
Cork University Press, 2017. ACPL call #: 941.5 AT651CR

Diner, Hasia. *Erin's Daughters in America: Irish Immigrant Women in the Nineteenth
Century*. John Hopkins University Press, 1983. ACPL call #: 973.004 D61E

Grenham, John. *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors: The Complete Guide.* 5th ed. Baltimore:
Genealogical Publishing Company, 2019. ACPL call #: 929 G862TAC

Kenny, Kevin. *The American Irish.* New York: Longman, 2000.
ACPL call #: 973.004 K39AM

McMahon, Cian T. *The coffin ship: life and death at sea during the Great Irish Famine.*
New York: New York University Press, 2021. ACPL call #: 941.5 M46CO.

Miller, Kerby A. *Emigrants and Exiles: Ireland and the Irish Exodus to North America*.
New York: Oxford University Press, 1985. ACPL call #: 929.121 M61E

Mitchell, Brian. *New Pocket Guide to Irish Genealogy*. Baltimore, MD: Clearfield
Company, 2020. ACPL call#: 941.5 M69PC.

Nolan, Janet A. *Ourselves Alone: Women's Emigration from Ireland 1885-1920.*
University Press of Kentucky, 1989.

Ouimette, David S. *Finding Your Irish Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide*. Utah: Ancestry,
2005. ACPL call #: 941.5 OU45F

Roulston, William J. *Researching Scots-Irish ancestors: the essential genealogical guide
to early modern Ulster, 1600-1800.* Belfast: Ulster Historical Foundation, 2005.
ACPL call #: 941.6 R759R

Santry, Claire. *The Family Tree Irish Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Ancestors in
Ireland.* Cincinnati, OH: Family Tree Books, 2017. ACPL call #: 941.5 SA599FA