

Introduction to Irish Family History: Irish Land Records

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Irish Land Records can be used effectively as Census Substitutes for periods when censuses do not survive, or civil records do not exist.

The main groups include surveys such as Griffiths Valuation, the Tithe Applotment Books, the revision books of the Valuation Office, as well as those relating to ownership such as those of the Landed Estate Courts and wider collections of Estate Papers.

The administrative divisions of Land Records may be by County, Barony, Civil Parish, District Electoral Division, Poor Law Union or Rural District Council, but the townland or street is the basic primary designation of location that is common to all the records.

Griffiths Valuation

“The General Valuation of Rateable Property in Ireland” or “Primary Valuation”

A 19th Century Property Tax Survey - Previously rated by Grand Juries (Cess Tax 1634)

Initial surveys began late 1820s, then revised in 1840s and published x county 1847 – 1864. Wicklow compiled 1852-3 and published 1854.

- Every agricultural & built property valued
- Multiple Visits
- Assess best estimate of annual income from a property/holding (Net Annual Value)
- First fixing of Admin Boundaries
- First uniform assessment of Productive Capacity
- Rate 3d in the £
- Occupier responsible for payment except if valuation <£5 pa, then landlord responsible
- Initially only properties valued over £5 included, this changed to include all in 1840s

Available free online at www.askaboutireland.ie and on www.findmypast.ie

Searchable by name, placename or namebook with linked maps.

Tells where & when an ancestor lived

Richard Griffith

- b. Dublin 1784; d. 1878, 94 yrs
- Studied Civil Engineering & Geology in London & Edinburgh
- 1825 – appt Boundary Commissioner
- 1830 – appt Commissioner of Valuations

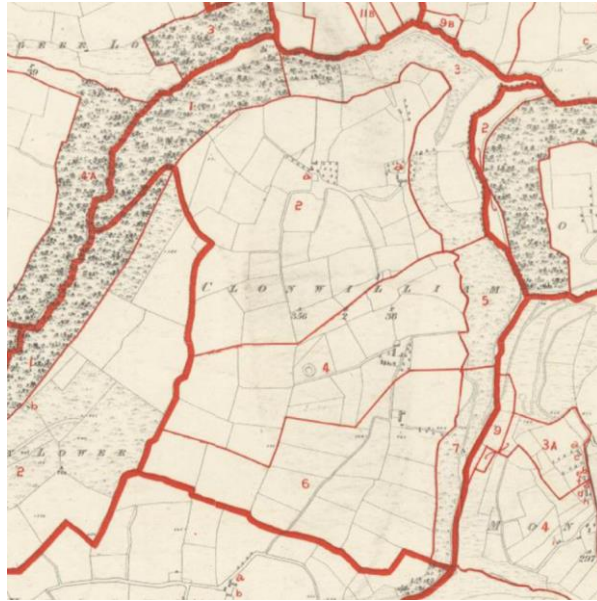
PARISH OF KILLAHURLER.

No. and Letters of Reference to Map.	Names.		Description of Tenement.	Area.	Rateable Annual Valuation.		Total Annual Valuation of Rateable Property.		
	Townlands and Occupiers.	Immediate Lessors.			Land.	Buildings.			
BARNACLEAGH, SOUTH. (Ord. S. 40.)									
1	a	Matthew Byrne.	Peter Maher.	House, offices, and land.	110 3 38	54 5 0	4 0 0	58 5 0	
-	b	John Kealy.	Matthew Byrne.	House & small garden.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
-	c	Edward Dempsey.	Same.	House.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
2	-	John Byrne.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	1 3 30	1 0 0	1 0 0	2 0 0	
3	-	John Sheehan.	Peter Maher.	Land.	10 0 25	7 0 0	-	7 0 0	
4	-	John Brien, jun.	Same.	House and land.	2 3 17	1 15 0	0 5 0	2 0 0	
5 A	}	John Hardy.	Same.	House, office, and land.	2 3 16	1 13 0	0 10 0	2 10 0	
- B				Land.	1 3 27	0 7 0	-		
6	a	John Neill.	Same.	House and land.	1 3 7	1 0 0	0 5 0	1 5 0	
-	b	Daniel Neill.	Same.	House.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
7	-	James Moran.	Same.	House, office, and land.	1 3 27	1 0 0	0 10 0	1 10 0	
8 A	}	William Bracken.	Same.	House and land.	0 3 34	0 12 0	0 10 0	1 17 0	
- B				Land.	1 0 35	0 15 0	-		
9	a	Patrick Shaughnessy.	Same.	House and land.	5 0 27	2 15 0	0 5 0	3 0 0	
-	b	Stephen Shaughnessy.	Same.	House.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
10 A	}	Michael Reilly.	Same.	House and land.	0 3 14	0 10 0	0 10 0	1 10 0	
- B				Land.	1 1 36	0 10 0	-		
11	-	Philip Cosgrave.	Same.	House and land.	2 2 22	1 8 0	0 10 0	1 18 0	
12	a	John Brien.	Same.	House, office, and land.	6 3 16	2 15 0	0 5 0	3 0 0	
-	b	Thomas Moran.	John Brien.	House.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
13	X	William Bracken, Michael Reilly, Patk. Shaughnessy, John Brien, jun., James Moran,	Peter Maher.	Land (boy).	8 3 24	0 6 0	-	0 6 0	
								0 5 0	
								0 9 0	
								0 5 0	
								0 4 0	
Total.					171 1 35	78 14 0	9 15 0	88 9 0	
CLONWILLIAM. (Ord. S. 40.)									
1	-	Earl of Carysfort.	In fee.	Land (roof).	20 3 5	6 0 0	-	6 0 0	
-	a	Isaac Lawrence.	Earl of Carysfort.	House and office.	-	-	1 0 0	1 0 0	
2	-	Michael Stedman.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	117 3 9	71 0 0	6 0 0	77 0 0	
-	b	Vacant.	Michael Stedman.	House.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
3	-	Michael Stedman.	Earl of Carysfort.	Land.	44 0 21	11 0 0	-	11 0 0	
4	-	Matthew M-Namara.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	68 0 6	35 0 0	2 0 0	37 0 0	
5	-	Matthew M-Namara.	Same.	Land.	13 0 13	2 0 0	-	2 0 0	
6	}	Daniel Canavan.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	72 0 25	39 10 0	2 5 0	41 15 0	
7				Land.	11 2 39	1 10 0	-	1 10 0	
Total.					356 2 38	166 0 0	11 10 0	177 10 0	
KILLAHURLER, LOWER. (Ord. S. 40.)									
1 A	}	Michael Whelan.	Earl of Carysfort.	House, offices, and land.	4 2 7	2 15 0	0 5 0	50 0 0	
- B				Land.	104 2 24	47 0 0	-		
-	a	Vacant.	Michael Whelan.	House and office.	-	-	0 15 0	0 15 0	
-	b	Patrick Neill.	Earl of Carysfort.	House.	-	-	0 5 0	0 5 0	
2 A	}	Elizabeth Whelan.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	8 0 22	5 15 0	0 15 0	17 5 0	
- B				Land.	0 3 31	0 10 0	-		
-				c	Land.	21 1 22	7 10 0		-
-				d	Land.	4 2 13	2 15 0		-
3 A	}	Felix Doyle.	Same.	Land.	3 0 13	1 10 0	-	8 10 0	
- B				House, offices, and land.	3 1 21	1 15 0	0 10 0		
-	c	Patrick Kelly.	Felix Doyle.	House and garden.	0 1 0	0 3 0	0 5 0	0 8 0	
4	-	Patrick Walsh.	Earl of Carysfort.	House, office, and land.	23 1 26	9 10 0	0 15 0	10 5 0	
5	X	Felix Doyle.	Same.	Land (boy).	1 2 32	0 3 0	-	0 3 0	
-								0 3 0	
6	-	Michael Whelan.	Same.	House, offices, and land.	47 3 22	16 15 0	1 10 0	18 5 0	
Total.					239 3 6	101 5 0	5 0 0	106 5 0	

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-what it tells us

- Numbers & Letters – Map References
- CAPITALS: a subdivision within a lot or parcels of land within a townland
- Lower Case: single property >1 occupier
- Lower Italic: built structures incl dwellings
- { a = farmer; b, c, d = cottagers }
- Names: Townlands & Occupiers
- Description: Buildings & Land (£)
- Area: Acres – Roods – Perches
- Valuation: Buildings & Land
- Total Annual Valuation (£)



- Includes c 80% of the population
- Over 1m dwellings, 20m acres surveyed
- Does not include RIC, schoolteachers, estate workers, labourers (“lodgers”)
- Dublin poor overall but good on commercial

The initial work is found in the House Books, Perambulation Books, Preparation Books, (NAI) and partly available on www.findmypast.ie

Valuation Office

The revisions, at five to ten year intervals after the initial valuations, can be found in the cancelled and revision books in the Valuation Office

- Original books, maps & revisions from surveys during Griffiths Valuation
- All other archived rating records and maps available for inspection
- Tracing property occupation back to 1850s
- Some fees apply for inspection of archives/printing of copies
- Irish Life Centre, Block 2, Dublin www.valoff.ie

Tithe Applotment Books

- Tithes paid for upkeep of Church of Ireland – one tenth of agricultural produce
- 1823 Composition Act provided for monetary payment of tithes
- Payable on all agricultural land > one acre
- Tithes were part abolished in 1838 (and then payable through landlord) and not completely until 1869 when state church was disestablished.
- Books compiled 1823 – 1837
- On m/f at NAI and online www.nationalarchives.ie

Tithe Defaulters

- Opposition to paying tithes led to Tithe War c 1830
- Clergy Relief Fund 1830
- 1831 Tithe Defaulters List produced, 29,000 names

- Available at NAI, (Official Papers Miscellaneous Assorted) and at www.findmypast.ie

Landed Estates Court Rentals

- Encumbered Estates Act 1849, to facilitate sales of bankrupt estates
- Expanded through Landed Estates Court 1852
- Transferred to Land Judges Court 1877
- Details of Sales Brochures for Estate Sale called Rentals
- Rentals 1849-85 (called O'Brien Rentals) NAI
- Rentals 1885+ called "Quit Rentals" NAI
- Descriptions include tenant listings

Available on www.findmypast.ie

Estate Records

- Can include Tenant Leases, rentals, correspondence, buildings, maps, contracts, business records, works, supply & employment records
- Available at multiple repositories - National Library, National Archives, PRONI, County Archives and Libraries, or in private collections.
- Listings in Hayes's Manuscript Sources, NLI (www.sources.nli.ie)

Major Estate Records Collections for County Wicklow

- Wicklow c.497,000 acres (Val in 1876 £254,000)
- Fitzwilliam 89,891 acres
- Powerscourt (Wingfield) 36,693 acres
- Marquis of Waterford(Beresford) 26,035 acres
- Earl of Wicklow (Howard) 22,103 acres
- Hugo 17,939 acres
- Carysfort (Proby) 16,291 acres
- Downshire (Hill) 15,766 acres
- Earl of Meath (Brabazon) 14,717 acres

See also the 1876 Landowners List (all owners > one acre, 30,000+ entries)

Free at www.failteromhat.com and on www.findmypast.ie

Historical Maps

www.openstreetmap.ie

www.dublinhistoricmaps.ie

www.townlands.ie

www.geohive.ie

www.osi.ie

6" maps 1829-42

25" maps 1897-1913