

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

190 St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2

+ 353 1 603 0200

email: info@nli.ie

www.nli.ie

OPENING HOURS

Monday–Wednesday: 9.30am–7.45pm

Thursday–Friday: 9.30am–4.45pm

Saturday: 9.30am–4.45pm (Reading Rooms close at 12.45pm)

Sunday: 1.00pm–4.45pm (exhibitions only)

Public bank holidays: 12.00pm–4.45pm (exhibitions only)

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

100 Grafton Street, Temple Bar, Dublin 2

+ 353 1 603 0373

email: npaoffice@nli.ie

www.nli.ie

OPENING HOURS

Monday–Saturday: 10.00am–5.00pm (exhibitions only)

Sunday: 12.00pm–5.00pm (exhibitions only)

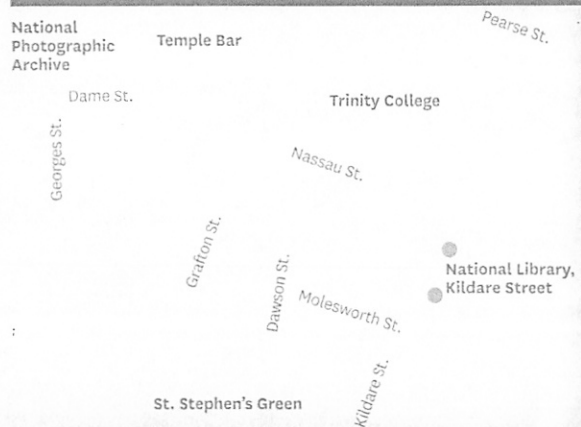
Reading Room (appointment only):

Monday and Thursday: 10.00am–1.00pm

Tuesday: 10.00am–1.00pm; 2.30pm–4.30pm

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Family History Research

SOURCES at the NATIONAL LIBRARY OF IRELAND

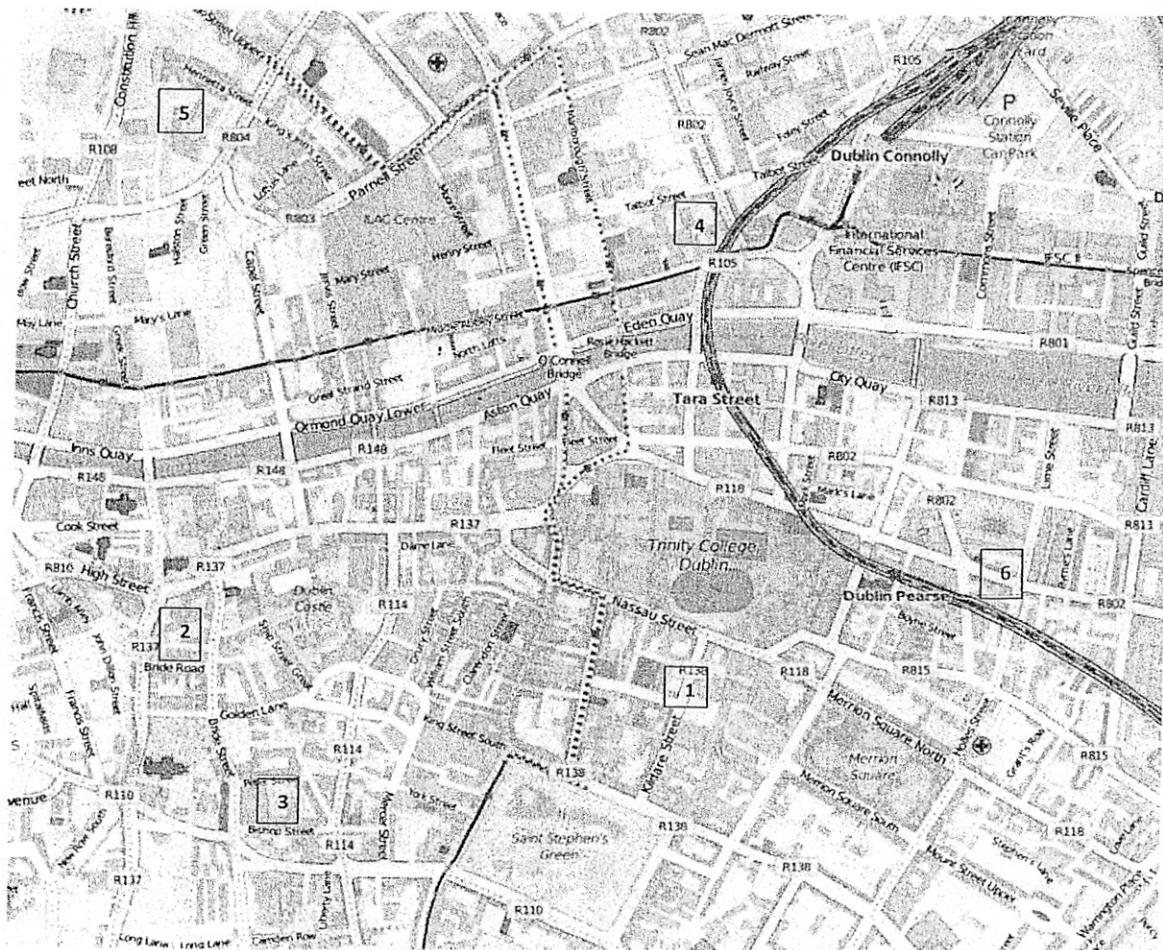


Leabharlann
Náisiúnta
na hÉireann

National Library
of Ireland

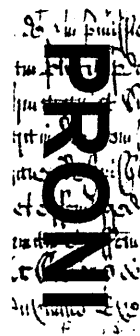
Researching Irish Family History – Useful Addresses

<p>1. National Library of Ireland Kildare Street Dublin 2 Tel: +353 1 603 0200 Email: genealogy@nli.ie Web: www.nli.ie</p>	<p>2. General Register Office Werburgh Street Dublin 2 Tel: +353 90 663 2900 Email: gro@groireland.ie Web: www.welfare.ie</p>	<p>3. National Archives of Ireland Bishop Street Dublin 8 Tel: +353 1 407 2300 Email: mail@nationalarchives.ie Web: www.nationalarchives.ie</p>
<p>4. Valuation Office Block 2, Irish Life Centre Abbey Street Lower Dublin 2 Tel: +353 817 1149 Email: archive_mail@valoff.ie Web: www.valoff.ie</p>	<p>5. Registry of Deeds Henrietta Street Dublin 1 Tel: +353 761 001610 Email: registryofdeeds@prai.ie Web: www.prai.ie</p>	<p>6. Dublin City Library & Archive 138-144 Pearse Street Dublin 2 Tel: +353 1 674 4999 Email: dublinstudies@dublincity.ie Web: www.dublincity.ie</p>



Home-coming Series: 1

EMIGRATION TO USA



'There is no place in the world where a man meets so rich a reward for good conduct and industry as in America'

John Dunlap, printer of the Declaration of Independence

The history of emigration from Ireland is dominated by the mass exodus during the period of the Great Famine and its aftermath, when more than a million people left the country for North America. In Ulster, where the effects of the Great Famine were less dramatic than in the South and West of Ireland, emigration reached its greatest peak during the eighteenth century. These emigrants were for the most part Protestant, and in particular Presbyterian.

The main cause of emigration during the eighteenth century was the attraction of the American colonies for those who were eager to improve their prospects - younger sons in particular. On 12 May 1785, John Dunlap, who was responsible for the printing of the Declaration of Independence, wrote to his brother-in-law in Strabane, Co. Tyrone, extolling the advantages of the New World: *'People with a family advanced in life find great difficulties in emigration, but the young men of Ireland who wish to be free and happy should leave it and come here as quick as possible. There is no place in the world where a man meets so rich a reward for good conduct and industry as in America'*.

The most obvious source for researchers who are descendants of emigrants to the United States of America from Ireland are the emigration records deposited in the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland. Unfortunately emigration is not, as a general rule, particularly well documented. Most passenger lists, for example, are to be found at the port of arrival rather than departure due to the fact that the authorities were more concerned with recording those entering a country rather than those leaving. Letters written from emigrants to their relatives in Ulster form the most substantial part of our emigration records. This sort of material can be found in many of the private collections deposited at PRONI.

Passenger Lists are another valuable source of Emigration Records. Of particular interest are:

- T711/1** List of passengers from Warrenpoint and Newry to Philadelphia and New York, 1791-2
- MIC333/1** Passenger Lists - Philadelphia, 1800-82
- MIC333/2** Passenger Lists - Baltimore, 1890-91
- MIC333/3** Passenger Lists - Boston, 1871-91
- MIC333/4** Passenger Lists - New York, 1826-27, 1840-2 and 1850-2
- T1011/1-4** Passengers from various origins arriving mainly in New York, 1802-14
- T3262** Passenger Lists from Belfast, Cork, Limerick, Londonderry, Newry, Sligo, Warrenpoint to USA, 1803-06
- T521/1** Passenger Lists from Ireland to America, 1804-06 (index available in *Deputy Keeper's Report 1929*)
- D2892/1/1-4** Passenger Books of J & J Cooke, Shipping Agents. Sailings from Londonderry to Philadelphia, Quebec, St John's, New Brunswick, 1847-71 (see also **MIC13**)

A number of emigrants lists are available on the shelves of the Public Search Room, including:

The Famine Immigrants: Lists of Irish Immigrants Arriving at the Port of New York, 1846-1851 (seven volumes, published in 1983) which contains data from the original ship manifest schedules for the Port of New York, deposited in the National Immigration Archives in the Balch Institute in Philadelphia. Besides names, other details recorded include age, occupation, native country, port of embarkation and arrival date. This is now freely available on-line at www.ancestry.co.uk

Irish Passenger Lists 1847-1871, contains lists of passengers sailing from Londonderry to America on ships of the J & J Cooke Line and the McCorkell Line.

Passenger Arrivals at Port of Philadelphia, 1800-1819.

Passenger Lists of Vessels Arriving at New York, 1820-1821.

Immigrants to New England, 1700-1775, contains an alphabetical list compiled by Ethel Stanwood Bolton.

Lists of Emigrants of America, 1635-1776, contains lists of passengers, including Irish emigrants, who departed from English ports.

Many of the emigration archives that are deposited in PRONI have been indexed and either transcribed or digitised and form part of the Emigration Database of the Centre for Migration Studies which can be accessed in PRONI and at certain public libraries.

In the National Archives in London, passenger lists from 1890-1960 can be found in the Board of Trade archive (BT 27) but exact place of residence is rarely given before 1922. The earliest Board of Trade passenger lists are now being published on-line at www.ancestorsonboard.com

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ
Tel: (028) 9053 4800 Fax: (028) 9053 4900
Web-site: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni
e-mail: proni@communities-ni.gov.uk



Education Leaflet 3

THE GREAT IRISH FAMINE



There have been many famines in the history of Ireland but when people refer to 'The Famine', it is always to that of the 1840s. What made this famine different from any previous event was not just the number of people who died (proportionally, more people died during the famine of the 1740s), but the duration, the lack of effective aid, and the radical change in attitude of those who survived.

Chronology

The potato blight, *Phytophthora Infestans*, struck Ireland in late August, 1845. To a people whose staple diet was the potato, this was a disaster. At this stage, however, the blight did not affect the whole of Ireland, so some potatoes were available (at vastly inflated prices) and most people had some resources to trade for substitute foodstuffs, such as oats or maize. The following year (1846), the blight was total. By this stage, fewer people had any resources to fall back on. They also had less strength to get through another hard winter. The death rate increased dramatically. In 1847 there were few seed potatoes left for planting. Amazingly, those planted were blight free and commanded high prices in the markets. With the new crop came renewed hope. Government withdrew the emergency measure it had put in place and Irish agriculture returned to 'normal'. Without aid, however, the death rate increased further. The crop of August, 1848, was anxiously awaited. It too, was affected by the blight. Again, in 1849, there were few seed potatoes for planting and so there was a very small harvest of blight-free potatoes in August 1849. The following year, the crop was more plentiful and mainly blight-free but by then it was too late for the thousands who had died of hunger and of famine-related diseases.

Population

It is estimated that during the years 1845 to 1850, around 800,000 people died of starvation or of a famine-related disease such as typhus, dysentery, scurvy or pellagra. A further two million people emigrated. Unlike earlier famines, in which the population recovers quickly from the catastrophe and continues to grow, the after-effects of the Great Irish Famine were such that the population of Ireland, standing at 8.2 million people in 1841, declined to 6.6 million in 1851.

Fifty years later, Ireland's population was still showing a decline (down to 4.5 million), even though every other European country was showing a population increase. Ireland's population did not return to its pre-famine heights until over one hundred years later (in 1964). These figures imply that approximately 8 million people left Ireland between 1801 and 1900 - the equivalent of the entire pre-Famine population.

Emigration

Emigration was obviously a major reason why population continued to decline. From 1820 to 1830, emigration from Ireland to North America was running, on average, at just less than 5,000 people per year. From 1831 to 1845, however, the overall yearly average was 26,250, consisting mainly of middle-class family groups, younger sons seeking adventure, artisans, or merchants taking business overseas. Between 1846 and 1851, over 1,000,000 Irish people arrived at North American ports, making an average of 200,000 per year. This time the main flow came from the poorer classes, young single women making up a disproportionately large section.

Marriage rates

There were other reasons for the decline in population. The cottier class, the poorest of the population, who had lived by hiring a potato plot on a year-by-year basis, had been more or less eliminated. This class had, by custom, married young and had large families. After the Famine, the average age at first marriage rose to 27 for women, and the average family size fell. There was also a much greater percentage of the population that remained unmarried. Again, this trend continued well into the next century.

Sources

There are few events that have caused such cataclysmic change in the history of a country and few that still, over a hundred and fifty years later, arouse such emotion. For those studying this watershed period of Irish history, PRONI holds some excellent material.

The **Boards of Guardians** records (**BG**) are a good place to start. There are minute books giving, among other information, details of committee meetings and on those receiving aid to emigrate; there are admission and discharges registers; registers of births and deaths in the workhouses, and outdoor relief books.

Valuation Records (VAL1B) show land use and ownership, as well as rateable value for the 1830s, just prior to the Famine. Compare with Griffith's Valuation (**VAL2B**), undertaken 1848-64, which shows land use, ownership and rateable value just after the Famine. Griffith's Valuation is searchable online: www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation.

Landed Estate Records are an excellent source: see particularly **D4131**, the Lissadell papers; **D1928**, the Brownlow papers; **D623** the Abercorn papers and **D607 & D671**, the Downshire papers. The Vere Foster papers, **D3618/D** are invaluable.

Emigrant letters of the period frequently mention the effects of the Famine. See **T3258** especially for a collection of informative letters.

Newspapers (N) of the period give details about famine relief and death rates. They are also very useful for showing the prices of consumables at the various markets. Other newspapers in private collections include *The Illustrated London News* **D3618/D/1**, which provides most of the images of the Famine.

Census statistics for the period 1851–1891 (including data for 1841, although the earlier statistics are not considered totally reliable) can be consulted in PRONI, as can a number of books relating to the famine.

Statistics relating to population, emigration, famine, crime and other subjects are now available at Enhanced British Parliamentary Papers on Ireland 1800–1922 (EPPI) on-line at www.dippam.ac.uk

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland
2 Titanic Boulevard, Belfast, BT3 9HQ
Tel: (028) 9053 4800 Fax: (028) 9053 4900
Web-site: www.nidirect.gov.uk/proni
e-mail: proni@communities-ni.gov.uk

About the National Library

We were set up in 1877, and our mission is to collect, protect and share the material that comprises Ireland's literary and documentary heritage. Here at the National Library of Ireland, we care for more than 10 million items, including books, newspapers, journals, manuscripts, photographs, prints, drawings, maps, music, ephemera and digital media.

Reading Room

The present day NLI building opened in 1890. The iconic reading room is D-shaped and features a domed ceiling. You can see fine examples of craftsmanship throughout the room. The plaster frieze is by Harrison's and the oak screen and doorways are by William Milligan. Other features to note are the Reading Room clock by Dobbyn & Son, the original wrought iron umbrella stands, and Victorian wooden bookstands on the desks.

Accessing the collections

The Library is open, free of charge, to all who want to use our collections. Anyone over 16 years of age can apply for a Readers' Ticket. A Reader's Ticket is valid for three years and gives you access to all of our collections.

Explore & enjoy your visit

- View our Reading Room
- Search our online collections and resources, and apply for a Reader's Ticket
- Explore your family history in our Genealogy Advisory Room
- Enjoy our free exhibitions
- Take a break in Café Joly

Opening hours:

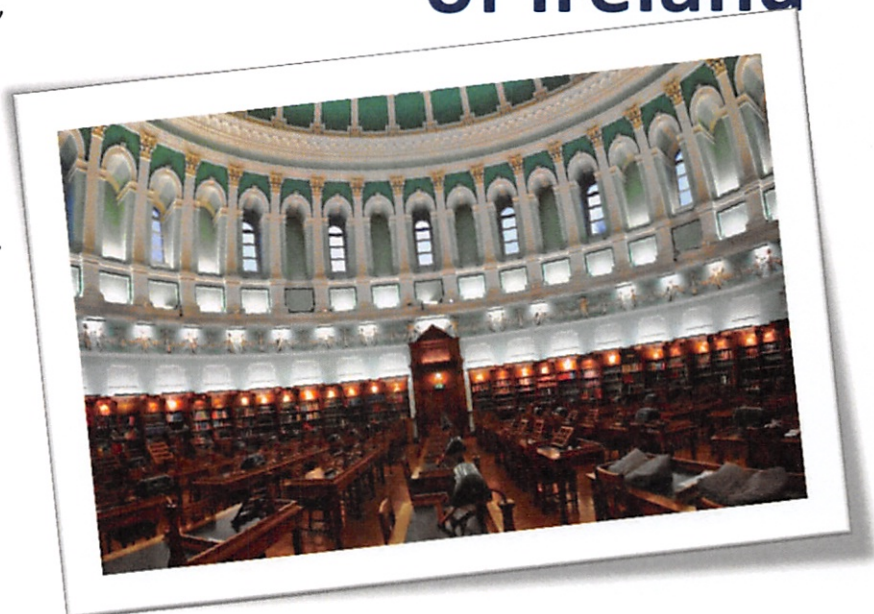
Mon. - Wed.: 09:30 - 19:45 Thurs. - Fri.: 09:30 - 16:45

Sat.: 09:30 - 16:45 (Reading Room closes at 12:45pm)

Sunday: 13:00 - 16:45 (exhibitions only)

Bank Holidays: 12:00 - 16:45 (exhibitions only)

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www.nli.ie

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We hope that you enjoy your visit, and visit again soon, whether in person or online.