

## Introduction to Irish Family History: Burial Records & wills

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### Burial Records

- Burial Practices
  - Catholics & Protestants
  - Exclusions
- Burial Laws
  - 1560 Act of Supremacy restored
  - 1698 Penal Laws
  - Right to parish burial - Christian burial
  - 1852+ Burial Acts → PLU Boards of Guardians
- Graveyards & Cemeteries
- Burial Records & Gravestone Transcriptions
- Newspaper Death Notices & Obituaries

### Burial Records on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)

- |                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| • RC Parish Burials (NLI)      | 251k |
| • Tipperary Clans Archive      | 157k |
| • Ireland Billion Graves Index | 153k |
| • Ffolliott Collection         | 95k  |
| • Quaker Deaths                | 79k  |
| • Cantwell's Memorials         | 61k  |
| • Ireland Gravestone Records   | 58k  |
| • Memorials Register           | 41k  |

### Burial Records in Co Wicklow

- C 119 burial grounds in 21 parishes
- 1878 Burials Act – council responsibility
- Currently 34 in use under Wicklow Co Co

### Burial Records Websites

- [www.from-ireland.net](http://www.from-ireland.net)
- [www.interment.net](http://www.interment.net)
- [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)
- [www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com)
- [www.irelandcemeteryrecords.com](http://www.irelandcemeteryrecords.com)
- [www.historicgraves.com](http://www.historicgraves.com)
- [www.discovereverafter.com](http://www.discovereverafter.com)
- [www.irishgraveyards.ie](http://www.irishgraveyards.ie)
- [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)
- [www.igp-web.com](http://www.igp-web.com)
- Also visit Local Church Graveyards

## Testaments & Wills

- A will is often the last record of an individual
- Date of death on a will can indicate a death cert/record date, which will give an age at death giving an indication of a birth date to look for, and may also list surviving family members
- Wills more common in C 20<sup>th</sup>. Earlier than this mainly gentry and propertied classes
- **Key Terms:**
  - PROBATE: the legal act of the administration of a deceased person's estate and the conveying of it to their next of kin or named beneficiaries
  - If the deceased has a will then they are termed to have died TESTATE .... The documents relating to this will are called GRANTS OF PROBATE
  - If no will is left it is termed INTESTATE and the court decides the destination of the estate...The documents relating to this situation are called LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION
- **Genealogical information from wills:**
  - Name of Deceased
  - Executors (& relationship to deceased)...Family?
  - Date of Death
  - Residence
  - Date of Grant of Probate or Administration
  - Value & details of an Estate
- Index Calendars of Wills available online
- <http://www.willcalendars.nationalarchives.ie/search/cwa/home.jsp>
- Calendars of Wills and Administrations for the Republic of Ireland from 1922 to 1982 on main NAI website

### Wills on [www.findmypast.ie](http://www.findmypast.ie)

- |                                   |        |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| • Calendar of Wills 1858-1920     | 1,070k |
| • Diocesan/Prerog Wills 1595-1858 | 364k   |
| • Original Wills Register         | 181k   |
| • Deputy Keeper Index             | 107k   |
| • Index of Wills 1484-1858        | 100k   |
| • Vicars Index                    | 41k    |
| • Phillimore & Thrift Indexes     | 32k    |
| • Irish WW1 Soldiers Wills        | 9k     |

**WW1 Soldiers Wills** available at <http://soldierswills.nationalarchives.ie>

### Where can I see a will:

- National Archives
- National Library
- Registry of Deeds
- Land Registry ( Land Commission)
- PRONI
- Estate Records & Private Collections
- County Archives