

1926 CENSUS IRELAND (free)

The Census 1926 is stored in 1,299 boxes, containing over 700,000 return sheets. The returns are laced together in 2,494 canvas volumes each representing an enumeration area within each of the 26 counties.

Census 1926 is made up of 21 data sets listed in Household Returns (A Form) and Enumerator Returns (B Form). These forms are being held at the National Archives Ireland.

Household Returns include:

Name and Surname

Relationship to head of household

Age

Sex

Marriage or Orphanhood

Birthplace

Irish Language

Religion

Occupation and Employment – personal occupation and name of employer

Information regarding present marriage required from married women

Information regarding present and previous marriages required from married men, widowers and widows

The total area in statute acres of all agricultural holdings (if any) situated in the Irish Free State of which persons usually resident in the household are the rated occupiers

Genealogist Claire Bradley's website has an article and a preparation guide (link in source list)

WORKHOUSE RECORDS

Photo_ Roscommon Workhouse (now the Sacred Heart Hospital and Care Home).

Roscommon was built in 1842 in one of the worst counties affected by the Famine. In January 1847 a notice was posted outside stating new applicants for assistance couldn't be admitted.

Before the famine began the number of poor people had greatly increased because of a growth in population, increased reliance on the potato as the main

food source, the division of land making smaller plots, poor economy, and a high rate of evictions.

The records in each Poor Law Union vary and could include indoor relief registers, admission and discharge registers, registers of births, deaths and marriages, inventories, punishment books, dietary books, the masters' journals, minute books, medical registers, hospital records, vaccination registers, lunatic registers, outdoor relief registers, dispensary notices, account books, supplier contracts, receipts and correspondence (especially with the Poor Law Commissioners

You will need the name, *when* they might have been in a workhouse, *name of the workhouse* or *Poor Law Union* (PLU) (1901 and 1911 censuses list PLU's)

PRONI has records for the 28 PLU's in NI and the National Library Ireland has the records for Dublin and some for Mayo. The workhouses in Dublin took in paupers from across the country.

A number of records are held by local authorities in the archives or libraries. Some were retained by the workhouse (now often a hospital) or are privately owned.

FindMypast holds workhouse records.

Search the 1901 and 1911 online census records to see if your ancestor was in a workhouse at a certain date. The transcriptions of the 1901 and 1911 census returns can be searched for free and originals downloaded for free on the [National Archives Census website](#).

You can search by name or location. Searching by location is recommended because usually only the initials of the inmates, not their full names are recorded.

The census forms that are most helpful are Form E which is the "Return of Paupers in Workhouses" and Form I which is the "Return of Idiots and Lunatics in institutions" (workhouses had designated wards for people with disabilities or mental health conditions).

the census returns also state the age, sex, religion, birthplace, occupation, marital status, years married, children born, children living, literacy, knowledge of the Irish language, specified illnesses, the number of years affected, the cause of the illness and if "Deaf and Dumb; Dumb only; Blind; Imbecile or Idiot; or Lunatic".

IRISHGENEALOGY.IE (free)

They have improved their search features with the choices of Civil Records, Church Records or ALL RECORDS.

When you type into the location field, three options now appear: "Civil Reg. Counties", "Civil Reg. Districts" and "Church Locations" making it easier to search across a larger area.

IRELAND GENEALOGY PROJECTS ARCHIVES (free)

This site has 182,000 headstones and is organized by county. For Mayo there are Cemetery, Church, Censuses and Census substitutes, Directories, Immigration, Local History, Obits, Photos, etc.

Each county has the name of a file manager and their email, and the main page lists what's new with links.

This site also has land and related records including (new):

Galway: Tenants on the Quansbury (Quainsborough) estate in Kilquain parish, 1777-78

Kildare: Tenants of Monasterevin, Fontstown (Fonstown) and Cadamstown on the Earl of Drogheda (Charles Moore) estate, 1728

Kildare: Tenants on the William Tighe estate in Kilteel parish, 1825/26

Limerick: Farmers on Maunsell land in Castletown parish, 1848/49

Limerick: Flax growers on the Monteagle estate in the Shanagolden area, 1808

Wexford: Labourers in Kilcavan parish on the Thomas Meyler estate in Harristown townland, 1850

Wexford: Tenants in St Mary's Newtownbarry parish on the Colclough estate in Curraduff (Coorduff) and Ballycreen, 1824

REGISTRY OF DEEDS INDEX PROJECT (free)

The Registry of Deeds Index Project, which is run by volunteers, has indexed 633,789 records from 65,047 memorials of deeds from across Ireland and 53,630 grantor index entries. These records include real estate documents in the public records, mortgages, liens, and leases.

The database is free to search with about 90% of the entries in the database directly linking to the record image on Family Search.

FAMILY SEARCH (free)

FamilySearch launched a new full-text search tool that uses AI-generated transcriptions and summaries to help locate ancestors in record collections that have not yet been transcribed and indexed.

You can now explore the Registry of Deeds records using full-text search on FamilySearch and there's a YouTube video on how to use this feature. (link in source list)

ANCESTRY (\$)

Ancestry expanded its Irish record collections this summer including these records:

- [Jury lists index, 1798–1898 \(new\)](#)
- [Infants born in Irish workhouses index, 1872–74 \(new\)](#)
- [Ireland, Poor Law Union removals from England, 1857–1879 \(updated\)](#)
- [Railway employment records, 1870–1940 \(updated\)](#)
- [Palatine German Immigration to Ireland, 1654–1878 \(updated\)](#)
- [UK and Ireland, Find a Grave Index, 1300s–current \(updated\)](#)
- [Ballynahinch estate records, Galway, 1905–40 \(new\)](#)
- [Mayo and Sligo school registers, 1802–1928 \(new\)](#)

They have also added 68 new/updated European regions in their DNA analysis giving more precise insights into ancestral origins. You can now view results by grouping regions, shared history, geography and a new in-app feature – *DNA Highlights* – that creates a visual, shareable summary of your ancestry.

IRISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES (\$)

Updates on this site include:

Kings County Chronicle (now the Offaly Chronicle) 1845-1963

Tullamore Tribune 1978- current

Tullamore Kings County Independent (now Offaly Independent) 1894-1919

Midland Tribune 1881- current

There are videos on the main page on how to use this site

MY HERITAGE / OLDNEWS.COM (\$)

A new collection was added this summer called “Ireland newspapers from OldNews.com”, which features national, regional and local titles dating from the

late 1700s to 1900. The new collection is searchable on MyHeritage, with full-page images available on OldNews.com via direct links.

You can sign up for a seven-day free trial with OldNews.com. (link in source list)

They have also announced a major upgrade to its DNA testing service, introducing whole genome sequencing (WGS) that analyses more than 99% of a person's DNA, helping make ethnicity estimates more accurate and improve DNA matches.

TIARA.IE (430/yr e- newsletter and access to website features)

The Irish Ancestral Research Association is a non-profit organization that promotes the understanding of Irish genealogy, history, values and the culture of our Irish and Irish American ancestors.

IRISH FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY (\$25/yr includes -33% off Irish Newspaper Archives)

They are a non-profit organization open to anyone interested in tracing their Irish roots, promote the recording of gravestone inscriptions, advise those interested in their Irish roots, and to promote the study of Irish family history and genealogy.

THE GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF IRELAND (\$40 yr/free)

They host a free informal weekly research advice session on Wednesdays 11am (Irish time) = 6am CST, 4am PST

Their FB page has weekly announcements and zoom links.

ST. LOUIS GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY / IRISH SIG (\$/free)

In October 2025, Dt. Tomas J. Finan spoke about medieval Irish society and tools to bridge the gap between then and recent history.

His handout and slides are available on their website/ Irish SIG. The recording is available until January 26, 2026 (link in source list)

IRISH HERITAGE NEWS (free, but will take donations)

This site has sections on genealogy, History, Archaeology & Built Heritage, Folklore and a newsletter. They feature a monthly "Irish Genealogy News Round-Up" and have lots of articles under each section. If you sign up for the newsletter you'll get the news round up emailed to you.

A LETTER FROM IRELAND

Free 7 module course with real life case studies

Membership to the green room available, podcast, books, free newsletter

IRISH ANCESTORS JOHN GRENHAM

List of heritage center by county – link in Source list

OTHER:

As movie about Grace O'Malley seems to be in the works with (possibly) Nicola Coughlan (Derry Girls, Bridgerton) as Grace.

House of Guinness - Netflix

Davey Holden history

Recommended podcasts:

The Irish Passport (includes transcripts on website)

Irish History Podcast (includes transcripts on website)

The Magdalenes and I

Mens Rea – true crime/irish

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ireland Websites](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ireland_Websites)

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ireland Online Genealogy Records](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Ireland_Online_Genealogy_Records)

workhouse. <https://irishheritagenews.ie/was-your-ancestor-in-a-workhouse/>

school records. <https://irishheritagenews.ie/find-your-ancestors-in-irelands-historical-school-records/>

new records sept <https://irishheritagenews.ie/irish-genealogy-news-round-up-september-2025/>

newspapers. <https://irishheritagenews.ie/new-irish-newspaper-database-with-searchable-records/>

virtual public records. https://irishheritagenews.ie/175000-historical-records-released-online-on-103rd-anniversary-of-public-record-office-fire/#google_vignette

John Grenham Heritage Centers

<https://www.johngrenham.com/records/addresses.php?locdescid=3&desc=Heritage>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VQn7dxNAgzk>

Claire Bradley genealogist <https://cbgenealogy.ie>

SURNAME MAP. <https://www.irishorigenes.com/content/surnames-science>

Guide to 1926 Census. <https://irishheritagenews.ie/guide-to-irish-census-records-available-ahead-of-1926-census-release/>

Irish Genealogy Projects. <https://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/>

Family Search Full Text Search. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpWf-VxjtyE&t=2s>

Registry of Deeds Index Project. <https://irishdeedsindex.net/search/search.php>

Genealogical Society of Ireland <https://familyhistory.ie>

Family Search Registry of Deeds. <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/full-text/collection/M9J1-ZYL>

<https://www.irishnewsarchive.com>

St. Louis Genealogical Society SIG / medieval.

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Uy7dP2e2PXZDLMXrf4KI_PzXQBLiNw9tiqmLHmGKAdcOpyaRtIVoIF05dbLx6FQ.EIT-bJBx_bX66J85

Davey Holden history.

https://davyholdenhhistory.com/?srsId=AfmBOoqpJuFRvrAYzYcj1FgvOHVlg3VANfOORbMby3vxocyL9_xBFw

A Letter from Ireland. <https://www.letterfromireland.com/how-to-research-irish-ancestors/>

Heritage Centers Ireland cy county.

<https://www.johngrenham.com/records/addresses.php?locdescid=3&desc=Heritage>

Podcasts:

The Irish passport. <https://www.theirishpassport.com>

The Irish History podcast. <https://www.irishhistorypodcast.ie>

Mens Rea true crime. <https://mensreapod.com>