

Using the Internet for...

Family History



Using the Internet for... Family History

by John Fitzgibbon, Galway City and County Library, 2013.

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Introduction

If you are of Irish descent, it is possible to use the Internet to carry out extensive research on your family tree. This is a brief guide to help you get started. It will provide you with an overview of the online family history resources and will illustrate a number of worked examples of searching through some of the most important records online. A more comprehensive list of online records beyond those referred to in this guide is available in the appendix.

While most of the websites referred to in this guide are freely accessible, some do operate on subscription basis and require payment. These will be noted as they are mentioned in the guide.

The difficulty with compiling such a guide is to decide what to omit as it is not possible to include everything. We hope that we have included the most useful sites for general family research, but we do realize that as all family histories are different, there will be a few controversial omissions.

Need to Know

A basic familiarity with the Internet and computer is required.

When researching your family history in Ireland, the minimum you'll need to know is the county of origin of your ancestor(s). However, to use the surviving records most effectively, the single most useful piece of information is the townland where your ancestor lived as the vast majority of the pre-1800s records are location-specific.

Need to Have

- Access to a computer/ tablet
- Access to the Internet
- Email address to register with subscription websites
- Credit card for payment in the case of subscription sites
- A least one Irish ancestor!

Related Guides

Internet Basics is recommended for users who are not familiar with the Internet, search engines, the browser software, etc.

Quick Guide

This guide concentrates on web resources available to help you with your family research. There is also a useful article on the Ask about Ireland website which is not restricted to web resources:

www.askaboutireland.ie/reading-room/history-heritage/irish-genealogy/irish-genealogy/

The following are some of the key online resources for family history research.

General Register Office records (from 1845 onwards)

Civil registration for Church of Ireland marriages began in 1845 and for all births, deaths and marriages in 1864. All document records available at the GRO offices in the Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street are listed on the website <http://www.groireland.ie/research.htm>.

A proportion of the original General Register Office records are available for free at www.familysearch.org. This is a work in progress and does not include all records.

Waterford death registers 1864-1901 are searchable online at www.waterfordcountylibrary.ie and partial transcripts for Cork are available at www.sci.net.au/userpages/mgrogan/cork.

Census

From 1821, and every ten years thereafter, a census of the Irish population was recorded. However, the earliest surviving census covering the whole of Ireland is that of 1901, primarily due to the destruction of documents in the Public Record Office in 1922. Before this date, only fragments of national censuses from 1821 onwards, local censuses and census substitutes exist. The censuses of 1901 and 1911 are available on the National Archives website at <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie> and are a great source of information for family history.

Property records

Tithe Applotment Books (1823 - 1837)

The tithe was a tax paid by the occupiers of land to the Church of Ireland. It was a tax that was deeply resented by the majority of the population who were not members of this church. For the purposes of collecting this tax, the Tithe Applotment Books were compiled between 1823 and 1837. These list the occupiers of land holdings in rural parishes. They are available at www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie.

Griffith's Land Valuation (1847 - 1864)

Griffith's Valuation is the Primary Valuation of Ireland, a property tax survey carried out in the mid-nineteenth century under the supervision of Sir Richard Griffith. The survey involved the detailed valuation of every taxable piece of agricultural land or built property in Ireland and was published county-by-county between 1847 and 1864. This was then used as the basis for local taxation, right up to the 1970s.

Griffith's Valuation compiles a register of everyone who was eligible to pay property tax i.e. heads of households. It includes details of the immediate lessor, tenants, type of property rented, the given value, and map references to each property listed.

Unfortunately, unlike a census, Griffith's Valuation does not include details of spouses, children or servants. However, as a result of the destruction of the census returns in Public Record Office in 1922, Griffith's Valuation is the only comprehensive mid-nineteenth century census substitute. It is available for free on the Ask about Ireland website at www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml.

Church records

Irish Genealogy www.irishgenealogy.ie is a free site that has Roman Catholic record transcripts for Carlow, South and West Cork, Cork City, Dublin city and Kerry and Church of Ireland records for Carlow, Kerry and Dublin city. It contains most (but not all) of the areas not included in the subscription website www.rootsireland.com.

Original copies of church records are held by each parish.

Other records

Migration records

United States

<http://www.castlegarden.org>

Castle Garden was America's first official immigration centre and was in use from 1855 to 1890. The site has eleven million records. It was superseded as the official immigration centre by Ellis Island in 1892.

<http://www.ellisland.org>

The Ellis Island Records website lists people who emigrated to the United States and who passed through Ellis Island between the years 1892 and 1924.

Australia

The National Archives of Ireland Transportation Records Database is a searchable database of records relating to convicts transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868 inclusive. The practice of transporting convicts to Australia was discontinued in 1850, but was resumed in 1867 when people convicted of taking part in the Fenian Rising of that year were transported. Its web address is <http://findingaids.nationalarchives.ie>.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Debt of Honour List is a searchable database of all soldiers in Commonwealth countries who died during the two World Wars. It is estimated that 35,000 Irish people were killed in the First World War while serving in the British army (https://www.tcd.ie/visitors/Fusiliers/DUBFUS/DUBFUS/RDFA/HTML/rdfa_top.htm, 5 June, 2013). Its web address is <http://www.cwgc.org>.

Gravestone inscriptions

A large numbers of volunteer-contributed graveyard transcripts are available at www.interment.net/ireland. Most graveyards are not completely transcribed.

History from the Headstones is paying site with inscriptions from 800 graveyards in Northern Ireland.

www.historyfromheadstones.com

Irish Family Research is a subscription site with transcripts of the publications of the Association for the Preservation of the Memorials of the Dead in Ireland

www.irishfamilyresearch.co.uk

Before You Get Started

A note on names

When researching your family history, try not to place too much importance on the spelling of any of the surnames in your family tree. Although variation in spelling differentiates branches of families today, before the 20th century this was much less significant and wide variations in spelling occurs across records.

A note on locations

Townland

A townland is the smallest administrative unit in Ireland. It is an old Gaelic subdivision which predates the Norman invasion of 1169. As stated above, the single most useful piece of information in genealogical research is a specific location, so if you can find out the name of the townland where your ancestor lived it will make your research much easier. This is particularly true if the family name is a common one as it is likely that it will occur many times in any given county or parish.

The townlands of Ireland are listed and displayed on a map at <http://maps.osi.ie>.

Parish

The next biggest unit is the parish, and this is a potential source of confusion. There are broadly speaking, two types of parish. There are ecclesiastical parishes which are run by the different churches e.g. Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland etc, and there are civil parishes. The civil parishes pre-date the Reformation in Ireland and were sometimes used by the British authorities in Ireland e.g. for the purposes of taxation in Griffith's Valuation and the Tithe Applotment Books, resources which will be discussed later in this booklet. Initially, the Church of Ireland parishes were based on these pre-reformation parishes, but after the disestablishment of the Church of Ireland in 1869, the boundaries of its parishes could be altered without affecting the boundaries of the civil parish on which it was based.

In a great many cases the Roman Catholic parish, the Church of Ireland parish, and the civil parish in which a townland is located bear the same name. However, be aware that this is not always the case and the church parish may have a different name to the corresponding civil parish e.g. in Griffith's Valuation or the Tithe Applotment Books.

If you find a record where the person provided a parish name as his or her parish of origin, this is generally a church parish.

Throughout this booklet when the word parish is used, the type of parish will always be specified.

Barony

Parishes (both civil and church) are grouped into baronies.

County

Baronies are grouped into counties.

Union

A union was the most basic administrative unit of the Poor Law system, which was introduced in 1838. Initially the country was divided into 130 Unions but this grew to a total 163 after the Famine.

District Electoral Divisions

District Electoral Divisions are used in the 1901 and 1911 Census. These are groups of townlands. It is not necessary to know the DED to search each census. It is possible to search by family name.

Registration District

Finally, the Registration District is used in the civil registrations of births, marriages and deaths. Civil registration began in Ireland in 1864. It is unlikely that you will know the registration district, but it is relatively easy to find out this information, and then use it in subsequent searches. You will see how to do this later in the booklet.

Births, marriages and deaths

In general, the start date for the relevant parish registers marks the limit for the most accessible family records. This varies across the country from the late 1700s in Dublin to the 1850s in the west.

Civil registration for Church of Ireland marriages began in 1845 and for all births, deaths and marriages in 1864. The Roman Catholic Church, in the case of most parishes, began registering baptisms and marriages from the 1840s. In the case of some RC parishes you will find there are earlier records. The Church of Ireland began recording baptisms and marriages from the 1790s.

For some of your ancestors, there will only be church records available. In cases where both types of record are available, one should not be seen as a substitute for the other. For example, a baptismal record lists godparents or sponsors. This provides information on relatives which is not available on the civil birth record.

On the other hand, in the case of a civil marriage record, the first name, family name and townland of the father of each party is given. Frequently, in the case of the church marriage record, only the family name of each father is provided.

Genealogy Software

Before researching your family tree, it is a good idea to consider how you will store, display and share the information that you will gather. For several reasons, it is better to compile this information on a computer using special genealogy software.

We will look at two genealogy software programs that you can use in the next section, but first a quick word about one important requirement that such a program should have.

There are several free software programs which you can use, but whichever one you choose, you should ensure it is an open system. Open system means that you can easily extract data from, and import data into the system. This is important because, if at some point in the future, your program stops working and a new version is unavailable, you will be able to easily move your data to a new genealogy software package.

In the case of genealogy programs, this effectively means it is capable of reading and saving files in the GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communication) format. GEDCOM is an open standard developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and most genealogy software can read and save files in this format.

Two very popular genealogy software programs, which both support GEDCOM files, are:

- **Legacy:** available from <http://www.legacy.com>
- **Roots Magic:** available from <http://www.rootsmagic.com>

Step-by-Step

Basic steps

Each person's family history is different, but as a general rule, start from what you know and work backwards to trace your family. It is almost impossible to start with a historical family and try to find a connection to your own.

The most common sequence of steps to researching your family history is as follows.

1. **Family:** Learn as much as you can from members of your family on ancestors' names, counties, parishes and townlands where they lived. This will make your search a lot easier.
2. **General Register Office Records:** use the state records of births, marriages and deaths to confirm your family research and extract all information from the certificates.
3. **Census:** the 1901 and 1911 census provide a great insight into the household, including; ages, occupations, counties of birth. The 1911 census also records the number of years married.
4. **General Register Office Records:** use information learned to search through the records again.
5. **Property Records:** Search Griffith's Valuation (1847-1864) on the Ask about Ireland website with information learned from the GRO. This is the only comprehensive mid-nineteenth century census substitute.
6. **Parish records:** one of the only sources of direct family information before the introduction of civil registration in 1864.
7. **All other records:** there are numerous potentially relevant resources for particular areas or circumstances - directories, occupational records, tenants' lists, gravestones, military...etc.

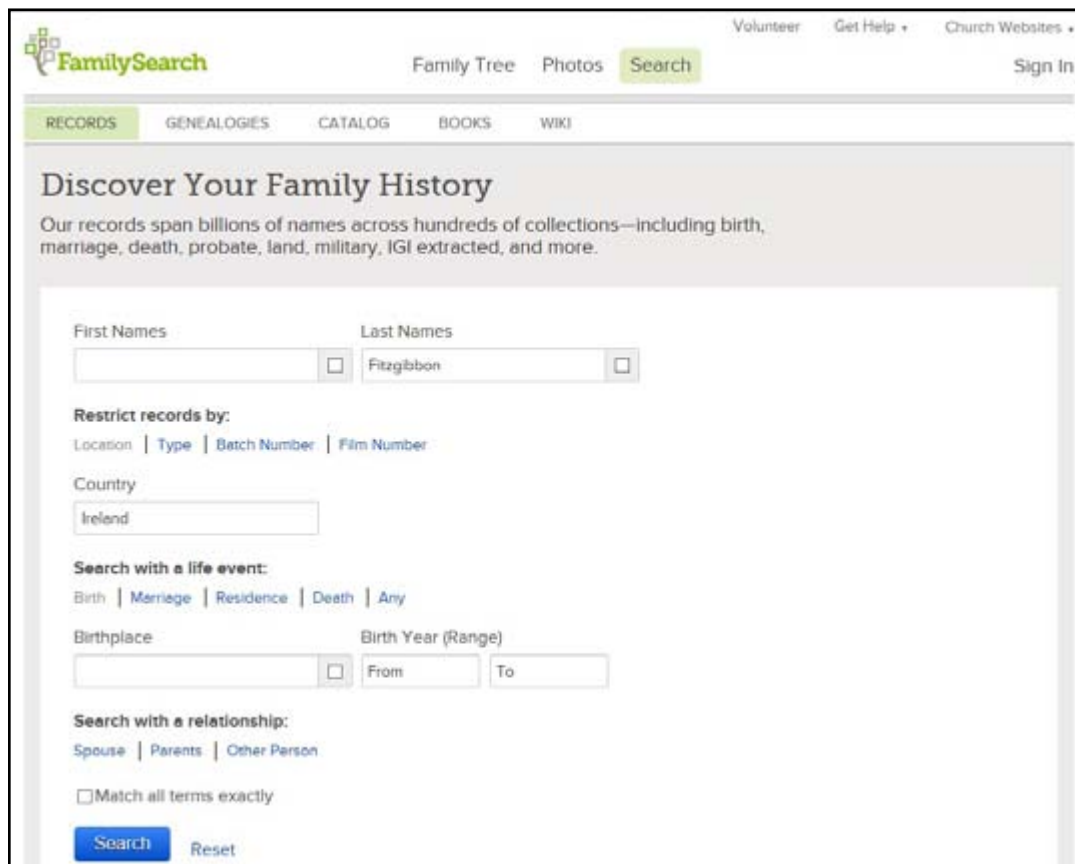
Worked Example 1: General Register Office (GRO) Records

Family Search

Website: <http://www.familysearch.org>

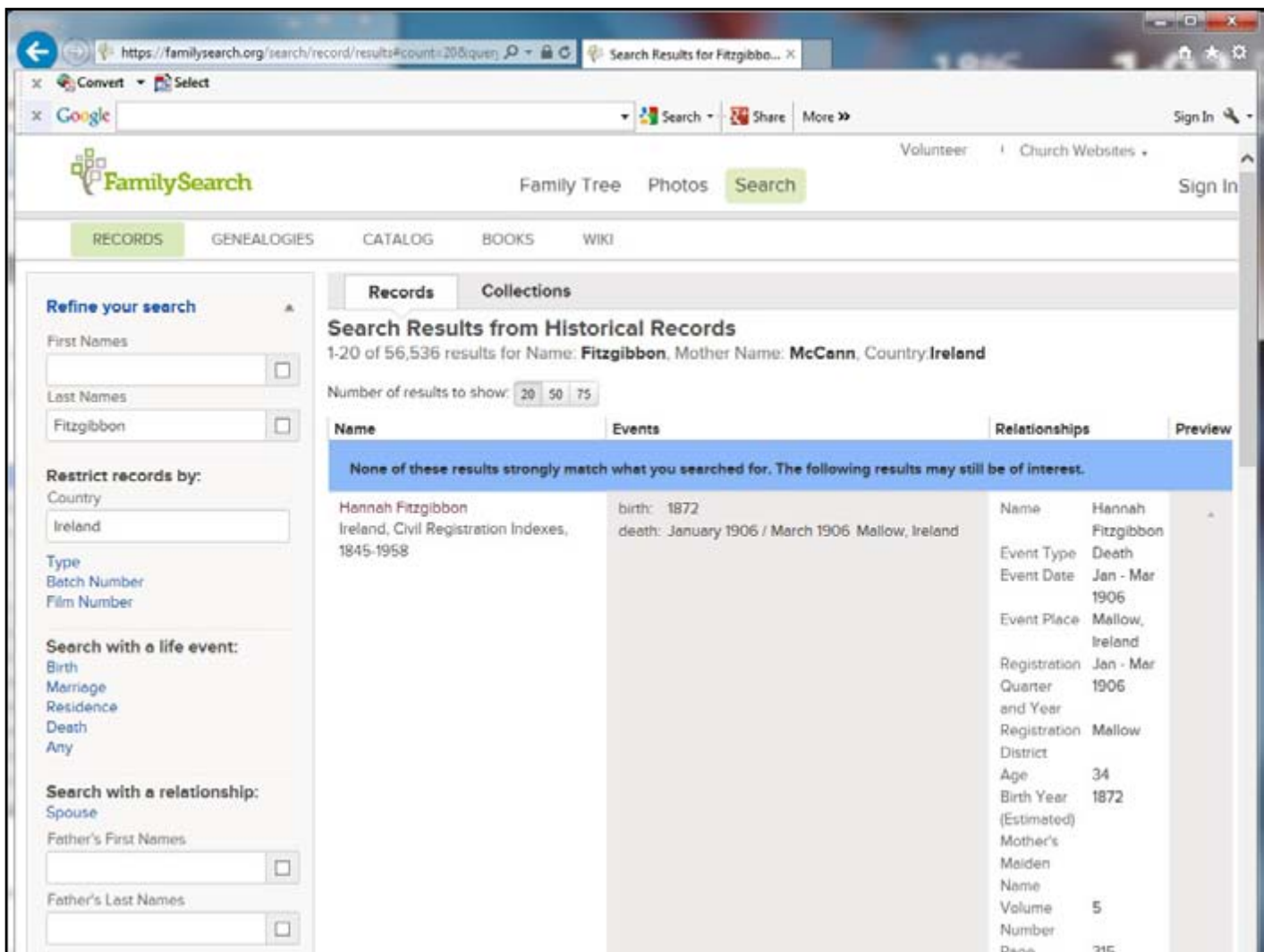
How do I search it?

1. Type your ancestor's last name into the appropriate textbox.
2. As Family Search includes a large number of American records, unless your family name is an unusual one, it is a good idea to restrict your search to Ireland by typing the word 'Ireland' in the textbox labelled 'country'.
3. Click the 'search' button at the end of the page.



The screenshot shows the FamilySearch website's search interface. At the top, there are navigation links: Volunteer, Get Help, Church Websites, and Sign In. Below these are tabs for Family Tree, Photos, and Search (which is highlighted). The main heading is "Discover Your Family History" with a subtext: "Our records span billions of names across hundreds of collections—including birth, marriage, death, probate, land, military, IGI extracted, and more." The search form includes fields for First Names and Last Names (with "Fitzgibbon" entered). Below these are options to restrict records by Location, Type, Batch Number, and Film Number. The Country field is set to "Ireland". There are also options to search by life event (Birth, Marriage, Residence, Death, Any) and birthplace/birth year range. At the bottom, there are options to search by relationship (Spouse, Parents, Other Person) and a checkbox for "Match all terms exactly". The Search and Reset buttons are at the bottom of the form.

Search page on familysearch.org



The screenshot shows the FamilySearch.org search results page. The browser address bar displays the URL: <https://familysearch.org/search/record/results#count=20&query=&search=1845-1958>. The page title is "Search Results for Fitzgibbon...". The search results are for the name "Fitzgibbon" with a mother name of "McCann" and country of "Ireland". The search results show 1-20 of 56,536 results. The search criteria are: First Names: [empty], Last Names: Fitzgibbon, Country: Ireland, Type: [empty], Batch Number: [empty], Film Number: [empty]. The search results are displayed in a table with columns: Name, Events, Relationships, and Preview. The first result is for Hannah Fitzgibbon, born 1872, died January 1906 / March 1906, Mallow, Ireland, 1845-1958. The Relationships column shows: Name: Hannah Fitzgibbon, Event Type: Death, Event Date: Jan - Mar 1906, Event Place: Mallow, Ireland, Registration Quarter: Jan - Mar 1906, Registration District: Mallow, Age: 34, Birth Year: 1872 (Estimated), Mother's Maiden Name: [empty], Volume: 5, Number: [empty], Page: 315.

Results page of familysearch.org

4. When your results appear, you can click on the down arrow to the right of each record to view more information.
5. You have an option to refine your search by selecting certain criteria listed on the left of the page. For example, you can search for all children born to a woman with a particular family name.
6. Take note of the registration district in the individual record, in the example above this is Mallow. You can use this to search for registration details for your family name.

Roots Ireland

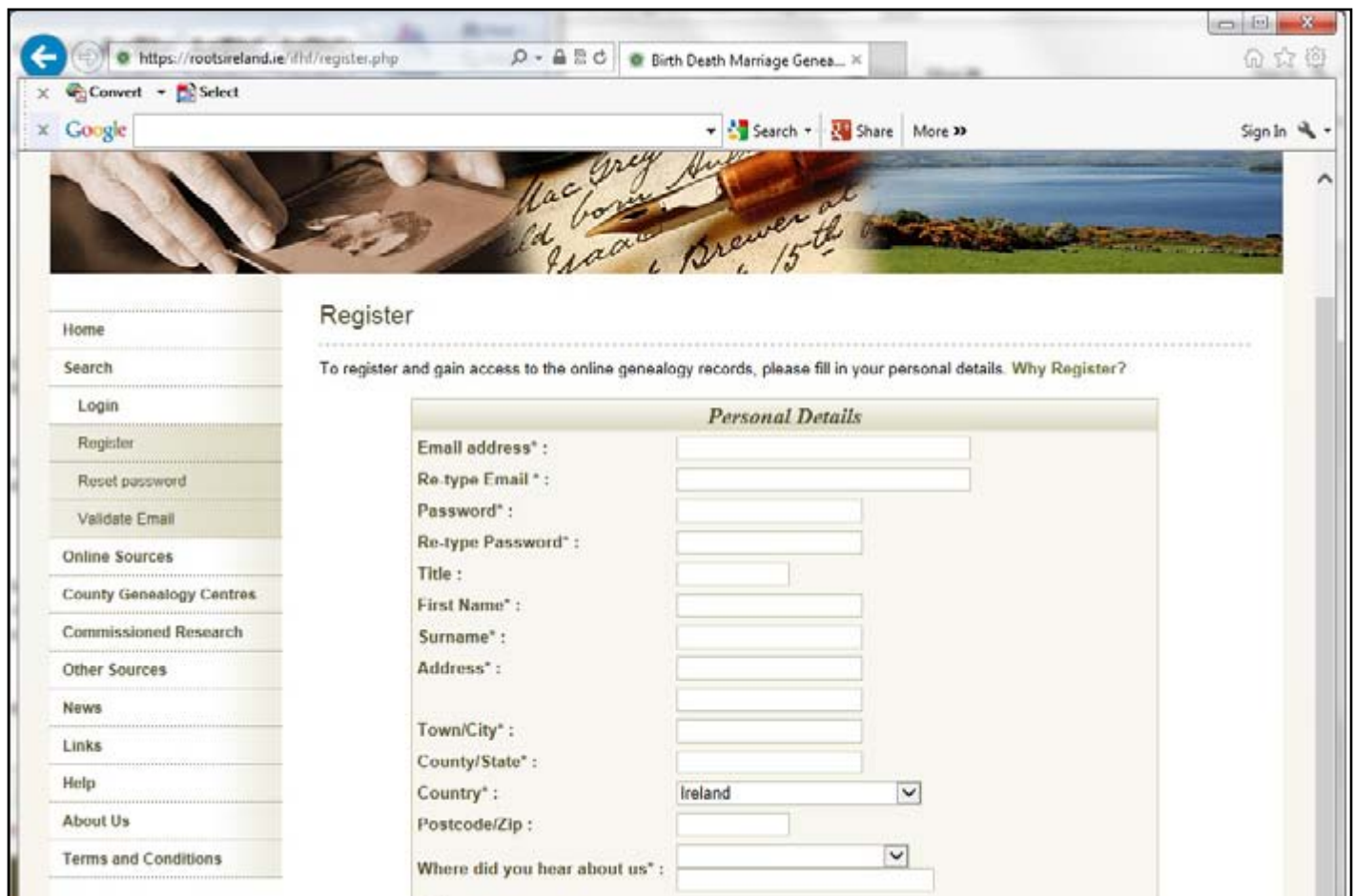
Website: <http://www.rootsireland.ie/>

Roots Ireland is a subscription website. You will need to register with the site and purchase site credits to view the records.

Among other records, Roots Ireland allows you to search within a parish (Roman Catholic or Church of Ireland) or within a civil registration district.

How do I search it?

1. Register with the website by clicking on the 'login' button on the left-hand menu. When you have entered your details, you will receive a confirmation email. Click on the link provided in this email to complete your registration.

A screenshot of the Roots Ireland website's registration page. The browser address bar shows 'https://rootsireland.ie/idd/register.php'. The page features a header banner with a historical document and a landscape. On the left is a vertical menu with links: Home, Search, Login, Register, Reset password, Validate Email, Online Sources, County Genealogy Centres, Commissioned Research, Other Sources, News, Links, Help, About Us, and Terms and Conditions. The main content area is titled 'Register' and includes the text 'To register and gain access to the online genealogy records, please fill in your personal details. Why Register?'. Below this is a 'Personal Details' form with the following fields: Email address*, Re-type Email*, Password*, Re-type Password*, Title, First Name*, Surname*, Address* (with three stacked input boxes), Town/City*, County/State*, Country* (a dropdown menu currently showing 'Ireland'), Postcode/Zip*, and Where did you hear about us* (a dropdown menu).

Personal Details	
Email address* :	<input type="text"/>
Re-type Email* :	<input type="text"/>
Password* :	<input type="password"/>
Re-type Password* :	<input type="password"/>
Title :	<input type="text"/>
First Name* :	<input type="text"/>
Surname* :	<input type="text"/>
Address* :	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
Town/City* :	<input type="text"/>
County/State* :	<input type="text"/>
Country* :	<input type="text" value="Ireland"/>
Postcode/Zip :	<input type="text"/>
Where did you hear about us* :	<input type="text"/>

Registration page of rootsireland.ie



Search the Irish Genealogy Records Databases

Search for your Ancestors

Surname:

Firstname:

Year:

Count of search results for

List of databases that are searchable		No. of Records
<input type="button" value="View"/>	Baptismal/Birth Records for Ireland	9,118,990
<input type="button" value="View"/>	Marriage Records for Ireland	4,473,278
<input type="button" value="View"/>	Burial/Death Records for Ireland	1,675,059
<input type="button" value="View"/>	Census Records for Ireland	2,804,321

Search page of rootsireland.ie

2. Type the surname and first name into the appropriate textboxes on the search page and click the search button. The search example we will use is for Bridget Fitzgibbon.
3. Your results will list the number of records matching this name in each database available on Roots Ireland.
4. Choose the type of record you are searching from in the list provided. In our example, we are looking for birth records.
5. On the results screen, you can refine your search by county. We will refine this search to Limerick only.
6. Select the record you are interested in viewing. If you do not have enough credits to view the record, you will be prompted to purchase credits.

Church Baptism Record for: Bridget Fitzgibbon

Church Baptism Record			
Name:	Bridget Fitzgibbon	Date of Baptism / Birth:	15/05/1870
Address:		Parish / District:	FEENAGH & KILMEEDY
Gender:	Unknown	County:	Co. Limerick
		Denomination:	Roman Catholic
Father:	Edmd. Fitzgibbon	Mother:	Cath. McCann
Occupation:			
Sponsor 1 / Informant 1:	John McCann	Sponsor 2 / Informant 2:	Jna. McCann
Notes:			
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 40px; width: 100%;"></div>			

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 Limerick Genealogy, Lissanalla House, Dooradoyle Road, Dooradoyle, Co. Limerick. Tel: +353 (0) 61 496542 Email: research@limerickgenealogy.com

Baptism record obtained from rootsireland.ie

6. Use information from one record to source further records relevant to your family history. From the above birth record, we can see that 'Sponser 2' is for Johanna (Jna on the Church Baptism Record) McCann.

7. Search Roots Ireland for records of Johanna McCann. The website retrieves a church marriage certificate to James Naughton for 1873. A civil marriage record was also found. The civil record supplies some information which is not available on the church record which is why it is a good idea not to treat one type of record as a substitute for the other.



Church Marriage Record

Date of Marriage: 23-Feb-1873

Parish / District: FEENAGH & KILMEEDY

County: Co. Limerick

Husband

Wife

Name: James Naughton

Johanna McCann

Address:

Denomination: Roman Catholic

Roman Catholic

Occupation:

Age:

Status:

Husband's Father

Wife's Father

Name: Naughton

McCann

Address:

Denomination:

Occupation:

Husband's Mother

Wife's Mother

Name:

Address:

Denomination:

Occupation:

Witness 1

Witness 2

Name: Edmund Naughton

Maria Flynn

Notes:

www.rootsireland.ie

Church marriage record obtained from rootsireland.ie



Civil Marriage Record

Date of Marriage: 23-Feb-1873

Parish / District: FEENAGH

County: Co. Limerick

Husband

Wife

Name: James Naughton

Johannah McCann

Address: Ballinroan

Ballinroan

Denomination: Civil Record

Civil Record

Occupation: FARMER & MASON

DO.

Age: 28

21

Status: Bachelor (Previously unmarried)

Spinster (Previously unmarried)

Husband's Father

Wife's Father

Name: Edmond Naughton

Patt McCann

Address:

Denomination:

Occupation: FARMER & MASON (ALIVE)

FARMER (ALIVE)

Husband's Mother

Wife's Mother

Name:

Address:

Denomination:

Occupation:

Witness 1

Witness 2

Name: Edmond Naughton

Mary Flynn

Notes:

KILMEEDY RC CHURCH

www.rootsireland.ie

Civil marriage record obtained from rootsireland.ie

Final note on GRO records

Most civil records are available online, but not all. Copies of records can be acquired by contacting the General Register Office at <http://www.groireland.ie>. There is a charge for a search and for a photocopy of a civil record. You can search a range of years, in person, by visiting their research centre at Irish Life Centre, Abbey Street, Dublin. You can pay a fee to search for the duration of a day.

Even if the record is available on the Roots Ireland website, obtaining a photocopy of the civil record allows you to check that Roots Ireland transcribed the information correctly. The handwriting can be difficult to read, and errors can be made.

1841. Marriage solemnized at the Roman Catholic Chapel of <u>Belmullet</u> in the Registrar's District of <u>Slough</u> in the Union of <u>St. Lawrence</u> in the County of <u>Dublin</u>								
No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
146	25 February 1873	James Knighton	20	Single	Labourer	St. Lawrence	James Knighton	Labourer
		Johnnie McNamee	21	Single	Do	Do	John McNamee	Labourer

Married in the Roman Catholic Chapel of Belmullet according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Roman Catholic Church, by me, Johnnie McNamee

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { James Knighton } in the Presence of us, { Johnnie McNamee }

Photocopy of civil record obtained from the General Register Office
via <http://www.groireland.ie>

Worked Example 2: Census Records 1901 & 1911

Website: <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>

The two earliest surviving censuses covering the whole of Ireland are those of 1901 and 1911.

How do I search them?

1901 Census

Direct link: <http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/>

1. From the tabs at the top of the census homepage, select 'Search Census'. This will bring you to the page below.
2. Select the census year from the dropdown menu. Enter the surname and as many other details as possible to refine your search. In our example, we will search for the family name Barrett in a townland called Knockglass, County Limerick.

The screenshot shows the 'Search' page of the National Archives of Ireland census website. The browser window title is 'National Archives: Census of Ireland 1911 - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Comhairle Chuntae na Gaillimhe'. The address bar shows 'http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/search/'. The page has a blue header with the National Archives of Ireland logo and navigation links: GENEALOGY, Home, Search Census, Early 20th century Ireland, Browse Census, and How to Search. The main content area features a search form with the following fields: Census year (dropdown menu set to 1901), Surname (text box with 'barrett'), Forename (text box), County (dropdown menu set to Limerick), Townland/street (text box with 'knockglass'), DED (text box), Age + or - 5 years (text box), and Sex (dropdown menu set to Both). There is a 'Search' button and a checkbox for 'Exact matches only'. To the right of the search form is a 'Browse' section with a 'Browse by place' link and a description: 'You can also search the census records by place, and view your ancestors' neighbors, or get information about the place they lived in.' Below this is a link 'Click here for help with browsing'. Further down are logos for 'Certificate of Birth Record', 'Jump into Ireland', and 'Gathering Ireland'. At the bottom is a 'Help with searching' section with the question 'What information does the census contain?' and a list of links: 'What information does the census contain?', 'Person search', 'Location search', and 'Age'.

Search page of the 1901 & 1911 census

3. As you can see from the results screen below, a large amount of relevant information is available: age, relation to head of households, religion, birthplace, occupation, literacy, language, marital status, illness.

National Archives: Census of Ireland 1911 - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Comhairle Chontae na Gallimhe

http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie/pages/1901/Limerick/Boola/Knockglass/130898

chives of Ireland

Home Search Census Early 20th century Ireland Browse Census How to Search

Census Years / 1901 / Limerick / Boola / Knockglass / Residents of a house

Residents of a house 12 in Knockglass (Boola, Limerick)

☒ Show all information

Surname	Forename	Age	Sex	Relation to head	Religion	Birthplace	Occupation	Literacy	Irish Language	Marital Status	Specified II
Barrett	James	45	Male	Husband	R Catholic	Co Limerick	Farmer	Read and write	-	Married	-
Barrett	Eliza	43	Female	Wife	R Catholic	Co Limerick	-	Read and write	-	Married	-
Barrett	Ellie	24	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Limerick	Farmer's Daughter	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Barrett	Mary	22	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Limerick	Farmers Daughter	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Barrett	James	20	Male	Son	R Catholic	Co Limerick	Farmer's Son	Read and write	-	Not Married	-
Barrett	Bridget	15	Female	Daughter	R Catholic	Co Limerick	Scholar	Read and write	-	Not Married	-

[Report any error in transcription](#)

[View census images](#)

Household Return (Form A)

You will need Adobe Acrobat Reader to view the images.

[Get Acrobat](#)

Search results of the 1901 Census

4. Take note of the District Electoral District (DED). This is listed in brackets at the top of the record - in this case, it is Boola. Information such as this may be useful for later research.

5. You can also view the form filled out by the head of the household. Seeing the person's handwriting adds another dimension to research!

6. You can now use the knowledge that Knockglass townland is in Boola DED to browse the census and see a list of everyone who lived in Knockglass at that time. Click on 'Browse the Census', then choose a census - 1901 or 1911.
7. Select Limerick (county) you will be presented with a choice of DEDs - select Boola.
8. On the next page, select the townland of Knockglass and you will be able to see a list of everyone who lived at Knockglass in 1901.



The screenshot shows the National Archives of Ireland website. The header includes the logo and the text 'The National Archives of Ireland'. Below the header is a navigation bar with links: GENEALOGY, Home, Search Census, Early 20th century Ireland, Browse Census, and How to Search. The main content area displays a breadcrumb trail: [Census Years](#) / [1901](#) / [Limerick](#) / [Boola](#) / [Boola](#) / . Below this is the title 'Houses in Boola (Boola, Limerick)'. A table lists the houses and their occupants.

House Number	Surnames in House	Details
2	Foley	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
3	Sullivan	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
4	Donegan	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
5	Browne	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
5	OCallaghan	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
5	Stokes	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
6	Sullivan	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
7	Donoghue	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
8	Delee	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
8	Mc Mahon	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
9	Sullivan	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
10	Murphy	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
10	Sullivan	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)
11	Kelleher	View occupants or original census form (as a PDF)

List of houses in Boola from the 1911 Census

CENSUS OF IRELAND, 1901.
(Two Examples of the mode of filling up this Table are given on the other side.)

FORM A.

No. on Form B. 12

Return of the MEMBERS of this FAMILY and their VISITORS, BOARDERS, SERVANTS, &c., who slept or abode in this House on the night of SUNDAY, the 31st of MARCH, 1901.

No.	NAME and SURNAME.		RELATION to Head of Family.	RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.	EDUCATION.	AGE.	SEX.	RANK, PROFESSION, OR OCCUPATION.	MARRIAGE.	WHERE BORN.	IRISH LANGUAGE.	If Dead and Death: Date only; Place, or Date, or Cause.
	Christian Name.	Surname.										
1	James	Barrett	Head	Catholic	Head and wife	45	M	Farmer	Married	Co. Limerick		
2	Eliza	Barrett	Wife	Catholic	Head's wife	43	F		Married	Co. Limerick		
3	Eliza	Barrett	Daughter	Catholic	Head's daughter	24	F	Farmer's Daughter	Not Married	Co. Limerick		
4	Mary	Barrett	Daughter	Catholic	Head's daughter	22	F	Farmer's Daughter	Not Married	Co. Limerick		
5	James	Barrett	Son	Catholic	Head's son	20	M	Farmer's Son	Not Married	Co. Limerick		
6	Elizabeth	Barrett	Daughter	Catholic	Head's daughter	18	F	Scholar	Not Married	Co. Limerick		
7												
8												
9												
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												

I hereby certify, as required by the Act 63 Vic., cap. 6, s. 6 (1), that the foregoing Return is correct, according to the best of my knowledge and belief.

James M. Barry, Esq. (Signature of Enumerator.)

I believe the foregoing to be a true Return.

James Barrett (Signature of Head of Family.)

Example of 1901 census return

1911 Census

You can search the 1911 census in the same way as the 1901 example above. The 1911 census contains some additional information not available in 1901, including: number of years married, number of children born, number of children living.

Worked Example 3:

Property Records

Griffith's Valuation (1847-1864)

Website: <http://askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml>

Griffith's Valuation is the Primary Valuation of Ireland. As a result of the destruction of the census returns in Public Record Office in 1922, Griffith's Valuation is the only comprehensive mid-nineteenth century census substitute.

How do I search it?

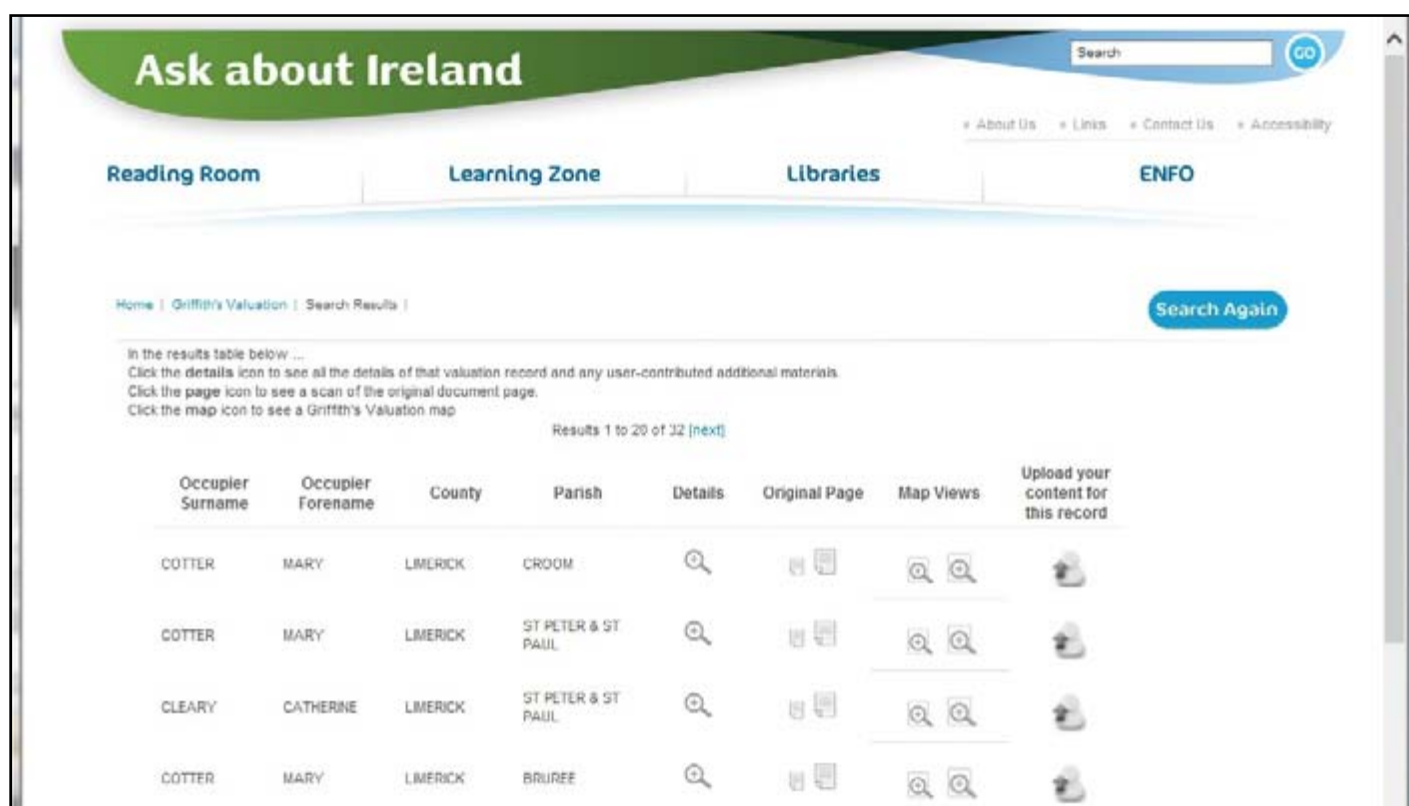
There are two types of searches available on Griffith's Valuation - Family Name and Place Name.

The screenshot shows the Griffith's Valuation homepage. The browser address bar displays the URL <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=name>. The page has a green header with the text "Ask about Ireland" and a search bar. Below the header are navigation links: "Reading Room", "Learning Zone", "Libraries", and "ENFO". A large blue banner titled "Griffith's Valuation" contains a map and text: "The Primary Valuation was the first full-scale valuation of property in Ireland. It was overseen by Richard Griffith and published between 1847 and 1864. It is one of the most important surviving 19th century genealogical sources." Below the banner, there are links: "Home | Griffith's Valuation", "Family Name Search", "Place Name Search", "Name Books Search", "Search Tips", "Upload", "About GV Maps", and "Read More". The search form is divided into two steps: "Step 1 - Mandatory" and "Step 2 - Optional". Step 1 includes a text input field for "Family Name" (with "Cotter" entered) and a checkbox for "include similar names". Step 2 includes dropdown menus for "County" (with "LIMERICK" selected), "Barony", "Union", and "Parish". A "Search" button is located at the bottom right of the form.

Griffith's Valuation homepage

Family Name Search

1. Select 'Family Name Search' from the Griffith's Valuation homepage.
2. Type the family name into the searchbox. If you are unsure of the spelling, select the box 'Include similar names'. In this example, we will search for Cotter in Co Limerick.
3. Fill in as much extra detail as possible on county, barony, union and parish. This will help to refine your search.



Ask about Ireland

Search GO

• About Us • Links • Contact Us • Accessibility

Reading Room Learning Zone Libraries ENFO

Home | Griffith's Valuation | Search Results | [Search Again](#)

In the results table below ...
 Click the details icon to see all the details of that valuation record and any user-contributed additional materials.
 Click the page icon to see a scan of the original document page.
 Click the map icon to see a Griffith's Valuation map

Results 1 to 20 of 32 [next]

Occupier Surname	Occupier Forename	County	Parish	Details	Original Page	Map Views	Upload your content for this record
COTTER	MARY	LIMERICK	CROOM				
COTTER	MARY	LIMERICK	ST PETER & ST PAUL				
CLEARY	CATHERINE	LIMERICK	ST PETER & ST PAUL				
COTTER	MARY	LIMERICK	BRIURIE				

Griffith's Valuation results page

4. Select 'Original Page' icon for Robert Cotter to view a scan of the original Griffith's Valuation entry.
5. You can also select the 'Details' icon for Robert Cotter.
6. Make note of the parish and the map reference number. You will need these to locate the place where Robert Cotter rented at the time. You could also use the parish information to search for other Cotters who lived in this civil parish.

20/4/39

Parish of Bruree

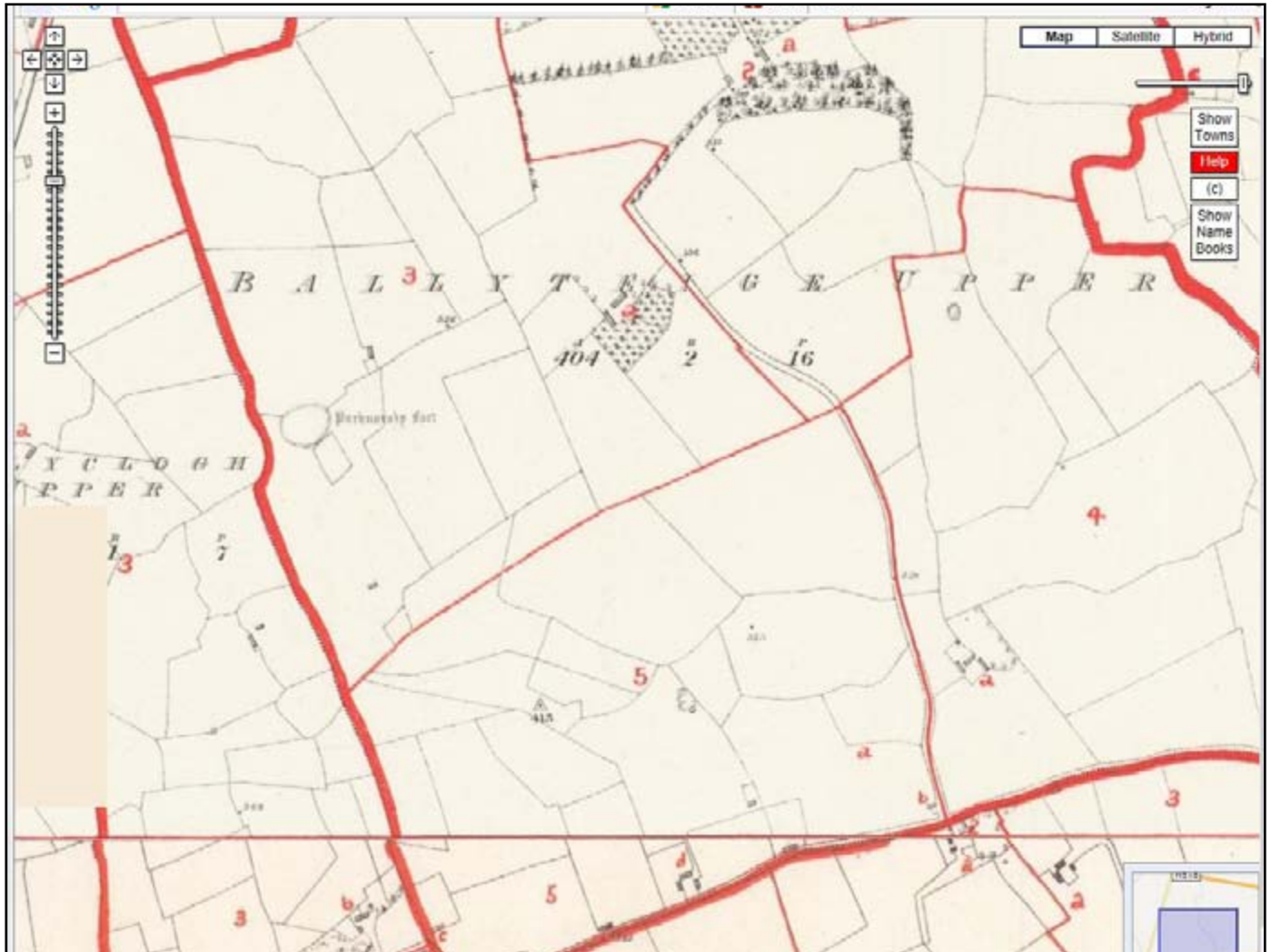
Value	Reference to Map	Names		Description of Tenement	Area A R P	Net Annual Value		
		Townland Occupiers	Immediate Lessors			Land £ s d	Buildings £ s d	Total £ s d
		<i>Ballyteige Upper</i> <i>Ord. d. 1866</i>						
15 0	1 a	Thomas Ryan	Charles L. Tuthill	Hrs. offices & land	34 5 2	32 15 0	2 0 0	34 15 0
12 0	2 a	John Lyons		Hrs. offices & land	24 1 5	25 15 0	8 15 0	34 10 0
18 0				Orchards	6 0 0	12 0 0	-	96 10 0
10 0	3 a	Patrick Sheeha	Patrick Sheeha	Hrs. offices & land	122 0 14	143 5 0	2 15 0	146 0 0
10 0	b	Timothy Cillane		House and garden	0 0 11	0 1 0	0 11 0	0 12 0
10 0	c	James Sheeha		House	-	-	0 9 0	0 9 0
15 0	4 a	Daniel Lyons	Charles L. Tuthill	Hrs. offices & land	132 3 6	111 10 0	4 10 0	116 0 0
5 0	b	Bartholomew Kiffe	Daniel Lyons	House and garden	0 0 13	0 1 0	0 10 0	0 11 0
	c	Forinelius Guelet		House and garden	0 0 21	0 2 0	0 6 0	0 8 0
7 0	d	Daniel Guinand		House and garden	0 1 7	0 5 0	1 10 0	1 15 0
	5 a	Robert Cotter	Charles L. Tuthill	House and land	24 0 0	9 0 0	0 15 0	9 15 0
				<i>Total</i>	<i>444 2 16</i>	<i>344 14 0</i>	<i>22 1 0</i>	<i>366 5 0</i>
10 0		<i>Bruree</i> <i>Ord. d. 29.</i>						

Griffith's Valuation page for Robert Cotter

Griffiths Valuation Record Information	
Tenant	
Family Name 1	COTTER
Forename 1	ROBERT
Landlord	
Family Name 2	TUTHILL
Forename 2	CHARLES L.
Location	
County	LIMERICK
Barony	CONNELLO, UPPER
Union	KILMALLOCK
Parish	BRUREE
Townland	BALLYTEIGE, UPPER
Place Name	BALLYTEIGE, UPPER
Place Type	TOWNLAND
Publication Details	
Position on Page	10
Printing Date	1052
Act	9&10
Sheet Number	38,46

Details page for Robert Cotter

7. Select the 'Map View' icon for Robert Cotter and zoom in to located the parish, townland and map reference number discovered on the 'Details' page.



Example of Griffith's Valuation map

Tithe Applotment Books (1823-1837)

Website: <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>

The Tithe Applotment Books list the occupiers of land holdings in rural parishes from 1823-1837.

How do I search it?

1. In our example, we will refine our search for all tithe payers living in the townland of Williamstown, Co Limerick.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the 'The Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-37' page from the National Archives of Ireland. The page has a header with the site's name and a navigation bar with links: Home, Search, Browse, How to Search, and About the Records. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column, titled 'Search', contains a form with fields for Surname, Forename, County (set to Limerick), Parish, and Townland (set to Williamstown), followed by a 'Search' button. The right column, titled 'Browse', includes a 'Browse by place' section with a description and a link for help. Below this are logos for 'Jump into Ireland' and 'The Gathering'. An 'Important notice: errors in transcription' section is located below the search form, explaining the transcription process and providing an email address for reporting errors. The footer of the page repeats the navigation links.

The Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-37 - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe

<http://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tab/index.jsp>

The National Archives of Ireland

Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-37

GENEALOGY Home Search Browse How to Search About the Records

Search

Surname

Forename

County Limerick

Parish


Townland Williamstown



Browse

Browse by place

You can also search the tithe records by place, and view your ancestors' neighbors.

[Click here for help with browsing.](#)



Important notice: errors in transcription

The Tithe Applotment Books were transcribed and indexed by our partners, the Genealogical Society of Utah, who microfilmed the records many years ago. The National Archives has created an error transcription facility on the site so that our users can report name mis-transcriptions, and these will then be amended online as soon as possible. Errors with regard to location of parishes in counties will also be rectified as soon as possible. Notification of these can be emailed to tab@nationalarchives.ie

We are grateful to all users who provide feedback on the site.

Home Search Browse How to Search About the Records

Searching the Tithe Applotment Books by townland

2. If we search for a family name without knowing the townland, we will get too many results. The more detail you can enter into the search boxes, the more accurate the results will be.

The Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-37 - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Comhairle Chontae Na Gallimhe

https://titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives.ie/search/tob/results.jsp?surname=willfirst

The National Archives of Ireland

GENEALOGY Home Search Browse How to Search About the Records

Home / Search the Tithe Applotment Books /

Search results: Displaying results 1 - 10 of 13

Sort by: Relevance / [Surname](#) / [Forename](#) / [Townland or City](#) / [Parish](#) / [County](#) / [Year](#) /

Surname	Forename	Townland/Street	Parish	County	Year
Hartigan	James	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Peacocke	George	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Macnamara	Michael	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Macnamara	Joseph	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Hartigan	James	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Peacock	George	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Mc Namara	Michael	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Mc Namara	Joseph	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Hartigan	James	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826
Peacock	George	Williamstown	Fedamore	Limerick	1826

Page 1 [2](#) [Next 10](#)

Results page for the Tithe Applotment Books

Worked Example 4: Emigration Records

Ellis Island Records

Website: <http://www.ellisland.org>

The Ellis Island Records lists people who emigrated to the United States and who passed through Ellis Island between the years 1892 and 1924. This website is free to use but you must register to view the records. No payment is required.

How do I search it?

1. Register with the website by selecting 'Sign In' at the top of the page, and follow the instructions.
2. Select 'Passenger Search' from the top row of buttons, and enter the first name and surname in the text boxes provided. In this example, we will search for John Fitzgibbon.

LIBERTY ELLIS ISLAND The Statue of Liberty-
Ellis Island Foundation, Inc.

► PASSENGER SEARCH ► ELLIS ISLAND ► GENEALOGY ► ABOUT US

FREE SEARCH! NO SUBSCRIPTION REQUIRED
Ellis Island/Port of New York Records

Passenger's First Name (optional) Passenger's Last Name
john fitzgibbon

Approximate Year of Birth Gender
Exact Year Any

START SEARCH >>

Start Search

Ellis Island Records search box

3. The following results are listed for each passenger: name, residence, year arrived, age on arrival, passenger record, ship manifesto and ship image.

4. Number 7 is the result which interests us as we know that John Fitzgibbon came from Ballinruane, County Limerick. Select the ship manifesto relating to John Fitzgibbon.

Exact Matches (34)						
Name of Passenger	Residence	Arrived	Age on Arrival	Passenger Record	Ship Manifest	Ship Image
1. John Fitzgibbon		1895	20	View	View	View
2. John Fitzgibbon		1894	23	View	View	View
3. John Fitzgibbon		1895	24	View	View	View
4. John Fitzgibbon		1922	26	View	View	View
5. John Fitzgibbon		1911	54	View	View	View
6. John Fitzgibbon	Ballingarry, Ireland	1907	24	View	View	View
7. John Fitzgibbon	Balliname	1900	25	View	View	View
8. John Fitzgibbon	Boston, U. S. A.	1910	22	View	View	View
9. John Fitzgibbon	Cappamore, Co. Limerick, Ireland	1906	22	View	View	View
10. John Fitzgibbon	Castlereaa, Ireland	1908	59	View	View	View
11. John Fitzgibbon	Charlesville,	1895	25	View	View	View
12. John FitzGibbon	Charleville	1898	22	View	View	View
13. John Fitzgibbon	Chicago, Ill.	1921	36	View	View	View
14. John Fitzgibbon	Ciscarroll	1899	21	View	View	View
15. John Fitzgibbon	Corofin, Clare, Ireland	1921	31	View	View	View
16. John Fitzgibbon	Dingle	1905	28	View	View	View
17. John Fitzgibbon	Ennis, Co. Clare, Ireland	1923	21	View	View	View
18. John Fitzgibbon	Fermoy, Ireland	1912	18	View	View	View
19. John Fitzgibbon	Ire.	1921	30	View	View	View
20. John Fitzgibbon	Limerick	1901	20	View	View	View
21. John Fitzgibbon	Limerick, Ireland	1923	24	View	View	View
22. John Fitzgibbon	Limerick, Ireland	1923	24	View	View	View
23. John Fitzgibbon	Limerick	1912	28	View	View	View

Ellis Island search results

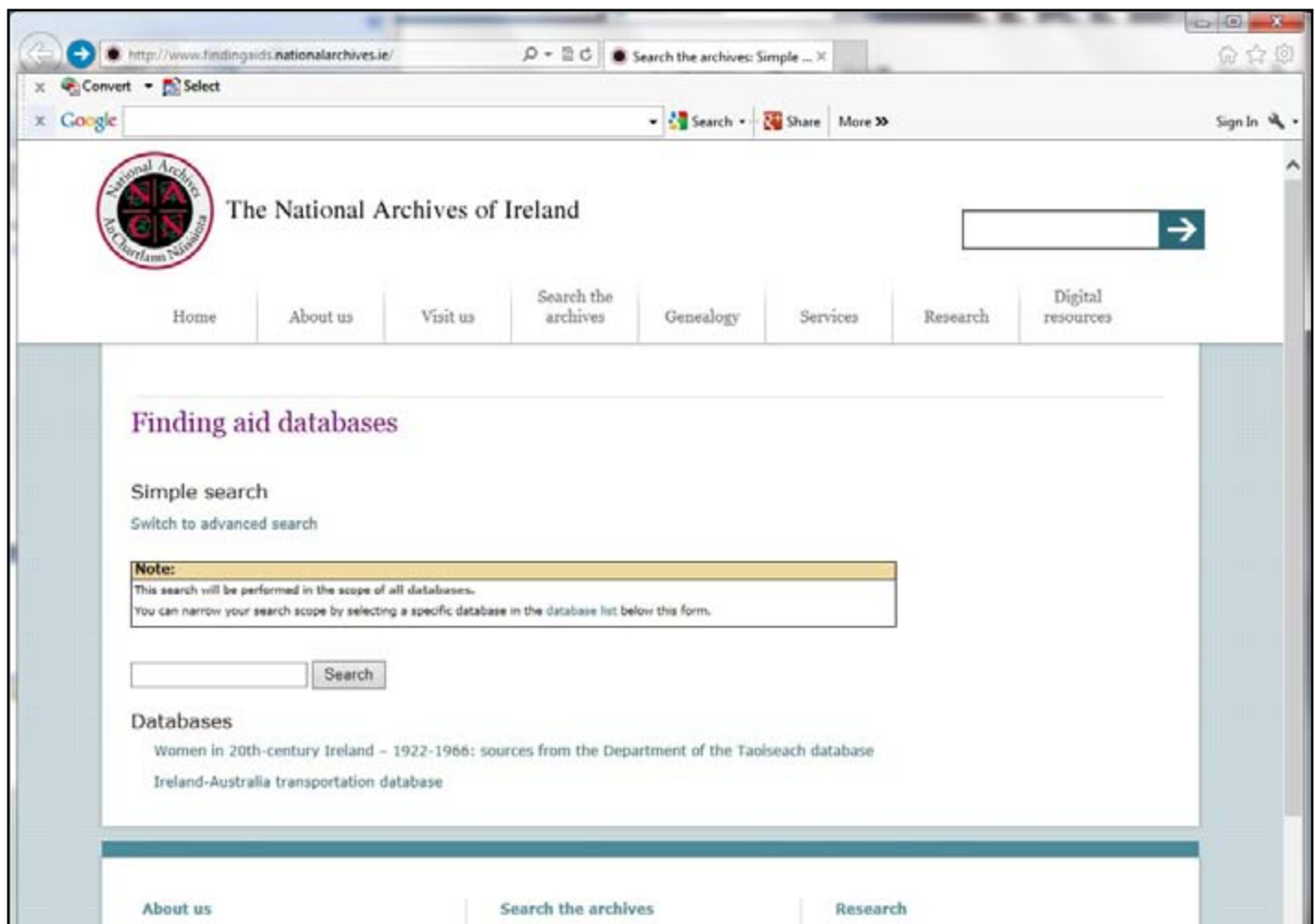
National Archives of Ireland Transportation Records Database

Website: <http://findingaids.nationalarchives.ie>

This is a searchable database of records relating to convicts transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868 inclusive. The practice of transporting convicts to Australia was discontinued in 1850, but was resumed in 1867 when people convicted of taking part in the Fenian Rising of that year were transported.

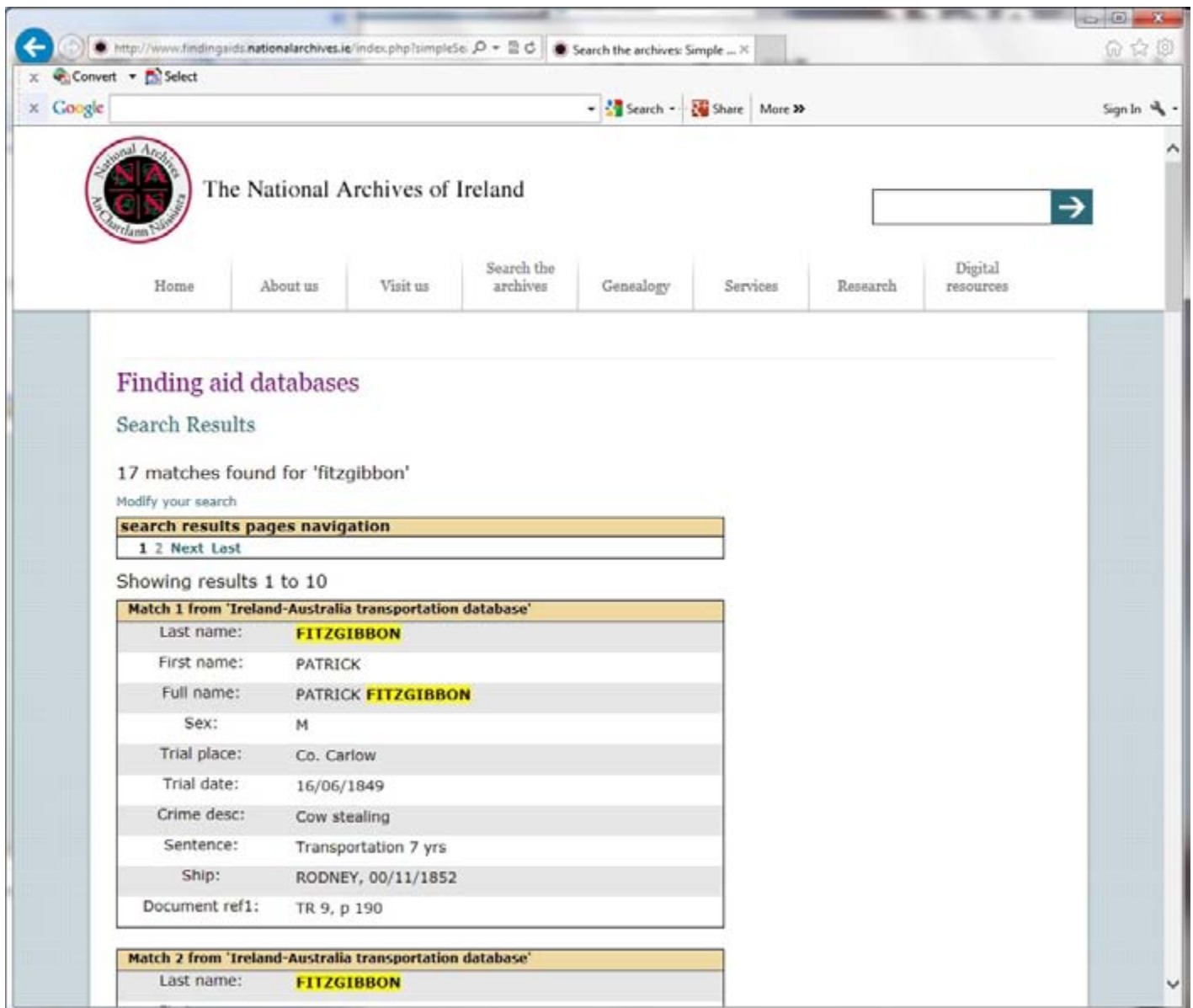
How do I search it?

1. Select 'Ireland-Australia Transportation Database'.



National Archives web page with a link to the 'Ireland-Australia Transportation Database'.

2. Enter the family name in the textbox provided and click the search button. In our example, we will search for Fitzgibbon. The results page provides information on where the convict's trial took place, the trial date, crime description, length of sentence, and comments (e.g. details of death if occurred during the voyage).



The screenshot shows the National Archives of Ireland website. The search results page displays 17 matches for 'fitzgibbon'. The first match is highlighted, showing details for Patrick Fitzgibbon, including his trial place (Co. Carlow), trial date (16/06/1849), crime (Cow stealing), sentence (Transportation 7 yrs), ship (RODNEY, 00/11/1852), and document reference (TR 9, p 190).

Search Results

17 matches found for 'fitzgibbon'

Modify your search

search results pages navigation

1 2 Next Last

Showing results 1 to 10

Match 1 from 'Ireland-Australia transportation database'

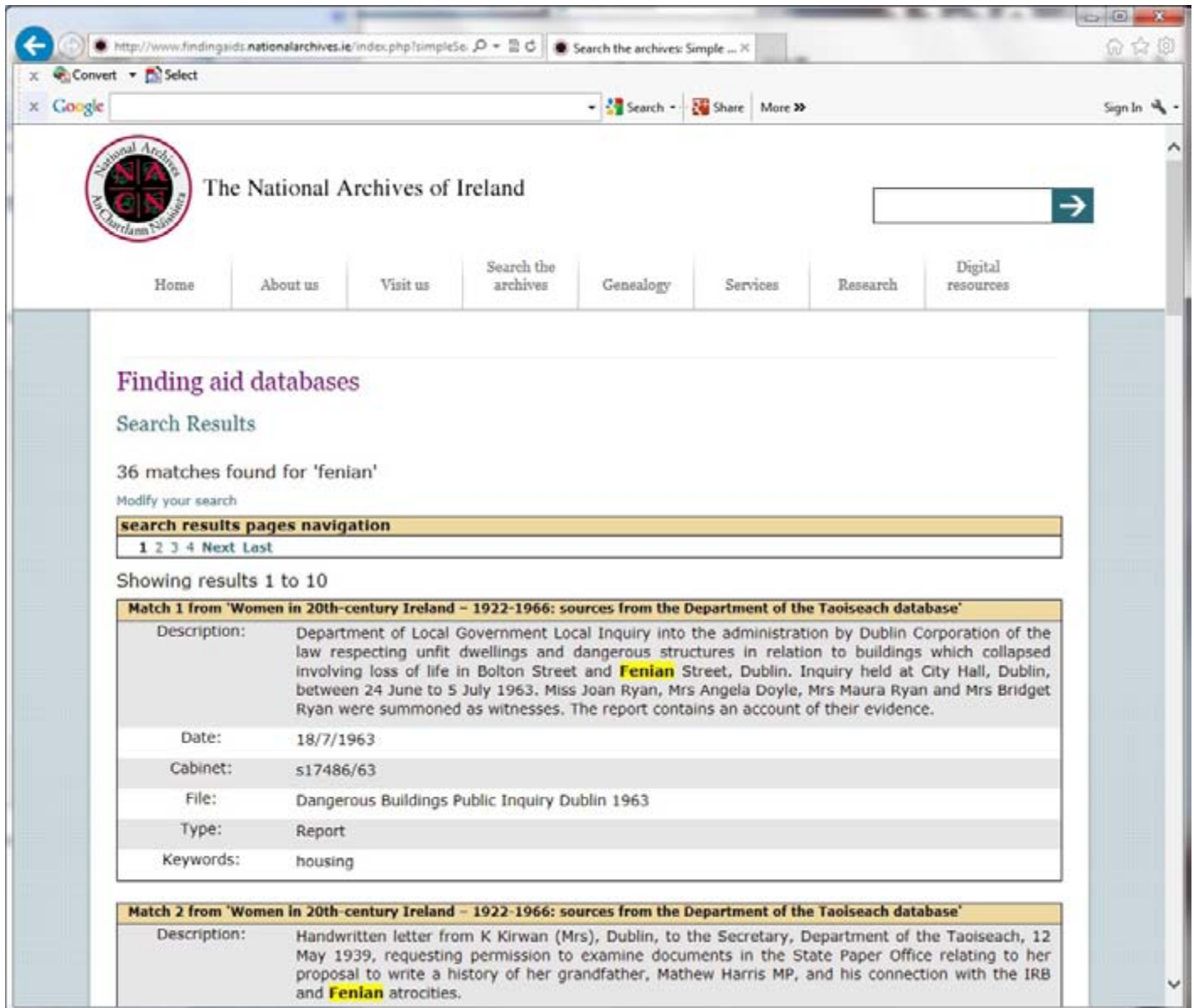
Last name:	FITZGIBBON
First name:	PATRICK
Full name:	PATRICK FITZGIBBON
Sex:	M
Trial place:	Co. Carlow
Trial date:	16/06/1849
Crime desc:	Cow stealing
Sentence:	Transportation 7 yrs
Ship:	RODNEY, 00/11/1852
Document ref1:	TR 9, p 190

Match 2 from 'Ireland-Australia transportation database'

Last name:	FITZGIBBON
------------	-------------------

Results page of the 'Ireland-Australia Transportation Database'

3. As this database also contains crimes relating to fenian activity, we can also search for the term 'fenian'. The following results list those whose were convicted of fenianism.



The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the National Archives of Ireland website. The search results for the term 'fenian' are shown, with 36 matches found. The page includes a navigation bar with links to Home, About us, Visit us, Search the archives, Genealogy, Services, Research, and Digital resources. The search results section is titled 'Finding aid databases' and 'Search Results'. It shows '36 matches found for 'fenian'' and a 'search results pages navigation' bar with links 1, 2, 3, 4, Next, and Last. The results are displayed in a table format, showing the first two matches.

Match 1 from 'Women in 20th-century Ireland - 1922-1966: sources from the Department of the Taoiseach database'	
Description:	Department of Local Government Local Inquiry into the administration by Dublin Corporation of the law respecting unfit dwellings and dangerous structures in relation to buildings which collapsed involving loss of life in Bolton Street and Fenian Street, Dublin. Inquiry held at City Hall, Dublin, between 24 June to 5 July 1963. Miss Joan Ryan, Mrs Angela Doyle, Mrs Maura Ryan and Mrs Bridget Ryan were summoned as witnesses. The report contains an account of their evidence.
Date:	18/7/1963
Cabinet:	s17486/63
File:	Dangerous Buildings Public Inquiry Dublin 1963
Type:	Report
Keywords:	housing

Match 2 from 'Women in 20th-century Ireland - 1922-1966: sources from the Department of the Taoiseach database'	
Description:	Handwritten letter from K Kirwan (Mrs), Dublin, to the Secretary, Department of the Taoiseach, 12 May 1939, requesting permission to examine documents in the State Paper Office relating to her proposal to write a history of her grandfather, Mathew Harris MP, and his connection with the IRB and Fenian atrocities.

*Results page for 'fenian' search on the
'Ireland-Australia Transportation Database'*

Final Note

As well as using the websites referred to in this guide, you may also be interested in the websites Ancestry and Find my Past. These two well-known subscription sites allow you to search all of the resources used in this guide and others simultaneously.

- www.ancestry.com
- www.findmypast.com

The additional resources include US census records and naturalization records (a record of a foreign national becoming a US citizen). These records are particularly useful if you are tracing an ancestor who emigrated to the United States. Both sites allow you to build your family tree online. Both are subscription sites. Ancestry.com grants free membership for a trial period.

Links

Genealogy software

- <http://www.legacy.com>
- <http://www.rootsmagic.com>

Websites on births, marriages and deaths

- <http://www.rootsireland.ie>
- <http://www.familysearch.org>

Tithe Applotment Books (compiled between 1823 and 1837)

- <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>

Griffith's Valuation (compiled in the 1850s)

- <http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/>

Census records from 1901 and 1911

- <http://www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie>

Immigration (into the United States) Records

- <http://www.castlegarden.org>
- <http://www.ellisland.org>

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

- <http://www.cwgc.org>

Ireland-Australia Transportation Database

- <http://findingaids.nationalarchives.ie>

Subscription sites

- <http://www.rootsireland.ie>
- <http://www.ancestry.com>
- <http://www.findmypast.com>

Map of Townlands

- <http://maps.osi.ie>

Valuation Office

- <http://www.valoff.ie>

General Register Office

- <http://www.groireland.ie>

Glossary

Cancelled Land Books: The Cancelled Land Books record the names of those liable for rates on a particular property. They list the names of those who are liable for rates (a tax on property) and the years in which they became liable. The properties are organized by townland. In essence, they contain the information that is in the Griffith's Valuation List (see above) for the years from 1852 up to the 1970s. The books are stored at the Valuation Office in the Irish Life Centre on Abbey Street in Dublin.

Civil Parish: Civil parishes are parishes which pre-date the Reformation in Ireland and were subsequently used by the British administration in Ireland, most notably when compiling Griffith's Valuation List and the Tithe Applotment Books.

Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Debt of Honour List: Commonwealth War Graves Commission's Debt of Honour List is a searchable database of all soldiers in Commonwealth countries who died during the two World Wars. It includes Irish people who died in these wars while serving with the army of a Commonwealth country.

District Electoral Division: District Electoral Divisions are small groupings of townlands and were first set up to elect members to a Poor Law Board of Guardians. In 1994, they were renamed as Electoral Divisions. They are used as a small area grouping in the Census.

Ellis Island Records: Ellis Island was used as an immigrant inspection station from 1892 to 1924. The Ellis Island Records is a list of people who entered the United States through this station.

GEDCOM: GEDCOM is an acronym standing for Genealogical Data Communication. It is an open standard, developed by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, for exchanging data between different genealogy software.

Griffith's Valuation: Griffith's Valuation was compiled in the 1850s and lists every landholder and householder in Ireland. It placed a value on every tenement for taxation purposes. It derives its name from Richard John Griffith, the first Commissioner of Valuation.

National Archives of Ireland Transportation Records Database: The National Archives of Ireland Transportation Records Database is a searchable database of records relating to convicts transported to Australia between 1788 and 1868 inclusive.

Open system: Open system means that you can easily extract data from, and import data into the system. The system uses standards that are not owned by a particular supplier.

Registration District: Registration Districts are administrative units set up in 1864 for the purpose of registering births, deaths and marriages.

Tithe Applotment Books: The tithe was a tax paid to the Church of Ireland by the occupiers of land of more than one acre. It was a tax that was resented by the majority of the population who were not members of this church. The Tithe Applotment Books were compiled between 1823 and 1837, and list everyone who is eligible to pay this tax.

Townland: A townland is the smallest administrative unit in Ireland. It is an old Gaelic subdivision which predates the Norman invasion of 1169.