IRELAND CHURCH RECORDS & INDEXES

GETTING STARTED

- Use www.familysearch.org & other shared databases online
- Review published family histories & biographies for clues

BACKGROUND SOURCES – Church of Ireland Jurisdictions

- Province of Armagh
- Province of Dublin

BACKGROUND SOURCES – Must know name of civil parish in Ireland

- Understand jurisdiction levels
- Understand parishes
- Use Gazetteers & Maps

Understanding Parishes

- Two types of parishes in Ireland: civil and ecclesiastical
- Civil parishes – typically the share same names & boundaries as ecclesiastical parishes of the Church of Ireland (Anglican Church)

Understanding Jurisdictions Levels

- Ireland was one country until 1922 – then divided into the Republic of Ireland (southern) & Northern Ireland - Antrim, Down, Armagh, Fermanagh, Tyrone, and Derry [Londonderry]
- Large cities – may contain several parishes
- Organized from smallest to largest: town/townland, civil parish, barony/poor law union, county, country
- Civil Registration Districts are the same as Poor Law Unions

Tools for Finding Place Names: Gazetteers/Maps

- Lewis’ Topographical Dictionary of Ireland – www.libraryireland.com/topog
- Parliamentary Gazeteer of Ireland – online at Google Books; use other search engines
- Alphabetical Index to the Townlands and Towns of Ireland - www.seanruad.com
- Maps and Gazetteers -- www.genuki.org.uk – check under both country & county level
CHURCH RECORDS

Church of Ireland
- The established Church was Anglican; less than half of the records were destroyed in the 1922 fire
- These records were only ones considered legal in court of law until 1800’s

Church of Ireland records at FHL:
- Very little on microfilm - some published and donated transcripts, e.g. Dublin, Limerick – check FHLC with Place/Keyword search for desired parish
- Check indexes to Marriage License Bonds – check FHLC > Place search “Ireland” > ‘Church Records—Indexes’ (NOTE: Only indexes survive, not the actual licenses)

Church of Ireland records not at the FHL:
- Representative Church Body Library (www.ireland.anglican.org/library) has originals
- PRONI (www.proni.gov.uk) holds many copies for Northern Ireland
- Many have been indexed by Heritage Centers (see section below)
- For local custodial information – Same as above for Catholic records

Information contained in the records:
- Baptisms - Child’s name, father’s name, mother’s name (but not maiden), date of baptism, (from 1820s onwards) date of birth, occupation of father, and “abode”
- Marriages - Names of groom & bride, marriage date, & from 1820s onwards - addresses of parties, names and addresses of witnesses
- Burials - Name of deceased, date of burial

ONLINE RESOURCES

- www.familysearch.org
- http://ireland.anglican.org/about/42 – Representative Church Body Library
- www.seanruad.com – important Irish place-names database
- www.nationalarchives.ie
- www.irishgenealogy.ie

GOOD BOOKS FOR IRISH RESEARCH


