

Contrary to popular belief, most of the work you will do to try to establish your immigrant's place of origin will be in "country of arrival" sources.

INFORMATION YOU SHOULD FIND OUT FROM U.S. OR CANADIAN RECORDS

You don't just want to find a Patrick Murphy, you want to find YOUR Patrick Murphy:

- Name
- Event date (birth, marriage, death)
- Event place (at least a county)
- Names of family to put them into context
 - Parents
 - Siblings
 - Spouse
- Religion, occupation, social status

Create an identity, a handprint for the ancestor. The more information you have the better.

See the *Tracing Immigrant Origins* research outline available at www.familysearch.org for further guidance and suggestions.

Background is important. You will want to know spelling variations and nicknames BEFORE you start searching for your ancestor.

- Surname:
 - O' and Mc' could be dropped from or added to your ancestor's surname.
 - As long as it is phonetically the same, it is probably your surname.
 - Use www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/surname to find spelling variations of your surname.
- Given Names: Use a Google search for variants of given names.

Maps and gazetteers also give important background information. Having a map of the area and knowing the record-keeping jurisdictions will make your search easier and more accurate.

- Place Name: Use www.seanruad.com to find spelling variations of places.
 - Fill in the county.
 - Leave everything else empty.
 - An alphabetical listing of place-names in the county will be returned.
 - Then look for a place that phonetically matches yours
 - If you still can't find your place-name, try to find it using Google.
- Maps: Use Google and the words "**Parish map County Cork**" (or whichever county you are interested in).

STRATEGY—LEAVE NO STONE UNTURNED

1. Find EVERYTHING about your ancestor's life in the country of arrival. Even events that seem extraneous may contain important clues.
2. Find everything for everyone they were related to.
3. Come forward: documents of their children may reveal Irish origins.
4. Find everything for everyone Irish that they were associated with (they may have been associated with them in the old country).

1. Find EVERYTHING about your ancestor's life in the country of arrival. CHECKLIST—Have you looked at these records?

There are many sources where you might find the place of origin when you are least expecting it. Even federal censuses occasionally give a county or town of origin.

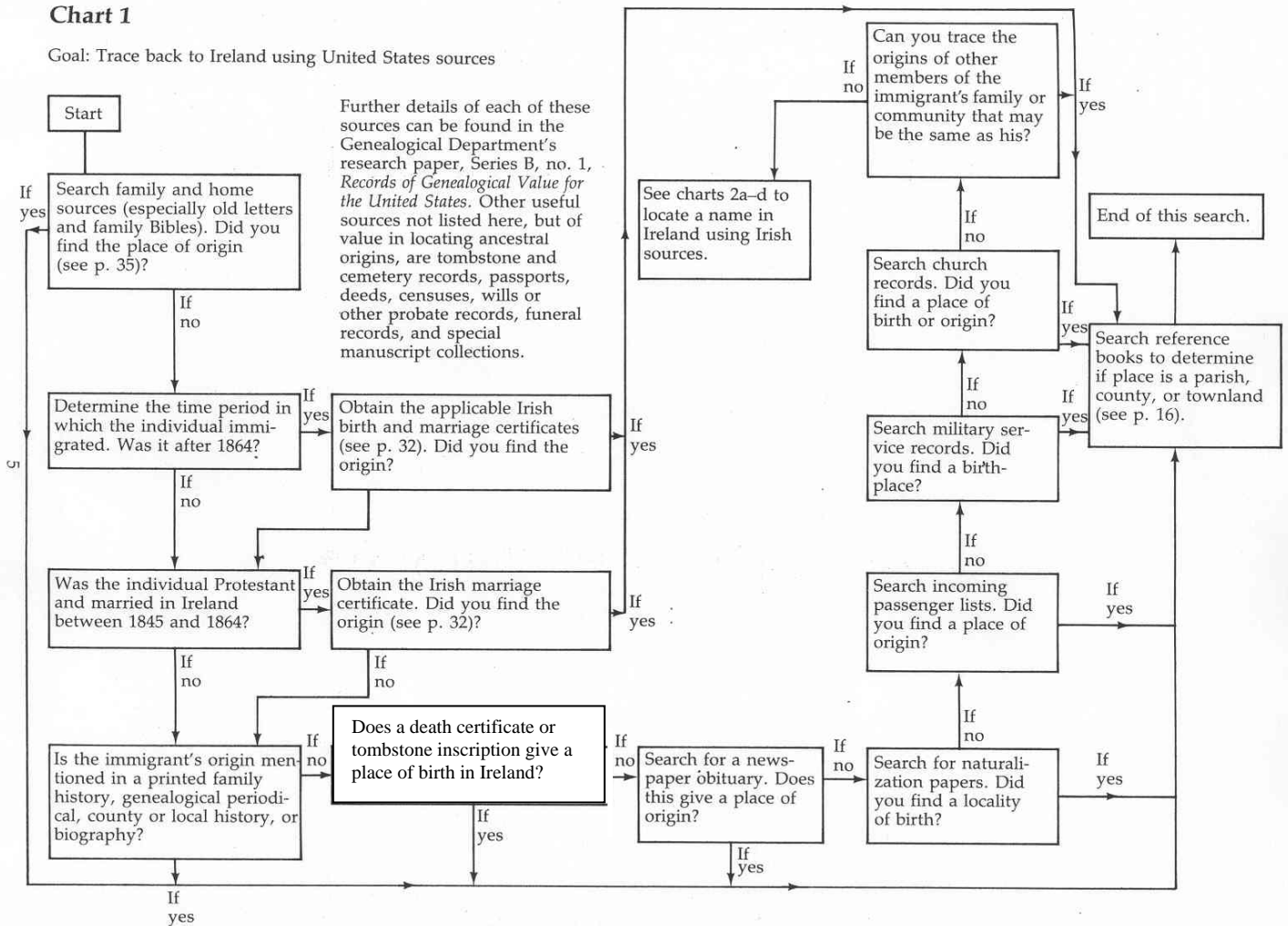
* Indicates first priority records to search, both because of ease of finding and likelihood of containing desired information.

Banking records	Insurance records
Biographies*	Land records
Business or Employment records	Military records*
Cemetery or Sexton records	Naturalization*
Census (all years they were alive!)*	Newspapers—local, trade, religious, etc.
Church records*	Obituaries or Anniversary notices*
Compiled collections	Orphanage records
County histories	Passenger lists (after 1890, these deserve an *)
Court records	Pension records
Family records*	Periodicals
Family histories	Poorhouse or Workhouse and Poor Law records
Fraternal organizations or clubs (for the Irish pay particular attention to the Freemason and Orange Lodges)	Probate records
Funeral home records	School or University records
Institutional records (such as hospital)	Social Security applications
	Tombstone Inscriptions*
	Vital records (check children of immigrant, too)*

Here is a flow chart that will help you decide where to start:

Chart 1

Goal: Trace back to Ireland using United States sources



From *A Genealogical Research Guide for Ireland*, The Genealogical Department of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Series A, no. 58, 1978, Revised 1983 (929.1 G286gs ser. A no. 58 1983).

On the above chart, even if you do have a place or if a vital event took place during the time of Irish civil registration, you will still need the names of some family members so you can make sure you have the right person. Many of the above sources that you would use to establish the place of origin are the same ones you might investigate to find out about family members and relationships.

2. Find everything for everyone they were related to.

Other family members may hold the missing clue that will help you get across the ocean. Trace everyone with the same surnames as your family.

3. Come forward: documents of their children may reveal Irish origins.

- Birth and marriage and even death certificates of children are helpful.
- Children and grandchildren may be written up in county histories. "His grandfather immigrated from County Clare, Ireland. . . ."
- Many other types of records have this potential, too.
- An Internet message board or mailing list may connect you with second or third cousins who may know more than you do.

Group or Chain Migration

- Have you ever moved somewhere just because you already had family there?
- People rarely moved to a random place—they most often went where they had family or friends.

- Tracing groups of people is easier than tracing individuals.
- With a group, you have many more chances of finding the place of origin.
- With a group, you can sometimes employ the “surname distribution” strategy.

4. Research *other* Irish people in the community (potential relatives and friends from the old country)— Cast a wider net

Most people moved to a place where they already knew someone. Catholics practiced chain migration, and Presbyterian Scots-Irish often came over in groups. Trace family, friends, and associates that you believe your ancestor may have known in the old country. Reconstructing their Irish community in the U.S. or Canada may lead to the community they came from in Ireland. With these new people to look for, you can go back to the sources mentioned on the previous pages, and one of their records may give you a place of origin. Also, you can use their surnames in the Surname Distribution Strategy.

- Others with the same surname
- Godparents and witnesses
- Anyone moving around with them
- Who purchased land near
- Neighbors (census, city directories)
- Who vouched on naturalization

Heritage Centres. If you know the county of origin and have a birth date and parents or marriage date and spouse you may be able to use the services of a heritage centre (see www.irish-roots.ie for a complete listing). They have typically indexed the extant Roman Catholic records (and sometimes other churches’ records) for their area. They can search their indexes (for a fee) for matching entries, but again, you must have more than just a name and a date. Remember that for an ancestor who was born before the mid-19th century, the parish he/she was born in may not have even been keeping church records yet. This means that the heritage centre indexes are not a complete record for a given time period. Many centres have their records posted online (see www.irish-roots.ie and select **County Centres** or go to www.brsgenealogy.com).

Surname Distribution Strategy. You may be able to use surname distribution to pinpoint a location to begin searching, particularly if you have 1) an uncommon surname or 2) surnames of two or more people that you know (or suspect) knew each other in Ireland and 3) a county. For example, if you know the surnames of the immigrant’s parents (you must know the mother’s maiden name), the assumption is that they likely lived near each other to have met and married. This can help you narrow down from the county to a parish that they were potentially from. Choose parishes that have a high concentration of BOTH surnames. (You can try this strategy even if you don’t have a county, but without the county, it often yields too many results to be helpful.) However, you must then search other records to confirm if that parish really is where they were from. Even though your ancestors might have already left Ireland, the Griffith’s Valuation is probably the best tool for this. Sources for the Tithe and Flax Growers are also listed below.

- Griffith’s Valuation—1848-1864 heads of households only, generally good coverage but not complete. Indexed in:
 - www.askaboutireland.ie (free as of Mar 2009)
 - www.irishorigins.com (\$)
 - www.ancestry.com (\$ but free at the FHL)
 - www.failteromhat.com (mostly complete and free)
 - www.irishtimes.com/ancestor/surname/
 - *Householders Index*—FHL British Book 941.5 R22i v. 1-14, FHL film 919001-919007.
- Tithe Applotment—1823-1837 heads of households only, it has been estimated that it only includes approximately 40% of heads of households. Cities and large towns were excluded. Indexed in:
 - Northern Ireland only, available on www.ancestry.com

- PRONI index to Tithe Applotment, do an Author search in the FHLC for “**PRONI**” and select the title *Tithe applotment books and indexes, for Northern Ireland, ca. 1822-1837*.
- *Householders Index*—FHL British Book 941.5 R22i v. 1-14, FHL film 919001-919007.
- Flax Growers Bounty—1796 heads of household only and very incomplete coverage. The best coverage is for Northern Ireland. Indexed on www.ancestry.com

SOME SPECIFIC SOURCES THAT MAY REVEAL A PLACE OF ORIGIN OR FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Tips for Finding Naturalization Records

Use the 1900, 1910 and 1920 U.S. Census to see what year your ancestor immigrated and if he naturalized.

- For New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont), see United States Immigration and Naturalization Service. *Index to New England Naturalization Petitions, 1791-1906*. FHL films 1429671-1429787.
- For other states, check in FHLC under “[State]-Naturalization and Citizenship” and “[State], [County]-Naturalization and Citizenship.”

If naturalized after September 27, 1906 the records are indexed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Visit www.uscis.gov/g-639 for information and to download a form to request a search for the naturalization packet of your ancestor. Provide: Full name and any aliases, country of birth, approximate date of birth, country of origin, port of entry and date, court where naturalized, and address at time of naturalization (at least the town). Not all of this information is necessary, but providing as much as you can (and any additional helpful details) will decrease the chances of getting the wrong person with the right name.

Tip for finding a cemetery transcription

Listings of volunteers for cemetery lookups-

www.findagrave.com

www.raogk.org

There are many more. . . .

Military Records:

- See Research Outline *U.S. Military Records* for many more and details on how to use them.
- National archives Microfilm Publication M860 *General Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers, Sailors, and members of Army Staff Departments*. FHL US/CAN 88284-98.
- White, Virgil D. *Genealogical Abstracts Of Revolutionary War Pension Files*. Waynesboro, Tennessee: National Historical Pub., c1995. FHL US/CAN 973 M28g v. 1-4.
- National Archives Microfilm Publication M602. *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served during the War of 1812*. FHL US/CAN 882519-752.
- White, Virgil D., comp. *Index to war of 1812 Pension Files*. FHL US/CAN 973 M22i v. 1-2.
- Most of the above records are indexed between three sites: www.ancestry.com, www.heritagequestonline.com, and www.footnote.com.

United States Passport Applications, 1795-1924—look in FHLC using a Keyword search for those terms. They are also indexed on www.ancestry.com.k

Lesser-known Sources

- World War I draft registration cards (available on www.ancestry.com)
- Passport Applications (1795-1924) (collection begins with FHL US/CAN film 1463566 Item 2)

- Voter Registration (use the Keyword search feature of the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) available at www.familysearch.org. Use the keywords “**Voter [or Voting] Registration [State].**”
- St Albans Border Crossing Records, 1895-1954. This is soundexed from 1895 to 1952. To find the entry in the FHLC, do a Keyword search using the words “**St Albans Border.**” There is a smaller set of border crossing records through Detroit. Do a Keyword search using the terms “**Detroit District manifest records.**” These include mostly people who crossed the border by train or ship.
- Index of the Canada Company Remittance Books, 1843-1847. US/CAN Book 971.3 W29g v. 1-3.
- *The Search for missing friends: Irish immigrant advertisements placed in the Boston Pilot*, Ruth-Ann M. Harris and Donald M. Jacobs, editors. Seven volumes cover 1831-1920. FHL US/CAN Ref 974.461 H29s (also in stacks). Indexed by name and place. There is a free online index and partial transcription of these books at <http://infowanted.bc.edu/>. An every-name index and a full transcript of these books are available on www.newenglandancestors.org (\$) (the FHL has a subscription to this Web site).
- Emigrant Savings Bank records, 1841-1945. (Search for this by title in the Family History Library Catalog at www.familysearch.org) To read about how to use these records, go to <http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/spe/rbk/faids/emigrant.pdf>. They are also indexed on www.ancestry.com.
- If you suspect they may have been in St John, New Brunswick around 1861, the 1861 Canadian census for Albert Ward (the only ward that 1861 census records survive for in St John) gives the townland or parish where an immigrant was from. Most of the ward was Irish. FHL film 477,561.
- *Irish relatives and friends: from “Information Wanted” ads in the Irish American, 1850-1871*, DeGrazia, Laura Murphy, (Baltimore, Maryland : Genealogical Pub. Co., 2001).
- Massachusetts 1865 State census for the Irish parts of Boston often gives county of origin. Available at <http://pilot.familysearch.org>.
- Iowa 1925 State census often gives town of origin.
- Records for Catholic priests and religious sisters and brothers often give good biographical detail. Contact the archdiocese in the U.S. or Canada for help in locating these records.

SOURCES ESPECIALLY FOR ULSTER IMMIGRATION

Guides to previously compiled genealogies:

- Check the FHLC using the Surname search and under “[**State**]-**Genealogy** or [**State**], [**County**]-**Genealogy**.”
- Check PERiodical Source Index (PERSI) on www.ancestry.com.
- DAR Patriot Index Centennial Edition DAR patriot index FHL US/CAN 973 C42da 1990.

Scots-Irish sources:

- Hanna, Charles A. *The Scotch-Irish or The Scot in North Britain, North Ireland, and North America*. FHL film 1421839 Items 15-16. Volume 2 p. 94 begins Chapter V “The Settlements Enumerated” which gives the locations of early Presbyterian settlements and congregations in the Colonies by geographic region.
- Revill, Janie. *A Compilation of the Original Lists of Protestant Immigrants to South Carolina, 1763-1773*. Columbia, S.C. : The State Co., 1939 FHL film 22819.
- Ford, Gary J. “On the First Fair Wind,” *Familia* 1992 vol. 2 no. 8, pp. 112-124 is an article about using the South Carolina Council Journals to trace Scots-Irish immigrants.
- “Home towns of Ulster Families 1691-1718” Appendix VI of *Scotch-Irish Pioneers* by Charles Knowles Bolton FHL film 847631 is an alphabetized list of early American Elders, Commissioners, etc. in the Presbyterian church giving their county or town of origin in Ireland. Sources: early American synod records, Cathedral records of Londonderry (New Hampshire) from Mr. Morrison’s History of Windham, Journal of the Association for the Preservation of Memorials of the Dead in Ireland, Ulster Journal of Archaeology.

- Draper Collection. <http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/military/draper/> There are calendars to the Draper collection for Kentucky, Tennessee, South Carolina, Virginia and other parts of the collection. Look for these in the FHLC by doing an Author search for “Draper, Lyman Copeland.”

Finding manuscript materials:

- Search the Family History Library Catalog under:
 - [State]-Genealogy [State]-Archives and Libraries
 - [State], [County]-Genealogy [State]-Archives and Libraries-Inventories, registers and [State], [County], [Town]- Genealogy catalogs

Search www.google.com

Search the National Union Catalog of Manuscript Collections <http://www.loc.gov/coll/nucmc/nucmc.html> (includes manuscript portions of OCLC and RLG for free)

Finding Early Presbyterian Ministers and their possible origins in Ireland:

- Addison, W. Innes. *The matriculation albums of the University of Glasgow from 1728-1858*. FHL film 924056 Item 1. Also by the same author, *A roll of the graduates of the University of Glasgow from 31st December, 1727 to 31st December, 1897 : with short biographical notes* FHL film 994098 Item 4.
- McConnell, James, comp., revised by Samuel G. McConnell. *Fasti of the Irish Presbyterian Church, 1613-1840*. Belfast: The Presbyterian Historical Society, [1951?]. FHL film 994080 item 5.

Sources in Ireland

- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. *Card index of names, 1990 edition, also Card index to wills in the several collections held at the Public Record Office, Belfast, 1536-1920*. To find these, do an Author search in the FHLC for the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Then go to the title as listed. Some of this index is on www.proni.gov.uk under Name search.
- Transcripts of many graveyards in Northern Ireland: www.historyfromheadstones.com (pay per transcript)
- *Belfast Newsletter* Index: www.ucs.louisiana.edu/bnl
- *Registry of Deeds, 1708-1929*. Grantor Index FHL films 100251 →
- Deputy Keeper Reports—Do a Keyword search in the FHLC for “**Deputy Keeper Reports Northern Ireland.**” These records are partially indexed on www.nra.nationalarchives.gov.uk/nra.

To discover what sources exist for your county or parish once you’ve narrowed it down to a county or parish:

Grenham, John. *Tracing your Irish Ancestors*, 3rd edition. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2006. Much of this book is on-line at www.irishtimes.com/ancestor. More of it is available as *Grenham’s Irish Record Finder* computer program located on the B2 floor.

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. *An Irish Genealogical Source Guide to Church Records*, (Belfast : Ulster Historical Foundation on behalf of [the] Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, 1994).

For a great bibliography and more help:

http://scripts.ireland.com/ancestor/magazine/articles/iha_scotsus1.htm *The Irish At Home and Abroad* journal of Irish genealogy and heritage (volume 2 #1, 1994/1995).

Remember, you want to build your case first in the country they came to. You will then have an easier time identifying the right family in Ireland.

ONCE YOU THINK YOU'VE FOUND WHERE THEY CAME FROM

Try to disprove the connection. For example, you find a birth in Ireland of someone who you think is your immigrant. You know your immigrant was in the 1850 U.S. census. You search more in the Irish records and discover your immigrant died in Ireland in 1845.

- Look in Griffith's Valuation, subsequent Valuation Revision Lists, the 1901 Irish census or other pertinent sources to make sure the potential family is not still in Ireland.
- Make sure the puzzle pieces fit together.

HISTORY IS IMPORTANT!

- Does your family fit larger patterns that might help you?
- Watch for spelling variations of surname and given names, also beware of nicknames!
- Passenger lists don't begin in the U.S. until 1820, in Canada until 1865, and in Great Britain until 1890. U.S. lists rarely give town of origin until the 1890s.

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