

How do I find Irish people and missing Vital information using free sites?

1. I am a genealogist who always works backwards. For Irish people, I start in the 20th Century and work backwards to the 18th Century.
2. For Irish people, I first focus on the seven Irish Files in Family Search Collections List
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/list>

▪ Ireland Births and Baptisms, 1620-1881	5,340,49426	Mar 2012 ¹
▪ Ireland Marriages, 1619-1898	430,83410	Mar 2012
▪ Ireland, Civil Registration Indexes, 1845-1958	23,023,3207	Mar 2013 ²
▪ Ireland, Deaths, 1864-1870	51,2487	Mar 2013
▪ Ireland, Landed Estate Court Files, 1850-1885	682,05517	Dec 2012
▪ Ireland, Prison Registers, 1790-1924	3,127,59426	Jun 2012
▪ Ireland, Tithe Applotment Books, 1814-1855	753,9249	Nov 2012 ³
3. For Ireland, I look in the Census of 1901 and of 1911.
4. If the person is not in the Censuses, I look in Census substitutes.
5. For Irish males born before 1864, I Google the combination of Surname and Griffiths Valuation⁴.
6. For Irish males born before 1821, I Google the combination of Surname and Tithe Applotment Books.
7. For Irish Immigrants to Massachusetts, I look in the Mass Archives Passenger Manifests data base.
8. For Irish people who were born in the USA or who migrated to the USA, I start with US Censuses and US databases.
 - a. For US Censuses, I prefer Heritage Quest⁵ on the Morrill Memorial Library Web Site. I do not look in 1890 because most of the records were destroyed. When volunteering at the Dedham Library, because Heritage Quest is not available, I use Ancestry Library as an alternative⁶.
 - b. For US immigrants, some US censuses (like the 1900 Census) has the arrival year.
 - c. For US immigrants where I have an arrival year, I look for Passenger Manifests in Ancestry Library, Castle Garden, Ellis Island and Mass Archives.⁷
 - d. For US immigrants, if there could be multiple versions of the same Surname, I use Steve Morse's templates. (It requires Ancestry to be open.)
 - e. If it looks like the person was married in Massachusetts before 1920, I look for the Marriage record in AmericanAncestors. The Marriage record contains parents' names often the mothers' maiden surnames and sometimes both the officiating person's name and address.⁸
9. For Irish Immigrants, I look for records in the Pilot Advertisements.⁹
10. For Irish in Atlantic Canada, Newfoundland, England, Scotland, and Irish, I look in their Censuses in Ancestry Library. For Irish in Canada who lived in 1901 and/or 1911, I look at the Automated Census of Canada. Ancestry Library, FamilySearch¹⁰ and FamilySearch/Community Trees are other favorites.¹¹

¹ An Irish genealogist estimates that there 10 times as many records in subscription databases.

² Civil Registration of Births started in 1864. Dates prior to 1864 are estimated from Marriage and Death records

³ Only the heads of households .

⁴ Only the heads of households with an acre or more of land.

⁵ Heritage Quest is available 24/7 from anywhere that can access the Norwood Library Minuteman databases.

⁶ Ancestry Library is available only at the Norwood Library on the Library's LAN. There is no Wi-Fi access.

⁷ Access to the Ellis Island Database requires registration. The other three web sites are available 24/7 from anywhere.

⁸ The user can drill down to an image of the source Marriage register document which always contains the individual who performed the ceremony and sometimes contains a street address where the ceremony was performed. It covers marriages up to 1914.

⁹ Available on the AmericanAncestors Web Site or on the Boston College Web Site.

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¹⁰ FamilySearch allows registered users to drill down to an image of the source record.

¹¹ FamilySearch Community Trees is still in development. I use Advanced search to see the updated list of countries and locations.