Mapping Irish Locations Online

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Online maps and tools to locate Irish records in their different jurisdictions. All websites offer free access, unless noted otherwise. John Grenham's *Irish Ancestors* website, **https://www.johngrenham.com/**, allows free access to browse areas and 5 free page views per day to other areas.

Location and jurisdiction structure

Province → County → Barony → Civil Parish or Catholic Parish → Townland.
Poor Law Union (**aka** Registration District **or** Superintendent Registrar's District) → Registrar's District → District Electoral Division → Townland.

Besides the county and townland use the following jurisdictions to locate records.

Type of Record	Jurisdiction, Administrative or land division
Vital	Poor Law Union/Registration District/Superintendent Registrar's District. Sometimes the local Registrar's District is needed to narrow results.
Census	District Electoral Division
Catholic Church	Catholic Parish
Church of Ireland	Civil Parish
Griffith's Valuation	Civil Parish
Tithe Applotment	Civil Parish

Jurisdiction Maps

Ireland
- **https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ireland_regions.svg#/media/File:Ireland_regions.svg** is a map of the Provinces and Counties with major towns.

Civil Parishes
- **https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php** is an interactive map of Civil Parishes by County. Click on a parish to see a list of places and resources available.

Catholic Parishes
- **https://www.johngrenham.com/places/rcmap_index.php** is an interactive map of Roman Catholic Parishes by County. Click on a parish to see all known records and the placenames in the parish.
- **http://registers.nli.ie/** provides a search interface and an interactive map of Roman Catholic Parishes. Click or Zoom in to find a parish within a county.

Poor Law Unions (**aka** Superintendent Registrar's Districts **or** Registration Districts)

- **https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/47/Ireland1898Administrative.png** is a color-coded map showing districts by province and county.
- **https://www.johngrenham.com/places/plu_index.php#maps/** Click on a location to see a list of all the places it contains. Use the **Registrar's district** link to see the places it contains with links to Samuel Lewis' 1837 *Topographical Dictionary of Ireland* descriptions. Use the **BMD records** link to learn where to access records online.
- **http://www.swilson.info/regdistmap.php** will plot the Registration District's main town on a map. It also plots the **Registrar's Districts** aka **Dispensary Districts**.

Townlands

- **https://www.townlands.ie/** shows the boundary of a townland and provides links to surrounding townlands, Griffith's Valuation, and 1901 and 1911 Census data.
- **http://www.logainm.ie/en/** is a placename database. It plots a townland on a map and provides information about the name of a townland and links to archival material.
- **https://www.google.com/maps/place/Ireland/** can be used to plot a townland. Use Street View to see the townland roads that have been driven on and photographed.
- **http://www.askaboutireland.ie/griffith-valuation/index.xml?action=placeSearch** provides maps associated with Griffith's Valuation. Search for a placename then select "Map Views." Zoom in to find a townland. You can then select different "Map Versions." These maps are about thirty years older than the original Griffith's Valuation and many farm boundaries may no longer exactly match those recorded in Griffith's. The original Griffith's Valuation maps are on *FindMyPast*, a subscription website.

Townlands and placenames in the surrounding countryside

- **http://map.geohive.ie/** provides various historic Ordnance Survey maps. Zoom in very close on an area. In the **Data Catalogue** select "Base Information and Mapping" to see different historic map overlays.
- **http://maps.nls.uk/geo/explore/#zoom=6&lat=53.3993&lon=-7.9500&layers=13&b=1** provides historic Bartholomew and British War Office GSGS Maps from the 1940s. Zoom in very close on an area and select different **historic map overlays**.

When you know the Townland name

Search Townland indexes and databases to learn the Civil Parish and Poor Law Union. One index provides the District Electoral Division and another the Registrar's District. They can also be used to find the standardized Townland spelling of older or misspelled townlands. Hint: use pronunciation of misspelled names to identify the official name.

- **https://www.irishancestors.ie/resources/unique-resources/index-of-townlands-1901/** provides Townlands as of 1901 including District Electoral Division. Best used to help in searching census records.
- **https://www.johngrenham.com/places/** provides Townlands as of 1851 including Registrar's District. Click on Civil parish "church records" to find the Catholic parish.
- **http://www.swilson.info/townlands.php** provides Townlands as of 1851 with various search options. This is an updated version based on **http://www.thecore.com/seanruad/**.

If you do not know the Townland or any other Placename

Unless your ancestor's name is unusual you need more than just a County to successfully use Irish records. Some kind of Placename, such as a parish, village or nearby large town is needed. Completely research your ancestor in U.S. records. If no Placename is found, research all known relatives and the FAN club. A relative's record may contain a Placename.

Working with a Placename to identify a location

Your ancestor may have said he was from the nearest town or village rather than a townland. Or the Civil or Catholic parish name could have been used. You may need to look in each jurisdiction to determine what the Placename is referring to. Try the following to learn where a Placename is found.

- **http://www.swilson.info/placesrch.php** will provide Towns, Townlands, Civil Parishes, Baronies or Poor Law Unions within a County where the name is used.
- **https://www.johngrenham.com/places/** will provide Civil parishes, Poor Law Unions or Registrar's Districts within a County where the name is used. Clickable links will provide detailed information on other places and resources in the jurisdiction.
- **http://registers.nli.ie/** can be used to search for a Catholic Parish's variant name.

Vital Records

They are indexed by Superintendent Registrar's District/Registration District and by the quarter in which they were registered. Access these records on *IrishGenalogy.ie*. You will need to checkmark a box to show you are not "a robot" and provide a name or initials to access the records.

- **https://civilrecords.irishgenealogy.ie/churchrecords/civil-search.jsp** can be searched by name, date and SR (Superintendent Registrar) District/Reg Area. Once you have selected a name, at the bottom of the screen you'll see a tiny **Image** link.
- If no **Image** link or record is found, check **https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/civil-records/help/what-years-are-covered-**

by-the-historic-records-of-births-marriages-and-deaths to see what records have been released. You may need to order these records.

- **https://www.johngrenham.com/places/civil_index.php#maps/** can also be used to determine what records are available. Click on a county to see maps of parish locations. Click on parish to see available resources. Click on **General Register Office record(s)** to see available records (subject to the 5 free page views per day).

Ordering civil registration records, that are not currently online.

- Photocopies are available for €4. See: **https://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en/civil-records/help/i-want-to-get-a-copy-of-a-certificate-what-do-i-do** .
- Records after 1922 in Northern Ireland are available for £15 from the General Register Office Northern Ireland (GRONI) at **https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/go-groni-online**.

Church Records

- **http://registers.nli.ie/** provides a search interface and an interactive map of Roman Catholic Parishes. Zoom in or click on a county to see the parishes. Click on the parish name and then on the pop-up to see all the available microfilms that have been digitized. These records are not indexed by name but can be filtered by year & month.
- The Catholic records have been transcribed and indexed on *FindMyPast*. Baptisms at **http://search.findmypast.com/search-world-records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-baptisms** and Marriages at **https://search.findmypast.com/search-world-Records/ireland-roman-catholic-parish-marriages** Both are free for registered users.
- **https://www.ireland.anglican.org/about/rcb-library/online-parish-records** Church of Ireland digitized records, an ongoing project. Also, a pdf of all available records.
- **http://www.rootsireland.ie/** A subscription site with transcribed records.

Surname mapping

- **https://www.johngrenham.com/surnames/** will show surname distributions in Ireland.
- **http://www.irishorigenes.com/surnames-database** maps possible genetic homelands.
- **https://www.swilson.info/sdist.php** surname distribution by County for the 1850s.

Other mapping resources

- **https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Ireland_Maps**
- **http://libguides.ucd.ie/findingmaps/mapshistIreland**
- **http://www.swilson.info/index.php** - Digitized maps of Ireland and useful tools.
- **http://webgis.archaeology.ie/historicenvironment/** - Archaeological Monuments.
- **https://historicgraves.com/graveyards-map** - Historical graveyards with photos.