

How To Trace Your Ancestors in County Monaghan



Monaghan County Libraries.

“A Centre of Light & Learning”

Introduction

Before beginning a genealogical search from public records, it is essential to collect as much information as possible about the family which is to be investigated. In order to have a reasonable chance of carrying out a successful search, it is generally necessary to know at least three things:

1. The *name* of the family.
2. The *Parish* in which they lived (if the surname is of the popular variety, then the townland of origin is most important or even perhaps a nickname).
3. Approximate *Date*.

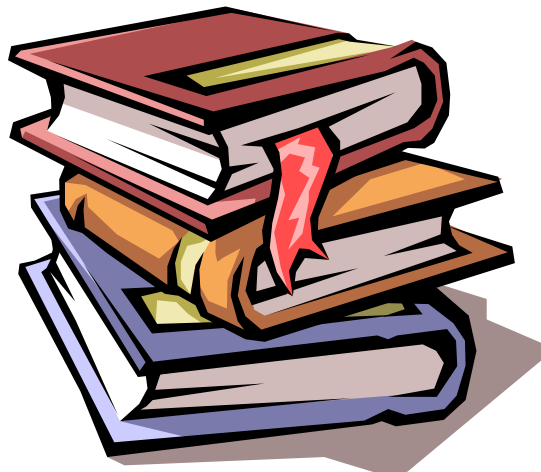
If this information cannot be supplied, a search can still be made in certain records but the chances of success are small.

Starting Point

The starting point for any genealogical search depends on the information one already has. If one is starting with a name, a place and an approximate date, then the best place to begin is as follows:

- For a person living around *1901 or 1911* – Census Returns for those years.
- For a person living in the *1850's or 1860's* – Griffiths Primary Valuation.
- For a person living in the *1820's or 1830's* – Tithe Applotment Books.

If one also knows the date of a birth, marriage or death, further details can be sought in different records. In cases where the parish or townland in which the family lived cannot be identified, an index to the Tithe Applotment Books/Griffiths Primary Valuation is available showing the parishes in which each surname appears. This index is generally of value only where the name is a fairly unusual one. Otherwise it is likely to yield only a long list of persons of the same surname, with no way of knowing which, if any, are connected with the particular family being investigated.



Sources for Genealogical Searches

Census Returns

A Census of Ireland was taken every 10 years from 1821. Complete sets of enumerators' returns, the original manuscript forms from which the printed Census reports were compiled, have survived for two years – 1901 and 1911. The returns were arranged by townlands or in urban areas by streets.

The returns for each townland or street include a form filled in by the head of each household, giving the names of all persons living in that household with their age, occupation, religion and place of birth. No enumerators returns survived from the Census of 1861, 1871, 1881 and 1891, these having been destroyed on the orders of the government. There are some returns from the Census of 1821, 1831, 1841 and 1851 covering part of the counties of Antrim, Cavan, Cork, Fermanagh, Galway, Offaly, Derry, Meath and Waterford but not Monaghan.

As stated above, the *Census of 1901* is the earliest household returns available to the public. The 1901 Census for County Monaghan is available on microfilm in the County Library in Clones. The 1911 for County Monaghan is available in the National Archives of Ireland in Dublin.

Primary Valuation and Tithe Applotment Books

While no complete set of Census returns survives for a period prior to 1901, there are two records, which provide a partial substitute:

Primary Valuation

Also known as Griffiths Valuation. This was a survey of the land and property carried out between 1847 and 1865 for purposes of local taxation. There is a printed valuation book for each poor law union showing the names of all occupiers of land and buildings and of the persons from whom these were leased, the amount of property held and the value assigned to it.

The Tithe Applotment Book

These were compiled between 1823 and 1837 for the purpose of determining the amount which occupiers of agricultural holdings were to pay in tithes to the established church, the Church of Ireland. The Applotment book for each parish gives the names of occupiers, the amount of land they held and the value assigned to it.

Births, Deaths and Marriages

A system of state registration of births, deaths and marriages began in Ireland in 1864. Records of all births, marriages and deaths occurring after this date should be preserved in the Office of the Registrar General, Custom House, Dublin 1.

The records for County Monaghan are to be obtained from The Registrar, Births, Deaths & Marriages, North Eastern Health Board, Rooskey, Monaghan. The main source of information on births, deaths and marriages occurring before 1864 are parish registers. The surviving *Catholic Church registers* for the period up to 1880 are available on microfilm in the National Library of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin 2. *The Registers of the Church of Ireland* for the period up to 1870 are Public Records. Some of these are preserved in Public Records Offices, while others remain in the custody of the local clergy.

Record commencement dates for County Monaghan are listed below:

Catholic Records

Parish	Date
Aghabog	1856
Aughmullen	1841
Clontibret	1861
Clones	1848
Donagh (Glasslough)	1836
Donaghmoyne	1852
Drumully (Scotshouse)	1845
Drumsnat & Kilmore	1836
Ematris (Rockcorry)	1848
Errigal Trough (Emyvale)	1835
Killeevan (Newbliss)	1850
Monaghan	1835
Maghaire Rois	1836
Magheracloone (Carrickmacross)	1836
Muckno (Castleblayney)	1835
Tullycorbet (Ballybay)	1862
Tydavnet	1835

Church of Ireland Records

Parish	Date
Ballybay	1813
Carrickmacross	1796
Castleblayney	1810
Clones	1682
Currin (Rockcorry)	1810
Donagh (Glaslough)	1796
Emyvale (Truagh)	1809
Killannev (Carrickmacross)	1825
Killeevan (Clones)	1811
Kilmore	1796
Magheraclone	1806
Monaghan	1802
Newbliss	1841
Tydavnet (Scotstown)	1822
Tyholland (Monaghan)	1806

Presbyterian Records

Parish	Date
Ballyalbany	1802
Ballybay	1833
Ballyhobridge (Clones)	1846
Broomfield (Castleblayney)	1841
Cahans (Ballybay)	1752
Castleblayney	1832
Clones	1856
Clontibret	1825
Corlea	1835
Derryvalley (Ballybay)	1816
Drumkeen (Newbliss)	1856
Frankford (Castleblayney)	1820
Glennan (Glaslough)	1805
Middletown (Glasslough)	1829
Monaghan	1824
Newbliss	1856
Scotstown	1856
Stonebridge (Newbliss)	1821

If your ancestors were *Presbyterian*, the Presbyterian Historical Society, Central Public Library, Royal Avenue, Belfast may be able to help. The Society holds some Presbyterian Registers and can provide information on others kept by local ministers. The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY, would also prove useful in your genealogical research.

Gravestone Inscriptions

All over the country there are cemeteries and tombstone inscriptions providing details of name and date, which might not be available from any other source. Those not particularly enamoured with the idea of trudging through long wet nettles in an overgrown graveyard in hopeful pursuit of a reference to a long-departed ancestor will be relieved to know that a large number of graveyards have been inspected over the years and the inscriptions recorded. The following gravestone inscriptions have been recorded in printed sources and are available at Monaghan County Library in Clones.

Catholic Cemeteries:

- Aghabog—Clogher Record 1982
- Ballintra— ‘At The Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane
- Clones—Clogher Record 1984
- Clontibret—Clogher Record 1974
- Donagh—Clogher Record 1957
- Drumully—Clogher Record 1954
- Drumsnat—Clogher Record 1967 & ‘Replay’
- Errigal—Clogher Record 1987
- Killanny—Clogher Record 1967
- Killeevan—Clogher Record 1982
- Magheross—Clogher Record 1963
- Muckno—Clogher Record 1966
- Rackwallace—Clogher Record 1962
- Roslea—Clogher Record 1984
- Tydavnet—Clogher Record 1954
- Tullycorbet— ‘At The Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane

Church of Ireland Cemeteries:

- Ballybay Christ Church— ‘At the Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane
- Clones—Clogher Record 1988
- Drumswords—Clogher Record 1985
- Glaslough—Clogher Record 1978
- Kilmore—Clogher Record 1983, 1985

Presbyterian Cemeteries:

- Ballybay 1st— ‘At the Ford of the Briches’ by Peadar Murnane
- Ballybay 2nd— ‘At the Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane
- Braddocks— ‘At the Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane
- Creevagh— ‘At the Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane
- Derryvalley— ‘At the Ford of the Birches’ by Peadar Murnane

Other Genealogical Sources

Newspapers

Below are listed the newspaper holdings of the Monaghan County Library Service. On microfilm, the newspaper can be researched at Clones Branch during opening hours:

- Northern Standard – 1839 to present
- People’s Advocate – 1876 to 1906
- The Farney Leader – 1908 to 1909
- Clones Weekly Chronicle – July to November 1883
- Monaghan People – 1906 to 1908
- The Anglo Celt – 1885 to 1928

Directories

A number of street directories for County Monaghan are available in the County Library, Clones and lists of residents are also to be found in many parish histories.

- Pigot’s Directory 1824
- Ulster Counties Directory 1895
- Gillespies County Monaghan Directory 1897
- Monaghan County Alphabetical List 1900
- Monaghan County Yearbook 1913
- Northern Standard Centenary Supplement Directory 1939
- MacDonalds Irish Directory 1952
- Members of Established Church in Clones 1823

Rentals

A major source of information for the genealogist is estate rental books. The vast majority of our ancestors have acquired their properties in relatively recent times, compared to in 1876 only two McKenna owned land in County Monaghan. Unfortunately, there are very few rentals housed in the County Library but those in our possession include *Anketell Estate 1784-1876* and *Newbliss Estate 1840 – 1843 and 1852 – 1853*.

Parish Histories

These are another valuable genealogical resource. The Centenary Year of the GAA in 1984 led the valuable production of club and parish histories. Whether due to lack of club information or indeed club success, most club histories were expanded to include much valuable genealogical information. Publications available through the County Library Service include the club and local histories of the following clubs:

- Aughnamullen GFC
- Carrickmacross GFC
- Castleblayney GFC
- Clones GFC
- Clontibret GFC
- Corduff GFC
- Cremartin GFC
- Currin GFC
- Donaghmoyne GFC
- Doohamlet GFC
- Drumhowen GFC
- Eire Og (Smithboro) GFC
- Emyvale GFC
- Inniskeen GFC
- Killannev GFC
- Killeevan GFC
- Latton GFC
- Magheracloone GFC
- Monaghan GFC
- Oram GFC
- Rockcorry GFC
- Scotstown GFC
- Sean MacDiarmada GFC
- Truagh GFC

Family Histories

Burkes Peerage, Burkes Irish Family Records and publications such as *Shirley's History of the County* give the family history of what the eminent Monaghan historian, Denis C. Rushe called "the local snobocracy". Such material is totally irrelevant to the vast majority of Irish people but the County Library does contain many family histories of local people who had emigrated to foreign parts. Anybody intending to draw up a family tree could consult this material for guidance and ideas.



Catholic - Parochial Addresses:

Aghabog Parochial House, Latnamard, Monaghan. 042-9744976

Killeevan Parochial House, Newbliss, Monaghan. 047-54011

Clones Parochial House, Church Hill, Clones, Monaghan. 047-51048

Clones Curates House, Clones, Monaghan. 047-51064

Scotshouse Parochial House, Scotshouse, Monaghan. 047-56

Monaghan - Park Street, Monaghan. 047-81220

Magheracloone - Parochial House, Magheracloone, Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9662278

Shantonagh - Parochial House, Shantonagh, Castleblayney, Monaghan. 042-9745015

Latton Parochial House, Latton, Castleblayney, Monaghan. 042-9742212

Donaghmoyne - Parochial House, Donaghmoyne, Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9661586

Carrickroe - Parochial House, Carrickroe, Emyvale, Monaghan. 047-87104

Corrawacan - Parochial House, Corrawacan, Rockcorry, Monaghan. 042-9742243

Broomfield - Parochial House, Broomfield, Castleblayney, Monaghan. 042-9743617

Tydavnet - St. Dymna's, Tydavnet, Monaghan. 047-89402

Killanny - Parochial House, Killanny, Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9661452

Ballybay - Parochial House, Ballybay, Monaghan. 042-9741013

Annyalla - Parochial House, Annyalla, Monaghan. 042-9740121

Carrickmacross-Parochial House, O'Neill Street, Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9663200

Glaslough - Parochial House, Glaslough, Monaghan. 047-88120

Emyvale - St. Joseph's, Emyvale, Monaghan. 047-87152

Corcaghan - Parochial House, Corcaghan, Monaghan. 047-9744806

Castleblayney - Parochial House, York Street, Castleblayney, Monaghan. 042-9740024

Threemilehouse - Parochial House, Threemilehouse, Monaghan. 047-81051

Scotstown - Parochial House, Scotstown, Monaghan. 047-89204

Rectories/ Manse Addresses

Presbyterian:

Ballybay 1st, Clones Road, Ballybay, Monaghan. 042-9741051

Ballybay 2nd, Carrickmacross Road, Ballybay, Monaghan 042-9741703

Rockcorry - C/O Ballybay 2nd, Carrickmacross Rd, Ballybay. 042-9741703

Ballyalbany, Monaghan. 047-82151

Drum, Monaghan. 049-5552679

Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9669216

Monaghan 1st, Monaghan. 047-84402

Castleblayney - Castleblayney, Monaghan. 042-9746181

Church of Ireland:

Carrickmacross - Drumconrath Rd, Carrickmacross, Monaghan. 042-9661931

Ballybay - Knockmaddy, Ballybay, Monaghan. 042-9741102

Monaghan - Clones Rd, Monaghan. 047-81136

Other Genealogical Sources:

Monaghan County Museum, The Hill, Monaghan. 047-82928

National Library of Ireland , Kildare Street, Dublin 2
01-60302000 Website www.nli.ie

National Archives of Ireland, Bishop Street, Dublin 8
01-40723000 Website www.nationalarchives.ie

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 66 Balmoral Avenue, Belfast BT9 6NY,
Northern Ireland.
(+44) 028 9025 5905 Website www.proni.nics.gov.uk

Register of Births, Deaths & Marriages, North Eastern Health Board, Rooskey,
Monaghan.
047-30400/30443

Clogher Historical Society, C/O St. Macartan's College, Monaghan.
047-71984 Website www.clogherhistoricalsoc.com

St. Louis Heritage Centre, Broad Road, Monaghan. 047-83529

Land Registry & Registry of Deeds, Chancery Street, Dublin 7.
01-8048015 or website www.landregistry.ie

Valuation Office, Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street Lower, Dublin 1.
01-8171113 or website www.valoff.ie

The Cahans
<http://homepage.tinet.ie/~denesbitt/menu.html>

Ulster Historical Foundation
Website www.ancestryireland.co.uk

Commonwealth War Graves Commission
Website www.cwgc.org

Familia
Website www.familia.org.uk

Irish Roots
Website www.irishroots.net

Monaghan Links
Website www.monaghanlinks.com

This guide was produced by Monaghan County Library Services, The Diamond, Clones, County Monaghan. The Library Headquarters is located above the Clones Branch Library.

It is advisable to ring at least one day in advance for use of microfilm reader.

Contact Details:

Telephone 047-51143

Fax 047-51863

Email moncolib@eircom.net

Clones Branch Library Opening Hours:
(For Use of Microfilm Reader)

- Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday: 2-5pm
- Monday: 6-8pm.