



bradán research services

Guide to Research

Beginning a family history can be a daunting task! Here are some tips to help you get started in your research.

Identify the Original Irish Emigrant

Identify the person or persons who originally emigrated from Ireland to the USA, Canada, Australia, the UK or anywhere else in the world. Information to look for includes:

- names
- occupations
- possible dates of emigration
- dates of birth, marriage, death
- names of parents, siblings
- names of close relatives
- location of residence in Ireland prior to emigration (county, parish or townland)

You may find some or all of the above. The more you have to begin with, the more focused a search in Ireland is possible.

Talk to Your Relatives

Aunts, uncles, cousins and other older relatives may provide useful information about your Irish line of ancestry.

Ask them about relatives' names, dates of birth, marriage, their siblings names, their parents names' even stories of the 'old country' that they may have heard. This information may not be accurate, but it could lead you in the right direction.

Work Backwards

Take the information you have compiled with this information from your own birth, through your parents births, to their parents, right back to the ancestor who came from Ireland.

Local History and Genealogy Sources

Use your local history and genealogy sources to find any records of your family in your country. This includes birth, marriages and death certificates, census returns, Church / Parish records, wills, old newspapers reports, land records etc. You can find information on these in the following locations:

- local library
- local church (if your family has been in the area a few generations)
- regional or national archives
- the nearest Church of Latter Day Saints / Mormon Center

On-Line Resources

An increasing amount of important historical and genealogical information is now available on the internet. Search engines such as Google or Yahoo allow you to find specific sites related to Irish genealogy. Some sites contain useful information such as shipping/emigration lists, Irish land records and details on family names. Here are some useful Genealogy Research On-Line Resources to get you started.

The Next Step

When you have finished your initial research you should have at least some, or indeed all, of the information below.

- Your ancestor's full name
- Your ancestor's place of birth or marriage in Ireland
- Your ancestor's date of birth/marriage or age at emigration
- Your ancestor's parents' names
- Your ancestor's religious denomination
- Your ancestor's occupation

Now it's time to continue the research in Ireland!

The Irish records can be a bewildering labyrinth to someone who has not been working with them for years. At this stage you may want to contact a professional Irish genealogist to get an assessment and advice as to further research, as well as to commission research if you wish to have your family history completed.

If you wish our genealogists to help and advise you, we provide a free assessment of your genealogy information, just check out our website, www.bradanresearch.com.