IRELAND – CENSUS & CENSUS SUBSTITUTES

Mark E. Gardner, Research Consultant, AG®

FamilySearch
gardnerme@familysearch.org
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Census records were taken in 1821 and every ten 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 are at the FHL.

CIVIL REGISTRATION 1845-1958 Census substitute

The registration of births, marriages, and deaths provide names, birth dates, birth places, and 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 are on familysearch.org, www.ancestry.co.uk, and www.findmypast.co.uk (1845-1959 complete for Republic of Ireland 1922-1959) www.rootsireland.ie (1845-1920). Also, try www.irishgenealogy.ie for Civil Index and some transcribed information.


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.co.uk.
The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland has a great collection of Church Records for Belfast and Antrim areas of Ireland and also Presbyterian records www.ancestryireland.ie. These records are available for most places after 1850. The National Library of Ireland just released last year online for free access the images with no index to the Catholic Church records. However, www.rootsireland.ie has an index and www.ancestry.co.uk and www.findmypast.co.uk will have indexes to the Catholic Church records.

**CENSUS SUBSTITUTES** See online Irish Times

www.irishtimes.com/ancestor  
http://www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/browse/records/census/eight.htm#Census

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 especially useful from the 1820s 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 (www.askaboutireland.ie)

Valuation lists (Revision Books) see Catalog on FamilySearch.org under each County 1858 and later under Land and Property. www.familysearch.org


**THE CENSUS OF 1821** www.FamilySearch.org and www.findmypast.co.uk

Government extracts exist for some parishes all people recorded.

**THE CENSUS OF 1831** www.FamilySearch.org and www.findmypast.co.uk

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
THE CENSUS OF 1841 and 1851

Some abstract Dublin City 1851 www.findmypast.co.uk, www.ancestry.com

OLD AGE PENSION CLAIMS Irish census forms 1841 and 1851. The government used these forms to search the 1841 & 1851 Census to prove the age of people applying for old age pensions. Birth certificates did not exist as civil registration of birth began in 1864. The census search forms contain the applicant's name, address, residence in 1851 with county, barony, parish, townland and street originally captured at The National Archives of Ireland and the index was created by www.findmypast.co.uk also on FamilySearch.org.

DOG LICENSE REGISTERS 1866-1914 www.findmypast.co.uk

Search more than 6 million dog licenses to find out the color, breed and sex of man’s best friend. You can also find the name and address of their owner.

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

RELIGIOUS CENSUS OF 1766 www.ancestry.com Taken March and April 1766.

This database is an 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.

1796: SPINNING WHEEL PREMIUM ENTITLEMENT LISTS: Flax dressers

As part of the 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.

1822-1854: REPRODUCTIVE LOAN FUND RECORDS www.findmypast.co.uk

Almost completely survived. After loans ceased in 1848, all records were returned to London and they are available at The National Archives and www.findmypast.co.uk Series T/91. There are loan ledges, repayment books and defaulters’ books. The minimum information supplied is the name and address, but much additional detail is often given, notes on health, occupation, family circumstances and emigration.


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