

County Antrim

A Brief History

Antrim is on the northeastern coast of Ireland. The major towns are Carrickfergus, Ballymena, Lisburn, Ballycastle, Larne, and the city of Belfast, which straddles the border of Antrim and Down. For practical purposes, many Belfast records, particularly church records, are listed together in the appendix.

Under the old Gaelic system, this area was part of the territory of the O'Neills, and was called Dalriada. The other major Gaelic families were the McQuillans and O'Quinns. Some "gallowglass," or mercenary families from Scotland, settled in Antrim in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. These included the McDonnells, Bissels (who became McKeowns), MacNeills, and McAllisters. Two Connaught families, the O'Haras and MacClearys, also migrated to Antrim at this period. The county was little affected by the Norman invasion, and the ruling families of the county maintained their independence for several centuries.

In 1594 the major tribes of Ulster, led by Hugh O'Neill, rebelled against English rule. This rebellion lasted until 1603, when the Ulster tribes were finally defeated. Following the defeat and departure of O'Neill and the heads of the major clans, Antrim, like most of the rest of Ulster, was "planted" with settlers from Britain. Antrim was one of the first counties planted, in advance of the main Ulster plantation, which began in 1609. In about 1605, the Lord Deputy, Arthur Chichester, acquired the castle and lands of Belfast. Subsequently, he ruthlessly exterminated the inhabitants of these estates and planted them with English settlers. These came mainly from Devon, Lancashire, and Cheshire, and included families named Bradshaw, Bradford, Watson, Taylor, Walker, Jackson, Wilson, Johnson, and Young.

Also in the early 1600s, English and Scottish adventurers, such as Clotworthy and Upton, were given confiscated lands in Antrim on the understanding that they would bring over settlers to their new estates. The now common occurrence of names such as Boyd, Fraser, Lindsay, Johnson, Morrison, Patterson, and Maxwell is due to the Scottish settlers brought to the county by these adventurers.

The objectives of plantation, i.e., the clearance of the native population and its replacement by British subjects, were most successfully achieved in this county. Many of the native people were removed from the county altogether. As the native Irish population was predominantly Catholic, the Scottish usually Presbyterian, and the English generally Protestant, the proportions of these religions among the population can, in very general terms, be used to estimate the origins of the inhabitants of the county. When religious affiliation was first determined in the census of 1861, the respective proportions of Catholic, Presbyterian, and Protestant in Antrim were twenty-eight, twenty, and forty-eight percent.

Antrim, like the other northeastern counties, became a center of the linen industry. The industry was particularly developed by the arrival in the county of many French Huguenot weavers from 1685 onward. These Huguenots settled in particular in Lisburn and Belfast, and their introduction of French looms and other innovations began a period of prosperity for the industry. By 1700, Belfast had a population of two thousand.

As in the other northern counties, many northern Presbyterians or so-called Scots-Irish left Antrim during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries because of the repression of Presbyterians under the Penal Laws (see the introduction), which were primarily in-

tended to repress Catholicism. In the late eighteenth century, Belfast was the center of the Society of the United Irishmen, which was a movement of Catholics and Presbyterians against this repression.

Belfast City is arguably the only city in Ireland to have felt the full effects of the industrial revolution. The city developed rapidly in the nineteenth century, largely based on the linen industry and on heavy industry such as shipbuilding. Its rapid growth resulted in further immigration of people from Scotland, northern England, and rural Ireland. By the end of the nineteenth century, its population had grown to 300,000.

The county is one of the few whose population has increased since the Great Famine. This is largely due to the growth of Belfast City and surrounding towns. Apart from Dublin, the population of County Antrim is the most urbanized in Ireland. Because of this, commercial directories are particularly valuable sources of information. Some of the 1857 census returns have also survived. The northern, and non-urbanized, parts of the county are largely agricultural, and also have important fishing ports.

In 1921, the county was one of those which remained in the United Kingdom when the Irish Free State was formed.

Census and Census Substitutes

1614-15

Names of Masters and Merchants trading in and out of Carrickfergus. *Carrickfergus & District Hist. J.* 2, 1986 (date of entry, name, qualification, ship, and tonnage).

1635-1796

"The Roll of Freemen—Belfast." In *The Townbook of the Corporation of Belfast 1613-1816*, 215-17. SLC film 0990294.

1642

Muster Roll. PRONI T8726/2; SLC film 897012.

1643

"Tax List for Belfast." In *The Townbook of the Corporation of Belfast 1613-1816*, 25-27. SLC film 0990294.

1659

"Census" of Ireland. Edited by S. Pender. Dublin: Stationery Office, 1939. NLI I6551. SLC film 924648.

1660-69

"Hearth Money and Poll Tax returns for Co. Antrim" by S.T. Carlton. Pub. by PRONI.

1663-69

Subsidy Roll. PRONI T307.

1666

Hearth Money Roll. NAI film 2745; NLI ms. 9584. NLI P 207.

Subsidy Roll. PRONI T.3022/4/1.

1669

Hearth Money Roll. PRONI T307; NLI ms. 9584 (index on 9585).

"Extracts from Hearth Money Roll for Parishes of Ramoan, Culfreightrin and Rathlin." *The Glynn's* 1 (1973): 10-15.

"Extracts from Glenarm Barony." *The Glynn's* 5 (1977): 15-16.

1719

"Map of Glenarm" (including names and holdings of the Earl of Antrim's Tenants in the Town and Adjoining Lands). *The Glynn's* 9 (1981): 52-61.

1720

List of Landed Gentry in Down and Antrim. RIA ms. 24 K 19.

1734

A religious census of the Barony of Cary. *The Glynn's* 21 (1993): 65-76; 22 (1994): 53-58. (Parishes of Ballintoy, Culfreightrin, Ramoan, Armoy, and part of Billy and Derrykeighan; gives townland, chief tenant, and householders.)

Map Showing Residents of Ballymoney. SLC film 990232.

1740

Protestant householders in parishes of Ahoghill, Armoy, Ballintoy, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Bellewillen, Billy, Clogh, Drumaul, Dunean, Dunkegan, Dunluce, Finvoy, Kilraghts, Loughall, Manybrooke, Rasharkin, Rathlin, and Ramoan. GO 559; SLC film 100249; RCB Library. PRONI T808/15258.

1744

"List of Voters in Belfast." In *The Townbook of the Corporation of Belfast, 1613-1816*, 246-300.

1766

Parishes of Ahoghill and Ballynure. RCB Library. MS 23 NAI M.2476 (1). SLC film 1279330.

Parish of Ballintoy. GO 536; SLC film 258517 or 100173; PRONI T808/15264.

All above parishes on NLI ms. 4173.

1779

Map of Glenarm, including tenants' names. *The Glynn* 9 (1981).

1796

See Co. Mayo 1796 (List of Catholics . . .).

Spinning Wheel Premium list. See introduction.

1798

List of Persons who Suffered Losses During '98 Rebellion. NLI JLB 94107 (approximately 140 names, addresses, and occupations).

1799-1800

Militia Pay Lists and Muster Rolls, PRONI T.1115/1 A and B.

1803

Inhabitants of Ballintoy. SLC 941.61/B7 K2c.

1804-10

Old Ballymoney residents. *North Irish Roots* 2 (3) (1989) (name, occupation, and religion, by street).

1813

Census of Ballyeaston Congregation (Presbyterian) covering Ballycor, Donagore, Glenwhirry, Grange of Doagh, Kilbride, and Rashee. SLC (fiche) 6026299 and (mf) 100173.

1820

List of Lisburn householders. PRONI T679/107-112. (Householder's name and no. in household.)

1821

Government census, various fragments. Thrift Abstracts, NAI. SLC film 824240.

1824-34

Tithe Applotment Survey (see introduction).

1832-36

"List of Excise License Holders and Applicants in Belfast, Lisburn, and Carrickfergus" (names, occupations, and address). *Parl. Papers* 1837/38, 13 (2): Appendix 10, 13.

1832-37

Belfast Poll Book. PRONI D2472.

1832-65

"Historical sketch of Parliamentary elections in Belfast . . . till 1865." (Names and addresses of voters, and of those on the register who did not vote in 1865.) Belfast: Banner of Ulster Office, 1865, p. 194.

1833-39

Mitchell, Brian. *Irish Emigration Lists 1833-1839*. Lists of emigrants extracted from the ordnance survey memoirs. Baltimore, 1989. 118 pp. Indexed.

1834

Registered Freeholders, Leaseholders, and Household-ers of Carrickfergus. Court of Quarter Sessions, 1834. SLC film 990408.

1837

"Lists of Freeman (since 1831) of Carrickfergus." *Parl. Papers* 1837, 11 (1): Appendix B1; 1837/38, 13 (2): Appendix 3.

"List of Applicants for the Vote in Borough of Belfast." *Parl. Papers* 1837, 11 (2): Appendix 7, 235-45 (gives 772 names, residences, occupations).

"Occupants of Lisburn, Arranged by Street, Giving Property Values." *Parl. Papers* 1837, 11 (1): Appendix G, 211-15.

1838

"Lists of Marksmen (illiterate voters) in Belfast" (over 250 names, occupations, and residences). *Parl. Papers* 1837, 11 (1): Appendix A3; 1837/38, 13 (2): Appendix 4.

1839

List of Persons who obtained Game Certificates in Ulster, Roscommon, Longford, Leitrim, Sligo, Mayo, and Galway. PRONI T688.

1841

Extracts from the Government Census Relating to the Families Johnston, McShane, and Thompson. SLC film 824240.

1845-78

Persons admitted into, and discharged from, Larne Workhouse (with index). PRONI; SLC film 0993083-4.

1848

Applications for registration as Electors. Dublin: Pilkington, 1849. SLC film 993156.

1851

Government Census Extracts: parishes of Aghagallon (townlands of Montiaghs, Tamnyrane, and Tiscallen only), Aghalee, Ahohill (townland of Craigs only), Ballinderry, Ballymoney (townland of Garryduff only), Carncastle, Clough, Craigs, Dunaghy, Grange of Killyglen, Killead (townlands from Ardmore to Carnagliss only), Kilwaughter, Larne, Rasharkin

(townlands from Killydonnelly to Tehorny only), Tickmacreevan. NAI CEN 1851/2-13; SLC films 597143-53, 597108-13. These records can also be directly searched on an Internet site established by the North of Ireland Family History Society (<http://brigit.os.qub.ac.uk/nifhs/census/>).

1852

Names and addresses of the electors of Belfast (alphabetically arranged; gives names and addresses of voters and how they voted). Belfast: W&G Agnew, 1852, 92 pp.

1854

List of persons entitled to vote. SLC film 993156.

1855

Belfast Register of Electors, PRONI BELF5/1/1/1-2.

1856/57

Register of Persons Entitled to Vote in general election (arranged alphabetically by barony; gives over nine thousand names, addresses, nature of qualification to vote, location of freehold, etc.). NLI ILB 324.

1857

List of the electors of Belfast (arranged alphabetically in wards; gives names of voters and how they voted). Belfast: Daily Mercury, 1857, 68 pp.

1859

Voters in Lisburn By-Election of February 1863. *Lisburn Hist. Soc. J.* 6 (Winter 1986-7) (name and street).

1861-62

Griffith's Valuation (see introduction).

1863

Names and addresses of voters at the Lisburn election. No place of publication, 1863, 10 pp, LHL.

1865

List of the voters of Belfast. (Arranged alphabetically; gives names and addresses of voters.) BPL.

1868

Names and addresses of Belfast voters from the general election. (Arranged alphabetically in wards.) Belfast: H. Adair, 1869, 168 pp.

Alphabetical list of voters and non-voting electors (and addresses). Belfast: publisher not stated, 1868, 96 pp, BPL.

1871

Creggan Upper. Archiv. Hib. 3.

1901

Census. NAI (see introduction). SLC (mf).

1911

Census. NAI. SLC film 857372.

Church Records

Church of Ireland

See the introduction for a description of Church of Ireland records and their major repositories. Many C of I records were lost in the PRO fire of 1922. These are indicated as "Lost." However, as C of I records were effectively state records, the records of marriage (from 1845) are also in the General Registrar's Office. Many are still in local custody (LC), while others are in one of a variety of other archives (e.g., RCBL or NAI). The parish registers of Antrim are being indexed by the Ulster Historical Foundation (see Research Services at the end of the chapter). A search of the index will be conducted by this center for a fee. For registers within the city of Belfast, see also the further registers in the appendix.

Aghalee

Earliest Records: b. 1782; m. 1782; d. 1782
Status: LC; SLC film 908817 (b. 1812-18; m. 1812-45; d. 1811-74)

Ahoghill

Earliest Records: b. 1811; m. 1811; d. 1811
Status: LC

Ardclinis

Status: Lost

Ballinderry

Earliest Records: b. 1805; m. 1840; d. 1805
Status: LC

Ballintoy

Earliest Records: b. 1776; m. 1776
Status: LC; SLC 941.61/B7 K2c (1776-1843)

Ballyclug

Earliest Records: b. 1841
Status: LC

Ballyeaston

Status: Lost

Ballymena (Kirkinriola)

Earliest Records: b. 1815; m. 1807; d. 1780
Status: LC; SLC film 990408