

Eire Online: Websites for the Casual Researcher

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Understanding Ireland

- The island of Ireland has two countries: The Republic of Ireland & Northern Ireland
- Capitals are Dublin (Republic) & Belfast (NI)
- There are 4 provinces: Ulster, Connacht, Munster & Leinster.
 - Northern Ireland currently has 6 counties: Antrim, Armagh, Down, Fermanagh, Londonderry & Tyrone
 - Ulster historically has 9 counties including 3 counties in the Republic of Ireland: Cavan, Donegal and Monahan
- The Republic of Ireland has 26 counties:
 - Carlow, Cavan, Clare, Cork, Donegal, Dublin, Galway, Kerry, Kildare, Kilkenny, Laois, Leitrim, Limerick, Longford, Louth, Mayo, Meath, Monaghan, Offaly, Roscommon, Sligo, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath, Wexford and Wicklow
- The Republic of Ireland is largely, but not exclusively, Catholic
- Northern Ireland is predominantly, but not exclusively, Presbyterian

History of Irish Independence and Records Loss:

- Republic of Ireland's quest for independence began with the Easter Uprising in 1916. Britain granted independence in 1922 creating the Irish Free State (now the Republic of Ireland). https://youtu.be/Kei29wOKq_0?si=MhXf_IzMpbi-DgBL
- Civil War broke out between the Irish Provisional Government and the Irish Republican Army from 1919-1922. The IRA seized the Four Courts building in June 1922. Irish Free State forces shelled the building for two days. A massive fire destroyed seven hundred years of Irish (British) records including chancery court records, wills, deeds, and church registers. The Irish government has spent years recreating the materials lost in the fires by digitizing fragments of surviving materials and contacting other agencies who had copies of original documents. You can view the recreated records here <https://virtualtreasury.ie>. If you want to know more about the fire and what was lost, visit: <https://virtualtreasury.ie/the-1922-fire>. FindmyPast has a detailed list of items that were lost in the Four Courts fire: www.findmypast.com/articles/irish-records-office-destruction/four-courts-destruction-what-was-lost

- After independence Six northern counties chose to remain part of Great Britain, creating Northern Ireland. The records for these counties live at the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) in Belfast.

Irish Genealogy Websites:

- Ancestry UK Edition www.ancestry.co.uk
- Ask About Ireland www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation
- British Newspaper Archive www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk
- Civil Parish/Catholic Parish link www.swilson.info/rcparishlink.php
- FamilySearch www.familysearch.org
- Find My Past www.findmypast.com \$
- General Register Office Northern Ireland <https://geni.nidirect.gov.uk/#>
- Geography Maps of Ireland <https://www.maps.ie>
- Internet Archive www.archive.org
- Irish Genealogy www.irishgenealogy.ie
- John Grenham www.johngrenham.com \$
- John Grenham Catholic Parish Map www.johngrenham.com/places/rcmap_index.php
- Landed Estate Records <https://landedestates.ie>
- National Archives of Ireland Genealogy Services
 - Genealogy Website <https://genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>
 - 1901-1911 Census Index www.nationalarchives.ie/genealogy/1901-1911-population
- National Library of Ireland catholic Parish Registers <https://registers.nli.ie>
- Ordnance Survey Ireland (modern GIS maps) <https://osi.ie>
- Place Names Database of Ireland www.logainm.ie/en
- Public Records Office of Northern Ireland www.proni.gov.uk
- Roots Ireland www.rootsireland.ie
- UK & Ireland Genealogy www.genuki.org
- Ulster Foundation <https://ulsterhistoricalfoundation.com>