

**The Percentage of Members of Each of the Major Religions in
Each County in the Census of 1861**

County	Catholic	Protestant	Presbyterian	Methodist
Province of Connaught (population 913,135)				
Galway	96.5	3.0	0.2	0.2
Leitrim	89.8	9.1	0.3	0.8
Mayo	96.8	2.6	0.4	0.2
Roscommon	96.1	3.6	0.2	0.1
Sligo	90.1	8.4	0.7	0.6
Province of Ulster (population 1,914,236)				
Antrim	27.5	20.2	47.6	2.4
Armagh	48.8	30.9	16.2	3.2
Cavan	80.5	14.9	3.5	0.9
Derry	45.3	16.9	35.1	0.6
Donegal	75.1	12.6	11.0	1.0
Down	32.3	20.5	44.5	1.4
Fermanagh	56.5	38.4	1.8	3.3
Tyrone	56.5	21.9	19.5	1.6
Monaghan	73.4	14.0	12.0	0.3
Province of Leinster (population 1,457,635)				
Carlow	88.4	10.9	0.2	0.3
Dublin	75.5	20.9	1.8	0.7
Kildare	87.0	11.5	1.0	0.4
Kilkenny	94.9	4.8	0.2	0.1
Laois	88.3	10.7	0.3	0.5
Longford	90.4	8.6	0.8	0.1
Louth	91.5	6.9	1.3	0.3
Meath	93.6	5.9	0.4	0.1
Offaly	88.8	10.1	0.4	0.4
Westmeath	92.1	7.0	0.4	0.2
Wexford	90.4	8.9	0.2	0.3
Wicklow	81.0	17.7	0.3	0.8
Province of Munster (population 1,513,558)				
Clare	97.8	2.0	0.1	0.1
Cork	90.7	8.0	0.3	0.5
Kerry	96.7	3.1	0.1	0.5
Limerick	94.7	4.5	0.3	0.3
Tipperary	94.3	5.1	0.2	0.2
Waterford	95.1	3.9	0.4	0.2

Source: *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992).

Dec	20	MACLATCHY Mary, of Moses, Newry, servant
	21	AICKEN Mary, of Robert
	25	SCOTT Agnus, of Andrew
1780	Jan 1	HARRISON Mary, of James
	Feb 7	AICKIN Elizabeth, of John
	20	BRANNEN Elizabeth, of John
1781	Oct 5	TOWNLEY Esther, of James, Newry, Grocer and Merchant
	5	COMBS Mary, of William, Newry, Glazier
	5	MITCHELL Mary, of John, Newry, sadler
	5	NELSON Anne, of . . . , Sugar Island, Smith
	Nov 11	TOWNLEY Samuel, of Samuel, junr, Newry, merchant
	22	ROBISON Thomas, of Andrew, Rockhamilton, linen draper
	23	McGUFFIN Letty, of Richard, Newry, shoemaker
	23	GLENN Mary, of George, Newry, Flaxdresser
	26	ANDERSON John, of John, Newry, woollen draper
	28	CALBREATH Matthew, of James, Newry, Hardware merchant
Dec	4	McKINSTRY Robert, of William, Canal Street, Carpenter
	11	PETTY Samuel, of Samuel, High Street, Shoemaker
	12	CUNINGHAM Isabella, of Edward*, Derrylecka, farmer
		*This person's father was a Roman Catholic, his mother a Dissenter, he alone of all the children embraced the Protestant Faith
	13	WHARTON , of George, Derrylecka, Weaver
	16	MOORE John, of Joseph, Benagh, Weaver
		BELL Mary, of Robert, Newry, Apothecary
1782	Jan 9	McMINN Archibald, of James, Desart, farmer
	11	GREER Deborah, of William, Newry (Liberty), Gent
	13	McCULLOCH John, of William, Scott's Park, Labourer
	20	HARLAND Mary, of Samuel, Pollock's Green, Bleacher
	20	BETTERTON Juliana, of Thos Wm, Newry, Dancing Master and Player
	24	DAVIDSON Jane, of Arthur, Newry, Chandler
	30	LITTLE John, of William, Altnaveagh, Farmer
	30	RIGGS Mary, of Alexr, Cloghoran, Farmer
	30	THOMPSON George, of Ross, Liberty, Merchant
	31	HALL John, of , High Street, Breeches-maker
Feb	2	BROWN Peter, of Samuel, Pound Street, Slater
	9	PATTY Samuel, of George, High Street, Gardener
	10	GRAHAM Margaret, of Gerard, Derrylackah, Weaver
	11	AIKINS James, of John, Sugar Island, Cabinet maker
	18	DODDS Catherine, of John, Crobane, weaver
	21 William, of High Street, servant
Mch	4	EAGER George, of David, Canal Street
	5	TATE . . . , of David, Creeve, Bailif
	8	McMURRAY John, of , Canal Street, Guager
	10	POLLOCK Elizabeth, of Alexander, High Street, Shoemaker

Extract of baptisms from a transcript of the "Registers of the First Presbyterian Church of Newry, Co. Down 1779-1796," *Irish Ancestor* 11 (1) (1979).

(those entitled to vote by making a mark rather than a signature), and other lists for some towns.

Church Records

Because of the relative lack of other comprehensive sources of information, church records are the most important source of information on Irish family relationships. The value, quality, and accessibility of church records of each denomination is discussed in *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992), and briefly discussed below. Other useful guides to location of registers are John Grenham's *Tracing Your Irish Ancestors* (Dublin: Gill and McMillan, 1992), and Brian Mitchell's *A Guide to Irish Parish Registers*, Baltimore, 1988.

Church of Ireland (Protestant or Episcopalian) Records

These records generally start earlier than Catholic records, the earliest being 1619. Although there was a legal obligation on the Church of Ireland to keep records from 1634, in practice most began after 1750. In 1876 a law was enacted that all Church of Ireland registers be sent for safekeeping to the Public Record Office (PRO) in Dublin. This was later amended to allow ministers with suitable storage to keep their own registers. Other ministers sent copies, or kept copies, of their books. Almost all of the registers sent to the PRO, approximately half of those in existence, were destroyed in a fire in 1922.

Copies of available records have been compiled since then and are kept either in the NAI, in the custody of the local clergyman, or, in a few cases, in the Library of the Representative Church Body (RCB), which is the administrative body for the Church of Ireland. In Northern Ireland, the PRONI has over two hundred parish registers. Both RCB and PRONI have published guides to their holdings. Note also that non-Catholic marriages have been registered by the state from 1845, when the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, or other minister was made a state registrar. These records are in the General Register Office. Details on Church of Ireland parishes are listed under each county. A full account of the range of Church of Ireland records is given by R. Refausse in *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992, pp. 41-68). Also, some records in different parts of Ireland have been indexed by Mark Williams' Anglican Record Project. The results of this project are available in RCBL and in the Society of Genealogists (London). In addition, a series of (mainly Dublin) registers were published by the Parish Register Society and are widely available.

Presbyterian Records

Presbyterians in Ireland are very predominantly located in Ulster. In the 1861 census, for instance, over ninety-six percent of Presbyterians were in this province, and particularly in the counties of Antrim, Derry, and Down (see page 21). Presbyterian records generally do not begin until after 1819, from which year Presbyterian ministers were required to keep records (see page 22). However, because marriages in Presbyterian churches or kirks were not recognized until 1845, many Presbyterian marriages took place in the Church of Ireland. Also, the Presbyterian church rarely kept burial records. Note also that there are several branches of Presbyterianism. A full account of the origins and significance of these different groups, and a full list of the records of Presbyterian churches, is given by Dr. Christine Kinealy in *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992, pp. 69-106). Presbyterian congregations and their ministers are detailed in *History of Congregations in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland 1610-1982* (Belfast: Presbyterian Historical Society of Ireland, 1982).

Baptist Records

The Baptist community in Ireland was always very small, and numbered only 4,237 in 1861. Their records are not available in a central repository, but are preserved within each church. The Irish Baptist Historical Society, 117 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AF, can assist with parish addresses, etc. They also publish a journal. An account of the origins and record-keeping practices of the Baptist church is given by H.D. Gribbon in *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992, pp. 183-191).

Huguenot Church Records

Although effectively an Anglican church, many of the French emigré Huguenots maintained their own churches in Ireland for generations after their arrival. The records of three Dublin churches (the earliest being 1668) are contained in volumes 7 and 14, and of Portarlinton in volume 19, of the Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of London. The records of other Huguenot groups either do not exist, or are included in the local Church of Ireland records. A full account of the origins and records of the various Huguenot communities is given by Vivienne Costello in *Irish Church Records* (Dublin: Flyleaf Press, 1992, pp. 171-182).

Quaker Records

The Religious Society of Friends, or Quaker, communities arguably have the best records of any Irish religious group. Quakers have been active in Ireland since 1653,